

African PH Q&A

JOFIE LAMPRECHT: Raised on Safari

GAME TRAILS WANTS TO SEE HOW PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS TICK AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR PROFESSION AND PASTIMES. THIS SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE POSED TO SOME OF THE BEST AFRICAN PHs, SPECIFICALLY THOSE WHO PURSUE DANGEROUS GAME ON A REGULAR BASIS. FACING DOWN DANGER REGULARLY, LIVING WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR LIFE-THREATENING HARM – WHAT DRAWS A PERSON TO SUCH A LIFE? HOW MUCH DIFFERENT ARE THEY FROM THE REST OF US? THIS FIRST INSTALLMENT FOCUSES ON JOFIE LAMPRECHT, OWNER AND PROFESSIONAL HUNTER FOR JOFIE LAMPRECHT SAFARIS, SON OF JOOF AND MARINA LAMPRECHT.



Joof (center), young Jofie (right) and hunting client (left)

What do you wish a first-time dangerous game client knew before arriving?

T.I.A. mean This-Is-Africa; if it can go wrong, it will. We live on a fabulous continent where the best hunting in the world exists today, but with this wonderful lifestyle we call safari sometimes comes with its challenges.

How often do things go about as planned?

Our mantra is that 95 percent of the safari is in the planning. One can plan as best you can, but when the wheels come off, it is very difficult to stay on track. An understanding client that can see the bigger picture and that is patient while the problem is sorted out, a plan is made and enjoys these inevitable parts of his journey he / she will be a much happier client.

Who and how many people make up your best DG hunting team?

Three trackers, at least one of which that can drive in the thick sands of Namibia, my client and myself is all that is necessary. The team then has the inevitable game scout(s), usually two, that accompany the safari. They can be both wonderful or a burden depending on whom you get.

What makes a good client into a great client?

I want a client that understands the difficulties of working in deepest darkest Africa as well as a client that can handle his weapon both safely as well as shoot accurately.

Do clients do a “starter” safari on plains game, but then “graduate” for a second trip? Or do you have clients who want to DO IT ALL?

In my opinion, a hunter first “needs to find his Africa feet” before graduating to bigger or more dangerous game. Trackers. Shooting sticks. Lingo. Routine. The difference between “now” and “now-now”, “fresh” and “fresh-fresh tracks”. All this and more should be learned before putting yourself up against Africa’s dangerous game, where you are putting more than your own life in harms way.

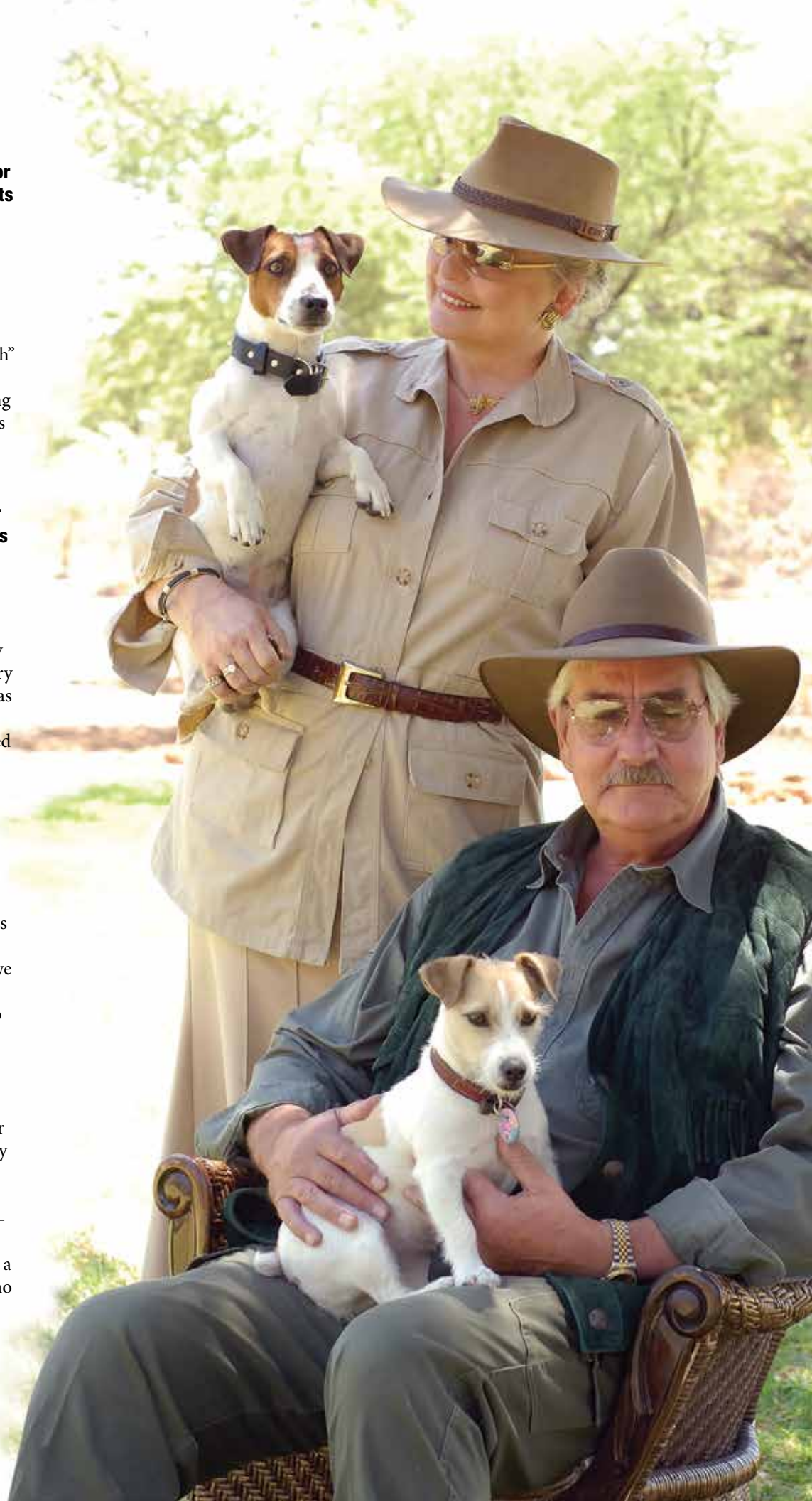
What was the best thing about your first dangerous game hunt, either as a pro or on your own?

Hunting my first Cape Buffalo at the age of 12 is a memory I will never forget. Shooting a .375 H&H open sights, with my father anxiously looking over my shoulder is a memory that will be burnt into my mind. It was a time of fun and laughter while on safari which will always be a cherished moment for me. (Joof Lamprecht passed away in August 2015).

What was the worst?

One particular incident taught me many lessons. We were hunting with a good friend of mine for elephant. We got into a mixed herd of elephants that had a large bull with them. We got too close and at the last second, we were turned-on by some very angry cows. I ended up having to shoot two cows to save my own life and that of members of the hunting party. The first elephant was four inches from the end of my right-barrel, and the second with my left over my shoulder as she chased me. Lessons learnt? Stay well clear of the Elephant cows when possible. Don’t force anything while hunting. Always carry a double rifle – it saved my life that day. As it turned out, the first Elephant cow I shot had a poacher’s bullet lodged in her jaw – no wonder she was so upset.

Joof’s parents, Joof and Marina, with dogs



Do you have favorite DG guns, optics and gear?

Hunting dangerous game the most important tool we use is our rifle. I carry a .500 NE double by Heym and let me tell you! It is one of the finest doubles on the market today, both aesthetically and mechanically. Custom built to fit me; there is no other rifle that I will carry in the African bush with pride and confidence.

Who are your mentors and heroes?

This is a simple answer. I have learnt many lessons from some of Africa's greatest PH's over the years. The man that gave me foundation however is my greatest mentor and hero. The hunting industry and Namibia have lost an icon. A man's man. An entrepreneur. A visionary. A conservationist. A philanthropist. A good man that looked after his people and never turned away from their problems. A hard man with a soft heart – Joof Lamprecht, my father. And I miss him.

I took my mother, Marina Lamprecht of Hunters Namibia Safaris, on her first plains game hunt several years ago. It was a very interesting experience guiding the hand that raised you. We had great success with a classic 6.5mm Mannlicher Schoenauer full stock. It would be fantastic to be able to hunt a Cape buffalo with her with the same brand of rifle in a legal caliber.

What are your experiences with poaching, anti-poaching and anti-hunting efforts?

I first came into contact with poaching in 2007 and 2008 in Tanzania. We found many poached elephant bulls while hunting. More recently in 2014, I found eight poached elephant bulls in Namibia's Caprivi Strip (now Zambezi region) in just two weeks. The wave of influence and devastation of crime syndicates is growing at a pace that is going to be tough to keep up with. Poaching needs to be addressed on all levels, from in the field, to the crime-syndicates, politically, diplomatically, and by spreading awareness that the natural products sought by these markets have zero medicinal value. To aid with this initiative, we have founded an organization in Namibia called COVER – Conserving Our Valuable Elephants and Rhinos.

If you knew you had just 10 days left on the planet, what would you do with that time?

As professional hunters, we make many sacrifices when it comes to family time. My last 10 days would be spent with my wife and daughter; she is expected to be born early in 2016, and is the reason I am not attending this years Dallas Safari Club convention. I'll be home taking care of my beautiful wife Maryke and to be present at the birth of my first child.



Jofie and client, September 2015



Cape Buffalo, 1992



You can find Jofie Lamprecht Safaris and COVER on Facebook. This series, "African PH Q&A" is sponsored by Heym USA, www.heymsusa.com.