

Volume 47, Issue 5

September/October 2003

Feline  
Conservation  
Federation





## Feline Conservation Federation

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. , D/B/A the Feline Conservation Federation. 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. Our 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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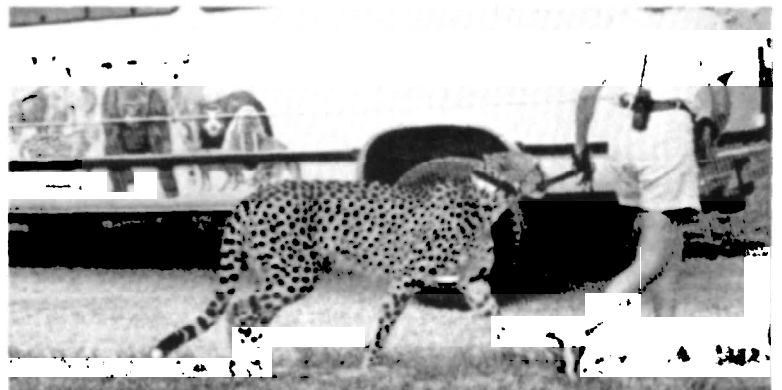
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**The newly updated FCF web site is available at [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org)**

**Cover:  
JB Anderson and Sleet his snow leopard were a very special addition to the FCF Convention 2003.**



**Being led to the starting point to run for FCF convention attendees is Moya, one of Cincinnati Zoo's ambassador cheetahs.**

# In this issue...

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## Special Thanks to...

Special thanks to the photographers who clicked away during important moments at the FCF Convention, including Monte Francis, Gloria Johnson, Nancy and Bobby Pack, Kathy Arnold, Tracy Wilson, and all the others who have allowed us to reprint their photos here and in future issues. Additional thanks to the Convention Committee Members, who outdid themselves, and to all the people who took the time to write for this issue. This is your newsletter, and it is my pleasure to include so many items from such a large group of contributors. --Mindy, your editor



## Thanks for the Memories

by Carolyne Clendinen

The following is a page from my convention journal. I wrote this Saturday night, after I had left the dinner. I didn't want to forget the feelings I was having after spending the weekend with FCF.

*I was touched:*

- by the kindness of people who don't know me, but share my love and passion for these animals
- by the willingness of people to share openly about their experiences, both good and bad
- by the desire to make this world and our earth a better place to be
- by holding baby caracals for the first time, and having one fall asleep in my arms

*I was inspired:*

- by the determination to not let these cats be lost
- by people who have made dreams a reality
- by people like Catherine Hilker, who didn't let impossibilities discourage them, but encourage them instead
- by a feeling and a passion that was so evident in those around me

*I was moved:*

- by cats like Angel and Lakota, who touched lives and changed lives in ways that only those who have experienced it can understand
- by seeing how one person CAN make a difference



## Classified

All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. FCF, Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. FCF, Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only FCF members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes where no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual advertising. Ads must state whether the individual is a private owner or broker. Full current address with a phone number must be stated in the ad.

Ad rates for submitted photo-ready ads:  
2 inches x 3.5 inches (business card size):  
\$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.*

# Pampas Cat

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

The Pampas Cat ranges along the southwestern grasslands of South America in the countries of Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina and Patagonia. They also live in forests and high altitude regions. Seven sub-species are presently recognized.

You can't write about Pampas Cats without discussing the two types of pampas that provide the main habitat for this feline species. Pampas are flat, fertile plains that cover an area of 300,000 sq. miles or 777,000 square kilometers, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Andes Mountains, found primarily in Argentina and extending into Uruguay. These Pampas habitats provide the small mammals, such as guinea pigs and chinchillas, rodents and birds the Pampas Cat preys upon.

The humid pampas eco-region is a savanna-like grassland mosaic, dominated by bunchgrasses and scattered with shrubs and small trees. Here one can find the rare Pampas Cat, stalking chinchilla in the high grasses. This is one of the richest grazing areas in the world, but it has been severely degraded by domestic livestock and farming. No pristine pampas habitats remain, and there are only a few true remnants of this once-vast "sea of grass." Today, it is considered one of the most endangered habitats on Earth.

The semi-arid pampas eco-region is also some of the world's richest grasslands. The land is dominated by tuft grasses, scattered trees and interspersed with mesquite, jarilla, and ephedra shrubs. Many seed eating bird species inhabit this region, such as the Double Collard Seedeater, the great Pampas Finch, the grassland Yellow Finch, and the Long Tailed Reed Finch. It is also home to the rhea as well. The Pampas Cat and Geoffroy's Cat both share this prey-rich habitat along with the Maned Wolf and the llama-like Guanaco. Like the humid pampas, the semi-arid pampas are also rich grazing areas that have been under intensive human cultivation since the 17th century.

The Pampas Cat face is broad; their ears are pointed. They have an incredible diversity in coat coloration and markings. They can be a silvery gray with reddish bands running over the legs and body. Some are solid red with black bands on their legs, and some are a lighter tannish color with spots on their back and stripes on their legs. They are also known to be melanistic. They have long hair; up to 2.5 inches (7 cm) in length. They have a small mane down their back and a bushy tail. When the cat is frightened the mane and tail hairs stand erect making the Pampas Cat look bigger than it actually is. The Northern subspecies have gray ears with a white spot on the back, farther south the Pampas cat have plain ears. The bars running from the corner of the eyes to the ears is more pronounced in western subspecies. To see some incredible photos of these beautiful and striking coat variations go to the Lion Crusher web site (see link below)

The breeding period is from April to July. Gestation is 80-85 days, and litter size is 2-3 kittens. From 1976 to 1979, 78,000 skins were exported for the fur industry. They are still hunted, but in 1980 they gained CITES II protection to stop this commercial trade in exported pelts. Pampas cats are thought to be nocturnal, but not much is really known about their habits. Jim Sanderson launched a photo-trapping project and in 2001 he sent Leandro Silveira who is working in Emas National Park in the cerrado of Brazil one antenna, one receiver, and 10 radio collars to be used for radio telemetry studies to learn more about this rare feline.

FCF members had the very special opportunity to see this South American feline when we visited the Cincinnati Zoo at Convention 2003. Several melanistic specimens were seen on display and off-display. This is the only zoo in the US to house this species, as is not part of the AZA Felid TAG approved Regional Collection Plan, and this species will not be bred, imported or maintained in captivity in the US in the future.

The Cyber Zoomobile <http://home.globalcrossing.net/~brendel/pampas.html>

Lion Crusher <http://www.lioncrusher.com/animal.asp?animal=65>

National Geographic Society, World Wildlife Fund [www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/nt/nt0803.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/nt/nt0803.html)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/nt/nt0806.html>

Wildlife onEasy Street [http://wildlifeeasy.com/update\\_pampas.htm](http://wildlifeeasy.com/update_pampas.htm)

Melanistic Pampas Cat at the Cincinnati Zoo.



## *Saturday Night Banquet at Convention 2003*

Lisa Padula

Good vibrations. That's how we will remember the Saturday night banquet at Convention 2003. What a fabulous evening; great friends new and old, very tasty food, and lots of fun activities for all.

Our evening started with lots of conversation, visiting, and then checking out of the auction table filled with goodies we wish we could all out-bid each other on. I give Amy Rasmussen the award for best work in that department!

We went on to vote for the Photo of the Year and that was Carol Siegley's beloved Banshee. I think we were all moved by her story in the March/April Siberian Lynx issue. Reporter of the year went to Colette Griffiths for all those wonderful articles sent in by her over the past 12 months. You must have been running your tail off Colette, but it sure is appreciated. Both these ladies received a certificate of appreciation and a beautiful cheetah plate. Bob Turner presented a special stuffed cheetah Editor Award to Mindy for that great May/June Cheetah issue. Thank you again Mindy for all your



hard work. Dan and Carolyn Kneip won the much coveted Charles Frace' Margay print. What a beauty that was, and even though most of us were visualizing it in our own living rooms, it went to a very good home.

We were all honored to have Cathryn Hilker at the banquet with us. I will never forget the thrill of seeing those Cheetahs run. Many thanks to Cathryn for giving us that unforgettable experience, and inviting us into her home and heart. ...and a great rousing round of applause, and a few "clickers" in there too, as we stood to honor our President George for his acceptance of his much deserved Lotty. I secretly think we may all be "clicker" trained!

Our evening went on to the commencement of our auction lead by our most loved J.B Anderson. He was dressed to the nines right down to his fancy footwear. The Italian factories of Manolo Blahnik just couldn't compete with those shoes! (you just had to be there) Vanna duties were covered by the always beautiful and gracious Reva Anderson, and our very own Scotsman-at-large, Harold Maxwell, aka Max. Kudos for that handsome outfit, and the nice

show of leg. Harold Epperson kept track of all our biddings, quietly assisted by his attentive Schnauzer Heidi. What a great job, as we all really gave him a workout with all our activity.

There are so many of you that worked so hard in putting this convention together, and those who continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of FCF. I am in awe of Tracy and Leann, all they have accomplished with the Playa de Oro reserve. How proud I feel that we as an organization are making a difference in the lives of the Villagers, and the native wildlife there.



Finally, as I looked around the room during the evening. I couldn't help but miss the many familiar faces from conventions past. I had a moment of melancholy as I mourned silently for those who have passed on, and others that were not able to be with us who gave so much to FCF in the past. My sadness was short lived though as I saw the joy in the faces of many new friends, and the old. It brought me back to enjoy a most memorable evening.

Convention committee members stand up banquet night for a round of applause.

©Monte Francis

## Thursday Night Ice Breaker

Matt Greggains

Let me start by introducing myself, I'm Matt Greggains and I work for Animal Source Texas. We are an importer / exporter of all types of animals, including the cats that everyone at FCF are so fond of, small mammals to large hoofstock and birds. I arrived in Cincinnati for the 2003 FCF convention without any preconceived idea of what to expect. I had just joined FCF and didn't know any of the other members. Furthermore I had traveled to the convention alone because my associate had stayed behind in Texas to be with his expectant wife as they awaited their first child.

The day had been a long one as the flight I was scheduled to be on had been cancelled due to a mechanical issue and the next flight was a three-hour airport wait away. My arrival at the hotel was late in the afternoon approaching 5 o'clock and I had already missed the general membership meeting. I immediately went to the check-in table before taking my bags to the room. I perused the name tags on the table and remembered that I would know at least one couple, Dan and Caroline Kneip, who coincidentally were also from Texas and I had met a few weeks earlier when they hosted the Macropod Information Exchange. However I was dismayed to see their nametags still on the table unclaimed. I thought I would be one of the last ones checking in and figured that they probably had a last minute conflict. I was greeted very warmly by the Epperson's and welcomed to the convention and into the membership of FCF and given my name badge and they encouraged me to hurry back to the welcome reception in the hospitality area. My spirits quickly picked up and the day's travel frustration was quickly fading. I departed to my room to deposit my luggage and freshen up.

I returned to the welcome reception and slowly eased into the crowd and mingled around listening to the conversations and getting a feel for the group. Then Robert Turner approached me, obviously aware that I was an unfamiliar face, and graciously introduced himself and engaged me in conversation. It was a very pleasant "Ice Breaker" and we talked for quite a while. He really got the ball rolling for me as he introduced me to his wife and a few others in the area. It meant a lot to me that he went out of his way to welcome me to the group and was indicative of the nature of folks I would meet throughout the weekend.

Shortly thereafter I introduced myself to Lynn Culver and enjoyed talking with her until she, Tracy and Leann had a previously scheduled meeting with a gentleman named Jose who went by the alias of '1800'. ;-) But at this point the ice was broken and I flowed right into another group and was talking w/Glen and Shannon and hearing the interesting dialogue that ensued as Glen's son in Chicago was called and informed by Tracy and Leann what type of convention his father was attending. I met Rick Armstrong and enjoyed his tales of his big cats. It was one enjoyable evening that put me at ease that this was going to be a great weekend of fun and learning amongst a great group of folks.

This point was further solidified when I met Max later that evening and was the recipient of his generosity as he offered me a cigar as a table of us sat around telling stories and getting to know one another. I was pleasantly surprised when Dan and Caroline arrived later in the evening. They had overcome their unexpected delays, and sought me out in the crowd. Before we knew it 3 a.m. was closing in fast and we could've kept going. We pushed ourselves away in an effort to get a few hours of sleep before our big day on Friday at the Cincinnati Zoo and the cheetah run at Narnia. I look forward to next year's event and opportunities to interact with the people I met at this year's convention.

---

### We're Heading to Sunny Florida for the next FCF Exotic Feline Husbandry Course!

Don't miss this great opportunity for continuing education in the tropical warmth of southern Florida.

**When: Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Where: The Ft. Lauderdale/Sunrise Hilton  
3003 N. University Drive, Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

**Price: \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 others**

(after November 22, registration fee increases to \$110)

Register early as class size is limited!

The Ft. Lauderdale/Sunrise Hilton FCF Husbandry Course rate is \$69.00 double occupancy. Includes Continental breakfast & Ft. Lauderdale airport shuttle. Book your room by calling 954-748-7000

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>,  
tour  
Panther Ridge Sanc-  
tuary in Wellington,  
Florida**



© Mark Kostich

Featuring tiger, leopard, cougar, clouded leopard, ocelot, serval & caracal housed in natural habitats. \$10.00 tour fee charged. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about endangered felines and see proper husbandry practices. Carpooling available.

Mail contact info & registration check made out to:

Nanette McGann, 10100 SW 21<sup>st</sup> Terrace, Miami, FL  
33165 For maps, lodging, carpool or other info call  
Nanette at 305-553-8192.

# Husbandry Course Reviews

©Monte Francis



George Stein with instructor Carol Bohning

I arrived at the classroom for this course not knowing quite what to expect. As a non-exotic cat owner, I was not even sure why I was here. The state I live in, Virginia, does not allow the ownership of exotic cats. I guess it was because I have been volunteering at a facility down in North Carolina, CCI. As a volunteer, I was able to visit with a few of the cats there. But I wanted to know more of the basics of felines. I knew what we fed the critters there, but I wanted to know why we fed that particular diet. I wanted to know about the differences between the diets for each cat. What other things did felines require for a healthy life other than food? Who decides these things?

Well, the course turned out to be a real eye opener. I learned a lot about feline diets, about the feline digestive system. I learned about enrichment, handling and behavioral training, lots of natural history on cats. Much discussion was given on the need for sufficiently sized enclosures. Security was also another subject that was covered, as well as the design and construction of facilities for housing exotic cats. Then there is always the question of what to do in the event of an escape or injury.

Unfortunately, there was also the need to handle all the legal issues. Local, state and federal officials have always had the need to control the people they govern. Exotic cat owners have many issues to deal with.... USDA, USDI, USF&G, CITES, ESA, AWA,

APHIS, REAC, The Lacey Act, and that is just the federal level. But all of this was covered in the course.

I would give this course a “two thumbs up”. We had folks from one extreme to the other, wannabes like me all the way to those who have been working with exotics for many years. I think we all learned many new things. Our instructors were great and well versed on the many subjects they covered. I would highly recommend this course to anyone that is considering getting an exotic cat.

## Another Point of View

by Cathryn Freeman-Spohrer

I would like to take this time and opportunity to express my thoughts on the FCF Annual Convention and more importantly, my comments and remarks on the Husbandry Course held on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at the start of the convention and taught by FCF members George Stowers and Carol Siegley.

I could tell the FCF Annual Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio was well planned in advance with thoughts and actions that insured members and other guests experienced a very exciting, fun-filled and educational event, planned in a manner so that everything to do and see could be done. I have been anxiously awaiting a Husbandry Course to be scheduled near to me and so it was very important to me to take this opportunity to enroll in the Convention Husbandry Course.

This Husbandry Course is aimed to help educate people who attend by gaining more knowledge on issues concerning Exotic Cats. Topics were the history of Exotic Cats, what are some of the different kinds of Exotic Cats and sub-species, where they originate around the world, which ones are threatened and endangered, government, state and local law issues, behaviors, diet and what types of caging and/or enclosures are needed for a specified Exotic Cat.

During the length of the course, each section was presented in a manner that the novice would be able to understand and learn from. Along with both George Stowers and Carol Siegley talking about each section, a booklet was also given out with all the same information, as well as slide pictures of each section spoken about. This gave attendees three ways to learn about husbandry and the Exotic Cat.

Naturally, being a one-day course, all details and history of each section of husbandry could not be covered, but the greatest thing was that the most important areas of each topic were talked about and explained in detail.

I feel one of the most crucial areas covered were the LAWS governing Exotic Cats since today all who have Exotic Cats or those thinking of getting one are being affected to some degree with laws intact (US government or state), new laws trying to be passed or laws that have already passed concerning Exotic Cats.

Being a person that believes you will never have all the answers pertaining to Exotic Cats and there is always something new to learn, I believe taking the FCF Husbandry Course is one of the best ways to begin your education and search for information regarding Husbandry and Exotic Cats. George and Carol's presentations were extremely well prepared. When dealing with education and Exotic Cats, you must have commitment, dedication, love, experience and above all, the education!



©Monte Francis

## SO MANY CATS, SO LITTLE TIME

### The Enrichment Challenge

By Laura Carpenter, Cathouse Keeper

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden Cincinnati, Ohio

### Introduction

When I first started my enrichment program, at the cathouse, at the Cincinnati Zoo, I wanted to enrich every cat, every day. With more than 50 cats, ranging from margay *Leopardus wiedii* to lions *Panthera leo*, I soon realized how impossible this was to do. Through research and many modifications, I finally came up with a program that works. This paper will chronicle the evolution of designing and implementing an enrichment program in a short amount of time on a daily basis.



©Monte Francis

### Methods

I started out, by researching each species of cat in our collection. Using the text, *Wild Cats* by Kristen Nowell and Peter Jackson, of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, I researched each cat's natural habitat, preferred prey items and natural behaviors in the wild. From this I was able to develop an understanding of what enrichment would be appropriate for each species. I used the AAZK enrichment notebook, to look for enrichment that would fit each cat's preferences and needs, to try to mimic naturalistic behaviors.

From the list that I compiled, I was able to make a chart that listed different types of enrichment, (food, olfactory, toys etc.), across the top and listed each different cat species, in our collection, along the left hand margin. One could use this as an easy reference to decide quickly and easily the enrichment for each cat.

I then sent the chart to the veterinary staff for approval. Since, at the time, we had no enrichment committee; I developed my own approval form, using one that I had gotten from Disney's Animal Kingdom. The veterinarians felt it would be too time consuming to go through everything on the list at once, so it was decided that I would submit approval forms as I was about to use each enrichment item. I ended using many previously approved items.

Once the approval process was underway, there was still the problem of timing of enrichment. There are simply too many cats, in our collection, to enrich each one every day. After a long process of trial and error, I decide to organize the cats into groups of 3,4 or 5, according to their physical location in the zoo. Next, I developed a calendar, in which I would put each group of cats on a certain day of the month and underneath that, I would write what type of enrichment that particular group would get that day. In this manner, each group of cats would get enrichment at least two, sometimes three times each month, on a consistent basis. Each group would also get a turn with each different type of enrichment, on a consistent basis.

We now have an enrichment committee. This has helped a great deal in the approval process and in the evaluation process. They have developed new approval forms. The keeper, who wishes to implement a particular enrichment, fills out these forms and sends them on to the enrichment committee. Then, the keeper sends the form to the head keeper, manager and finally the veterinary staff for final approval. Upon approval of the item, the committee sends the form back to the keeper and they can include it in their list of enrichment items.

The committee has also developed an evaluation form. The purpose of this form is to report how a particular animal responded to a particular enrichment item. The keeper can then keep a record of what each animal likes or dislikes, planning enrichment that works, for the next month.

Some enrichment items that are used at the cathouse are: Boomer balls®, catnip pillows, papier-mâché balls, scents (perfumes, herbs and spices, liquid flavorings), Kong® toys, paper towel rolls, blood and fish cubes, fruit and yogurt cubes, produce (watermelons, cantaloupes, coconuts), swimming pools, 55 gal. Barrels, cardboard boxes, live fish and live crickets.



### Conclusion

Enrichment decreases boredom and stereotypic behaviors, decrease self-mutilation and over grooming. Enrichment increases naturalistic behaviors and socialization, between conspecifics and keeper interactions.

Since developing this enrichment program, it has become very easy to enrich the cats on a consistent basis, in a timely manner. All one has to do is simply look at the calendar, see which group of cats is to be enriched that particular day, obtain the items and give them to the cats. Some advanced planning is required for making items or for adding big items, like swimming pools, to an exhibit. For the most part, the program is working quite well.

The planning, creating and implementing of this program has resulted in a more entertaining and satisfying habitat for the cats and the public.



## References

The American Association of Zoo Keepers Enrichment Committee. 1999. Enrichment Notebook, 2nd Edition. AAZK, Inc., Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A.

Nowell, K. and Jackson, P. 1996. Wild Cats. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

An interested sand cat at the zoo.

Storm, a resident of the Cincinnati Zoo, plays in a large cardboard tube suspended in her off-exhibit home.



©Kathy Arnold



Bobby Bean finally grasps enrichment he has sought after for years.



The youngest convention attendee--Kate Kahn's son--would be considered good enrichment by many of the cats at the



The Beckley (left) and the Bryants (above)

Christopher Worley, left, a new member who joined at the husbandry course in Indiana

Carol Bohning decked out for the banquet



Harold Maxwell with a caracal kitten Cathryn Hilker with Hoosh and friends



Catherine Bean helping.

Arlene Goffena, Lynne Kawaminami, Pat Speers in the common area



© Monte Francis-most of the above photos

# HOW TO SECURE FAIR REGULATIONS & LEGISLATION

**Polly Brittan, Ohio Association of Animal Owners**

presentation at the *FCF Convention, August 9, 2003, Cincinnati, Ohio*

1. **Be good neighbors**/be above reproach
  - A. We don't support violating existing laws/ordinances. Check them out **before** you get animals.
  - B. Put yourself in the other person's shoes – if you had children and someone moved in next door or brought in big cats, what would be **your** initial reaction? Court the neighbors first, get them on your side.
2. **Form alliances** - Farm Bureaus, animal owners' groups (not just cats)
  - A. JOIN each others' organizations, count each others' members as your own (**increase your voice**)
  - B. Increase membership numbers
    - 1) Set up a table at auctions, swaps, fairs; leave flyers/collection jars at pet stores, feed stores, etc. & go back & collect/replenish them regularly.
    - 2) **EVERY TIME YOU SELL/PLACE AN ANIMAL, GIVE THE PERSON NEWSLETTER/FLYER & APPLICATION FORM. BUILD THE COST OF A CHEAP MEMBERSHIP INTO YOUR PURCHASE/ADOPTION PRICE SO THE PERSON AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES A MEMBER. INSTEAD OF NEGOTIATING PRICE, TELL THEM YOU'RE BUYING THEM A MEMBERSHIP.**
3. Appt **1 person** in your organization to **track legislation/alert** membership/coordinate with other organizations
  - A. Can be done via Internet (check your state's website) or by calling legislative info #.
  - B. Develop a "telephone tree" or contact list to alert other key people/organizations to join you in fighting/revising legislation; but beware of those who get their organizations exempted and hang you out to dry!
4. **Get to know your senators and representatives** (yours personally, plus other key people's)
  - A. Show your own Senator & Representative how **your** operation will be affected by legislation; you're his constituent and it's his job to represent your concerns in the legislature. Hold him accountable!
  - B. Beware if he takes that to mean you should be exempted personally while the rest of the industry is penalized. You want him to represent you **and** the rest of the industry.
5. Make a **campaign contribution**
  - A. OH allows you to take up to \$100 as an off-the-top deduction, meaning you get it all back so it costs you nothing.
  - B. Sponsor or donate something to a fundraising event for a legislator.
  - C. Keep your name out there so that when you call re: legislation, they know who you are and you're one of their supporters.
  - D. Volunteer to place **campaign signs** – I usually put out about 25 each general election time. Don't forget to take them down the following day!
  - E. If you're not sure what to do, call the Senator/Representative and **ask**.
6. When **analyzing/commenting/testifying** on legislation, focus on:
  - A. Animal **industry** – don't allow them to isolate 'pets' from the rest of the industry, because it reduces your voice. Dealers/exhibitors start out as pet owners.
  - B. **Private property** issue/effect on individual income
  - C. **Impact on local businesses** – feed store, pet stores, building supplies store, vets, etc. Give concrete examples of how much \$\$ spent per month or per year by an average owner (and be sure you say "I'm just 'small potatoes' compared to the **big** operations")
  - D. Effect on **animal industry** as a whole – gene pool, disposition of animals if made illegal
  - E. Beware **ban bills disguised as licensing/regulation bills**, and beware **grandfather clauses** + lack of grandfather clauses
    - 1) If you have a problem owner, go **fix the problem** and take credit for it, shamelessly if necessary. Use it to show legislators that your organization is proactive in fixing problems and thus making legislation unnecessary.
    - 2) Give your organization's name & a contact phone number to **rescue/rehabilitator facilities, animal control agencies, local Chamber of Commerce, law enforcement (get on their list to pick up deer kills and DO IT), and to local vets who may be contacted by animal control or humane societies**
    - 3) Give your organization's name & a contact phone number to **911** so that when there's an animal emergency, they'll call **you** first rather than the humane society.
  - F. Beware of **duplicative legislation**

- 1) Often all it takes is pointing out that ordinances/legislation already exist to address the problem
- 2) If there's already a vehicle in place to fix a problem, most legislators will gladly back off from introducing new legislation

**G.** Let legislators know when legislation is of an **animal "rights"** nature/promoted by animal rights organizations, but be sure they know that legislation/regulation are not strictly philosophical differences between animal rights groups and animal owners. There are very **tangible results** from unfair legislation; be sure your legislators are crystal clear what they are, and that they will be held responsible if they support/vote for such legislation.

#### 7. Press Releases vs. Talking to Reporters

**A.** When reporter calls with a "deadline" and wants a statement/interview, you can be sure they're only looking for "filler"/opposing view on what the animal rights groups have fed them. It may not be a good idea to even talk to them.

**B.** We need to issue our own **press releases**. That way, we can be assured of getting our information to legislators and the public without its going through a reporter who intentionally or unintentionally misquotes/edits or otherwise distorts the message. They may shorten it/not use all of it, but they're not likely to **change** it.

- 1) Determine who in your organization has good writing skills, understands the issues and is willing to draft the press releases.
- 2) Obtain instructions on how to subscribe to newswire services
- 3) Review/approve each press release prior to sending.



©Monte Francis

**My Fire Will Not Die Until I Do**  
-- Speaker Polly Britton

#### 8. Get over the notion that legislation and ordinances are so ridiculous that they'll never pass.

**A.** If you don't tell your legislators otherwise, you can count on them to listen to the other side.

**B.** Don't assume your legislators are smart enough to recognize a bad bill when they see one. **You** are the expert when it comes to animal legislation. **Act like it!** The animal rights groups certainly act like it, and we know they're idiots.

**C.** If you think someone else is going to protect your interests, forget it. Whose animals are they? **Yours!** Whose responsibility is it to protect them? **Yours!** Who knows what's best for them? **You do!** We have more knowledge in this room than in the halls of Congress when it comes to cats. **Act like it!**



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## A Lady and a Tiger – coming to a bookstore near you in 2004

by Gloria Johnson



Attracting tigers wherever she goes, Gloria Johnson gains the attention of JB Anderson's toes at the FCF Banquet.

I was delighted to be one of the speakers at the 2003 FCF Convention and share with everyone the behind-the-scenes story of my upcoming book “Lady and a Tiger” to be released in fall 2004. I explained to audience the “typical procedure for getting a book published”, but like the rest of my life, *nothing* was typical about how Lyons Press came to purchase my story.

One of the reasons that the publishers were so interested in my story was because I have experienced so many unusual situations with big cats in just 8 years, that I have “compacted” about 25 years worth of stories. In large part I feel this is due to the fact that my 1-year internship, as required in the State of Florida, was done at Savage Kingdom, the Rare Feline Breeding Center, where Mr. Robert Baudy mentored me in the care and training of Siberian Tigers. Eventually though, I became particularly enamored with the species *Puma concolor* (the cougar or mountain lion which in Florida is known as the panther).

I am particularly proud of the forward to my book written by Mr. Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. I have had the great honor to work repeatedly with Mr. Fowler showing my cats when he gives wildlife lectures. Everyone will be very pleased at the angle Mr. Fowler has taken on private ownership of exotics and we can all take comfort knowing that someone as famous as Mr. Fowler is publicly standing up for our rights!

Most importantly to me and weaved throughout my book, is the story of a woman finding her true passion and meaning late in life. These wonderful animals not only change our lives and lifestyles, but they completely changed who I was and who I am now.

I want to stress to everyone the importance of keeping a journal of your experiences, because whether or not one wants to be published, it is going to be extremely rewarding in the future to be able to look back in your “memory books” and relive the awesome things that so many of us with exotic cats have been fortunate enough to experience.

## Cheetah Races at Cathryn Hilker's home

70 miles an hour! That's how fast the speed limit is on our interstate highways. 70 miles an hour and I would not even consider sitting on the side of the road 3 feet away from a car. Can you imagine? Who would do such a thing?

Change the car to a Cheetah and there is your answer: FCF people! This was truly an experience of a lifetime. That animal raced by me so close I think I could have reached out and touched it. Four or five times we were treated to these “Cheetah races.” Once that magnificent animal approached me I had to concentrate on not blinking my eyes or I wouldn't be able to take in its passage by me. My head quickly turned to follow and before I knew it he had already reached his/her (there were 2) owner, the wondrous Cathryn Hilker. I then realized I hadn't taken a breath! I inhaled deeply, like I had just come from underwater, but my mouth was still open and goose bumps were on my arms. Then I remembered where I was and looked around at my new FCF friends. Doug Stinner was next to me and all he could do was look at me with his mouth open too. We both attempted to speak but couldn't. I looked around and everyone had the same dazed look on their faces! It takes a lot to shut me up, but I found myself stammering and making no sense to Doug or anyone else. But it was okay. Everyone was like that!

It is simply impossible to really describe the experience. I actually felt the Cheetahs wind as it passed me; I could hear its labored breath; I not only could hear its paws hit the ground like a thunder, but I could feel the vibration as I sat on the ground so close. If only we could have put the world in slow motion for just a minute!

This was how we ended our long and entertaining day at the Cincinnati zoo. While there we got exciting behind the scenes tours and even got “up close and personal” with two white lions that Siegfried and Roy house at the Cincinnati zoo. It was a long and exciting experience and when I was on the bus going to Cathryn's house I really thought I was ready to call it a day. Yes, we had so much fun most of us were pooped. But all that changed so rapidly it was amazing. The adrenaline ran like mad through everyone's veins when those Cheetahs ran!

After some marvelous opportunities for photos and for the Board Members to be photographed with Cathryn and her two marvelous Cheetahs, we walked over to her gorgeous home (which was open to us to tour) and had an ice cream social. It seemed funny that all these folks who seemed so “bushed” earlier were now so animated and excited from this experience!

By Gloria Johnson

# Lotty Awarded to George Stowers

It is hard to express the full depth and breath of my emotions when I heard my name announced as the recipient of the Feline Conservation Federation's Lotty award for 2003. For over thirty-six years the Lotty has stood in recognition of an unbroken lineage of excellence for the LIOC, LIOC-ESCF, and now the FCF. To be recognized in this manner is a tremendous honor, one that I will always treasure.

When I consider the dedication, commitment and accomplishments of past Lotty recipients, I am not sure my own efforts merit inclusion in such an august group. However, I commit to them, and to the entire membership of the FCF, that I will continue to do my best to uphold the principles the Lotty represents.

Respectfully,  
George N. Stowers



JB Anderson, George Stowers, Bob Turner, and Reva Anderson

## The 2003 Lotty Report *from Life Director J.B. Anderson*

The by-laws of our federation passed by board members many years ago mandate that this organization's highest honor, the Lotty award, shall be presented at the annual convention. Awardees are to be decided (nominated and voted upon) by past Lotty recipients. If no outstanding candidate is identified, then no Lotty is awarded that year.

The Lotty award stands for "above and beyond" contributions to this organization and especially exotic cats, whether home or abroad. I was greatly honored to receive the Lotty in 1994.

In 1966 sculptress Brenda Duprey designed the LIOC Lotty award, a bronze patina covered ocelot head molded in the likeness of her ocelot Zapata. It was first presented to Gene Brill, the Long Island Ocelot Club secretary. For many years Brenda cast the LIOC Lotty sculpture for this annual club honor.

Then in 1980 Ethel Hauser made a mold of her Lotty award and cast a number of plaster copies to insure this LIOC tradition continue. Later on Shirley Wagner assumed the duty of casting the organization's annual award. For 25 years Shirley did a great job of holding elections for the LIOC Lotty. When Shirley left the organization earlier this year she kept the Lotty mold.

In accordance with our by-laws, and to honor our past and acknowledge the roots of this tradition, the Feline Conservation Federation will continue awarding the treasured LIOC Lotty award, linking our past, present and future together forever. As Lotty chairperson, I could have made another mold from my Lotty, but did not as I did not have the sculpture artist's permission. The by-laws do not say what a Lotty award is. So I commissioned the department chair and professor of sculptures at Missouri University to design and execute an ocelot head and mold. Professor Jim Hunter did a marvelous job with correct ears, eyes and nose, if only we could cast some whiskers!

As the Board appointed Lotty chair I polled the past living Lotty awardees. The majority of the votes I received awarded the 2003 Lotty to George Stowers. Vice President, Bob Turner and last year's Lotty recipient was honored to present it to George at the 2003 convention to a standing ovation.

## REVIEW of CENTRAL NEBRASKA PACKING, INC *Past, Present and Future*

Richard Freitag

Central Nebraska Packing, Inc. from North Platte, Ne. was established in 1946 producing USDA Insp. & Passed horsemeat for human consumption over seas; originally to Belgium and France, then later Japan. By the late 50's chunk horsemeat was a regular menu item for zoo carnivores (big cats). In the late 60's and early 70's as the greyhound racing industry was expanding, chopped horsemeat became the basic ingredient for the racing dogs.

Approximately 1968, the first commercially prepared diet for exotic cats became available. It was a canned product.

About this same year Allied Mills, Inc. purchased CNP from the two original owners. The concept of a prepared diet for exotic cats that utilized natural ingredients from a packing plant came together. In 1971 Nebraska Feline Diet (frozen) was introduced to the zoological community. By 1975 two more diets were introduced, Bird of Prey and Canine.

By 1976 the majority of the zoos in the USA had converted from chunk horsemeat to Nebraska Brand prepared diet. The diets were not only cost saving, they also produced better-looking cats, better breeding and stronger young cats raised. Nutritional deficiencies were in the past.

Nebraska Brand diets have been used for over 32 years for exotic carnivores. In the late 90's some quality control

issues resulted in the recreation of the production area and support facilities. A new production area was built with tile floors, plastic walls, refrigerated and a separate ventilation system. All stainless steel equipment was installed (to prevent iron rub off and facilitate sanitation).

2000 - Standards of production equal to human food production were implemented. These include a fully implemented HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) and SSOP (Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures). The quality of each batch is verified by our, state of the art, in-house microbial and analytical laboratories. The ingredients and finished products are additionally verified by outside USDA approved laboratories.

2001 - A well known, highly qualified, consulting nutritionists experienced in exotic animal nutrition reviewed all of our Nebraska diets. Through her input the classic and premium Nebraska Brand diets are nutritionally complete with the proper levels of vitamins and minerals included in the finished, balanced product.

(continued on following page)  
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***If you have any questions or requests, call me. Judy Jezl, Owner***

# West Nile Virus and Horsemeat Fed to Exotic Felines

Richard Freitag

Prior to 1999 West Nile Virus was found in birds, humans and other vertebrates in Africa, Eastern Europe, west Asia and the Middle East. In 1999 a closely related strain to the Middle East – West Nile Virus appeared in the Western Hemisphere (USA). In 2002 the news was tracking its east to west progress weekly if not daily. 2002 was the year of the largest reported West Nile Virus epidemic with 44 states in continental USA affected.

Over 100 US species of birds have been found to carry West Nile Virus. It occurs primarily in late summer to early fall. Southern temperatures allow for the possibility of year round transmission. The disease is transmitted from one bird to another bird by the mosquito (vector). The problem arises when the infected mosquito bites a horse or human (end host). 1% of the infected mosquitoes can result in severe illness.

Other species that have been tested and shown positive include the dog, domestic cat, cattle, llama, penguins, flamingos, raptors, harbor seal (at an aquarium) and a wild black bear. In 2002 fewer than 15,000 horses tested positive for West Nile Virus. There are approximately 6-7 million horses in the US. The death and euthanasia number was 4,300 or 28%. WNV affected horses have a 10% - 28% mortality rate. As a comparison, Eastern Equine Encephalitis has a 50% mortality rate for affected animals.

Late August through October seems to be the high period of the year for reported cases. It is also the most active time for mosquitoes. Ways to control the mosquito populations in your area would include removing areas where water can be free standing, provide fans and ventilation in your animal enclosures – especially resting spots (this removes the carbon dioxide which is what a mosquito is attracted to).

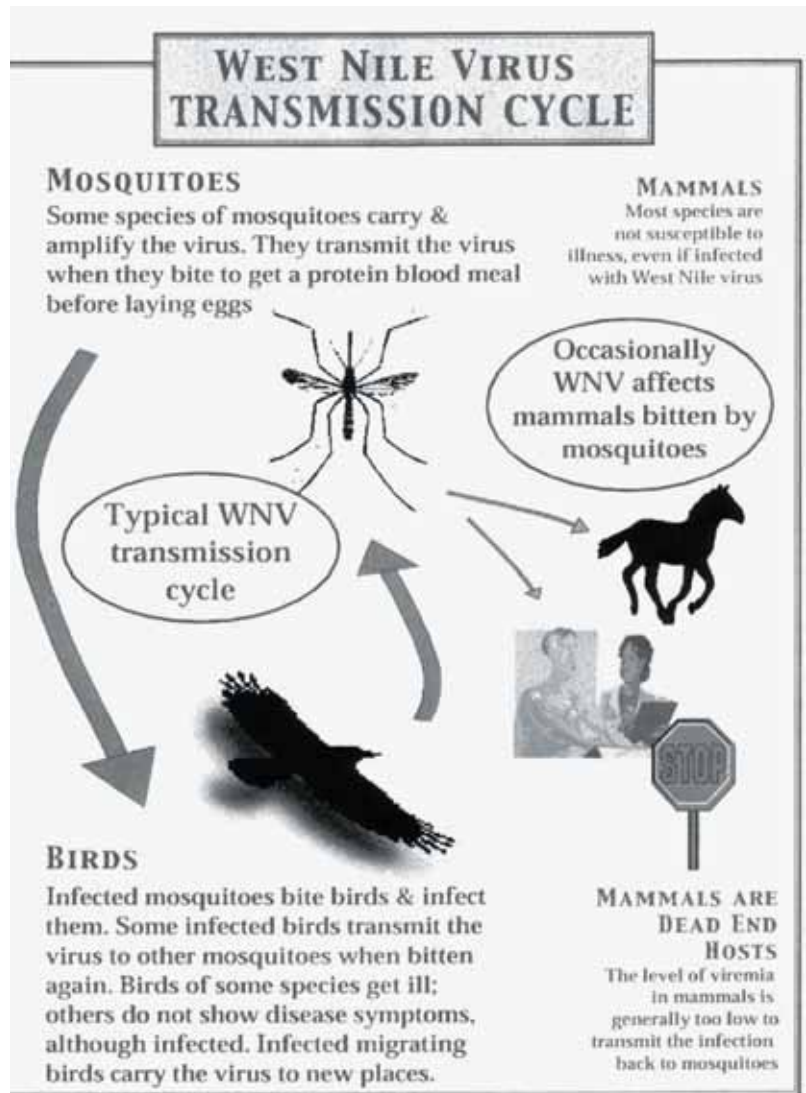
The life cycle of this virus is so dependant on the mosquito as the means of transmission and normal wild bird migration to spread the disease. It is believed and assumed that birds that show positive for West Nile Virus and survive may have developed immunity from the disease.

## **The Concept of VIREMIA: The presence of the virus in the blood of the host.**

The following question was asked.

### **Can horsemeat fed to exotic cats transmit West Nile Virus?**

The answer is very highly unlikely since its only way of transmission is by mosquito bite and the level of **viremia** in mammals (end host) is too low to transmit the infection back to the mosquito. Thus, consumed horsemeat in exotic feline diets does not follow the normal mode of transmission for this disease and should not present a problem.



## Review

*(continued from previous page)*

as its primary emphasis. All the meat ingredients originate from USDA Inspected facilities – the horsemeat, beef and by-products. No 3D or 4D meat (i.e. downed, disabled, diseased, or dead) is on premises or used in any of the formulas. The USDA and the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture inspect Central Nebraska Packing, Inc. These two agencies work together to ensure all sanitation and production procedures are adequately monitored and verified.

In summary, the problems of the late 1990's provided the stimulus and thinking to restore the confidence in Nebraska Brand carnivore diets fed to exotic cats and other carnivores. This was accomplished by developing the new production area, the stainless steel equipment, in and out of house laboratory analysis of ingredients and finished product, and quality control programs equal to human food production.

# Thanks to Our Sponsors

Dear FCF members,

I want to bring to your attention the vendors that participated (\*), sponsored, donated (\*\*) and attended (\*\*\*) in this year's record-breaking convention.

We owe a big "THANK YOU" to these companies. These companies support and believe in FCF, it's conservation efforts and it's mission to help sustain private ownership. They donated merchandise for our auction that helped bring in hundreds of \$\$\$ to FCF. In addition, they're just nice people.

I'm asking that our membership help show our appreciation by supporting these businesses when purchasing animal related products. These companies carry a wide array of products suitable for any type animals you may have.

These Businesses were:

\*\*\***Animal Capture Equipment, Inc.** Judy Jezl. League City, TX  
[www.acecap.com](http://www.acecap.com) (866) 339-9960

\* **Animal Finder's Guide** Pat & Sharon Hocter P.O.Box 99,  
Prairie Creek, IN 47869 [www.animalfindersguide.com](http://www.animalfindersguide.com) (812) 898-2678

\*\*\***Central Nebraska Packing, Inc.** Richard Freitag, P.O.Box 550,  
North Platte, NE 69103 [www.nebraskabrand.com](http://www.nebraskabrand.com) (877) 900-3003

\* **Ellen Martin** 21059 Justus Road, Williamsport, OH 43164

\*\* **Fuhrman Diversified** 2912 Bayport Blvd., Seabrook, TX 77586  
[www.fieldcam.com](http://www.fieldcam.com) (281) 474-1388

\*\*\***Jeffers Pet.com** P.O.Box 100, Dothan, AL. 36302  
[www.jefferspet.com](http://www.jefferspet.com) (800) 533-3377

\*\* **KV Vet Supply** 3190 N. Rd., David City, NE 68632  
[www.kvvet.com](http://www.kvvet.com) (800) 423-8211

\* **Louis E. Page** P. O. Box 2405, Littleton, MA 01460  
[www.louispage.com](http://www.louispage.com) (800) 225-0508

\*\* **Mazuri-Purina Mills** 140 S. Hanley Rd., St. Louis, MO  
63144 [www.mazuri.com](http://www.mazuri.com) (800) 227-8941

\*\*\***Oasis Vitamins** (Apperon) Peter Kaufman, 283 Chaplin  
Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, Canada MSP 181 [www.apperon.com](http://www.apperon.com)  
(866) 807-7335

\*\* **Safe-Capture International, Inc.**, P.O.Box 206, Mount  
Horeb, WI 53572 [www.safecapture.com](http://www.safecapture.com)  
(608) 767-3071

\*\* **Sanctuary Supplies** Kathy Creed, 4300 Pletzer Blvd.,  
Rootstown, OH 44272 [www.Sanctuarysupply.com](http://www.Sanctuarysupply.com)  
(877) 886-1992

\*\* **Satina's Closet** Tracey Ellsworth 15304 Fiddlesticks  
Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33912 [www.satinascloset.com](http://www.satinascloset.com)

\* **Valentine, Inc.** Andreea 16135 New Ave., P.O. Box 639,  
Lemont, IL 60439-0639 (800) 438-7883

\*\*\***WildTrax Supply** P.O. Box 1382, Searcy, AR 72145  
[www.wildtraxsupply.com](http://www.wildtraxsupply.com) (866) 953-8729

\*\* **ZuPreem** P.O. Box 2094, Mission, KS 66202  
[www.zupreem.com](http://www.zupreem.com) (800) 345-4767

\*\* **Pneu-Dart** (Blair D. Soars) Pneudart, Inc., 1 West Third  
Street Suite 212, Williamsport, PA 17701 [www.pneudart.com](http://www.pneudart.com)  
(866) 299-3278

\*\*\***Pet Ag** 255 Keyes Avenue, Hampshire, IL. 60140  
[www.petag.com](http://www.petag.com) (800) 323-0877

I apologize in advance if there is somebody I left out.  
Please let me know and we will make the correction in the  
next FCF newsletter. Thank you!

Robert (Bobby) Bean  
Director of Advertising & Publicity

Dear FCF members,

I would like to thank everyone that helped make the  
2003 convention such a great success. Those that  
worked so hard and put in so many hours of their time to  
insure a convention to remember. These people were the  
members of the Convention Committee; Kate Conner  
Kahn, Kevin Chambers, Harold Epperson; members of the  
Cincinnati Zoo Cathryn Hilker, Pat Callahan, Laura  
Carpenter and staff, the hard working volunteers; Reva &  
J. B. Anderson, Debbie Willoughby, Tracy Wilson, Leann  
Montgomery, Lynn Culver, Charlotte Adams of All-Ways  
Travel and Barbara Conrady and staff of the Airport  
Radisson Hotel and those recruits that were drafted  
Lauren, Rachel and Jessica Bean.

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,  
Robert (Bobby) Bean



Caracal and bobcat kittens relax with FCF members at the  
Raddison Hotel hospitality suite area.

©Monte Francis



## Meeting FCF and Witnessing the Running of the Cheetahs

When I first began in the world of business, I was taught by seasoned businessmen to immediately separate personal and business affairs, as the two could not co-exist without creating irreconcilable conflicts. It was further reinforced that business decisions had to be based on objectivity, avoiding personal emotion that could cloud and taint the decision making process. It was only when I met Dr. Gary Pusillo, a man who has dedicated his life to the health and care of exotic animals, that I learned personal passion fuels successful businesses and to separate the two inevitably leads to an empty and selfish life.

Dr. Gary's lesson was further reinforced when I decided to attend the 2003 FCF Convention in Cincinnati. First, some background: I am a 33-year old husband and father of three children: twin girls, 4 years old and a son, 2 years old. I live in Canada's largest city, Toronto. I have always lived in a big city and have always enjoyed the amenities and conveniences that a cosmopolitan city offers. In terms of animals, I have always loved dogs; cats were too independent for my liking. In other words, I was never a "cat person." When I first started working with Dr. Gary 5 years ago, our projects were focused primarily on horse health. It wasn't until last year did he introduce me to the world of exotics and in particular exotic cats. To sum things up, working with and meeting these magnificent exotics cats and the people who care for them has turned my views upside down. To say that I am the same person, with the same views, since I began working with these splendid and graceful great cats would be a complete lie.

Attending the 2003 FCF convention, I had zero expectations. I figured the least I would accomplish was to introduce the new and improved Oasis Vitamins under the new corporate name, Apperon, along with a family of other specialized nutritional products, all formulated by Dr. Gary. Because Dr. Gary had a prior commitment, I decided to attend the FCF convention alone, not knowing anyone who would be there or if the 18 hour round trip would be a waste of time or not. If the convention was a bust, I thought, at least I was there to hand out some brochures and introduce myself. What I quickly discovered, after the first convention night, was that the enthusiasm and passion of the attendees was super contagious, fueling my growing belief that business is a tool to do "good" and that personal and business convictions can go hand-in-hand.

On the second day of the convention, I was privileged to participate with the attendees on a visit to the Cincinnati Zoo. The highlight for this city boy was, without doubt, Cathryn Hilker and the running of the cheetahs at her house. To watch these magnificent cats runs at full sprint, up-close and personal, and to marvel at the relationship that these cats have developed with their caretakers, leaves one in complete awe and humbled. What I quickly learned from walking through Cathryn's incredible home was that her business was very personal. With Cathryn, there was no line that divided her day job with her personal life. Her house was beautifully decorated with paintings, photographs and statues of cheetahs. Books on exotic cats lined her library. There was never a question that this woman's personal life was intertwined with her business of protecting, educating and caring for exotic cats.

At Cathryn's, while eating ice cream and sipping wine, I chatted with many of the attendees, trying to better understand the meaning of owning an exotic cat (and for most members, multiple cats). Owning an exotic, I already knew, was nothing like owning a tabby companion cat, especially since owning a Tabby Tab doesn't force you to defend yourself constantly against groups looking to outlaw you or take away your license and your animals. At the end of the day, I was blown away by the passion, the commitment and the love that people expressed for their cats. These people expressed pure selfless love, the same unconditional love that I am only able to express to my children.

Membership has its privileges and Dr. Gary and I wanted to reward FCF members for their commitment and their passion. If those attending the convention were a reflection of all its members, and we believe it is, Apperon and Oasis Vitamins wanted to do something that was more than just "kind" words. As a result, we decided to provide all FCF members with a 5% discount on all Apperon products available online at [www.apperon.com](http://www.apperon.com). We will advertise regularly in all FCF newsletters and become a regular attendee at annual conventions.

Having had the privilege of being introduced to a bunch of remarkable people whose mission, as the guardians of captive exotic cats, is a hard and difficult road, I am blessed to work in a business that has meaning other than the bottom line and that introduces me to people that I can call personal friends. Thank you FCF - we look forward to working with you on your sacred mission.

Cordially,  
Peter Kaufman

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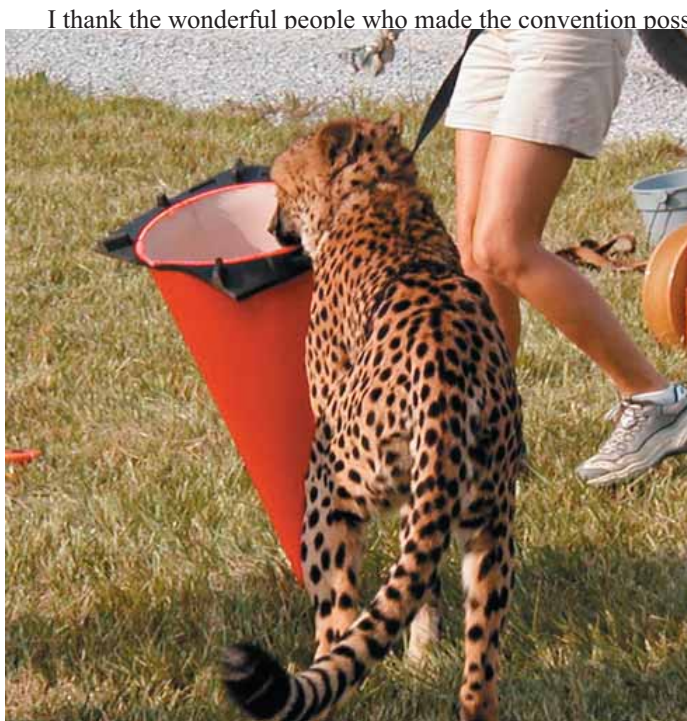
## Running into the Sunset

by Judy Jezl

As the owner of Animal Capture Equipment, Inc., I was delighted to be invited and to be a part of the Feline Conservation Federation conference of 2003. It was interesting and fabulous! Meeting the animals and the people who work hard daily to care for and cherish them is what I will remember the most. I would have taken one of Bobby Bean's adorable caracal babies home with me (when Bobby wasn't looking) but I was afraid that it would have grown up and eaten my dog for a snack. ;-D Anyway, I hope to continue being invited and being a part of this great organization. Input at the conference has given me some ideas on developing new equipment aimed at your handling needs. I want you to know that I will always be interested in what your needs are and will do my best to meet them.



©Monte Francis



©Monte Francis

I thank the wonderful people who made the convention possible and who make FCF work for all. I appreciate Cincinnati Zoo for taking us behind the scenes. I personally would like to thank Carl and Catherine Hilker for their graciousness of opening their home and allowing us a glimpse into their life...and for the cheetah run.

The cheetah run. The exclamation point to the already great conference. Since I've seen it I feel compelled to describe it, however lacking my description may be. The course is a flat grass field about 400 yards long along a gravel driveway. The wind is not stirring. The sun is going down. The course is a rope lure, which lays flat against the yellowing summer grass. We're positioned in two rows along the path about ten feet apart poised to take pictures. I'm at the end. I hear the radio. They have released the cheetah. It is free. I hear the winch whine as it reels back the rope. I begin taking pictures as fast as my camera will take them. I see a speck in the distance. The speck gets bigger fast! I hear the pounding of the paws strike the ground. It sounds like the drumming beat of two thoroughbred horses running at full gallop slightly out of step of each other. I see it stretched towards the prey, and then bring its back paws around and landing them far past where the front paws landed. The power and strength of its stride is palatable. Its grace is beautiful. Its focus is fixated, intent and unwavering. I can

"No. You can't have it back. It's mine.  
I caught it fair and square."

almost feel it as it passes within feet of me. It stops as fast as it ran. I hear its panting and am slightly surprised to hear it purring. I release the breath I didn't know I was holding and realize I got maybe five pictures! It was over so fast. We get to see this four more times. The last release, they run the cheetah and the Anatolian guard dog. They start out together, and of course the cheetah out paces the dog almost immediately. I'm struck by the dog's determination to try. The underdog in all sense of the word but determined to achieve. It finishes the course a few seconds after the cheetah undeterred. The underdog wins, too. They're friends.



©Monte Francis

## We Won the Charles Frace Margay Print!!!!

By Caroline & Dan Kneip

This was our first FCF Conference and we arrived too late to attend the General FCF Membership meeting. However even at 11pm that night, we found life in the Hospitality Room. Reva (JB's Wife) met us and gave us our participant badges. The Hospitality "Room" turned out to be part of a covered common area that included the front desk and the pool. The area was sunken and bordered by a strip with plants and trees. It was perfect as a gathering point. We spent quite a bit of time over the next few days in this area getting to know many of the participants and their feline friends.

Reva ran the pre-auction sale table room. Most items had a sale price and could be bought on the spot before the auction. A few items were considered special and could only be bought through the auction. We made several rounds through the donated items and purchased a few. Jeffers had a few boomer balls on display. After talking to Ruth Jeffers for a while, we inquired about buying one of the boomer balls that sells for around \$10. Ruth said that she could not sell anything there, but she had planned to donate one of the boomer balls for the auction. She gave it to us to give to Reva. When we saw Reva, we told her about the donated boomer ball, the \$10 price, that we wanted to buy it from the pre-auction sale table right then and there for \$20. And then we handed her \$20. It was a little confusing, but it all worked out in the end.

When we first arrived at the Banquet, we were struck by the image of JB (the ONLY Life-Time Director of FCF) in his White Tux and Tails AND his fuzzy cat slippers! We knew that this was intended to be a fun affair, but we had no idea. Soon after, we were also treated to Max in his Kilt (NEVER call it a skirt, at least in front of him). Everyone picked their seats for dinner, roamed the room and engaged in conversation. The conversation was only broken by reminders to vote in the photo contest and to view the auction items.



We were sitting at our table when adorable little Kathryn Bean who was accompanied by Tracy Wilson came up and asked Dan if we wanted to buy some raffle tickets for the Charles Frace Margay Print. We had already bought tickets earlier but Dan turned to me and said, "Look at that face! Can you say no to that face?" So we bought some more tickets.

Soon after, the drawing was held. Reva drew the ticket and couldn't pronounce the name. She said that it was the "cute" couple and started to spell our last name. At that point, I screamed, "I can't believe we won! We have never won anything like this before!" and ran up to the front. Dan followed quickly. I didn't even realize that I had left Dan in the dust. I felt really bad about it! Everyone really wanted the Margay Print, but it was the one item not for sale. The odds of winning this beautiful print were slim, but it must have been our lucky night. This was such a magical night for the both of us!

### Owners and Vets Agree-- Oasis Vitamins Work!

The best just got better—Oasis Vitamins  
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Choose the custom Oasis Vitamin  
formula that suits your cat's individual needs!

Looking for a calcium supplement? Prima-Cal is  
formulated exclusively for exotics.  
It works together with Oasis for optimal response!

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## ZOOLOGIC® MILK MATRIX FOR EXOTIC, WILDLIFE AND ZOO ANIMALS

By Debra A. Hoffmann, Zoologic Category Manager, PetAg, Inc.

Zoologic® Milk Matrix is a line of six different milk replacers to be used alone or blended together to closely match the composition of various mother's milk. Pet-Ag, Inc. introduced zoologic Milk Matrix in 1993. The six different milk replacer components were designed to be fed individually or combined to produce a formula that closely matched specie's natural milk in protein, fat, lactose and solids. The components are named according to the protein and fat percentages. All of the milk components are highly digestible and may be used not only for feeding infants, but also for weaning or adult animals as an energy supplement. Weaning is often a very difficult time where proper nutrition is attempted, but not achieved. Milk Matrix can help provide the balanced nutrition. We generally recommend during weaning or adult supplementation, one-teaspoon milk powder per 10 pounds of bodyweight. The basic recommendation for hand feeding infants is to feed ten to twenty percent of the infant's body weight per day.

For mixing instructions for the various species, we created a book entitled "Milk Matrix Formulation & Mixing Guide" This mixing guide is based upon milk compositions found in PetAg's hand out entitled "Mother's Milk Is Nature's Most Perfect Food". The mixing guide has formulas that have been computer generated based on currently published milk compositions. The mixing guide lists formulas for over 140 different species. The mixing guide is currently available for \$26.95 (shipping and handling included) directly from PetAg. Our goal at PetAg is to have this information available on our website ([www.petag.com](http://www.petag.com)) during the fall of 2003.

It must be stressed that the information provided in the mixing guide is only a guideline. There are so many factors that can alter milk composition. These factors include the time frame of lactation, the health of the mother, the diet of the mother and area of inhabitation. This is why we have a technical staff available. It is quite common for captive animals to have very different milk composition than their wild counterparts. It is unfortunate, but true that the published milk values are usually from small samples and from an unknown period of lactation. Due to this limited information, adjustments to the formulas may be necessary.

The range of milk values among mammals is very wide. This range makes it impossible to meet all of the mother's compositions without the addition of additional ingredients. The formulas that require a higher fat level than our highest fat milk component for instance many marine mammals require the addition of vegetable oil, fish oil or cream. The type of fat will depend on the species of animal being fed. For animals that require a very low lactose level, it is recommended that Lactaid® be added. For those animals with very high solids concentration (>28.0%) it will be necessary to feed a formula more dilute than the mother's milk. Finally, there are some animals with a milk composition that the Milk Matrix formulations cannot match closely. In these cases it is best to take a formula that may be adequate and use it to pull the infant through to a stage where it can begin supplementation with weaning foods.

PetAg also has the ability to test milk samples of unknown composition. We require 50ml samples. These can be from one milking or you may save samples and continue adding to them until 50 ml is compiled. Samples must be kept frozen and shipped to us overnight on dry ice. There is no cost for this service.

The mixing guide also provides general guidelines for feeding frequencies and amounts. Blending and storage tips are also given. The various components can be blended together without water and stored in the refrigerator for up to 3 months or in the freezer for up to 6 months. The shelf lives of these components vary from 1.5 to 2 years.

Because the formulas are computer generated and not all been tested, PetAg is continuing to update the mixing guide as we discover that certain formula options perform better than others. PetAg also provides an appendix that lists formulas used successfully in species without a known mother's milk composition. It just so happens that quite a few felines are included in the appendix.

Thanks to Zoologic Milk Matrix now infant mammals can be fed milk replacers that DO closely match the species natural composition.

### Some Feline Species Milk Composition Analysis & possible PetAg Milk Matrix combinations

Species	Solids	Fat	Protein	Lactose	Carbohydrates	Possible Milk Matrix mix
Leopard	19.4%	33.5%	57.2%	21.9%	18.6%	89% of 42/25 + 11% of 30/55
Lion	30.2%	57.9%	30.8%	11.2%	11.2%	59.7% of 33/40 + 40.3% of 30/55
Lynx	18.5%	33.5%	55.1%	24.3%	20.7%	94% of 42/25 + 6% of 30/55
Puma	35.0%	53.1%	34.3%	11.1%	11.0%	66.4% of 33/40 + 33.6% of 30/55
Cheetah	23.2%	40.9%	40.5%	15.1%	14.8%	55.3% of 42/25 + 44.7% of 30/55

Feline Species without known milk compositions successful Milk Matrix formulas:

- Serval – 33/40
- Jaguar – 42/25
- Bobcat - 42/25 with yogurt added
- Fishing Cat – 33/40
- Tiger – 33/40
- Caracal – 33/40
- Ocelot – 33/40

©Monte Francis



One of the perks of serving on the Board of Directors of the Feline Conservation Federation is getting to pet the cheetahs. Remember everyone, 10 seats will be available for nomination starting January 2004!



©Monte Francis



Anatolian Guard Dogs are being used by farmers in Africa to protect their livestock. The dogs protect their herds from all predators and the farmers no longer feel threatened by the cheetahs they once shot on sight.

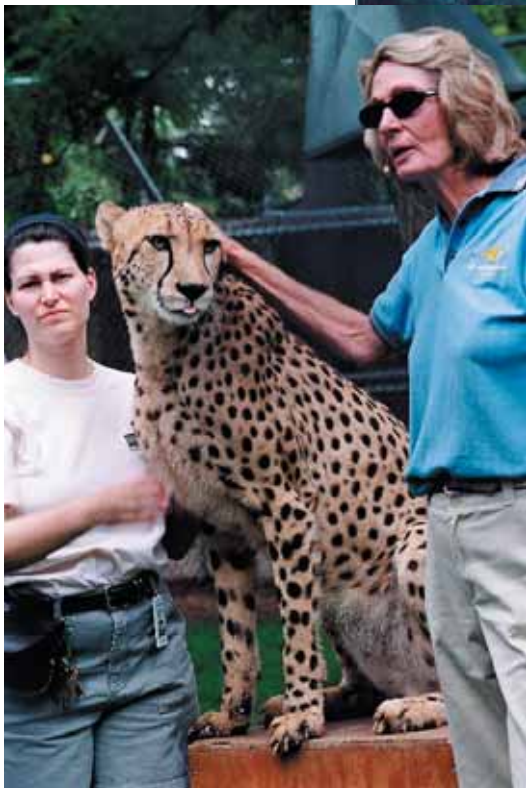
**Dear FCF Convention Committee, Board and Members,**

Just wanted to express our tremendous gratitude to all of those who made this year's convention, truly something we will never forget. We have been "members" for about 3-4 years, but only in name. We enjoy our monthly newsletter, but have never been to a convention or been action in any way. Everyone made us feel so welcome. Beginning with the moment we walked into the Thursday evening "ice breaker." "Cat people" are the best.

I had no idea what was in store for us on Friday. What an honor to meet Cathryn Hilker and what presence she has; her tall, lean figure, moving so elegantly...did she learn that from the cheetah? She and her husband Carl were such warm and gracious hosts.

I can still close my eyes and for a minute, I can still hear that incredible, rhythmic, delicate rumble of cheetahs, running at full speed in our direction and then passing right in front of us. . . Then to be able to pet them, while they lie purring. What a thrill of a lifetime!

Purrrrrsonally,  
Nancy & Bobby Pack



©Monte Francis

# State of the Feline Conservation Federation

*By Bob Turner—FCF Vice President*

First of all, a hearty thank you to the general membership for supporting the Feline Conservation Federation by being members of FCF. Without your support, the organization would not be here today to carry on this work. FCF, formally LIOC-ESCF, has a superb history that we all can be proud of and we have accomplished much this past year. In January the newly elected Board of Directors set some very high and demanding goals and FCF has already reached many of them. Listed are some of our major accomplishments:

- Conducted (3) FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Courses and have a fourth class scheduled for Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on December 6<sup>th</sup> of this year.
- Received a \$1000 grant from Mazuri for the cost of printing 200 Husbandry Course books
- Members raised over \$3,000 of monetary support to the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos reserve in Ecuador, South America. Conservation is playing a more important role now than it did in the past and FCF is one of the major supporters of the Playa de Reserva de Tigrillos Reserve.
- The Board of Directors approved the purchase of a bulk-mailing permit that has reduced the newsletter postage fees by 75% and all savings have been redirected into improving the newsletter quality.
- Increased the newsletter from 24 pages to 40 pages and introduced color photos.
- Sent FCF representatives to both USDA Big Cat Symposiums.
- Five FCF representatives attended the AZA Felid Tag meeting in Dallas. FCF was asked to give a presentation about FCF functions during the meeting that was well received by all.
- The 2003 Convention set new attendance records and fund-raising records for FCF projects. For the first time, the convention had corporate sponsorships.
- Increased membership benefits with corporate discounts. Apperon, makers of Oasis vitamins, pledged 5% discount on FCF member orders through 2003. Safe-Capture granted FCF members \$50 discount on any of their courses throughout 2003.
- Approved and mailed out Basic Exotic Cat Care booklet to all members. Booklet is included with all new member packages.
- The present by-laws are outdated. A by-law Review committee was formed to recommend FCF by-law changes. The FCF Board of Directors is presently working on adopting most of the recommended changes.
- The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund (KHMSF) Board of Directors recommended to the FCF Board of Directors dissolution of the KHMSF Incorporation in the state of Minnesota and the return of the KHMSF to the FCF 501c3 Incorporation to save the cost of two separate corporations. Also, the KHMSF board of Directors recommended to the FCF Board of Directors that the KHMSF be used for wildcat conservation and education projects instead of scholarship for vet students that may or may not benefit wild cats or the membership. The FCF Board of Directors is soliciting input from the FCF general membership for their suggestions on how the KHMSF money will be spent. Members made several great suggestions to the Board of Directors during the general membership meeting of the FCF national convention.
- After averaging a 5% loss in membership the past few years, this year the membership increased by 17%.
- FCF members have given local governments copies of the FCF model regulations to be used as a guide for creating legislation for animal control instead of them writing ban laws.
- Newly up-dated FCF web site now features articles reprinted from our past newsletters on husbandry and feline veterinary concerns, created a news and action alert section and expanded its legislative resources section.
- The new name Feline Conservation Federation (FCF) is being well received and is establishing name recognition among people and organizations outside of FCF. FCF received good comments from some legislators and from some people attending the 2003 AZA Felid Tag.

Goals set for the next 18 months:

- Continue the increase in FCF memberships.
- Complete the Membership Handbook update project. Publish and distribute this resource to all FCF members by the end of 2003
- Publish an updated Membership Directory and distribute it to all members by the end of 2003
- Continue the increase in members attending the FCF national conventions.
- Get more members to run for FCF officer and director positions and be dedicated to perform their duties.
- Explain the many important projects of FCF and gain increased membership participation.
- Provide better support for the FCF branches.
- Expand on the great conservation work that FCF has started.
- Continue the great FCF Husbandry Course project. Education is the key to the FCF future.



- Continue to get more corporate sponsorships for FCF projects.
- Find FCF members or supporters who have the knowledge and ability to write applications for grants for FCF projects. Any ideas from the membership?
- Find volunteers interested in learning the process and software programs involved in restarting the feline registration and species studbooks. In order to perform this properly, our registration must be open to all feline keepers. The scope of the project will expand greatly and require the involvement of FCF volunteers to run the studbooks and obtain grants to accomplish this project.
- An Accreditation Committee has been formed to develop standards and a process for our members who desire accreditation for their facility. In the future, this may help private pet owners or small private facilities gain credibility with their local lawmakers or others in the animal industry, by voluntarily participating in a program that ensures safety features, proper housing, and proper healthcare standards of our wild felines.

Because many of these future goals are group projects, the Feline Conservation Federation Board of Directors asks for *your* participation. Please do not hesitate to volunteer for any of these projects. Contact any board member by phone or e-mail and let us know you want to get involved. We thank everyone who has been so supportive during our transition phase to FCF and we pledge our continued service and devotion to the task of promoting and defending responsible captive husbandry of exotic felines and the conservation of their cousins in the wild.

**Feline Conservation Federation June 30, 2003**

**ASSETS**

**Checking/Savings**

FCF Indiana Checking	13,071.38
FCF Smith Barney Savings	12,279.42
KHMSF Checking	1,785.00
KHMSF Savings	9,969.90
Member Services - Kentucky	95.71
Playa de Oro Savings - Arkansas	115.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>37,316.41</b>

**Total Current Assets 37,316.41**

**TOTAL ASSETS 37,316.41**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Equity**

Opening Balance Equity	34,080.78
Net Income	3,235.63
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>37,316.41</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 37,316.41**

**WILDLIFE ON EASY STREET**  
12802 EASY STREET  
TAMPA, FL 33625  
(813) 920-1130  
SAVE THE CATS@AOL.COM



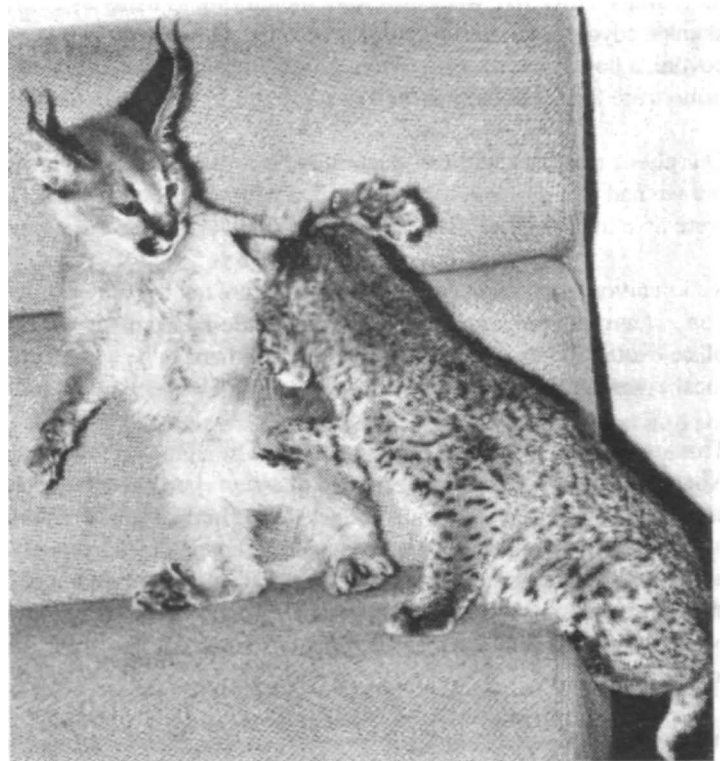
**Wildlife on Easy Street, Tampa, FL**  
Two positions available for six-month internship at TAOS accredited non-profit big cat sanctuary.  
[www.wildlifeoneasystreet.com](http://www.wildlifeoneasystreet.com)

**Responsibilities:** daily husbandry, exhibit cleaning, diet preparation, feeding, operant conditioning & behavioral enrichment for the following species: lion, tiger, leopard, cougar, lynx, serval, caracal, bobcat, ocelot, lemur and other exotic animals. We provide invaluable hands-on experience, on-site housing & utilities, safety training & educational materials. Advanced training and long-term employment opportunities exist for the right candidates.

**Requirements:** applicants must be willing to work six days a week, some holidays and follow strict safety guidelines.

*Hard work ethic and love of animals is more important than degree.*

**For more information contact Scott Lope at 813-323-5991 or email at [catfoto1@aol.com](mailto:catfoto1@aol.com)**



**Caracal Vs. Bobcat**

...and the caracal feints a double hook while the bobcat drops back to consider his attack..

## **FCF Member works with City Council, stops Ban Ordinance** ***Hunter and Lea's project assists police with knowledge and supplies***

On April 10th, 2003 my life changed forever. It was very warm in our house. It was bothering my husband's asthma so we made the unwise decision to open a bedroom window. Around 9:30 pm someone knocked on the door and asked if we were aware there was a large cat in our backyard. My husband (use to these kind of things) said yes it is our cougar and he is in his enclosure. I ran back to get my robe and noticed the screen was gone. They are usually bolted in. I screamed in horror because I did not see our 3 servals. We ran into the night looking. Leo ran back to our house and was inside quickly. Lea and Hunter however, remained loose.

The law in our town says that your must report an exotic missing to the police within one hour so I calmly made the call giving a description, weight, size etc. I do not know how, but the report went out that a tiger was missing. I got dressed and went out the door to go back looking. I thought I was going to have a heart attack. My yard was covered with officers, so many that I could not gain control of the situation. I tried to educate each officer and let them see Leo so they would know what they were looking for. Next came the media. Lea and Hunter were chased so much that they became scared of us. They began to relate us to bright lights, police and chaos. They were frightened. These were not just servals; they were the love of my life.

I had always considered myself a good owner but not perfect. I did not just go out and buy these cats without doing my homework. First I visited facilities in many different states and learned how to be properly prepared. I used my emergency plan, calling other owners and vets immediately for help. I was devastated; over the next five weeks my life was a nightmare. We were not prepared for the media or the lack of knowledge from the police department. I thought that since I had given them paperwork on each animal that this would help them to know about the cats. They had been to my house and met the animals from the day I got them.

We spent 24 hours a day 7 days a week in shifts looking for them. We began setting up traps the same night they escaped. We started out with 6 traps over the first weekend. I passed out over 3000 flyers, cat friends helped me walk door-to-door explaining to the neighborhood to be on the look out for my servals. The story made the local paper, the nightly television news, and the Associated Press. As word spread, sightings were called into the police or sheriff's department and they relayed the information to me. Sightings were generally less then 10 miles from our home; the farthest was 17 miles away. A local emergency group that assists in human rescues, volunteered their trained dogs to track the serval scent, but it seems we were always a day late. A local councilman brought out his 5 dogs to help locate Hunter and Lea so we could determine where to set traps. We began borrowing and buying more traps. After five weeks we were monitoring as many as 21 traps. We got sightings called in that ended up being raccoons, fox, skunks, coyotes, a Siamese cat, a caracal and somebody else's serval. We assisted with each call. Our traps caught possum, raccoon, coyote, a dog and some cats. We baited the traps with one of my husband's socks, we used our pillowcases off our bed, species and urine from the other cats, as well as meat and live mice contained in sub-cages.

Our phone numbers, address, pager numbers, place of employment became common knowledge. Most citizens were very good to us but we had one problem. One guy called with a ransom demand. The only good thing was that he left his name and number and we were able to give all of that to the police who verified he did not have information on our cats.

As I mentioned earlier, Leo, Lea and Hunter are not my only exotic felines. We also have a cougar that came to us in need of a new home. I am no stranger to exotics, having bottle-raised many wild orphans, and on more then one occasion, I have pitched in to help place exotic felines that need relocation. I try hard to be a good citizen of the feline community and I believe I have the respect of my local community.

This story is really not about the servals but I thought you needed some background information. Both of our servals were hit by cars. Not a day goes by that I do not cry and question everything I do. My life will never be the same. Desperation soon turned to depression. I thought that things could not get worse. In the last few months, I lost my two servals, Lea and Hunter, my grandparents died, my husband developed pneumonia and had to be hospitalized from looking for the cats in the rain and staying out at night, my mom had major surgery, and I spent every day crying. I work as a patient assistance program coordinator for terminal cancer patients providing chemo treatments and emotional support. This has given me a strong medical back round and the ability to deal with many types of people, with painfully depressing situations and great hardships, but this really seemed to be more then my shoulders could continue to bear.

In June I was at the local grocery store when an officer that I met looking for my cats, informed me that the city was going to ban exotics. I decided no more of me feeling sorry for myself. I could not let this happen. I went straight home and called a council member that had helped me look for my cats. He confirmed what I had been told. He said that he supported me that he knew I took good care of my cats and he would help me. He held true to his word. He gave me names and talked to people about supporting me, but the police chief was supporting this ordinance. The war was on and I never dreamed he would one day become one of my supporters. But later on he stood up and told all of the city council that he knew I cared for my animals and he thought that the public should

know that my animals were very well taken care of. His statement was published the newspaper so that the public would know and the untrue rumors would stop.

After several council meetings the law went from a total ban to a registration. I was fine with this until I heard that it required a very high insurance policy and police permission. The registration would include a map of my house with locations and objects. The information would be public and anyone could request it. I found out this type of insurance was not available in my area. I talked to the police chief and documented every concern they had. I found anyone that would listen. A once quiet person became very public. I had hit bottom and there was nowhere else to go but up. I called the law director, the mayor and every council member. I invited everyone to my house to meet with me. I met with the police chief and others and found out they did not know what a serval was. They were concerned with how to handle the animals, didn't know what was out in the community, the sizes, species, danger levels, etc. I found out that even though they had a packet on each animal I owned with this information, they did not have any other resources for information. At each meeting from May till September I spoke. I gave information. I knocked on everyone's door and asked if they had questions or concerns. I tried to reach every owner. I also found out that the registration would cause a delay in the emergency response team to my house. They would have to go back to the office and look up the information. I asked the mayor for an exception to be at the workshop and participate (this excludes the public). It was granted. I printed off any information I could get my hands on and created packets. I followed up a couple days after each meeting to see if they had questions. I was careful not to take too much time. I asked for permission to put up a taller fence since we were only allowed a six-foot fence and that was not helpful.

In the end, after many hours of work, I asked the police chief to allow others and me to help. We would assist the police with knowledge and supplies. We would not represent the police or the owner just the animal. The project would be called Hunter and Lea's Project. We would go with any emergency response team and help when called. We would also educate the police. I am working with other owners. I am so grateful for everyone who is helping with this project. I do not want to say names but FCF is the best group of people I have ever worked with. It will help more than just my city. The emergency department felt this was great. At the next meeting I spoke again. They agreed to delete the insurance after I gave them information from the CDC on animal bites. I started petitions to help show the community was not concerned. They agreed to try to make the list non-public but it could not happen.

During the September meeting I was informed the law was not against me. I was told they had never worked with an owner like me and they praised me. I left with a big head. I told them I would continue to be available 24/7 as needed. The registration was removed from the agenda. It can be brought up again but for now it is gone. I will continue to work with my city and any other city that needs me. If anyone would like to participate, start this type of relationship or has questions please email me at [hunterandleasproject@yahoo.com](mailto:hunterandleasproject@yahoo.com).

Evelyn Shaw



The Cincinnati Zoo training program teaches both the animals and human trainers specific rules of interaction. This serval is "targeting" to the trainer's hand.



©Monte Francis

As always, Hoosh is thrilled to attend the convention and delighted to be the center of attention.



## A Snapshot in Time

### September/ October 1986

President Ken Hatfield is pictured on the newsletter cover holding a plaque presented at Convention 1986 for his outstanding service. Ken had been the club's only president since the restructuring of LIOC in 1974. Listed on page two, along side the familiar Long Island Ocelot Club seal are five LIOC branches and four affiliates.



The Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter highlights feature candidate biographies, the New Jersey Convention report and a public debate on allowing the advertising of cats for sale.

Convention 1986 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey reported 70 members in attendance as well as the following felines: Whiz, ocelot; Radar, serval; Shamus, geoffroy's; Savannah, serval hybrid; P.J., oncilla; Banshee, bobcat; baby geoffroys; Venus, cougar; Bonkers, bobkitten; Morrow, margay; Milly Payton's safaris.

Discussion on gaining a more professional image for the club and improving the newsletter quality and reliability dominated the Convention General Membership Meeting. Attendees preferred the club leave the "pet" overtones more in the back round. Members suggested setting goals, primarily educational in nature; an LIOC educational video project was approved. Members suggested an intense membership drive and increased advertising of the LIOC; Danny Treanor volunteered to donate the cost of advertising in USA Today, one weekend a month for a year. The membership requested that they be given Board permission to conduct an informal vote of the members present at convention to ascertain what percentage were supportive of Newsletter Advertising; a straw poll of the audience received 33 votes in favor of advertising, and 4 against.

John Perry presided the Executive Board Meeting, as Ken Hatfield was absent from convention. A motion to allow advertising of cats by members was voted down by the BOD. A motion to allow the membership an opportunity to vote on this idea with the upcoming candidate ballots passed. To give the membership the opportunity to understand objectively the advertising issues, Shirley Wagner wrote a Con article and Fred Boyajian a Pro article, both which appeared in this Sept/Oct newsletter issue. Ken Hatfield submitted a written motion to appoint Elaine Burke as newsletter editor. The motion failed, but she was appointed Assistant Editor to Shirley Wagner. The Board voted to leave the formal title LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. as it stands. Suzi Wood, secretary/treasurer stated the membership is on the rise and presented the following financial report, photocopied from the newsletter:

Danny Treanor, Banquet night auctioneer, generatied over \$1500 for the general treasury. Karen Jusseaume was awarded the Lotty for her service as 1980 Boston convention host, New England Branch re-organizer, and present term director. J.B. Anderson's photo of young Chiquita jaguar won Photo of the Year. For the second time, Jean Towns won Reporter of the Year.



The following candidates submitted bios for officer and term director positions: J.B Anderson, Fred Boyajian, William Boyle, Virginia English (now Carin Sousa) Karen Jusseaume, John Perry, Danny Treanor, Shirley Wagner and Herb Wilton. Life Directors serving on the LIOC board at that time were Catherine Cisin, Roger Harmon, Danny Treanor and Shirley Wagner.

"Pet Jaguar in Rockwood Stirs Dispute", *neighbors ask county to go to court over backyard big cat* condensed from The Oregonian was reprinted. Jackie Vanderwall, past secretary/treasurer of LIOC, reported on her ongoing zoning lawsuit filed over her pet jaguar, Clint. With the help of Ken Hatfield and Bill Boyle, Jackie acted as her own attorney and won the first four lawsuits before loosing the fifth. She stated she would appeal that ruling to the Oregon Court of Appeals and would take it to the Supreme Court if necessary.

L. I. O. C. NEEDS YOU!	
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE PICTURES AND STORIES	
SHARING IS CARING!	
*****	
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 8/1/85-7/31/86	
<u>INCOME</u>	
Renewals (170)	\$ 2,595.00
New Members (115)	1,750.00
Info Packets	549.40
Advertising	300.00
Refunds	20.00
Convention 1985	961.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,175.40</b>
<u>DEBITS</u>	
Newsletter Printing	\$ 1,168.33
Newsletter Postage	674.79
Foreign & Branch Postage	52.48
Misc. Postage	558.89
Office Supplies	626.54
Advertising	407.80
Copying/Folding	264.41
Telephone	50.44
Corporate Costs/Other Mailings	303.85
Foreign Currency Adjustments	54.59
Special Mailings	5.85
Convention Expense	107.58
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 4,295.55</b>

# Genomic Diversity Study: Your Assistance Requested

From: Luo, Shujin <luos@ncifcrf.gov>  
Help needed: Wild Cat and Pangolin Projects in SE Asia

## Dear FCF members,

We are writing to you from the Laboratory of Genomic Diversity at the National Cancer Institute, USA to enlist your support for two studies.

The first is the first ever worldwide study of the pangolin, a close relative of the carnivores. The second is an ongoing study of the leopard cat and other coexisting small wild cats in South-East Asia. The goals of these studies are to develop the tools and information needed to help understand the evolutionary history of these species and to develop effective conservation strategies. These are large, international projects that will be conducted in collaboration with numerous individuals and institutions, such as the South East Asian Zoo Association and the Museum of Natural History of France and which have thus far have received funding from the National Institute of Health in the U.S., the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, and the National Geographic Society.

Our lab has been successfully utilizing molecular genetic tools in similar international studies of wildlife for many years, including Asian species such as the giant panda, orangutan, leopard and tiger.

We are currently trying to identify people that might be able to assist or participate in these projects by either providing information and/or by providing assistance or access to animals from which we could obtain samples for genetic analyses, such as blood, tissue, or hides. These samples may be from animals held in captive collections, animals from the wild, or from animals found along roads, in local markets, etc. Our budget allows for covering reasonable costs associated with collecting samples and we also will be planning trips to several countries to assist with collection of samples.

We greatly appreciate any information you might have that would be of assistance to us with these projects and any insights you might have on the source of potential samples for collection. We look forward to hearing from you and discussing the project with you in further detail.

Sincerely,  
Shujin Luo, Ph.D. Candidate  
Agostinho Antunes, Ph.D, Postdoctoral Fellow

## Sampling Protocol

The procedures described below are designed to obtain DNA from wildlife species for use in evolutionary, population genetic and conservation studies. Samples from other carnivore species not listed below from individuals of known origin would also be welcomed. We are currently most interested in samples of biological material from the following species:

### Small Felids

Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*)  
Fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*)  
Flat-headed cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*)  
Marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*)  
Rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*)  
Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*)  
Bornean bay cat (*Catopuma badia*)  
Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)

### Pangolins

Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*)  
Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*)  
Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*)

## Sample Label

All samples should be labeled including the following information and all sample collection materials can be provided by us.

Species Name _____
Sex      Male _                  Female _                  Unknown _
Date of Collection _____
Location of Collection _____
Geographic Origin (if different from above) _____
Individual ID (if any) _____
Sample Description _____
Others _____

## Protocol for Collection and Shipping

Address: Ms. Shujin Luo, Dr. Agostinho Antunes, Dr. Warren Johnson  
Laboratory of Genomic Diversity (LGD)  
National Cancer Institute, Bldg 560, Rm11-84  
Frederick, MD 21702-1201, USA  
Telephone (1 301) 846-7491, (1 301) 846-7484, (1 301) 846-7483  
Fax (1 301) 846-6327  
Email Luos@ncifcrf.gov, aantunes@ncifcrf.gov, johnsonw@ncifcrf.gov

If you would be interested in collaborating with us by either supplying samples or by helping us obtain them, or if you have questions or comments, please contact us at the following address: Thank you very much for your participation.

### 1. Dead animals (e.g. road kills): collection of tissue samples:

- Samples of tissues (such as skeletal muscle, liver or kidney) can be collected from dead animals, and stored frozen or in ethanol (70% or higher) or TES buffer. If the samples are stored in ethanol or buffer they can be kept at ambient temperature or refrigerated.
- Collect at least a few small pieces of tissue (for a total of at least 1-2 cm<sup>3</sup> of material). In case samples are stored in ethanol or buffer it is helpful to cut slits in the tissue to allow for better penetration of the fluid.
- If it is not possible to collect internal tissue samples, one or more pieces (2-3 cm<sup>2</sup>) of the ear can be cut out and stored in ethanol or dry (e.g. in an envelope). They can be kept at room temperature, if necessary, but if possible should be maintained in the refrigerator or freezer for long-term storage.
- It is important to minimize cross-contamination of samples by using different scalpel blades or thoroughly cleaning blades (with water/soap and ethanol) between different individuals.

### 2. Pelts/Hairs

- Scrape off leftover dried tissue from the inner part of the pelt (usually behind the ears, nose and paws), and place the fragments in a tube (dry or with ethanol).
- Alternatively (or in addition), cut a small piece (2-3 cm<sup>2</sup>) from the side of the pelt (including its full thickness) and store it dry or in ethanol.

### 3. Minimum sample from any live-captured animal: blood in EDTA, mixed with TES buffer:

- Collect 10cc of blood in EDTA tubes (provided by LGD) (if 10cc cannot be obtained, smaller amounts would also be useful); mix well with the anti-coagulant.
- Pour into 5cc vials, fill half volume of the vial; add an equal volume of the buffer TES ('Easy Blood', provided by LGD); mix well.
- These tubes can be stored at ambient temperature, refrigerated or frozen (the latter two are better for long term storage), and shipped at ambient temperature.

### 4. Enhanced protocol for blood samples (if possible do this one):

- Collect 10cc of blood in EDTA tubes; mix well with the anti-coagulant.
- Move 3-5cc to a separate tube and preserve in TES buffer as above.
- Centrifuge the remainder of the blood for 10 minutes at 1000g (2200-2500 rpm) (if centrifuge is not available the tube can sit upright in the refrigerator for up to 48 hrs in order to separate); the blood will separate in three phases: plasma (upper, clear phase); buffy coat containing white blood cells (WBCs, middle layer); and red blood cells (RBCs, lower, red phase).
- Using a plastic transfer pipette, remove out about 1 or 2cc of plasma into a small screw-cap vial – label Plasma, date, and animal code.
- Using a plastic transfer pipette, draw up the mat of "buffy coat" from the plasma-red blood cell interface and the top 5mm of the RBC layer. Usually these cells adhere together and come up in a continuous mass into the pipette. Put into one or more separate screw-cap vials – label WBC, date, and animal code.
- Discard remaining RBCs. The Plasma and WBC tubes need to be kept and shipped frozen.

### 5. If serum is isolated from blood, the clot is useful for DNA extraction:

- Collect 10cc of blood in Clot Tubes (provided by LGD); wait until clot has formed and serum has separated.
- Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 1000g (2200-2500 rpm) (if centrifuge is not available the tube can sit for a couple of hours at room temperature in order to separate. DO NOT REFRIGERATE.
- Pour off the serum into a screw-cap vial; label Serum, date and animal code; freeze at -20°C.
- Use a wooden stick to remove the gel – twirl the gel around the stick and pull out the stick with the gel wrapped around it.
- Pour the clot into a 5cc vial – break up the clot if possible
- Fill with TES buffer. Cap and mix thoroughly. Label Clot, date and animal code.
- These tubes can be kept and shipped at ambient temperature.

## Conservation & Education Department's Project Updates

Submitted by Tracy Wilson,  
FCF Director Conservation and Education

### Frace Margay Print Raffle

FCF held a fundraiser to benefit the Playa de Oro reserve in Ecuador from May to August. Raffle tickets for a chance to win the stunning art print were sold for \$5 each through the mail and in person at the FCF convention in Cincinnati this year. The framed print was donated by FCF members Carol and Craig Bohning. 216 tickets were sold during this time, for a total of \$1080 in funds raised for the reserve. The winning ticket was drawn during convention at the Saturday night banquet and the lucky ticket holders were Dan and Caroline Kneip of Texas. Dan and Caroline were present to claim their prize and were thrilled. A special award was given at the Saturday night banquet to 3 year old Catherine Bean for working very hard to help sell raffle tickets. Special thanks to Reva Anderson, members of the convention committee, and everyone else who worked so hard to sell lots of raffle tickets. But most of all, thanks to all FCF members for their participation and enthusiasm for this fundraiser. Extra donations to the reserve were also received during convention from Phil Parker, and J.B. & Reva Anderson, whose generosity is deeply appreciated.



Leann Montgomery and Tracy Wilson hold a bengal kitten at convention while running the bar and snack area

### FCF Board Approves Conservation Donations

The FCF Board of Directors approved funds to be donated to feline conservation projects during the annual director's meeting in August. FCF has awarded \$500 to the Cincinnati Zoo for feline related projects, and \$1000 to the Playa de Oro Reserve for assistance with operating expenses and supplies at the reserve. These donations come from FCF's general funds, as the board of directors felt that the membership has been extremely supportive and enthusiastic in the past year in our increased participation in conservation projects.

### Ecuador Camera Trap Update

Three of the four camera traps were removed from the reserve in July due to malfunction from high humidity and torrential rains. The cameras were sent to the manufacturer for repairs at a cost of \$247.00, which FCF donations paid for. The cameras will be returned to the reserve in November to resume their surveillance duty. In the meantime, the cameras are being tested for ways to keep humidity out and to help them function better in the future. We're currently trying silica gel packs placed inside the camera case to help keep some of the moisture from the film, and see how often the gel packs need to be replaced.

### Playa de Oro Group Trips & Report from the Reserve's Director

FCF completed their first group trip to the reserve in July, and we have had enough interest that 3 more trip dates are planned over the next 8 months or so. One of the July trip members is now training to become a tour guide as well. We have a full group for our trip in November, and a lot of people interested in the late January/early February trip as well. After our group left in July, Rosa Jordan made phone contact with the director of the reserve, Mauro, to get a report on the FCF group trip. He reported to Rosa that "the FCF group were wonderful people, and all the staff were looking forward to their return" He said things such as, "They were having fun always, which made it like a fiesta for us." And "I cannot explain to you how generous they were; it was more than one can imagine." And "They treated us with respect, and we have the utmost respect for them." Rosa explains that this last comment is the ultimate compliment which they could pay to a visitor.



A margay napping at the Cincinnati Zoo

*For more about the reserve and future expeditions, see pages 32-33 this issue. For more about the winners of the Frace margay print, see page 19.*

## Adventurers Wanted!

Come along with FCF as we explore Ecuador, one of the most biodiverse and culturally rich countries in South America. This tiny country is perhaps the most bio-diverse on earth. Where else can you find such fantastic natural destinations in one country such as Tropical Rainforest, the unique Galapagos Islands, the bird-rich cloud-forest, and alpine paramo with snow-capped volcanoes? It is a country rich in indigenous culture, from the rainforest to the highlands. Journey along with us as we experience breathtaking views of the Andean Mountains, wonder at sleeping volcanoes, browse native craft markets, sample native foods,



canoe the swift Rio Santiago, hike through virgin rainforest, dance to the Afro-Latino rhythms in a jungle village, and sleep to the sounds of the jungle. Join us on our adventures to the Playa de Oro Reserva Tigrillos for an adventure of a lifetime!

The cost for this 10 day adventure is \$650 excluding airfare. (Fly to Quito, Ecuador) This includes 3 nights at a charming bed & breakfast in Quito (breakfast included), 6 nights and 5 days at the Playa de Oro Reserve Lodge (all meals included), boat transportation, private van transportation, visit to Otavala market, village tour, village children dance performance, and jungle guide service. Your trip fee supports the Playa de Oro Reserve by bringing income to their village and providing them with work, and also assists with feline conservation projects that are being conducted at the reserve. In exchange, you will see, taste, smell, and hear ancient rainforest

as you have never imagined while being safely guided by local men through the jungle, seeing and experiencing their land and it's inhabitants as they do.

Space is limited on each tour, so please sign up as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Upcoming Playa de Oro Trip Dates:

**November 11-20, 2003** Total Trip fee due by October 1, 2003.

**January 30, 2003 - February 8, 2004** Deposit due by Dec. 1, 2003. Total due by Jan 5, 2004.

**May-June 2004** (to be announced)

For more information about this adventure, how to sign up, trip itinerary, or other questions, please email or call Tracy Wilson for everything you need to know. Email at [wildcat@ipa.net](mailto:wildcat@ipa.net) or call 501-230-4072 and leave a message.





## A Trip to Remember – Playa de Oro Reserve in Ecuador

by Grace Lush

My trip to Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos was the most memorable excursion I have ever been on. I had been to Costa Rica in February and seen some jungle and done the canopy tour but it was all tourist-oriented. I wanted more, and read the small brochure that came with the FCF mail out. This was what I wanted to do.

I called Tracy and the wheels were set in motion. I was so excited and started training someone to look after things while I was away, which is no small task. I got more excited each day about going and started getting things donated to take to the reserve. Packing articles such as a solar panel and tools took a bit of brain searching but everything arrived in perfect working order.

Quito, the city on the equator that doesn't even get hot was the first amazing thing. All my life I had assumed that everything at the equator was hot. There was a mountain at the end of every street in Quito. When we arrived in Quito we were met by Tracy Wilson and LeAnn Montgomery, it was nice to see a friendly face at the airport when we arrived since we spoke no Spanish.

Our entire luggage was loaded into a van and we were taken to LaCasa Sol. This is a charming Ecuadorian place to stay, very clean and friendly; let us know we were in different country. Roberta picked up at 5am to head to the Reserve. When we left Quito we were amazed at the mountains. I had never seen anything like them. We travel for 6 hours through the mountains and watched them change from just dry rock to agriculture and back to rock again. We travel through areas where the lumber had been taken and seen what it did to the land and the people that were living in those areas. The 6 hours passed quickly as Roberto acted as a tour guy, answering our questions and telling about Ecuador. He also makes great chocolates, and coffee, which he brought along to treat us.

But, the best part was to come. We were met at the river by Isaiah and Julio two excellent boat men that took us on a two hour journey up the river to the village of Playa de Oro in a large dugout canoe. The river is quite wide and fast flowing; only experience boatmen like the ones we had are able to navigate the river. The vegetation was incredible; every bend in the river brought a new image of the untouched jungle. We saw canoes loaded with bananas, children playing by the river, people washing clothes in the river. The trip up the river begins to prepare you for life from long ago. You begin to appreciate nature with a depth that you never have before.

We arrived at village and were given a guided tour by the mayor. All the villagers were very glad to see us, and anxious to show us their chicken enclosures. Carolyn had a movie camera that could play back the movie. The children squealed with delight at seeing themselves in the movie. They loved to get their pictures taken. I think we were at the village about 2 hours and then headed up the river another hour to the Reserve. Mauro and his wife Enma, Mercedes and Juana, met us. They were all going to make our stay a memorable one.

We put our supplies away and were told lunch was ready. Enma makes the best soup. We had incredible meals. The most delicious crayfish, just like lobster. Fresh caught fish, it was the best fish I ever tasted. Our meals usually consisted of soup, meat and plantains. The plantains were cooked in various ways for us, while the men just ate them plain. They did their best to cater to our every need, Enma making sure that anyone with special tastes got something they would like. There was fresh juice or herbal tea at every meal. The evening meals were the most fun, by lantern light, as it gets dark about 6pm. As we sat with our little translation dictionaries, I was amazed how easy it was to communicate. There was a lot of sign language and so much laughter!!

We hiked in the jungle. These trips were wonderful. We wore rubber boots; hiking boots would have been useless. The leaves are so big on the trees, and there are plants growing on the trees and vines growing on the plants. It is so green and lush. There are paths through the jungle that must be continuously trimmed with a machete. We usually had one guide that went ahead trimmed for one guide and us that stay with us. The canopy blocks the sun from you in the jungle, although there are places where it breaks through making dancing images on the vegetation.

One day we went up river about an hour and hiked about an hour through the jungle to a waterfall. The water was clear and cool and great for swimming. There were vines that we swung on like Tarzan. Another day we went to the cathedral, which was a huge rock indentation. That day it rained for our trip up the river. The rain was warm and we didn't even mind getting wet. Most days were overcast so the sun wasn't too intense. The temperature was around 85 each day and 75 at night, but it is always humid. There



are cold showers at the lodge and flush toilets. A refreshing shower after returning from the jungle feels just great. Isaiah took us swimming and rock collecting across the river from the lodge, the water right in front of the lodge is too fast moving for swimming.

We spent time working on a bamboo cage for Missy the ocelot. Working with the men from the village was a great experience, and things went well once we realized that they were building it and we were helping, not the other way around. Richard, the dentist, became a handy man with the machete and joining cage wire together for the top of the pen. The rest of us spent time sanding and waterproofing the bamboo. We dug up plants from the jungle and planted them in the new pen. I'm sure they have grown since we left, we all the rain and wonderful growing weather.

You never have to work too long in the jungle because it likes to rain. The hammock room is the place for the afternoon rain. After a hike in the jungle and working on the pen, an afternoon nap in hammock is just what we needed.

Pico the tamarin was very happy to have lots of attention. We planted live plants in his pen and brought live vines from the jungle for him to climb on, as well as giving him a house up high so he would get used to sleeping in a tree. He enjoyed the extra treats we gave him and encouraged Enma to give him lots of variety in his diet.

The night before we left was a special fiesta, with singing and playing of instruments, like pots and drums. When it was time to leave, everyone was sad, some cried. They really enjoyed our company. We headed down river to village where we were treated to the dancing children of the village doing their Afro-Latino dancing to drums and a marimba. They did several dances for us and asked us to join in and dance with them. It is hard to say no to a handsome 12 year. Everyone danced.

Traveling down river was faster going with the current and we arrived at the van too soon for all of us. We stopped at a roadside native restaurant for lunch. It certainly wasn't as good as the lodge but it was a sample of what the people there eat. We then went to Otavalo, to the native market. There we could buy ponchos, sweaters, hammocks, silver jewelry and many more souvenir type articles. It was a real experience; we learned how to barter the prices in Spanish, or in calculator. The vendors had calculators and if you didn't understand the price they were asking, they would punch in the price on the calculator and then give it to you and you would type in what you would give them and then they would take the calculator and type in another number until the deal was made. This was expected of you, the first time I felt bad but it doesn't take long to get in the swing of the market.

When we arrived back in Quito we headed for the Internet bar to let our loved ones know we were back in civilization again. There are Internet bars everywhere and it only cost 95 cents an hour, and you can order food and drinks while you check your email or surf the net. We also went to a fancy restaurant that was very close to LaCasa Sol and had a wonderful meal, very reasonable too. Baked Alaska for two was only \$3.50, Entrees were around \$6.00 and this restaurant was major high class. It was nice to end our trip with such an awesome meal.

We returned to our rooms to sort out what we had bought and try and get it all packed in our suitcases for the trip to the airport and home early the next morning. I will be returning in November and bringing my two daughters with me. Hopefully my Spanish will get better and I will be able to take a tour of my own in next spring or summer. This is a trip of a lifetime to an area of the world that has not been spoiled. You can come and see it for yourself or make a donation to the reserve through FCF. Whichever way you want to support this reserve will be welcomed but please support it.



An ocelot at the Cincinnati Zoo demonstrating his ability to descend trees head first

©Monte Francis

### “Kicking Butt”

Cheetah and dog run together--at first--at the FCF Convention

© Kathy Arnold



## Ask the Exotic Animal Vet

**Question Submitted by a Member:** Recently I lost an 8-year old female bobcat to a brain tumor. The first symptom was a very large swelling above her eyes that gave her head the appearance of a bottle-nosed dolphin. Since she lived with two other female bobcats, we assumed it to be an abscess and put her on amoxicillin. After a few days the swelling subsided, but I felt she still needed to be lanced based upon her behavior. The relatively inexperienced veterinarian I am using locally, assured me it was an abscess and he sliced, drained and cleaned the wound which contained a very watery and bloody liquid. I would have expected an infection to be more of a thick or pasty substance, but this was not. He gave her a shot of amoxicillin and sent her home with instructions to continue the course of antibiotics. I was worried that something wasn't right - I noticed she had a slight drip of blood from one nostril and she never seemed to recover properly. I consulted with this local vet about her slow recovery and wondered if we needed to do anything different, but in the end, resolved to just wait and see. She remained aloof and subdued, her appetite was depressed.

Two weeks later we thought she must have fallen and broken a leg. At that point we took her to a more experienced veterinarian and explained her case history. He examined her leg and determined that it was not injured and then he examined her head. A hole the size of a silver dollar was missing from her skull. He told me she had a brain tumor and she was paralyzed because of it. There as no saving her and we had her put to sleep.

I was amazed at how quickly the cancer ate her skull. There is no way the first vet would have missed such a hole when he was working on her; she was not like that just 2 weeks earlier.

I have always heard you don't ever want air to get to cancer or it will grow like wildfire and that does seem like what happened. Can you provide me with some more information about brain tumors, and how common they are in felines?

**Response from Dr. Scott Amsel:**

Dear Reader,

First of all, my condolences on the loss of your kitty. This was certainly a very sad situation. To address your questions, I will repeat two of my most important axioms of exotic animal medicine.

Number one: "Do not waste an anesthetic procedure!" It doesn't matter if the animal is a tiny, but maniacal African Black-footed cat or a sweet-as-pie gigantic Siberian tiger: If there is enough wrong to warrant anesthesia, do every test reasonably possible to diagnose the problem in front of you. This obviously is a lesson for a veterinarian to take to heart, but also for an owner to remember as well.

Number two: "It is not possible to successfully resolve a challenging medical problem in exotic species without having some clue as to what you are dealing with". At initial presentation, this bobcat should have had skull x-rays (is the swelling soft tissue or does it involve bone?; is it superficial or is it deep in the sinuses or skull?), bloodwork (white cell count, red cell count, viral status, organ function, etc), cytology of the fluid from the swelling and/or culture for bacterial/fungal growth and possibly biopsy of some tissue as well. It is not uncommon in domestic animal medicine for veterinarians to "throw" medication at an animal based on a presumptive diagnosis to save time and money. (We have ALL done this.) But this type of therapy should only be done when the risks are low for a failed outcome.

I have seen this problem too many times in exotic animal veterinary care. So many owners wind up using inexperienced vets or painting their vets into a corner because of money or emotional concerns. Then, when things don't turn out well, everyone is left guessing what happened, even if the outcome (good or bad) was inevitable from the very beginning. If an animal succumbs to illness without a diagnosis and/or without post-mortem examination it is virtually impossible to say with any certainty what the animal died of. As long as everyone is OK with this then there is no problem. However if, for example, a diagnosis with poor prognosis is made early on in the course of a disease, at least it is possible to euthanatize the animal to avoid needless suffering. On the flip side, if a specific disease has a fair prognosis but actually requires a specific treatment, it can be resolved relatively quickly and without needless heartache.

As far as the diagnosis of "brain tumor" in this situation, the veterinarian made an educated "guess". It is also remotely possible that this could have been a chronic, aggressive infection. We will never know for sure because the tissues were not submitted for post-mortem examination by a pathologist.

In regards to brain cancers in felines, they are most common in middle- aged and older animals, but there isn't much hard data on overall species incidence rates. The most common brain tumor in cats is a meningioma or tumor of the lining tissue of the brain and spinal cord. They tend to be more superficial to the brain, well-encapsulated and slow growing. The lesion in this bobcat could certainly have been a meningioma. Other brain cancers are more rare and usually arise deep in the brain and grow rapidly or are secondary to other cancers in the same animal.

As with everyone I rant and rave at from my cozy little soapbox, I would urge you to find an experienced veterinarian you can talk to and trust. Try not to over-emotionalize when they are trying to diagnose or treat your cat and PLEASE don't force them to make wild (and potentially regrettable) guesses because of a few dollars. Do what's best for your cherished animals and you will never regret it.

I wish you and your cats the best of health.

## FCF MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES CONVENTION 2003

The membership meeting was held at the Cincinnati Radisson Airport Hotel on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003 with President George Stowers presiding. He opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance which numbered about 37 members and then proceeded to introduce each of the Board of Directors members.

- \* Lynn Culver, Legal Affairs, presented the need for Working Committee Groups. This will involve more members and their ideas, knowledge and experience can be compiled for FCF use. Also, she spoke on the various states that have introduced legislation to restrict or ban all or some exotic cats. FCF members have joined forces to defeat or postpone action on the legislation.
- \* Leann Montgomery, Membership Services, gave encouraging news that our total membership has increased since Convention 2002. LIOC-ESCF had experienced a 10% decline in membership during the previous five years. She also spoke that there had been little activity in exotic cat placement.
- \* Bobby Bean, Advertising & Publicity, announced the need to solicit more corporate support that will help fund various FCF projects.
- \* Robert Turner, Vice-President, as Chairman of the by-laws committee mentioned that revisions are being made to update the by-laws. Also, he spoke briefly about possible changes to the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund (KHMSF).
- \* Tracy Wilson, Education & Conservation, spoke about the progress of the wildlife surveillance camera project at the Playa de Oro Reserve, as well as the support that FCF members have provided to the reserve by donating funds as well as useful items to the reserve. She thanked FCF members for their participation in the Playa de Oro Reserve fundraisers. Also, she mentioned the success of three FCF Husbandry Courses that were conducted in 2003 with plans for a fourth this fall and that USDA field inspectors have been encouraged by their superiors to attend the course when held in their area.
- \* Harold Epperson, Secretary-Treasurer, issued the treasury report showing a total net worth of \$37,316.41.
- \* JB Anderson, Life Director, announced possible revisions in the structure of KHMSF and appropriation of the funds.
- \* George asked the members for input regarding their preference on appropriation of the KHMSF funds once the separate corporation has been dissolved and reverted to control by FCF. They recommended that the funds could provide financial support for conservation projects, for additional educational courses and to address legislative initiatives that seek to ban private ownership.
- \* Cathryn Freeman-Spohrer introduced herself as the representative for FCF branch, Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines (ACEF) and thanked FCF for supplying flyers to them.
- \* A member, Gloria Johnson, who is a lobbyist recommended to cat owners who face ban laws in their community or state to become involved in the political campaigns of their councilmen, congressmen and representatives. Their awareness of your involvement in cat preservation could influence their vote on proposed legislation.
- \* Member Ray Beckley spoke about how pleased he was to see that FCF was getting involved in a valid conservation project, Playa de Oro, and the importance for FCF to stay directly involved in projects such as this. He commended the board for getting involved in the Playa de Oro project and rallying support from our membership for it, as well as commending our members for supporting this project.
- \* Another member, Shannon Steffes, told FCF members about her attorney Andrew Wilkins in Michigan, who has experience in zoning matters, property law, constitutional law, and challenging city ordinances and state laws. He has successfully represented exotic animal shelters that have lions and tigers in various legal matters. He has extended a generous offer of 25% discount on his regular fee to FCF members, as well as reasonable retainers and payment plans. Please call for a free consultation at (toll free) 1-866-339-9035. Or call Shannon Steffes from Last Hope for referral information on Mr. Wilkins.
  - \* George presented award certificates to the thirteen members who passed the husbandry course at convention. In alphabetical order, they are: Kathy Arnold, Eve Bogan, Scott Bryant, Kim Bryant, Judy Domaszek, Cathryn Freeman-Spohrer, Scott Hubert, Diana McCourt, Michelle Paris, Shannon Steffes, George A. Stein IV and Tiffany Wheeler. Eve Bogan was the Class Valedictorian with a perfect score. All attendees of the class were treated to a very appreciative round of applause.
- \* Note: We want to thank any others who presented ideas or input at the meeting. We apologize for our failure to include your name(s) in this report but your contribution is appreciated very much.

Harold L. Epperson / Secretary-Treasurer



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

## 2003 FCF CONVENTION

The FCF Board of Directors held its annual meeting on August 07, 2003 at the Radisson Cincinnati Airport Hotel. In attendance were JB Anderson, George Stowers, Robert Turner, Harold Epperson, Lynn Culver, Tracy Wilson, Leann Montgomery and Bobby Bean.

- \* President Stowers called the meeting to order and acknowledged the presence of ACEF branch representative Cathrun Freeman Spohrer and FCF member Kevin Chambers.
- \* Leann reported that the current memberships rose from 282 to 312 during the period of August, 2002 thru July, 2003. We gained 99 new members but we lost 69 members during the fiscal year. It was recommended that a BOD member be selected to followup on the reason for the lost memberships. Motion that Robert Turner be selected for this duty was made by Tracy and seconded by Lynn. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* Tracy reported that FCF conducted four husbandry courses during 2003 and the average class size was between 15 and 20. She scheduled an informal meeting for husbandry class instructors following return from the Cincinnati Zoo on Friday.
- \* Motion was made by Tracy to increase the husbandry course fee for non-members from \$90.00 to \$95.00. Seconded by Leann. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* Bobby stated that the FCF 501(c)3 tax exemption was not being used effectively or often enough, and that we should utilize it more. He recommended that we create a vendor packet to solicit corporate financial support.
- \* Lynn advised that “ban” laws in five states had been defeated or were inactive. The states are New York, Washington, Arkansas, Minnesota and Oregon. Also, Lacey Act amendment bills in Congress need to be addressed.
- \* George commended JB for his many years of dedicated service as Life Director to both LIOC–ESCF and FCF and as our auctioneer at the banquet auction each year.
- \* Harold presented the financial report for the period August, 2002 thru July, 2003. The FCF income of \$21,688.00 exceeded the projected amount of \$20,200.00 and the total expenditures of \$18,248.86 fell below the budgeted amount of \$20,200.00. Motion was made by JB to accept the report and seconded by Robert. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* George mentioned the need to replace the three vacant Life Director positions and that we could appoint three members for eighteen months. It was tabled for presentation at the General Membership Meeting.
- \* As Chairman of KHMSF, JB was selected to contact the MAP lawyer to proceed with the dissolution process which was initiated by The four Life Directors in 2002.
- \* Bobby made a motion to split the Secretary-Treasurer duties. No second. Motion was tabled to the by-laws review committee.
- \* Bobby made a motion to eliminate two signatures on the general checking account. No Second. Motion was tabled to the by-laws review committee.
- \* Bobby made a motion to eliminate special checking accounts and seconded by Robert. Motion failed. Vote tied 4/4.
- \* JB made a motion to discuss the Lotty. No second. Motion was tabled to the by-laws committee.
- \* Tracy made a motion for FCF to sponsor and budget \$1000.00 for informational booths at exotic animal events. Seconded by Leann. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* Lynn made a motion for FCF members to conduct a raffle for a 6-day, all-expense-paid trip to the Zulu Nyala Game Lodge in South Africa as an FCF fund-raising project and seconded by JB Anderson. A minimum of 450 tickets @ \$10.00 each would need to be sold by FCF members to cover expenses. All additional tickets would be profit for FCF projects. BOD members liked the idea, but thought a closer, less expensive destination might be a more acceptable first-time raffle project. Motion failed 7/1..
- \* Lynn made a motion for FCF to present an official response to the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition (CWAPC) on their position on private ownership of animals. Seconded by Leann. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* Lynn made a motion for FCF to form a committee to investigate and propose a process of a suitable accreditation program. Seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 8/0. Leann will formulate and present to the BOD.
- \* JB made a motion to increase the 2003 budget by 10% of all income and expenditures. Seconded by Robert. Motion passed 7/1.
- \* Tracy made a motion for FCF to budget and donate \$1000.00 to the Playa de Oro Reserve. Seconded by Robert. Motion passed 8/0.
- \* Tracy made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Cincinnati Zoo, \$250.00 to Pat Callahan at the zoo for Animal Enrichment and \$250.00 to Cathryn Hilker for The Angel Fund. Seconded by Harold, Motion passed 8/0.
- \* In a special lunchtime session, the following FCF By-Law amendments were passed: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 5.2, 5.5, 5.7, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, Article 9, 10.2, 11.1, 12.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, Article 15, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6. The FCF Board of Directors will remain in session pending completion of the By-Law amendment review process. The entire FCF by-laws will be printed in an updated version of the membership handbook which will be distributed with the December issue of the FCF newsletter.

# Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund

Our first elected president Ken Hatfield served 6 consecutive terms in this office from 1973 to 1986, and passed away October 17, 1995 while serving his seventh term as president of LIOC-ESCF. Ken and his wife Jean operated one of the country's most prolific exotic feline breeding compounds, specializing in ocelots but possessing and breeding many other large and small feline species. The zoo community notes their many accomplishments. Murray Fowler documents their authority in [Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine](#).

During his first 12 years as president many sweeping changes occurred in the legislative front. The prevalence of jungle-born and captive-born ocelots in suburban America was increasing and many communities were reacting with a variety of animal ordinances that ran the gamut of responses from complete acceptance of these species as another domestic pet to ordinances that banned their presence. Ken was an outspoken advocate in support of reasonable regulations and he personally advised and assisted many LIOC members to influence the outcome of their local and state regulations on exotic feline possession.

But more importantly, it was during the decade of the 1970's that Congress began debating the passage of the Endangered Species Act. Ken advised the Long Island Ocelot Club members that their best hope for a future of captive breeding was to gain an exemption from the strict permit requirements of the ESA for the prodigy of captive-born ocelots. To further this goal, a massive fund-raising effort was initiated to hire an attorney and lobbyist to represent the clubs' interests to Congress. President Ken Hatfield applied for non-profit incorporation of the club in Florida and federal 501c 3 tax-exempt status as the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation to gain federal tax deductions on donated money. The funds raised were known as the Legal Fund. However, before this money could be spent in the manner intended, Congress passed the ESA ending all hope of gaining the exemption.

To honor this visionary leader, the Board of Directors of the LIOC-ESCF voted to rename the long-standing but not utilized Legal Fund to the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund and transferred this account to a separate corporation set up for the expressed purpose of granting scholarships to veterinary students to promote the study and practice of exotic animal medicine. On March 2, 1998 the LIOC-ESCF donated \$9,175.00 to establish this scholarship fund. While the scholarship fund was a separate corporation, the power to appoint the trustees and exert over site authority of this fund was retained by the LIOC-ESCF Board of Directors and the KHMSF treasurer was required to submit yearly reports to the LIOC-ESCF of their financial activities.

The four life directors of the LIOC-ESCF became the original trustees of the Scholarship Fund. They resolved to award 25% of the year's donations and 100% of the year's interest earned on the principal as grants, insuring that the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund continued forever and increased in principal over the years. During the mid 1990's the captive husbandry of many exotic species was attracting an expanding national interest. The trustees hoped to attract industry-wide support and it was envisioned that other exotic animal species interest groups would contribute financially to this veterinary scholarship fund for the benefit of all captive wildlife. However, this never happened. Donations arrived exclusively through FCF members with an interest in felines only.

Applications submitted by veterinary students to receive this grant money was also a disappointment. The former KHMSF trustees awarded 2 grants totaling \$1300 to already licensed and practicing veterinarians. Clearly this was not the intent or envisioned benefit of this Memorial Fund. The failure to gain the national attention of any veterinary students or attract any financial contributions outside the membership of the FCF has led the present KHMSF Board of Trustees and the FCF Board of Directors to decide it is in the best interests of all for this separate corporation to be dissolved and the money be returned to the control of the Feline Conservation Federation.

Another use of this financial resource that is better suited to furthering improvements in exotic feline husbandry and exotic feline conservation, two interests that were both so important to Ken, will be investigated and a final use of these funds will be proposed over the next year after the separate KHMSF Corporation is dissolved. The Ken Hatfield Memorial Fund is valued at approximately \$11,750. The FCF Board of Directors is asking the membership for suggestions for possible uses of this money. Much of the 2003 Convention General Membership meeting was devoted to discussing this very matter. Member suggestions made at convention included awarding financial aid to help with the costs of placing felines needing emergency relocation, development of additional educational programs, financial support of in-situ conservation projects and creation and promotion of regulatory initiatives that support private captive husbandry of exotic felines.



Lynn Culver *finally* gets to pet a cheetah.



## MEFES Meeting Minutes

The July meeting was held in Rome City at the gorgeous lakeside property of Steve and Rita Kemerly and their serval Kyra.

Steve and Rita have only been working on their place a couple of months, but the results were fantastic. With the help of their family they have lined the shoreline with large rocks they have collected, and they made a sandy beach edged in a swirled and curved sidewalk. It all made for a very pretty setting for our meeting.

After a delicious pitch in dinner, President Harold Epperson started by thanking Steve and Rita for hosting the meeting. He read the minutes of the last meeting and then the present treasury report.

For the July 2003 treasury report, our present balance is \$1,721.54. The balance on April 19<sup>th</sup> was \$1,544.04 with receipts of \$277.50 from dues and \$40.00 in donations. We donated \$100.00 to FCF for the Ecuador

Project at Playa De Oro Margay Reserve. There were no other expenses.

We gained two new members, Jim and Ute Albright who attended the meeting with their daughter Saskia. They brought pictures of their jungle cat.

Harold passed around a brochure made up by Bryan and Ana Studor from Tell City, Ind. They have been having problems with their neighbors over their cats and the business they run. They created a brochure with facts and pictures and arranged meetings with the County Council, and with the City Council. They also arranged for four members of MEFES to attend the meetings with them and met the problem head on and presented their side before it got worse. Both councils were satisfied with their explanation and it wasn't a problem.

It was mentioned to please fill out the membership directory you recently received and send it to Editor Carol Bohning. Also send Carol any articles and pictures you want in the newsletter.

It was suggested that it might be a good idea to extend an invitation to the new USDA inspector, Dr. Finney, to attend the next meeting.

Calendars for next year are still being considered.

Purdue University is offering a safe capture seminar in November. Members of FCF and MEFES are eligible for a \$50.00 discount.

Bob Turner motioned to adjourn, Rita Kemerly seconded it.



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“They like me! They really like me!”

Everybody loves Harold!

*Special thanks*  
to photographer  
**Monte Francis**  
for sending so  
many fun photos to  
choose from!



Patty and Peggy plot to plunder at the benefit auction.

The real reason Marvin never misses a convention...