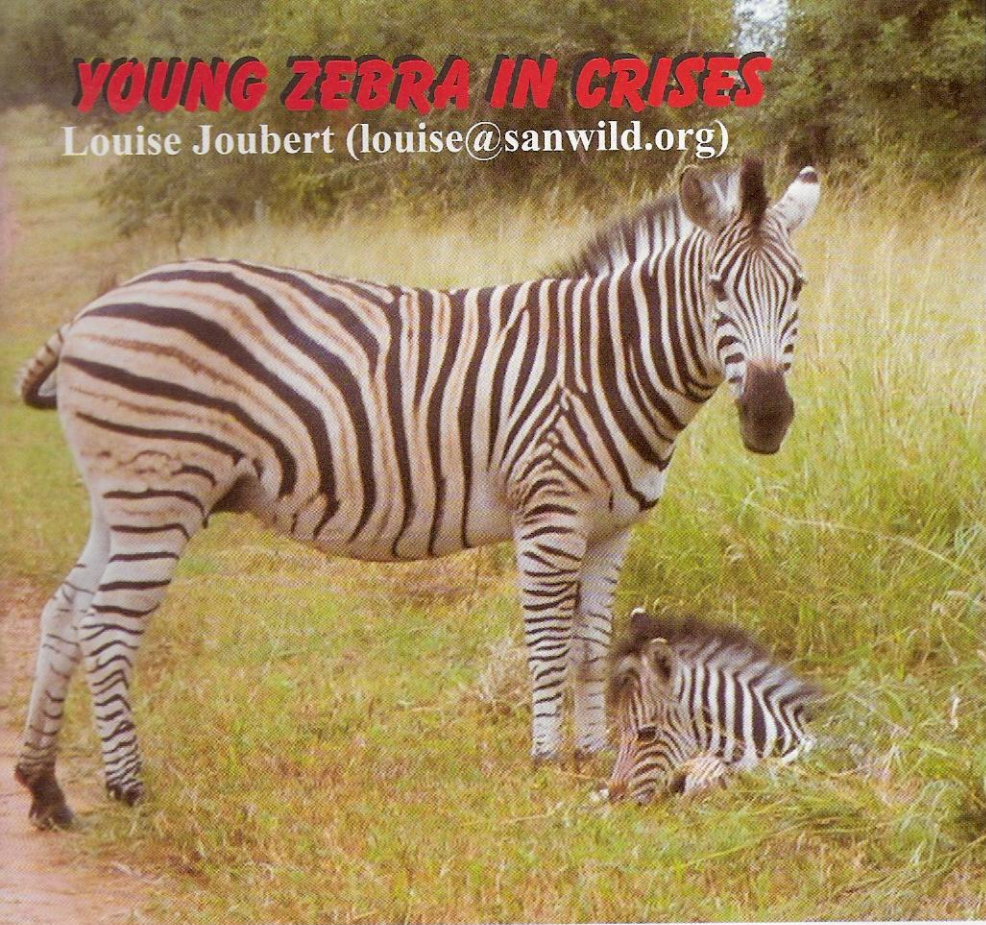


YOUNG ZEBRA IN CRISES

Louise Joubert (louise@sanwild.org)

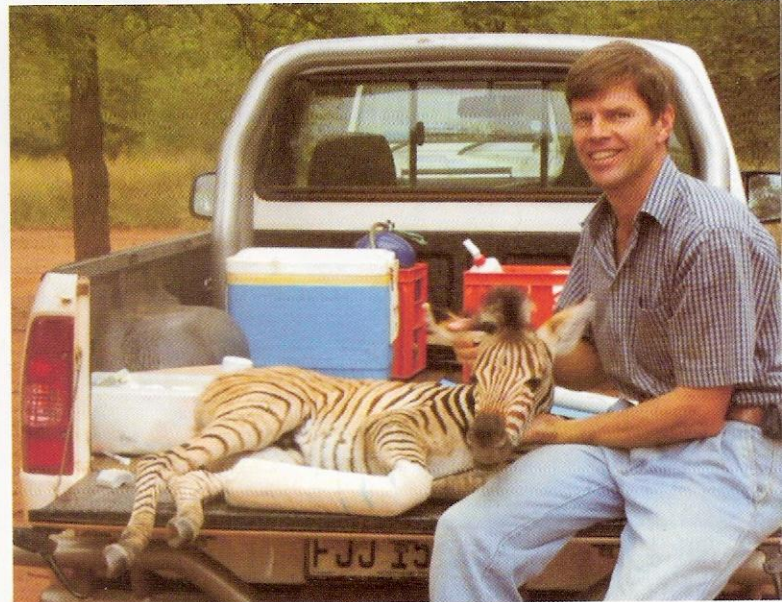
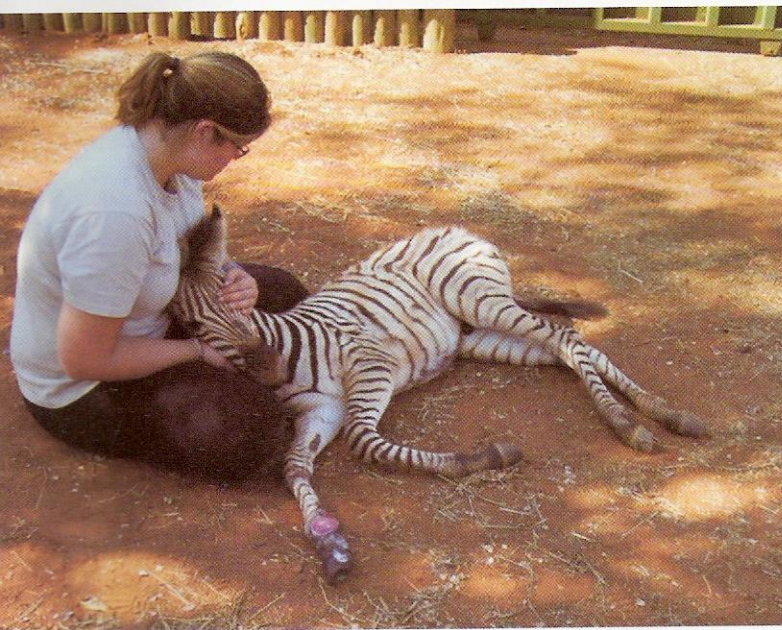


Sergeant Shadrack Ukeya was returning from an early morning patrol in the SanWild Sanctuary near Gravelotte, when he spotted the zebra mare with a young foal with a broken leg. Within 10 minutes Louise Joubert arrived. Urgent intervention would be needed.

With an in-depth knowledge of zebras, she knew that the mare had chosen to stay with her young and that no matter what, she would not desert her foal.

On a previous occasion Louise had observed another mare that defended her dead foal against vultures for hours. Removing the young animal from the wild was needed to save her life, but Louise also knew that if the foal were removed, the mare would run around for hours trying to find her young.

Louise was eager to see if her idea of taking both the mother and foal into rehab could work. So a local wildlife veterinarian Dr. Scheepers was called out to come and dart both the the young foal and mare. Both animals were quickly loaded and taken to the rehab center where the team started its work on the zebra foal. After the wound was treated, a splint was custom made from plastic piping that was heated up with a blowtorch and then molded to fit the broken leg.



Within hours the foal was drinking again and the mother did not seem too concerned about her life in captivity.

