

Name _____



Cheetah Predators and Threats

Cheetahs are known for their incredible speed, but even these fast felines face many threats in the wild. Although cheetahs are apex predators, they have enemies and dangers they must avoid to survive.

Lions and hyenas are two of the main predators that threaten cheetahs, especially young cubs. These larger and stronger animals can attack cheetahs or steal their food. Because of this, mother cheetahs must keep their cubs hidden and safe during the early months of their lives.

Apart from other predators, environmental changes are another danger. Habitat loss due to human activity, such as farming and building cities, has reduced the open grasslands where cheetahs thrive. When their habitat shrinks, cheetahs have less space to hunt and find food.

Humans also pose direct threats to cheetahs. Illegal hunting and poaching for their beautiful spotted coats have harmed their population. Some cheetahs are also captured for illegal pet trade, which affects their ability to live and hunt in the wild.

Diseases and parasites can also impact cheetahs. Cheetahs may suffer from diseases like feline distemper, which can spread quickly among wild cats. Ticks and other parasites may weaken cheetahs, making it harder for them to hunt and stay healthy.

To stay healthy, cheetahs rely on their natural instincts. They keep their distance from larger predators, hunt efficiently for food, and stay in open areas where they can spot threats early. Conservation groups work hard to protect cheetah habitats and educate people about the importance of these animals in the wild.