

# Namibia's Bat-Eared Foxes

## SURVIVALISTS OF THE DESERT

### Facts for your success

- ▷ Sheds light on a little-known animal with high "cuteness" factor
- ▷ Spectacular shots of southern Namibia's Kalahari Desert
- ▷ Fascinating interaction between the animals and their human friend



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**W**hile huge ears may not be particularly prized among humans, for the bat-eared fox, they are a highly valuable appendage is necessary for survival: their large, hypersensitive ears help them identify the underground crawling sounds of the tiny creatures they prey on.

Bat-eared foxes live above all in the Kalahari Desert, and it is here, in southern Namibia, that veterinarian Margit du Toit has committed herself to protecting these small animals. Like many other wild animals, bat-eared foxes are endangered by sheep farmers who mistake them for predatory jackals. Du Toit starts with informing the local farmers about the harmlessness of the little canids. Then she obtains a tame female, which she calls Fanta, and begins her scientific investigation of the lives of the bat-eared fox.

In this engrossing documentary about a little-known animal, we follow the destinies of Fanta and her four cubs, who are all trusting in their human foster mother. Du Toit is thus able to closely watch the cubs grow up and find food on their own, cope with dangerous neighbours such as scorpions and snakes, and leave their mother after several months to head out into the savannah.

Thanks to transmitter collars, du Toit can follow her “children”. Of the four cubs, three are female and one male. Will the females have offspring of their own in the coming year? Will the second generation be as trusting in a human? How will the animals fare when confronted with the electric fences surrounding the large farms, and the large predators in the nearby Gemsbok Kalahari National Park? Fascinating questions that will be pursued in the future...



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	<b>Documentaries</b>
<b>Format</b>	1 x 50'
<b>A film by</b>	Dr. Rudolf Lammers
<b>Production</b>	Dr. Rudolf Lammers for ZDF, arte, and ZDF Enterprises

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