

Name _____



How Does a Cheetah Move?

The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world. It moves by running with incredible speed and agility. Cheetahs do not fly or swim often, but they are built perfectly for running. They can reach speeds of up to 70 miles per hour, making them faster than most cars on city streets! However, they can only run at top

speed for short distances, usually around 300 to 400 yards.

Cheetahs have long legs and a lightweight body, which helps them run quickly. Their flexible spine allows them to stretch their body further with each stride. When running, a cheetah's legs work like powerful springs, pushing off the ground with each step. Its long tail helps it balance and make sharp turns while chasing prey.

Another special technique cheetahs use while running is their ability to keep their head steady while their body moves rapidly. This steady head helps them focus on their prey without losing sight of it.

While cheetahs are not built for climbing, they can climb small trees if needed. However, they rarely swim since their bodies are designed for speed on land.

Cheetahs rely on their speed for hunting. They often sneak up on prey before sprinting, as they cannot keep up their top speed for very long. Once they catch their prey, they need to rest since running uses a lot of energy.