

# off the fence.

## Young & Wild (Series 2)

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

### 1. New Life

For all baby animals the ordeal of being born is traumatic enough without having to face the hardship of survival. Being a new born animal means you are fair game not only to predators but also the natural elements. Each new life must first endure the challenge of birth before it can even begin the added trial of survival in the wild.

### 2. Stepping Out

To step out is to leave the sanctity of a birthplace and meet other wild animals for the first time, experiencing new environments, and new threats. Here, we explore the joy of a giraffe learning the basics of coordinating its long neck and legs, a baby hippo getting his land legs and a brand new rhino coming face to face with elephants for the first time.

### 3. Breaking Ground

Animal babies are vulnerable and in greatest danger directly after birth, and most need protection from the threats of the outside world. But as they grow stronger these baby animals must leave the safety of their birthplace and face the many hazards of the wilderness. Each new risk presents a challenge that must be overcome before a young animal can successfully grow up.

### 4. Bonds & Boundaries

Similar to human children, animal babies are extremely inquisitive and want to investigate and explore their environment. Their natural, playful instincts might lead them away from mother and their familial bonds – and sometimes straight to danger. This is when mom steps in to teach them how far they are allowed to go and, sometimes with the help of the family, defend them from the dangers they stumble across.

### 5. Dangerous Steps

For a baby animal, learning to walk not only allows them to discover new environments – it also brings them closer to the dangers of their world. For a baboon baby dangerous steps might be a

simple thing like taking a drink or playing on an elephants' highway. A risky day's work for the best of us!

## **6. Dining Out**

The time comes when every young animal must find its first solid meal – and sometimes dining out for the first time can be a rather challenging experience. Young black mamba hatchlings waste no time finding a meal, and competition is tough as two hatchlings cross paths whilst searching for theirs.

## **7. Natural Impulse**

From the very first breath, an animal's natural impulse dictates its destiny. Whether surviving a dangerous situation or coming to terms with new tastes, every animal has to trust its natural instincts. Natural impulse leads a banded mongoose kitten to a confrontation with a snouted cobra but his natural impulse does not alert him to the fact that this snake can spit and is dangerous from afar.

## **8. At Play**

In a life surrounded by obstacles, being at play is an important component of building confidence and physically preparing young animals for the future. Two African wildcat kittens on the brink of independence play a bit of cat and mouse, with an all-star cast.

## **9. At Risk**

It is never easy being a wild animal, and being small and vulnerable means that you are even more at risk than others. An elephant mother mourns the death of her new-born calf and does not want to leave his side. But her older calf is in danger of dehydration if they do not get to water soon.

## **10. Family Ties**

The strong emotional bond between a baby animal and its mother is a crucial component of growing up. For a troop of baboons, having family ties means more than having unlimited access to playmates; it is about an integrated society where primates have each other to rely on every day. Even an orphaned Baboon can count on his aunt for a bit of quality bonding-time.

## **11. At Home**

All young animals spend their early days at home. But these cheetah cubs born in the safety of a den are now old enough to travel with mother, learning valuable life skills on their journey. Their mother watches with pride as they practice their hunting technique, never straying too far from her.

## **12. Check Your Mate**

From the time of birth, every animal has one ultimate goal: to advance the species and ensure that their bloodline continues. These babies represent the success of their life's work and to ensure that all has not been in vain, every animal knows that the best strategy is to check your mate very carefully.

### **13. Cycle of Life**

From the moment a baby animal opens its eyes, the challenge begins. The ultimate goal: to secure its independence, leave home and find a partner. A young male leopard ventures out on his own to do his part in the cycle of life and meets a female leopard who starts flirting with him. Three months later, his cubs will start their own cycle.