



The most endangered cat

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The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal. They can run 70 mph (or 110 kph), which is as fast as cars drive on the highway. The cheetah can reach its top speed in just 3 seconds!

The world's fastest land animal is razing toward extinction, with the latest cheetah census suggesting that the big cats, which are already few in number, may decline by an additional 50 percent over the next 15 years.





There are less than 7,100 cheetahs left in the wild, making the cheetah Africa's most endangered big cat.



Perhaps unsurprisingly, humans are the main reason that cheetahs are in peril.

Like other large carnivores, cheetahs face habitat loss driven by conversion of wilderness areas into managed land dedicated to agriculture or livestock. People will then sometimes kill cheetahs if they perceive the animals as a threat to their livestock, even though cheetahs rarely take domesticated animals

Cheetahs are also subject to vehicle collisions, poaching for their skin and other body parts, and even being killed for bushmeat, though that threat is mostly targeted at cheetah's prey species, such as antelopes, gazelles, impalas, and warthogs. All are ideal cheetah prey, and all are heavily hunted by people in many areas.

Cheetahs are facing a double whammy: They are getting killed directly, and then also their prey species are getting killed in these savannah areas, so the cheetahs having nothing to subsist on.

Other threats include high demand for cheetah cubs as pets, mainly in the Middle East, which results in the illegal trade of cubs from North Africa.

