

# Küeki TODAY



NOT FOR EVERYBODY

No. 2 – October 2008  
rostock@iway.na • www.rostock-ritz-desert-lodge.com

## Lodge

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## Editorial

Dear friends, first of all I want to thank you for all the feedback we've got for the first newsletter...

Meanwhile our campsite is fully functional; please get information and make your reservations through Lara (rostock@iway.na).

In this edition we will focus on the 10th anniversary of Rostock Ritz (thus the 2 pages, sorry for that...), present the Meerkat Rescue Project, and disclose the secret of how it comes our dog eats carrots. To finalize, we will try to elicit a big fat amused smile from you, with a cartoon by JJ. Hope it works 😊 Enjoy reading!

Yours sincerely,

*Küeki*

## Rostock Ritz 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The vision of building a lodge "in the middle of nowhere" came to my mind in 1989, when I bought the Rostock South Farm. It took me 9 years to put my vision into practice. After finding some "believers" at the bank and amongst my friends (thanks to Jerry and Piet Odendaal, the architect!), I started building, from very scratch.

Having found a water hole to guarantee our survival, we started building roads, laying groundings, pumping balloons, covering them with concrete, cutting doors and windows, and finally, filling the pool, painting, decorating, and employing our staff.



In October 1998, after 1 year of blood, sweat, tears and laughter, we celebrated the Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge opening.

I want to thank all my supporters, my naughty and dear friends, family (including my animals), and neighbors, and all my staff throughout this 10 years, some still here, some left for other adventures. The success of that project is built on all of you. I want to thank NTB (Namibia Tourism Board) and HAN (Hospitality Association of Namibia) for their great work in supporting Namibia's hospitality industry, and all the agents and tour operators, for the fair, fun, challenging and professional team work, for believing in our product and sending us guest, although we are not at the Sossusvlei gate (the guests in general also thank you for that 😊). Last but not least, I want to thank all of our wonderful guests, those who came once, those who came again, those who stayed. For each of you it's worth to be here and to keep it going.



To celebrate the occasion, we will be running a prize draw for **20 vouchers of 2 nights B&B at Rostock Ritz**, amongst all the receivers of this newsletter. The winners will be notified by email.



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## The Meerkat Rescue Project

Since 2002 we are reintegrating abandoned meerkats (suricats) into their natural environment. Suricats are very social, they tend to build up close relationships to humans, once they are taken off their own social environment. Humans perceive them as "cute", not realizing that they are unhappy when outside their own groups. Sold as pets at the roadside, they tend to become "uncomfortable" when held in captivity in closed areas. As a consequence, they are abandoned.



Sonja Sagell from Swakopmund collects those abandoned meerkats and builds new social groups out of them. Those groups are then taken to Rostock Ritz for reintegration. After spending some time in a big enclosure to get used to the new environment (3 months in average), the group dig their own "holes to freedom" and start getting out.



In June this year the **Meerkat-Rescue** Organization has been officially launched. A group of ten has already been released last year; they still come to the lodge from time to time to be fed. At the moment we have a new group of 6, who already found their way out from the enclosure and have bred. For detailed information or for donations, please contact Sonja at +264-(0)81 240 9645.



## How it comes our dog eats carrots?

A year ago, our guests reported about an abandoned zebra baby at the main road, near to Rostock's main gate. I just hurried to see what it was all about, and there was Maya (how be baptized her later on), small, weak and dehydrated, not able to stand on her feet. No other zebras as far as one could see. My animal-care instinct was immediately triggered, so I brought her to the lodge, and after consulting the vet, we started to feed and cuddle her every 4 hours, 24 hours a day. She liked it and decided to survive, to grow, and at a certain point, not only to drink milk with molasses anymore, but



also to eat carrots. Rocky, our Weimaraner, was watching the development very carefully. He was fine with her drinking milk from the bottle ("that's for sissies...") but when she started to get special carrot-treatment, he decided to intervene... "If she gets car-

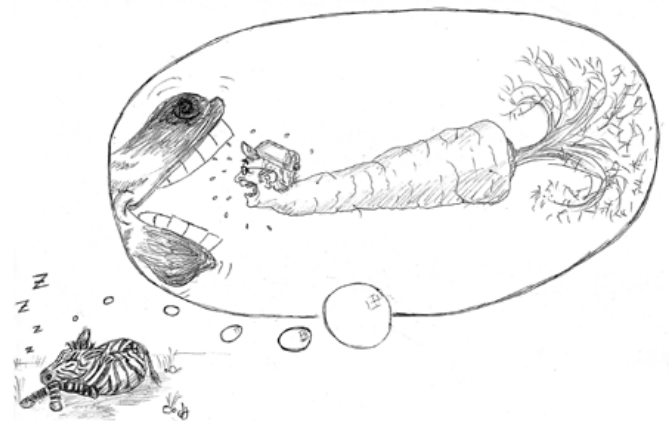


rots and special attention, I will eat carrots too!". Eventually he even liked the taste, and is now the most famous carrot eating dog in the Namib desert. And his eyes are as good as never before!

## Jakob's dream is a Maya's nightmare...



... and vice-versa



Be on edge for our next newsletter, coming a little bit later, on February 1st, due to vacation time, finally with the Bushmen Paintings trail, an interview with our chef, and some more surprises....