

# Feline Conservation Federation



**Siberian lynx cub Banshee pauses on a log to to soak up the lush greenery of a warm summer day.**



## Feline Conservation Federation

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Feline Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) noncommercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members. The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. FCF, Inc.'s Statement of Intent is contained in our bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. Since the newsletter consists primarily of articles, studies, photographs and artwork contributed by our members, we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible. Articles concerning exotic felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Deadline for the next issue is the first of even numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should contact the Term Director in Charge of Member Services.

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**The newly updated  
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## In this issue...

<b>A Focus on Eurasian Lynx:</b> <i>A newsletter full of the romping adventures of Eurasian Lynx</i> .....	4
<b>Setting the Record Straight:</b> <i>The history of the LIOC name</i> .....	7
<b>President's Letter to the Membership</b> .....	9
<b>FCF Exclusive! Playa de Oro Reserve:</b> <i>The trip of a lifetime, for a great cause</i> .....	10
<b>Bozo Lynx Moves to Colder Climates</b> .....	17
<b>FCF Convention in Cincinnati:</b> <i>All You Need to Know and More!</i> .....	18
<b>EFRC: Member Joe Taft's Facility Overview</b> .....	20
<b>Enrichment:</b> <i>A Constant Challenge in Providing for Wild Cats</i> .....	23
<b>Poison Plants:</b> <i>How to Make Your Cat's Green Enrichment Safe</i> .....	25
<b>Life With a Lynx:</b> <i>Inspiring and Challenging</i> .....	26
<b>A Love Story:</b> <i>Siberian Style</i> .....	29
<b>Legislative Update:</b> <i>Important Current Issues Regarding Private Ownership</i> .....	31
<b>How to Keep a Home and a Wild Cat at the Same Time</b> .....	33
<b>Minutes:</b> <i>MEFES</i> .....	34
<b>Banshee:</b> <i>The Loss of a Young Lynx</i> .....	36



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\$10.00

### DISCLAIMER:

*We cannot guarantee the printed quality of digital photographs. Please submit actual photographs or check with the editor regarding standards for electronic submissions whenever possible.*



Jimmy the Siberian Lynx is a familiar sight to many of the FCF folks online. Robin Taylor-Corbridge often regales the list members with "Jimmy-Tales," stories of his adventures with the great outdoors, the water, the challenges of flight, and the ways he adapts to life with his people.

*Editor's note: This issue of the newsletter focuses on Eurasian lynx. Future issues will also have a specific focus on one species or group of wild cats.*



## Eurasian lynx

### Lynx lynx

The lynx inhabiting Europe and Asia have recently all been reclassified as being subspecies of what is now called the Eurasian lynx. Formerly, each subspecies was classified as different species of the genus *Lynx*. These include the Siberian lynx (*L. l. wrangelli*), the Northern European lynx (*L. l. lynx*), Southern European lynx (*L. l. dinniki*), the Baikal or Irkutsk lynx (*L. l. kozłowi*) and the Mongolian lynx (*L. l. isabellina*). Two populations are sometimes given species status, but are most likely geographical sub-populations: *L. l. sardiniae* found in Italy but resembling *L. l. lynx* and *L. l. stroganovi* resembling the *L. l. wrangelli*. Males are 50-80 pounds and female are 40-50 pounds. Heights average around 24 inches at the shoulder.

Differentiating between the different sub-species can be difficult. The differences are sometimes very slight:

Northern European lynx (*L. l. lynx*) are normally a grey color on the sides and back with a white spotted belly. They usually do not have any spots or patterns on the backs or sides. They have a very tall appearance because their bodies are not as heavy as the eastern species.

The Southern European lynx (*L. l. dinniki*) has the same body build, but have very heavy spotting on the body, rivaling the Spanish lynx. They also tend to be more reddish in their base coat color.

The Baikal or Irkutsk lynx (*L. l. kozłowi*) is the tallest and heaviest of the lynx species. They are found in a limited range located near Lake Baikal (the world's largest body of fresh water) region of Siberia. They also are very heavily spotted and the background fur tends to have a lot of red.

The Siberian lynx (*L. l. wrangelli*) is slightly shorter than the western

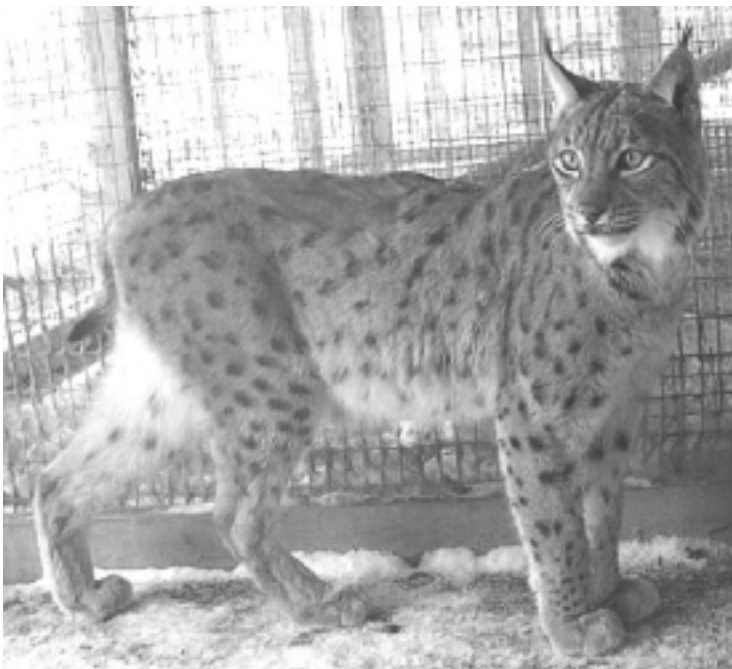


European lynxes, but has a heavier body. The coat is usually a grey or silver color with much stippling of white hairs mixed in. Spots are seldom found on Siberian lynx. They range from western Russia to the Bering Sea.

The Mongolian lynx (*L. l. isabellina*) is found in the mountainous regions of Mongolia. They have the same body type as the Siberian lynx, but they have a very dull grey coat, without the stippling of white found in the Siberian. Mongolian lynx also do not have spotting.

All Eurasian lynx are long legged with large feet. These attributes help them to travel in deep snow and remain effective predators in the wintertime. Their ears are tipped with long tassels of black hair. The presence of these long ear tassels has led many people to misidentify caracals as being a member of the *Lynx* genus, which they are not. Lynx also have a short, about 8" tail which is always tipped with a black end.

Eurasian lynx inhabit the forests and woodlands. They do like areas where rocky outcroppings can be found. It isn't known why they are fond of these rocky ledges, but their American cousin, the bobcat, also prefers these areas. In these forested regions, the lynx will hunt their







favorite prey, the deer, usually preying on young animals. Lynx are capable of killing animals four times their own size. Rabbits and other large rodents also form a major part of their diet, but they are not so dependant upon them as the Canadian lynx. The Eurasian lynx usually stalk their prey and overtake them with a quick burst of speed, killing the prey with a swift bite to the neck. They are also good climbers and can use trees as platform for attacks from above. They are most active in the morning and evening hours, spending most of the daylight hours and night resting.

Eurasian lynx breed in February and March, giving birth after a 68 day gestation period. Litter sizes are normally 2 or 3. Litters larger than 4 have never been reported. Unlike many cats in captivity, Eurasian lynx only give birth one time a year and do not come into heat again if their litter is lost or removed. The kittens will stay with their mothers for about 10 months before they take of on their own. Females become sexually mature at 2 years of age and can produce until they are around 14. Often times, a male will not mature until he is 3 years of age, but can produce until he is 16 or 17. Their life span is usually drawing to an end at 17 years, though reports of lynx up to 24 years have been reported.

The captive population status of the different Eurasian lynx varies quite a bit. Siberian lynx are well represented in both Europe and North America. Over the last decade, many imports into North America were made, primarily by fur farmers. The attempt at raising the lynx commercially for their fur turned out to be economically unfeasible and most of this new bloodline found their way into the hands of other breeders. The Northern European lynx has a large captive population in Europe, while fewer animals exist in North America. While several imports were made of this sub-species, most have failed to reproduce, or produced few offspring. Southern European lynx are much fewer in number in captive environments. Only a handful exists in both Europe and in North America. Baikal lynx are even rarer in captivity. Only 6 are known to exist in North America and these are either post reproductive or are not breeding. Europe has a similar number of the Baikal lynx. No Mongolian lynx are known to be in captivity at the present time.

Many of the Eurasian lynx found in North America appear to be Siberian or crosses between the various sub-species with Siberian as they exhibit characteristics of these different types. It is believed that this is due to past importers bringing in any of the various sub-species and proclaiming them to be Siberian lynx. Siberian lynx are the most commonly known sub-species and were therefore the easiest to sell. Since most people are unable to differentiate between the sub-species, this was a common practice. This type of activity is not confined to lynx. In the high demand years, importers would take orders for ocelots but would deliver leopard cats, geoffroy's cats, margays...any spotted cat that they could obtain. The novice purchaser took the dealer at his word and might never know the difference.

Currently, there is no organized captive breeding management program in existence for Eurasian lynx. The AZA Felid TAG has recommended that member zoos not breed these cats and should attempt to replace them in their collections with a species that is recommended.

In captivity, Eurasian lynx are easily kept. Though a large cat, they are able to be contained by fencing that is at least 14 gauge welded wire. They enjoy resting spots that are high off of the ground. Even though they are a species that occurs in the far north, Eurasian lynx do tolerate warm weather quite well, unlike the Canadian lynx. In more northern areas, they love the cold weather and particularly enjoy playing in snow. An adult lynx will eat about 3 pounds of meat per day. In temperament, the Eurasian lynx are very similar to that of a bobcat. When hand raised, they remain quite tame throughout their life, but do tend to be quite a handful when kept inside a home because of their size and sometimes rambunctious play.

The Eurasian lynx have a good population in the wild. In Russia, their range has expanded since the 1930's to include areas where they were once extirpated due to hunting pressure. In China, their mountainous habitat has retained a stable population, though they have become rare in some locals. In central and southern Europe, lynx became increasingly rare until the 1900's. Since then, they have generally recovered in areas of good habitat. Re-introductions in Germany, Switzerland and Austria were very successful. These efforts were the most extensive and wide spread re-introductions ever attempted with a felid species. Northern Europe (Finland, Norway, Sweden, north-eastern Poland and the European region of the former USSR) has a strong and stable population. In central Europe, a relatively large but isolated population is found in the Carpathian Mountains (Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Ukraine). Small populations are found in the French Pyrenees and Vosges mountains; the Jura mountains (France, Switzerland); the Alps (Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland); the Balkans (Albania, Croatia and Slovenia); and the Bohemian forest (Czech Republic). Population densities have been identified from 1 up to 19 cats per 36 square miles (100 square kilometers). Home ranges for males average 95 square miles and females average 60 square miles. The home ranges for males will overlap, but the females generally will not tolerate another female in her home area.



Cheryl Tuller's Siberian Lynx, Tasha

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Eurasian lynx are listed on Appendix II of CITES. However, their good population does allow for hunting and trapping in northern Europe and Russia. The largest problem they face is diminishing populations of deer, as they have been found unable to successfully subsist on solely small prey during the winter. Deer are much easier prey because of their vulnerability in deep snow. As always, habitat destruction is the main culprit in declining populations. While some domestic livestock depredation does occur, western European countries subsidize losses of approximately \$7,000 a year. These subsidies promote good neighbor policies between farmers and lynx.

The impact of hunting and trapping on the population is difficult to judge, since only harvest level information is available and more pressure is exerted in times of high fur prices. Russian harvest levels vary from 2,000-5,800 annually. The high occurred in 1956 and again in 1985-86, when individual pelts could bring as much as \$2500. The dates of these high harvest records indicate that the population has remained relatively strong and stable. During the high year of 1986, China exported 12,000 pelts, though it is suspected that some of these had been stockpiled and were not all harvested in one year. In 1993, China established an export quota of 1,000 pelts per year and Russia limited their exports to 2,800 per year. Current prices for a lynx pelt are approximately \$100.

## FCF Website Make-Over Nearing Completion

It's been a long time coming, but you know the old saying, if it's worth having, it's worth waiting for. webmaster Kate Connor Kahn is putting the finishing touches on the new Feline Conservation Federation website. We have two active addresses, [www.lioc.org](http://www.lioc.org) for those who remember us as LIOC, and now the [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org) site is up and running.

Changes include an expanded husbandry section that features veterinary and medical articles from past newsletters. We will rotate the articles and feature new ones so be sure to check back occasionally to see what's new. There is now a species section that provides information about the species. The Legislation section includes articles explaining the legislative process, ideas on how to write letters and rules to keep in mind. Our website also features News, Events and Action Alerts. Surf on over and take a look.

## URGENT: FUNDING ASSISTANCE NEEDED

from Pat Mansard, Director, LiFeline e-mail: [catsbze@direcway.com](mailto:catsbze@direcway.com)

This is a message from LiFeline in Belize, where help is urgently needed to prevent a prime area of rainforest, home to jaguars, being developed for tourism and turned into a golf course. The land in question lies between two protected areas and links private reserves to a National Park. It is an important biological corridor and within the last two months species sighted or tracks found include jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, jaguarundi, tapir, toucan, motmot, several species of parrot - in short a very diverse and healthy ecosystem. The forest is tall secondary forest with mahogany and contains a sinkhole, the only surface water in the immediate area and therefore of great importance to area wildlife.

This land is up for grabs and the potential buyer wants to turn it into a tourist resort, bar, restaurant, and golf course. The Conservation Division of the Belize government is endorsing LiFeline's bid to buy the forest and preserve it as a wildlife reserve. We have a few weeks left to raise the funds to secure it.

We are a registered NGO and non-profit organization in Belize. Can anyone suggest sources of emergency funding? Any help would be gratefully received to preserve this vital habitat and keep jaguars in the area.

# Setting the Record Straight

The Feline Conservation Federation, LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation and the Long Island Ocelot Club are all the same organization, founded by Catherine Cisin, operated continuously since 1957.

In January 1957, Catherine Cisin published the first issue of the Long Island Ocelot Club newsletter. Members quickly began to refer to the club as both LIOC and L.I.O.C. In 1974 the club structure was formalized with a constitution and by-laws. Officers were called LIOC officers. Branches were referred to as LIOC Branches. The Club was most commonly referred to as LIOC. In her acceptance letter for the position of newsletter editor, published in a January 1974 issue, Shirley Treaner (now Shirley Wagner) used both L.I.O.C. and LIOC abbreviations, as well as the club's full name, Long Island Ocelot Club.

The following are direct quotes reprinted from the Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter's official written record of Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes and General Membership Meeting minutes.

**Sept/Oct 1975** Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *Should we change the name of the Club - It has been argued that LIOC does not depict the worldwide membership nor the various felines represented by the club. It has been suggested that such a name change would be beneficial in establishing more credibility within zoological circles. The Board felt that a change in the logo would be sufficient to depict our international membership (Amagansett, NY has been omitted and "International" placed in its stead). It was unanimous that we do not change our name and let our actions of the past and the future speak for us instead. The Board asked president, Ken Hatfield to investigate further non-profit incorporation.*

**July/Aug 1977** Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"a CPA advised the club would not qualify for a non-profit status due to lack of files."*

**Nov/Dec 1978** – Annual General Membership Meeting minutes: *"As in years passed the possibility of changing the name of our organization was approached. After minimal discussion, it was vetoed by those members attending."*

**Nov/Dec 1978** – Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"The major amount of discussion involved getting the Legal Fund set up as a non-profit entity so that funds could generate non-taxable interest. A means of doing this was agreed upon which would set up this "New" non-profit organization and have it incorporated. The organization will have the same officers as LIOC. Ken Hatfield was instructed to work with an accountant in his locale to pursue this. The organization would have to bear a different name than the Club's and the following were selected (1st most popular and so on) LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation. . . ) Formation of this entity will allow gifts, grants, etc., to be tax deductible and will allow the mailing of our newsletter at greatly reduced rates. It will also allow the fund to generate non-taxable income - i.e. - interest from savings, certificates, etc. It was noted that the cost of setting up such an entity would be offset in all likelihood by such interest earned the first year."*

**Sept/Oct 1979** - Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"Papers for the non-profit corporation were passed around and discussed. The name of this corporation will be LIOC (initials only) Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc."*

**Sept/Oct 1980** - Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"Ken elaborated on filing for the non-profit corporation status (on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1980), and applying for an IRS tax ID number as a 501 C3. Discussed what would qualify as donations and deductions."*

**July/Aug 1981** – Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"Jackie Vanderwall (secretary/treasurer) will change the name of the bank account and club forms to read Long Island Ocelot Club, subsidiary of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. She will issue receipts for all donations. This was necessitated by our newly acquired non-profit status. (A new name was needed due to technical reasons)."*

**Nov/Dec 1981** – Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"In order to obtain our non-profit mailing permits, president Ken Hatfield advised that the masthead of the Newsletter would need to be changed to show that name of the-profit corporation under which were are registered - i.e. LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation. He explained that in the future this will appear on all Newsletters in order that we may take advantage of our non-profit status."* For the first time ever, the words LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation in very small type began to run concurrently with the very large and familiar Long Island Ocelot Club NEWSLETTER on the cover of the bi-monthly publication.

**July/Aug 1983** – General Membership Meeting minutes: *"There being no "old business" Ken reported that LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc., has completed its three (3) years as a probationary non-profit organization and is now confirmed as such."* Inside the front cover is the familiar seal that states the newsletter is: *"published bi-monthly by the Long Island Ocelot Club. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without written permission of the authors and/or the copy write owner, LIOC."*

**July/Aug 1984** - For the first time, beneath the familiar Long Island Ocelot Club International artwork seal are the words: *"Published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without written permission of the authors and/or the copy write owner, LIOC."*

**Sept/Oct 1984** - Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *"John Perry brought up the apparent confusion among the general public with regards to LIOC's new name. It was suggested that perhaps just using "LIOC" on letterhead would remove some of this confusion."*

**Set/Oct 1986** – Annual Executive Board Meeting minutes: *The Board voted to leave the formal title LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. as it stands.* Beneath the minutes report, typed in one-inch letters is the statement "L.I.O.C. NEEDS YOU! Please contribute pictures and stories".

**Sept/Oct 1987** marks the first time the Long Island Ocelot Club name is missing from the masthead of the newsletter, leaving only LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. on the cover.

**Jan/Feb 1988** the familiar Long Island Ocelot Club International artwork seal disappears. In its place are the words LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation.

**Mar/Apr 1999**, on the inside page the editor identifies the organization as Long Island Ocelot Club Endangered Species Conservation Federation.

**In the October 1999**, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Life Director John Perry moved to propose a constitutional amendment to change the name of the corporation to *"LIOC Endangered Felidae Conservation Federation."* Written comments from other BOD members participating in this meeting follow:

Life Director Carin Sousa: *"When we embraced LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation it was for incorporation purposes only and we intended to continue the use of Long Island Ocelot Club."*

Life Director Shirley Wagner: *"After all these years we haven't gotten folks used to LIOC ESCF instead of Long Island Ocelot Club . . . how many more years of confusion might this add?"*

**In March of 2002** a constitutional amendment was proposed by the membership to change the name of the corporation to Feline Conservation Federation. In a break from the tradition of Shirley Wagner and Carin Sousa counting the ballots, for the first time ever an outside accounting firm tallied the votes. The motion passed by the required 2/3 majority of the voting membership.

**At the August 2002** Annual Convention, in executive session, Life Director Carin Sousa contested this outside ballot counting process. The board of directors voted against setting aside the vote. Two weeks later Carin mailed a letter to the entire membership using the FCF database, which is in violation of a long-standing policy forbidding use of membership information for personal reasons. Her letter not only slandered the FCF BOD and the voting process, but it also violated the executive session called by Carin.

**In September 2002** Life Directors John Perry and Shirley Wagner called a special meeting to set aside the vote results and have another vote due to the ballots being counted by a corporate accountant instead of a CPA. After careful consultation with Robert's Rules of Order, the majority of the board voted against their motion.

**In a mid-October 2002** BOD meeting, vice president Robert Turner moved to register Long Island Ocelot Club and Feline Conservation Federation with the US Trademark and Patent Office. Life Directors John Perry and Shirley Wagner objected to the need for this motion. Other board members explained to them that registration would protect the ownership rights, history and continued use of Long Island Ocelot Club service mark identity.

**Two days later** Jeanne Hall filed paperwork for a non-profit corporation in the state of WA called the Long Island Ocelot Club and applied for a trademark registration for this name. FCF Life Directors Carin Sousa and John Perry serve as Life Directors of this other corporation and Shirley Wagner serves in the appointed position of consultant.

**On October 29, 2002** an attorney hired by KHMSF treasurer John Perry, drew up papers for the dissolution of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund Corporation.

**In early November 2002**, this other Long Island Ocelot Club mailed their newsletter to FCF members using the FCF membership database without FCF board approval. Artwork and photos were reprinted from our early newsletters. This other corporation stated the Long Island Ocelot Club ceased to exist in 1982 thus giving them the right to claim the name.

**In late November 2002**, five FCF general members filed a motion to the Board of Directors to expel John, Shirley, and Carin for by-law violations, in accordance with by-law 8.4 of the Feline Conservation Federation. Shirley Wagner resigned from the Board of Directors and all appointed positions in light of the charges.

**On December 9, 2002**, John Perry, treasurer, of the KHMSF tried unsuccessfully to cash in a \$9,400 Certificate of Deposit prior to its maturity in furtherance of dissolving the KHMSF Corporation. He had acted without FCF Board knowledge or written approval, just one day after being placed on disciplinary suspension by the FCF Board of Directors.

**In mid December 2002** at a special meeting, the FCF Board of Directors voted by the required 2/3 majority to remove John Perry as trustee of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Trust Fund and as Life Director of the FCF for breach of fiduciary duty and violations of the by-laws of the KHMSF and the FCF. John stated to the FCF Board of Directors that his intent was to donate the funds to the Florida Veterinary College and that an FCF benefactor would match the funds.



## Result of membership complaint against Former Life Directors John Perry, Carin Sousa, and Shirley Wagner

As previously reported to the membership of the FCF, on November 26, 2002 a complaint was filed with the FCF Board of Directors against John Perry, Carin Sousa, and Shirley Wagner by five members of the FCF under section 8.4 of our By-Laws.

The FCF Board of Directors has concluded its deliberations concerning these allegations and determined that there is sufficient evidence to sustain the one or more of the allegations against each of these three individuals. Following, and as a result of this determination, the FCF Board of Directors has voted to revoke the memberships of John Perry, Carin Sousa, and Shirley Wagner effective immediately.

With Deep Regret,

George N. Stowers, President, FCF

### A Note from the FCF Vice-President

At this writing, America is at war fighting to rid the world of a dictator in Iraq who is bent on terrorizing the free world. The American and British soldiers are fighting in sand storms and oil field fire smoke while we here in the US are worrying about our brave fighting men. During these times, I do not feel a few FCF problems are all that earth shaking. I do have to mention how sad and unbelievable it was to me to have one of the FCF life directors write an unjustified letter and mail it to all the FCF membership last fall attacking the Board on the name change. The board did an investigation and found the entire letter had no merit.

I feel very strongly that FCF; formally LIOC-ESCF has accomplished more in this three-year period to benefit the exotic cats than any other three-year period of our organization. Not to say that there has not been very dedicated hard work done by many since LIOC started many years ago.

While he was LIOC Vice President, George Stowers developed the Husbandry Course and presented it for Board approval at the 1999 convention. For the past three years the Board has worked to expand offering this course throughout the year. Some of the FCF board members got certified to help George teach this course. These certified instructors take part of their vacations and volunteer teaching the Husbandry Course. I feel the Husbandry Course was the most positive undertaking that our organization has ever taken on. We owe a lot to Board members George Stowers and Tracy Wilson producing and teaching without any pay.

LIOC members and LIOC board members volunteered on a committee to develop the Model for State Regulations, which is a guide that county, state, or federal governments can use to develop suitable permitting and regulations, instead of ban laws. The Board approved this committee's model at the 2000 convention.

During the 2001 convention in Portland, a majority of the LIOC members present held a private meeting among themselves while the Board members were having one of their meetings and they reported back to the LIOC Board the items they wanted the Board to address. One of the items was to look into a possible new name to replace the name LIOC. The Board acted upon a request from the members who proposed constitutional amendment for a new name and wanted the membership to vote on it. 2/3 of the LIOC members voted in favor of this name, Feline Conservation Federation. The Board acted on what the membership asked it to do.

This past year, the Board looked at conservation projects in the cats' native land and decided to support a new wildcat conservation project in Ecuador that the membership can take part in. A member of the board, at her own expense, couple of months ago took a trip to Ecuador to set up camera traps. I feel FCF supporting wildcat conservation projects in the wild is directly beneficial to the cats.

FCF will need to continue its good work that it has done to date. The FCF Board has to have the courage to continue working hard for the future of FCF, even in difficult times. I encourage FCF members to get involved in FCF projects and be part of the great accomplishments that lay ahead. If you want to help, contact me or any other board member. I know this Board will stay focused on the betterment of the wildcat for the membership.

Sincerely, Robert Turner, FCF Vice-President

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(Record, continued from previous page)

At this special meeting the FCF Board also approved a motion to hire legal council to issue a cease and desist letter to this other Long Island Ocelot Club's officers and principals and intercede on behalf of our members to prevent the approval of this other corporation's Long Island Ocelot Club trademark application. All documentation pertinent to stopping this fraudulent trademark application has been forwarded to our legal council.

**In January 2003**, in a letter written to the FCF Board of Directors by the potential benefactor, it was stated that they had indicated to the trustees of the KHMSF their desire and interest in donating the necessary funds for the trust to reach \$20,000 making it a perpetual fund at the Florida Veterinary University. They were still interested in pursuing this idea, but this potential benefactor wrote that they had never made a firm commitment for such action and study by an accountant of their personal tax considerations was still needed.

**In conclusion**, the written records show that in 1980, when president Ken Hatfield filed for incorporation in the state of Florida, he did not intend to dissolve the club and in fact, filing did not change any of the following: Officers in power, operating structure, by-laws, constitution, membership roster, newsletter name, history time-line or the founder. Incorporation also did not change the ownership, history, and tradition of the Lotty award or continuation of Life Membership benefits. Life members of the Long Island Ocelot Club continue to this day to receive complimentary memberships from the Feline Conservation Federation.

## SAVING SMALL CATS IN THE WILD FCF Members “Adopt” Margay Reserve

Submitted by Rosa Jordan, e-mail: rosaj@look.ca

The Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos, a 25,000-acre rainforest reserve created for the protection of “tigrillos” (the Latin American word for margays, ocelots, and oncillas), has just moved a little closer to scientific recognition, thanks to FCF support.

Located in the Ecuadorian rainforest, the reserve was initiated and is sponsored by Earthways Foundation. Wild About Cats provided some of the seed money, with ongoing support coming from private donors and what’s earned from visitors staying at the lodge. The village of Playa de Oro, which owns the land, designated it as a reserve and committed to protecting all species of indigenous wildcats from their own and outside hunters.

Margays, ocelots, and oncillas are occasionally sighted. The margay is the reserve’s flagship species, making this the first official margay reserve in the world. But no one knows how many of them there are, or what other indigenous cat species are still around. For a proper population survey, wildlife surveillance cameras were needed - and that’s where FCF came to the rescue.

At an exotic cat conference last year, Bobby Bean and Tracy Wilson both spoke with Conservation International biologist Jim Sanderson about the reserve’s need for wildlife surveillance cameras. Sanderson offered to provide some and train the reserve’s staff in their use. Unfortunately, Sanderson fell ill with dengue fever and was unable to accompany the cameras to Ecuador. Again it was an FCF member who filled the breach.

On February 1, Tracy Wilson showed up in Ecuador carrying a check for \$500 - a donation from FCF members to be used for camera batteries, film, and processing. Accompanied by FCF member Amy Rassmussen and Earthways project facilitator Rosa Jordan, Tracy traveled six hours through the Andes and two hours by boat up Rio Santiago to the reserve. By the time she arrived she had practically memorized the instruction manual for the wildlife surveillance cameras, and could teach the reserve’s director, Mauro Caicedo, how to set them up. Within four days Tracy and Mauro had all four cameras located along game trails in different parts of the reserve.

As soon as pictures start coming in, Mauro will mail the exposed rolls to Tracy for processing. Those showing cats (or any other wildlife) will be sent to Conservation International for its data bank. Meanwhile, Amy Rassmussen donated an additional \$300 to the reserve. Tracy is already planning a return visit in June, hoping to sign on some volunteers to enlarge the reserve’s two enclosures.

Although it was always intended that the reserve would be used for the release of small cats confiscated from the illegal exotic animal traffickers, few such cats were rescued during the first seven years of operation, both because the reserve lacked facilities and the staff is inexperienced in exotic cat care. Two male ocelots, taken from wildlife traffickers, were brought to the reserve for care but did not survive. One had received internal injuries due to the manner in which it was trapped and the other was blind.

However, the cause of their deaths was something entirely different: a sudden-appearing paralysis. When a description of the symptoms and other information was e-mailed to FCF, several members diagnosed the probable cause: Chastek’s paralysis, resulting from fish in the diet. Tragically, a third ocelot, a kitten, died after eating a poison frog. However, a margay which had been rescued from a private owner who’d kept it dangling in the air in a small bird cage for four months, fared better. The margay grew strong and healthy at the reserve, returned to the wild, and has been sighted since, obviously holding his own out there where life really IS a jungle.

There is now a young female ocelot (whom Amy dubbed “Missy”) in care at the reserve. Those staying at the lodge often hear a wild male chatting her up just before dawn. The wild ocelot also comes up on the lodge veranda every night and leaves a pile of poop - just to remind everyone whose territory this is, and who has first dibs on the pretty lady in the enclosure out back.



Given that Missy is a young, it would be wonderful if she could be released to make her babies in the wild, where they belong. But that is very much in doubt, as she appears to have few hunting skills and has not yet figured out that live mice are edible.

However, once information starts coming in from the camera traps, it should be easier to get funding for radio-collaring. Radio-collaring would make it possible to track released cats to determine their success in the wild. Few such studies have been done, and those which have been done show that the main danger to released cats is human predation - not a problem in the protected forest of the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos.

Rosa and Dan dwarfed by the jungle

# A Guide in Training

*FCF Director of Conservation and Education  
trekks through the jungle  
in search of adventures to lead YOU through  
for the betterment of all cats*

by Tracy Wilson, Director and Adventure Seeker

I just returned in mid February from Ecuador, South America, where I spent time at Touch the Jungle reserve, or also known as Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos. My mission to work at this reserve as a representative of Feline Conservation Federation has been accomplished with the help of other FCF members. I successfully installed camera traps donated for a year by Jim Sanderson of Conservation International, as well as trained the reserve staff in how to install the cameras and keep them maintained. Jim sent us (FCF and the reserve) 4 camera traps to help establish what kind of cats and other creatures live in the reserve. A FCF member, Amy Rassmussen, joined me at the last minute to also go to the reserve and offer her support for the project. Without much notice, quite a few of our members sent donations when they heard of the camera trapping project through our FCF internet email chat list to help pay for the set up supplies that the cameras needs such as film, camera batteries, etc.

This camera trapping project will be a cooperative effort between the reserve, Conservation International, and FCF, over the next year or so. The basic rundown of what each group is responsible for goes something to this effect: Conservation



International provides the camera equipment; I train the reserve staff how to use the cameras on behalf of FCF; the reserve staff maintains the cameras over this next year; FCF funds the effort through our member and organization donations, as well as tries to promote the reserve and keep a steady income coming to the reserve by taking groups to visit the reserve; I develop the film as it is mailed to me and fill out monthly reports to Conservation International on behalf of FCF. And finally, Conservation International will send out the information gathered by the camera traps into the scientific community for further study and possibly generate interest from other researchers to start other conservation projects in the reserve.

I went out every morning and hiked in this area of virgin rain forest for a couple of hours with the reserve manager Mauro to install the 4 cameras and prepare 9 more future sites for the cameras. (13 total camera sites). My job was to train Mauro on how to install and operate the cameras, and keep them operating after I left and I had to take GPS readings of each camera site location. The reserve is 25,000 acres in the foothills of the Andean Mountains, located on the NW side of Ecuador about 30 km from the west coast. 25,000 acres may not seem large until you walk it's steep muddy trails several hours a day for a week or so, and still not see the entire thing. I saw many beautiful waterfalls, creeks, tropical vegetation, and many birds and animals that I was not familiar with—yet. Many times, after we installed a camera or two, we would keep on exploring through the jungle, looking for animal tracks. I knew that I would probably never get a glimpse of a live wild cat in the jungle, but I did have the pleasure of seeing three different small cat tracks there! Two tracks were probably of a ocelot, while one set was smaller and probably from a margay. This was very encouraging for me while setting up the camera traps, there was some visible proof that cats were in the area for our cameras to capture on film.

Another job that I went to the reserve to do, was to teach the staff some husbandry skills for the cats and other animals that come to the reserve to be rehabbed and released back to the wild. And boy, did they need some education in this area. It is very unfortunate that they do not have access to modern conveniences and a vet in order to provide better care for sick animals that they may receive. No lab tests can be done on an ill animal in a timely manner (if ever), and it takes hours and hours to get to a phone to even try to call a vet. Plus money to travel, which they do not really have. So it is imperative that they learn some basic skills that any wildlife rehabilitation center would need to know since they are so isolated from the outside world. They did not even know basic handling techniques, let alone much about health care or proper nutrition. I took some supplies to them for animal medical care, but since I had not been there before, I did not know for sure what they



did need or not. They need much more than I brought. And just because they had certain supplies, that did not mean they knew how to use it. I taught them how and when to use what they did have, or drew examples of things they could make themselves that would be helpful, like a capture net, and demonstrated how to use it.

One thing that FCF members can do to benefit the reserve and the resident cats, is to go to the reserve and share your knowledge of cats with the staff and help them learn how to care for the cats that they are trying to help us save. Even if you do not have a lot of hands on knowledge about cat care, if you have a passion for these cats, you can share that with the staff. Our passions for the cats have a profound effect on these people. The villagers there have a different view of the wildlife than we do, they have lived in this jungle for generations as hunter-gatherers, living off the land. Wild cats are normally their competitors for food. Yet these people recognize that they have to protect this land and all its inhabitants. When Rosa Jordan and Earthways approached these people of Playa de Oro to set up a jungle cat reserve, the village recognized an opportunity to bring work and income to their village, as well as a way of preserving their land and way of life, despite any misgivings they may have about wild cats from old legends of big cats carrying off their ancestors' babies and children.

The more outsiders that visit the reserve, the more educated the villagers become about endangered species, as well as helping instill our passions for these wild cats to them. As work continues to come to the village from visitors at the reserve, they have proof that they have made the right choice in preserving their land and animals. We want these cats to survive in the wild and carry on for many more years, and they are learning that importance from people like us that visit the reserve. They can see that this land's well-being as well as the animal's are important to outsiders from around the world, and that says a lot to these people who have such a simple way of life deep in the jungle.

The reserve does currently have a young ocelot in residence, rescued just a couple of months before my arrival. It had been kept all it's short life in a tiny box in some back room of a building when Rosa found it and brought it to the reserve. It's age is currently about 10 months old. She did not have a name yet, so while I was calling her "Little Missy," a nickname I call many of my female cats, Amy decided that "Missy" was a good name for her and it stuck. Amy was quite smitten with the little ocelot. Amy's room was practically next to Missy's enclosure, and if Missy made any noise during the night, Amy was up and running to see what she was doing and check to see



if she was OK. Missy was not in great shape health wise when I arrived and worried us quite a bit. Amy always doubled checked with me to make sure I had given Missy her medicine for that day and made sure that Missy ate all her food every day. I oversaw Missy's care while I was there making sure to show the staff what I was doing every day for Missy and why. I showed them what to do with the supplies they had to help the cat, and she had improved greatly by the time I left. I am not a vet, but I have worked with cats for long enough and at least know the basic warning signs to watch for as well as basic care treatments to do for common conditions, which I described to the staff to help them recognize when an animal is in trouble in the future and how they should respond.

Missy was extremely skinny, not very active, and I saw that she had parasites in her yellow liquid stools. I wormed her with some ivermectin they had on hand and put her on an antibiotic. There was no way to tell what bacteria or

other illness was causing her yellow stools without any lab tests, but a broad spectrum antibiotic is all we had on hand to treat her, so that's what she got. She was dehydrated as well, but there were no supplies to administer fluids to her, so I had to skip that treatment unfortunately. That was something I had hoped to demonstrate to the staff so they could administer fluids in the future to any animals that arrive in dehydrated conditions. I did find some injectable B vitamins, and gave those to Missy daily, as well as some regular cat vitamins they had on hand. It was no fun task to have to cut a slit in a jungle rat's belly twice a day to insert the antibiotic pill for her, but I did it because the cat was in dire need of the medication. I often wondered what the reserve staff was thinking while they stood around watching me cut open these rats and stick pills inside them. I suppose they thought I was a crazy gringo. We're hopeful that her health will continue to improve and she will eventually be released back to the wild. We just got an email from Mauro, the reserve manager, on March 9th, that Missy seems to be continuing to improve since I left. That's good news, it has been just about a full month since I left, so if she has continued to improve since then, she may just have a chance. If you are wondering about the jungle rat, well, the staff has to go out and hunt every day for the cat's meals. The jungle rats were these foul-looking large black rat creatures. There's no store to go buy chicken or commercial diets for the cats like we have. They have homemade rat traps all about in the jungle and they catch rats for her every day.

What's important is that this is the cat's natural prey, and what she will eat once she is released into the reserve.

Another little creature came into our care during this trip. Rosa came across a little black mantle tamarin as she traveled to Quito to meet our group. A young boy was walking down the street with a shoestring tied around the tiny little monkey's waist,



Above: the ocelot cage on site. Right: Missy, the resident ocelot





### The Lodge

which he swung her about in the air with. Rosa convinced the boy to let her have the monkey, and we cared for it while we traveled to the reserve. None of us were really monkey people, so we were not sure at first really what it was, except it was some kind of tiny marmoset. The locals in Quito called in a “pocket monkey”, but that didn’t help us much. While we were still in Quito, I went to an internet cafe and sent emails out to some of my FCF cat friends asking for help. I got a lot of information back on what it was and how to care for it, and took that info with me to the reserve.

The first day Rosa showed us the little girl tamarin, now named Lucette, Lucette seemed very ill. I had to cut the shoestring off her, which was on very tight and slightly embedded in the skin of her stomach. Once we got to the reserve, and Lucette had proper rest and a proper diet, she

started to become more active and alert. Within a few days, she was talking to us quite a bit and would tell us all kinds of things. We also heard her talking back to other monkeys in the jungle near the lodge. One of the other ladies on this trip was overseeing Lucette’s care, and worked with the reserve staff about how to care for her and house her after we left. Mauro reported to us in his March 9 email that Lucette was doing well also.

The reserve and lodge were beautiful. Much more than I imagined, and not nearly as primitive as I imagined. The lodge staff pampers you, they seemed to really enjoy taking care of the visitors. The lodge is very basic, but clean and comfortable to not have any modern conveniences such as electricity or a refrigerator. All the rooms are screened in well to keep bugs at a minimum while you are inside the building. A lot of the food that we ate was grown at the lodge and it was delicious.

They boiled all the water that was used for our drinks or washing our dishes, so everyone stayed healthy and no one got sick from drinking contaminated water. After touring the village, I felt at ease that if anything happened while we were in this remote area, these people are quite capable of handling anything. They have to, this is how they live everyday. I felt I was in in very safe and knowledgeable hands. The staff speaks only Spanish, so you are somewhat hindered in communication with them if no one is around to interpret for you. Thankfully, Mauro and I had some magical way of communicating regardless of the language barrier that everyone was awed by. I don’t know what it was, we just understood what the other was trying to say. We even played jokes on each other, and reviewed maps together quite easily. I think everyone found that laughter is universal, you may not fully understand the words, but everyone understands that someone slipping in the mud and falling on their behind is pretty funny.

The nearest villagers of Playa de Oro (2 hour hike or 40 minutes by boat) that the reserve and land belong to are called “African-Ecuadorians”. They are of African slave descent, their ancestors shipwrecked and escaped some 500 years ago on the nearby coast. And when you are in their village, you certainly feel a sort of ancient African vibe in their culture. There are many of these African-Ecuadorian villages in this part of Ecuador, but they are a very small population of Ecuador’s total population. They have remained in the jungles as hunter-gatherer communities, living off the rich land while being money poor. It was like stepping back in time, to a place where you don’t just go to the store and buy what you need, but you figure out what you need and how to make it with your hands and supplies from the jungle. One afternoon, they brought some children from the village up to the reserve to sing and dance for us in their native style. They had a few adults play some hand made instruments (marimba and drums) and sing, while the children danced. It was quite an experience! After they danced awhile, they unexpectedly grabbed some of us observers, and before we knew it, we were all dancing their dances with them.

The bugs were not as bad as I imagined, and the temperatures were not nearly as hot or humid as I imagined. The temps stayed a steady 80 degrees during the day and 75 degrees at night. They tell me that these temperatures stay pretty steady year round. Since we were almost right on the equator, I had imagined it would be unbearably hot, but it was quite pleasant. The humidity was less than I experience living in Arkansas during the summer, so it did not bother me at all. The bugs and frogs at night produced a roar of noise that made it hard to fall asleep the first few nights in the safety of my mosquito net covered bed. And I never got used to the noisy celebration by the birds and monkeys early every morning just before dawn. I woke up every morning about 5:30 by all their commotion and usually laid in bed until 6:00 or so, not wanting to disturb them, listening and watching them through my screen covered window before I got up to begin my treks in the jungle.

You could almost set your watch to the rains, and you certainly planned your day around the rains. Every day after lunch it would rain from about 1:00 until about 3:00 or 4:00, sometimes it would come a little early or stay a little longer. This was afternoon hammock time for the others visiting the reserve, but this was the time I spent working with the reserve staff on cat care issues. Sometimes it rained all night and into the morning. But it was always, always, super muddy in the jungle, with lots of tree roots to trip on as well. I wore knee high mud boots, but often returned to the lodge with mud on my pants up to the middle of my thigh. More than once I nearly lost a boot that was sucked deep into the mud and hard to retrieve back.

On one particular difficult trail, I was getting exhausted because it was too steep and too muddy. We planned to set a camera trap right at

the top where the ground leveled off. We had already been climbing and hiking for a couple of hours, so I was already getting tired. On this particular trail, I could not get a good foot hold to push myself up, so I was pulling myself up by vines and the roots of trees sticking out of the ground here and there, anything I could get a hold of, but everything was wet and slimy making them difficult to get a good hold of! It seemed for a while that for every 2 feet I gained, I slid back down three feet. But my spirits were exhilarated when Mauro pointed out a very fresh ocelot track right in front of me going up the same path I was. If the ocelot can make it up this, then I will do it too! It's really something to be deeply submersed like this in an animal's natural habitat, to see what they see, to smell what they smell, hear what they hear, to get bit by the same bugs they do, to slide and wallow around in the same mud they maneuver through so easily. And I was determined to get to the top to install the camera right there, knowing a cat uses this path. It rains so much here, that our human smells on its path would be washed away soon. I was determined to get it's picture. Sure enough the next day the camera had shot off some pictures during the night at that particular site. I can't wait to get that roll of film developed to see the cat that pushed me up that steep muddy trail. Thank goodness that was the only real difficult trail we had to go on. All the trails after that seemed easy.

Part of my education during this trip was to learn from Rosa about being a group guide and what I needed to do and be aware of so that I could return in the future with other groups as their guide. She showed me in town where to stay, what there was to do, where to eat that was safe, and how to travel to the boat to get to the reserve. On this particular trip to the reserve, Rosa had advertised the trip on a travel website, open to anyone interested in going, so we had others in our group that were not necessarily cat people. We has a total of 9 people in our group, including myself, Amy, Amy's adult son Cliff, and Rosa. The others in the group were just interested in seeing the reserve and the unspoiled rainforest. Amy and myself found ourselves as the only "cat people" present other than Rosa, but it was an interesting trip to spend a week with people from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities.

Some of the others wanted to go out with Mauro and myself to observe us installing the camera traps, but because there were 5 people who wanted to do this, we had to limit how many people went with us on each camera set up. We only had four cameras, so on one camera we let 2 people go to observe, and each camera thereafter we let one observer go with us.



While I was out setting up the cameras or looking for animal tracks, the others had lots of fun things to do. They panned for gold in the river with some of the villagers, fished, swam in the river, hiked and explored the rain forest with a guide, toured the local village, and there is a tree observation tower in the jungle to observe wildlife from. The group went on an hour long hike to a beautiful large waterfall and swimming area, and there are lots of birds and butterflies to watch and beautiful tropical foliage to investigate around the lodge; and finally, all of us went on an excursion upriver about an hour to explore La Cathedral, an unusual rock formation, and also to a large rocky beach to explore.

Thankfully, I didn't encounter anything terrifying at all during my trip. Well, no terrifying creatures anyway. While traveling to the reserve from the capitol city of Quito through the Andes and into the rain forest areas, (6 hour drive and 2 hours by boat), seeing the huge areas that had been raped and pillaged of it's precious timber and habitat was a terrifying sight. And the conditions of extremely poor villages that were duped into selling their land and timber to big timber companies for false promises and riches was horrific and very sad. As we walked through one such village, I felt so helpless and ashamed that I could not help their living conditions that I wanted to run and hide. They don't have much money to buy food or other necessities, and they sold their timber, so there is no habitat left for animals to live in or for people to hunt for food. It is a terrible situation, and their way of live forever lost. I was

very proud of Playa de Oro for seeing and recognizing what happened to other villages who sold their timber and for them having the strength to resist doing the same, to try something new and different to save their way of life and their land. But seeing those areas in real life just compounded the importance of what I had come here to do and why I need to bring others back to save the habitat and the cats that live here by promoting and participating in various conservation projects.

In Mauro's recent email, he reports that while some cameras have taken pictures since I left, not enough were taken to justify taking the film out yet to be developed. March is the rainiest season all year in that area, so perhaps the heavy rains are preventing a lot of movement from the animals. He promises to mail the film to me in April, so we should have reports of what we have caught on film by the next issue of our newsletter. There is much to tell about my experience working at the reserve, this is just a tiny bit of what I experienced. I will be sharing a presentation with pictures at the FCF convention this August, so be sure to join us to see and hear more about this experience first hand. You can also experience the reserve, by returning with me. I will be going back to the reserve in July to follow up on the camera trapping and will take other people who are interested in going to the reserve, so that others may have their magical experience and do something to help the reserve out. In July, if we raise enough donations, the group that goes back with me will be helping enlarge the current cat cages they have and if we have time we will build another cage. We'll still be working on the camera traps and you could get to participate in that.

Visitors to the lodge keep the reserve funded and functioning in the care of the cats. If you would like to participate or help the reserve, see the following pages for more information.

## Playa de Oro Reserve Fundraising Needs

by Tracy Wilson

Director of Education & Conservation, Feline Conservation Federation

FCF is raising funds for supplies that the reserve desperately needs to function properly, as well as supplies for the camera trapping project and caging supplies for the cage work we will be doing in July. There has been difficulty in attracting some researchers to conduct conservation projects at this reserve, because the reserve is quite primitive compared to other areas that are more easily accessible. By helping the reserve become more functional and less primitive, we hope to attract more biologists and scientists to study the area and help make the reserve land a viable area of valuable information for the scientific community. I personally read in books before I left home about the animal and bird species that supposedly live in this area.

Soon after my arrival at the reserve, I found out that the books are very inaccurate, as they are just educated guesses as to what lives in this area. No formal studies have been done here on any kind of creatures. It is estimated that some areas of Ecuador boast the highest diversity of bird species in the entire world. Certain monkeys were not listed in books of South American mammals to live in this area, while I saw some myself, and talked with the local villagers who described 5 different species of monkeys that I did not find in any books that were supposed to be living in this area. So it is very important to help promote the reserve so that more research and studies on the animals and birds here can be done. And part of promoting the reserve is helping them become more functional and appealing to outside researchers.

Below is a list of items they need funds for, or items that can be donated. Keep in mind that we cannot ship supplies to the reserve. There is no "mail service" to the rain forest, so we have to hand deliver supplies ourselves when we actually go to the reserve. Some of the items on their list of things they need include:

### **Items needed that can be delivered by us:**

They desperately need a chain saw for building projects.

Medical supplies for the animals: medications, syringes and needles, items to give fluids, items for spinting broken bones, parasite charts, wormers, vitamins, etc, etc, etc, they need everything you can think of as far as medical and health care supplies.

Wildlife Rehab and Animal Husbandry books: There is no vet to get advice from, so probably if we could find some books on wildlife rehab/ vet care/zoonoses IN SPANISH ONLY that would be helpful for the staff.

Handling equipment such as a capture net, syringe pole, squeeze cage, or live traps.

Human first aid supplies and medications.

### **Funds are needed for:**

Supplies for building cat cages.

A propane refrigerator (\$200-300) They have no electricity. They cannot refrigerate any medications or other important items when needed.

A power generator, (or a large supply of all kinds of sizes of batteries.)

A new boat—(\$300-400) can be built in the local village, but still need that chain saw to do this also.

A new roof on the lodge. It is a simple tin roof, but needs to be redone, it is old and leaky. The local village men can do the labor, they need funds for the supplies and pay for the village men to do the work (which they work for very low pay).

Also, we are hoping to find someone that can offer some information and advise on the communications problem at the reserve. The reserve currently has no means of communications with the outside world without traveling some distance. Cell phones do not work in this area because there are no towers close enough, and they have no electricity, two-way radios will not work either. We need someone who has knowledge of satellite phones to contact me and see if they can help find out if a satellite phone will work in this area and what the costs would be. Possibly even test a satellite phone from the reserve when I return in July.

This list of needs is more of a long term goal of things they need, that perhaps FCF members can assist with over the the long term. The most urgent that we can help with right now are raising funds to buy supplies for the cat cages, and keeping the camera trap project funded. The items they need donated right away that I can take to them in July are the medical and health care supplies, as well as informative books to help them learn more about animal care.

If you would like to make a donation towards these needs for the reserve, please send your tax deductible donation marked "Ecuador Reserve Project" to FCF's Secretary/Treasurer:

Feline Conservation Federation

Attn: Harold Epperson

3310 Remington Drive

Indianapolis, IN. 46227- 8126

If you would like to donate items for the reserve and have me deliver those items to the reserve in July, please contact me at 501-368-0399 or email [wildcat@ipa.net](mailto:wildcat@ipa.net) for a shipping address. Thanks so much for your support in this important project and reserve. Working together we can do our part to help wild cats survive in this area of the world, and that my friends, is a very special and important thing to do.

Ecuador Update: FCF has received \$ 655.00 total so far

Persons who have donated to the Ecuador Camera Trapping project are:

Lisa M. Padula & H. Paul Richardson, George B. & Tracy Ellsworth, Craig P. & Carolyn E. Clendinen, Bart & Lynn Culver, Amelia and Robert Rasmussen, Kevin Chambers, Mike & Tonya Jones, Steven & Rita Kemerly, Bryan Studer & Anna Horton Studer, Michael Preston, Florida Exotic Feline Center, Harold & Peggy Epperson, Bob & Patty Turner. Karen and Nick Sulac

## Special Rain Forest Opportunity

I will be taking a group back to the Playa de Oro Reserve in July to check in on the camera traps and help with various projects. This is your opportunity to participate in the camera trapping and help support the reserve while having the experience of a lifetime in the rainforest!

The cost is \$600 a person for a 10 day trip, which covers most of your expenses while in Ecuador. Extra costs not included in the package price that each individual is responsible for would be airfare, taxi fees to and from airport (\$10-14), lunch and dinner for 2 days in Quito (less than \$20), and tips to the reserve staff (at least \$20), and any additional spending money you wish to spend at any of the markets.

You will fly into Quito where someone in our group will meet you and get you safely to your hotel. We drive 6 hours by a private rented van through the Andean Mountains to the boat dock in the village of Selve

Alegra. From here we meet 2 members of the reserve staff and we travel 2 hours in a large dug out canoe upriver to the reserve. The trip itself is quite safe, we will not be going into any areas that have any kind of safety problems. I will be there as your guide to help and assist you, and make sure you are where you are supposed to be at all times. I will handle all the details of the trip along the way. You can just sit back and enjoy the experience.

The area we go to, there is no malaria, yellow fever, or any other of those type diseases, so you are not required by the Ecuadorian government to have any certain vaccinations to enter the country. You

can get whatever vaccinations you and your doctor are comfortable with taking to be cautious. I went with none. No one got sick in our group.

You are NOT required to speak spanish to go to the reserve, but if you have some basic knowledge of Spanish it will be helpful. You do need a passport. If you do not already have a passport, it takes about 5-6 weeks to receive it if all your paperwork has been done properly. So you should apply for it right away if you are interested in trying to go on this trip at all.

One of the big things that we will be doing in this trip will be building a larger cage for the ocelot they currently house at the reserve, and enlarging another cage for cats. The cage the ocelot was in, is not very large, and has a very difficult door to maneuver in and out of, and has no lock down area. So it is not safe for the staff members to care for the cage and cat properly, while not providing much space for the cat. I will also be checking the camera traps to ensure they are functioning properly, and making repairs as necessary. We will move the cameras to new site locations, and during that process I will train FCF members on how the cameras work and how they are set up.

Also, we cannot ship donated supplies down there, we have to carry it as checked baggage and just deliver it to the reserve. So we will be delivering any medical supplies and other donated items to them, and demonstrating how to use any medical supplies.

The basic itinerary would be:

The village dancers and their band

- Day 1 arrive in Quito late PM,
- Day 2 explore Quito (give time for late arrivals in case of delayed flights or lost luggage.)
- Day 3 travel to reserve (6 hours)
- Day 4 reserve
- Day 5 reserve
- Day 6 reserve
- Day 7 reserve
- Day 8 reserve
- Day 9 travel back to Quito, stop in Otavala (largest Indian art and craft market in South America)
- Day 10 fly home AM



Of course, people can arrive or stay later in Quito if they wish, but that is not included in the package price and would be an additional expense. Arrangements will be made for you if you choose to arrive early or stay later in Quito. However, the days at the reserve are not flexible because of the travel arrangements and distance from Quito.

Things that people will get to do while at the reserve are:

- \* pan for gold with the local villagers in the river.
- \* fishing (a guy in my group caught several nice size large mouth bass and a big crappie looking fish), gear is provided.
- \* hiking and exploring in the rain forest with a guide as you want.
- \* touring the local village.
- \* spend quiet time in a tree observation tower to observe wildlife in the jungle.
- \* bird, butterfly, and animal observation right from the lodge porch.
- \* swimming in the river.

*An exceptional video of Andean mountain cat footage made in 1999 in Northern Chile by cat researcher James Sanderson has been made public and is online for the first time.*

*Visit:*

*<http://www.carnivoreconservation.org/>*



- \* we'll take people on an hour long hike through the jungle to a beautiful large waterfall and swimming area.
- \* we will take the group upriver to explore La Cathedral, an unusual rock formation and to a large rocky beach to explore.
- \* the local village children and band will come to the reserve to sing and dance for our group.
- \* Or you can just enjoy hammock time in the jungle.

If members of our group wish to share educational information about cat husbandry and health care with the reserve staff, we will set aside time to talk with the staff for educational sessions. The lodge does have clean and operational facilities for bathroom and shower use, as well as nice meals and clean rooms. There is no electricity, however. Not much is needed to take as far as special gear except mud boots, flashlights, batteries, and strong bug repellent.

There is a very limited space for people to go on this trip, as the van and boat can only accommodate small groups. If you are interested you must sign up as soon as possible. You must make a nonrefundable deposit of \$300 in by May 30th, with the balance due by June 30th. We have to make reservations with the van driver and pay for our transportation up front, so this requires us to take the nonrefundable deposit. Your deposit is nonrefundable if you cancel personally for any reason. If FCF cancels the trip for any reason, such as not meeting the minimum amount of trip attendees or unforeseeable events that makes it unsafe for us to travel in Ecuador, your deposit will be refunded. All trip participants must be 18 years of age or older and are responsible for themselves as mature adults. I do not recommend young children or adolescents going to the reserve because it is so remote.

If you are interested in participating in this trip, contact me, Tracy Wilson, by phone at 501-368-0399 or 501-230-4072, or email at [wildcat@ipa.net](mailto:wildcat@ipa.net) for more detailed instructions or any questions you may have, and how to pay your trip fee.



The author with camera trapping staff Isiah, Julio and Mauro at the cameras

Visitors to the lodge keep the reserve funded and provide work for the local villagers of Playa de Oro. Keeping the reserve funded in this manner will help keep the land protected and the villagers to honor their contract to protect the wildcats that live within their land. The more people that go to the lodge, the more education and enlightenment is shared with the local villagers. We especially need folks who have some knowledge in cat care to spend time at the reserve and help teach the staff some husbandry skills, but this is not a requirement. Anyone can go just to simply experience the rain forest and that alone helps support the reserve. Please contact me for further information or watch the FCF newsletter if you are interested in going to the reserve and helping support the project by your attendance.

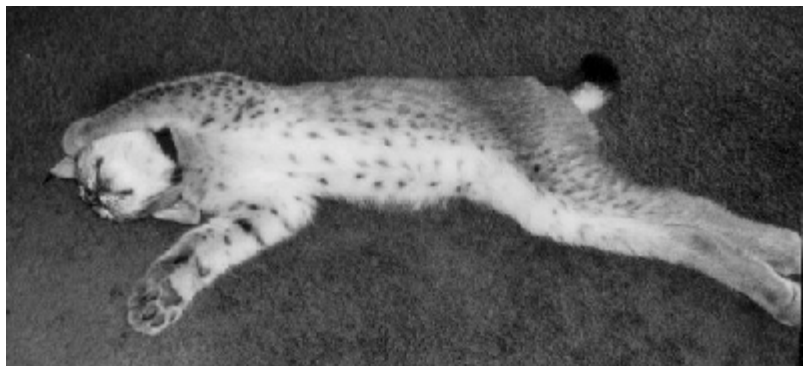
## Bozo the Lynx

Early in October last year a 51/2 month old Siberian lynx kitten came to live with me for awhile. He was in need of some serious TLC. What a wonderful sweet personality. To this kitten any human was to be given many head-butts and kisses and rubs and the most long and lovely purrs.... I have never seen an exotic cat so thrilled with human company and so unafraid of anything!!!

Poor baby came here with no name—he was so thin—he was all feet and head—so I dubbed him “Bozo.” He was here about two months. In that time I observed that if he spent ANY substantial amount of time outside here in Miami during the heat of the day, between about 10:30am and 4pm, he would neither drink water—though he was quite thirsty—nor would he eat any food. It was my opinion then that being outside previously was probably why he was so thin. He was dehydrated enough that his fur felt like brillo. It would take about 2 hours inside in the 70 degree house for him to be cool down enough to eat. I was forever holding the water dish in front of his face to coax him to drink.

The second day he was here, I told him he was going to the vet's for sub-Q fluids if he did not start drinking more water. It took awhile for him to actually eat and drink enough to satisfy me that he was getting enough water and food.

In a couple of weeks his fur was finally like silk and he would eat about 5 small meals each day. I convinced his owner that he was a “cold weather” cat and should not live outside here in the heat, so he is now doing wonderfully quite a bit north of Florida in the cold.



Plans are underway for a 4F Event featuring  
**FRIENDS, FUN, FEASTS & FELINES**

**At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual FCF Convention  
Cincinnati, Ohio, August 7-10, 2003**

**This Conference is going to be loads of fun! We have corporate sponsors  
who have donated prizes and gifts worth \$25 to \$400.  
There will be door prizes and raffles so everyone can be a winner!**

**Registration:** Please send attendee name, address & phone number and your registration checks payable to FCF for the 2003 FCF Convention and/or FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course to:  
FCF c/o Harold Epperson, 3310 Remington Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227-8126

**Convention Registration Fee (before July 1) \$ 95.00**

**Late Convention Registration Fee (after July 1) \$110.00**

**Registration for Children 6-18 - \$75.00**

**Registration for Children 5 and under - Free**

*\*When you register, please specify your choice of Roasted Beef Tenderloin,  
Chicken Parmesan or a Vegetarian Dish for the Saturday night banquet dinner*

**Wild Feline Husbandry Course - FCF members \$65.00, non-members \$90.00**



**Schedule of Events:**

**Wednesday August 6** - FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course 8:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

**Thursday August 7 morning** - Board of Directors meeting

**Thursday afternoon** - General Membership meeting

**Thursday Evening** - Welcome Reception features open bar, finger food, felines & fun

**Friday August 8** - guided "behind the scenes" tour of the world famous Cincinnati Zoo Cat Collection, Lunch at the Zoo and private showing of Cathryn Hilker's Cat Ambassadors just for the members of the FCF

**Friday night** - free time and dinner on your own

**Saturday August 9 Day** - guest speakers

**Saturday Evening** - Cocktail hour, Banquet Dinner, Lotty and other Awards Ceremony, Benefit Auction

**Sunday August 10 morning** - Good-bye breakfast

**Hotel:** The FCF Convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Airport. Choice of King, Queen and Double beds are available for \$78.00 for FCF Convention attendees. The Radisson has 214 guest rooms and suites, an Atrium with Heated Pool, Exercise Room and Spa. Restaurants include the Bungee's Lounge with wide screen TV and the Atrium Restaurant.

*The Hotel manager loves animals and is anxious to meet our felines!*



You can make Hotel reservations, Discount Airfare or Car Rental through Charlotte Adams at All-Ways Travel (800) 522-5611 / (865) 675-1800 / [ca.allways@wspan.com](mailto:ca.allways@wspan.com) OR through Radisson at [www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com) (800) 333-3333. The Radisson Airport local phone number is (859) 371-6166. *Be sure to mention you are with the FCF Convention to get our special rate.*

**Out of State Cats:** The Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Airport is across the river from Cincinnati in Hebron, Kentucky. All cats entering the state of Kentucky must have a \$25.00 importation permit. When you send in your registration check, please let us know if you might be bringing any felines, and we will mail or Fax you an importation permit. If you have questions, contact any convention committee member or Lynn Culver (Legal Affairs). Kentucky Import permit processing takes about 10 days, so be sure to mail in your application early. We have a 30-lb weight limit on cats attending the conference and the hotel requires that all felids remain caged when unattended.

Questions? Contact the Conference Committee Chair R. Bean (865) 938-0702 or e-mail at [Wildcon2b@Aol.Com](mailto:Wildcon2b@Aol.Com) Conference Committee members are Kate Connor Kahn [kate@isystems.net](mailto:kate@isystems.net), Kevin Chambers [ZooARC@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ZooARC@worldnet.att.net), Harold Epperson [hpepperson@aol.com](mailto:hpepperson@aol.com), Cory Bixby [zcatzmeow@hotmail.com](mailto:zcatzmeow@hotmail.com)

## Don't Miss This Unique Opportunity to Visit with Cathryn Hilker and Sahara!



Founder of the Cat Ambassador Program, Cathryn brought Angel, her first cheetah, to the Cincinnati zoo 23 years ago. Other cats soon followed Angel, including a serval, Canada Lynx and ocelot and an Anatolian guard dog. This dog helps tell the story of how a dog can help save the life of a cheetah, by guarding livestock. These cats are taken into local schools to educate students about their natural world.

Appearances on local and national TV brought both goodwill and funding into the program, which, on Angel's death in 1982, developed into the Angel Fund.

This fund, within the Cincinnati zoo, has partnered with Dr. Laurie Marker's Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa. Home to the last large population of free ranging cheetah, the Angel Fund helped purchase the first farm that established a home base for Marker's conservation effort. This partnership continues and gives the cheetah a better chance for long-term survival in the wild.





## 133 Big Cats and Still Growing The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

*hosts the next FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course*

In February, while bringing my bobcat Little Buzz up for an educational program held at the Bloomington, Indiana Eagle Watch event, I had the opportunity to visit the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. There are many sanctuaries across the country, but few can compare to this place. One is overwhelmed by the sights and sounds of big cats, especially in the evening when the air reverberates from the “aoms” of the tigers and the roaring of lions.

With over 130 full-time feline residents, there are a lot of voices to be heard and a lot of stories to be told. How did so many cats end up here? That is a lot of big cats needing new homes. What is going on and what can FCF and individual members do to slow the need for sanctuary space?

I think one answer lies in the FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course being planned at the Ivy Tech College, in Terre Haute, Indiana on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Not only will students be given the opportunity to receive intensive 8-hours of instruction on

responsible husbandry, but as the host of this event, the EFRC is sponsoring special guided tours of their facility where students can see first hand what is involved in providing quality care for big cats in captivity. FCF members acting as mentors can help improve the future of private ownership



The Exotic Feline Rescue Center specializes in providing refuge for the most serious of cases. And for many of the residents, one cannot help but notice that the felines treat Joe and Jean as if they were their saviors, which indeed they are. Feline lives are reborn into a world full of green grass, companionship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. That have found a safe haven at last and their gratitude to their keepers is abundantly evident.

Large feline collections kept in inadequate situations create some of the biggest problems for all of us in the feline community. The following stories are examples of such problems. One situation was a sub-standard USDA breeding facility which lost its license and subsequently had its collection confiscated by the USDA. Another was a collector with husbandry practices were so poor she could never qualify for a license.

Operators of Waterwheel Exotics had lost their USDA license and were under court order not to breed or sell any more exotic felines. I remember at the 2000 LIOC-ESCF Convention in North Carolina, Kelly Jean Buckley put out the call for help to place some of these animals. Word of this dire situation reached Joe Taft, and his partner Jean Herrberg made the trip to Pennsylvania to pick up two cats. What she saw when she arrived was stunted yearling tigers and lions, packed in 5 foot square cages, living in a dark basement. She quickly changed her plans and picked up four of these tiger cubs and a 2-year old tiger adult and three lion cubs on the spot. A phone call to regional head of the USDA reporting the continued abuse at Waterwheel brought a USDA inspector to the EFRC at 6:00 a.m. the next morning to greet Jean returning with the cubs and document these underfed 15 month old felines' 50 to 90 pound weights. They were so weak they could barely walk, and Jean tells of them craving water more than food. All four the tiger cubs were blind from nutritional cataracts and required corrective surgery at the University of Illinois. The adult tiger had to have two trips to the university to remove a partially retained baby canine and a rotting, deformed adult canine.

USDA documented this abuse and was able to move in and confiscate the remaining Waterwheel Exotics cats, which numbered around 30. Because they were once licensed by the USDA, this government agency took on the job of finding sanctuary space and a semi-load of cats were distributed under their supervision across the county to several facilities including the EFRC. Three tiger cubs and their parents, and two lions arrived. Later, another adult tiger was delivered





after it exhibited violent behaviors at another refuge and threatened to do serious damage there. Thankfully, he is a changed tiger at EFRC and he was eager for affection from Joe when Joe stopped by his enclosure to share with us his story. A year later, another Waterwheel tiger was sent to live at EFRC which reunited him with his former mate and the pair now lives together in harmony.

One group of lions, dubbed the “Southern Belles” by Joe, is a group I remember well. Their breeder/owner was Katherine Gordon, an eccentric collector who referred to herself as a sanctuary, and at one time resided in southern Arkansas about a two hours drive south of me. It was 1989, and I was new to exotics at that time and eager to meet others with more experience – what greeted me at Kate’s however, was an unforgettable and unforgivable

sight. Groups of 6 and 7 lions and tigers each shared a 16-foot diameter corn crib cage. I watched as the animals exhibited amazing tolerance for each other in these extremely close quarters. In fact, in order for them to pace and exercise they had to cooperate in unison, until it looked like a living carousel of cats walking in circles. There were bears subjected to the same crowding, and a connecting cage collection of cougars and leopards that looked like the cats were stacked upon each other. It was horrible; she must have had sixty big cats at that time. Several of her younger cubs had escaped and been recaptured and the county was in the process of running Kate out by passing a simple perimeter fence law she would not comply with. She then moved to Texas, Indiana, back to northern Arkansas where she married and became Katherine Twiss before landing in Mississippi where she paired up with a farmer who agreed to house and finance the construction of a Big Cat Exhibit. That relationship went sour and in the early 1990’s Dateline covered her odyssey on national TV, one of the first national TV smear campaigns against private ownership I can remember. Eventually, her animals were seized, not for cruelty, but as assets in a bankruptcy case. They were purchased at auction by Dr. Cook, an anesthesiologist and his wife. Later, when medical problems threatened the life of the doctor, other homes were found for them, including the EFRC. From being housed as crowded as sardines in a can, hauled around from location to location, never knowing space or dignity, seven lucky ladies finally found out that life could be good.



A Minnesota yearling lion named King was housed in a chain link dog kennel in a barn. His owners had stopped caring for him and neighbors began feeding him. Many of us FCF members remember the call for help on the internet Felines-L list. Joe agreed to give King a home for life. The neighbors loaded him up in a horse trailer and delivered him to EFRC. Lions are social animals so Joe agreed to take in a female movie lion, retired from an Idaho trainer, to give King companionship.



There is a pair of wild-born cougars that call the EFRC their home as well. Born in Montana, their mother was shot by a hunter and they were too small to survive on their own so the G & F captured them and brought them into captivity. Originally a litter of three, one perished from an infection caused by embedded porcupine quills, a grim reminder that life in the wild is fraught with perils. The remaining brother and sister were raised with little human contact in hopes that someday they could be released back into nature, but the plans were scrapped when they reached yearling size and instead they were transferred to the EFRC. Joe agreed to house this pair and specially designed their large habitat to include lots of trees and underbrush in a location which is removed from the main viewing areas the public traverses, insuring this pair the privacy they need. Unlike most of the hand-reared residents of the EFRC who enjoy human contact and will rub up against the fences for attention, this pair is clearly different. We could see them in the distance, as Joe led us

past a barrier which normally stops the public. Their 12-foot tall enclosure includes a two foot recurve to prevent escape and we could see through the naked winter tree landscape the pair visibly pacing their far fence line at our approach.

The work and expense and dedication required to serve 133 cats is unending. Many residents arrive in need of medical attention before they can be integrated into social groups. Root canals and cataract removal surgeries are expensive and time consuming. Cats must be loaded into a rental van and transported 2 hours to the University of Illinois for these delicate surgeries.

Once they arrive at the EFRC, enclosures which exceed the size of most AZA zoological facilities will be their final homes. Big Cat enclosures at the EFRC are large by any standards, some as large as ½ acre. In these spaces, social groups of lions and tigers are created. This is done whenever possible by introducing different animals as cubs or sub-adults and spaying, neutering or vasectomizing them to prevent reproduction. However, these efforts require time and manpower and finances, and sometimes the weather and sometimes the animals do not cooperate which has resulted in several litters being born at the EFRC.

EFRC enclosure designs require 9-gauge chain link fence, 12 foot tall. Telephone poles, 16 foot tall are sunk in concrete 3 feet deep. Atop this fence is a strand of electrified wire. It is not unusual for up to 1000 feet of chain link, at a cost of \$5.00 a foot to be utilized for a multi-cat habitat. Wooden towers, two and three levels high are erected, custom designed den boxes are built and each compound has one or more metal water pools. Trees are cleared around the perimeters and those inside protected with chain link from being scored by claws. Each enclosure has a lock-down area complete with slide gates and wooden den boxes.

Anyone considering taking the FCF Husbandry Course should mark their calendar for April 26<sup>th</sup> and make their reservation now as this will be one of the more amazing facilities to host our FCF learning event. Contact Jean Herrberg at 812-835-1130 for Husbandry Course registration information or Tracy Wilson, Director of Conservation and Education (on page 2 of the newsletter) or visit our website at [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org). See you there.

by Lynn Culver



## Upcoming Husbandry Courses

### Terre Haute Indiana

Date: Saturday April 26, 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Hosted By: Exotic Feline Rescue Center  
Location: Ivy State College  
Address: 7999 South US Hwy 41 Terra Haute, Indiana 47802  
Cost: \$65.00 FCF members \$90.00 non-members  
Mail Registration check or money order to:  
EFRC 2221 E Ashboro Road, Center Point, IN 47840  
Additional info: call Jean or Joe: 812-835-1130

### Portland, Oregon NEW DATE and LOCATION

Date: Saturday June 28, 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Hosted By: Cheryl Tuller  
Location: near Portland OR--more details soon!  
Cost: \$65.00 FCF members \$90.00 non-members  
Mail Registration check or money order to:  
Cheryl Tuller  
31369 SW Heater Road, Portland, OR 97140  
[catt@xprrt.net](mailto:catt@xprrt.net)  
Register by: Sunday, June 1, 2003

Cheryl Tuller's lynx,  
Tank, eats his favorite  
meal--tree





# Habitat Enrichment for Small Cats

By Bart Culver

At the ISZ Conference I asked several AZA zoo directors for a ballpark figure on the cost per acre of habitat at their zoos and they all said the same thing, \$1,000,000 an acre! Can a private owner of ordinary means possibly create habitat that meets the physical and psychological needs of their animals as well as the zoos? Absolutely.

First we must realize that much of the cost of zoo habitat goes into providing facilities for the visiting public such as restrooms, restaurants, pavilions, walkways and non-invasive viewing enclosures such as moats and darkened tunnels with glass walls, and lots of landscaping with artificial rocks and waterfalls, etc.

Second, we need to apply a concept I call “animal esthetics”. Basically, this means that what makes a habitat appealing to the human visitors is quite different from what makes it appealing to the animal residents. Private owners of small cats have an excellent opportunity to observe and understand the needs of their cats. Private owners are on duty 24 hours a day. Zoos are closed and the keepers are gone during the time when the animals are most active so the most interesting behaviors go unnoticed. Members of the FCF also enjoy the opportunity to compare notes and learn from a large pool of experience.

Above: Geoffroy's Cat Tuti in hollow log;  
Right: using a peacock feather to play  
with bobcat Mariah

Third, we must learn to be innovative in providing for the needs we do observe. Often we find that cats show no interest at all in our elaborate and expensive efforts, but are fascinated for hours by something as simple as a cardboard box. Lynn and I are constantly on the lookout for neat rocks, hollow logs, or even a well-branched dead tree. We recently discovered a patch of huge bamboo and we have taken pains to transplant some to our property. We hauled salvage timber to a local sawmill and got back a huge stack of lumber for \$64.00 that will make a lot of ramps and catwalks.

Those are the basic principals of cat esthetics: A beautiful habitat is one which contains ample food resources, clear water, shelter from the weather and from larger predators, room to run and climb, varied stimulating structures to explore and the opportunity to breed.

Natural objects with natural smells give excellent stimulus to cats with olfactory glands thousands of times more sensitive than our own. The importance of this cannot be overstated. When I visit my lynxes, bobcats, caracals, servals or Geoffroy's they all go straight for my boots and pant legs to see where I've been. If I've been butchering a cow, they drool ecstatically. It's something they can understand. I think someday we may discover a way to communicate with cats through smell. We may discover a language with millions of words in the form of molecules. I'm keeping a list of smells and the cats' reactions to them. Bobcats have the strongest reaction to the greatest variety of smells. They love stinky things. But they also love perfumes. We all have heard that Calvin Kline's "Obsession" will get a cat in the mood for love. Bobcats are particularly crazy about peppermint. A drop of peppermint oil on a wad of paper makes a great toy.

I once visited some people with a bobcat who didn't like strangers. I put a peppermint candy in my mouth and that bobby instantly loved me. Kissed my face. Gave me a hairdo. The people were amazed. The only smell I found bobcats don't like is orange oil. I had an all-natural orange air freshener spray that made an excellent bobcat repellent. Smells, especially fragrant plants, are a rich field for experiments in habitat enrichment.

Toys – Cats are basically destroyers of things and they will eventually destroy their toys. Any toy given to a cat should be regarded as temporary and periodically replaced. When balls become deflated, they should be removed



Photo of tower by Sandi Roberts



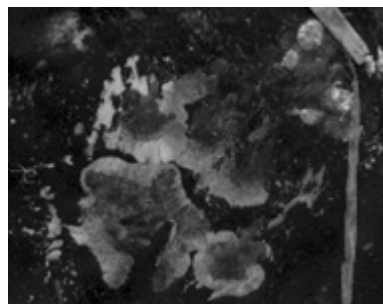
before the cat decides to eat the pieces. That's why I prefer toys made of natural materials like wood, hemp rope, feathers, etc. These substances are much more likely to pass safely through the gut if ingested, then pieces of plastic or rubber.

Entertainment – I hang a bird feeder in each of my cages. The cats have so far caught only a couple of blue jays. The birds are too fast and wary. But bird watching is a good stimulation. We call it cat TV. We also use empty plastic bottles containing a few pebbles, hanging from elastic cord. Kiddie pools with goldfish purchased at a bait shop or small minnows trapped in our creek are great fun to the cats. (do not use catfish fries, the spines beside their mouths are sharp) The

trouble with kiddie pools is after the cats have fished out the minnows or goldfish, they quickly become toilets, and you are the janitor. When filling a kiddie pool, cats will go nuts trying to bite the stream of water. Cats love to "kill" garden hoses, and will instantly bite to kill any garden hose left inside a cage unguarded, wishing they were real.



Above: Bobcat Ginger possessing a fox tail  
Above Left: Bobcat Bobbi in her pool  
Left: playcenter at the Culvers', photo by Kry's Ward  
Below: Tracy Wilson's Bob Bobcat grows his own garden to attract birds  
Bottom Right: Jim Wilcoxson's lynx lingers on a shelf  
Bottom Center: Lynx art made by Ouija Lynx in acrylics  
Bottom Left: Lynx cage at the Culvers' place





# Excerpts from our past to remind us **How Times Have Changed. . .**

*From the*

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter, September 1963 Volume 7 Number 5

The year was 1963, and pet ocelots were being treated much as the family's domestic dog, being taken for walks in the woods. However, sometimes that ended in separation as this one author shares her story . . .

## **Cheetah's expeditions**

Connie McNulty, Detroit, MI

LOST! For six whole miserable April days. Cheetah, my 7-month ocelot is quite used to and really enjoys walking in the woods without a leash. She follows like a dog and will come, most times, when called. She wears a harness (martingale type) with a toy bell attached. The bell is a great comfort to me as it is possible to hear her, even if she is hidden in tall grass or bushes, and I can hear her following me without having to turn around constantly to check.

We were in Ontario for the weekend and wading in the woods with Zsa Zsa, a poodle friend when we were separated. I had stopped to pick some blossoms from a tree and when I was ready to move on Zsa Zsa responded to my calls. I just could not believe it. I was quite confident that Cheetah would come romping along any moment.

At 7:00 p.m. she was still lost, the police and newspapers had been alerted and fifteen people had spent five hours looking for her to no avail. I loathed to leave Cheetah out in the "wilds" but had to return to Detroit for work on Monday morning. I planned, in my own mind, on driving over to Ontario overnight and picking her up the moment she was found.

Cheetah sighted. Telephone calls on Monday and Tuesday brought no hopeful news, but on Wednesday she was reported having been seen about 5 miles from where she disappeared and seen the following day a further

two miles away. I knew water was available but did not know what she would do for food. On Thursday the temperatures went down to 34 degrees and there was a dreadful storm. . . Poor Cheetah!

Friday afternoon I returned to Dundee, Ontario and was taken to the spot where she had last been seen. It was impossible! It would have been like looking for a needle in twenty haystacks. I decided to return to the spot where I last saw her and, believe it or not, THERE SHE WAS. She found us and she came out of the woods in answer to her name. We would never have found her without her cooperation.

Surprisingly enough, she looked good, she had lost 5 pounds - - nearly half of her actual weight - - but her coat was sleek and smooth and her nose pink. What a reunion! Cheetah had never really been "talkative", just an occasional growly-wow when she was impatient to do outside. Those first two days she was home she wanted to be petting all the time and didn't stop talking. She told us every little thing that happened during those six days in the woods . . . such a shame we don't speak the same language.

I started her back on food very gradually. She had ground beef and milk. She won't touch either normally. She slept and spelt and slept. There was no doubt she was happy to be home. Within a week she was completely rested and regaining weight. We still do walking in the woods and countryside without a leash and it seems that Cheetah keeps closer to heel and is more alert to my whereabouts.

## **Plants and Your Animal**

by Colette Griffiths

Plants can be the needed finishing touch to your animal's area. But, if you have an animal that is a munch mouth, that beautiful plant could become a deadly enemy.

Listed here are plants poisonous to animal and that must be avoided if there are animals in your home. Note that lilies(\*), in particular, are dangerous to cats. While in some cases, just parts of a plant (bark, leaves, seeds, berries, roots, tubers, spouts, green shells) might be poisonous, this list rules out the whole plant. If you must have any of them, keep them safely out of reach. But my recommendation is don't take the chance, don't have them around the animal.

### **Colette's compiled list of poisonous plants can be found on the inside of the back cover of this issue.**

This information has come from my vet, Oasis Animal Clinic, AZA Animal care, Handbook of Small Animal Toxicology and Poisonings, Cat Health and Care, Reader's Digest Magic and Medicine of Plants, and The Poison Control Center, as well as other books on caring for animals.

As I find more plants that are poisonous, I add them to my list. So this list can change from day to day. If in my reading I find that another plant is listed as poisonous, it gets moved to the poison list. I don't take chances with plants and my animals. I know that you will be able to go to many animal facilities (zoos for one) and see plants that are known to be poisonous in the enclosures. If you locate a caretaker and question them, their reply has usually been that the animal doesn't bother them. I recommend, don't take the chance, don't put the plant where they can get it.

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Thank you, Colette Griffiths, Cocoa's Pride

Should your animal friend eat part of a poisonous plant, rush the animal to your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you can, take the plant with you for ease of identification, this is a plus.

This list is plants. There are vegetables, and shrubs, that are also poisonous that are not listed here. Also keep in mind that dying or mildewed plants can become poisonous even if they are on this list as a safe plant.

I have comprised this list from every available poisonous plant list I could find. Some plants were listed everywhere I checked, others were just on one list. If the plant appeared on any list that was "documented", I included it here. I felt that it was better to be safe and list it, rather than leave it off and take a chance.



A jungle cat enjoys a natural grassy play area

# Life with a Siberian Lynx in my home

By Terri Solina

It all started about 2 years ago. I thought I had everything. Life was wonderful. I had a great job doing layout and designing ads with the local newspaper. I had dogs, horses and Tigger (bobcat). I had my new Conversion Van and horse trailer. I had a wonderful marriage, we did a lot of camping with the horses and dogs and spent a lot of time with our pleasure riding horse club and so many friends. I rode every morning with my lady friends and every evening with John. We would usually stop and eat at the local restaurant on the way home from the park. Once home we did chores together and then we could go in for relaxation and play with Tigger, our bobcat.

**Who knew how fast life could change!** Then it happened. A car accident and I ended up with 3 herniated disks. Two in my lower back and one in my neck. My hands were destroyed from bracing myself on the steering wheel. I first had 2 surgeries on my hands, with little relief from the pain and weakness in both hands. Surgery was now scheduled for my lower back and I was excited to be soon out of back pain and get back to my life. When I got out of surgery, I found that I was paralyzed from the thigh down on the right side, but with excruciating back pain. As a very active horse woman, I was devastated! I had to wait 14 days for the second surgery to try to fix my back. After that I had to try to learn how to walk again and find it in myself to even want to live. I was sent to a rehabilitation hospital and there I lay. They would let John bring Tigger and the bulldog "Mimi" to visit me. That was all I had to live for. I spent many months in there and felt I couldn't come home until I could walk. John wanted me home and used a little 4 week old Siberian Lynx cub to coax me home. **How can you resist that?**

I came home and he set me up in a reclining chair in the living room and John took even more time out of work to help me. He made all the formula and handed it to me with the baby Lynx and a wet wash cloth for cleaning his bottom. As I couldn't get out of this chair, this cub got bigger and bigger and learned that you jump in Mamma's lap when you want to poop. We decided to bring Tigger's litter box out to the living room and thank God, Tigger showed the baby we named 'Simba' how to use it. Gradually, every day John would move it a little further toward the laundry room until finally it was where it belonged. Simba has used it every time to this day, never an accident. Both boys are wonderful with their potty habits.

A week after Simba came to live with us, Mimi the bulldog had a miscarriage at 7 weeks

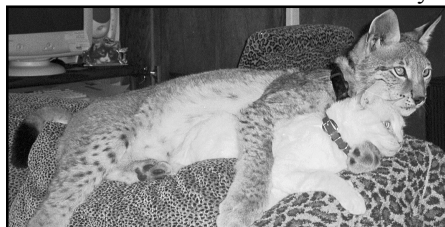
along, so she would try to make Simba nurse her. He had no idea what she was trying to do, so they just cuddled and she would clean him for me. This is why they are best of friends.



Mimi sleeping with her baby cub. (R) A few months later she is still taking care of him

Soon, John starting taking me and Simba out for little jaunts out to visit PetsSmart, me in my wheelchair, Simba in my lap and the bulldog by my side. Everyone at PetsSmart loves them both and knows them by name to this day. They ask where they are if we go without them. This is how Simba become so well socialized. He walks on a harness and leash with a coupler set up that hooks to the harness and the collar for extra protection in case of equipment breakage.

Simba started growing and I was gradually learning how to walk again. Simba was getting so big! He liked to sit on my printer and one day it collapsed under his weight. I bought a new one and a computer armoire to put it in and closable doors to protect it. Then he started getting up on top of the big screen TV and knocking off my husband's surround sound speakers. One crashed to the ground just missing the screen and ripped a large tear in the front speaker material on the TV. Good thing we have a good sense of humor. We went and bought some special brackets and mounted the center speaker to the wall above the TV and the 4 others to the ceiling around the room. Then we found we had to try to



Simba squashing Johnny Cat, a domestic

velcro the tall side speakers to the side of the TV and the floor, to try to keep them upright. Then we noticed that the domestic was being squashed by him just loving on him, and Simba was still growing. Poor Johnny Cat had to go live with my daughter as a precaution. Simba goes there to visit his old best friend and they still love each other.

The next lesson to learn was when we saw some tiny glass particles on the hallway floor. We looked all around and couldn't figure out where it came from. We asked and no one knew. We assumed our granddaughter had broken something and was afraid to tell us. A few days went by and Simba was laying on top of the counter licking his feet profusely. I looked at them and freaked. He had slices on both front feet and one of his pads just hanging by a thread. There was a slice straight up through one foot and the leg bone was sticking out. We called every vet that would answer on Easter Sunday. No one would take an exotic cat. They didn't care! We had to wait until Monday morning. It is a miracle the poor guy didn't bleed to death or just die from the pain he must have been in. We arrived at our vet just screaming about him not answering his pager. He had to do reconstructive surgery to put his feet back together. By the second day he had pulled his bandages off and stitches out. We had to have a second surgery to fix what he had ruined. This time they put him on pain meds and sedatives.

Today you would never know that these injuries ever happened to his feet. We now have a new vet that is there 24 hours and cares about the animals (Thanks to Jeanne Hall).

From the look of the tiny little perfect circle hole in the window, way up high near the ceiling. It appears that a bird had crashed into it and left a little hole that we hadn't seen. Simba must have heard the wind coming through it and jumped straight up and hung on with his feet until he fell to the ground leaving part of his feet in the hole. **Freak accident!**

This got us to thinking about other glass things in the house. We have a large square display coffee table in the living room. It has a glass top that allows you to see inside to all my small collectibles. Simba is always getting up on the curio cabinet and someday he just might jump down onto the glass top table. John bought some wood and made a cover for it and then upholstered it with lots of padding in tiger print vel-



Simba dragged from surgery





Simba riding in the convertible visiting Jenny and Chris in Redmond, Oregon

vety material to match the living room decor. They now love this table and think it is their own personal bed.

John plays pretty rough with Simba, but Simba knows the difference between wrestling with his daddy and being gentle with mommy. John and Simba can roll around the living room floor and tickle and neck bite and growl, but the minute you say that is enough, it goes back to calm purrs and loving hugs and head butts, of course.

Now Simba is 21 months old and still loves to go for car rides. He especially loves to ride in the convertible with the top down and hang his feet over the edge looking out at everything. Thanks to Jenny Quincy for this photo.

Bobbie always jumps up on shoulders and rides around for hours, so Simba thought it looked like fun. With him at 75 pounds now, we don't agree. We are still trying to teach him that he is too big for this sort of thing, but he is not ready to accept that.

If you bring anything into the house that is new, don't expect it to stay where you put it for long. You'd better put things away the minute they come into this house. John was carrying in a bag of ice and before he could make it to the kitchen, Simba grabbed it and ran growling. The bag was ripping and ice was all over the house. Luckily we have no carpet, all hardwood floors. We let him have his fun and then John mopped the house. One day a friend walked in with a loaf of bread, set it on the counter and headed for the rest room. When he came back, there was no bread. It was in very tiny pieces all over the house. In moments like that, someone sweeps it up. In summer time we bring in a little kids' plastic pool and put it in the kitchen with a little water in it, throw a few balls and rubber duckies in and let all three cats have the time of their lives. It is a ton of fun to watch.

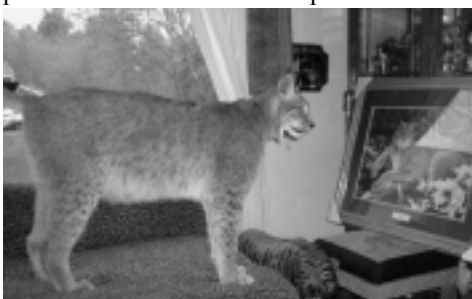
Last Easter, John got the bright idea to bring the kids home a little bright blue colored baby chick. He thought they would have dinner, but never seeing anything like this before, they thought it was a toy Daddy brought them, like their battery operated mouse they love so much. They started to push it around the house ever so gently. They did this for hours, taking turns pushing it and all three gathered around to see it walk. Soon Tigger decided he would mark it as his. He rubbed his cheeks on it and rolled all over it, squashing it to death. When he was done he started pushing it again, but this time it wouldn't move. He got very upset, just like when the batteries die in his mouse. Soon he got bored and gave up trying.

He can't figure out why he can swim and swim and he can't catch them, as he is at the end of his line. People gather to watch. One day last summer I decided to go swimming with him. A crowd formed at the shoreline and we couldn't get out of the river. Nobody cared and they wouldn't move. We were stuck in the river. John saw what was happening and came from fishing to help us part the crowd. John's first love is fishing. Simba will swim out and help John bring in his catch. Getting Simba to give the fish to him is another story.

Back to the subject of him loving water. One day I was on my computer and I heard the bathroom door close and the shower go on. I just assumed John was taking a shower. A little while later, John came in from outside. Startled, I said, "who is taking a shower?" It is just the two of us here. We opened the bathroom door together and there was the shower running and the shower doors were closed. We opened one of the doors cautiously and there was Simba looking at us, all wet playing with a shampoo bottle. I think he needed help opening it.



Simba is the love of our lives. I don't know how we ever lived without him and hope we never have to find out. Our home is Simba proof now and showers are optional.



Simba admiring a painting of a lynx 27

Simba drank his baba for over a year. It was our special cuddle time and we both enjoyed it. I miss those times.



John Solina and Simba at 6 months old



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Mimi and Simba won 1st place in a look-alike contest held in Redmond Oregon at a Pet Expo put on by the Humane Society. John & I were there helping Jenny & Chris Quincy at their booth for the "ExotiCats Rescue facility." Simba and Mimi seemed to be the hit of the day there. They were written up in the local newspaper. The Humane Society people were amazed that Simba was able to sit there all day and be a perfect gentleman. I have had people tell me that they don't think a dog would be as well behaved as Simba is, in the situations that he is put in.

### *A note on Terri's health:*

Yes, I can walk again, it has been two years now and I live with chronic pain and a numb right leg and foot. I just drag it around with me and try to live my life as best I can. They say I will never ride a horse again, but I am a determined person and I have a very special friend that saddles my horse for me and helps me by pulling my right leg over the top to get on and off. We just always hope when we are 30 miles out that I don't have to get off, as I need a picnic table for mounting and dismounting.

# A Typical day in the Life of Simba

By John D. Solina

At the crack of dawn, he wakes up and begins to play with the two bobcats that he lives with. They have their own bedroom together with many things to play on and with. From outside the room it sounds like World War III is going on. He plays pretty hard for a while until he gets tired and then it is nap time for all. When Simba wakes up, you can hear a loud grunt. That means he is ready for his morning turkey drumstick. I toss one in to him and that satisfies him for about an hour. Then he starts grunting again and this time it means he is ready to come out to play with us. The bobs go to the back of the house to play, while Simba comes out with us. If they all came out together I would have no house left!



Jungle Gym built by John, Tigger on top

As soon as he comes out, he runs all around the house, checking to see if he can find anything new. Then he begins to see how many things he can knock over, jumping around from place to place. He manages to get on top of the refrigerator and clears off all the cereal boxes to the ground, one at a time, until he has room to lay. Then he proceeds to open the top freezer door and begins to search for what he thinks he might like for dinner. He smacks us on the head as we try to close the freezer door. Eventually this gets boring and he is off to find some more mischief to get into. About now he goes to the couch and sits to look out the window. He watches the Saint Bernards and domestic cats outside. At the other window he will watch the horses in the pasture for hours. Then he gets tired and goes to sleep on the big square coffee table or on top of the curio cabinet. When he awakes he goes around the house grunting again and this means he is ready for a car ride to the local store. Terri gets his harness out and tells him to get dressed. He immediately tries to slip his head into the harness and she buckles it for him. Then he gets on the back of the big leather easy chair by the front door for me to pick him up, as he knows he can't walk across the threshold of the front door to go outside on his own.

*He is 75 pounds now and it is getting harder to carry him to the car, but rules are rules.*

I get Terri in the car first and then I carry Simba and put him on her lap. We roll the window down for Simba to stick his head out and watch the scenery as we drive. His favorite part is going by the pasture where we let him sniff noses with our horses. When we get to the store, Terri stays in the car with Simba. A crowd forms every time, and the employees always come out with a treat for him.

When we get home he asks for his harness off and heads to the bedroom for a nap with the bobcats. He raises his head up proudly and tells them of his adventures while they all make those lynx noises that we all know and love, and give each other head butts. Then they cuddle and nap together. Later, after we have had our dinner, they all come out for TV quality time with us. They actually watch it, as our TV is so big the animals on TV are the same size as them. Sometimes they leap into the TV to try to catch them. We watch a lot of documentaries and animals funniest videos with them. They love to watch the "Beethoven" video, because they live with Saint Bernards and this way they can slap them on the TV and not get in trouble, like when they slap the real ones. (Our Sebastian played Tchaikovsky, one of the pups in the second movie).

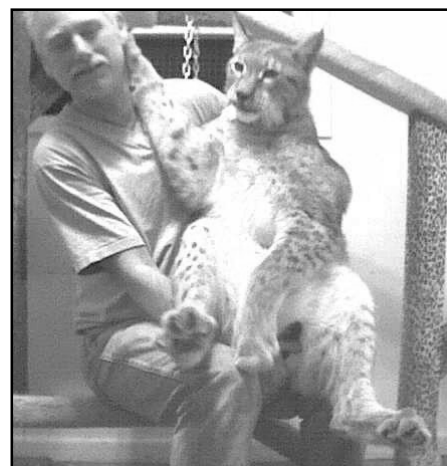
Around 10:00 pm they head off to their bedroom, where a dozen or more Turkey drumsticks coated with vitamin powder await them. Tigger has to kill his drumstick before he will eat it. Simba and Bobbie stay close to the wall and wait for this ritual to be over, while they make little crying noises, as if to say, "You are scaring me!" When he is done and finally eating, the others eat, also. After that they take a small catnap and then you can hear World War III again. They swing their tube into the walls, shaking the house. You would think there was an earthquake happening. Soon all is quiet and they sleep the whole night through.

In their room they also have a toy box full of toys, every kind imaginable, from their favorite battery-operated mouse to stuffed animals. They have a full bowl of Mazuri dry feline in there all the time for munching, and of course three bowls of fresh water.

They get steak at least once a week and a can of Zu-preem for a treat. In the winter, our hunting friends bring them all the deer they can eat. Their favorite food of all is elk, but this is hard to come by. Actually they eat a lot better than we do. Many times they are eating steak, while we are eating a can of soup.

*And so goes a day in the life of Simba.*

Simba is a part of our everyday life and we wouldn't have it any other way.



John holding Simba at 21 months & 75lbs



Simba stretching from his morning nap.



Simba is trying to lick my hair clean. He is so kind. I am sitting and he is standing. Don't worry.



Tigger came to us from the "Little River Zoo" in Oklahoma. He is Simba's roommate & best friend.





## Draco and Tess Fall in Siberian Love

The  
Groom

The  
Bride



by Donna Verba

When I first laid eyes on Tess she had just been driven 3 hours to meet us. I was standing outside the gates at Joe Taft's Rescue in Indiana, on a cold winter night, when Tess arrived. Tess, was curled up in the carrier in the front seat of the truck, when Leann opened the door to introduce me to her. Tess seemed fairly calm after her journey, until the silence of the winter night was broken by the ground shaking roars of Joe's lion's followed closely by the roaring of the tigers. Little did Tess know she was on a journey to meet a new man.

When Lynn & I departed from Indiana in the snow, to journey back home, we had Tess, Buzz and two Geoffrey's in the back seat of the car. They were all in for a long ride, and I must say they settled in and made the journey without a sound. We arrived back home after dark that night, and I still had to get Tess into the new cage.

Lynn and Bart followed me home to help unload Tess into the cage addition next to Draco. Before I left for Indiana, I had put up a lattice panel, along the common wall of the cage, to ensure Tess more privacy. Hoping this would act as a deterrent in case any fighting would break out between the two cats. We transported Tess from the car to the cage, where I opened the door to let her out. Upon exiting the carrier she began to walk around and check things out, she was glad to be out of the carrier and stretch her legs again.

Meanwhile Draco had made his way over to the wire to check out what was going on next to him. Tess walked around checking things out and went over to see who was next to her. The two cats went nose to nose and did not utter a sound, no growls, no aggressive moves, just calm and sniffing each other through the wire. This was a good sign. The next day peace still reigned supreme in the animal kingdom. Tess would walk along the common wall and Draco would follow her from his side. Draco would stop and spray and Tess would do the same.

I still had work to do on the inside of the cage, I had to build a slide gate that opened into the other cage. I went to work the next day, building a slide gate, so when the time came the two could enter each others' territory.

After a few nights of calling each other all night and day the lattice panel came down. They now had full view of each other, it seemed to make them happy, now they could walk side by side down the common wall and spray everything in their path. You think they would have dehydrated with as much spraying as there was going on. Seems they never run out, an endless fountain.

Less than a week has gone by and the calling was getting so very pathetic, I couldn't stand it any more. They have made no aggressive moves towards each



A spraying contest...let the games begin!



Draco playing it cool with his new gal.



Draco says, "I like her ma, can I keep her?"

### The Honeymoon

other since the day Tess arrived and all they do is talk back and forth to each other day and night. Tess would back up to the wire, and Draco would sniff her butt and they would carry on their conversation. It was time to meet.

I grabbed the phone and Called Lynn & Bart, I said I can't stand it anymore, they have to meet. So shortly back up arrived, Bart fully armed in battle gear, ready to take on the battle of the cats. Under his arm he carried Big Bertha, the one gallon, 50 foot water blaster, he was ready for anything. Then he took one look at the size of Draco and asked, "How the hell are we going to stop him if a fight breaks out? He's the size of a small cougar!"

It was time to open the gate. I pulled the rope and we all stood back and waited, and waited, and waited. No one went towards the open gate. So we decided to go in he house and watch from the window, give them some privacy. Still no one went to the gate. I told Lynn & Bart, stay in the house and I'm going in the cage to coax Draco through the gate. I went in the cage, got on my knees by the gate and stuck my hand through to show him the opening. He started to come, then turned. So I took a ball and showed it to him, and this time he headed for the open gate. Success! He came through and I exited out of the cage. Lynn & Bart came back out and we all stood by waiting for all hell to break loose, ready to break up a fight.



It was unbelievable. It turned into no more than a spraying contest. This time they could each spray directly on the other. It was if they worked everything out long before they entered each others' territory. No growls, no aggressive moves, instant friends from the time the gate went open to this day. This was by far the easiest introduction ever. It took over a month to slowly get my bobcats used to each other. Tess and Draco were like an instant match. I think they could have been in the same cage from the day she arrived. But it would not have been a wise move to do that. If they where going to fight they had ample opportunity to go at each other through the 2x4 welded wire and not once did either one lift a paw. All the signs were there that this was going to work, and it has. The two are together day and night now, and if one can't see the other they go looking for them.

It didn't take Draco long to figure out why Tess was here, she was in heat and he being the kind gentleman he is was more than happy to help her out. Once again, Draco proved himself, to be a loving gentle giant. He approached Tess, and got her by the back of her neck and proceeded to breed her. He was so gentle with her, he lifted her up off the ground and moved her to where he wanted her and did it all with such a sweet and gentle manner.

Now begins the wait, will we see babies or not? Ain't love grand!!!!

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# Federal and State Legislative Season is a Flurry of Activity

by Lynn Culvers  
FCF Director, Legal Affairs

It's looking like a very threatening year ahead of us. If we sit on our hands and do nothing, several states could outlaw private ownership and Congress could pass an unnecessary amendment to the Lacey Act. What can FCF members do? Write letters, send FAX's, or e-mail's and call their representatives and the committee members who are assigned these various bills. Can someone from out of state make comments? Yes. Will they listen? It depends. Wording is important. As a national breeder, a state law forbidding the import or ownership of your kittens affects you. As a national exhibitor, a state that will not allow you to conduct educational programs there, affects you. As a holding member of the combined captive population of exotic felines, you have a stake in the future of legal ownership. As Legal Affairs Director of the Feline Conservation Federation I am writing in opposition to each of these bills and will continue to do so. But you must write also!!!

Each of these bills reported on below can be read in full on the Internet. For any federal bills, go to <http://thomas.gov>. Each state also has websites where you can search for proposed legislation. These websites will have a status of the bills, the committee it is assigned to, and then from there you can look up committee members and their contact information. The\_FCF Yahoo list for our FCF members is another resource where pending legislation information is shared. The Phoenix Exotics Yahoo list is a very active bulletin board full of legislation updates, opinions, and resources with a large community contributing to keep each other informed. I suggest everyone take a little time and subscribe to each of these lists. If you do not have a computer yet, you can usually use one at a local library or community college. If you want to help, but need help getting started, call Lynn Culver at 479-394-5235, and I will send you the information you need to get started. The FCF website has been updated. Under legislation, there is a summary of the legislative process to help take the mystery out of things, a sample letter you can use to write your own, and other helpful resources. Take a look. If we do nothing, we may not have any felines left to protect. Everyone needs to let his or her voice be heard. You would not believe how organized and vocal the anti-exotic animal forces are. If you want to know what is out there threatening you, just surf over to their websites, they are the best source of information on legislation on the web!

**Federal Legislation** – Senate Bill **S269** introduced January 30<sup>th</sup>, and companion House Bill **HR1006** introduced February 27<sup>th</sup>, are touted as bills to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species. They both contain the following definition of PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES – The term 'prohibited wildlife species' means any live lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar or cougar. These felines may not be sold in interstate commerce for 'pet' purposes. These bills are essentially the same as the one which failed to reach the floor for a vote last year, except that missing from this year's bills are any mention of bear species, instead it is only the large cats being protected from pet sales.

**Washington** – House bill **1151** is essentially a ban bill, with a grandfather clause that requires mandatory insurance, and no breeding of existing animals. The list of exempted facilities does not include any USDA licensed operations. This bill has already been altered once to remove some of the smaller cats from the list of "dangerous animals" being regulated to extinction, and word has it liability coverage requirements are being dropped from \$250,000 to \$100,000 coverage. HB 1151 was passed out of the House March 13<sup>th</sup> with these amendments designed to make the bill more palatable. Now it heads to the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. The session is supposed to completely close on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Jeanne Hall has spearheaded a brainstorming and letter writing campaign through the FCF local chapter, Phoenix Exotics Yahoo list.

**New York** – Senate Bill **S905** and Assembly Bill **A02684**. Both are essentially the same. Read the full text of the bills at: <http://assembly.state.ny.us> They are designed to amend the Environmental Conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the possession of wild animals as pets in New York. They are a return of the bill proposed by Senator Tonka last legislative session and a constant reminder that the anti-private ownership forces will not rest until they have closed down every state. Senator Tonka specifically desired to make pet servals illegal because a serval bit the daughter of a friend of his. All already existing exotic pets will have to abide by many outrageous requirements, including liability insurance coverage. The only exceptions to the bill are the familiar list of AZA zoos, wildlife rehabilitators, non-profit sanctuaries, etc. However, this bill does exempt USDA Class C exhibitors as well.

**Minnesota** – Senate Bill **769** was introduced into the Minnesota Senate on March 10, 2003, relating to dangerous animals possession and ownership restrictions. To read the full text on the internet go to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp> Under the Senate Current Biennium, enter bill # sf769. This bill has been referred to the Agriculture, General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee. This is another no breed, "manage to extinction" bill. It has no exemptions for any class of USDA licensed facilities, only approved sanctuaries; AZA zoos, fur farms and wildlife rehabilitators are exempted. Existing owners are required to register, post dangerous animal signs, not breed, not acquire any new animals and comply with USDA husbandry regulations. This bill seems to be timed to ride on the national press spotlight, which focused on the recent 5-month old tiger cub, possessed without a city permit. Nobody was hurt, but the Spanish-



speaking owner had not obtained the proper permit for the animal, so it was confiscated by the prosecutor's office. In a phone conversation with the head of the nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest Humane Society located in MN, Keith Streff, I was told of his efforts to craft a bill to set standards for the keeping of wildlife which would give them greater authority to intercede in sub-standard situations. He assured me he was not against all exotic animal ownership; however, this bill is substantially different then what was relayed to me over the phone. While the MN government is heavily in debt, one would be ill advised to assume that logic will prevail and new regulations will not pass. We are up against very determined forces and we must not rest when fighting for our lifestyles.

**Arkansas – House Bill 2467** – An Act to protect the Citizens of Arkansas from exotic animals that escape from confinement. Requires the state to develop standards for confinement and the local counties to implement standards for confinement. (this bill is in response to 5 lions that roamed loose for 48 hours last year) This bill bears watching. I have my doubts the state legislature can develop such standards and so it must be determined what person or agency will be asked to do the advising for such standards. Use <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/> to view this bill and developments.

**California - CA AB 395** authored by Assembly member Paul Koretz (D-42 of West Hollywood) would amend the Veterinary practice law in the Business and Professions Code to prohibit veterinarians from surgically declawing cats. AB 395 would add a new subsection 4826.5 to the California Business and Professions Code, to read: "4826.5. (a) A licensee shall not perform surgical claw removal procedures, declawing, or flexor tendonectomy on any cat, including a cat that is a member of a large and exotic cat species. The proposed new subsection 4826.5 is unprecedented in California law by criminalizing lawful procedures performed by licensed veterinarians.

**Alabama** - Keeping wildlife as pets without a permit is against Alabama law. Officials say persons holding wildlife without a permit have until March 31 to notify the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to apply for a permit or to voluntarily surrender the animals. People found holding wildlife in captivity after the March 31 deadline will be arrested and the animals will be seized, officials say.

**Colorado** – State Wildlife Commission is reviewing their regulations and word is they are considering dropping their state regulations that govern animal facilities and instead will mandate accreditation by the national sanctuary associations. Presently Colorado does not allow pet ownership, but if such a change is implemented, it could affect any fine facilities, and give further power to the national Sanctuary Associations. The State Wildlife Commission needs to hear from all licensees immediately and they need to insist that they continue to be the regulatory force in charge.

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Perhaps the best enrichment of all is to simply be included in the lives being lived around them, instead of being confined to a limited mesh universe....The lynx in the chair is Saber, born at Jim Wilcockson's place. Saber is a spoiled only child living with Mark Browning. Saber's life is enriched by close contact with his humans, and he enjoys an occasional fast food experience.







Sara Brather's Boris and Natasha lynxes don't mind the winter weather in Tennessee at all.



Sara has raised many cubs for a zoo in Tennessee, as well as her own personal cats. She found that she didn't have to give up keeping items on display in her house on shelves just because the cats were living with her. She swears by a museum gel she uses to glue items, without damaging them or her furniture, to the shelves directly.

"I used to have to put up all of my knick-knacks when I had cubs in the house and then when we took in two domestic cats, I figured I would never be able to display anything. It really works, but the shelf or desk has to be level. I got it through QVC. Go to QVC online ([www.qvc.com](http://www.qvc.com)) and search for 'Museum Gel.' It was developed in California because of the frequent earthquakes."





## **MEFES January 18, 2003 Meeting Minutes by Patty Turner**

January 18, 2003 Tell City, Indiana at the home of Bryan and Ana Studer

President Harold Epperson started the meeting by thanking Bryan and Ana for hosting the meeting a second time.

We have two new members, Arthur & Carol Snow of Mooresville, IN. There were 17 in attendance with 3 of them as guests. Not bad for a really cold snowy day.

Peggy Epperson read the minutes of the last Oct. meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Peggy then read the treasury report. Our present balance is \$1,121.54. The balance on Oct. 19, 2002 was \$1,322.15 with receipts of \$718.25, and expenses of \$918.86. We received \$233.75 from dues, \$402.00 from calendar sales, and 82.50 donations by Michael and Karen Biggs, Marvin Hierlmeier, Cary Nodley and Arthur and Carol Snow. Our expenditures include \$64.52 for the Hush Award, \$30.00 for the Articles of Incorporation, \$7.98 for labels, \$358.48 to print the newsletter, \$358.57 to print the calendars and \$99.31 to mail the newsletters and the calendars.

There was a tribute to members cats that were lost in the last 3 months. Mike and Tonya Jones lost their caracal, Keith and Tracy Wilson a caracal, and Bill and Diana Johnson a serval.

Bill Johnson spoke about Champ, their serval. Earlier Champ had broken a leg which had healed, and he seemed fine. One day afterwards he got very sick, upchucking, and was down. They had him X-rayed and did blood work. He had a complete kidney shut down and died within a day. Purdue did a necropsy and found a kidney stone was the problem, and the bladder had ruptured.

Bill said he was talking with a surgeon in Crown Point and he said the body sends out so much calcium to heal a broken bone, and it sometimes can plug up the system. Bill's local vet said it was very possible.

The vet said if you are aware they are having difficulty and the possibility of stones, the kidneys could be flushed out and also a possible kidney transplant. Everyone agreed a kidney transplant would be too costly.

Bob Turner asked that if you were aware of a stone problem, is there any medication you could give them. The vet had told Bill there are two types of stones, one is from calcium and the other is a soft type of stone. The soft one can be dissolved by a medication, the calcium one can't be.

Bill and Diana give their cats a calcium supplement, but the body will only absorb so much calcium, so this wasn't a factor. After Bill gets a written report of the facts from the vet, he will share it with everyone. Kathy Arnold said that she had a contact with Purdue if Bill needed more help. The vet said the calcium kidney stone is more likely in males.

Articles of Incorporation were filed by Bob Turner. MEFES is now recorded as a non profit organization in the state of Indiana, but we are not non profit for tax purposes. For tax purposes we would have to go 501C3

MEFES logo is still being cleaned up and isn't quite ready yet. Monte Francis has been working on it. Officers to O.K. it after final presentation, and Bob is to take it to Cintas for printing.

Monte has also been working on the MEFES website. He has come up with several places. One he prefers would run \$10.00 per month with 5 e-mail addresses and plenty of accessibility and space.

Emergency plans were discussed as something every cat owner needs to pursue heavily. It protects the public from the cats. Everyone should have a set of plans in operation and posted on the facility. An outline was in the last newsletter.

Peggy Epperson has suggested a new column in the newsletter for kids. The column could have their thoughts, experiences with cats, drawings, etc.

Ana Studer mentioned about viruses in the cats that they were having a little problem with. One member related that they were sometimes babysitting with a friends baby cat and afterwards all of their servals got sick. Any time you take another animal in, or even for a visit, disinfect your hands etc. after handling other people's cats, just to be safe. Kevin Chambers said there really isn't a treatment for a virus, you just have to ride it out.

The By Laws instruct all owners to have current vaccinations before taking your cats somewhere. This helps protect your cats and theirs.

Cheri Fecker has resigned as editor of the MEFES newsletter. November was her

last letter. A newsletter by committee has been considered. Carol Siegley Bohning has volunteered to take it on. Her only request is for members to send her articles and that we may go for a smaller newsletter. The member profile seems to be popular.

Kathy Arnold suggested maybe an article on the new USDA inspector, Dr. Finney, maybe even putting him on our mailing list.

The next husbandry course is possibly April 26. Kevin Chambers thought also one about August 6 before the convention. Dates and locations not definite yet.

We still have some of our cat calendars for sale.

Bob reported on the upcoming camera trapping trip to Ecuador by Arkansas member Tracy Wilson. Tracy as Conservation and Education director for FCF talked with Jim Sanderson who does camera trapping all over the world, and who spoke at the last convention in Kansas. A West coast go for a smaller newsletter. The member profile seems to be popular.

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Bob reported on the upcoming camera trapping trip to Ecuador by Arkansas member Tracy Wilson. Tracy as Conservation and Education director for FCF talked with Jim Sanderson who does camera trapping all over the world, and who spoke at the last convention in Kansas. A West coast nonprofit group called Earth Way bought a 25,000 acre reserve in Ecuador, and they have a wild cat sanctuary on this reserve. Jim Sanderson was scheduled to go there to film the cats, but became ill and cannot go. The cameras and film that were to be donated by FCF didn't get finalized in time, so Tracy asked for donations and is taking on the task of going by herself. Donations are still being accepted. Send donations to Harold Epperson and mark for camera trapping.

FCF is trying to go in a new direction and to get positive results. It helps to show the zoos we are not just a club and that we support conservation projects and are willing to work on such projects.

Monte has checked on a MEFES P.O. Box. It would be about \$35.00 to \$40.00 a year for a box on the website. Monte made a motion for a P.O. Box and to let directors choose the location. Bob questioned the advantages. Monte said we would have national exposure, and it would be a permanent address, but no one knows your home address, so it would make it safe to have.

Bob questioned since this would be for a year, and the officers are elected for a year, how big of a headache would it be to change this? Monte volunteered the use of his own personal P.O. box and we can see how it goes. If it gets real heavy, we will go ahead and get our own. Bob motioned we do that, and Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Motion to adjourn by Monte and Bill Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> it. After the meeting Kevin Chambers mentioned the upcoming convention. Bobby Bean, the convention chairman has asked for approval to change the location of the convention from Niagara Falls to Cincinnati, Ohio. Kevin said this would be the last chance to see the largest collection of cats as Cincinnati will be phasing some of them out. There would be a behind the scenes look at the zoo and a chance that Catherine Hilliker and her cheetah might be available for us to meet.

The convention is Thurs. August 7 thru Sun. August 10. A husbandry course would be Wed. Aug. 6 as this is a full day. There is no one yet to act as host for the convention, members will probably do so. The next newsletter will explain more. Also, Jim Sanderson will be there and you do not have to be a FCF member to attend.

The next meeting will be April 19 in Bean Blossom, Ind. at the shelter house of Dr. Jim and Paulette Baxter, and hosted by Mike and Theresa Taylor. It will be our usual pitch-in dinner.

# Poisonous Plants

continued from article on page 25

Alfalfa	Creeping Charlie	Horsebeans	Poinsettia (leave can be fatal)	Staggerweed
Almond (Pits of)	Corydalis	Horsebrush	Poison Hemlock	Star of Bethlehem
Aloe Vera	Croton	Horse Chestnuts	Poison Ivy	String of Pearls
Alocasia	Crocus, Autumn	Hurricane Plant	Poison Oak	Striped Dracaena
Amaryllis	Crown of Thorns	Hyacinth	Pokeweed	Sweetheart Ivy
American Mistletoe	Cuban Laurel	Hydrangea	Poppy	Sweetpea
American Yew	Cutleaf Philodendron	Indian Pink	Pot Chrysanthemum	Swiss Cheese plant
Angel's Trumpet	Cycads	Indian Rubber Plant	Potato	Tansy Mustard
Apple (seeds)	Cyclamen	Indian Tobacco	Pothos	Taro Vine
Apple Leaf Croton	Daffodil	Iris	Precatory Bean	Tiger Lily *
Apricot (Pits of)	Daphne	Iris Ivy	Primrose	Toadstool
Apricot, Almond	Datura	Ivy	Privet, Common	Tobacco
Arnica	Deadly Nightshade	Jack in the Pulpit	Queen's-delight	Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem and leaves)
Arrowgrass	Death Camas	Janet Craig Dracaena	Red Emerald	Tree Philodendron
Asparagus Fern	Desert Plume	Japanese Show Lily *	Red Princess	Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia
Autumn Crocus	Devil's Ivy	Japanese Yew	Red-Margined	Tulip
Avacado (fruit and pit)	Delphinium	Java Beans	Dracaena	Tung Tree
Azalea	Decentrea	Jasmine	Rhododendron	Umbrella Plan
Baby's Breath	Dieffenbachia	Jerusalem Cherry	Rhubarb	Virginia Creeper
Baneberry	Dracaena Palm	Jimson Weed	Ribbon Plant	Wallflower
Bayonet	Dragon Tree	Jonquil	Ripple Ivy	Water Hemlock
Beargrass	Dumb Cane	Jungle Trumpets	Rosemary Pea	Weeping Fig
Beech	Easter Lily *	Kalanchoe	Rubber Plant	Western Yew
Belladonna	Eggplant	Lacy Tree Philodendron	Saddle Leaf Philodendron	White False Hellebore
Bird's-foot- Trefoil	Elaine	Lantana	Sago Palm	White Snakeroot
Bird of Paradise	Elderberry	Larkspur	Satin Pothos	Wild Call
Bittersweet	Elephant Ear	Laurel	Schefflera	Wild Cherry
Black-eyed Susan	Emerald Feather	Lily	Scotch Broom	Wild Licorice
Black Locust	English Holly	Lily Spider	Silver Pothos	Winter Cress
Black Nightshade	English Ivy	Lily of the Valley	Skunk Cabbage	Wisteria
Bleeding Heart	English Yew	Locoweed	Snowdrops	Wormseed
Bloodroot	Ergot	Lupine	Snow on the Mountain	Wormwood
Bluebonnet	Eucalyptus	Madagascar Dragon Tree	Soapberry	Yellow Jassamine
Blue Flag	Euonymus	Marble Queen	Spider Chrysanthemum	Yews —
Box	Evergreen	Marigold	Spinach	e.g. Japanese Yew
Boxwood	Ferns	Marijuana	Spotted Dumb Cane	English Yew
Branching Ivy	Fiddle-leaf fig	Marsh Marigold	Sprangeri Fern	Western Yew
Broom	Figwort	Mayapple		American Yew
Buckeyes	Florida Beauty	Mescal Bean		
Buddist Pine	Flax	Mexican Breadfruit		
Burning Bush	Four O'Clock	Miniature Croton		
Buttercup	Foxglove	Mistletoe		
Cactus, Candelabra	Fruit Salad Plant	Mock Orange		
Caladium	Geranium	Monkshood		
Calla Lily	German Ivy	Moonseed		
Castor Bean	Giant Dumb Cane	Moonweed		
Castor Oil Plant	Glacier Ivy	Morning Glory		
Celandine	Golden Chain	Mother-in Law's Tongue		
Ceriman	Glocal Ivy	Morning Glory		
Charming Dieffenbachia	Gold Dieffenbachia	Mountain Laurel		
Cherry (pits, seeds & wilting leaves)	Gold Dust Dracaena	Mushrooms		
Cherry, most wild varieties	Golden Glow	Narcissus		
Cherry, ground	Golden Pothos	Needlepoint Ivy		
Cherry, Laurel	Gopher Purge	Nephtytis		
Cherry Tree	Green False	Nightshade		
Chinaberry	Hellebore	Oleander		
Chinese Evergreen	Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy	Onion		
Chinese Lantern	Heart Ivy	Oriental Lily *		
Christmas Rose	Heartland Philodendron	Ornamental Yew		
Chrysanthemum	Hedge Mustard	Peace Lily		
Cineria	Hellebore	Peach (pits and wilting leaves)		
Clematis	Hemlock, Poison	Pencil Cactus		
Cordatum	Hemlock, Water	Peony		
Coriaria	Hemp dogbane	Periwinkle		
Cornflower	Henbane	Philodendron		
Corn Plant	Holly	Pimpernel		
Cornstalk Plant	Honeysuckle	Plumosa Fern		
Cotton		Poinciana		

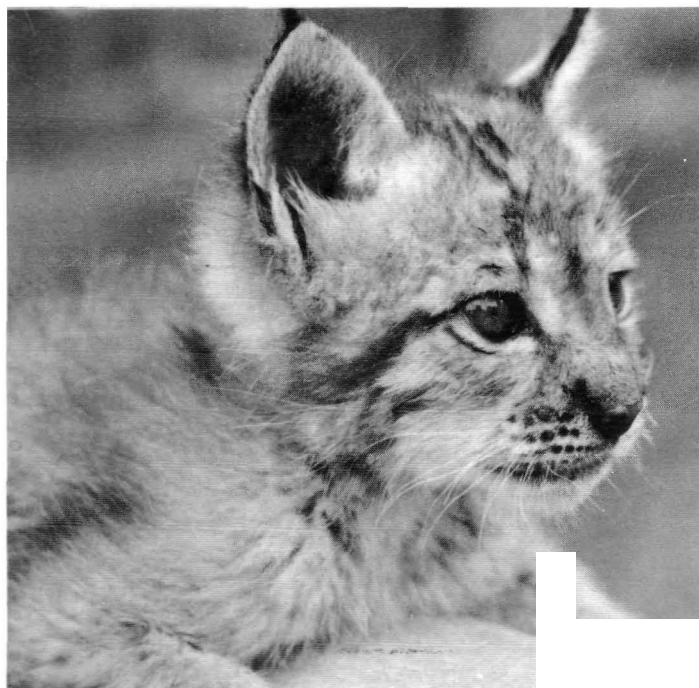
## Lynx Heaven





# My Banshee

by Carol Bohning



When Lynn Culver called to ask me to write about Banshee, my little Siberian lynx, I didn't think I could do it. You see, I had just put her to sleep on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. I can't describe how connected we were, how completely our souls were linked. I will never get over her death.

I got her at seven days old. I bottle fed her using KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer) with which I have always had great success. Five weeks from hell later, we discovered that she was lactose intolerant. We had tried everything to stop the diarrhea, multiple fecals at the vet, different antibiotics, and different formulas. Her poor little butt I kept smeared with Vaseline to help with the soreness. It wasn't until the fifth week that the bright idea occurred to me that she couldn't eat any milk-based formula. We began to wean her immediately and lo and behold, she was fine. Not, however, before she earned her name, Banshee. A banshee is a spirit in the form of a woman well known for her wailing.

Banshee was very well behaved in the house. She slept with my 10 other house cats and was very gentle with them. She did like to torment the dog though. He would run from her, which she thought was the greatest fun. Around and around the couch they would go! She greeted everyone each morning as soon as we appeared, each of her cats and dog and her humans with a little crow of happiness. When she wanted to be fed, she would head-butt the back of my knee when I was standing in the kitchen.

In retrospect, she had problems the whole of her life that seen by each incident wouldn't really cause a great deal of concern. At about 7 months I found out however, that her littermate brothers were twice her size. Growing up, she had occasions when she would get a kind of cough, but each time my vet would give her lungs and heart a check, they were perfectly clear. She also had occasions of fever, but we would put her onto antibiotics and the fever would clear in a couple of days. I suspected allergies just because it kind of fit with how her problems would come and go.

At 9 and ½ months my vet and I knew that something was very wrong. She only weighed 14 lbs and was very lethargic. She had developed a very high fever in the 104 to 105+ range that was not alleviated by antibiotics (several of them). For a week and a half I slept near her on the floor next to her cage so that I could take her temperature and either wipe down her body with a cool cloth or immerse her in the sink when her fever hit 106+. I started with subcutaneous fluids twice a day and then went to intravenous fluids twice daily. I ground up medications to mix with Val Syrup twice a day. In the meantime, we sent blood serum to the Department of Agriculture for testing for *Leptospira*, and the results came back negative for six different species of the organism. We also sent out serum to test for feline leukemia, feline infectious peritonitis, feline immunodeficiency virus and toxoplasmosis. These tests also came back negative. Bloodwork showed normal values, especially with white blood cell counts, so we knew we were not dealing with bacteria, and the antibiotics were only going to be useful against some kind of secondary infection.

Over the week and a half that we were treating Banshee we did six blood counts and chemistry profiles. The only thing that we observed was a quick drop in the white blood cell count. By this time, my vet had been thinking an immunodeficiency problem, which was why she sent out the tests for FeLV, FIP, FIV and toxoplasmosis. The first three are commonly present with an immune system problem. However, Banshee had been tested shortly after I brought her home and again while sick. The results were negative. Sometimes steroids can be helpful in immunodeficiency problems so that was what we tried next. For 2 to 3 days, Prednisone seemed to have some effect on lowering the fever, but finally it did nothing and the fever was up to 107+ the day I decided that she had had enough.

She was the greatest of patients with her blood draws, catheter placements, leg wraps, injections, medicine and trips to the vet. I go many, many kisses with her hot little tongue while she was sick. While she was being put down, she licked my face the whole time, I know, to comfort me. It hasn't helped.

I want to give special thanks to Dr. Ingrid and the other techs and friends at Indian Creek Vet Hospital. I don't know what I would ever do without them.



## Don't Ignore a Fever

Any fever is important to notice in your cats. Typically, veterinarians may put the animal on antibiotics, and do no testing. They are just assuming a bacterial infection, which it probably is 98% of the time.

If no response is seen in 2 or 3 days, bloodwork is vital. If the fever is unresponsive to antibiotics, then you may be looking at an immune-mediated disease such as feline leukemia, feline infectious peritonitis or feline immunodeficiency virus. It is important to stay in touch with the condition of any animal that you own, since they can't tell you what is wrong. With our exotic cats, we need to be extra watchful, especially since some breeds seem to be more susceptible to certain illnesses than others.