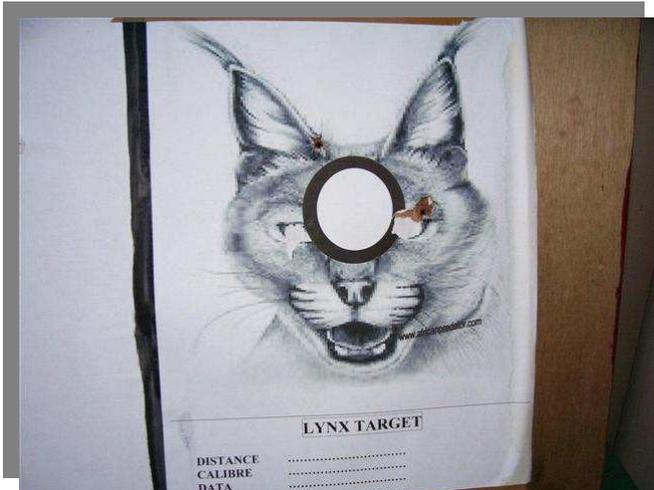


AFRICAN PREDATOR ETHICAL CONTROL



Gary Laubscher
Part 9

ROOIKATTE!!!!!!!

*Two fast shots at a lynx target when we sighted in my night vision rifle scope before a night hunt, this night really was a winning hand, pitch dark skies and in catty areas you can call cats, you just need patience, **a lot of GEDULD!***

Here is the end result, a perfectly executed night out, with good preparation you will succeed, you just need to know the vital aspects to calling cats, when you do, the rest is easy!

This part 9 will give you a lot of very good tips for calling and AMBUSH success!



ROOIKAT ROEP

Cover – call near cover like dead trees, koppies, water beds and places cats can hide, stand 100m - 300m away. Avoid dead ground that they can hide behind when coming in. **Wind** - make use of Eastern winds, like a South Easter, cats travel a lot in wind, 99% of my entire cat kills have been in wind. **Approach** – Cats cannot smell and wind a human so watch all approach angles for eyes approaching. **Moon** – Make use of pitch dark nights, no moon at all. **Weather** – Before or after a cold front is a good time, sit and be dead quiet! No noise! **Camo** – Make sure to cover you bakkie totally and don't use black covers, use the same colours as the area you are calling, and never shade cloth! **Time** – Allow at least an hours calling to get a cat to come in to your call. **Identify cats** – Come in low and mostly slow, blink very slowly and will vanish and surface in another area. **Patience** – Have LOTS of patience **Use a dimmer** - on a light the moment you spot eyes, and dim so only his eye reflection shows, and when he is close up the dimmer to shoot. **Sounds** – A hand caller is best, or an electronic on Jackrabbit distress or Scrub Hare distress are good sounds to try, also a squeaky sound from a plastic toy in great. **Use a RED light** if hunting for cats. **Night Vision** is by far the best to use when calling cats, the less light you use the better, they come in faster and come closer with night vision. These are important aspects to calling a cat, stick by these pointers on how to call cats and you will see you will start to call cats.



Make sure to make your set up nearby cover and walkways, cats like cover (dekking) so work these areas, and remember the biggest tip, EASTERLY WIND, cats operate a lot in wind, and they are called in the wind, this is a huge piece of advice, WIND! Make sure bakkie cover is not moving!



In all the years I have called, nearly all my cats are killed after 45 minutes, hardly ever did I kill one under 45 minutes, so patience is key here, the sound I can really mention as being a good one to kill cats, is FOXPRO JACKRABBIT DISTRESS, it is an awesome sound, and kills cats for me.

Cats are light shy, and the dimmest light possible can be used for better effect,

Another system you can try is, use a moving decoy, this model I use and it is placed about 100m away from the cover, I sit 80m away from it and just observe the areas, it draws cats from cover and you don't need to call, just wait..... the sound it makes travels far at night and will lure an inquisitive cat in with no problem, out from his comfort cover area, and all you need is to identify him and shoot.



REMEMBER THE BIGGEST CAT CALLING SECRET, - WORK THE EASTERLY WIND!!! Most my cats are called in wind, a south easterly wind.

I have called a lot of cats with rough rabbit gruff sounds also; Javalina is a sound that also works well. Cats are hard to figure out, what they like today don't mean it's great the next day!

**If a South Easter is blowing
and the moon is big, take a
drive, cats walk around in the
wind! Scan with a red light!**



MAAK ROOIKATTE WAT SKAAP DOODMAAK SELF DOOD!

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I have written many articles about this, but this will be the main GO TO internet link to study and learn from, this will show exactly how to kill **sheep killing Rooikatte!** I have been involved with predator control and made a full time business from it since 1984, marketing lighting and equipment, trapping urines etc, I have studied predators and the way they operate - I will offer you the reader as much info as I can.

If we take stats, look how many times you go call, and how many times you call a Rooikat, point proven, so let us say you call 30 times and call 1 cat, ok -... now how many times of those 30 did you use red



lights?....ok and how many times did you call on a moon night?.....(NOT GOOD), so to start these are all bad aspects,

This is the ONLY way to kill sheep killing rooikatte and puts the percentage chance in your favour.

lighting, moons etc...

The only bad part of this angle is that you need to wait till a sheep is killed to employ these tactics. Ok, here is the article and how to succeed, read this link, and then come back to this article for more info and pointers.

It is VITAL to read this first.

<http://www.africanpredator.com/pdf-docs/57-DAG-en-NAG-JAKKALS-ROOIKAT-TELESKOOP.pdf>

We need to look at the outcome like follows; and to take special note of the following.



GREEN SHADE 95% kill chance, as they 95% of the time come back the following evening (as long as you do your part) this style of hunting is the best way to target cats.

The balance is 5 % of the THINGS AGAINST YOU;

- 1- You make a noise while waiting
- 2- **Your angle is wrong*******
- 3- Your set up is wrong and he sees you before dark
- 4- **Using red lights will drop your success BIG TIME!**
- 5- He will return when you are gone

YOU MUST PREY that when the moment arrives that the sun is gone behind the mountain etc, from that moment to the time its dark, PREY he does not return OR HE WILL SEE YOU – cats see well in the dark and pick up movement in a flash.

THE MOST important thing here is to look at the position of the dead sheep, look for cat travel tracks, if ground is too hard, look for the best spot he came from, namely COVER and then position yourself in such a way that the cat will HAVE to pass you to get to that sheep.

Your return APPROACH angle is VITAL for success!!! It is most important! HE MUST cross your position!

I sit 85m away and I TRY to NOT use the truck, I sit on a small swivel chair and I am a small obstacle, I fit a square PVC blind out around me and I sit inside with my chair and night vision.

I scan SLOWLY every 2 minutes and always pay special attention to that COVER area/s as this is his most likely point of return.

If you spot the eyes coming back, ALWAYS put the night vision infra red light in front of him NOT on him, the less light even infra red the better, slowly put down the night vision binoculars and switch on the rifle nv scope, then slowly bring the light back towards that cat, then follow him in and watch his body language if he looks back at others or starts getting nervous, take note now of his range and aim on him, safety OFF, watch him approach, when he gets to 10m away from the sheep, kiss, he stops and BOOM, kill him!!!!!!! Aim at his widest part and aim for that water area, DON'T GO FOR HEAD shots, aim at the biggest and widest area of mass of the cat, these limits a chance of a miss. I zero my gun at 130m, and at 90m I am dead on, at 130m my rifle shoots in a inch square, **make sure your gun is 100% with the best scope mounts!**



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I personally HOPE that when I must sit at such a place I am afforded the night with a NO MOON situation, in the pitch dark – this ups the chance of success and also if a wind is blowing, typically an easterly wind, cats travel a lot in wind, they seem to like that. If you see the eyes approaching from far, start to very slowly swop from binoculars to rifle scope and move slowly, keep the infra red light away from him directly in the centre of your light, and make sure all you now need to do is squeeze the trigger, just follow him in and keep on him, if you need to shoot quicker than expected you are on him all the way, so it is possible, **DON'T wait till he is 50m away before swopping equipment and moving!** **Do it while he is still far away as he hears very well, and if nervous he will run like hell away from that area as he knows he is targeted because he killed that sheep, so he is very nervous coming back to the scene of the crime!**

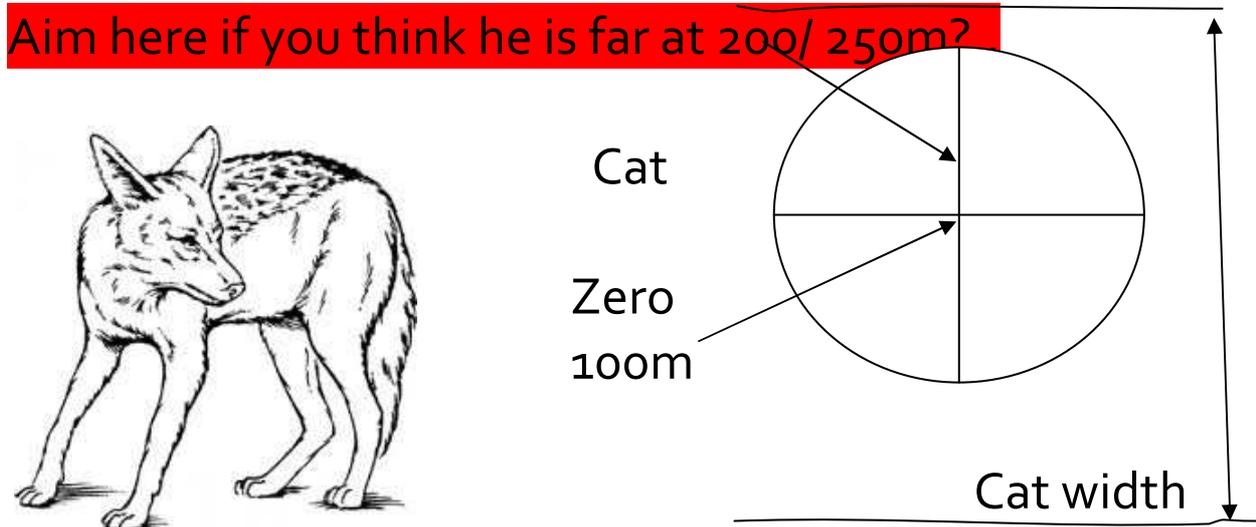
If you follow all these pointers and do as I am saying here you will stand a very good chance of success, if you see a family approaching kill the female first, then pick off the stupid kittens, they won't run very far, again aim at the widest part.

REMEMBER – I cannot express this enough! THE MOST VITAL PART TO THIS HUNT and achieving success is that you must try as hard as you can to get your angles correct, so when he comes back to that dead sheep he crosses in front of you this way you get a good target picture, if he approaches behind the sheep you don't have much to aim at.



GENERAL on aiming.

My gun shoots DEAD ON at 130m, BUT if I THINK they are now much further, then a general discussion is in order; we all shoot small low recoiling 22 calibres or 6mm, most of us are zeroed at 100m, so a 223 or a 222 or a 243 drops MAYBE 100mm at 200m, so its just aiming dead on the centre of mass, a general rooikat is about 23cm wide, so if you think he is 200, 250m just aim about 2 inches higher than the spot you would at 100m, this way you still have a HUGE area below the target area if bullet drop is a little more, and how many of us will shoot over 250m at night.....

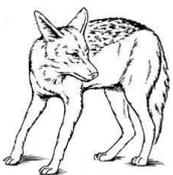
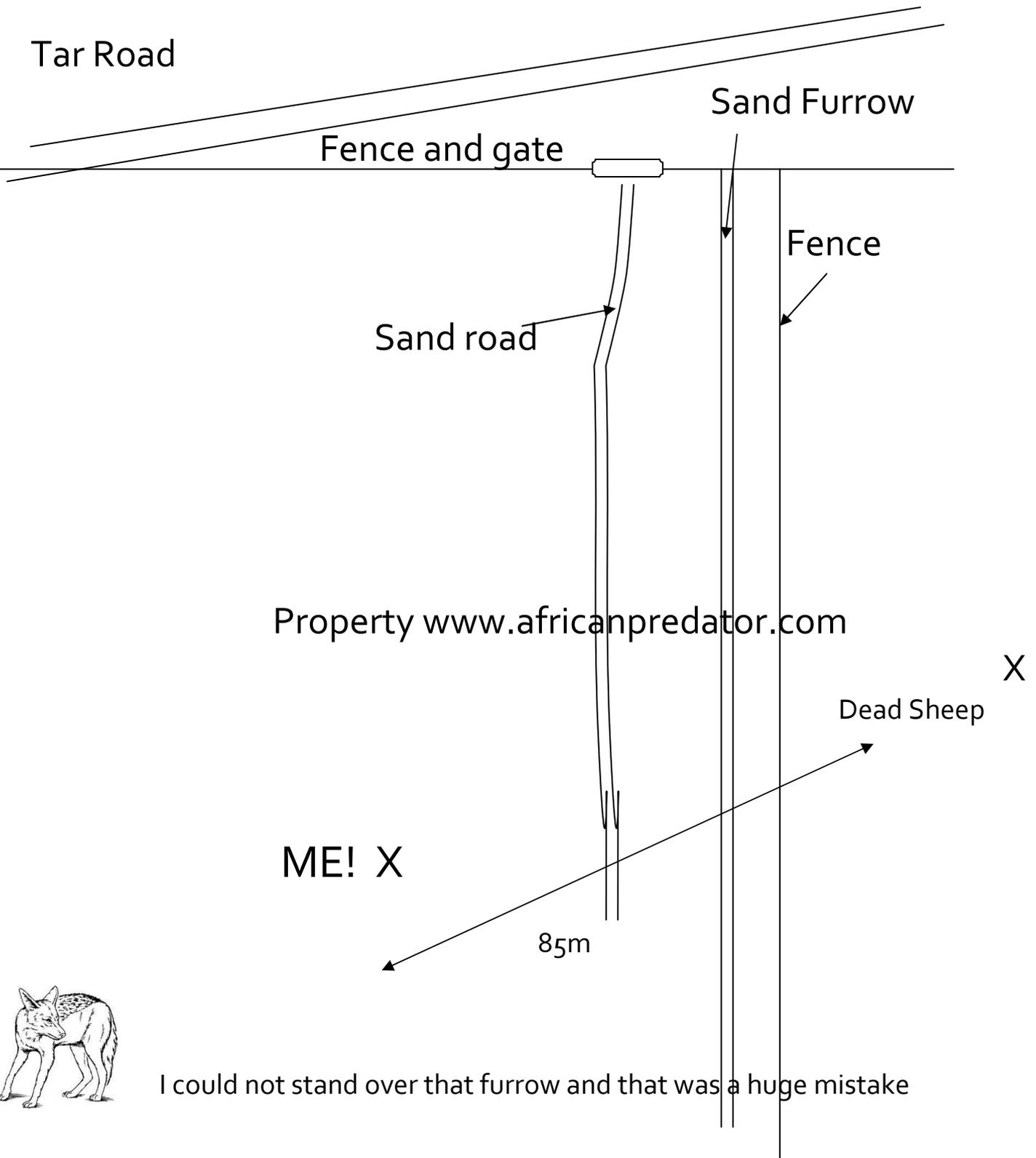


Study your terrain carefully if you cannot find travelling tracks of the cat, and don't contaminate the area around the dead sheep with your feet and move the sheep, leave it alone, remember this cat when he comes back will be very stressed out, he will be on HIGH ALERT and you must be wake up, not all of my hunts were successful either, here are a few disasters that I did in my career.

We all make mistakes, big ones that haunt us, and to miss out on a cat is bad news! I am still haunted by this experience below! Those mistakes will haunt you a long time, this one affected me badly, I could have smashed my rifle in pieces this night! Big fat Lynx got to kill the next day

ONE OF MY MAJOR DISASTER HUNTS!!!!!!

Sheep was killed and the ground was **uphill**, I wanted to stand my chair over a furrow but the chair was uneven and could not rotate, so I parked on the lands, **BIG MISTAKE!**

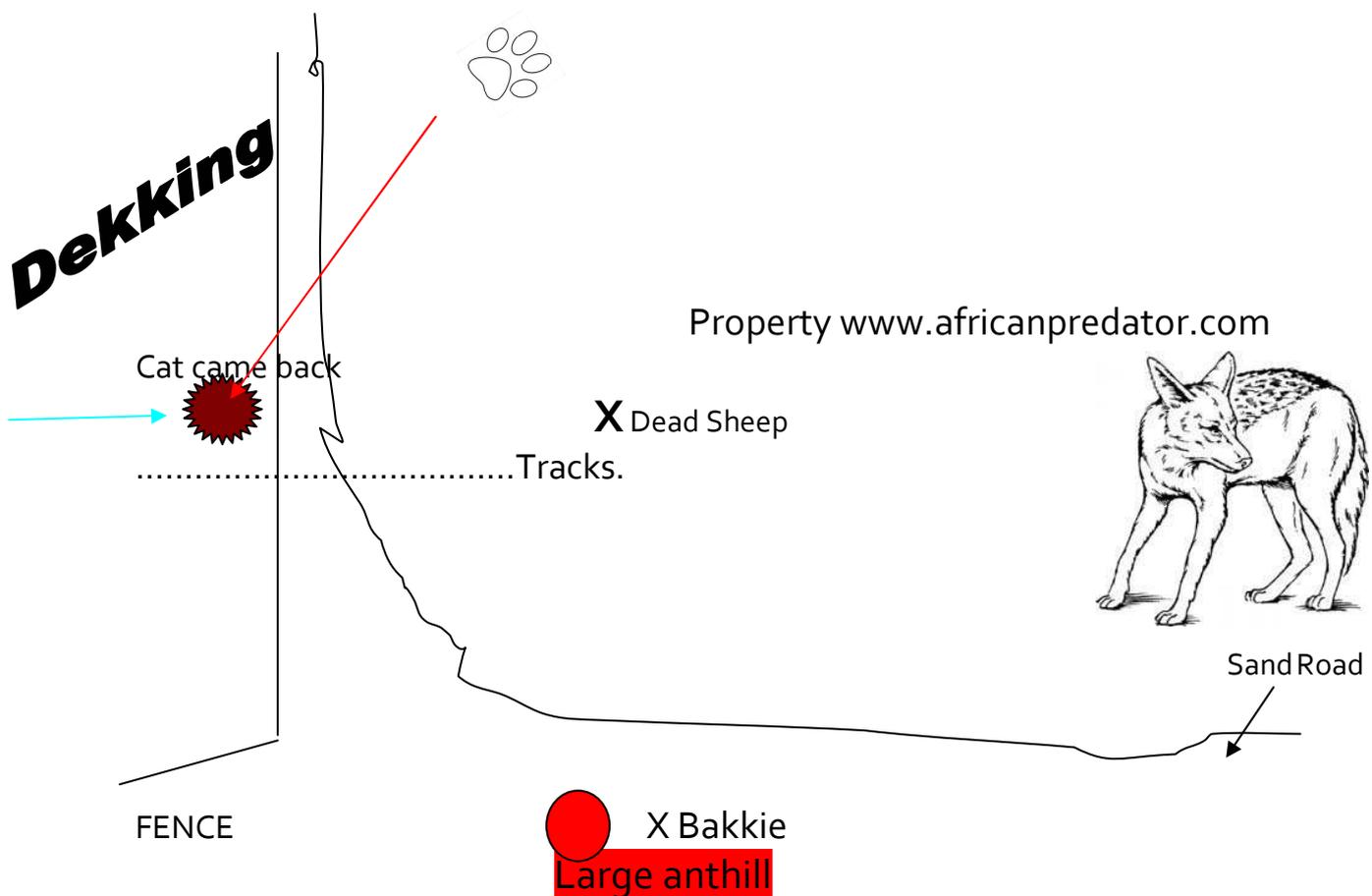


I scanned with night vision binoculars and waited, 35 minutes after dark he appeared next to the fence – he came up that furrow and went under the fence and sat at the sheep, when I put on my dimmed red light he vanished! This was the last time I used red lights, that was when I bought night vision, and will never use red lights again!

Now the IF'S!!!! If I had night vision on my rifle I would have killed him in pitch dark, but because I put on a red light when he was at the sheep and he was stressed out he ran like the blazers! Till today I kick myself because of that!

Here is a better night!

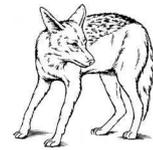
Sheep was killed night before, tracks showed his arrival and departure route, so it was easy.



15 minutes after dark, rookiet came back from direction of cover and the place his tracks suggested over the sand road. I was behind the anthill on the bakkie; I shot him as he cleared the fence line, a perfect set up.



Moon



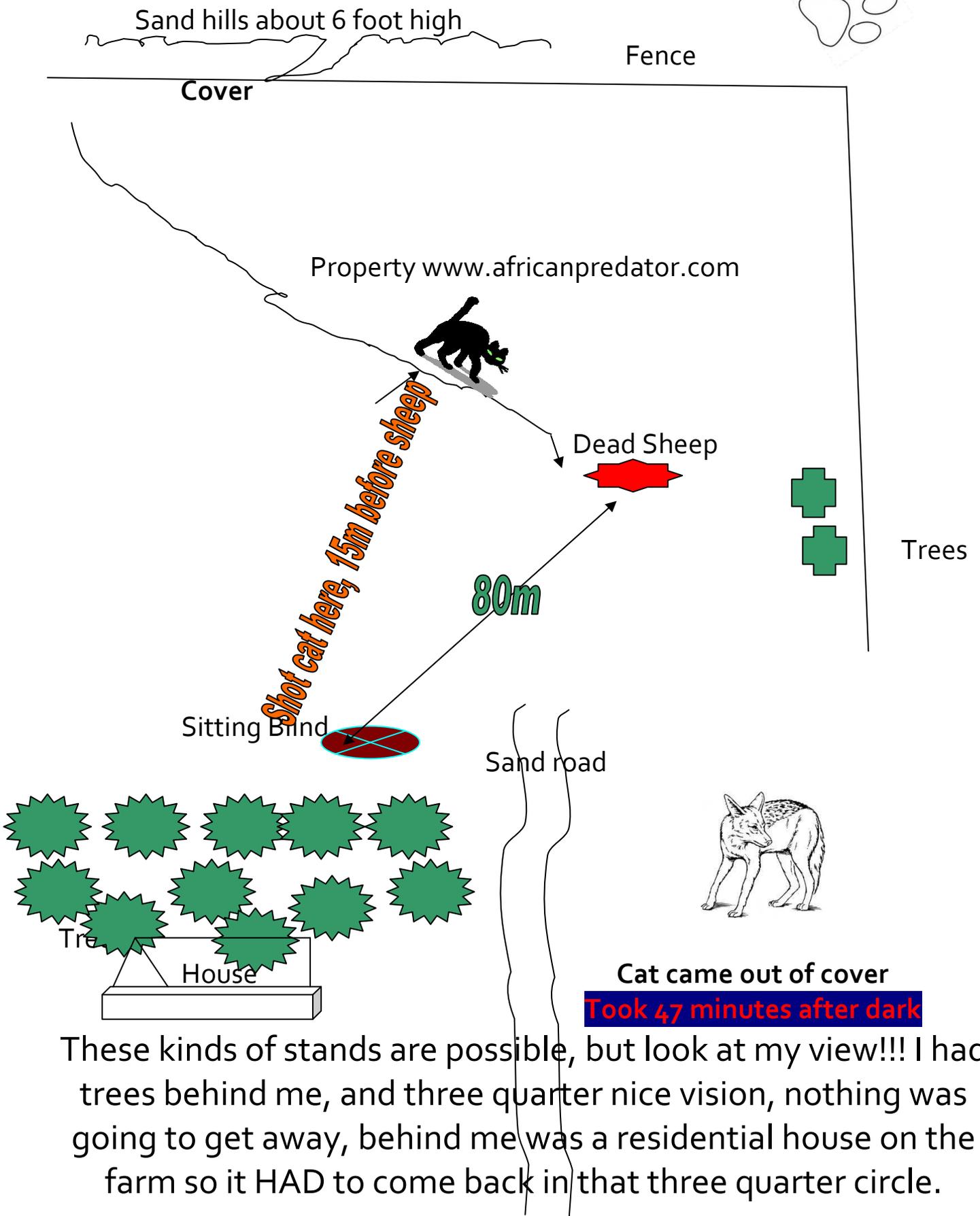
Remember (and prey) you are required to sit and wait on a dark night with no moon, that's far better to blend in the darkness, and you can use your bakkie that is covered, I cover mine in the same shades of colour as the area. BUT better still don't use the bakkie, use a small blind, if the ground is flat use a blind.

I made a square 1,200mm blind with PVC pipe 33mm diameter and corners, it forms a square and I pin it to the ground like a tent.



REMEMBER if you are using a truck, to position the REAR of the truck towards the side your suspect that cat to appear from, BECAUSE it is less of an object in size to see, cats see well! So, using the back will give you a smaller target for the cat to spot! AND also, REMEMBER to reverse and face the back towards the cat side, NOT the front of your bakkie BECAUSE that front has windscreens, side mirrors and things that can make a glare, so the back is better and FLAT!

Here is a layout of a stand I did, and it was fantastic, worked like a dream.



These kinds of stands are possible, but look at my view!!! I had trees behind me, and three quarter nice vision, nothing was going to get away, behind me was a residential house on the farm so it HAD to come back in that three quarter circle.

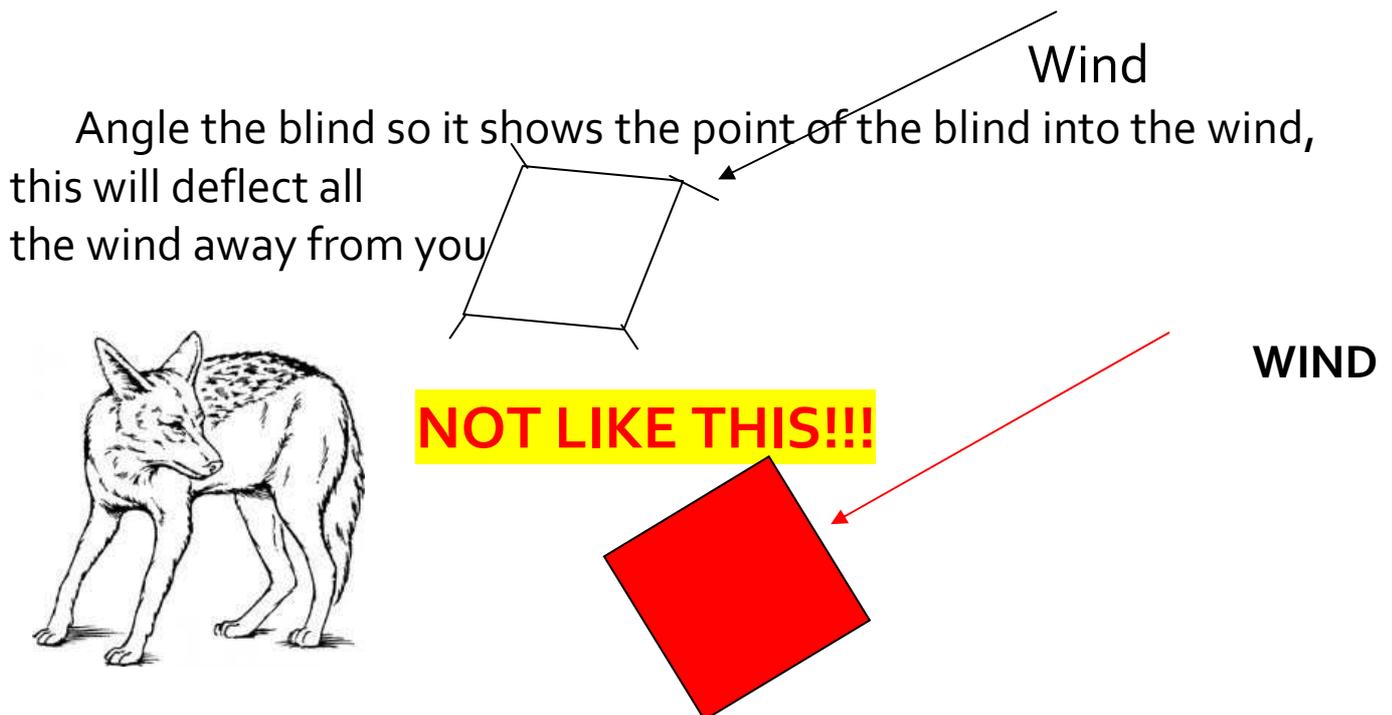
REMEMBER to all the bunny huggers, if you cannot stand what we do, – this is a 100% target specific way of removing a predator 100% responsible for killing wildlife, you cannot get any other way that's 100% target specific. Identify and eliminate.



“WIND DEFLECTION”

Ok, now remember that IF the wind is blowing or NOT – it does not matter ALWAYS anchor down the blind with rope etc BECAUSE if you are waiting for a cat and the wind picks up your blind will move, make noise and the structure can maybe knock your rifle when you aim!..... SO avoid this, and ALWAYS anchor it down even if the wind is not blowing!

Here is a drawing of a VERY IMPORTANT point, this is vital to remember if the wind is blowing, in my areas the south Easter is often picking up at night, so I always put up the blind with the one point towards the possible windy side





MY BLIND I USE

Here is my structure, a square PVC pipe 33mm size, corner PVC brackets and various camo colours to suit the area. This is for use in corn fields that were cut, as the lands are golden brown.

This is 120cm square and my chair fits nicely inside. It is the height of my rifle that sticks out the top.

Small is great in the wide open expanses at night, better than a huge bakkie.

Look carefully you can see the top of the small chair sticking out.

This system is killer on Caracal that come back the next night, they cannot see you especially if it's dark skies!

It is better than the big truck idea. The more detail we place on our set up the better results we will achieve.



USING A NATURAL STOPPER FOR A SHOT

I use our rookat lure to stop cats when they return around the kill site, I place a few small toilet paper pieces dipped in the lure, and spread them towards the cover side of the sheep, if not much possible cover exists I scatter them 15 before the sheep in a circle around the sheep, then when the cat returns he will stop and smell the lure, this will offer a chance for a shot, and it then is not necessary to kiss and stop him yourself for a shot.



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CAT LINKS OF INTEREST

<http://www.africanpredator.com/ROOIKAT-ROEP-and-formula.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Caracal-Control-South-Africa.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Rooitkat-Cage-Trapping-Outlay.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Rooikat-locations-with-farm-as-example.pdf>

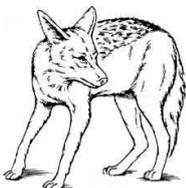
<http://www.africanpredator.com/Jakkals-COURSE-Vrystaat-Cornelia.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/ROOIKAT%20ROEP%20WENKE%202012%20UPDATED.pdf>

<http://www.africanpredator.com/2012%20Jakkals%20en%20Kat%20Wenke%20oor%20nagskiet.pdf>

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