

# off the fence.

## Kalahari Meerkats (Series 2)

6 x 30'

### EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

#### 1. Episode 001

The rains have finally arrived in the Kalahari and the vast desert has never looked better. Cleo, the boss of this small group of wild meerkats has given birth to five new pups. The rest of gosa gang are glowing with pride at the new arrivals and the pups have started to explore their new world ..... but they never venture far from the protective eyes of their caring mother, Cleo. But there is a tragedy. Whilst Hutch was babysitting one of the pups called Jock strayed from the burrow and got lost in the mighty Kalahari. ....and to make matters worse another of Cleo's pups got lost in a burrow move and also had her life snatched away at such a young age. Only the toughest survive here in the African desert.

#### 2. Episode 002

In another cruel twist Cleo's young pup Ophelia got left behind on a foraging trip and was killed by one of the Kalahari's most dangerous creatures, a Goshawk. The remaining three pups: Zeus, Daisy and Flo have lost their dear sister and playmate and this is causing high levels of insecurity. The loss of two pups at such an early age has been a huge blow to the gang. Cleo knows that above all else she needs to get the last three to adulthood. But its not at all easy to survive here in the hostile Kalahari. Snakes and eagles are normally enemy number one for meerkats, but recently a much larger and more dangerous predator has moved into the area ... a leopard. This really has created nervousness amongst the residents. And now to make things even worse, a rival gang of meerkats are on patrol in the Gosa's territory. This group are known to be aggressive and are clearly looking to expand their foraging area, but our gang are not interested in sharing their pantry with anyone else.

#### 3. Episode 003

The Gosa Gang have recently moved to a new home known as Fortress burrow. It is close to the Gosa Dam where a rival family of meerkats live. In the quest for territorial dominance there has been a major meerkat standoff.

This has resulted in both gangs losing a member of their tribe. The Gosa Gang lost Priscilla. She fled the battle in fear for her life and found herself alone in the Kalahari wilderness. The rivals finally turned tail first and amongst the commotion they lost a boy pup. This little guy was too young to survive on his own out here in the mighty Kalahari. But In an amazing twist of fate, Priscilla rescued the desperate pup and took him under her protective wing. They have quickly become a unit as Priscilla enjoys mothering the son that she never had. Finally after a journey of

miraculous survival in the dry Kalahari desert, late one evening Priscilla and the pup make it back to the safety of the Gosa Gang. But will this new pup be accepted by the Gosa tribe?

#### **4. Episode 004**

Recently Priscilla bought an adopted boy pup from a rival gang to the Gosa Burrow. Unfortunately his acceptance into the Gosa group was far from ideal. His life did not get any easier after this. When the rest of the gang went out he was left behind at the burrow to fend for himself. A young meerkat is unaware of the dangers that lurk under the sand and as the rival gang stormed the Gosa burrow to fight it out once and for all they found that no one was at home except for the little boy who has been stung by a scorpion. Soon after, with scorpion venom coursing through his veins, the boy pup lost his struggle against the powerful Kalahari. Finally the heavens opened and the deserts thirst has been quenched. The residents can all breathe a sigh of relief as the rains mark the end of the winter of discontent. But the post-rain rewards have created a new problem for the residents. A lion has moved into the area to look for food and everyone is unsettled.

#### **5. Episode 005**

Summer has arrived in the Kalahari. It has been three weeks since the last rains and the desert is flourishing. A large group of giraffe have moved into the area which has been unsettling for the gang. Although harmless to meerkats, giraffe are terrifyingly tall which in itself is enough to be on constant alert. The Gang move to an area known as the Whispering Forest as it is the best place to find food at this time of year. However the grass is long and there are a number of predators lurking such as a leopard. Hutch in his excitement at finding so much great food wanders from the group and gets lost. But for him this turns out to be the best thing that could have happened as he finds a lone female from the rival group of meerkats. They fall madly in love. Will the bitter feud between these rival groups allow this budding Romeo and Juliet relationship to continue? Surely Cleo will never accept a rival into the Gosa gang?

#### **6. Episode 006**

Finally the two rival gangs meet and a big battle ensues. The Gosa Gang are on their way home from the Whispering Forest and bump into their bitter enemies head on. In an attempt to get past them and move over the mountain a full on war breaks out. It is a life-changing event for the pups but everyone fights with all of their heart and soul for their team. Finally the rivals turn tail and The Gosa Gang are the victors. However they are not without injuries. Hutch is badly injured and finally loses his struggle with life. His girlfriend from the rival group is accepted into the Gosa gang by Cleo and is pregnant with Hutch's pups. As one life is lost another is born here in the Kalahari.