



**CHAMPIONS  
OF THE  
WILD**

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# KENYAN WILDLIFE VET

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WILDLIFE VET**



**AS SEEN ON  
DISCOVERY  
AND  
ANIMAL  
PLANET**

VHS

C9198 150

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

# KENYAN WILDLIFE VET



Dr. Tom deMaar sees himself as an ecosystem doctor, not an animal doctor. A man with a passion for animals, deMaar has a unique opportunity to study the effects of ecosystem change on the creatures that inhabit Ol Jogi in central Kenya.

Ol Jogi calls itself “a private initiative focused on contributing to ecosystem conservation [through] programs of conservation education, wildlife research, veterinary science and endangered species preservation.” It is privately owned and funded by a mysterious anonymous donor.

It’s a magical place, a veritable Noah’s Ark, where animals that once ranged freely over much of Africa are safe from predators and human encroachment.

Today, like endangered species around the world, the animals survive in small, biological islands. Much of Ol Jogi is fenced in for protection, but the rest is open. By looking at differences between the animals on each side of the fence, deMaar hopes to learn about the effects of such safe enclaves on the wild animals inside. Is their nutrition sufficient? Do new diseases spread among them? Are there even changes to their DNA?

DeMaar notes that we know very little about the illnesses that afflict wild animals. While we know why domestic cats and dogs die, we are ignorant about what kills wildlife. When deMaar finds a dead creature, he usually performs an autopsy in the field to determine the cause of death. He says he is often surprised by how hardy wild animals can be: a monkey, for instance, which he was sure would die, handily survived terrible injuries – with a little surgical help from deMaar.

Ironically, many of the locals have never seen the fabled wildlife for which Africa is known around the world. And conservation means little to them when a leopard attacks the sheep and goats on which they depend for survival. Tom deMaar knows that if the animals of Africa are going to survive in the wild, their human neighbours must make peace with them. By organizing educational visits to the Ol Jogi orphanage, where abandoned or injured animals are cared for, he hopes to cultivate a sense of responsibility and respect towards animals such as leopards, gazelles and rhinos.

## Pre-Viewing Questions

1. Locate Mount Kenya (which stands near the Ol Jogi reserve) on a map.
2. What do you think are some of the differences between the work of an ordinary North American vet and the work of a wildlife vet in East Africa?

## Post-Viewing Questions

1. Discuss Dr. deMaar’s statement: “Humans can take care of themselves. They make a mess of their own lives, that’s their problem. With animals, they may not have that luxury. And since humans have such impact on all of animal life, all around the world, it is humanity’s responsibility to take care of the animals.”
2. Imagine that you are a subsistence farmer. For the last month, families in your community have been losing animals to a predator. One night, you catch an endangered carnivore killing one of your goats. Would killing the predator be justifiable?
3. A herd of elephants can leave what looks like a trail of destruction. What kind of damage do elephants do? How is this “damage” actually helpful to the ecosystem?



Champion:  
**Dr. Tom deMaar**

**Champions of the Wild** takes you around the globe with stories of remarkable endangered species and the dedicated champions determined to save them. Buy the whole collection!

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## **World Wide Web Sites**

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*Please note that addresses on the Web can change unexpectedly.*

The Ol Jogi newsletter, written by Dr. Tom deMaar:

**[www.wildnetafrica.com/bushcraft/organisations/oljogi/index.html](http://www.wildnetafrica.com/bushcraft/organisations/oljogi/index.html)**

An excellent site on African wildlife:

**[wildnetafrica.co.za](http://wildnetafrica.co.za)**

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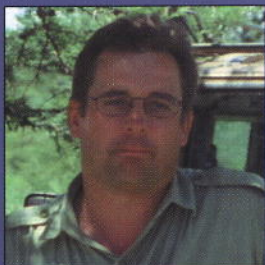
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**KENYAN WILDLIFE VET** (C9198 150): Champion Dr. Tom deMaar.





## KENYAN WILDLIFE VET



Dr. Tom deMaar is a vet, but don't expect to find him treating cats – unless they're the kind that leap out of the forest at lightning speed to take down a gazelle.

DeMaar left a conventional veterinary practice in the US for life at Ol Jogi, a private sanctuary in Kenya that teems with rhinos, giraffes, elephants, ostriches, leopards and other animals of the savannah. While he doesn't treat a lot of sick animals ("Wild animals get sick, they turn into someone's breakfast"), deMaar has a unique opportunity to look at the health of a whole ecosystem. He vaccinates, runs an education program for local children and learns as much as he can about how creatures live and die in the wild.

We go along with him as he does his rounds at Ol Jogi by jeep and bush plane, and we witness wildlife living as they were meant to, in a delicate balance, without fear of humans.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of half-hour videos! Filmed around the world, from the frozen fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines natural history with personal drama.

Director: **Chris Aikenhead**

Producer: **Christian Bruyère**

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik**

**25 minutes, 30 seconds**

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