

## How do cheetahs run so fast?

The cheetah is a large cat native to Africa, Southwest Asia. It is the fastest land animal, estimated to be capable of running at 80 to 98 km/h. Adults weigh between 21 and 72 kg. Its head is small and rounded, with a short snout and black tear-like facial streaks. The coat is typically tawny to creamy white or pale buff and is mostly covered with evenly spaced, solid black spots.



The cheetah is a lightly built, spotted cat characterised by a small rounded head, a short snout, black tear-like facial streaks, a deep chest, long thin legs and a long tail. It also has enlarged nostrils for oxygen intake and a flexible spine for stretching to its full length. Its slender, canine-like form is highly adapted for speed. The cheetah also has a smaller flattened rib cage for greater leg movement as well as a long tail for counterbalance and steering. The cheetah spends up to 80% of its running time in the air as it practically leaps forward. It can also accelerate over 10km/h in a single stride.

There are 4 different subspecies of the cheetah such as the Asiatic cheetah which is critically endangered and only 12 are left in the whole world. Secondly we have the Southeast African cheetah which genetically diverged from the Asiatic cheetahs and have the biggest population of nearly 4,000 sparsely distributed individuals. Thirdly, we have the Northeastern African cheetah this subspecies occurs in the northern Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan in small and heavily fragmented populations of around 250 individuals. Lastly, Northwestern African cheetah which occurs in Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

In conclusion, the cheetah is the fastest land animal and is a wonderful animal that should be protected in the future.