CHEETAH

The **cheetah** (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is a [large-sized feline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_cat) (family [Felidae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felidae)) inhabiting most of [Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa) and parts of the [Middle East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East). The cheetah is the [only extant member](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extant_taxon) of the genus [*Acinonyx*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acinonyx), most notable for modifications in the species' paws. As such, it is the only felid with non-retractable claws and pads that, by their scope, disallow gripping (therefore cheetahs cannot climb vertical trees, although they are generally capable of reaching easily accessible branches). The cheetah, however, achieves by far the fastest land speed of any living animal—between 112 and 120 km/h (70 and 75 mph)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheetah#cite_note-Sharp1997-2)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheetah#cite_note-cbn-3) in short bursts covering distances up to 500 m (1,600 ft), and has the ability to accelerate from 0 to over 100 km/h (62 mph) in three seconds

[](http://www.google.es/imgres?imgurl=http://ferrebeekeeper.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/cheetah-cub.jpg&imgrefurl=http://ferrebeekeeper.wordpress.com/tag/cheetahs/&usg=__zSxnifAp0CWZZcHf7gBLt925otk=&h=352&w=400&sz=34&hl=es&start=29&zoom=1&tbnid=XFbPTrWGIucFeM:&tbnh=109&tbnw=124&ei=BZgvT9zBMIaj0QXCkp2tCA&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dcheetahs%26start%3D20%26hl%3Des%26sa%3DN%26gbv%3D2%26tbm%3Disch&itbs=1)[](http://www.google.es/imgres?imgurl=http://animal-photos.tk/wp-content/uploads/pictures/cheetahs-pictures-577.jpg&imgrefurl=http://animal-photos.tk/animal-photos/cheetahs.html&usg=__L94dNOCXuI8osvfkHiZ2CisEivQ=&h=483&w=567&sz=41&hl=es&start=13&zoom=1&tbnid=EjOK7oFWhCycpM:&tbnh=114&tbnw=134&ei=v5cvT6TRHseP0AXYu5StCA&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dcheetahs%26hl%3Des%26gbv%3D2%26tbm%3Disch&itbs=1)