

CANNIBALISM IN ADULT LEOPARD

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During May 1977 the following scene was reconstructed from spoor and other visible signs in the Rhodes Matopos National Park, Rhodesia.

An adult leopard, *Panthera pardus*, had killed a male duiker, *Sylvicapra grimmia*, and consumed most of the carcase over a period of two nights. A second leopard then arrived on the scene, after which a fight ensued in which bushes and shrubs were flattened over an area of 50 m in diameter. One

of the leopards, a young adult female, was killed in the fight and dragged about 20 m through a deep gully and thick undergrowth to a nearby kopje. Here the other leopard proceeded to eat the carcase, a large percentage of which was consumed by the time it was found. The remains of the duiker carcase had been left untouched.

Smith (1977) in his study of leopard in the Matopos recorded two possible instances of cannibalism by adults on cubs.

This note is published with the approval of the Director, Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management, Rhodesia.

REFERENCES

- SMITH, R M 1977. Movement patterns and feeding behaviour of leopard in the Rhodes Matopos National Park, Rhodesia. *Arnoldia, (Rhodesia)*, 8 (13): 1-16.

