

ROOIKATTE / ROEP and success!

Over the years I have written loads of articles about Rooikat and calling them, my website is full of the fine points that help, this is a very general look at them again as a top up for 2016 so to speak.

It is always a bonus when you call a cat, and worth the effort you put in to get him!

8 - 1 - 2016



This was part of 3 cats killed in the first night of pitch darkness in 2016, a good start to 2016, this female ran like a dog to the call from over 300m away, we thought it was a jackal approaching, and at around 70m the cat stopped and presented a broad side target.... it was all over. My first hunt of 2016 started with a bang!

A very important thing to remember is WIND, this cat was also called in the wind, it is a known fact that cats love moving in the wind, all my kills on cats over 27 years has taught me looking at records, most are in the wind, an easterly wind, and if the moon is out and the wind is blowing go spotlight for cats on a bakkie, you have a good chance of success driving on a moon night.

The Rooikat / Caracal is a pretty dumb animal, this is why it is easily trapped in cages, so wind is NOT a factor when calling them if you think they will wind you, hulle kan jou nie ruik nie, I have called lots of cats, never had wind issues.

Then the thing with a cat is being in the correct place at that time, jackal calling is totally different to Caracal because in areas of population you will find a large difference in that population like 50 jackal to maybe 5 cats in general, so calling don't always bring a result, you will always call far more jackal before calling a single cat, it is all about odds. I have never seen a place with more cats than jackals generally speaking.

Geduld is key - PATIENCE, if you don't have this you won't ever call a cat, you will find most cats called are between 45 minutes and one hour, they tend to take time.

Moon is a huge factor, ZERO moon is best, pitch dark, and before rain or overcast is good, cats see very well, just like the cats hearing, he hears very well, so don't make a noise on the bakkie, and don't play sounds too loud, he can hear a soft sound very far away. Keep your sounds busy, not boring sounds, and play a lot of sound, they like busy sounds.

Stick to an area offering cover and lots of ambush places as cats ambush prey, so this photo is a guideline.

Typical cat area.



Hand calls are far better than an electronic caller. They bring better results, this is another fact that any professional caller will tell you. After many years of calling I can say without a doubt a hand caller is best on cats

Feather & Fur Deadwood Predator Calls



Simulated ivory hand caller hand made by me, will compare to any imported caller in the world today, open reed caller works the best on cats, and no electronic caller will come close. Make nice squeaky sounds and you will get response!

AMBUSH sites are the best, and to wait at kill sites work best, I sat here at a dead sheep the next night from sundown, within 10 minutes after it was dark the cat returned, no longer a problem, and it is 100% target specific cat control, targeting the culprit! This cat killed 5 lambs, but returned the next night – a typical trait.

www.africanpredator.com



Cut a straw, cut it 30mm long, cut a point 10mm long, flatten the end and blow it, this squeaky sound is great on predators!

Next, is NIGHT VISION a major edge, this gives you an edge big time, cats are light shy, so by using ZERO lights at all is a major player, this cat came in from 416m, I watched him all the way in and put down the night vision binoculars and went to the rifle night scope and shot him in the head, another sheep killing cat, no longer an issue.



IMPORTANT – With ambush sites make sure to sit 70-80m away from the dead sheep, and work out the place he will return from, namely the “dekking se kant”, not open ground, read this <http://www.africanpredator.com/pdf-docs/27-Maak-Rooikatte-dood-by-skaap-wat-hy-doodgemaak-het.pdf> and another tip is use night vision NOT dimmed white or red lights.

REMEMBER – don't use cat sounds to call, cats DO NOT respond to second hand cat sounds, it DON'T work, use distress sounds, Jackal do respond to barks, but cats don't respond to cat sounds, and if you call a cat with a cat sound it was because he was close and popped up his head – but call him from far, no sir, never, and if somebody tells you he calls with success with that sound I would really suggest questioning those statements.....

SWEEP, areas behind your bakkie when working long sand roads, sweep a 50cm line across the sand road and when you come back check to see if any fresh paw prints are over the sweep line, if yes call it now!

Learn how to spot cat places, a wash, cover, koppies, river beds, donga and bushing outcrops, these offer huge cat calling potential.

Calling a Rooikat is a BONUS, these cats are not as frequently called as jackal, generally you get 40 jackal before a single Rooikat is called, these cats offer a BONUS , so don't miss!



One of two Rooikatte killed on a predator calling course I offered in 2015, this was windy, 15 minutes, female and range around 50m and pitch darkness, almost every time the factors above will show in the reports, wind being a major cat calling tip!

My partner with a cat that came in, we managed to get two this night, selecting a place near a wash, a good standing place is a must, keep close to dekking!



Another tip I will give is to always use a LURE! Just an extra small thing to pack in, but worth it!



The owl below has helped me a few times, it pulls a cat from cover if he sees the owl but does not want to come closer to the sound you play, and the owl helps lure him closer.

Try a laser pointer also if a cat is behind a bush, it will draw him out for a possible shot if needed.

Rooikat calling is the HOLY GRAIL on a predator callers bucket list, for those who have called them they never call enough and those that have never called them, they wish the day would come soon. I prefer to calling cats than jackals, cats are so much more complicated! ELUSIVE!!!!

Scanning time and speed, is important, I scan in a circle at a speed of 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and... when I get to 8 then I am back at the place I started, and I light every 30 seconds, I scan twice in a circle in case you miss eyes the first time.

Lighting white dim or red is your choice, in white you can see colour in your scope unlike RED and red it is hard to identify, I scan on dimmed white most times, and I now and again up the light to see longer range than a dimmed 150m light.

You must be PATIENT and give all stands an hour at least, time is crucial, cats take longer to come to sounds and often seem to just lose interest and turn around or vanish only to reappear in another place, cats are hard to figure out.

NIGHT TIME VIEWING TIP

Here is something I was taught in Angola when I served in the military, and I still use this today, never look directly at an object in darkness that you are trying to see with a light, don't look at it directly, always look just right of the object, not far away, just next to the object, you can see far better then and also don't fix your eyes on an object at night and stare at it if it's still and you are trying figure out what it is, always roll your eyes, if you don't even a rock will move in darkness when you stare at it. ALWAYS look at an object in darkness just to the side of it! NOT DEAD ON IT!

One of two Rooikatte that came in together to a caller that I called in Free State Arlington, calling cats together is something not often achieved, this was just luck.



The final IMPORTANT factor is BAKKIE TOE MAAK!

This is a very important thing, VITAL, because when that cat comes in he is on full alert, his RADAR and sensors are on high alert, ESPECIALLY when he returns to a sheep he killed, so YOU MUST prepare your bakkie well.

I face the BACK of the truck to the place I suspect he will come in from, because the back offers him a small object, NOT a broadside large long bakkie to see, and the reason I use the back is its flat and straight down, unlike a bonnet, windscreen, side mirrors and red alarm lights inside the bakkie, the back is free of all shiny objects.

NEVER use BLACK to cover the truck, black stands out in the Karoo or wheat fields, use a proper camo net, if you want cheap camo use carpet under veldt it is good colours and broken up and works well, the brown colour under veldt not the blue one.



GOOD LUCK CARACAL CALLING!

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