

off the fence.

Shamwari (Series 2)

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Episode 1

Johan has a particularly messy operation to perform on an antelope with a giant abscess. The ranger trainees are playing hide and seek with the world's tallest animal. The wildlife team has a mystery on their hands. Two rhino have been found floating in the river. They need to work out how the animals died but first they have to reach them. The game capture team has their work cut out bringing in the world's largest antelope – the eland – we're talking a ton of animal that needs to be darted and loaded. And Johan pays a house call on the white lion cubs. He needs to take blood samples, but there's no way the cubs are going to co-operate. They might be small but they can put up a big fight.

2. Episode 2

The game capture team are going after one of Africa's rarest animals – the black rhino. There's only one way to bring them in and that is by using a helicopter to dart them. Ecologist Johan O'Brien is very worried. The recently born leopard cub has gone missing and he is going in on foot to try and find it. John fears it may have been killed by lions. Albert the foster sheep is off to the hairdresser for a slick new hair do. He needs to be shorn but the question is will the other sheep recognize him. And the ranger trainees get more than they bargain for when they go walking lions and stumble across a pride getting ready to hunt. It's a race back to the vehicle to get out of their way.

3. Episode 3

It's a tense meeting between Albert the sheep and his buddy Themba the elephant. It seems Themba doesn't recognize him with his new haircut and is intent on chasing him around the hospital. The fur is flying as the white lion cubs meet their new foster parents. We are introducing them to two wild tawny lionesses that will teach them to hunt. Big cat introductions are always tense as lions tend to lash out when meeting new comers. Let's hope our cubs survive this encounter. And the ranger trainees fall for the oldest trick in the book – they end up eating elephant dung as part of their initiation.

4. Episode 4

There's tears of joy as two lions rescued from a circus in France take their first steps back on African soil. It's the first time they have had the sun on their backs or felt grass under their feet. It's high flying action as the game capture team brings in Africa's national emblem the springbok – these tiny antelope can really jump. The ranger trainees are going fishing for scorpions. A deadly snake gets a little too close to our office and pays the price. It gets caught in the chicken wire surrounding the fence and needs to be cut free. It's a delicate balance – saving the snake – and not getting bitten for your trouble! And Themba the orphaned elephant gets a new swimming pool. We watch him take his first swim in his new, custom designed dam.

5. Episode 5

Keeping track of the world's biggest animal is harder than you think. The wildlife team struggle to find an elephant they have just darted. There's no time to waste and they are relying on the chopper to guide them in. Up at the animal hospital two feisty young caracals check in. We almost lose our very precious sheep Albert after he gets stuck down with a deadly tick disease. Luckily our vet Johan treats him just in time. And tragedy strikes the precious white lion cubs when one of the little ones is attacked and killed while we were releasing them back to the wild. The whole project has suffered a major setback but the team is determined to push on and succeed.

6. Episode 6

The wildlife team end up with a black rhino hot on their tail when the animal wakes up suddenly after being ear notched. It's a race to get back to the vehicles without being trampled. It's the battle for the burrow up at the animal hospital as the orphaned warthogs take on a puppy for ownership of the hole. A lion with a sore tooth gets some welcome relief. The wild dogs have escaped for the second time and Johan must become inventive if he hopes to lure them back to the reserve. And Themba the baby elephant gets some new toys to stop him getting bored in his enclosure.

7. Episode 7

The wildlife team almost end up in the jaws of a hippo after they try and help an injured bull. They need to capture the animal in nets but before they can set the trap the bull is on its feet and heading straight towards them. We capture some rare footage of the cheetah cubs as their mother teaches them to hunt by using a baby antelope as bait. And it's second time lucky for the white lion release. The white lion cubs are going back to the bush. This time things run a lot smoother for the big cats, although it's not so good for our camera crew. One of the lion finds our remote camera a bit too interesting and we end up losing a camera but capturing some incredible footage – filmed in the jaws of a lion.

8. Episode 8

When it comes to game capture buffalo can be one of the most dangerous animals to bring in. The team has to race into the bushes on foot to reach the darted animal and you never know what other, deadly animals might be lurking in the thick vegetation the buffalo call home. Up at the Born Free rescue centre it's an emotional time for the team as they release two young lion cubs rescued from a circus in Europe. Johan has a rather complicated operation to perform on a lioness with a sore tummy. It turns out she has a giant abscess lodge in her stomach that will kill

her if it isn't removed. And a rhino with wire tangled around its foot gets a helping hand from Johan.

9. Episode 9

Johan faces a medical crisis of the Oryx kind. The eighty strong herd has a deadly tick infestation and the team desperately need to treat them but so far they can only catch six. It's time to call in the chopper. A leopard bites off more than he can chew when he brings down a baby giraffe that is double his body weight. The plastic bag and the rhino. The relocation team use ingenious methods to get a two ton animal to follow them willingly. And two lions make a break for it as they escape from their holding enclosure. Johan faces a dangerous shot in trying to dart them in time.

10. Episode 10

A herd of hartebeest give the wildlife team a run for their money as they jump clean over the capture sails. A sun burnt hippo desperately needs to cool off. It's up to Johan to find this young male a home he can call his own. But first he has to catch it. It's not just big animals who need rehoming. Johan performs roof repairs on a tortoise using material you would normally find in a hardware store. We capture the lions on a night hunt as the pride set their sights on the world's biggest antelope. Ranger Morne is there to witness the havoc. And the ranger trainee students get a rude awakening when they come face to face with a lion that is supposed to be asleep.

11. Episode 11

The good, the bad and the ugly. An elephant capture is performed perfectly and gives the team cause for celebration. The same can't be said for a badly behaved rhino who takes revenge on a steel reinforced capture crate. The team needs to work quickly before it damages its horn and breaks the crate. Jackie the warthog gets a terrible skin disease. Johan is called in to restore this precious piggy back to her beautiful self. The animal hospital checks in two of Africa's most elusive cats; a mother leopard and her son. They need to have important tracking devices replaced but Johan has a tricky operation to perform as he struggles to locate the transmitter.

12. Episode 12

It's a race against time as resident vet Johan needs to reach a family of hippo before they break out of their enclosure. With a giraffe traffic jam and the team en route, he's worried the hippo might charge the door before they get there. Life and death in Africa takes a poignant turn as tragedy strikes the elephant herd. The game capture team has a risky situation on their hands with a darted lioness in the middle of a fully alert pride. They need to get to her before the rest of the pride senses something is wrong and turn on her or them. A hyena caught in a farmer's trap is in need of rescuing but proves to be a feisty customer for the wildlife team. And an incredibly rare baby mountain zebra arrives at the animal hospital.

13. Episode 13

It's a hair raising finale as a black rhino capture turns into a life or death scenario for our own presenter Lyndal. As the wildlife team is treating the injured rhino it suddenly wakes up early and they have a flight or fight situation on their hands. When the rhino singles Lyndal out and charges, nothing can prepare her for the impact of that massive horn. Up at the animal hospital our

orphaned elephant Themba gets a baby hippo playmate. But the first game they want to play is who's the boss. We find out what makes a pack of wild dogs the most successful hunters in Africa and which of our ranger trainees has what it takes to cut it in the exhilarating world of game ranging.