

# *Tail piece*

*By Brent Naudé-Moseley*



**Tired meerkat.** Dementia, seen in a deep sleep here, spent her youth in incessant play and excavation of the tiniest hole in and around the house of her human “parents” at Loxton in the Karoo. She would let them know that their home was not as clean as they thought it was by hooking dustballs from beneath the skirting boards with her long nails, all the while chatting away and maintaining constant contact with them through various calls of the meerkat language. This housekeeping, and need to satisfy her curiosity about everything in life, would result in sudden bouts of exhaustion and the need for a catnap with her best friend, Mr Fluffy. Meerkats, although small in stature, are the bigger-than-life characters of the arid regions of South Africa. It is illegal to keep meerkats as pets, but on occasion youngsters are found wandering the extensive farmlands of the Karoo and need human foster parents to survive.