

Volume 48, Issue 1

January/February 2004



Feline Conservation Federation





Feline Conservation Federation

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

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Montgomery, Member Ser-
vices Director**

**Cover: The Point Defiance Zoo
shares the birth and raising of a
litter of clouded leopards**

***"Hey Mom! It's
snowy and cold
out here!"***

*Snow in the Southeast and
computer virus problems
have delayed this issue.
My sincerest apologies!
Mindy, the editor*



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Classified

We wish to extend our appreciation to the following contributors to the January/February FCF magazine.

Karen Povey, cat keeper at Point Defiance Zoo, Robert Budy, Marcus Cook, Cleber Delazari,

Jessie Clark-White and Sara Comstock..

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Clouded Leopard Conservation at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

By Karen Povey,
Senior Staff Biologist
Clouded Leopard SSP® Education Advisor

Wildlife conservation is almost always a highly collaborative endeavor, born through and sustained by the efforts of a wide variety of partners. One example of such an effort is the clouded leopard conservation program in place at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA) in Tacoma, Washington. This program has flourished through the support and participation of numerous partners including zoos in North America and Thailand, a private breeding facility, the Clouded Leopard Species Survival Plan, wildlife researchers, local businesses, the Point Defiance Zoo Society, the Point Defiance Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, and PDZA's staff, members, and visitors.

With the support of these far-flung partners, PDZA staff has developed a comprehensive clouded leopard conservation program that encompasses captive breeding, zoo-based research, in situ research and conservation, and education efforts in both North America and clouded leopard range countries. This effort is the first of its kind for the clouded leopard, a beautiful, engaging, but little-known species of endangered wild cat.

PDZA's commitment to clouded leopard conservation began in 1998 when Raja and Josie, the Zoo's now-adult pair, were brought together as young, hand-reared cubs through the recommendation of the Clouded Leopard Species Survival Plan due to their genetic compatibility and closeness in age. Raja came to the Zoo from California's Hexagon Farm and Josie arrived through a permanent breeding loan from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The pair participated in the Zoo's educational outreach program as youngsters, becoming bonded as they matured into a breeding pair.

ect

The Clouded Leopard Project

During their tenure as conservation ambassadors for the Zoo, Raja and Josie were extremely well received by Zoo visitors, most of who were unaware of this species' existence. Concerned by the low public profile of this charismatic cat and the lack of conservation efforts directed towards it, members of PDZA's American Association of Zoo Keepers chapter created an organization dedicated to clouded leopards right at the Zoo. This effort, called The Clouded Leopard Project, aims to raise awareness about these cats through a variety of educational initiatives. The Project has produced a website that also serves as the official website for the Clouded Leopard SSP and is now the primary source of clouded leopard information

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



Siblings Rama and Kwan Jai born at Point Defiance Zoo

online. As this article goes to print, a new, professionally designed site is about to debut, thanks to a generous donation by a Seattle web design firm, Elephants & Ants. You can visit the site at www.cloudedleopard.org for natural history information, photos and videos, current details on clouded leopard research and conservation, or to contribute to the cause.

In addition to its educational activities, The Clouded Leopard Project works to raise funds to aid conservation efforts in the cat's range countries. Over the last several years, the Project has raised thousands of dollars through their donation station at the Zoo and through the sale of T-shirts, note cards, and artwork featuring Raja and Josie. Much of these funds been used to support the work of researcher Lon Grassman who has conducted one of the first-ever studies of these secretive cats in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary in northeastern Thailand. Lon was able to radio-collar four clouded leopards in an effort to gain information critical to developing conservation plans for cats in the region.

Clouded Leopard Research at PDZA

In addition to supporting research taking place in the wild, PDZA is also active in zoo-based research to learn more about the behavior of clouded leopards in an effort to mitigate some of the management challenges they present to their caretakers. Clouded leopards sometimes exhibit aberrant behaviors such as excessive pacing, hiding, or self-mutilation that are thought to be the result of stress. Some of the factors believed responsible for this stress include the ability to see larger predators and a lack of appropriate climbing structures or hiding opportunities. PDZA's cats have participated in a fecal hormone study by Brookfield Zoo endocrinologists to discover how zoo managers can modify clouded leopard exhibits to reduce their stress as well as improve viewing opportunities for

the public.

Solving some of the behavioral problems associated with clouded leopards will also be crucial to improving their reproductive record. Historically, clouded leopards have had limited success breeding in zoos. While some of this problem may be attributable to the effects of stress, another serious concern is the extreme aggression that often occurs between males and females when they are introduced. Aggression can be so severe that, in many cases, males have actually killed the females with which they were paired. Research into this problem has shown that introductions are much more successful when potential mates meet while still young and develop a bond as they mature. These bonds can become quite strong; once a clouded leopard pair is formed, the cats will usually be kept together for their lifetime.

Cubs arrive at Point Defiance

Because Raja and Josie had lived together since the age of three months, by the time they were mature they had become a compatible pair and their keepers anticipated that they would breed and produce cubs. Cubs were highly anticipated because the



cedure that provided an unforgettable first glimpse of the cubs growing inside.

Despite the staff's monitoring activities and preparations for the upcoming birth, Josie surprised everyone by having her three cubs nearly a week earlier than anticipated, on April 3, 2003. Fortunately, Josie's handlers were close at hand and arrived in time to assist in the birth of her last cub. Because Josie was a first-time mother, there was concern that she might accidentally or intentionally harm the babies, an unfortunately all-too-common occurrence in this species. Sadly, this was the case; the first-born cub died as a result of injuries sustained while Josie cleaned it off after birth. It appeared likely that she bit the cub while removing the birth membranes and umbilical cord.

The remaining two infants – one male, Rama

successful reproduction of this pair would greatly benefit the genetics of North American population as Josie comes from an underrepresented line of cloudeds. This anticipation, however, was drawn out over the course of several years as breeding seasons came and went without conception, much to the frustration of the Zoo staff.

Finally, in January 2003, keeping staff observed Raja and Josie breeding and were optimistic that Josie might be pregnant. To confirm pregnancy, fecal samples were sent to Brookfield Zoo for evaluation in their endocrinology lab. By assessing reproductive hormones excreted in the feces, Brookfield's scientists were able to create a profile of Josie's estrus cycle, breeding, and gestation – including confirmation of pregnancy. Meanwhile, Point Defiance staff continued to monitor Josie's gestation during their daily interactions with her. Because Josie is still tractable with her handlers, the staff was able to perform an ultrasound exam without the use of anesthesia. Josie sat calmly in her handler's lap during the ultrasound pro-





and Josie, female, Kwan Jai – were taken from Josie for hand-rearing. The decision to hand-rear had been made

Zoo staff well before the cubs were born. Because clouded leopards have such a poor track record as successful mothers, hand-rearing would greatly increase the chance of the cubs' survival. Additionally, evidence shows that hand-reared cubs are, in most cases, much better adapted for a life around people as required by clouded leopards living in zoos. Hand-reared clouded leopards are usually calmer around keepers

and are much better display animals. Hand-reared cloudeds can also breed just as successfully as parent-reared cats, as seen with Raja and Josie.

Raising the cubs required coordinating a complex schedule of round-the-clock bottle feedings and care involving the veterinary staff, keeping staff, and Zoo curator. Rama and Kwan Jai grew rapidly, becoming more active and playful daily. At six weeks of age, they began making the transition to a meat diet, although they were supplemented with formula until they were approximately twelve weeks old. At six weeks they also received their first vaccinations, enabling them to leave quarantine and venture out into the zoo in their new role as conservation ambassadors. The cubs are handled in order to participate in education programs and public relations appearances during their time at the Zoo, just as their parents did before them. Throughout the busy summer season, close encounters with these special youngsters inspired thousands of our visitors to contribute to PDZA's clouded leopard conservation efforts.

Ultimately, however, the cubs will be placed in other zoos where they will be paired for future breeding, likely before their first birthday. Sharing the cubs with other zoos will allow Point Defiance to complete the circle of cooperation that helped launch the Zoo's clouded leopard breeding program. Zoo staff is optimistic that, after their first success, Josie and Raja will continue to produce cubs and help PDZA to contribute to clouded leopard conservation for many years to come.

Clouded Leopard Conservation in Thailand

Despite the time-consuming project of raising Rama and Kwan Jai, PDZA staff members were able to continue to expand the Zoo's in situ conservation role during the summer of 2003. During this time, PDZA became an active partner in a clouded leopard breeding program based at Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Chonburi, Thailand. This program is a collaborative effort by the Smithsonian National Zoo, the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, and the Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand to breed clouded leopards in Thai zoos. (Please see the Clouded Leopard Project website for much more information on this project.) PDZA Staff Biologist Andy Goldfarb spent three months serving as Project Manager at Khao Kheow Zoo, overseeing the clouded leopards' care, conducting pair introductions, making behavioral observations, and performing exhibit modifications.

PDZA has also recently begun a multi-year initiative to develop wild cat conservation education materials for use in Thailand as well as North America. This effort got a kick-off during an international course



Raja in a tree

in Applied Environmental Education that took place at Khao Kheow Zoo's training center last summer. This course used



the clouded leopard as the theme for students learning to identify and solve environmental problems through educational means. The course culminated in a clouded leopard festival, funded by The Clouded Leopard Project, at the Zoo that was attended by local students and zoo visitors.

Ongoing conservation education work in the region will focus on delivering wild cat learning kits and training to educators and families living and working in areas near wild cat populations. The first phase of this initiative has received



funding through grants from The Clouded Leopard Project, The Point Defiance Zoo Society, and The American Association of Zoo Keepers. More financial support is needed for upcoming phases of the initiative. For more information, please send queries through the website or to the author.

Conservation and education efforts on behalf of the clouded leopard are becoming increasingly important as their Asian forest homes continue to quickly fall to logging activity and development. Saving the clouded leopard will require cooperative efforts between wildlife managers, researchers, zoos, and concerned individuals everywhere.

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Life with a Clouded Leopard

by: Anne Amadon

In the early spring of 1999 we received a phone call from a friend telling us of a Clouded leopard that may need placing from a non-profit wildlife education center in Michigan. After a brief discussion with my husband we made the decision that we would be interested in taking him. We made a phone call to the facility and learned that the cat was a 7 year old *neutered* (can you believe it!) male named Dugan. He had been acquired by them from the Buffalo Zoo as a cub along with his littermate bother. They were used during educational visits to schools to teach about wildlife conservation. The handler that had raised them from kittens and worked with them daily left the facility in 1997. Unfortunately, Dugan's brother died in 1998 from kidney failure. They no longer were using Dugan for educational visits as the new manager/handler was afraid of him. After several further phone calls (and a vote by their board members) and permit approval by our F&G Department we were all set to take Dugan the clouded leopard home. We made the 9-hour trip to mid New York on June 14th to meet them (they graciously agreed to meet us half way) and began our adventure in owning a clouded leopard. I'll add here that he managed to take a poop in his crate immediately after we transferred him to our vehicle. It was along 9-hour trip home in a compact station wagon with that smell!

We already owned 2 cougars, a bobcat and a serval along with many other exotic and domestic animals. We were in our third year of running a small wildlife education based animal exhibit and we thought he would be the perfect addition (of course we forgot to consider that they are VERY nocturnal and we were closed by 4:00pm).

Our first few months were tough; he became very hostile when we would approach him sometimes throwing himself against the cage while roaring and slapping at us through the chain link. We had been instructed not to make direct eye contact with him until he trusted us. This was



quite difficult because he was so beautiful, you almost couldn't help but stare. (And of course you needed to know where he was to protect yourself).

I spent countless hours talking quietly to him while staring at the floor. It paid off and I soon had

his trust and was greeted by soft chuffs and strange sounding "meows" (it sounds like a meow?) instead of roars and slaps. It took much longer for him to trust my husband as he did not always obey the "no eye contact" rule. Even now he has some reserve around my husband if I am not there.

Dugan had always been kept indoors during winter months in a heated enclosure and even though he hates being kept inside we have continued this. I'm not sure at his age how he would adapt to staying outside in our very cold Maine winters. Last winter we had several weeks at 10-30 below zero. My options are either inside with heat or outside with a den box and lots of hay, so he stays in, with occasional short visits outside on warmer nights.

Over the years Dugan and I have developed a very strong bond, perhaps even stronger than any of my other exotic cats (even though we acquired most of the others as young kittens). He greets me with loud chuffs and rubs (and those strange "meows"). He loves to be scratched on his back and cheeks. He has not made any attempts to be aggressive since those first few tough months. He *can* be very mischievous and will give me little pats on the butt with his large paw when he thinks my guard is down, as if to say "you need to pay attention, I *am* a leopard you know!" But these are followed by more chuffs and rubs. I am not sure how many more years we will be blessed with Dugan, (he will be 12 in March) but I do know that we will be forever blessed with having known him. I can't imagine not being greeted by those chuffs and that impish look that only a cloudy can have, and stroking that beautiful coat that only God could have created. Yes, I have to say that life with a clouded



The History of Bungalow Wild Felines

Conservationist breeding program and Tigrinus rescue in Brazil

"Bungalow" means a small house, shanty, cottage, thatched or tiled one-story house in India usually having a single story surrounded by a wide verandah and sometimes an additional attic story. They became the most popular and traditional homes and quickly became associated with romantic ambience in tropical locations, becoming a very pleasing place where you can live in a nice environment as one with the nature. Formerly in India they were where travelers on a dark route could be accommodated. I call my facilities by this name because I love simple, bucolic and rustic architecture habitation, jungle adventures and the wildlife.

Bungalow Wild Felines is located in a tropical paradise, in a beautiful cottage close to the mountains, surrounded by trees, huge evergreens, Bougainvilleas and with a magnificent view of the lake, located in the noble area in the country side of our city of Belo Horizonte - Minas Gerais State - Brazil. Here, the air is pure and enjoyable...no better place to live, rescue and breed our lovely animals!!!

"Bungalow" has been rescuing and breeding small Brazilian Wild Felines for several years. My first kittens, a lovely *Leopardus tigrinus* and a little *Leopardus pardali* started my love of these species.

From that time on I have been involved in the rescue and breeding of mainly Tigrinus and I am working with some different South American bloodlines.

I always was interested in wildlife and I first became interested in rescue and breeding wild felines after watching an animal show on television. The host of the show was interviewing Mrs. Brigitte Jansohn (In Fond Memory / Ôzelot Society), a fantastic German woman and conservationist breeder of Brazilian wild cats who lived in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais state, Brazil. She's turned into my best friend and mentor!

Having always been fascinated by wild animals and specially being a lover of the intense beauty of the jungle, I have been actively involved in breeding, keeping and raising many different Brazilian wild species, such as parrots, primates, small felines and toucans. It's very important to emphasize that I am a wildlife rescuer and conservation breeder, and I have the official permission to raise wild species in Brazil and experience to do it. I don't trade these animals. We are licensed and inspected by **IBAMA** (Environment Brazilian Institute).

I am dedicated to bringing people and wildlife together to develop a community awareness of the value of the Brazil wildlife. My ultimate goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and return recovered animals to their natural habitat. Many of these animals will never be released and will spend the rest of their lives with me. The care and hopeful return of

these animals to the wild can become very expensive, difficult or even impossible.

The *Leopardus tigrinus* also are well known as oncillas, tiger cat, little spotted cat, tigrillo and gato-do-mato-pequeno (portuguese). The wild specimens are widely distributed in South America and Central America, in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. They are listed in Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) which restricts trade, sale of its pelts, hunt and capturing the cat for the pet trade.

In Brazil, they have been found in subtropical forest highlands, early secondary forest but also in plantation fields, deforested areas and eucalyptus monoculture. The Tigrinus have preference for the montane cloud forest. These magnificent little felines are very agile, athletic and alert to their surroundings and they eat a great variety of small prey, including birds, insects, reptiles and rodents. They have a nocturnal and solitary routine, except for seasonal mating when the male approaches the female. Here in Brazil, I believe they are found in a few zoos and conservation breeders.

Tigrinus are one of the smallest wild cats found in Central America and South America, shown a silhouette and footprint resembling a lot a domestic cat. They weight as little as 4.9 lbs (2.2 kg), and usually do not exceed 6 lb (2.8 kg) with males slightly larger than females. It is observed that adult males can be very aggressive towards females. Their coat have background color light brown to rich ochre, yellowish or grayish, with dark brown or black spots, beautiful rosettes and blotches. The undersides are very light and sometimes are white, with black spots. The limbs can be spotted and the tail is long, thick, with spots developing into black rings. They have fragile built, with slight bones, small narrow head, expressive golden eyes, large rounded ears and the backs of the ears are black with a white spot. The fur is short, thick and firm, lies close to the skin. Some melanistic Tigrinus may be occasionally found, especially from southeast Brazil.

Reproduction in captivity has been very problematic for Tigrinus, due the insufficient knowledge about this specie. They are very shy, reserved but they can be very aggressive and much is unknown about their behavior, habitat requirements or ecology in the wild, as no wild studies have ever been done. It is known the males are usually fertile and sexually mature after 18 months old, but females do not usually give birth to their first litter until they are 24 months old. The mating season for the Tigrinus is in the early spring and summer. It can have one or

two litter per year, and 1 to 2 kittens in a litter. At birth the kittens can weigh 50 / 80 grams and are very, very tiny. After mating, the males take no part in the care of the kittens. The females are pregnant for 70 to 78 days. The kittens open their eyes at 10 days and start eating solid food at 45 days. The kittens become independent after 4 months old. Longevity is average 11 years in natural habitat, but they have lived 16 to 20 years of age in captivity.

My first Tigrinus was "Vitória". She came to live at Bungalow at only the age of 2 days, so she was brought to my home when she was just a very tiny thing. She quickly bonded with me, and is now a permanent part of my family. Her name is "Vitória" due the fact that was a great victory save this little girl, which is very difficult to do when the kittens are newborn. Because of her tiny age when she arrived, she needed much time, fondness and exclusive dedication. There were many days and nights devoted to caring of this teeny creature, but today I am very happy for this reason! She has her nose in everything that goes on, she talks to us when she wants something!!!! I don't think there is a place in this house she hasn't been, because each day she finds a higher place to climb. She's my favorite female I rescued and bottle fed from Day 2!!! She is now healthy, independent, wild but really sweet and friendly ... What a AWESOME girl!!!

Another Tigrinus, named Thrider, came to me after having been confiscated from her previous owner. He was found living in an unheated room from a private owner. Her owner thought he would be a "good pet" until, even as small as he was; he began to demolish the house. He climbs in the curtains, threw down the adornments and much more. Now, he is happy and safe at my facility.

Like all felines, my Tigrinus spends much of their time sleeping, but are always ready to check out guests and keep an eye on what the other in a nearby compound are eating or doing.

I have received many little kittens to take care that were found orphaned after their mother was hunted. My lovely "Victor" is a good example of this and of my extreme dedication

To increase the quality of life for Tigrinus, I tried to build habitats that were comfortable with the necessary space for the activities; lots of trees trunks and branches to climb, well ventilated and very illuminated, allowing them to receive the sunshine. As you can see in these photos, I chose the rustic style to build the habitats, as look like the Bungalow!

Some of these animals were born in captivity, other born in jungle, with many of them being orphans or cast-offs from breeder and private owners who could no longer care for them. Also, I received some from my best friend Brigitte Jansohn, when she passed

away in March 2002. All captive species depend upon humans for their needs and carefully planned

diets, correct captive habitat with enrichments to play, expert veterinary care, constant attention and love. I try provides a dignified life for these precious wild felines and I am dedicated to the pursuit of this goal.

Today I have 12 Tigrinus and they are 5 females and 7 males. In this way a new compound had to be built for them to offer more comfort and tranquility. Their names are Vitória, Salomé, Severina, Chitara, Felícia, Steve, Kimba, Kiko, Cameron, Thrider, Rubi and Onix. They make part of my breeding program to try to save this magnificent species from the extinction!

Some of my kittens are bottle raised in-house with lots of attention and affection, but sometimes their mother cares for them.

I feel blessed to help bring rescue, comfort and happiness to so many of God's creatures by sharing my home, my time and my life with them.

Deforestation is the biggest threat to Tigrinus and the more known predator of these cats is man. Through the hunt and traps, the man often killed these wonderful felines for its fur to make fur coats. Also they are captured to be sold as pets ... It is one of the few predators on the natural habitat!

As I am wildlife conservationist and preservative breeder, I think that preserving and protecting the wild species are responsibilities for all of us, because the extinction of a species is





forever!!!

Thanks for stopping by at this article! I hope you enjoyed your reading and I hope to write more about *Leopardus tigrinus* for you again!

by Cleber Ferreira Delázari

Bungalow Wild Felines, Brazil



Top left and right: Vitória and her bungalow



above:
another
adult tigrina



Left: The
author
with his
beloved
Vitória,

Right: an 8 week
old tigrina



It's A Sure Bet. The 33rd Annual FCF Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada

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Call the New Frontier to reserve your room at 800-634-6966 or 702-794-8200

During the Thursday afternoon general membership meeting you may present your ideas on our future direction, or changes that will strengthen and improve FCF.

We have some very special plans for Friday –
stay tuned for future announcements.

Don't miss out on the fun of our Saturday night banquet and fund-raiser.

Auctioneer extraordinaire, J.B. Anderson keeps the crowd laughing with his quick-witted humor while he raises funds for future FCF projects.
In addition to all the fun that comes with every FCF convention,
this year join us in the heart of the City of Entertainment...

Las Vegas, Nevada, home to exotic cat magic acts
Sigfried & Roy, Rick Thomas and Dirk Arthur.



EXOTIC FELINE TRAINING SERIES: A PUNGENT TOPIC

By Jessi Clark-White

I've seen the question asked so many ways: *"Is there any way to get my serval to stop peeing in the sink?" "I just got a caracal, and I want to make sure he doesn't learn any bad litterbox habits."* *"My boyfriend's going to make me get rid of our bobcat if he doesn't stop pooping on the couch. What do I do?"* And the same kind souls do their best to help, time after time. But with so many hints, suggestions, and words of wisdom out there, it seemed that somebody should compile them all into one article for easy reference. And here you have it. This reflects the advice given by many exotic cat owners and breeders, along with the input of several excellent domestic animal behavior books. This article focuses more on problem solving than the actual training process, as that seems to be the focus of most questions.

Advice for future exotic cat owners

Let's make one thing perfectly clear: exotics don't come litterbox trained! In fact, they may go to the bathroom in "unauthorized locations" even once they are trained. One woman's pet serval sprays her in the face! Bobcats are infamous for spraying, and cougars often pee lying down! While litter training can be quite successful, if you can't live with the possibility that this animal may soil your house or don't have time to devote to litterbox training, your decision should probably be to avoid owning an exotic feline.

I do take issue with one Internet source which says, in effect: "All exotic cats, altered or not, spray constantly to mark their territory." A dramatic statement; however, one that can be quickly identified as incorrect even by someone who's never met an exotic cat in their life. A broad proclamation stereotyping the behavior of a large group of individuals can never be accurate.

Saying that all exotic felines spray is like saying that all people of Middle Eastern descent are terrorists. You cannot paint all members of a profession, society, or species with the same brush. All exotic cats do not spray. While all species of wild cats may be prone to spraying, not every individual member of that species will spray.

Litter box training a serval is a process similar to housebreaking a dog, but it can be more difficult. Some people seem to find it an easy process, while others never completely train their servals. I personally found it to be challenging and time consuming, but ultimately fairly successful.

My serval Sirocco was supposedly using a litter box well when I got him at 8 weeks, but he managed to pee on my bed and in my wastebasket within hours of arriving at my house. I followed a crate training program almost identical to that of housebreaking a puppy and had good but slow results. It took about 4 months before I considered him fully litter box trained

How do I define "fairly?" He uses the box or goes outside

to relieve himself on a regular basis. But I have to keep my bed covered with Scat Mats or he'll pee on it, and sometimes he goes just outside the box. There is also a corner of my bedroom that he favors when I'm not looking. I have a Scat Mat on that area to keep him away from it.

Why are exotic cats prone to litterbox problems?

One theory behind this proclivity (where servals are concerned, at least) for litter box problems is that unlike domestic cats, servals do not instinctively bury their waste. Domestic cats find litter boxes appealing because they are the most convenient and effective place to bury their waste. Servals don't have a natural reason to use a litterbox as opposed to any other random spot in your house. As a matter of fact, your bed is a much more comfortable place to go.

Another factor could be that domestic kittens are typically raised by their mothers, who teach them by example how to use the litterbox. Exotic cats, on the other hand, are more likely to have been bottle raised by humans.

A third contributing factor may be the routine declawing of kittens. It is well documented that domestic cats often develop litter box problems after declawing. It is excruciatingly painful for a cat to walk during the days following surgery, but they must do so in order to use the litterbox. The cat will often associate that pain with the box and begin to avoid the area. As they start experimenting with other locations, the pain fades due to the healing process, leaving the cat with a lifetime association of litterboxes and pain.

Litterbox training an exotic kitten

Start off on the right paw by designing the perfect litter box for your kitten. Find a location that is somewhat sheltered yet allows him to keep an eye on his surroundings. He shouldn't have to go out of his way to find the box. If your kitten has "accidents" when you first get him, note their location. Does he have a favorite spot you could put a box in? Avoid putting the box near appliances that could turn on and frighten an impressionable kitty. Make sure the box is big enough, but that the sides aren't so high that they make it inconvenient to enter the box.

Find a type of litter your kitten likes. Ask what the breeder has been using and start with that. If he seems to like it and seems comfortable in the box, your best bet is to keep using it. If he seems less than content or seeks out softer places to go, try switching to a softer, sandier litter. Suggestions can be found in the section on problem solving.

When you see your kitten using the box, praise him

sincerely until he finishes, then reward him with a treat, some scratches, or the chance to play with a toy. Experiment until you find what he seems to enjoy the most.

If you catch your kitten *in the act* of eliminating outside the box, you may correct him with a sharp “No!” and perhaps a squirt of water. However, such punishment should be used very cautiously.

- Do not punish your kitten if you aren't also rewarding him on a regular basis for using his box. If you use punishment without lots of positive reinforcement for doing the right thing, he may get the impression that it is simply dangerous to go to the bathroom in your presence. He'll start eliminating in corners and behind couches to hide from you. Then you're in trouble!
- Do not punish your kitten if he is at all frightened of you or is not strongly bonded to you. You have to earn the right to correct your cat without it damaging your relationship.
- Do not punish your kitten by forcing him into the litter box after a “mistake.” You will only create scary associations with the box and make him less likely to want anything to do with it.
- Never punish after the fact.

Solving and managing elimination problems

Understanding the reason for the problem is an important first step towards a solution. Some common factors in inappropriate elimination are:

Surface preference. In these cases, the cat simply prefers a specific surface, such as bedding, carpet, or clothes. Cats with a surface preference problem may use a litter box part of the time as well.

Location preference. In these cases, the cat has chosen a favorite location, and doesn't care so much about the surface. Surface and location preferences are not exclusive of each other. Location aversions can occur if the box is in a high-traffic, isolated, cold, hot, or otherwise distasteful location.

Litter or litterbox aversions. A sure indication of litterbox aversion is elimination just outside the box. This can occur if the cat has negative associations with the box, if the box is dirty or too small, if the cat dislikes the type of litter being used, or if the box has an unpleasant odor.

Urine marking (spraying).

Here are some tips for solving common litter box problems. More complete instructions for diagnosing and solving elimination problems can be found in the book *Pet Behavior Protocols*.

Change the litter. One common cause of litter box

avoidance is dislike for the litter. Most cats prefer soft, fine-grained litters to hard clay litters. However, use caution with clumping litters, as they can cause internal blockages if ingested. Scented litter may also drive some cats away. Any large pet store should have a wide selection to choose from. You can also try alternative litters such as sand, soil, stove pellets, and wood shavings. Avoid cedar shavings and cocoa husks, as they can be toxic.

One good alternative litter (suggested by Eileen, a member of the Yahoo Servals group) is layer feed for chickens. This is hands down the best litter I have ever used. It is inexpensive, controls odors well, clumps nicely, and has a low level of dust.

Keep in mind that you will not be arrested if the box contains something other than litter. Try washable carpet, newspaper, or any other substrate your cat likes to use. If your cat has a marked preference for peeing on blankets and towels, you can use towels instead of litter in the box as a last resort. Servals often like to relieve themselves in water; in most households a watery grave for cat excrement is impractical, but it's worth noting.

Get a larger litter box. If your cat feels he doesn't have enough room, he may avoid using the box. Second Nature makes dog litter boxes that work nicely for exotics, and you can also get large plastic storage bins and cut down the sides for easier access. Consider cutting down only the front if your cat sprays in the litter box.

Change the cleaner. Strong or unpleasant smelling cleaners and air fresheners can cause aversion to the litter box.

Add another box. Some felines do not like to urinate and defecate in the same box, so providing two litterboxes may help. One owner provides eight boxes for four servals. Does your cat have a favorite peeing area? Put a litter box there and your problem may be solved.

Keep it clean. Keeping the litterbox meticulously clean is the solution in some cases. I've noticed that Si-rocco is more prone to going outside the box when it is soiled. Also, be sure you clean any soiled areas of the house thoroughly with an enzymatic odor remover.

Deny access. If your cat only eliminates inappropriately in one location, the solution could be as simple as keeping the door to that room closed. Scat Mats can be used to keep your cat off a favorite peeing area. You may also be able to create an aversion to a particular location by using a scent the cat dislikes. You can try various aromatic oils, Direct Stop, or commercial cat repellants.

Adapt the environment. If you've tried everything and your cat still insists on peeing on your bed, you can get an easily washed acrylic blanket and sew on a

waterproof backing. Just cover your bed with it, and throw it in the wash when it gets soiled. Some disposable puppy housebreaking pads and incontinence pads are soft with a waterproof backing. Putting these down in a problem area will make cleanup much easier.

Reward litterbox use. Whenever you see your serval using the litterbox, praise him and provide positive reinforcement such as a favorite treat or toy.

Try medication. Some urine marking problems in domestic cats can be successfully managed by medications such as Busparone. In a critical situation, it might be worthwhile considering attempting to use medication in an exotic cat as well. Keep in mind that most veterinarians have little training in the use of drugs to modify behavior problems, so you will probably need to consult a veterinary behavior specialist for an accurate prescription.

Try Feliway. There is a non-prescription pheromone-based product called Feliway that may be useful in controlling spraying. Feliway is sprayed in the locations your cat tends to mark or placed in a diffuser. The effectiveness of Feliway has yet to be determined. Some exotic cat owners have noticed

marked reduction in spraying, as well as improved inter-cat relationships and an increase in affectionate behavior. Others notice no change at all. High success rates were reported in two studies on domestic cats, but many people have found the product ineffective. In any case, it's worth a try.

Read a book

If your serval has developed litterbox problems, I suggest that you also read *The Cat Who Cried for Help*, by Dr. Nicholas Dodman and *Pet Behavior Protocols*, by Suzanne Hetts for detailed advice. *Pet Behavior Protocols* is an expensive book, but well worth the price if you are faced with a severe problem. It is written for animal behaviorists and covers elimination problems in much greater detail.

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Loose Serval Recovered Safely

Diary of the week of worry and the joy or reunion

12/12/03 – Raja missing – What a nightmare! Someone broke into our home this morning and set Raja free.... It started while I was in Louisville, Kentucky and Camie was at work. She had left at approx. 8:15 and my cell phone rang between 9:10 and 9:15. It was a call from my neighbor wanting to know why I had helicopters, city police, county police and animal control all over my house! I was stumped! I explained to animal control that I was out of the state and I was sure that Camie would have contacted me if she had run into any type of trouble like this. They proceeded to give me additional details about how they became involved: Someone called into 911 stating they were me, giving my home phone number (which I never give out--I always use my cell) and stating my cat had gotten loose... then they called channel 8 news. The more we discussed this, the worse it felt because our neighborhood association has had their problems with Raja and had called channel 6 for help at one point. But when the story aired it was all positive aspects on this species.... So, in my opinion, by this person calling channel 8, I felt they had to be connected to the previous incident.

The more Animal Control's officers, Brent Copeland and Sgt. Bippus chatted with me, the more we felt it must be a prank of some sort, but I located Camie at work and asked her to go home and assure these gentlemen that Raja was safe and inside our home. Camie was sure everything was fine when she left but agreed to make the trip because she was concerned. Once Camie arrived home, she opened the garage door to the outside and noticed the kitchen door was wide open! When she walked inside the door and saw our outside cat Acadia, sitting in Raja's favorite chair, she burst into tears! Her baby was gone and someone had entered our home by the looks of everything. She had a habit of leaving the garage door up enough to allow Acadia to go out on the front porch and sit. Someone had slid under the garage door and opened the kitchen door, allowing Raja to escape. The police wouldn't allow Camie back in the house until they had checked everything out. An intruder obviously didn't take anything or trash the house, so whoever this was just set Raja free and then made the appropriate phone calls to make it look as though we were reporting the escape. This person actually sent our baby out on a death sentence hoping she wouldn't make it back home! If it hadn't been for them making the phone calls, it might have looked as though something happened and the door came open.... But their plan was to cover their tracks and this is where they made their mistake. We have been all day trying to find her along with many friends and the members of our MEFES group. There is just something about one of our babies being in danger that brings everyone together! We also received a phone call from Deb Millette of New York who offered to drive down on Sunday to help us, but we prayed Raja would be home by then.

12/14/03 - Raja has been outside for two days and it has been extremely cold. We tracked her today and she had been six houses down, walking around a house, but we never saw any more tracks after that. We set up a live trap for her, covered the floor and the cage with pine, and tied chicken to the back. We must have had 40+ people searching for her. One man, Don Hines, came all the way from Florida to help! Camie and I have been out looking for her



twice and three times a day, calling, clicking, carrying a rat and making it squeak.

12/15/03 - She has not come hear the trap, not one track. According to Deb, we must be patient enough to allow her to become hungry enough to enter the live trap we have set up.

12/17/03 - So sorry to report that she isn't home and no one has actually sighted her, as of yet... but she is a reclusive animal.... Everyone that we have spoken with states it will take her a week to get hungry due to how well as she was fed.... We're hoping very soon.... it's so very cold and we miss our baby.

A lady from Ohio named Evelyn Shaw called today, suggesting we try to locate a tracker with dogs trained for tracking lost people or animals. Evelyn said she utilized a search and rescue team of trained dogs to help her locate her servals when they were loose . . . I'm afraid the dog might drive Raja farther away from us so I'm going to sit on this advice for a bit. Deb from New York called twice or three times today. We are pretty much doing everything Deborah could do, except sit in a tree with a tranquilizer gun. Deb says to give Raja a week to ten days. If she doesn't show up by then Deb will drive to Indianapolis, if needed, but she anticipates her return prior to Christmas.

We are going out at night, squeaking her monkey and her clicker. We also sit in the window upstairs and call for her at all hours. It's so dreadfully cold. How on earth is she going to be able to take this much longer? This is driving us nuts!

12/18/03 - Our friend Kent Benson called and he sent two professional trackers, a father and son team by the name of Fred and Jeff Troxal, and their trained dogs. These two men tracked Raja to a hole under a huge bunch of roots, by a creek. The hole had three exits. Camie ran to Raja, dived into the hole and lay by her for three and a half hours, freezing



and waiting on our vet to arrive to tranquilize Raja. The vet told her assistant that since it was her day off it would take her two hours to drive from home, to the office and then get to us.

We were so scared that she would run, we called the animal control officers, Brent Copeland and Sgt Bippus out to help us block all the exits. We all took our “holes” to guard her in case she tried to escape. I tried to cover the opening by the water only to fall in over my head.... OMG.... it was freezing water! I felt like I was baptized, again, but this time when I came up, no one said Hallelujah! All I got was a “WAS IT COLD?” By the time I walked home, my body was purple. My cell phone died a horrible death in that water.

Two hours later the vet’s assistant called again and stated that it would be two more hours because the vet had an appointment to keep. We were furious, as this woman had called everyone associated with the recapture and told them what an emergency it was to get this animal home and then she put us on hold. We decided that since the vet had supplied animal control with the correct medications we would utilize the jab pole and get her out ourselves. We set a net on the other exit anticipating she wouldn’t dive into the freezing water to escape and went to prepare everything.

Camie said once we left she asked Raja for a kiss. Raja began purring and came to her, loving and butting her. Raja was so very happy to see Camie! By the time we returned, Raja had already eaten three chicken legs and then she allowed Camie to pick her up and carry her home. Camie was crying the entire walk and screaming for everyone to get back. Raja wasn’t in any mood to have strangers around!

Once Raja was indoors she wouldn’t leave the fireplace or Camie for anything. After the news media and everyone else had left we were able to get a better look at our baby. She was obviously in trouble so we took her to a friend/vet and he confirmed that she was extremely dehydrated. He gave her 200 cc of fluids and she started coming around, more like Raja, you know, hating men! Then we gave her a shot of antibiotics and ran two x-rays to check her chest and her paw, because she was limping when everyone left. Her front right paw was only bruised, not fractured, thank God! He then sent us home with a supply of antibiotics as she obviously had a cold. It was nice driving home with Raja. We are a family; we were smiling, and very happy to be together once again!

12/20/03 - Raja hasn’t let us out of her sight, nor has she

left the fireplace since she has come home. We can’t keep her water bowl filled and she screams at us when we try to leave the room. She screams at us when we enter the room and it’s almost like she is saying, “What the hell took you so long?” We feel that she found this hole and stayed there due to fear, waiting on us to find her.

Thank you, Fred Troxel, Jeff Troxel, Kent Benson, Brent Copeland, Sgt. Bippus, our MEFES family and everyone that just took a moment to say a little prayer for our Raja. I would like to make a special note that the Animal Care and Control Division was absolutely fabulous in supporting us in our efforts to bring Raja to safety! You guys deserve a medal for your dedication to the animals of our community!

I have had many calls from people wanting to know who the tracker was that found Raja for us so they might be able to add him to their emergency list. I spoke with Fred and he approved me to release his contact information for our organization and whoever might be interested in his services. They are Fred and Jeff Troxal, 430 E. Walnut Street, Martinsville, IN 46151. Their phone is 765-349-1524.

They are professionals. They charge expenses and a per day charge for each of them... but when it comes to our babies needing to find their way home, it’s worth every penny. I couldn’t believe they found Raja in approx. 30 – 45 minutes.... we spent numerous hours out there and never knew she was that close and too afraid to come out.

If anyone has any further questions, please feel free to contact myself or Fred, and thanks again for your many prayers! Raja is doing wonderfully!

Hugs,

Kathy and Camie Arnold and Raja



FCF News

The Florida Exotic Feline Center funds Florida Mass Mailing. FCF member FEFC graciously granted \$250 to underwrite the printing and mailing expense incurred to reach 400 Florida Class I & II licensees with a letter, membership application, husbandry course flyer, FCF brochure and Playa de Oro brochure. This mailing has so far generated around two-dozen new members and we feel it was a big success. FCF extends our many thanks to FEFC for this generous assistance to help spread awareness of FCF and the husbandry course.

New FCF Logo. You may have noticed that FCF has been experimenting and refining our newsletter masthead logo. Professional graphic artist Patti Gaston developed our logo to express our historic interest in ocelots and modernized it with our present initials. Thanks Patti for all your talented hard work, we love it!

Cincinnati Zoo Keepers award \$1950 Grant to FCF to purchase digital cameras for Playa de Oro, Ecuador camera trapping project. Conservation and Education Director Tracy Wilson and Cincinnati Feline Keeper Laura Carpenter worked together filing out the grant application. Their combined hard work paid off and Tracy was able to quickly purchase three new cameras just one week before she flew to Ecuador, bringing them down to set up at Playa de Oro last November. FCF is most grateful for this tremendous showing of support for our current in-situ feline conservation project.

FCF Non-profit mailing permit approved by US Postmaster. It took awhile to gather all the information needed to satisfy the US postal service's requirements for non-profit bulk mailing rates, but the FCF secretary received the official letter of approval dated December 18, 2003. This means our bi-monthly mailings will cost less in 2004 than in 2003, and that means more funds left over to spend on color photos and more pages in our newsletter.

FCF Corporate Sponsors help spread awareness of our Federation. We wish to extend our gratitude to Great Eastern Distributing, Animal Capture Equipment and JeffersPet.com for including FCF brochures and membership applications with their exotic feline related orders. You're helping get the word out and we sure appreciate it!

2003 Saw a Big Increase of new FCF Members over 2002. Members voted to change our name from LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation to the Feline Conservation Federation in 2002 amidst vocal minority opposition that the FCF board thoroughly and repeatedly proved to be without any factual basis. The controversy and accusations bled over onto several Internet feline lists as a couple of individuals conducted a campaign of disinformation and defamation and slander against our organization, activities and volunteer board members. In 2003 FCF volunteers improved our bi-monthly publication, increased the number of feline husbandry courses offered, initiated numerous legislative actions and furthered

our conservation projects. All this positive energy and activity attracted many new members to our Federation. FCF Member Services is proud to report 152 new members joined in the past 12 months. Since not every member registers his or her spouse when joining, we know the number of new members is actually higher. We welcome all to the Federation and ask that you take this time to register your spouse with Leann Montgomery, the Member Services Director, now, so that you may both enjoy voting privileges during this election and constitutional amendment year.

FCF will file first ever IRS form 990 for fiscal year 2003. Incorporated since 1980, our annual income has always been less than the \$25,000 minimum IRS reporting requirement threshold, so we have never filed an IRS income statement. FCF treasurer Harold Epperson reports 2003 fiscal year gross income was in excess of \$36,000 and this means we are definitely growing!

Trademark update on the Long Island Ocelot Club: During the October 2003 board meeting, FCF Vice President Robert Turner moved to file a federal registration of our long-standing service mark identity, Long Island Ocelot Club. Bob recognized the need, to protect our continued right to utilize our historic name whenever the need arises. Two days after Bob made this motion, Jeanne Hall incorporated the Long Island Ocelot Club in the state of Washington listing our FCF Life Directors John Perry and Carin Sousa as founding Life Directors of her corporation. Simultaneously she applied to register "Long Island Ocelot Club" with the US Patent and Trademark office. In 2004 the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, doing business as the Feline Conservation Federation, filed our federal registration application. Our use of this name dates back to 1957. Trademark registration approval is contingent upon two things – 1. That the phrase or artwork is not already registered as a Trademark. 2. That the item is "trademarkable", according to the Trademark guidelines. The FCF legal council has alerted the US Trademark office examiner of his cease and desist order issued on our behalf and sent by certified mail to the registered agent of this other corporation and all of its Board of Directors. We will eventually win this trademark controversy, but it will take time.

FCF Husbandry Course needs Portable Mini Projector donated. Are there any FCF members out there who have access to a used, but still usable Portable Mini Projector for the FCF Husbandry Courses and annual Convention Speakers? If you do, please contact Tracy Wilson and she will coordinate shipping. Remember FCF is a tax-deductible 501 c 3 charity; so if you have a Portable Mini Projector you don't use, consider donating it to FCF for an income tax write-off.

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors of the FCF

From January 1, 2004 to March 20, 2004 all FCF members may mail in their nomination of candidates for board positions to FCF secretary, Harold Epperson. (Mailing address is on the inside cover of each newsletter) It takes two FCF member signatures to properly nominate someone.

Ten seats on the Feline Conservation Federation Board of Directors are open to nominations; President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Director of Conservation & Education, Director of Legal Affairs, Director of Member Services, Director of Advertising and Publicity and three Life Director positions. The duties of each office are defined in the Membership Handbook that was included with the November/December issue of the FCF newsletter.

Our Constitution restricts the office of President to those who have previously served on the board of directors, or those who have been members in good standing for at least ten years. Our by-laws restrict the office of Life Director to only those who have previously served on the Board of Directors. All other offices are open to the full membership. Ballots are mailed in the September/October issue of the newsletter. Elected candidates take office January 1, 2005 and serve the members of FCF until December 31, 2006.

Most of the current Board of Directors has declined re-nomination of their present positions, including the President, the Vice President, the Director of Legal Affairs, the Director of Conservation and Education, the Director of Member Services and the Director of Advertising and Publicity.

Please take this time to reflect upon your dedication to our guiding purpose, the furtherance of responsible captive husbandry of exotic felines and consider running for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Feline Conservation Federation. *Ask not what the FCF can do for you, but what YOU can do for the Feline Conservation Federation*

News (continued from previous page)

Husbandry Course Hosts needed. We're looking for husbandry class hosts in areas where we have not recently held a class, such as the Northeastern states. Course hosts coordinate class advertising and accept reservations, secure the class location and share in the profits. Contact Tracy Wilson if you think you would like to host a class this spring or fall.

Basic Exotic Cat Care Booklets for sale. Extra copies of the FCF Basic Exotic Cat Care booklets that are part of every new FCF member package can be purchased for only \$2.50 each, including postage. These booklets provide new owners with basic information to get them started on the right foot. Send order info and payment to our treasurer.

FCF Accreditation Committee is hard at work. Last issue FCF announced the formation of an accreditation committee. FCF volunteer members have formulated this new program that will offer everyone, from single cat owners, to large scale breeders and sanctuaries the opportunity to be accredited by FCF for excellence in their standards of feline care and management. The committee has submitted their Accreditation program to the FCF BOD for approval.

The FCF@yahoogroups.com is for you. Our list is for members to chat about any cat related issues with other members, get to know each other and help each other with cat issues and basically stay in touch with FCF events. Updates about FCF business are posted from time to time so our members can get the latest news about FCF events first. We currently have over a hundred

members on the list and invitations have recently been sent out to new members at the email addresses they provided on their membership application. If anyone did not receive an invitation recently, we might not have his or her current or correct email address. If anyone would like to join, please send an email to the following address and include your full name that your membership is listed as to: The_FCF-owner@yahoogroups.com. Or visit the yahoo groups FCF web page at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/The_FCF/

Volunteers needed for FCF Art Auction Fund Raiser. A national art auction is being planned for later this year to raise funds for FCF projects. Volunteers interested in helping with the soliciting, advertising and set up of this fun endeavor, contact Mindy Stinner at mstinner@mindspring.com or call 336-421-0065. FCF artisans interested in donating to our auction are also asked to contact Mindy.



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Mummified lion unearthed in Egypt

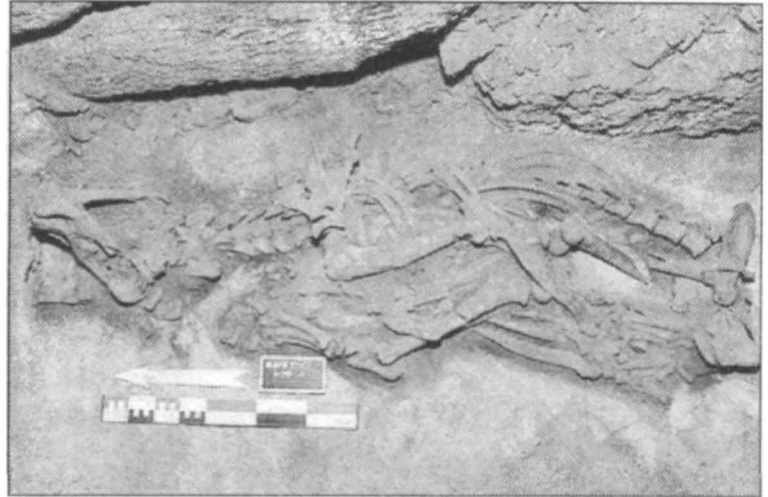
Submitted by Kermit Blackwell
Written by Paul Rincon
BBC News Online science staff

Archaeologists have uncovered the first example of a lion mummified by the ancient Egyptians, in the tomb of the woman who helped rear King Tutankhamun. Although the breeding and burial of lions as sacred animals in Egypt is mentioned by ancient sources, to date no one had found a mummified specimen.

The male lion is amongst the largest known to science and its bones show it lived to an old age in captivity. Details of the discovery are published in the scientific journal *Nature*.

Prof Alan Lloyd, University of Wales stated the lion was found in a tomb at Saqqara in northern Egypt belonging to Maia, wet nurse to Tutankhamun, who was buried in about 1430 BC. However, in the last centuries BC, the tomb was re-used for the burial of humans and then animals - mostly mummified cats.

French archaeologists Alain Zivie, Cecile Callou and Anaick Samzun unearthed the remains of the big cat in November 2001. It comprises the virtually complete skeleton of a lion (*Panthera leo*) that was once mummified.



The surge of interest in animal cults may be the ancient Egyptians' way of asserting their identity in the presence of these newcomers.

"I think this should be regarded as an expression of Egyptian nationalism," said Professor Lloyd.

Cats and dogs

Inscriptions suggest lions were bred in special animal precincts and buried in sacred cemeteries. But so far none has been found.

Professor Lloyd said he had heard rumors in the early 1970s of a mummified lion being found in Egypt. However, the person excavating the lion apparently was not interested in it and the location of the find was lost.

During the last few centuries BC, the site at Saqqara where the lion was buried was dedicated to the feline goddess Bastet.

The lion was found lying on a rock with its head turned north and its body orientated toward the east. Its bone measurements are amongst the largest ever recorded for a male lion.

In addition to cats, the Egyptians also mummified dogs, birds, snakes and monkeys.



Bred for mummification

Analysis of the teeth, particularly the wear on them, show that the lion lived to be very old and must have been kept in captivity. Alan Lloyd, professor of classics and ancient history at the University of Wales, Swansea, told BBC News Online: "The lion is a creature that has a long association with the king [of Egypt]."

"The king was thought of as a lion and as having the qualities of a lion. The qualities the Egyptians were interested in, of course, were martial."

In the last few centuries BC, Egypt was under invasion by waves of outsiders, from Iraq, Nubia (which today comprises parts of Sudan and Egypt) and Greece.

Wild animal slaughter surges for fashion

The return of fur to the world's fashion catwalks has spelled death to thousands of endangered animals with a boom in demand for their skins, a top wildlife protection officer said on Friday. John Sellar, senior enforcement officer for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), said there had been a surge in seizures of tiger and leopard skins as the fashion industry embraced fur once again. Only last month, Chinese officials impounded 1,276 illegal pelts in their biggest seizure to date. They said the skins had come from 32 tigers, 579 leopards and 665 otters. In Tibet, the endangered Chiru antelope is slaughtered for its underfur, which is made into a very fine, cashmere-like material called Shahtoosh. Story by Jeremy Lovell

My ongoing attempt to create a “natural habitat” for two clouded leopards

Clouded

by Judy Berens



I have been enchanted with clouded leopards for what seems like forever. My acquisition of two clouded leopards just over a year ago sent me into a frenzy of habitat building. The two, 7 and 8 years of age, had not been handled since they were cubs. They had formerly resided in a spotlessly clean but spartan cage, so I set out in advance of their arrival to create “clouded heaven.” I drew and re-drew layouts and plans.

Finally I decided on an area away from all of my larger cats where they could enjoy some well deserved privacy. The basic blueprint of the enclosure is a 20 by 48 foot rectangle divided into three sections with doors connecting the sections. There are lock out double-doors on each end

and an additional door allows entry to the middle section. All three sections have a view of a wide canal where many wading birds gather.

My concept was not really original – I was hoping that a hitherto non-breeding pair would be enticed to normal breeding behavior if they were content with their surroundings. At 7 and 8 years of age they had never bred. History was against me and the female’s multiple health problems, including cataracts, low thyroid, chronic bladder infections and a wide variety of allergies, further complicated things. Most of her conditions are now under control. She has bonded with me to the point that she will allow me to give her injections and clip her nails. She comes out to greet me when I enter the enclosure and call to her. Talk about an honor! He, on the other hand, is not yet very trusting.

Having read every piece of literature I could find on the habits and preferences of clouded leopards both in captivity and in the wild, I settled on a selection of amenities. I spoke with Rick Swartz at the Nashville Zoo. He has had phenomenal success breeding cloudeds and was willing to share his knowledge of habitat design.

The enclosure walls are standard 8-foot tall, 9-gauge chain link. To accommodate aerial activities the roof is pitched to a height of 12 feet down the centerline. There is a “his” and “hers” section and a “theirs” section in between. The center section replicates a jungle. Thick areca palm clusters several feet in diameter and 10 feet tall were added to an existing majesty palm to create a canopy high above the roof level. Logs, an 18-inch diameter 6-foot long tube and a barrel to simulate a den are nestled among ferns, mulched paths and mondo grass. Alocasias, which look like elephant ears, seasonal flowers and a pre-cast rock water fountain, complete the feel. The bench for me was an afterthought, but I find that the female likes to lie on



Heaven

it to sun herself.

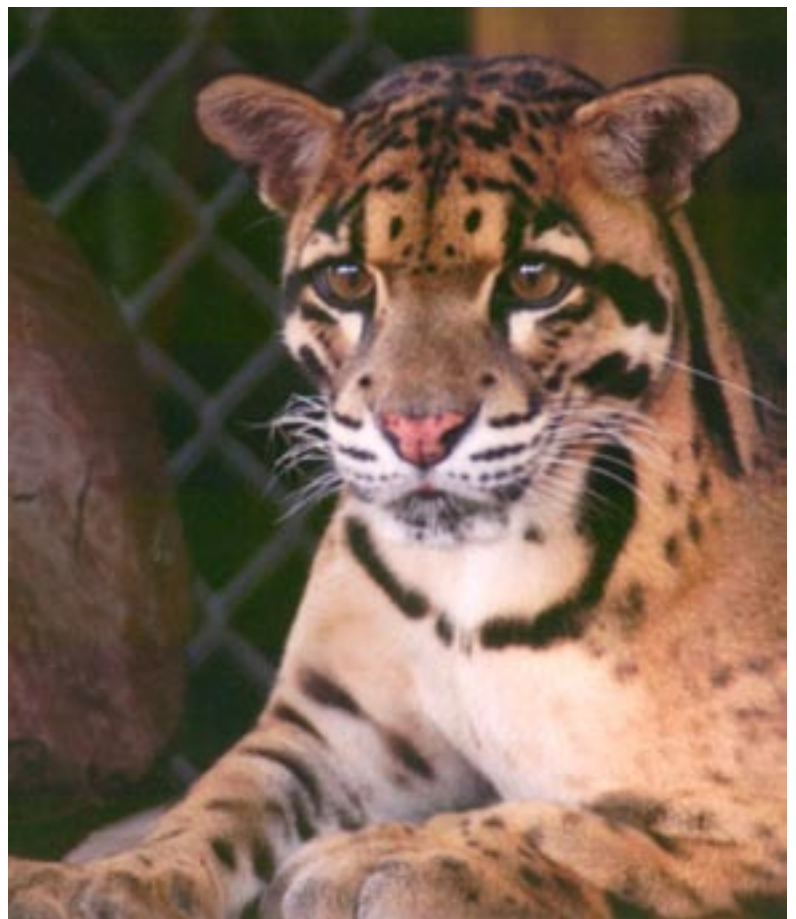
The his and hers sections are 12 by 16 foot decks, which hold two sets of double decker platforms with hanging log walkways in between. Each side has an igloo and a barrel up top for high level sleeping. I find it curious that they often choose to nap on ground level hidden under the big ferns – I thought they would prefer the higher bunks.

I have the luxury of being able to observe my cats at all hours and they really do come alive just before dusk. I sometimes feed after dark, especially when the weather is very hot and I usually find them cruising around and mock hunting each other. They seem to do a lot of chasing each other – at least until the meals arrive.

I feed chicken thighs, necks, and beef chunks with Oasis vitamins every day and giblets several times a week. I also believe in “whole” foods, so each day they also get a small rat, a chick or a mouse. Sunday is their favorite – a whole rabbit – and there is not so much as a toenail left.



So now, a year after their arrival, though it does not appear that they intend to breed, they are happier, fitter and friendlier than they have ever been. I feel that they are as content as any cloudies in captivity. And am honored that they accepted me. I remain ever hopeful that one day I will arrive in the morning to clean and find the miracle of new life in clouded heaven.



My Visit to Panther Ridge Sanctuary

by Leann Montgomery

We arrived at the home of FCF member Judy Berens after dark on Saturday evening so we wouldn't get the opportunity for a sneak peak at her entire facility, Panther Ridge Sanctuary, before the tour, but that was okay. You see, it had been a very long day instructing the husbandry course and chatting with students during the breaks. I had talked with Judy and knew that she had a young female ocelot that lived in her home. Anyone who knows me or even spends a minor amount of time around me knows that I am obsessed with ocelots. Judy had promised that I could sleep with her precious Delilah that night. I was exhausted and looking forward to a good night's sleep with a velvety soft ocelot at my side. I was too excited about the prospect of satisfying my addiction to ocelots to catch the subtle hints that Judy had been dropping about her precious little Delilah. I thought the little snickers she made anytime I mentioned cuddling up to Delilah was my own excitement and delight becoming contagious. Boy was I in for a surprise.

When we walked in the front door of Judy's home, I just knew she had lied to me. There was no ocelot living in THIS house. The place was immaculate and absolutely breathtaking. There were beautiful antiques and breakables everywhere, all in pristine condition. Nothing was out of place anywhere. It would be impossible to leave a young ocelot in this home unattended all day and not come home to find something at least knocked over, if not smashed to pieces. And where's the smell? Even the cleanest ocelot homes smell like ocelot. I wanted to smell ocelot, the potpourri of the Gods. I began scanning the rooms for any sign of an ocelot. Nothing. Oh wait, there's a small mouse on the floor in the hallway. It wasn't a cruel joke after all. No one has frozen mice lying around their home unless an exotic cat lives there.

As I continued my hunt for the ocelot, there was a chirp and a thump coming from Judy's bedroom. Ocelots don't chirp, they grumble and cuss. As Judy opened the curtains to the French provincial doors, we could see two beautifully magnificent cougars staring back at us. Judy stepped out the door and left Lynn and me to gaze in awe at what we were seeing. These two cougars lived in Judy's entire backyard. And once again there was nothing out of place. The tropical Florida landscaping was intact. The potted plants actually sat upright, which never happens at my house. These cats had lush green grass to lay in and an air-conditioned building. The entire fence was surrounded by a 12 foot hedge for privacy. It was absolutely beautiful. We watched as Judy lavished affection on these two huge dog-tame cougars. I had only met Judy briefly at the Raleigh convention several years ago and quite honestly I was a little apprehensive about staying with a stranger, but at that moment, any unease I felt disappeared. Standing there watching her interact with these two cats against such a gorgeous backdrop, I was suddenly thankful to have the opportunity to get to know this stranger and proud that we were members of the same organization. And I couldn't wait to see the entire facility. If this was a preview of what was to come, we were in for a real treat.

Then I suddenly remembered something.... Where's that damn ocelot? We began searching the house again for Delilah. We



finally found her beneath the bed in the guest room. All hopes of cuddling with an ocelot that night were literally batted right out of my head. Delilah let it be known that she was not at all pleased to have overnight guests and she had no intentions of cuddling up to anyone but Judy. I managed to get in a quick pet of her luxurious coat and then received a good cussing and a few swats to my head. I guess I should have known. I've been working with wild cats for nearly five years now and my only scars were inflicted by a female ocelot. In fact, I've only met a few female ocelots that didn't immediately go for my face. So I wasn't a big hit with Delilah, but tomorrow was another day and she wasn't the only cat here.

We woke up early on Sunday morning and followed Judy on her daily rounds before the other husbandry course attendees arrived for the tour. The grounds were stunning. The first cat we met was Amos, a striking 200lb male black leopard with the personality of a puppy. You could see that he absolutely adored Judy and couldn't wait for her to finish spreading his fresh mulch and let him out of his lockdown to visit with her. Standing by his cage, I could smell the faint smell of ocelot. Although I tried to be good and remain standing there, my addiction got the best of me and I followed my nose to the source. There he was, the cutest little tank of a male ocelot I think I've ever seen. Judy came over and formally introduced me to Monty, who had been confiscated from a stripper's apartment in Miami. In the enclosure next to him was Cody, another male ocelot whose owner gave him up. Cody was not very happy and preferred to stay in his den box. Although Monty was not upset by our presence, he kept his distance. I was warned that neither cat was trustworthy and it would be wise to keep my fingers out of the cage.

As the other guests started to arrive for the tour I found myself being drawn back to Monty. I spent some quiet time talking to him when no one was around and he began to warm up to me. Carefully (because I had been warned) I put my hand flat against the cage to gauge his reaction, he began to lick my hand, and from that moment on, I was in love. I couldn't tear myself away from him. I sat there while everyone else toured the facility. The group finally arrived at the ocelot enclosures and watched as I sat near the cage. There was a young boy there with his parents who was also fascinated by Monty. His parents told him several times not to get too close. He sat down beside me but far enough away from the cage that Monty couldn't

reach him and he watched as Monty kept trying to get my attention. As we were sitting there, I got the distinct impression that I was about to get claimed and started to back up, even though the cat was just walking back and forth rubbing against me through the fence. Judy's volunteer, Ellen, assured me that Monty never sprayed people. So I relaxed and went back to talking to the young boy and the next thing I know it's raining ocelot spray. I was the obvious recipient of most of Monty's affection, but the boy didn't escape unmarked. I was happy to be worthy of this kind of affection, especially since it was not Monty's style to go claiming just anyone he met. The young boy was not at all excited about it. His parents didn't have to tell him again to step back from the cage.

I don't even know where to begin to tell you about all the wonderful things we saw. I've only given you a tiny glimpse at the things there that touched me personally. Panther Run is home to 3 ocelots, 2 clouded leopards, 6 cougars, a tiger, a caracal and a serval. All of these cats have fabulous spacious enclosures, landscaped with amazing Florida vegetation. These cats live in the lap of luxury. The tiger's swimming tank was covered in beautiful hand-painted artwork. Lynn and I watched in amazement after the tour when all the guests had left as Amos the leopard came out on a leash and promptly hopped on top of the golf cart for his afternoon ride. The animals there have it made. And Judy definitely knows how to handle them. I was shocked when I learned that the clouded leopards were former zoo cats and that she still went in with them. The female behaved as if she had been hand-raised by Judy. I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to visit Panther Run to do so. It's a fabulous place. Thank you to Judy Berens for all her hospitality and to Nanette McGann for all her hard work in making this husbandry course a success and a pleasure.



To Whom It May Concern:

The FCF Basic Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry class held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on December 6th, 2003 was a great experience for a newcomer like me. The instructors were well experienced, and very friendly. It was wonderful to meet so many caring and knowledgeable people while attending this course. The topics, which ranged from permit requirements, to facility design and nutritional planning, were very helpful.

I learned a great deal about the care of these wonderful animals. The course covered basics such as feeding and veterinary care, to planning for emergency situations. Whether newcomer, private owner, or established caregiver, this program was full of interesting and useful information. Advice on planning for the arrival of a new kitten or simply looking for ways to further enrich the lives of zoo and sanctuary animals was insightful and valuable.

One area of interest for me was the natural disaster planning. Having a written plan in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster, such as storing fresh clean drinking water and keeping the animals safe during the storm was of great benefit to me.

I would also like to mention how impressed I was with the 2 Florida FWC Law Enforcement officers who graciously volunteered their time to attend the course and answer any questions we had. They were extremely knowledgeable and offered to be available to answer any additional questions or concerns I might have in the future.

I would highly recommend this course for anyone who is currently involved in working with any of the wild feline species or who has a desire to acquire one as a personal pet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra S. Hoskey
Palm Harbor, FL

FCF Member wins County Zoning Victory – *but at a tremendous price*

Florida is a unique state. Basically exotic friendly, the Florida Freshwater Fish and Game office have the oversight on all captive animal permits. Individual counties may not ban possession of exotics, they may however, impose zoning rules to stop ownership. The following story illustrates that even in Florida, licensed, qualified and responsible individuals still have to fight for their right to keep exotic felines.

We wished to develop our 20-acres as a future wildlife sanctuary, so in May of 2000 we applied for a special exception permit to house 10 Class I and 30 Class II felines with our county. The case was heard in September. The neighborhood already contained exotic felines, in fact one nearby 5-acre parcel housed 10 Class I felines so county staff assured us not to worry as no one had ever been turned down.

The hearing turned out to be a circus. Forty neighbors and those who board their horses at the adjoining ranch protested the permit, sighting fears that the sanctuary would be a nuisance, smell up the neighborhood, be noisy and their livestock would be in danger.

Our property had already been partially developed; an 8-foot tall perimeter fence surrounded the entire 20 acres. A double electric gate, placed 75 feet apart so trucks could safely pull in and the first gate could close before the other one opens, was in place. There were eight cages measuring 16 feet X 40 feet and 10-feet tall, all made of 6-gauge welded wire already built.

Our request was turned down and had to be appealed to the circuit court. One year and 3 judges later, they decided to not hear the case. Then we appealed to the appellate court and another year later, they wouldn't hear the case. We reapplied to the county again with a request for 4 Class I and 16 Class II animals. This time we were prepared. It was two full-days of hearings. Before the hearing we were inspected by the Maiden hearing examiner. She visited our property. She came with the court attorney and saw the cages already built on the property that were designed to hold tigers, presently occupied by our prairie dogs, raccoons, and other tiny creatures. She saw our 8-foot tall perimeter fence, and double-gate entry. Then she toured the facility where our two tigers were being boarded. These were my babies – I raised them from birth and it pains me that the county has forbid us to bring them to the property that was purchased with their lifetime care needs in mind.

Then I took the examiner and her sister to the facility where Octave and Sultana (my tigers) are boarded. I went up to them and said "Here is your chance to tell the Maiden hearing examiner how you feel about the situation." Octave walked up to the cage and rubbed his cheek against the cage and moaned. To me this moaning sounded like "Please let me live with my mommy." So I translated that and they laughed.

The examiner told me that anything said during her site checks

was not used for her to make a decision. She also told me that she did not have any children and her dogs were her children. I guess the point I am making is at the time I was not feeling well at all, but I wrote a letter to the court pleading for my animals' quality of life and I arranged to meet her for the tours because I just had this feeling in my gut that would not go away. I listened to it and acted on it and I feel strongly that it helped our case very much.

We were much more prepared for our court case then last time. We had expert witnesses. Some people testified that they have exotics and horses on their property and it did not bother the horses. We got 40 of our neighbors to sign that did not have a problem with us. We stayed very calm with the outrageous statements the neighbors made. They called us names and made comments when my husband or our lawyer spoke and we just smiled and acted professional.

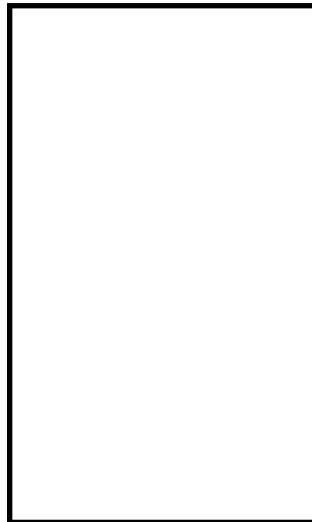
Our lawyer did a great job and did most the work. We did not address every issue the neighbors had because they were so ridiculous our attorney said it did not matter what they said. One example: If we said we would put a solid fence across the back so the horses could not see, they said then that was worse for the horses to be able to smell them and not see them. There is no comprising with irrational people.

I think the biggest turning point was having the site check of our property. Our attorney said it was in our advantage for her to come there. He was very impressed with our security measures when he finally toured our property. He had not seen the property before the first hearing and I think he fought harder for us at the second hearing having visited our land. The last sentence in his closing was, "Our land was more suitable then the other parcels that had previously been approved."

We were told in December of 03 that we had won, however there was a list of conditions that had to be met. Some are easy some are going to be difficult. We have to have \$1,000,000.00 in insurance. We can only have 2 Class I animals and 8 Class II animals. If we get anybody to help with the animals they have to have to be Class I and II licensed with the state. We can't board or temporarily house anyone else's animal. We have to have a 100 foot setback for class II and a 200 foot setback for Class I cages. There is a whole list of things, but these are the worst.

I do not think we would have got here if we did not have an attorney. It cost us \$31,000, but it is a small price to pay to live with my children forever and be able to provide them with more then they could ever have where they are.

I think it is so sad that we are able to financially provide animals in need a home and the love they require but the county will not let us foster. Also no matter where you go there are always people saying, "We love animals, we just do not want to live by them."



“ARA” Quick Survival Guide

by Marcus Cook

The ARA people are on the attack! With new a-tactics. They’ve sunk to a new low, telling and reporting lies about animal operations and owners. Their modus operandi ... their M.O? **To force regulatory agencies to do their dirty work.** By hook or by crook. Through pressure and threats. Could this be the main reason for their in-house attorneys? As a threat to the regulatory agencies so they’ll keep pressure on ARA targets?

The ARA people have evolved to using the power of information to do most of their fighting for them. We are seeing them report “alleged issues” at the animal facilities to every government agency, from the local dogcatcher all the way to the USDA and IRS. Their goal seems to be to keep you fighting, take up your time, drain your emotional and financial resources and wear you down. Think about the last five years; all of us know someone or some company (animal related) that has elected to just stop handling animals, all because they just don’t want to fight anymore or put up with the B.S. They were not shut down; they “elected” to get out of it because they got tired of dealing with all the crap. (I hope I can say that, <grin>)

The number of people that elected to get out of animals far exceeds those that were actually shut down or forced out of the business, but the ARA people love to claim a victory on anything. Just remember that may not be the case. I am aware of several large firms that have dissolved under this attack, most recently, myself included.

Non-profit companies are at a higher risk of attack for the simple fact that in most states, the assets of the non-profit are not really considered to be one persons single property, (animals included) unless it is stated in some form or agreement with the company. Also the state has a ton of control over you that they can exercise at anytime, so keep that in mind. In this day and age of battle with the ARA, non-profit status may not be a safe thing. Here is some simple ways to make it even harder for the “ARA Monster” to try and back door attack you or your company:

1. Make sure that your 7019 and 7020 form, (USDA) are in absolute perfect detail regarding information.
2. Make sure your Program of Veterinarian Care (PVC) is up to date, within the last 24 months. Always be species-specific in your vet care description if you have multiple species.
3. Have your veterinarian do written and detailed inspection of your facility every 6 months. If you have a back-up vet, have them do one too. More is better. The ARA Monster loves to claim animal neglect and poor care every chance they get. This will shut that door down.
4. Never ever cut corners if you move, sell or transfer animals. I have seen owners get tight for money and take chances “just this once” to sell an animal that is under USDI regulations without the proper permits. No matter how bad you may be hurting for money, I strongly urge you not to do it! The tactic from the “ARA Monster” is to put a chokehold on your wallet and then sit back and force you to do this to survive. They will be watching and waiting for it and pounce upon it.
5. Taxes: Insure that all your personal tax and business records are current and update. This means everything, personal tax, business tax, non-profit yearly reports, state franchise tax, state sales tax - all of it. These are some of the first things an ARA group will probe into.
6. Asset ownership: Who owns what? Every single piece of equipment should have an assigned owner and it should be in writing somewhere in the company records, **including your animals.** It has been ruled in a State District Court that a USDA 7020 form is not a title of ownership of an animal. **This is important if you are a non-profit.** If an ARA Monster attacks your non-profit and forces you into receivership and can say or show that the animals are the property of the “company” and not an “individual”, they can take them from you immediately **before** you can have any hearing in front of a Judge. If the ARA Monster places the animals for care with another “ARA friendly” facility, should you be able to finally get them back they are going to hit you with outrageous boarding care fees **before** you get them back. **There is absolutely nothing wrong with the animals being owned by a private person or another company and then loaned to the non-profit for use.** Just make sure all the USDA requirements are met if you are exhibiting.
7. Make sure that all of your company by-laws, corporate minutes, resolutions, etc. are up to date. Most courts will rule that if you have not “acted like a corporation” they will not consider you a corporation and therefore you will not be afforded the protection under any corporate umbrella laws. This makes the job of cutting up your assets (animals) much easier for the ARA Monster.
8. Attorneys: Every time I mention that word I hear cash register sounds, <grin> nevertheless, this is important. It is always a good idea to have a current relationship with an attorney(s). Even if you do not need their services right away, this gives you a very strong advantage. Keep your attorney(s) up to date with industry news and your affairs, even if it is just sending an e-mail of animal news related stories that affect you. The big thing the ARA Monster likes to do if they attack you is hit you hard and fast and send you running looking for legal council. It is very hard to locate an attorney in a panic and bring them up to speed in a situation like this.
9. Employees: If you have employees, ensure that you are in complete compliance with state and federal tax laws and regulations. Even you have just one single employee, act like it is the same as a Fortune 500 company. Also make sure you are complaint with all OSHA related topics and Immigration laws.
10. Employees and Volunteers: I can’t say enough about background checks when dealing with this topic. ARA Monsters love to place so-called undercover investigators in an animal facility or shelter. Once trusted with the duties of animal care and cleaning, they can stage all of their photos and accusations for reporting. If you have employees or volunteers, consider hiring a company that performs background

checks. The small amount you spend on fees is well worth it. Many states allow a polygraph test (lie detector) prior to employment and you should consider it.

A brief word about the USDA - we all know that the Animal Welfare Act seems to be written like stereo instructions. You can ask two different inspectors the same question and usually get two different answers. Some inspectors seem to be willing to do the right thing and some display an attitude to shut you down. It all depends on the individual inspector. So what can you do? One thing that I found extremely useful is to record absolutely every single contact or communication you have with them. Video tape the inspections, start to finish. Many states allow you to record telephone conversations you are a part of without notifying the other party. (check your local state law) Document everything, no matter how brief the conversation may be!

By no means should any of this discourage you as an animal owner! The ARA Monster has been around for a very long time and will always be with us, so don't let this dampen your love and interest in your magnificent animals.

I believe the reason ZooCats, Inc. was the first target in this new warfare style was that ZooCats, Inc. had established itself with many of the heavy hitter theme parks and large event locations. We reached more people than ever, educating them on the status of tigers and other animals and enlightened them on the so-called self proclaimed "ARA" people that constantly fill the public's head with false information on animals. ZooCats, Inc. was and still is a strong education voice for ***all*** animal owners!

Most of you know of the attack that PETA and the Texas Attorney General launched on our company and all the nasty things that were said about us. We believe this was a "beta-test-attack" to see just how effective this style of an attack would work. We had a ton of support and even in the beginning stages of the attack I was always asked, "How do you stay so calm?" That answer is easy, "There is nothing like going to war when you have 100% of the truth on your side". And I am a firm believer there are two sides to every story. So if you ever go under attack from the "idiots", remember never get into a panic. Always think, think, think. Any decision made under panic is usually a mistake. And never get discouraged. After all that these villains put us through, forcing us to run up \$130,000 in attorneys fees, my love and interest in the animals is as strong as ever.

So on behalf of my fellow animal owners all over the world, my message to all you ARA self-proclaimed "saviors of the animals" with self-titled positions like "Animals in Entertainment Specialist" (*animals who's species names you don't even know!*) is "You can have my animals when you pry them from my cold, stiff, frozen, dead hands. We will never stop fighting, we will never give up, and we will never let go!"

Always support one another. The ARA Monster loves to see us all fighting with one another. I have a saying "There is only one thing that two animal handlers will agree on, and that is what the third one is doing is wrong!" <grin> Remember my friends, "Together, everyone achieves more! Stand tall, stand proud and stand together and 2004 will be a great year!"



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EXOTIC ANIMALS TAKEN FROM USDA LICENSED OWNER

Appeals prevent their return after owner found innocent of charges

Prepared by Sandy Reynolds, Owner of Plantation Delight
Edited by Sara Comstock

Sandy Reynolds, of Plantation Delight in Pennsylvania, has been a breeder and seller of animals for the last 10 years. She started with her first exotics—sugar gliders. She touched base with every regulatory agency and received the same answer; “Sugar gliders are a pocket pet, so there’s no need to regulate them.” The PA Game Commission stated, “We only deal with animals indigenous to PA.”

Two years later, the USDA notified her they had changed their minds and she needed to become licensed as a USDA Exotic Animal Breeder. Years passed and she added African Servals, Fennec Fox, Ringtail Lemurs, Kinkajous, Genets and a Dama Wallaby to her collection. Sandy also acquired through the PA Department of Agriculture a Kennel License, and a Dealers/ Haulers license. At the time, Sandy assumed she was completely legal through the USDA, until someone mentioned to her approximately 2 years ago that she was required to obtain a permit to legally possess and sell by the PA Game Commission.

Sandy notified the PA Game Commission on July 6, 2001, questioning the need for additional licenses. They became very agitated over being informed she had in her possession exotic animals without their permission. The local Game Officer arrived on August 8, 2001 and she showed him all of her USDA records. On August 30, 2001, the Game Officer returned and implied she had broken Pennsylvania Law. The Game Officer stated she would be allowed to keep her African Servals, Fennecs and Sugar Gliders, and would allow her to obtain a PA Exotic Breeders license. All her other animals must be sold or given away. Some of the animals they said must be sent away were exotic and others were not. In other words, the Commission did not govern some of her animals. She asked for this in writing and also asked for a copy of the laws to be sent to her.

The Game Officer arrived at her home again on November 24, 2001, with an application for an Exotic Breeders Permit, and a PA Export Permit to get rid of “animals-out of state.” He also had a copy of one paragraph from the PA Game Commission concerning the laws governing exotics, and he did not have a complete copy of the rules and regulations. He told her that she still needed to get rid of her animals that were not regulated by the Commission (because “there is no license in Pa for breeding these types of animals”) and the ones that were purchased and brought into the state illegally. She told him some of her animals had been purchased from within the state from licensed breeders. He stated he did not know these breeders and would check into it. She asked once again to see everything in writing and for a copy of the laws to be sent to her. The following week, she filled out and mailed in the application for the Exotic Breeders Permit.

On May 16, 2002, the same Commission’s Officer returned and gave back her application for the Exotic Breeders Permit. He said the application could not be processed because there was no township letter attached, allowing her to possess exotic animals within the township. Sandy’s husband informed the officer that nowhere on the application does it state a letter from the township is needed. The officer replied that he had given Sandy an old application, but he had mentioned to Sandy verbally that she needed a township letter. Per

Sandy, the Officer did not mention in his previous visit that the application given was outdated, nor did he mention that one of the requirements was a letter approving ownership of exotics by the township. Frustration had set in on all parties and the officer left, threatening to return with a warrant to confiscate of her animals.

Sandy contacted her local State Representative and asked for his assistance. He proceeded to make the necessary phone calls and tried to get in touch with the Officer. The State Representative received conflicting information that left him confused as well. He offered to meet with the Game Officer.

On June 15, 2002, the same Commission’s Officer returned with another Officer. He stated that he wanted to resolve this before the end of the fiscal year in two weeks. I told him that the State Representative had wanted to meet with him and was trying to set up an appointment to where they all could discuss the situation. The State Representative tried numerous times to reach the game officer to set up a meeting, but none of his

Pennsylvania laws summarized

PA regulations are confusing because they are covered under two sections – Title 58 and Title 34. Section 29 of Title 34 lists four permits: Exotic Wildlife Possession, Exotic Wildlife Dealer, Menagerie and Wildlife Propagation. The phrase “Exotic Wildlife” under this section is both vaguely and narrowly defined, leaving room for confusion. It states, “*Exotic wildlife includes but is not limited to, all bears, coyotes, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars, wolves and any crossbreed of these animals which have similar characteristics in appearance or features. The definition is applicable whether or not the birds or animals were bred or reared in captivity or imported from another state or nation.*” (Why mention birds at all?) However, in Title 58, a different and more precise definition clarifies that “exotic wildlife” as it pertains to felines, “*includes all members of the family Felidae, except domestic house cats*”. Title 58 also contains under the “general” heading: (d) *Applications for permits issued under this part and Chapter 29 of the act (relating to special licenses and permits) shall be accompanied by written documentation from the applicant’s local governmental body where the activity will take place, that the privilege granted by the permit does not violate any enacted zoning, ordinance or other local rule. Documentation shall be provided in writing by official correspondence from an authorized officer of the municipality involved.* Unfortunately, this requirement does not appear anywhere in Title 34, where one finds what appears to be the full scope of these permits and requirements.

PA requires an Exotic Wildlife Dealer permit for selling or trading the exotic feline species. Only menageries are allowed to possess non-native wildlife species and Menageries must be open to the public. Dispersal of any Menagerie animals must be “primarily for the maintenance of the Menagerie”. A Propagators permit is needed for the breeding of native wildlife species. There is no possession or dealing permit offered by PA G C for most species of non-native wildlife, nor is there any specific regulations that prohibit these activities. However, PA does have a law to forbid the importation of non-native wildlife into PA.

the State Representative had wanted to meet with him and was trying to set up an appointment to where they all could discuss the situation. The State Representative tried numerous times to reach the game officer to set up a meeting, but none of his calls Representative had wanted to meet with him and was trying to set up an appointment to where they all could discuss the situation. The State Representative tried numerous times to reach the game officer to set up a meeting, but none of his calls were returned.

On Aug 2002, Sandy e-mailed the Governor and asked for clarification regarding the PA laws regulating animals. There are two conflicting laws in Pennsylvania. Act 100 of 1996 states, any animal in captivity is a domestic animal, and Title 34-of the Game Codes that are very ambiguous. The Governor forwarded her email inquiry to the PA Game Commission. Soon after, Sandy received a letter from the Commission that clearly showed they were very upset with her for contacting the governor. In this letter, the Commission stated they had been more than patient with her and had informed her of the PA Exotic Wildlife Laws of which she was now in violation. She contacted her State Representative, and was told the PA Game Commission had filed a complaint with the District Attorney's Office. The complaint stated she had 30 days to comply. Sandy never received the complaint in the mail and made the decision to hire a lawyer. Sandy's lawyer contacted the District Attorney's office, who stated there was neither a complaint nor documentation filed against her.

The lawyer continued his investigation, and assured her he had convinced the PA Commission her animals were all exotics. He also said he was trying to set up a meeting on her behalf, but was having problems reaching the Game Officer.

March 19, 2003. A man posing as someone who was interested in purchasing a six-month-old female serval for his girlfriend, visited Sandy's home, and stated he would get back to her on Friday, March 21st.

On Friday, March 21st, at approximately, 9:00 AM. A State Police car and six trucks pulled into Sandy's driveway.

What happened next was dramatic, heartbreaking and totally chaotic. Nine officers compiled of State Troopers and Game Commission Officers pulled into her driveway. The Officer in charge stated they had a search warrant and were there to confiscate all her animals, as well as search her home. They also had a police officer video tape the entire search and seizure process.

The Officer in charge gave her a choice: either she assisted them in removing her animals to ensure their safety, or they would do it. He stated if they removed her animals, they would not guarantee her animals would not be harmed, nor would they guarantee their safety. She told them her female serval was ready to give birth. Their reply was that Sandy was to put her serval into the carrier, or they would. As she watched in horror, the Officer pulled one of her animals, the lemur, off the rafters by her tail and literally forced her into a carrier. She also witnessed her animals being placed in the back of a truck that contained dead geese.

Sandy Reynolds appeared in court on November 17th, before Oxford District Justice Harry W. Farmer, Jr., and found not guilty. Her attorney, C. Richard Morton, filed a petition in Chester County Court seeking the return of 12 animals and their expected offspring. A wallaby named Dante had died in state custody.

During the December 3rd court appearance in Chester County Court with Chester County Senior Judge Lawrence E. Wood, the PA Game Commission, represented by attorney Bradley C. Bechtel, stated the animals should not be returned. The reason given was that Sandy Reynolds still did not have a state permit to possess them, prompting argument over which animals come under the state's control. Attorney Bechtel also stated the animals represented contraband, the way illegal drugs are, and he criticized Oxford District Judge Farmer's previous ruling.

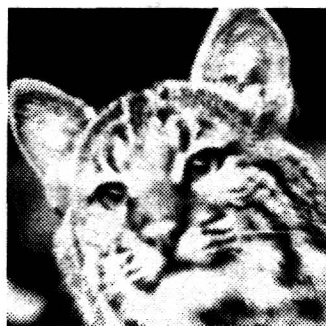
Judge Wood heard several hours of argument, much of which involved dueling definitions and variations of the word, "exotics." Per Judge Wood, "The long and the short of it is that I cannot even say that these animals of Ms. Reynolds were 'exotic wildlife,' let alone that they were or now are 'contraband.' For that reason, I am at a loss to know why they should not be returned to their rightful owner." The judge gave no timetable for his directive.

After a long wait and a tedious court battle, Sandy Reynolds, who had 33 charges filed against her and a total of almost \$20,000 in fines, had been found not guilty of all counts on December 23rd, 2003. The Chester County Senior Judge, Judge Lawrence E. Wood, issued an opinion and ruled for her animals to be returned to her.

Sandy's lawyer called Judge Wood's ruling a "Christmastime reminder to all of us that everyone, even government agencies, needs to abide by court decisions."

As of January 2004, the Pennsylvania Game Commission had filed "Reconsideration" for Judge Wood's decision. It appears this is a stall tactic by the Commission, allowing them to retain her animals longer, and it also delays the filing time for the appeal. This case seems destined for the PA Supreme Court. In the meantime, Sandy's African Servals and the rest of her animals are being housed in outdoor unprotected pens. She is not confident after the death of her wallaby that her remaining animals will be returned to her alive and healthy. Perhaps the Game Commission believes that this stall tactic will eventually discourage Sandy from pursuing this any further. In other words, the hopes of the Commission are that this incident will be forgotten.

N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center



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A Look Back at Felines in the Press during 2003

Is it any wonder responsible feline keepers are facing such grim times?

What are we going to do about it?

A quick review of the news stories posted on the various Internet lists reveals an alarming amount of negative press coverage and a glaring absence of positive stories. When mainstream America only reads of problems, they develop a distorted view of the issue. It is highly imperative that responsible FCF members develop a relationship with their local Features Editor and feature reporters in 2004 and make the effort to pitch their story to spotlight the good works of private ownership. Lets all work together this year and turn this trend around!

These are just a few of the stories that gained public attention in 2003. The year opened with the raid on a long-time USDA and state licensed sanctuary where horrific conditions existed, progressed to two new deaths by tigers and ended with a splashy media-event court hearing featuring a Harlem tiger-owning apartment dweller and his Johnnie Cochran firm attorney.

Several of these summaries use the wording printed in national papers. Not always accurate but it is what the public reads and it determines to a large extent the public opinion on feline keepers that increasingly leans towards the radical animal rights view that opposes us. We must all do our part in 2004 to bring awareness of the need for responsible captive husbandry or we will not be around to do it in the future.

Lynn Culver

In March, Sandra Smith, owner/operator of Wesa-A-Geh-Ya sanctuary in rural Warren County MO was sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to wildlife-confinement violations.

In April, California F & G raided John Weinhart's home in Colton and found 30 tigers dead and left to rot and 61 dead cubs in a freezer. Weinhart's 8-year-old son was living in the home with the rotting animals.

In early April Lynda Brackett, volunteer at Safari Joe's Rock Creek Exotic Animal Park, near Adair, Oklahoma, died after suffering major blood loss when a resident tiger bit off her arm.

In early June WI Tiger Zone breeder Grant Oly's tiger bites a pregnant woman and the judge orders the tiger cub euthanized. Nakita is confiscated. Prosecutors are taking Oly to court, saying his tiger habitat is a public nuisance and he violates zoning laws.

Also in June, Melanie Szegedi, a Salley, S.C. woman is charged with neglecting to register a dangerous animal with Aiken County Animal Control. She was given 18 days to prove she had \$50,000 liability insurance coverage on her Bengal/ Siberian tiger.

End of June in Calhan, Colo. a 32-year-old employee at Big Cats of Serenity Springs Feline Sanctuary was hospitalized after he was bitten by one of the tigers.

In early July Cincinnati, Ohio local police search for a lion reported to be on the loose. A citizen reported seeing the lion but deputies and officers have been unable to locate the animal.

Mid July the Riverside County, CA, judge ruled that John Weinhart, owner/operator of Tiger Rescue would stand trial on all 63 charges against him, including 17 felony counts from allegations of child endangerment and animal cruelty. The Fund for Animals assumed the immediate care of the tigers, lions, leopards and other animals. Pat Darby, founder of PAWS sanctuary said she has agreed to take on the lifetime care of the tigers contingent on Fund for Animals' providing the \$250,000 needed to build a 10-acre enclosure that would include dens, pools and trees for the cats.

Late July Lorenza Pearson, USDA licensed animal dealer in OH, must find a new home for his lions, tigers and bears because he has not dealt with eliminating animal waste.

July 29, 2003 a judge has ordered that six tiger cubs be returned to Marcus Cook, director of the now-defunct ZooCats Zoological Systems, because there was insufficient evidence to support the Texas attorney general's allegations against the group.

End of September Kenneth G. Craft and his wife Nancy L. Craft the owners of a Racine exotic animal park have been charged with falsifying paperwork when they bought a Siberian tiger cub that later attacked a girl in 2001. The indictment also names Robert Baudy and his Savage Kingdom, Inc.

October 2, 2003 Montecore, a trained 7-year old tiger attacked superstar illusionist Roy Horn on his 59th birthday, during a performance of "Siegfried & Roy" at the Mirage hotel-casino. Horn is listed in critical condition at the University Medical Center.

The next day a 400-pound tiger and a caiman are found in Antoine Yates' 5th floor Manhattan apartment. Ming, the tiger, is sent to Noah's Lost Ark sanctuary in Ohio. Yates is recovering from tiger bite wounds.

October 11 a tiger attacked one of the volunteer workers at Jonathan Kraft's Keepers of the Wild sanctuary near Las Vegas, NV.

October 12, 2003 FCF president George Stowers is quoted in Exotics Can Be a Cat-astrophe. Experts: Not all make good pets. While comparing the difference between a tiger and a house cat, the article states it is about the same gulf that separates a wolf from a poodle. . . . "The Feline Conservation Foundation, which was founded in the mid-1950s as the Long Island Ocelot Club and supports private ownership and husbandry of exotic cats, now boasts 800 members, mostly in the United States. Those members own nearly 1,300 cats, said the group's president, George Stowers."

In mid October a 9-day-old lion cub dumped by Post reporter Al Guart at the Noah's Lost Ark Sanctuary in Ohio, after a New York Post stunt went bad, struggles to survive. "They're lucky he hasn't died," said Ellen Whitehouse,

director of the Noah's Lost Ark. "He [Guart] did nothing but pull a publicity stunt."

End of October Carol Asvestas states the initial costs for transporting the 24 tigers from NJ Tigers Only Preservation Society to Wildlife Animal Orphanage in San Antonio, TX as well as veterinary care and security costs for two years will cost an estimated \$290,000. New Jersey will provide \$120,000 while the International Fund for Animal Welfare is contributing another \$120,000, she said.

Halloween night Senate bill 269, the federal Captive Animal Safety Act, passes by unanimous consent.

November 10, 2003 Wildlife officials removed 24 tigers from the New Jersey Tiger Lady's TOPS compound. "It smells like a gigantic cat box," said Richard Farinato, director of the Humane Society of the U.S., one of more than 50 animal experts who went in to remove the cats under a court order.

Ozzy, a tiger cub is found roaming the streets of Frisco, TX. Brian Weiner, executive director of Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge, said it would be left to Grayson County officials whether to pursue the persons responsible for abandoning the four-month-old cub.

In mid November William Long of Upper Arlington, Ohio, an animal activist who says he is the owner of a lion cub brought to the Noah's Lost Ark sanctuary asks a judge to force Noah's Lost Ark owners Ellen and Douglas Whitehouse to return the animal.

A few days later Living Desert Zoo and Gardens discontinued the practice of handlers leading animals through the park, following an incident in which a cheetah bit a patron and one of its handlers.

November 18 Associated Press article mentions the FCF. House passes HB 1006, companion to S269, "intended to help control the exotic animal trade by banning interstate sale and transport of lions, tigers and other big cats." . . . "If you've got a tiger chained in the backyard and children are playing around it, you don't need the federal government. The sheriff needs to charge that person," said Mena, AR., resident Lynn Culver, legal affairs director for the Feline Conservation Federation and the owner of some 50 cats, including nine cougars and 12 bobcats".

In early December the Wildlife Waystation, one of the oldest private sanctuaries for exotics has regained its USDA exhibition license after a 13-month suspension. The off-troubled facility, which is home to about 600 wild animals, including tigers, lions and wolves, will now seek the appropriate state licenses that will allow it to resume tours and exhibit its animals, both major fund-raising devices.

The December 8th weekly edition of People Magazine covers the Captive Animal Safety Act and exotic feline ownership by rehashing several horrific accidents and tying them together with quotes from current owners. The FCF is mentioned when Lynn Culver, Director of Legal

Affairs is quoted, "you can't help but be attracted to the personality of a big cat".

A few days later actress and animal-rights activist Tippi Hedren asked an Ohio judge to send Boomerang, the lion cub at the center of a ownership dispute lawsuit, to Shambala, her animal refuge in California.

Mid December a 400-pound bengal tiger fatally mauls a woman's 10-year old nephew. Clayton James Eller was shoveling snow near the tiger's cage and was pulled in by the tiger. The tiger's enclosure, constructed of chain link fence had an opening at the bottom so the family's dog could go in and play.

Just before Christmas President Bush signed The Captive Animal Safety Act, outlawing the sales and shipping of lions, tigers and other big cats across state lines without the proper permit or accreditation.

The next day Antoine Yates, known as "Tiger Man" for housing his 400-pound Bengal tiger in a Harlem apartment, showed up at Manhattan Criminal Court in wearing a striking monochromatic white shirt-and-tie combination under a dark suit. He topped the look with a hat, a black bowler, and a splash of color - a red feather, to match his red earring. Mr. Yates's lawyer, Ray Colon, is a member of the Cochran Firm, which was founded by the noted lawyer Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. He is handling the case without a fee.

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UPDATE:

Playa de Oro Reserve in Ecuador

I have been holding my breath since I left in late November that the young ocelot kitten we rescued out of the Ecuador market, Little Chief, would survive. He had many odds against him. He was way too young to leave with inexperienced caretakers, but we had no other choice. He was way too young to be weaned off milk, but we had no other option. I felt that we got him off to a good start with the nearly 2 weeks we were with him before I had to leave, and this little guy was full of spunk—just a tough little guy. Sometimes spunk isn't enough, so I have worried about him a lot. I also knew this would certainly be a hard test for the Playa de Oro reserve staff to pass, keeping the little guy healthy and alive with only a crash course in kitten care, and no one to call for help in case of a sudden turn for the worse. They were truly on their own, sink or swim. I just received word in early January from the reserve that Little Chief is thriving and in excellent health! It seems they have passed this difficult test in animal care with flying colors, and I could not be more pleased that they have learned so much about animal care in such a short amount of time and with very limited resources and supplies. I am so proud of the staff and Little Chief for hanging in there this long. Their animal care skills have grown by leaps and bounds in just one year, and that is due largely in part to FCF members by going there and sharing animal care knowledge and by FCF members donating animal care supplies. Great job, everyone!

During our trip to the reserve in November, a couple of trip members were paramedics, and they brought a lot of medical supplies to the reserve for both the animals and the villagers. Little Chief was dehydrated when we arrived at the reserve, so one of the ladies who is a paramedic actually administered subQ fluids to Little Chief with the reserve staff carefully observing and taking notes. They also demonstrated to the staff on Little Chief many other techniques such as administering shots, IV's,

etc. Then they sat down with a Spanish medical/first aid book and went over more information with the staff that the staff could do for people with the medical supplies they brought. It just goes to show, that even if you do not own animals, you might work in a job or have skills that are useful to the reserve in some manner. The people in this village cannot just go buy a book or get on the internet to learn the information they need to know. They are limited to what visitors share with them. And the staff has repeatedly showed that they soak this shared knowledge up and put it to good use.

Other news from the reserve: Pictures have been taken on the camera traps, and they will be mailed out to me at about the beginning of February. It takes about 2 weeks to receive mail from Ecuador, so perhaps by mid February we will have some interesting wildlife photos to investigate, which we will post in the next issue of the newsletter. Keep your eyes peeled, it will be exciting to see what we "captured" in our "traps" and what we can learn about the species living within the reserve.

The new pygmy marmoset that we brought to the reserve on our last trip is doing well, and it has been living harmoniously with Pico the resident tamarin. They are both doing well, and I am sure Pico is much happier to have a companion now as opposed to living alone as he was.

The 2 ocelots (trapped and being held alive by a man for their pelts) that Mauro was to go pick up after I left in November, and we planned for release in the reserve: The person who has these cats has turned uncooperative, (I guess greed has set in) and he is now wanting to "sell" the cats for a large amount of money since he thinks he has found someone who "wants" cats,

and is offering to trap many more cats for Mauro. This is unacceptable, and we are going to have to bring in the police now to deal with this person to stop him from trapping/selling more cats. I'm not sure what will happen from here to the cats he currently has, but we cannot take any actions that will encourage this man to "trap many more cats" for his personal benefit. The only hope we have at this point, is that the police in the area are cooperative in confiscating the cats, and they will perhaps just confiscate and hand them over to Mauro. But you just don't always know who the good guys and the bad guys are at all times. People are very poor, even the police, and everyone is always looking for a way to feed their families. This will be a wait and see what happens deal. Ultimately, we hope to help these 2 cats, but also discourage and prevent this particular individual from trapping more cats in the future.



A lesson in subcutaneous fluid use on Little Chief ocelot, shortly after his arrival

The Playa de Oro Experience

We are currently in negotiations with a Canadian researcher who recently was awarded a research grant to do a radio telemetry study on margays in South America. The researcher is trying to decide between several different reserves for which location they want to do their study. Hopefully they will make their decision in a few months. If they decide to do their research at Playa de Oro, then we can all participate and learn about radio telemetry and the whole process of this research project. Our visitors will get to participate in collecting data when we are at the reserve. It will be very exciting if we are able to get this aspect of research started at the reserve. We would like for any released cats to be radio collared so that we can track their progress.

I want to encourage all of you to please continue to send donations to the reserve. They still need plenty of support. The donation fund is nearly depleted, and we have the little ocelot kitten who needs extra care as well as continued care for the adult resident animals, and other necessary projects that come up occasionally.



Left: A boy in the market
Top: Pico and Chiquita's "wedding"
Above: Little Chief says Peek-a-boo
Below: Cage building!

FCF Needs Fundraiser Items for Playa de Oro!
The reserve needs a new fundraiser to keep donations coming in. If anyone has any nice item that they would like to donate for another raffle item to benefit the reserve, please contact me so we can get a new raffle fundraiser started. The last one we held for the reserve was very successful for the framed margay art

Donations can be sent to:
FCF, Attn Harold Epperson, Treasurer
3310 Remington Drive
Indianapolis, In 46227-8126

Please note that your donation is for the Playa de Oro reserve.



Adventurers Wanted!

Playa de Oro May trip, Sign Up Now for an Adventure of a Lifetime!

Hel^o with any feline conservation projects we are currently conducting at the reserve. Don't miss this opportunity to see, smell, taste, and h^o experience their land and it's inhabitants as they do, all while helping save the wild cats that live there. We are proud to introduce a new FCF tour guide for the May tour, FCF member Grace Lush. Grace has been a major supporter of the reserve since we started this project and has been to the reserve several times now and has "learned the ropes". She's ready to take on a^o ferent, you never know what will happen or what you will see or experience, so it is like a new experience each time we go. Grace's upbeat personality and witty charm are such to keep you laughing throughout the whole trip.

Trip date: May 30 to June 8

(Notice this date has changed from previously advertised dates to accommodate the lodge schedule)

Trip fee: \$650 per person. This price includes 3 nights at a charming Quito bed & breakfast (breakfast included), lodging and all meals for 6 nights and 5 days at the Playa de Oro lodge, private van and boat transportation, and jungle guide service.

Deposit Due: \$300 by April 1, 2004. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED, PLEASE GET YOUR DEPOSIT IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!
Balance Due by May 7, 2004.

Deposits can be mailed to the following address:

FCF, Attn. Treasurer
3310 Remington Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46227-8126

Please notate that your payment is for the May Playa de Oro trip and include your name, phone number, and mailing address.

Sunday, May 30: Arrive in Quito by late evening. (B&B)
Monday, May 31: Spend day in Quito sight seeing. (B&B)
Tuesday, June 1: travel to reserve by van and boat. Arrive in Playa de Oro village by early afternoon for village tour and dance performance, then continue on to the lodge.
Wednesday, June 2 to Sunday, June 6: at the reserve, in the rain forest.
Monday, June 7th: leave the reserve in AM, travel back to Quito. (B&B)
Tuesday, June 8th: travel home.

If you would like to add on additional days to the beginning or end of your trip, it would be at an additional cost to you, but we would be happy to help you make reservations and plans for your extra days.

For more additional info, please contact Tracy Wilson, Director of Education and Conservation, at email: wildcat@ipa.net or phone 501-230-4072 leave a message.

Trip Itinerary

The reserve is building a new bigger boat, right, thanks to FCF support

Below: Carolyn Bakker, who donated the satellite phone to the reserve, shops the market for plantains.



Legislation Action Alerts

This is a new legislative year and every FCF member is urged to contact their state representatives to make sure that there is not any new state laws. If you have any comments, please contact the FCF Director of Legal Affairs so that we may make appropriate comments in support of responsible private ownership and alert other FCF members in your state.

MINNESOTA - Sen. Don Betzold of Fridley, MN and sponsor of the MN ban bill stated "My bill had been under the radar screen, but it is catching attention now due to recent news coverage of a Pelican Rapids, NM exotic animal farm where four tigers were found dead." In reaction to HB 1593 and SB 1530 that would ban ownership and breeding of exotics, MN animal owners have organized as Responsible Animal Owners Association of Minnesota. Members have been working very hard, contacting legislators to explain their side of the issue. Several group meetings have been held and fundraising efforts are increasing. The Minnesota RAOA hired a lobbying firm and the lobbyists have had several meetings with the authors of the bills and are receiving many positive responses. This is a very dedicated group. Main Contact is Kevin Vogel (Head of new member recruiting and Treasurer of RAOAM) 507-648-3251 & prozoos@yahoo.com. Other Contacts: Cindy Jepson (Lobbyist) 651-433-3525 & ccjepson@aol.com, Julian Loscalzo (Lobbyist) 651-227-3437 & ballparktours@qwest.net, and Mike Billman (founder) 218-348-0706 & billmanhomes@aol.com. FCF legal Affairs director Lynn Culver has been working with RAOA's lobbyists in formulating comments and responses to legislators' questions.

WASHINGTON - HB 1151 - Regulating the keeping of dangerous wild animals. This is the same bill that was introduced last legislative season and is a real concern for all. The bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee and a public hearing was held at 1:30 Friday January 16, 2004. On February 5th, HB1151 passed out of committee in the house and will go to the House floor for a vote. If it passes there, it then goes to the Senate.

PENNSYLVANIA – changes in their regulations enacted in 2003 now require 2-years of species-specific experience to qualify for a permit to possess any wild felines.

MAINE – regulation changes were discovered by FCF member Anne Amadon when she requested an emergency import permit to provide refuge for an illegal serval in Connecticut that was about to be confiscated. ME G & F no longer acknowledges rescues. Legislation passed in 2001 resulted in several changes to the captive animal permits. One such change was creation of a new "general possession permit". By the sound of it, one might see this as good news, however, Anne learned she and many other licensed breeders were now being licensed under "general possession" permit rules and would be allowed to continue po

□

"professional husbandry background", interpreted to mean 5-years experience. FCF president George Stowers worked with Maine G & F several years ago when he resided in that state to help influence ME captive animal regulations.

NORTH CAROLINA – A backyard tiger killed a young boy in December 2003. The Humane Society and the Animal Protection Institute have issued several public challenges to state officials to ban all possession of wild felines in this state in 2004. Be alert for ban legislation to be introduced this year.

OHIO – FCF members are urged to be especially alert for proposed legislation. Due the ongoing custody battle for Boomerang, the lion cub originally purchased by an animal rights activist for Tippi Hedren, but dumped at Ohio wildlife sanctuary Noah's Ark, Ohio state Senators are now being heavily lobbied by Tippi Hedren and Linda J Howard to pass legislation to end all private ownership of cats and non-human primates based on public safety issues.

NEW YORK – AO2684, introduced by Senator Tonko, is an act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the possession of wild animals as pets in New York. This bill was referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation on January 7, 2004. The NY exotic animal registration law has been appealed by Ron James and Deborah-Ann Milette in the United States Court of Appeals. Signed by the Governor in December 2002, this law states, "Any individual owning, in possession of, or harboring "wild animals" are to report the presence of such animals to municipal authorities."

FEDERAL – The Captive Animal Safety Act was passed by both houses of Congress and signed into legislation by President Bush in mid December 2003. This act requires that no later than 180 days after the date of enactment, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall promulgate regulations describing the persons who are exempted from the prohibition of interstate transport and commerce of 6 large cat species, i.e. tiger, lion, leopard, jaguar, cheetah and puma. Regulation proposals will be published in the Federal Register and there will be a public comment period. FCF will be watching and when the time comes we will submit our comments.

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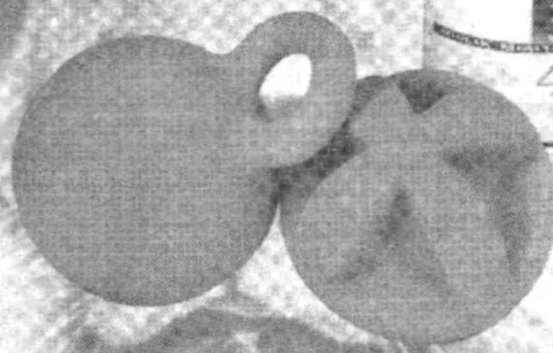
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How Times Have Changed. . .

The year was 1967, the month was September. Long Island Ocelot Club member William Engler was the staff person in charge of Felidology. He was a regular contributor to the club's bi-monthly publication and a recognized source of information on veterinary care, feline species and feline behavior. Passage by Congress of the Endangered Species Act was still several years off, and importation of any wildlife required no CITES permission. It was not unusual to see cheetah included in the LIOC feline census and in Volume 11 Number 5, William shares his story of one such feline named Chita, who changed his life forever. In his touching memorial to a wild-born female cheetah, we read of an incredible trust and affection between two species, born on separate continents and brought together as adults. . . .

Chita

William Engler of San Francisco, California

The highest privilege of my lifetime has been and is my association with Chita. She is responsible for having changed my outlook in life from that of a human being to that of her kind; from the desire for dominance over the creatures (including man) around me and the Earth beneath me to the satisfaction of living in harmony with nature and her creatures: from the vain struggle to be a demigod to the tranquility of accepting myself as the mortal that I am. This has allowed me to meet nature's most perfect creatures, the cats, with no inclination to attempt to prove my superiority over them, but as their equal with whom they are glad to share their wisdom and give their unequivocal affection. The love and affection given by a cat is not comparable with that given by any other creature. It is given without ulterior motive. It is not difficult to see that the love given by someone's spouse, his children or his dog has contingencies, but the cat is self-sufficient and he knows it. Therefore he gives his love only for his esteem of his beloved with no other reason.

Chita came from her native Africa to live with me. She arrived as an adult cat, so I do not know exactly her age, but it must have been six or eight years old. On her arrival she was a bewildered, thin, hungry and after her long trip here in a small crate, a somewhat soiled young lady. I opened the door of her shipping crate; she stepped from it, walked to the rear of the crate and laid her chin on my mother's hands. Mother stroked her a few times. Then she came back to become acquainted with me. After petting her a few strokes, I first heard her full-throated purr.

Her first needs were very obviously a bath, so one was prepared and she submitted to it with very little objection. Chita had immediately put her trust in me and I, mine in her. Here was a truly wild animal that could have torn me to ribbons in a minute. Instead, she allowed me to subject her to an experience, a bath, with which she was totally unfamiliar. After her bath she was given a light meal, after which she and I settled down to familiarize us with each other.

The day Chita arrived, I was overwhelmed with the knowledge that she was the answer to my shortcomings, and just as quickly, Chita knew that it was her destined task to teach me the ways and knowledge of her kind. Had she to have done this with words spoken or written, a lifetime would not have been sufficient, but with the direct method of communication of feelings, impressions, ideas and conclusions of the cat, my education was greatly condensed. She not only taught me the wisdom of nature, uncluttered by the ego of man, she made me understand and feel it.

Learning to live in what we call civilization was relatively easy for Chita, riding in an automobile, becoming accustomed to the loud sounds made by trucks, trains and sirens, learning that she could not give just reward to juveniles, young or old, who would just at her yelling "ya-a-a-a-!" Chita adjusted to these irritations and many more in good time and now ignores them, as if they do not exist.

Chita would not trade her life with me for the life she lived on the veldt in Africa. She has a large, fenced lawn, tropically landscaped. This joins the house to which she has free access. She eats select meat regularly. She is kept free of the parasites that plague the animals in the wild. She sleeps in bed with me at night, always warm, dry, and considerably more comfortable than she would be in the wild, and she can afford to sleep with both eyes closed in the security of our house.

We give each other considerable affection that we both require for a normal, happy life. I may note here that affection is just as important for a normal life of a cheetah as is food. In the zoos where a cheetah is kept caged

and receives little or no attention, his life expectancy is but four years. On the other hand, if a cheetah receives his full requirement of affection, he can live up to twenty years.

Chita and her kind embody an amazing set of qualities. Pound for pound their physical strength is more than eight times that of a human. Of the cats, their sight is the keenest, and their burst of speed is the greatest attained by any terrestrial animal.

Chita's own self is a masterpiece of art. Her proud head is set with tremendous expressive amber eyes, Her face at once is expressive and her wisdom, her gentility and her capriciousness, her kindness and her logic, her nobility and her earthiness, her affection and her disdain. Her body is sleek and lithe; her movements are positive and graceful. Her coat is yellow, punctuated with spots that are rhythmic from any angle viewed, though their pattern is as exclusive as that of clouds in a windblown sky. Her tail, long and graceful, complements every movement of her body.

Her only fault, of one can call it a fault is being female and possessing the female quality of being jealous of my attentions to the other cats. She makes a fuss at them when I am looking, though I suspect that she gets along well with them when I am not.

Every morning at six o'clock, give or take five minutes, I am awakened by a warm tongue on my lips and purring that sounds like a well tuned outboard motor. Chita is standing over me telling me that it is time to rise and shine. Before arising, we lay on the bed, play and love each other for about ten minutes, after which we both get up. While I am dressing, Chita goes into a special room, built for the purpose and makes her toilet, after which she goes out into her yard.

Half a dozen times a day, I go into her yard, converse with her, play with and love her. She welcomes visitors in her dignified manner and is always interested in that which is going on in our neighborhood. Those who know her have nothing but admiration and liking for her.

In the cool of the evening, Chita and I enjoy a game of hide and seek. Our yard contains a number of large bushes and trees. I hide behind one of them. Chita crouches and after so much anticipation she comes after me. I run, but of course she catches me. We roll on the grass a little then we get up and I chase her around the yard a few times. Finally she settles herself in a corner so I can hide again and the action is repeated.

Chita and I share our bed. As with everything else that she does, she is the perfect sleeping partner. She eats her evening meal, which is the main meal of her day, then comes to our bed where she stays for the night. When I retire, I pet her with long, slow strokes and she purrs in ecstasy for about fifteen minutes before she falls off to sleep after which I promptly do the same.

Chita died July 3 1967, her age probably between sixteen and eighteen years. Her cause of death was malignancy of the liver with many metastatic growths throughout her abdomen. She has been noticeably ill for four to five months. When her suffering became unbearable, I had her put to sleep by a veterinarian.

Needless to say, her demise has grieved me bitterly. She meant more than anything in the world to me. I will forever be in her debt for showing me the way to live a life of satisfaction. I have written this tribute as though she is still alive. She will always live in and through me.

by Robert Baudy

The Clouded Leopard



Neofelis nebulosa, the very handsome clouded leopard, can be thought of as the ocelot of the orient. While everyone knows the striking but conservative beauty of the ocelot, the clouded leopard's markings surpass any designs, spots, stripes or shades familiar to cat fanciers, and have to be seen to be appreciated.

The large, irregular, never alike marbled blotches are much more definite than in its smaller relative, the mysterious marbled cat. The thick, furry tail (in most instances noted on animals indigenous to high altitude areas) of unusually long proportions reminds one of the snow leopard and adds to a unique picture.

Extremely large males may reach 55 pounds the much smaller females will average slightly over 30 pounds. The conformation of the animals is also extremely odd. The front part of the body is low-slung, compact and powerful. The unusually large front paws, short, muscular legs and the pugnacious lower jaw are strongly reminiscent of another denison of the deep forest in this hemisphere – the jaguar. The canine teeth are relatively by far the longest among felines. They invariably astonish the non-initiated. Many scientists have ascertained direct relation in this respect between *n. nebulosa* and the now extinct but famed *Smilodon* or Saber-tooth tiger.

I began my feline career many decades ago as a professional trainer, in fact I was featured on Ed Sullivan show in 1961 with an act that consisted of trained greyhounds and monkeys. I advanced to create numerous Siberian tiger acts and was famous for my uncaged leopard acts. A specialty of mine featured one star feline who regularly jumped 17 feet onto my back without ever causing injury, a feat never duplicated by any other trainer.

It was my great understanding of feline behavior and my intrigue of these wondrous species that lead me to center my energies on the captive breeding of rare and endangered felines. I was alarmed to learn that early zoo efforts to breed clouded leopards resulted in 16 deaths in just one year. These felines were suffering from excessive stress caused by public display, transfers of individuals to new zoos, inappropriate enclosure designs, the breakup of established pairs, or the post-adolescent pairing of adults. This species was never common in captivity and to loose them to such poor husbandry understanding was especially upsetting to me. This was an extremely rare feline. To put this in perspective from a financial aspect, in the late 1960's ocelots could be regularly imported and purchased for around \$150 dollars, while clouded leopards if available, commanded around \$2,500.

I felt it was my duty to utilize my experience and knowledge to stop this massacre and help insure the future survival of this extraordinary feline by pioneering successful captive breeding programs. To this end I traveled to Viet Nam, a French-speaking

nation, to work with that country and import this species. This was back in the early 1970's, before the US Congress approved the Endangered Species Act, before the international treaty to regulate trade of endangered species was written. (CITES)

I studied the felines in their native countries, and then made a special trip to the Frankfurt Zoo in Germany to see the director, Jim Maken. This European facility was successfully breeding this species and I learned that they were feeding whole animals consisting of freshly killed rabbits, rats, pigeons and chickens.

I imported about a dozen clouded leopards from Viet Nam to form the basis of my breeding stock. All were supposed to be less than 6 months old, however the exporters were not honest about their ages and in fact none were that young and a couple of the females arrived pregnant.

At the Savage Kingdom we bred and raised rabbits for prey as well as purchased live rats for these cats. Based on my observations it is my opinion that clouded leopards cannot properly digest their food without the all-important pre-play. Typically a clouded leopard will kill its prey and then play with its lifeless body for an hour before consuming it. If given access to trees, a clouded leopard will climb a tree and consume the animal there. Another important consideration when raising clouded leopards for breeding is to address their psychological need to access height, a part of their arboreal makeup. Enclosures for clouded leopards should be designed at least 10 feet in height.

The Savage Kingdom facility is located in central Florida and our property is covered with stately and enormous live oak trees. We had a resident clouded leopard escape once and it immediately climbed a live oak tree and stayed up there. I sent a young French volunteer to recoup the male with a capture gun. He aimed and shot the feline with a tranquilizer dart but the animal was worked up, and instead of succumbing to the sedative effects of the drug it decided to take another action and took off flying for about 10 feet before falling straight down for 75 feet, landing on the ground where it quickly took off running for about 100 yards and then promptly climbed up another tree. The volunteer darted the male again and successfully recaptured him. This story illustrates their



© Mark Kostich

desire to inhabit the forest canopy and comfort they derive from gaining height.

Another aspect of clouded leopard behavior is their intense need to form pair bonds. In fact in order for clouded leopards to successfully mate they must be in love. When a compatible pair is introduced young they will breed. Once breeding is observed, I note the approximate date for the birth and then remove the male before the female is in labor. We never broke up any pairs, but kept breeding the same couples for their lifetime.

In our breeding career we produced 75 clouded leopard offspring and sold 67 of them. These cats form the foundation stock of the American and European zoological collections of present day. Usually we kept the kittens with their mother for about 6 weeks and then pulled them for taming and to enable them to be paired up with others of the opposite sex. Initial diet for a 6-week-old kitten was freshly killed rabbit meat with KMR poured on it. Sometimes cubs were pulled at a younger age and bottle raised. This hand rearing produced extremely tame individuals.

Clouded leopards are extremely vocal. University of Florida students studied our population and their language. I have counted over 40 different sounds made by this species, including sounds that mimic other animals, such as various birdcalls and monkey calls.



Right: a clouded leopard in his native country of Laos,
© Mark Kostich



Left: Captain Serval moves into his new tiger rug



Golden and white lion bothers hamming it up while they pose for holiday photos at Hotel Kalahari.



Jessi Clark-White's Sirocco Serval explores the changes in the world in the snow on New Year's Day

In the Field: Radio Collaring Work Continues

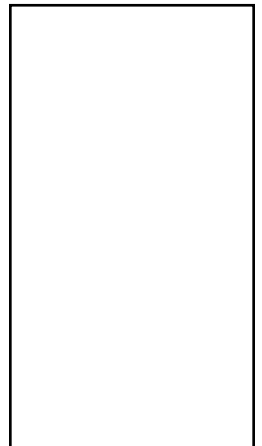
by Lon Grassman

ed.note: FCF omitted an important disclaimer when we published Lon's Ecology and conservation of four sympatric wild felids in north central Thailand in the Nov/Dec 2003, Volume 47, Issue 6, Newsletter. Lon shared with FCF readers an early draft of his work in the interest of sharing knowledge and understanding of feline conservation issues. That article may not be used for reference until official publishing in a professional scientific journal has occurred. All rights reserved.

I arrived in Phu Khieo in September 1998 with a few traps and a shoestring budget. I initially began trapping with 10 traps, and it soon became apparent that I was going to need more traps and resources in order to be successful. The daily chore of gathering radio-telemetry data was made more tolerable by the few times a clouded leopard was captured and added to my list of study animals. After 4 years and nearly 28,000 trap nights I had captured just 4 clouded leopards. Although clouded leopards existed in decent numbers in Phu Khieo, they were highly elusive and proved difficult to catch. Still, the good news for this study was that all of my study animals provided good data from 1 to 1.5 years until the collar battery failed. Unlike my marbled cat, which disappeared after just 1 month, clouded leopards proved to be my most dependant sources of data.

After 1 year of trapping, I finally captured my first clouded leopard. My initial reaction was simply to yell "finally!!" This cat, a pregnant female, and the 3 subsequent clouded leopards I captured all exhibited the same behavior when approached in the trap: complete calmness and apparent boredom. I was used to the violent thrashings of Asiatic golden cats and leopard cats, so the sedate clouded leopards represented a welcome change. Estimating the weight of the captured cat I measured out an appropriate dosage of immobilizing drug and quickly jabbed the cat in the hind-quarters. After several minutes I pulled the fully sedated cat out of the trap and began the workup. The workup consisted of first making sure the cat was breathing freely, and then followed by taking physical measurements, radio collaring, and taking photographs. In the following days I closely monitored this cat, for I was particularly concerned about how the drugs might have affected her unborn cubs. I tracked her both day and night, and slowly a pattern emerged of a small home range centered on a very small core area. It became apparent that this cat's movements were typical of a mother with young centered on a den site. In fact, several months later this female expanded her home range size, presumably as her cubs became old enough to travel with her during longer foraging bouts. It was always a great comfort to hear the radio bleeps of this cat as the months went on and to imagine the mother with 1 or more cubs at her side.

Lon will return to Thailand to complete the genetic analysis of blood samples collected in the field. These samples are crucial in helping to measure genetic diversity among wild Thai felids, and in measuring site fidelity and kinship among the study animals. Genetic material from wild cats in Southeast Asia is extremely rare. FCF members interested in supporting this important research may send financial contributions to Dr. Mike Tewes, Feline Research Program, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, MSC 218, Kingsville, TX., 78363. All donations are tax-deductible. Further inquiries may be directed to Lon at: kslig01@tamuk.edu.





Pacific North West Exotics Branch of the FCF Discontinued

Productive history ends due to apathy

It is with some sadness that the north-west branch of FCF, Pacific Northwest Exotics (PNWE) will be suspended. The decision to discontinue the club was made official by the President and Secretary-Treasurer of PNWE in December 2003. The decision was based on a lack of response from club members through a mailing on why the club should stay active.

PNWE was formed in 1989. And has since then, been a major positive influence in the exotic animal community. Although the club is a branch of FCF, our membership loved and cared for not only exotic cats, but many types of exotic creatures.

PNWE has made a lot of progress in the years since the club was first formed. We have made many appearances at legislative sessions and meetings and have sent much correspondence of research and testimony to representatives and lawmakers in Oregon and Washington state regarding the responsibility of owning and caring for exotic animals. We have participated in many lawmakers' decisions to pass laws that protect our rights as exotic animal owners.

We, as a club, have also made an impact in showing the public what it takes to be a responsible exotic animal owner, by participating in many shows and expos within the northwest area and coaching the public about our animals.

Although our club members have proven their dedication to being responsible owners and to caring for their wonderful animals; our club has been on the verge of discontinuing due to the inability to have

more than a handful of dedicated members to run and participate in the club's activities. After years of those particular members dedicating their time, energy and efforts to the club and its' by-laws without the participation from the balance of the membership, the club ceases to exist. It is a very difficult and daunting task to run a club such as this.....you must have the whole and complete dedication from more than 75% of the membership to be able to thrive and fulfill the club's mission statement. It is a very challenging task to the club officers to come up with ideas and motivations to persuade members to participate in club activities....our membership was a very socially oriented bunch, but we have found that while being social is wonderful, it is the dedication to be a professional representative of the exotic animal community at all times and when necessary.

We have made many friends and have made a lot of progress in the years PNWE has been around. Some of us will look to join other more active clubs to further our leadership in maintaining a stance of exotic animal ownership, while others will just lurk in the background. We are sad to disband such a wonderful group, but the club officers are tired and weary and that tiredness and weariness clouds our vision... to prove that we as exotic animal owners should be able to keep and care for exotics and we must be responsible in doing so leaving no questions to the public and to lawmakers on those decisions.



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Jessi Clark-White's Sirocco Serval enjoys the snow on New Year's Day

Cleber Delazari shares his life with tigrinas in Barzil - read his story on page 9



Point Defiance Zoo's baby clouded leopards are born. See page 4 for details!

JB and Reva Anderson's Sleet Snow Leopard got snow for Christmas

