

ELUSIVE & SLY – DIE ROOIKAT

PREDATOR CALLERS *HOLY* *GRAIL*

Too many of us we call for a long time, for some it hardly happens at all, calling the ROOIKAT is to many the Holy Grail of targets, and it is elusive and more difficult to call than a jackal, so I decided to give some tips that may help.



Johan and Gert on one of our hunts, I called this female Caracal (15 minutes.)

The Caracal does indeed have some things that makes life easier in calling him, and if you keep those things in mind it will help a lot when you go to try call him, many people who know cats will get great results, it is kind of like a car, once you learn how to pull away on a hill without going backwards, the rest is easy, Caracal hunting is the same, experience rules, read this it will help!

So, firstly I suggest keeping a log of all your hunts, date, moon condition, wind condition, time to get reaction, sounds used etc, this is a start, then get an aerial map and mark your spots on the farm called in relation to your notes you make. This is your FOUNDATION so to speak, all your construction of your house is written and noted here and records will show exact facts later of what time of year was best and places..... So create a foundation and begin. I developed a software package back in 2009 I sold that after a year will give you exact feedback on how your farm works.

VITAL CARACAL / ROOIKAT CALLING TIPS;

So, we begin the Caracal calling help by looking at the **wind**, if the moon is out but the wind blows, typically an easterly wind, get it the bakkie and drive around and shine a light, cats love walking in the easterly wind, it is a fact and proven many times over, if the moon is out and you cannot call, but the wind blows, drive and scan, try that, if I look at records, most of the cats I call are in severe wind, try it.

Here is a link to the wind <http://www.africanpredator.com/pdf-docs/53-ROOIKAT-JAG-THE-BIGGEST-TIP-to-SUCCESS.pdf>

The **MOON** is a vital aspect of cat calling, you basically must be in total darkness and call with ZERO moon, and I explain the moon times here you need a good moon cycle, best being one week PRIOR to NEW MOON. Cats can see and pick up movement fast, so you need to be in total darkness. Note the size of a cats eyes when you light him up, he has huge eyes! <http://www.africanpredator.com/pdf-docs/2015-Jakkalse-en-Rooikatte-jag-CALENDER.pdf>

The next important aspect is setting up very close to **cover**, dekking, it is the one thing that you must understand, cat's operate in cover, as they hunt in such places, so don't stand in the open, go call near rivers, outcrops, a wash, koppies, and bordering forest areas, the same as trapping setting cages near cover areas will reap rewards. <http://www.africanpredator.com/Caracal-Control-South-Africa.pdf>

TIP ONE

TIP TWO

TIP TWO

TIP THREE

TIP THREE

TIP FOUR

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Cover of the truck is HIGHLY important, cover it with brownish, khaki or olive green colours, matt colour, DO NOT use black at all, black stands out at night, position your bakkie so the BACK is facing the area you think he will exit from, the dekking side, then he has less to see, no broadside large object, and using the rear of the truck will stop any bonnet glare, lights, reflectors, mirrors in the light etc, using the back is best as it is flat and has no shiny parts showing – but use a camo net to hide it all well.

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

TIP FIVE

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Then we need to make sure of the **time factor**, cats are strange animals, I have called them for a long time, and they always seem to amaze me, they do then strangest things, they will come in and even if hungry most times, stop and look away.... Then vanish to resurface in another place altogether, BUT they seem to always take a long time to come to a call, so give cats at least an HOUR, be patient. Patience is a must when calling a cat.

Generally, the darkest moon, before rain is good or after a few days rain with a wind will reap rewards!



This cat I called near a poultry farm with cat problems -he came in after 36 minutes, then sat behind a bush at 130m for about 25 minutes, then cleared the opening and vanished, then resurfaced in front of me and I shot him at 80m under his chin as he came directly towards me because the call was now behind me. PATIENCE IS KEY!



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

Then we get to **sounds**, CARACAL are called with all kinds of sounds, THEY DO NOT get called with sounds recorded that Caracals make, or other second hand sounds of other Caracal, it is a myth, it does not work, cats DO NOT get stimulated by other cat sounds or copied cat sounds from the same species, it does not work, if they do respond it is because they are close and just come and see what the muss is all about because he is very close, 99% of the time predators respond out of curiosity and NOT hunger, so if you call a cat with a meeuuwww or a Caracal krrr krr krrrrr sound it is because he was close and stuck up a head to listen... but call him in with that krrr krr krrrrr from far, NO WAYS! In many years of cat calling I will say the very best is to use a hand call on Caracal, it is the best, a semi squeaky to slightly rough sound and lots of noise, cats like busy sounds, they get bored fast, and so a hand call is great. But if you prefer a mechanical machine these sounds have killed for me. Jackrabbit distress killed 3 Caracal in a row on different evenings for me, Dying jack worked on that cat in top photo. BUT generally go for a hand caller!

TIP SIX

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TIP SEVEN

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Lighting is another key point, remember cats are light sensitive, so if he blinks fast it is a sign he will vanish very soon, so..... we need to scan on a dimmed red light, white lighting works well also on dimmed, the white light on dimmed when scanning works and all you do is when you catch the eye reflection drop the light totally to ONLY reveal his glowing eyes, he will come directly in and often to your light as if attracted to it, but they cannot distinguish the light and think it is very far away in the distance and don't realise it is that close, the same applies to jackal, they are also worked on a white light when used properly. Only up the light slightly to identify or make a shot, only give yourself light that's needed, **don't use more than you need!**



This is my 222 with a light and the dimmer, it is a white light, when it is on dimmed and you follow a cat in just by watching his eye reflection it works just as well as a RED light. Predators do not get effected by the white light at all as long as you know how to use a white light.

TIP EIGHT

TIME with scanning is another important aspect, don't scan and wait too long before your scanning time cycle, I use a standard time like jackal calling, because they can approach and be gone and you won't know he was at your bakkie, so..... I use a standard time, count 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and... till 8, when you get to 8 you must be back at the spot your started, that is a good speed time to scan in a circle, a good speed that I have used for years. THEN OFF the light, scan TWICE before the light goes OFF and the light is dimmed enough to spot eyes at 200m. WAIT no longer than 15 seconds then scan twice again, after you get to about 10 minutes you can start scanning once in a circle and not twice. SEE the diagram below at the link

<http://www.africanpredator.com/Jackal%20Calling%20if%20you%20are%20only%20able%20to%20hunt%20once%20a%20year,%20but%20want%20success!.pdf>

REMEMBER AT NIGHT SOUNDS TRAVEL MUCH FURTHER BECAUSE OF NO AIR HEAT POLLUTION SO DON'T CALL TO HARD, ALLOW YOUR CALL TO REACH 350M. CALL SOFTLY BUT KEEP BUSY.

TIP NINE

WIND is another aspect to remember, Caracal are pretty stupid animals, they are not in the same class as a jackal, they never went to the same school, and have not got the same education as jackals, so wind is NOT a factor to watch when Caracal calling, you don't need to watch the wind, just concentrate on the cover side, a Caracal cannot smell or wind you, I have called cats for years, sometimes with wind at my back and in comes pussy cat, into the wind from far to near the bakkie and no ways can he smell a thing.

TIP TEN

The most obvious one is **tracks that are fresh**, if you are near a bushy area with maybe a road between trees etc, severe cover area, take a broom and sweep a line across the sand road and make a line every 100m, the next day see if any fresh cat tracks are around, and call those places. Use trail cameras or a broom is cheaper and you will see everything that is moving around.

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LOOK AT THE BACK AT THE LOVELY CAT TRAVEL AREAS – IDEAL CAT PLACE

Always listen to your gut feelings, if you know a sheep was killed at a place and the area has thick foliage and bush with cat cover that's means the cat is real close, this hunt I waited till dark, it took 4 minutes of squeaking on a hand caller, he showed an eye and 15 minutes later he cleared the bush and walked towards my owl decoy, I shot him as he was walking slowly in his right side of the head at 170m, I kept the fur, was a rewarding hunt after he killed like 5 lambs in that area.



Once you master cat hunting it becomes easy – this night again the wind was blowing, was after rain, and pitch dark, very very dark in winter, set up near lamb kills, and positioned myself a little away from the bush, this cat never knew what hit him, he was dead and he never even knew he was shot. 222 Rem head shot 170m.

Exactly 170m on far end of the tree line, it is always an achievement when you can remove lamb killers, but as we know it never ends, always have more and more cats passing through the areas.

It is a great feeling knowing you are doing good by removing a problem animal ethically, and by using this system you are totally 100% ethical, 100% target specific and as in the case of this Caracal he never even knew he was shot - it was so quick.



A MORE EXPENSIVE BUT PROVEN METHOD

PROVEN METHOD

This is a basically 100% method for success, it is a sure way to kill them, but it costs more - it is relevant to this article so I must include this link <http://www.africanpredator.com/pdf-docs/4-DEDICATED-METHOD-TO-KILL-ROOIKATTE.pdf>

Once you have begun to get results and after a year look back at your farm, study your records, the answers to removing cats from your farm in which month will jump off the page and you will see what to do when and how, records of each time you went out and when success was achieved all that was noted, read your history and you will start to get better success after that trial period for a year.

I hope this helps.



ALWAYS REMEMBER COVER as in these two photo's – DEKKING ; ALWAYS work the cover, a cat wont cross open ground easily unless they have to, they stick to cover, so STICK TO COVER! Work in pitch darkness, use the windy nights, and if the moon is to big to call then drive with a spotlight on windy nights, use active sounds NOT boring, and go by these other tips, you will achieve success!! to

overcome this ***HOLY GRAIL***

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