

# PREDATOR CALLING – TARGET SPECIFIC

For many of us we shoot and find out we shot the wrong animal, it happens a lot due to lack of ability to identify without a doubt what you are aiming at – *maybe this will help*

Generally a jackal is dead easy to identify at night, the way he approaches and the angle most often used and his flickering of the eyes etc, all those factors play a part in identifying a jackal, however many of us have made an error in judgement with the **CARACAL**, easily to many of us more well known as the **HOLY GRAIL** of predators to call, as many call for years but never call a Caracal. So because of this it also adds to the pressure of every eye we see at night we think it is a Caracal..... so, we need to look at the ways to identify and do an **IN THE MIND CALCULATION** of is it or is it NOT!

**5 year old male Caracal ambushed at a place he killed 5 lambs at.**



This cat gave me a chance at 170m, he walked slowly between bushes and at 170m he gave me a slight sight picture, it was a head shot and accuracy is a must – the 222 is one of my loved calibres, deadly accurate.



This cat came up out the cover after I used squeaks for 4 minutes, he walked along the cover again and walked just slightly into the bush, he gave me a side of the skull image and his top of the shoulder to aim at, a target of about 12 inches, I aimed at the top of his neck area and hit him in the head,

He came out here and I shot him here, I was able to identify him in the scope and had 100% surety he was a Caracal and not another animal.

We need to do a mental countdown, let's take the hunt above as example, so you are on the bakkie and calling, a set of eyes presents itself as example in this photo, you need to work out what it is, in my area we have specific animals and I will base my thoughts on them and their operating ways.

Right, so you see eyes here, so what are they? ...

This night I had sheep and lambs all around me as well, so we start a mental countdown depending on what animals you have in your area. **IF IN DOUBT DON'T SHOOT!**



**IF IN DOUBT NEVER PULL THE TRIGGER!**

Right, to start it is NOT a BAT EARED FOX because they come to a call in a pack or most times more than one fox, they are hardly ever alone, just about never actually, they also DON'T walk in between bushes, I have never seen a fox in between bushes – SO it is NOT a FOX.

Next a Silver Jackal, again, these animals although they DO operate alone, they never or I have NEVER seen any in between bushes. They are hardly ever still for long periods of time. SO it is not a Silver.

Next, even though we have sheep and lambs, they don't walk in bushes, well not here anyways, but we need to make sure, so it is not a sheep or a lamb.

Next, an OTTER, although some farmers have told me shoot them, I DO NOT, I am not interested in killing these animals, and no amount of money will sway my decisions, so we DO have otters locally, BUT these cover open lands and are never seen between bushes, they have no prey that can be caught here and if we do see them they are always on open land or near water. So, it isn't an OTTER.

Next we have the DUIKER / STEENBUCK, and this is when it gets more complicated, these animals will more than likely walk and operate in the open, NOT in the bush, however they sleep and lie down in cover and under trees or bushes, SO if we see eyes approaching or moving in dense cover we need to work out if they are walking around or just getting up from a lie down, if they are walking around in thick cover it is a 90% chance it is NOT a Steen buck, NOR duiker. Buck like Duiker or Steen buck won't operate in thick bush. If you see eyes when you are driving around and they are laying down in cover, chances are it's a buck 99% of the time. Early evening you won't stumble on to a sleeping cat, they are operating already. Then the eyes, pay special attention to the eyes, a cat's eyes are MASSIVE and when they look at you they blink very slowly, NOT FAST, they open and shut the eyes slowly, and the blink is FAR APART IN TIME, blinking easily once every 10 seconds or even longer and the cat's eyes are far apart.

Generally you must look at the various animals you have in your area and do that countdown in your mind, at the end of the day, if you are still unsure DON'T drop that poundage on the trigger, it can cost you big time.

**ANOTHER SMALL but important tip, is if you are scanning with a RED light you will find that identifying an animal is very hard because the red light creates huge red robot glowing on fire kind of eyes, it blocks out the animals body shape easily, and just generally a RED light makes life difficult. TRY using a white light on a dimmer, scan with a dimmed white light and drop it low when seeing eyes, it does work, then when you want to identify up the light a little and through your scope it will be a colour image and MUCH more easy to identify the animal.**

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