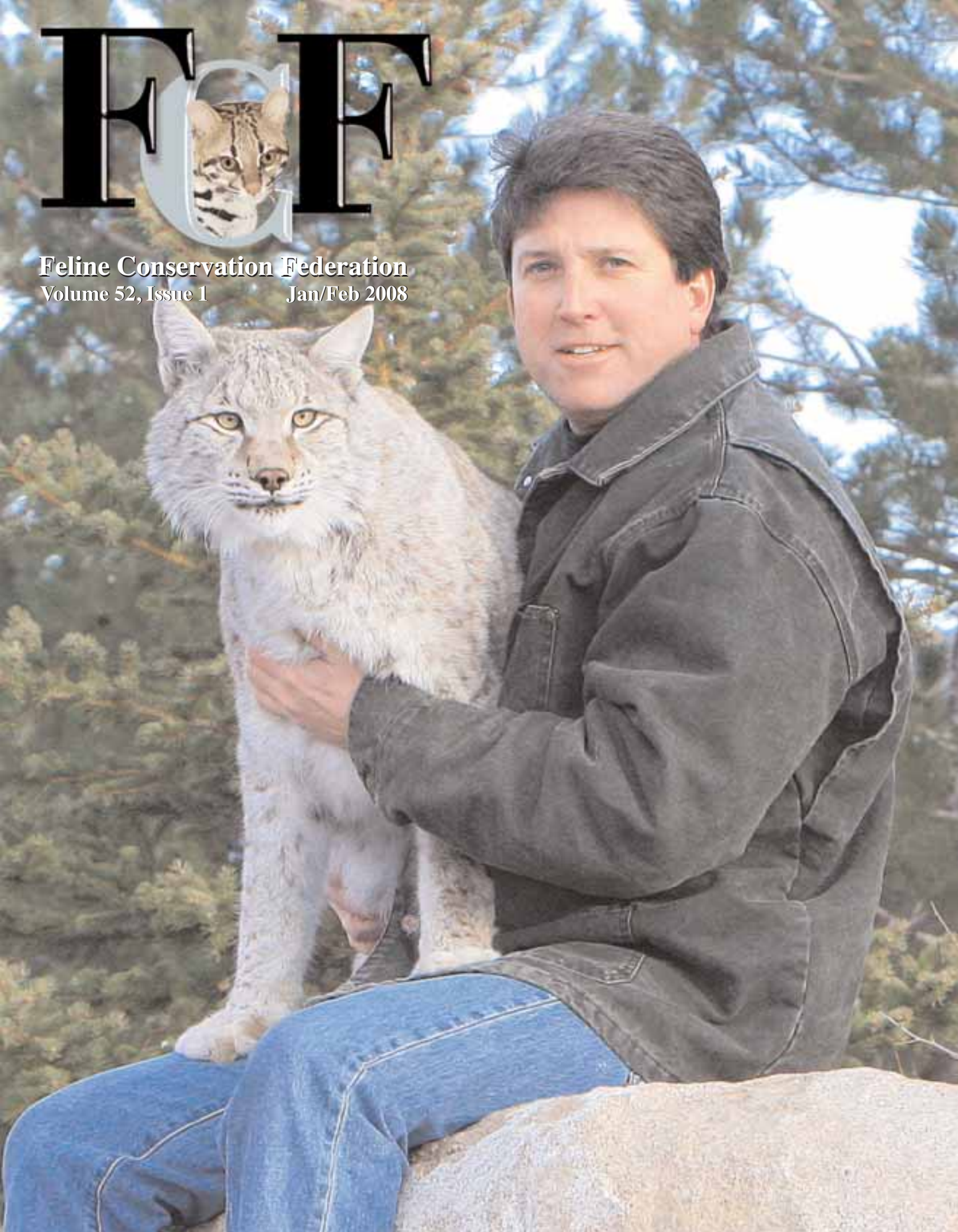


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Feline Conservation Federation
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A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of this journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to the convention, and participation in our discussion groups. Your membership helps the conservation of exotic felines through support of habitat protection and conservation, education, and breeding programs. Send \$30 (\$35 Canada, \$40 international) to FCF, c/o Kevin Chambers, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, IN 47879.

Members are invited to participate in email list discussions online at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/The_FCF/

Cover: Mace Loftus and his Siberian lynx, Blitz.

Background: Lions at Houston Zoo—Mindy Stinner.



Feline Conservation Federation

This magazine is published bi-monthly by the Feline Conservation Federation. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this publication is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members. The material printed 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'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 magazine may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. We encourage all members to contribute articles. Articles on exotic feline ownership, husbandry, veterinary care, conservation and legislation are gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Submission deadline for the next issue is the first day of even numbered months. Please submit all photos and articles to the editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should contact the term director in charge of member services. Dues are \$30 US, \$35.00 Canada, and \$40 international.

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Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

This past fall Bart and I renovated older enclosures to prepare them for new occupants in an attempt to free up space for the kittens born here that we plan to keep. One of the things we did was to line common walls of connecting cages with bamboo to form a visibility barrier and limit contact between cats. This was a rather tedious project, but the results were most rewarding. The bamboo we used was our very own homegrown plants that were planted inside the cages nearly 15 years ago and needed to be harvested anyway. Lining two 32-foot long walls with one and two inch diameter bamboo poles involved a lot of weaving with wire, but the results are visually pleasing and both practical and functional. We moved new bobcats into the enclosures and they are able to peer between the cracks at neighboring felines, but unable to fight. This has totally eliminated obsessive aggression between neighbors.

I wish to congratulate another fine facility for gaining the FCF Feline Accreditation seal of approval. Bill Meadows applied for Tiger Safari Interactive Exotic Zoological Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma and was approved by all four accreditation board members. The committee is one person short, and approval requires at least four yes votes, and Bill got them all and passed with flying colors. This is the first zoo to apply for FCF Feline Facility Accreditation. The accreditation team does not look at other species; we only accredit the feline collection. I believe Bill plans to apply for ZAA accreditation next.

Everyone will have an opportunity to visit Bill's Tiger Safari Zoological Park on March 15, when FCF conducts its next Basic Feline Husbandry Course in his new educational building. If you haven't taken the course yet, this is a great opportunity.

In this issue of the journal are three articles on the November ZAOA conference in Tampa, Florida. Board members Mindy Stinner and Kevin Chambers were official FCF representatives assigned to report to the members through the journal on the speakers and the reciprocal accreditation negotiations. JB Anderson attended and also submitted his review of the event. A common theme in all three reports is, "join ZAOA." As a member myself, I agree. If more feline facilities join ZAOA at the pro-



fessional level, we will have our feline interests represented. I can envision a future where ZAOA is an equally respected zoological organization and the FCF is a valued affiliate that works with this zoological association to improve the management and preservation of our captive feline population.

The FCF web site is being redone with the help of a grant from the OnShore Foundation. Our new site has a new look. It is smaller, more concise, but flashy in appearance. This site is for referring people about the FCF and how to join our organization, how to donate to our missions, what services we provide, and what are the benefits of membership.

The familiar site will be renovated and reorganized. The members-only access has been broken for much of last year and I apologize for this inconvenience. It may be down a bit longer while we make the changeover to another domain address of www.thefcf.org. The organization's internal documents, such as the facility accredi-

tation form, the registered handler form, our bylaws and constitution, and contact info for the regional and state representatives will be moved over to the members-only section along with our membership database.

The FCF board is still minus two seats. Hopefully these positions will be appointed shortly. I have found being president at times very frustrating, only because I care so much about the members and our cats and have so much enthusiasm for this organization. In spite of being short-handed in 2007, I think we have a lot to be proud of: The seventh FCF facility is now accredited, members are participating in the new registered handler program, the new Field Representative program is functioning, three successful FCF husbandry courses were taught, and a new FCF eBay store was launched. The store could use some FCF members to help with items to stock and sell. Let's all take some time after the holidays to clean out our over-stuffed homes and donate something to our organization's

fund raising store.

As a grand finale, I wish to announce one other accomplishment that is one of my greatest sources of pride. The FCF Journal was recognized by the Cat Writers' Association. Our editor Mike Friese is a professional member of this organization. His skill and professionalism were recognized this past November when the Cat Writers' Association judges awarded him the coveted Muse Medallion for Regional or Membership Newsletter. Of course Mike couldn't do it without all our great submissions. I encourage everyone to contribute a photo or article in 2008. Even if I do not call on you, you know who you are, and you know what you know, and it is past time for you to write an article, share a photo, and be a part of our success!

It's a new year and I look forward to us continuing to build on our programs and services and I invite you to be an active part of our working team.

—Lynn Culver



A vertical brochure for the Feline Conservation Federation (FCF). At the top, the text "Feline Conservation Federation" is written in blue on a yellow background. Below this is the FCF logo, which consists of the letters "FCF" in a stylized font with a small image of a cat's face inside the "F". Underneath the logo is the website address "www.felineconservation.org" in blue. The main image on the brochure is a close-up of a Canada lynx's face. At the bottom, there is a small block of text: "To help Canada Lynx reintroduction succeed in Colorado FCF members provide biological samples from their Canada lynx to researchers studying this species' endocrine system".

FCF outreach brochures can be supplied in quantity to insert in your mailers or place on your checkout counter. Order this brochure from Lynn. lynnculver@hughes.net

Bobby Gets Another Chance at Life



By Patty Perry

Although my purpose today is primarily education, I received my background with wildlife through rehabilitation. I served as a full time volunteer for over seven years for a wildlife center that took in over 1,000 animals per year. There we did rehabilitation, education, and training. When I first started volunteering, the center was dedicated to mostly raptors. As time went on and I learned more, my journey led me to a great interest in eagles. I introduced an eagle program that became a significant part of my life and the center as well. Also, I began incorporating mammals into the program. I constructed enclosures at my home since this became my sole responsibility.

My work continued and my efforts became more significant and recognized over time. About a year ago, I was approached with a grant of money to start my own nonprofit organization. Having

never had any plans in life to do so, this required great thought on my part. I learned from my previous years of experience that if I were to accept this challenge, I needed a specific focus. Having participated in over 100 public educational programs per year, I knew that this had to be my purpose. I loved it and found it to be incredibly rewarding. I also spent considerable time training and handling the 20 animals that we used for education. I knew that this was a gift that I must continue to use. Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Inc. is located in Ojai, California. You will find our information in the credits.

I had many experiences with hundreds of cases during those seven years. I would like to share one that comes to mind as I write this article.

A hot July day in Southern California is no place for a baby bobcat to be exposed without its mother. Poor little Bobby was

found on the side of the road lying in the sun on the steaming asphalt. He was semi-conscious and suffering with a prolapsed rectum. His little body was infested with parasites and the previous few days had left him emaciated and dehydrated. It was highly questionable whether this little guy even had a chance. To add to his already threatened condition, he was picked up by a well-meaning passerby, taken home and fed liver for the next two days. This inappropriate diet caused Bobby to have a case of diarrhea. Upon recognizing that things were not getting any better, he was dropped off at the local humane society.

This is how Bobby and I became acquainted. I got the call and picked him up as soon as possible. Our wonderful vet repaired the rectum and ran the blood work along with studying a fecal sample. Now the rehabilitation process could begin. Over the next six months, through painstaking effort,

Bobby's problems were solved and he experienced a full recovery. This was not without a couple of close calls. There were two occasions where he began to fail very quickly and nearly died. I never figured out exactly why. However, both times my vet happened to be in close proximity and came to Bobby's rescue.

He was always treated with fluids, the most important thing when an animal is down. I always make great effort to replace a natural diet. One thing about Bobby is that he was determined! I never had to resort to tube feeding. He would always bounce back quickly after a setback. He ate chopped mice for a brief period of time and graduated to rats. When I placed him from the rack into the cat habitat he was given live rats and eventually ground squirrels. That is the primary prey base here. His hunting skills were superior. Bobby was hard-wired with instinct.

I must say, during the time he was with me, he exhibited an interminable will to live. I must also admit that this relationship

most definitely fell into the category of a dysfunctional, one-sided affair. Bobby had less than no love for me! He was one tough character.

While Bobby was in captivity, California was once again experiencing wildfires. I know this comes as a shock to all of you that are reading this story. It was now time to release him and customarily we are required to take the animals back to where they came from. Bobby's habitat had burned and there was no available prey base for him to survive on. I contacted the Department of Fish & Game and submitted for a special circumstance request. As I happen to live in an ideal location for bobcats, I was given permission to release him on my property.

I watched him closely for the first few weeks. Most of the time I would see him trotting across the field with a ground squirrel in his mouth. This was his way of showing his appreciation for all I had done for him. I was pleased. As time went on, I did not see much of Bobby. Later I found out

from my distant neighbor that Bobby had moved up the hill towards their house where he found a beautiful mate. Apparently Bobby prefers larger woman. This is no surprise since he was left stunted by his difficult start in life. Depending on the time of year, Bobby goes from becoming elusive to reappearing for regular visits. Lately he has been showing up frequently. As I go out to feed the animals, he watches me from a distance. This lets me know that he is doing well and that this is somehow still home.

Some people say that these regular visits may have something to do with the goose in my yard and perhaps nothing to do with me. No matter. Whatever the case, this is the thrill that keeps me going. Bobby Bobcat leaves me inspired to go on to next one!

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Building Bart's Baffled Bobcat Bungalow

By Mike Friese

Some cats love cold weather but other cats thrive on more temperate climates. When setting up a habitat for a cat, we need to make sure that its enclosure environment is compatible with its natural environment.

Heated buildings attached to outdoor runs provide an optimum environment for the cat; the cat can decide what temperature it prefers. When a heated building is not practical, there are other measures you can take to make your cat's environment a comfortable one.

I have been visiting a small animal sanctuary in San Diego County, California. The sanctuary is run by Jane Zoeller. (If you look her up on your back-issue DVD, you

will find that she is mentioned as early as 1974.) Her sanctuary is in the mountains near the historic town of Julian so winters are cold, the winds are strong, and it sometimes snows. The sanctuary recently acquired some servals and as a central African cat, they are ill-suited to snow.

Based on the plans that Bart Culver provided in the November/December 2007 issue of the *FCF Journal*, I set out to build one of Bart's bungalows for the servals of Julian.

I closely modeled my enclosure after Bart's plans but I made a few improvements to make the bungalow warmer and to optimize it for servals. The enclosure took me about 12 hours to build but I am sure I

could build a second one much quicker.

The entire bill of materials came to \$90.

The "improvements" I made to Bart's design include:

- 1.5" polystyrene instead of 1". This works out especially well since the 2" x 2" wood used for the skeleton actually measures 1.5" x 1.5". The thicker polystyrene sheets fit perfectly!

- Rather than using a simple sheet of 1" plywood for the base, I made a fully insulated platform using foam sandwiched between 3/8" plywood sheets. With this, all six sides of the bungalow are insulated.

- I insulated the small wall opposite the outer door. It was easy to do, I had extra foam, and it might reduce the radiation



Jane admires completed bungalow (with front baffle in place) as installed at the sanctuary.

losses in that direction.

• I widened the inside doorway from 7" to 10" and increased its height from 16" to the full height of the enclosure. I didn't think a serval could make the 90° turn in the cramped anteroom and fit through a 7" doorway. Also I did not want the serval to

Bungalow Bill of materials

3 sheets of 3/8" outdoor-rated plywood
8 2" x 2" x 8' wood
3 1" x 3" x 8' wood
1 1" x 2" x 8' wood
1 4' x 8' sheet of 1.5" polystyrene (Styrofoam) insulation
1.5 lbs 1-3/8" weatherproof drywall screws
1 lb 3" weatherproof drywall screws

duck to get past the inside door. These changes make the bungalow a bit less cozy but I hope the thicker insulation and floor compensate.

- I added 1" x 3" furring strips to the seam between the floor and wall to block drafts.
- I added a 2 x 2 piece of wood between the bottoms of the rails where the baffle slides. This keeps the winds from flowing underneath the baffle. The photo in last issue's article shows the baffle completely closing the bottom end so this must be a different design than presented in the plans.
- I used 3/8" plywood instead of 1/2". The bungalow is so small, even the largest sections are quite rigid even with 3/8" plywood.
- I deleted the triangular braces under the roof because the bungalow was sufficiently rigid without them.

When building the bungalow, keep in mind that the bungalow is for cats. Cats do not require furniture-quality workmanship. The bungalow just needs to fit together snugly, offer no leaks, and have no sharp surfaces or splinters to hurt the cat.

I used only drywall screws for the construction. There are several types of drywall screws on the market, but you should use weatherproof screws such as the kind used for decking. The kind I bought appear to be covered with a ceramic. I used a #2 Phillips bit chucked into a conventional electric hand-drill. Why turn a screw by hand when you have power tools?

I had to drill pilot holes for all 3" drywall screws and for the smaller screws when they were driven onto the 1 x 3 and 1 x 2 material. The 2 x 2 material did not split when I drove the smaller drywall screws into it. If you have two drills, you'll want to chuck the pilot hole drill bit in your second drill.

So did the serval like her new home? I received an excited call from Jane the next day. The serval vacated her igloo that night and took up residence in the bungalow. At sunrise the serval was usually up and about pacing, ostensibly to warm up after a chilly night. Instead this morning the serval elected to sleep in; she decided it was too chilly to get out of bed! •

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Left and right side frames.



Sides are attached to the back wall. Slider rails for front baffle are attached to front edge of side walls.



Left and right side frames with polystyrene insulation in place.



Only half of the front wall is open. The other half is insulated with polystyrene.



Left and right walls with sheathing in place. Nowhere is the polystyrene exposed to the cats. See door?



Front wall is sheathed to hide the polystyrene. Bottom stop for the baffle is installed at the lower end of the baffle rails.



Roof likewise is filled with polystyrene.



...filled with foam. Plywood sheathing covers both sides. I recommend covering the floor with linoleum.



Detail showing how the 1 x 3 wood is attached outside the frame to eliminate drafts.



Assembled bungalow with roof and front baffle removed.



The floor is a simple 2 x 2 frame covered in plywood and...



Summer configuration of bungalow. The plywood front baffle can be removed and stored under the roof.

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A Hard Lesson Learned

By Alan Trimble

My lesson learned recently concerns the preservation of exotic critters we have in our country and the efforts that are being made by some folks to preserve them for our future generations. Without the efforts of these dedicated people—many of the animals we enjoy will not be around for our kids and grandkids to enjoy.

My experience concerns a Bengal tiger moving into my neighborhood. He was going to be my next-door neighbor. Needless to say, I was angered about that possibility—all I had ever known about the animal was that he was a meat eating killer and very dangerous to have around. My business is ranching and I had visions of that critter escaping from his homemade chicken coup and doing great harm to me, my family, my neighbors, and the cattle. Their safety was uppermost in my mind.

I had no experience being with this kind of situation but made the decision to fight to keep it and its owner from becoming my neighbor. I wondered what kind of a “nut” would want such an animal in their backyard. I saw it as a real threat. I talked to my neighborhood for a mile around, law enforcement, and the legal folks. I circulated a petition with everyone agreeing that we didn’t need such a critter in our midst. I left no stone unturned, including legal action, in my effort to bar it from my community. I had visions of the animal escaping and hurting or killing someone. Yes, we would kill the critter but it would be after the fact and the damage would be done. I thought that would be the price to be paid for having such a man-eating killer among us.

I did not know the owner at the time or what the motives were for having such an animal. I was completely uneducated of the whole effort that was behind the owner’s intentions to educate and do her part to preserve for future generations. All my efforts and those of others failed.

Against my wishes, the Chateau Safari facility was built and Tristan, the tiger, arrived at his new home in late 2005. (Editor’s note: see Nov/Dec 2005 *FCF Journal* – Volume 49, issue, 5 page 22, in your FCF/LIOC archive DVD.)

The facility—expensive and first class

in every way—has been inspected by state Game and Fish and the USDA, receiving the highest safety ratings awarded. (Editor’s note: Chateau Safari was the first FCF accredited facility. See Jan/Feb 2007 Volume 51, Issue 1, page 51.)

Jean (my wife) and I have met with Gail, the owner of “Tristan.” We have discussed Gail’s aspirations for the future of large, exotic, feline animals. The chicken coup—as I had envisioned it in the beginning—is a facility that anyone would be proud of. I feel confident the escape odds for Tristan are very low.

I don’t think I have ever met a person as devoted to the care of an animal as Gail is to that tiger.

I hope that Gail will forgive me for my lack of understanding and knowledge, continue her good work, and most important of all—be my friend for my remaining years.

I’m truly sorry for my efforts in the beginning to keep them from our community.

My lesson learned here is: don’t be so quick to judge or deprive someone of their freedoms or their property rights until all the facts are in. •



Jean, grandchild Matthew, and Tristan



Blitz

By Mace Loftus

I brought Blitz home when he was just 3½ weeks old. At that time he was a wondrous little fur ball that just needed a lot of care and attention. He grew quickly and was soon following us and our dogs everywhere. Max, one of our dogs, seemed to take a liking to Blitz from the very beginning and pretty much taught Blitz how to act like a dog. As a kitten, Blitz took his imprinting very well from the dogs. When Blitz went through his rowdy big kitten

stage, the dogs were the ones to dominate him and correct his unacceptable behaviors. As Blitz grew, he really wasn't as much of a handful as one might expect. He litter box trained easily, slept in bed with us, and basically had free run of the house. When we went outside, he followed. When we came back inside, so did he. When Blitz was a small kitten, my two year old granddaughter was spending most of the time at our home. She would carry Blitz around under one arm and her sipper cup under the other.

They were quite the pair to see and I only wish that I would have had a better camera at that time. As all animals do, Blitz grew faster than my granddaughter and started developing into a beautiful lynx that could no longer be carried around by a toddler. During this stage we were quite impressed to see that Blitz had learned from the dogs not to tackle or bowl over my granddaughter. When Blitz was about a year old, Rande my youngest daughter moved back in with us and met Blitz for the first time.

Her first meeting with Blitz was an interesting one. The following is her version of the encounter:

When I moved back home, I was surprised to see a young lynx standing on the countertop with his head faced down but his eyes looking up. At first I was intimidated. I hadn't been around any wildcats since I was a child. I was so young I could hardly remember back then, so this was a new experience for me. I couldn't understand why Blitz was staring at me that way and Mace, my father, said that Blitz wanted to head butt me. I guess he wanted to be friends. It was very strange at first but I put all my fears and insecurities aside and tried to understand this animal on a different level. When doing this, I discovered that Blitz was a special cat and his personality shined through his intimidating exterior. All I see when I look at him now is a fun-loving playful friend.

We have a lot of fun together running around outside especially if there is snow on the ground. We play tag but our game is different compared to the way children play it. I can always tell when he wants to play because he will lay down and stare at me almost as if he is saying, "Come on let's play." When he does this, I will sprint a short distance and immediately drop to my knees, that is when he jumps on my back and puts his paws over my shoulders almost as if he is giving me a big hug. It is a very fun game for both of us and we play until we are both too tired.

The relationship I share with Blitz and all of our other animals is special. There is a certain amount of understanding, appreciation, and respect that I have for these animals. I think that is necessary to have a long-standing relationship with animals. I don't treat them as if I am part of their pride, pack, or whatever hierarchy they belong to; I treat them as my friends.

Since that time Randee has returned to college but still visits occasionally. Blitz seems to be happy when Randee comes home. Meanwhile Blitz and I run around together with the dogs. Blitz poses as a model and I have a great time photographing him. Occasionally we do educational programs for the public together.

I don't know if it's more accurate to say Blitz is just a special animal or he is just well trained. Either way he is quite the magnificent friend. •



Blitz and Randee four years later: still friends.

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Re-pairing Bobcats

By Lynn Culver

Captive husbandry is fraught with challenges, but I think one of the most stressful situations for me is introductions and pairings of adults. Not every cat likes each other, and not every introduction is going to be harmonious. In fact, being cats, chances are introductions will begin with some level of aggression as the two felines work out their dominance ranking.

Last fall we wished to create two new bobcat pairs. We had three cages occupied by four bobcats. We planned to break up a pair of young bobcats, each 18 months old, and pair Sammy the young female with Wimpy, an 11-year-old male. Rosco, another young male would be paired with Muffin, an 8-year-old female.

We intended to move the young pair into the other cages and eventually free up their cage so it could be used by other cats. Each of the three cages stands about 20 feet from each other. The one that held the young pair is almost circular and encloses about 600 square feet. The other two cages are rectangles about 200 square feet each and those two cages each have connecting fenced-in exercise areas that extend down a hillside. Muffin's is about 30 feet by 70 feet giving her 2,100 square feet of natural habitat and

Wimpy's is smaller, about 1,300 square feet.

In order to make the introduction less stressful, we intended to connect the young bobcat cage to the cage that held Wimpy. This way the cats could share both cages, and become comfortable with the new space and then at the appropriate time, we would lock them out of their original cage. The two cages are separated by a drive-through area that needed to be kept clear. Bart built a 20 foot long overhead walkway about 10 feet up in the air out of 4" by 4" welded Barker panels which he painstakingly bent into a rectangle and welded together and then lined the floor of the cage with half inch welded hardware cloth. Wooden slide gates were built at both ends. The overhead bridge was raised onto the top of both cages and stairways were built down to the existing wooden walkways that line the exterior walls of the two cages.

A cage trap was brought into the young bobcat cage and set with chicken bait. Rosco did as expected and walked in, pulled at the chicken and caught himself. We then transported him about 30 feet over to Muffin's cage. We had already locked Muffin in her exercise area where she had housing and a feeding and watering station.

She would stay there and share a common wall with Rosco and give him some time to get over being so stressed at the move and adjust to his new surroundings.

Meanwhile, we also locked Wimpy in his hillside exercise area. Sammy, the young female, was given the opportunity to use the overhead walkway and explore Wimpy's cage by herself. She could visit and leave her smell then return back home if she wanted. This went on for a few days and they were able to visit through the common wall that separated the cage from the hillside exercise area.

Then we closed the slide gate and locked Sammy back into her original cage and allowed Wimpy back into his cage and gave him a day to get used to her smells she left behind.

So far, so good. There was no hostile body language observed and we felt this might work out. Wimpy had previously lived with another bobcat named Missy Woo from the time he was a kitten until just three years ago when she passed away. We had tried to introduce him to Muffin earlier but it was not successful. He was allowed access to her exercise area and he was extremely aggressive through the common wall of her cage. It was obvious that if he



Wimpy confronts Sammy



Wimpy and Sammy in overhead tunnel. Cougarama in background.

were allowed in with her, there would have been a terrible fight so we gave up after that first try.

Now his mood was more receptive and finally it was time to attempt the actual introduction. We had the garden hoses set up to break up a fight if necessary and we lifted both slide gates and Wimpy climbed up the stairs and crossed over the bridge to Sammy's cage. He began exploring the cage furniture and ramps while Sammy watched from the other end. She seemed excited at his presence and even a bit impressed with him. He began following her on the ramps and she jumped to the ground. As he got closer he began to growl and make threatening gestures towards her. We were nervous as they were less than a foot apart, face to face, squared off and crouched down and Wimpy's tail was swishing in anger and they vocalized their threatening mood.

Wimpy is no wimp these days, he is our largest bobcat, at least 40 pounds and young Sammy is about half that size. I used verbal commands to defuse the hostility, using a very soothing voice to say to Wimpy repeatedly to "be sweet Wimpy."

"No fighting." "Be nice Wimpy." Over and over we would use our voices to emote the calm mood we wished for him to feel. It seemed to make a difference. Sammy swiped him and then took off to put some distance between them. He spent time sniff-

ing where she had been, then followed her and watched her every move. When a half hour had passed and they had not gotten into a physical battle, we knew we probably were going to succeed.

Then Wimpy decided to return to his old



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cage, Sammy followed his lead and entered the overhead tunnel behind him. She was clearly interested in Wimpy and followed him over to his smaller cage. Sammy was at risk, not having the home court advantage. She began walking his elevated wooden ramps and he turned around and confronted her. She backed up as he approached and eventually he backed her up the stairs and completely out of the cage and into the overhead tunnel. She paused awhile to regain her courage and entered again. This time she was determined to stay and when they met face-to-face she refused to back away and she managed to intimidate him with her growls. He backed off. She had won the right to stay without a fight.

It was a very successful introduction. I think it was because Wimpy was older, mellower, and lonelier than he was the last time we tried to introduce a new female to him. Sammy was a young and bouncy teenager and perhaps infatuated with him as well. After giving the pair about a month's access to both cages, we closed the slide gate to the connecting overhead bridge and locked them over in Wimpy's cage. Then we opened the door to give the pair access to Wimpy's hillside habitat. Again, we spent a lot of time watching to make sure Sammy didn't attempt to climb up the walls and try to escape. The hotwire was hot, so if she got eight feet up the wall she was going to get shocked. But she never did. Instead she explored the grasses, plants, small trees and fallen logs and various areas of this natural habitat and then returned to the cage.

The pairing worked and the transition to a new cage was almost stress free. I wish all introductions went this smoothly.

Meanwhile, Rosco was locked up in Muffin's cage for about two weeks. He was very nervous about the move and did a lot of pacing on the ramps and it took that much time for him to eventually relax and settle down. The move was more traumatic for him, having lost his familiar territory and his longtime girlfriend. Muffin was locked out of her cage in her exercise area and she visited Rosco through the fence wall. Muffin has spent her entire life living with three different domestic tomcat companions. Shortly before we decided to attempt this pairing, we let Tom, her latest companion out of the habitat to free it up



Muffin stretches as Rosco looks on.

for Rosco. Muffin had bonded with all three domestic cats, Darlin', Denny, and Tom and she had mated with Denny and Tom, but never conceived. She vocalized friendly sounds to Rosco. He was intrigued, but submissive to Muffin, she being older and slightly larger than him.

We did not want Rosco to have access to the fenced exercise area until he was completely settled in and had been introduced to Muffin in the confines of the small cage so that we could break up a fight with a water hose if necessary. After a two-week introduction period, we allowed Muffin back into her cage. There is a small trap cage that sits inside the exercise area and is connected to the main cage. It has two slide gates on either side creating a baffle to enable us to allow one cat in without letting a cat out.

Bart and I were both inside the cage ready to stop any bobcat battles with either a hose or a dip net. Muffin entered her old cage and Rosco immediately approached her. They never growled or swatted; it was a most harmonious meeting. We could not have been happier. We kept the pair locked up for two weeks before letting them have access to the fenced-in area. By then Rosco had been confined for a month to this new space and seemed to be developing a terri-

torial imperative.

His original cage had a dirt floor and very little growing inside. This new area had lots of small trees, bushes, grasses, fallen logs, sunny spots, shady spots, and plenty to interest the senses. When we opened the connecting slide gate of the trap cage, Muffin trotted out with Rosco following in cautious movements. He sniffed at the plants, checking out everything. Muffin stalked him in playful ambush. They explored the new territory together and Rosco seemed truly happy about his new world.

Rosco and Sammy were raised together but are uncle and niece and we needed to pair them up with unrelated mates. Wimpy had never sired a litter with Missy Woo; I know they bred because her neck was chewed raw every spring, but I never saw the mating; they were very private about it. This past spring Sammy's neck was also raw. I am not sure if Wimpy is fertile.

This summer 9 year-old Muffin went into heat and Rosco obviously wanted to breed with her but it took him a long time to get up the courage to try. He followed her everywhere but kept a two-foot distance and didn't attempt to mount her. However, eventually he got up his nerve and Muffin gave birth to her first litter this past August. •

Exotic Cat Playing Cards Released

By Roz Gibson

I've always been a cat person. When my class in elementary school was forced to watch one of those cheesy 1960s Walt Disney animal movies, I was upset for days when the 'evil' mountain lion was killed. With the exception of four years at college, I've lived with cats my entire life and they've featured prominently in my art and writing. So if anyone was going to be crazy enough to try and wrangle 40 artists to illustrate 54 playing cards featuring all the wildcats of the world, it would be me.

I mentioned the idea for a wildcat playing card deck in my blog earlier this year, thinking out loud that it would be a fun multi-artist project. All my artist and cat lover friends immediately jumped on it to reserve their favorite wildcats, no matter how obscure. Surprisingly, the big charismatic species were not always first choices. One person asked specifically for the Borneo bay cat, another said she loved Iriomote cats and wanted that species. An artist who breeds Egyptian Mau cats picked the African wild cat because it resembles her breed, and the Pallas' cat went, naturally enough, to a friend who runs a Pallas' cat website.

One of the first issues to come up is that there are 54 cards in a standard poker deck (including jokers), but only 37 full species of wild cats.* Luckily the feline family's diversity came to the rescue, and I was able to fill out the deck with sub-species and color variants. So the deck includes not only the standard spotted leopard but also the very rare Amur leopard and the black-phase leopard. Five tigers will be featured—the Bengal, Siberian, white, Indo-Chinese, and Sumatran. The black and red phase of the jaguarundi are represented, as are both normal and black phase of the jaguar, and the Florida panther will be featured in addition to the familiar mountain lion. The widespread *Felis silvestris* gets four cards—picturing the African, European, and Arabian wildcat, as well as the familiar *Felis silvestris catus*, which is featured on the two joker cards. I also included two extinct felines—the Barbary lion and *Smilodon fatalis*.

The second concern unique to a card deck is the suits. I originally wanted to



arrange the suits by geographic area (spades would be Asia; diamonds, North America, etc.) but the Americas had too many species, and other areas too few. So I ended up going with coat color—the more brightly patterned species getting the hearts and diamonds, the plainer ones getting the spades and clubs. A cat's placement within the deck is roughly by size—the face cards and high numbers to the big cats, the 3, 2, and ace cards going to the tiny species.

Unlike most other wildlife artists, my formal art training and professional work has been as an animator and comic book artist. All the other artists contributing to this project are from the same or similar backgrounds in the animation, comic book, or fantasy illustration field. As a result the art has a very different look from standard wildlife painting. Instead of clinical, scien-

tifically precise illustrations, the artists produced lively portraits: cats gazing at the viewer with bright, intelligent eyes; a clouded leopard grinning with anticipation as it readies to pounce on a monkey; wrestling bobcat kittens; and a regal Barbary lion posing beneath a Roman coliseum. About half the artists are using digital art programs such as Photoshop, Flash, and Painter to render their finished images. The rest create their art in traditional media, including pieces done in watercolor, colored pencil, ink, and markers. The final card artwork delivered to the printer is put together in Photoshop.

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The artists participating are as diverse as the cats. They include a 3D animator, a newspaper photographer and wildlife artist, artists who do illustrations for collectable card games, website designers, freelance illustrators, and art students. There are also several hobby artist contributors, including an attorney and a computer programmer. While most of the artists are from the United States or Canada, we have one Aussie contributor, and artists from Singapore, Iceland, Germany, and the United Kingdom participating. All of them are part of a close-knit community of artists that socialize online and at conventions. In addition to their artistic talent, the other thing these people have in common is a love of wildcats and nature.

The art directions were simple—portray the cat in a manner that would make its species immediately recognizable, with some indication of where, geographically, it lives or what its natural prey is. As much as I dislike the cliché of something being “both fun and educational,” that is what I am hoping to achieve with this. People already familiar with wildcats could enjoy seeing lesser-known species portrayed in a unique way, and the layman would learn about cats they might not ordinarily hear of. I wanted to make a card deck I would have loved as a feline-obsessed child.

This has been a challenging project. Trying to get a large number of busy artists to do the same subject on a deadline is, as they say, like trying to herd cats. That is especially true trying to coordinate people from other countries and every end of North America. (Thank goodness for the internet!) But with a lot of hard work on everyone’s part, the deck came together nicely. There should be some wild cats helping players win at poker very soon, or at the very least showing people the difference between a Borean bay cat and an Andean mountain cat. •

**At the time I was planning the deck, authorities had not declared the Borneo clouded leopard a full species, nor did I know about the pampas cat being split into several new species.*



Contributing Artists

Amara Pronovost	Nduli
Andrea Adams	oCeLoT
Balaa	Orange04
Blotch	Roz Gibson
Diana Harlan Stein	Samantha Robinson
Domino Rose	Sara Palmer
Egypt Urnash	Scott A.H. Ruggels
Evana	Summer Jackel
Foxfeather	Synnabar
Heather Bruton	TaniDaReal
JC Amberlyn	Tania Walker
Kacey Miyagami	Terrie Smith
Karena Kleifoth	Thornwolf
Keovi	Tiina Purin
Key	Tracy Bailey
Kitsumi	Tracy Reynolds
Maggoek	Ursula Husted
Megan Giles	Winged Siamese
Michele Light	XianJaguar
Monica Menza	Yelth
Moon Wang	

Editor’s notes:

- This card deck is not associated with the fine art travelling exhibit “Wildcats of the World” which debuted at FCF’s convention.
- Color pictures of some of these playing cards can be seen on the inside back cover.
- Purchase the card deck at <http://rozgibson.huzzah.com/Deck/>
- Email Roz at roz.gibson@gmail.com



FCF Journal Recognized with Muse Medallion

By Mike Friese

When Raven Simmons told me she joined the Cat Writers' Association (CWA), I thought she was joking. "There's a group for everyone," I thought. But after I did some more thinking, I realized that CWA would be a group I should join.

You can't simply send in some dues and become a CWA member. CWA requires a current CWA member to sponsor you and CWA also requires a recent portfolio of your work. Raven sponsored me and I sent in several recent copies of the *FCF Journal*.

Once I was accepted as a member, I started planning to attend CWA's 14th annual conference in Foster City, California. The CWA conference usually takes place alongside the Cat Fancier's Association's International Cat Show (for domestics) which is held in the very same hotel as the CWA convention. Just months before the show date, the CWA cancelled their show. This caused a significant reduction in



Photo by Betsy Stowe

conference attendance but fortunately for my non-refundable tickets, the conference was not cancelled.

The conference was well attended by writers and there was also a strong presence of publishers, editors, veterinarians, vendors, manufacturers, and agents.

There were a lot of vendors generously sponsoring our gift totes—each of us were given two totes to carry all the booty. Each of the breakfasts, lunches, dinners and open bars were financed by vendors such as Hartz, Iams, Cat Fancy, Pfizer, Fort Dodge, and Purina.

Both the days were filled with seminars and panels. On Friday we had ten seminars split evenly between writing and pet health topics. On Saturday there were four different discussion panels. During the Pet Food and Supply Industry panel I came to realize that most of the people making the discoveries and announcements during the recent pet food scare were in attendance. Plus I got to meet the veterinarian who dis-

covered the taurine/cardiomyopathy connection that nearly killed one of my cats 15 years ago.

I distributed journals to dozens of conventioners; I even gave one to my counterpart at *Cat Fancy Magazine*. Since CWA is a domestic cat-oriented organization, most of the conventioners expressed surprise that there were exotic cat fanciers. I encountered mostly enthusiasm and an occasional bit of hostility. In general, everybody realizes that cats are cats and all are important.

On the final evening, there was a grand awards banquet sponsored by Purina. They served some mighty fine people chow. I was awarded the CWA Muse Medallion for "Newsletter—Regional or Membership Circulation." One judge's comment: "[The *FCF Journal*] is an incredibly well put together publication. The content just blows me away."

I may put the journal together but you, gentle readers, provide the all-important content. Thank you for all your articles and picture submissions over the last two years. Without your generous contributions, the *FCF Journal* would not be an award winner. •



Brother

By Denise Little

Brother was born August 23, 2002 from parents Remba and KiPamba. He was the only boy of a litter of three.

Brother had a rough start in life and rough seemed to follow him for a long time. At the age of one week, his sister or sisters sucked on his genitals and traumatized the area so bad he couldn't pass urine.

I don't know about anyone else but every once in awhile I get a litter that will suck on each other. Usually I separate all cubs, which is sad because it would be nice for them to have each other for company. I did not separate these three because I wasn't seeing a problem. Well, as our dear friend in Miami says, "The word is 'yet,' they were not doing it yet."

One day I finished feeding the cubs, went outside to take care of adult animals, and came back inside three hours later to feed again. The two girls drank and pottied just fine. I went to feed Brother and he couldn't eat! I thought, "Oh, he must need to potty now." I usually potty cubs before (just in case) and after each bottle.

So I tried to potty him and nothing happened. His eyes told me he was sick. I investigated his whole body and realized his bladder was full and hard.

I was so scared. He was so young. I had to rush him to the vet's office. But at this age it usually isn't a positive ending. The vet emptied his bladder, looked at the traumatized area and said, "I don't know Denise, it's awfully bad."

I felt so guilty and negligent. I should have separated them immediately! The vet sent me home with salve for the traumatized area, and a whole bunch of good luck!

I separated him from his sisters. For days he cried himself to sleep, lonely. I gave him toys with all their scents, an alarm clock for a heartbeat, everything other people and I could think of. The loneliness finally went away after days.

Meanwhile, for a week Bruce and I diligently soaked the traumatized area just to get the crust or scab off before we could help make him urinate by gently squeezing or pushing his bladder. We were not sure if he could ever urinate by himself or if he would end up being euthanized.

A week later the surprise came. Bruce was helping me because Brother was tired of this potty routine. I was trying to hold this squirming three-week-old caracal cub and Bruce was trying to soak "the area." All of a sudden Brother started squirting a stream of urine all over us, the floor and the

wall as we were saying, "Yeah, Brother – good boy!"

We were so relieved there was no permanent damage in the area. It's surprising sometimes what pleasure and excitement we exotic animal lovers get out of urine and feces!

Brother and the sister grew quickly. They had playtime together under our constant supervision. But Brother slept in his own playpen until everyone weaned from the bottle.

Time went by and I could not find good, reliable homes for these three sweet caracal cubs.

When Brother turned 4½ months old, a lady convinced me that she was the 'perfect' home for him. I spent several hours talking to her off and on explaining I didn't think it would work. I felt he was too old now. I told her all the negative things I could think of about "house caracals." Even about the "pee gene," as my friend in Miami calls it. You know, where if they don't get their way about something, or are just upset with you for whatever reason, or just because, they will pee on your bed, pillows, couch, somewhere they aren't supposed to.

Bruce and I were hesitant. After 4½

months we had totally bonded with him. He liked to lie over my lap and suck my hand while I watched TV. He liked to back up to Bruce's feet, sit down and wait for Bruce to scratch his back with his toes. We should have listened to our hearts. But we didn't.

We shipped Brother off to this very nice lady, and she was, and is a very nice lady. Finances were not an issue. She talked about dedicating a room to him with an attached outside enclosure and everything.

All started out well. She listened about allowing Brother to come out of the carrier on his own when he arrived there. She loved him so much and thought he was so beautiful. He slept with her and played with toys with her.

Two and a half months later the not so good phone calls came. He was eating her bathroom rugs, bedroom curtains, mattress, quilt, and laundry. All the while hissing, spitting, and growling at her. But she loved him so we gave some constructive advice.

The next phone call was "Please will you take him back? He's trying to bite me." Thank goodness we were encouraged by a friend to add a clause in our seller/buyer contract that we would have first option for take back an animal if for any reason the buyer couldn't keep the animal. And, thank goodness she honored that clause.

Needless to say we took Brother back. After two and a half months, we just knew he would not remember us. And after hearing the lady's description of behavior we knew he would be unhandleable. We were not sure exactly what to expect or how bad the situation would be.

We went to the airport to pick Brother up. Feeling so sad and guilty for letting him go in the first place. As Bruce and I looked into the carrier door, the sight we saw was so pathetic. We both shouted, "Brother". To our shock and happiness he remembered us, or our voices, smells or something. He came to the carrier door just talking his caracal talk and purring the low, soft caracal purr.

Upon reaching home, which was a long drive from the airport, we were saddened again. Brother immediately came to us with love but inside the carrier were "big" pieces of material, mattress, foam rubber and carpet that he had passed during the flight.

Unfortunately he weighed a lot less coming back to us than he did when we shipped

him off. Brother was so weak he could only walk in a wobbly fashion for a few steps, then lay down to rest for long periods of time. We immediately took him to an excellent vet. He was checked out completely. Thank goodness there were no obstructions in his intestines. Surgery was not an issue.

But he was very weak and had a very bad intestinal infection. The diagnosis of recovery didn't look good.

It took weeks of special care, special diet, a lot of encouragement and love. He must have had the will to live because he made it through.

Then at a year of age, he sacred us again. One morning, without warning

signs, he had a fever, he wasn't active, his eyes were droopy, he was coughing, and he couldn't breathe normal breaths. It looked like he wouldn't breath and then all of a sudden take a huge gulp of air with his mouth open. It looked like death breaths to me.

I rushed Brother to a different vet because my normal vet wasn't available. I just knew this was the end for Brother. I kept talking to him and petting him with tears streaming down my face as I drove.

The vet couldn't find anything wrong with Brother. (Needless to say, I no longer use this vet.) He couldn't find anything wrong with his eyes, ears, nose, or throat. He couldn't hear anything wrong with his

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lungs. I begged the vet to take an X-ray. Brother was so sick he didn't even need to be sedated to hold still for the X-ray. The X-ray showed nothing! But the vet said it wasn't a good X-ray machine.

So as Brother was lying there lifeless every so often gulping breaths, I lost control. The vet wanted to just send us home! I couldn't believe it. Clearly something was wrong with Brother.

Yes, I lost control and not very nicely. I said, "Give me some Baytril and Lasix. He can't breathe for some reason."

The vet didn't like me at that point. I know I have no schooling as a vet and I screamed at him instead of calmly talking nice. But that nice reaction wasn't taking care of Brother.

I was sent home quickly with Baytril for infection of who knew what, Lasix to help him breathe, Torbutrol for his hacky cough, and Prednisone for inflammation of some kind the vet felt he had.

After three days of medication all the infection of whatever was coming out of his eyes, nose and chest. To this day there was no diagnosis of what it was. He was over it in a week, healthy, bouncy, and ornery again. I paid the vet bill but never apologized. I felt like he wanted Brother and me to leave before Brother died in his clinic.

Then at 15 months old, 2 years old, and 2½ years old he came down with a flegmy cough, snotty nose, and slight fever. Each time we saw the "good vet." It appears as though certain times of the allergy season Brother becomes affected. Each time he was put on antibiotics and healed quickly. By the third episode of this I taught Brother to cough and blow his nose into a Kleenex.

Sounds crazy—I know—but even now at 4 years old he will cough for me and blow his nose into a Kleenex for me. Thank goodness in the last two years he hasn't needed any antibiotics.

Brother is now big and handsome. He still lies across my lap and sucks on my hand purring ever so quietly. He still backs up to Bruce's feet and sits there waiting and demanding to have his back scratched with Bruce's toes.

There is always softness in his eyes and lots of sound with his caracal talk and those beautifully tufted ears switching. •



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FCF Members Attend AZA Midwest Conference

By Robert Hohn

In April 2007, nine FCF members from upstate New York attended the AZA Midwest conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Being from a seasonal zoo we took time in the off-season to travel as a group for education. This was our first time to Iowa and we were in for a pleasant surprise.

The conference had two or three topics at once, so we could attend what interested us. We learned a lot from people from Chicago, San Diego, Alabama, Nebraska, and Hawaii.

We learned to embrace electronic media, like YouTube and photo share sites. We learned a lot from the Blank Park Zoo staff. They have a great education program where local middle school students give up free time at school to be docents at the zoo. The presentation the kids gave was very informative. The feline staff escorted us to a behind-the-scenes tour. The tigers, lions, and snow leopards were great.

The highlight was being invited to a planning meeting for a \$40 million expansion. The invitation was open to everyone but only 30 people attended. At the roundtable discussion, we met the president and vice president of the AZA. They knew we were a non-AZA zoo, but treated us professionally.

The topic was 'Dream Big'. Everyone had great ideas. They called on me. I asked instead of worrying about how to get people who come to Des Moines to come to the zoo, give them a reason to come to Iowa. (They told me to dream big.)

So the question is, if you had the land and \$40 million what would you do? •



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J.R. Finds a Home



J.R. cougar with his Geoffroy buddy Neena.

By Lynn Culver

J.R. came into my life in early June. Marcus Cook had an accidental litter of cougars born and hired me to raise the male kitten to export age, as he had it sold.

This wouldn't be the first time I have been approached to perform this service. Once before I was contracted to raise a cougar kitten to export age (usually about three months) for Animal Source Texas. But nine months passed and two different export transactions failed. Eventually I was paid for my services and I ended up keeping the cougar.

Knowing what I know about the difficulties of exporting, I explained to Marcus that Bart and I were not in a position to keep this kitten and if this export failed, Marcus needed to pay for my services and take the cougar back because we could not keep his cat forever.

I drove two hours to Texarkana to meet one of Marcus' employees and pick up the newly pulled ten-day-old kitten. I raised him with bobcats and Geoffroy's. It was nice to have a young cougar again. I used to breed them for sale, but stopped in the mid-

dle of the 1990s because there was no captive habitat available anymore. Changing laws had forced many people to give up their pet cougars, breeders to give away their cougar breeding stock to sanctuaries, or, like me, just keep them but stop breeding them.

It's not much better today. There aren't as many cougars needing sanctuary, but there are many more states that have closed down. Arkansas is a case in point. G & F will not issue any new pet puma permits. Captive habitat is very limited for cougars. They don't get used for photo work, circuses, or magic acts like tigers and lions, they aren't the big draw for the public zoo as tigers, most states have outlawed them as pets, and with the new USDA regulations on declawing, I think the call for this species as outreach educational ambassador animals will probably be reduced as well because of the increased exhibitor liability.

The puma was named J.R., of Dallas' South Fork fame and I brought him to the FCF convention along with Sue Ellen the bobcat and Lucy the Geoffroy's cat. Everyone loved him and bottle-fed him and he

raised about \$450 to fight the Haley's Act legislation working the U.A.P.P.E.A.L. booth.

About two weeks after convention, the export was off and J.R. was on the market for a new home. By this time we had another six Geoffroy's kittens living in our home, as well as the older one, Lucy, and Sue Ellen bobcat, joining a rapidly growing J.R. puma.

Zuzana had met J.R. at convention and expressed an interest in him. When I mentioned to her he was for sale, she wanted to purchase him. I was a bit concerned as she lives in a very hot state. I live in a hot state, and shipping by air can be nearly impossible out of Little Rock in August and even in into September. Temperatures at every airport must be below 85 degrees. I have many years experience shipping and I have learned that what can go wrong DOES go wrong. Shipping cougar with Delta would require constructing a wooden crate and a change of planes. It would have to be accomplished by September 15, because we both knew that the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, federal legislation designed to

restrict the interstate transport of big cats species to just USDA or sanctuary facilities, became effective September 15. I spoke with Marcus and told him he would have to do the shipping from Dallas.

Then a traveling mixed-species exhibitor called me interested in J.R. He was at the Missouri State Fair and his 17-year-old cougar had died and he needed to replace him immediately. A life on the road means tight confinement and a cub his age really needs room to run. I had my doubts, but referred him to Marcus who spoke with the exhibitor and decided to sell J.R. to him. I felt bad for Zuzana, so I found her another cougar baby and she now has Coogie the cougar.

Robert and his wife Christina drove down from Missouri on August 22 to pick up J.R. He was not all that particularly interested in the exhibitor couple. That happens sometimes. J.R. interacted with them some, but then he walked away from them, climbed the stairs to the bathroom and laid down to take a nap and his little Geoffroy's buddy Neena climbed up to join him. That was not the best sign.

As they visited, we spoke about the legislative situation in Florida, their home state. Robert said that the new \$2,000,000 insurance requirement more than doubled his current premium for his \$1,000,000 policy. I could see that this animal-rights backed legislation was going to cause another eco-niche for working felines to shrink. We talked about the new USDA regulation on declawing and he said the other cougar he used in his show was declawed. I showed him that J.R. had one defective claw on his front foot that would not retract and that it should probably be removed.

The next day Robert called to say that they had taken J.R. to a local vet for an exam and that he had a hernia and it was going to cost \$500 to fix it and they paid a premium price for a perfect cat. I was appalled he was quoted \$500 for simple corrective surgery and told him so. Then he said J.R. tried to attack their dogs and seemed very stressed.

Over the next two days it became apparent that this was not a good situation. Neither J.R. nor the exhibitors particularly liked each other. J.R. was cramped into some traveling RV motor home parked at the



J.R. and his Geoffroy buddies

state fairgrounds with a bunch of strange animals and strange people who were on a tight travel schedule. They were leaving for their next state fair show in a few days and needed to make a quick decision.

I spoke with my vet and was quoted \$75 to fix a hernia. Marcus and I decided it best that J.R. come back to me. On Sunday, August 26 my friend Gail and I drove two hours north to Fort Smith to pick up J.R. I refunded the purchase price to Christina and was relieved that J.R. seemed none the worse for wear.

Once home, I examined his belly and felt this tiny hernia. Christina called to check on him and when I said I was amazed I never felt the hernia before, she said they found it the next day themselves.

I took him in for a vet exam and his opinion was that if I were keeping J.R., he would recommend doing nothing because many times these things will resolve themselves. But since J.R. was for sale and one customer had already made an issue of it, we might as well correct it. Marcus was in favor of having my inexpensive vet do the surgery and he assured me he would reimburse me for this expense.

The surgery was performed before Labor Day weekend. The hernia was very

small but the nearby muscle tissue was thin so the vet took the opportunity to cut it away, making the hole larger and then stitch it up. His one defective claw was removed at the same time. By Sunday the belly area was swollen and distended. I suspected that he had busted his internal stitches. When the clinic reopened after the Labor Day holiday, J.R. went in for evaluation and indeed he had busted his stitches and the surgery had to be done all over again.

I offered to export J.R. My experience with exporting cougars taught me that I would need a breeder's statement on the parents and the grandparents for the CITES permit. Marcus purchased J.R.'s parents from Jay Riggs. When he called Jay he learned that the litter was actually born at Dave Harris' place in Indiana. Dave was the person who was caught up in the federal investigation of Ken and Nancy Kraft and cut a deal and became a witness for the prosecutor. Marcus was one of the defendants of that case. He was acquitted by the judge. It was not likely Dave was going to be forthcoming with information, so this next potential captive habitat also disappeared.

It wasn't until after J.R. healed from surgery in mid-September that he moved

outside and took his first leash walks. We took J.R. to our creek, something we never make time to do. Having J.R. made us take time to enjoy the nature all around us. It was during one of our walks that Bart noticed that J.R.'s scrotal sac on one side seemed very swollen and he thought J.R. had an inguinal hernia. At the follow-up visit to the vet to remove the staples from his umbilical hernia surgery, I asked his opinion and he was not sure. However, the swelling never receded and to this day it still appears he needs another surgery.

I advertised J.R. in *Animal Finders Guide* and in the *FCF Journal* and on an exotic animal internet list. A man in Arizona with a female cougar wanted J.R. to keep her company. He called and I learned that he had no permit. I painted a picture of his future. It was not going to work, he was being unfair to the cat, and he would get caught. I don't know how people think they can have an illegal cougar and keep it hidden.

I contacted a ZAOA member zoo in Michigan that advertised on the ZAOA website that it needed a cougar for a new \$1,000,000 habitat. I called the director, but he wanted an adult cougar.

J.R. is a very loving boy. A bit quiet, certainly not an extrovert, but when comfortable in the familiar home grounds, he is playful and happy. He met all the other felines on our property. We allowed him to roam loose inside our three acres of fenced-in yard. We have a 50-foot hillside and a bottomland forest at the base. His favorite activity was to grab a plastic gallon milk jug and bat it down the hill with his paws chasing it and biting it. Because he could be out of sight and he didn't always answer when called, I made him wear a small bell



J.R. at the vets for a health cert.

so I could hear where he was.

We were doing cage renovations and J.R. got to live in a couple of different cages. One of the cages was next to Mishi, a neutered three-year-old cougar. By the time J.R. left, those two had formed a real friendship. If we intended to keep J.R., I am sure we could have eventually introduced him into Mishi's enclosure. Those two would run the fence line of Mishi's fenced-in exercise area and paw at each other through the fence with never a threat or nip or scratch. Mishi really liked J.R.

By October 24 there was still no firm home for J.R. on the horizon and so it was time to give him back to Marcus. I e-mailed an invoice for my rearing services, the vet bills and the advertising expenses, and gave notice that I could only keep J.R. a few more weeks so Marcus would have time to make arrangements to take him back.

On November 11, Marcus called to say that Bill Meadows was going to take J.R. Bill operates Tiger Safari Exotic Zoological Park, an FCF accredited zoo in Oklahoma and this was great news. I could deliver J.R. and spend the night and help him settle in. It was the right kind of environment for J.R.—a private, hands-on zoo with big fenced habitats. I knew Bill would take good care of J.R.

Bill had many irons in the fire, and as the weeks passed it was apparent he was not ready to take J.R. Thanksgiving weekend came and went and J.R. was still with us.

On November 26, Marcus called again and was very surprised when I informed him I still had J.R. and that Bill probably couldn't take him after all.

I began to wonder if there was any available habitat in all of America for J.R. Then I got a call from a friend who had found the perfect home for J.R. It was a sanctuary and the woman was grieving for the loss of her 15-year old cougar and wanted a cub to love. I spoke with the lady and told her J.R. might need another hernia operation. She intended to neuter him anyway and was not deterred. This sounded perfect. J.R. would have only one assignment in life, to be himself and to be loved and give his love to his owners.

Marcus had spoken to another Florida exhibitor and promised J.R. to him. I was concerned. After J.R. had been rejected, I

didn't want that to happen again. I spoke with the exhibitor's wife who assuaged some of my fears. She assured me they did not plan to allow hands-on contact with the public. They had lion and tiger experience. She told me that they did not want to pay the expense of flying J.R. Marcus had indicated he could have his employees drive J.R. to them and that is what they preferred to do.

I spoke with Marcus Thursday evening about driving J.R. to Florida. Then I told Marcus about the other possible home for J.R. I had found. He told me not to do anything; he would talk to the exhibitors about his driving fee and get back to me.

Three days later Marcus called to tell me that the Florida exhibitors didn't want to pay to have J.R. driven to Florida, instead they wanted him flown to them. Marcus asked me to work up a quote to build a wooden crate and drive J.R. to the airport. I told him Bart wanted payment for our vet bills and rearing services before we did anything more. Marcus acted offended. He told me to fax him a new invoice and he would send an employee to pick up J.R. at my house and pay me in cash. That never happened.

J.R. was six months old and weighed forty pounds. Winter was approaching and it was well past time for him to have a permanent home. Fortunately, the home I found him allowed him to be himself and all that was asked of him was to let himself be loved.

Bart designed and built him a wooden shipping crate. I took off in the early morning hours to drive him the 110 miles to the Little Rock airport. J.R. was frightened. I felt guilty, but we just could not keep him.

The sanctuary owners who adopted him understood cougars. In just a matter of days J.R. had adjusted to his new people and his new life. He has been given house privileges and gets to spend the night. He is purring and happy and I am overjoyed.

With all the changing laws and shrinking habitat types, sanctuaries are becoming the last hope for our cats. I fear that soon, this habitat will also be gone. If we do not turn back the pendulum, there will not be any captive habitat left for cougars. There will not be any breeders of cougars, exhibitors of cougars, or private homes for cougars. Our grandchildren will only know about these cats from books and TV. •

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 Price: \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 non-**

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 Amount enclosed: (\$65/per FCF member, \$95/per non-FCF member) _____
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Zoological Association of America Conference Report

By Kevin Chambers

The Zoological Association of America's (ZAA) mission is to promote the responsible ownership, management, and propagation of animals in both private and public domains. The membership is quite diverse, with members from the private sector as well as public institutions, many of whom are also AZA members. I've heard it said that ZAA members are ones that the AZA would not accept, implying that ZAA is a second rate organization. This simply is not true. Granted, many ZAA members probably would be turned down for the higher levels of membership in AZA (mainly for political reasons), but many are members in good standing with AZA. Facilities such as San Diego Zoo and Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo are examples that ZAA also attracts some of the finest zoos in the world. In fact, the AZA annual conference was also hosted by Lowry Park Zoo just two months previous to hosting the ZAA convention. Also, the president of AZA himself was in attendance at the ZAA convention this year.

ZAA has several levels of membership:

Associate: An associate member is interested in conservation, preservation, and propagation of animals in the private and public domains. It also includes those persons who wish, eventually, to progress to the Professional category. There are no special qualifications for membership in this category, except that the applicant must be approved by the Membership Committee. Associate members may not vote or hold office.

Professional/Zooculturist: (Sponsorship required) This is the ultimate category for individual membership in ZAA. Members are elected to this status from the Associate Category by the ZAA board. Professional/Zooculturist members may vote and hold office. The procedure for becoming a Professional/Zooculturist member is, according to the bylaws and policies of ZAA:

- a) Submit an application for membership.
- b) Include in the application a letter of sponsorship from a Professional member.
- c) Provide a written or oral resume.
- d) Receive a pro majority vote of the

board of directors.

Public Facility: (Sponsorship required) Must hold an animal collection and be open to the public on a scheduled basis and have regular and predictable hours that are convenient to the general public and which constitute more than a token opening.

Non-public Facility: (Sponsorship required) Must hold an animal collection and not be open to the public on a scheduled basis.

Educational Facility: This category was just approved at the convention and a formal description is not yet available.

The procedure for becoming any of the three categories of institutional membership is the same:

- a) Submit an application for membership.
- b) Include in the application a letter of sponsorship from a Professional member.
- c) Receive a pro majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Others: ZAA also has membership categories for commercial suppliers and affiliated organizations.

The board of directors of ZAA is comprised of 12 individuals, six from public facilities and six from private facilities. Ownership determines whether a facility is public or private.

ZAA has several standing committees—membership, editorial, website, conservation, legislative, and accreditation. Many of these committees are still in the development stage since ZAA is just two years old.

At this year's ZAA convention, I presented a proposal to the board of directors where FCF and ZAA would have a reciprocal accreditation agreement. With this agreement, a facility that is FCF accredited would not have to go through the entire process of evaluation by the ZAA accreditation committee if they apply for ZAA accreditation. The same would apply for ZAA accredited facilities applying for FCF accreditation. The facilities would only have to apply and would automatically be accredited by the other organization. This

proposal was well received by the ZAA board, though there are several details that have to be worked out, such as what happens with facilities that have more species than just felines and the length of the accreditation period. FCF only examines the feline facilities and husbandry where ZAA examines all species of captive wildlife. The ZAA board has appointed a committee comprised of the ZAA and FCF accreditation committees combined to work out the details and submit a finalized proposal. We hope to have this finished and approved by both boards early in 2008. This is an exciting development that could lead to more widespread recognition of our FCF accreditation and possibly to future exemptions from the ever-increasing ban laws.

ZAA is still evolving and finding its footing in the animal world. Despite some problems, it is very quickly gaining support and recognition. In the last year, membership has increased by 55%. They have 59 facility memberships, 35 of which are accredited and seven pending accreditations. It has a very good working relationship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group meeting last April, a USF&W representative was asked point blank what they thought of ZAA. The answer was that if there ever comes a time when import permits need to be limited, the USF&W Service would split the permits equally between AZA and ZAA. That is quite a statement in these political times. AZA no longer stands alone at the top of the mountain.

Is ZAA appropriate for everyone? Probably not. ZAA does support the private sector ownership of captive wildlife, but they do place an emphasis on breeding, as their mission statement implies. Until the last conference where the educator's category was developed, there was no category other than the Associate level for anyone who did not actively breed animals. ZAA currently does not accredit a facility that does not breed, though this may change somewhat depending on the outcome of the reciprocal accreditation agreement with the FCF. •

Another View of the ZAOA Conference

By *Mindy Stinner*

I attended the ZAOA conference in Tampa Florida as one of FCF's representatives. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the people I had been talking to on the phone and via email for years. I even got to meet one of my childhood heroes, Jim Fowler.

I know that the organization has been working to establish its credentials as a reputable association of zoos and private facilities that choose to propagate animals. I was concerned that the bigger zoos and organizations would dismiss the interests of the smaller member facilities as they developed and moved forward. While that is certainly still possible, I think there is a good chance that the ZAOA will make good on its promise to stand up for all of its members, assuming the organization's leadership follows through with their commitments.

The conference was set up so every day there were morning speakers and an afternoon field trip.

Legal issues were high on the agendas of many attendees. Genny Wall, a lawyer, made a fascinating presentation about legislative issues facing exotics owners today. Ironically, she began her legal career working as an animal rights advocate until she realized how extreme their agenda has become. She is now a supporter of animal welfare, and is working hard to educate legislators about the real AR agenda. She has put together a detailed and comprehensive PowerPoint presentation that can be used whole or in part in our defense. She is providing a copy at no cost to several attendees who requested it. I have requested it for my work in North Carolina and for FCF's use across the US as needed. Ms. Wall pointed out some of the more extreme web sites the AR groups post, such as www.peta.org/living/ and www.furisdead.com. She suggested referring legislators and other lawmakers to the sites as an example of the underlying agenda of these groups.

Tim Van Norman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Management Authority spoke on the topic of import and export permits. His presentation included a brief summary of the Endangered Species Act's permit requirements for interstate commerce, an explanation of the CITES assessment system and referral to their web

site for more information (www.cites.org), and definitions of terms found in legal language they are bound to be guided by. He explained their goals include approving permits for programs proven to benefit the species in the wild and enhance the welfare of the species overall. He detailed the process of publication in the Federal Register and emphasized that it is extremely rare to issue a permit for any animal taken from the wild. He stated flatly that the permits will not be issued for education only; they must include a captive breeding aspect. It is interesting to note that in recent years few cheetah have been brought into the US with a contract allowing them to breed but the facilities from which the imported animals originated had received support for continuing their breeding operations.

The speakers included field researchers studying a variety of species. The primary topic related to cat care was presented by Dr. Greg Fleming, formerly of White Oak and now of Disney. He has been working in Africa studying wild dogs and hyena, and has had the opportunity to test out new anesthetic drug combinations that may be applicable to other carnivore species. The new combinations allow a fast drop of a scared animal and an almost immediate recovery after sedation has been reversed. Research is ongoing.

Dr. Linda Penfold has been studying reproduction and the use of Deslorelin in several species, noting that it is effective in use with canids and felids. Continuing research in the area of artificial insemination has produced continued improvements in the field. In contraception, many new implants are now available for males of some species that inhibit sperm production and aggression.

Dr. Bernie Levine gave a presentation on the building and development of Parrot Jungle, now known as Jungle Island, in downtown Miami. Many FCF members will remember visiting his zoo and seeing Doc Antle's show at the Miami FCF convention.

Speaker Mark Quinn attended an "African bush school" to become an ecotourist guide, trained in local customs, identifying native plants and wildlife, and managing emergencies (from charging elephants to ill visitors). He is now providing ecotours both in America's Everglades and

Africa, and he encourages other interested nature lovers to consider EcoTraining. His web site is www.adventuresafaris.biz.

ZAOA's Lex Salisbury and Dr. Fassil Gabremariam of the National Institute of Health spent time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, assessing the palace's collection of lions. In recent years there has been a great deal of interest in the Asiatic lions, especially the isolated population from the Gir Forest. Some miscommunication among the zoo officials and multiple teams of researchers meant a European group got in to assess the region's zoo animals first, but Salisbury's team was able to gain access to the rarely observed palace population instead. Access was a bit more exciting than they had planned, since it involved climbing down a little concrete tunnel to the lockdown area for these animals. Photos of these cats showed them to be very short and compact, with short noses and a heavy dark mane. They confirmed through blood work what was already suspected, that this was a genetically distinct group from the plains lions. What is not known is whether the diversity reflects a true, naturally occurring subspecies, or if it is the result of many generations of inbreeding among a limited population. While debate will continue over this, it is unlikely to ever be resolved because of the few numbers of specimens remaining in the area to which to compare them.

The general membership meeting was run by Ron Young, accreditation chair, and Jim Fouts, membership. The meeting opened with a statement of unity, reminding everyone in attendance that the group is committed to protecting its members regardless of size and stature. They announced a change in the name's acronym to ZAA, for clarity and ease of use. The leadership of the ZAA is structured so the board includes members from both public and private member facilities.

The board reported 59 member facilities, of which 35 are accredited. They explained the levels of membership as currently structured to include Associate (open to everyone who pays the fee), Professional (requires a sponsor and resume, plus additional fee), and Facility level. The Facility level includes several sub-categories: public facilities (defined as receiving government

support), private facilities open to the public, private facilities not open to the public/breeders, and a newly approved subcategory of educational facilities. Membership at the facility level requires an application and a sponsor. ZAA membership dues have been raised to allow more income for the ZAA general fund. Beyond membership comes accreditation, which they are strongly encouraging for all commercial members. FCF is exploring whether our accreditation program can have an exchange agreement with the ZAA for cat-only facilities.

The board requested additional member participation to help with their newsletter, soliciting articles and ideas. They announced official affiliations with several organizations, including the FCF, the Aviculture Society of America, the United Peafowl Association and others, plus a publication affiliation with Animal Finders Guide. John Wortman was introduced as their legislation committee chair and he has requested that interested people contact him with their ideas and concerns. FCF member Dan Kneip is working on the ZAA web site development, including an online archive, FAQ section, and electronic applications for membership. Their site is averaging 136 hits a day currently.

The ZAA Conservation Committee has endorsed two projects, the Savannah Cheetah Reintroduction Project headed by Bobby Hartslief and the Philippine Dwarf Crocodile Project put forth by member Doug Kemper. Endorsement does not

imply a specific monetary commitment, but rather provides the stamp of approval to encourage member involvement and support. The ZAA has a wildlife fund established to support projects, but is still developing a philosophical statement and a list of approved projects for it. It is funded by a \$350 donation from each board member, 5% of all membership dues, and 10% of the auction funds from the convention.

The ZAA has applied for WAZA membership, which has caused quite an uproar across the AZA. The World Zoo and Aquarium Association usually only approves one organization from a region to apply for membership status, but they are considering waiving this since both groups clearly meet their standards and expectations but have different philosophies on development and management. The WAZA has postponed a vote on this application until 2009 to ensure the ZAA is a lasting group that retains its standards over time.

Our afternoon field trips included the Lowry Park Zoo and the 4J Conservation Center at the Chatfield's farm. The zoo is absolutely beautiful and well laid out, so it takes a long time to travel the relatively small acreage. They have a large collection of cats, apes, and hoofstock, with well-designed exhibits and happy animals. Our group was especially amused by the cheetah brothers excitedly pacing the wall, hunting the camels giving rides and the okapi who wanted to make friends with them. Their exhibit includes a lake that has been fenced off both on the sides and from above

to prevent local waterfowl from entering the area. The staff reported the occasional "suicide duck" encouraged the cheetah to swim out several meters to catch them. They have had to modify the exhibit to protect the cats and the public from this unexpected cheetah behavior.

I was excited to see not only the variety of wildcats, but also the New Guinea singing dogs exhibit. Last year, my partner, Douglas Evans, and I traveled to Germany to take one of our singers to a zoo there, and to accompany a singer back to the US for the Lowry Park Zoo. "Benji" had stayed with us for

several days before heading on to Lowry Park, where he had had some adjustment issues at the zoo with his new mate. The zoo kindly had me escorted to a keeper access area where I could see Benji and his new girlfriend. He greeted me with a wagging tail and enthusiasm. I was thrilled to see he was happy and well adjusted. I was also happy to see that the cooperative effort between an AZA zoo, an EZA zoo, and our private sector facility was working out well.

The Chatfield's farm is rolling pasture and many huge old trees surrounded by Watusi cattle, many macropods, and breeding colonies of three species of lemur. They not only gave us an old-fashioned hay ride past the giant-horned cows watching over their cute calves, but they served us lunch and even brought out a couple of lemurs for a delightful visit.

It was a pleasure to see familiar faces at the meetings, including FCF members Dan and Carolyn Kneip and Judy Berens from Panther Ridge in Florida. I enjoyed meeting industry icons like Jim Fowler, Pat Quinn, and John Wortman, among many others. OK, I admit it, I actually got teary-eyed over meeting Jim Fowler—when I was a kid I would watch *Wild Kingdom* on TV, and see Marlin Perkins stand in an out-of-the-way place and say things like, "Now Jim will wrestle the alligator into the boat for an exam," and "Jim will hold the bear still while they put a tag on him," and "Jim will restrain the rhino for bloodwork." I wanted to be just like Jim. He was just as wonderful as I could ever have hoped he would be, and his commitment to conservation through all types of organizations and institutions and just plain people working together is absolute and unerring.

I was pleasantly surprised by the apparent commitment to working with the private sector demonstrated by the AZA member zoos. It will be interesting to see if this open attitude is able to stand the test of time or if this organization will go the way of the AZA, working to eliminate any non-accredited facilities. Next year's ZAA convention will be hosted by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and I plan to attend. I want to know if this group will do what they say they will, what we all hope they can—bring us all together in the name of what is right for animal conservation worldwide. And maybe I will get to see Jim Fowler again, too. •



New Guinea singing dog

Looking for Leopards

By Gail Laviola

With thoughts of cheetahs still dancing in my head, the 45 minutes flight from Johannesburg to Sabi in Kruger National Park went by very quickly. Upon landing, we were met by our ranger. On our way to the small (6 rondavels) bush camp, we saw rhino, waterbuck, and a duiker. What a great start to our four-day game viewing experience!

Upon arrival at Little Sabi Bush Camp, we were met by our host and hostess and received a short orientation about the scheduling of meals (three per day), walks, (one after breakfast), and game drives (two per day).

We enjoyed lunch, were escorted to our rondavel (which was decently luxurious), and had time to unpack before our first game drive.

A typical day is as follows:

- 5:30 am Wake up call
- 6:00 am Meet for beverage and edibles
- 6:30 am Depart for game drive
- 9:30 am Return from game drive and have breakfast
- 10:30 Bush walk, if so desired
- 11:00 – 2:00 pm – Lunch
- 3:00 Meet for afternoon tea and snacks
- 3:30 pm Depart for afternoon game drive
- 7:00 – 7:30 pm Return from game drive



Sabi Bush Camp

At that point, beverages are waiting for you and there is time before dinner to share stories of your day's activities.

Breakfast and lunch is in the covered area. Dinner is in the outdoor boma, weather permitting. You dine with your ranger and the guests who are on your Land Rover. Looking up, you are treated to the stars of the southern hemisphere.

On our first game drive, we saw a female leopard with her kill. We watched her for quite a while. We were very fortunate that we saw leopard three nights out of four.

A highlight was watching a male leopard walking down the road. Suddenly a female leopard leapt out of the bush to kill a springhare. With hare in her mouth, the male grabbed it away from her and proceeded to eat every bit of it. After dinner, they mated twice. After watching this display, our ranger pointed out that it was the

exact location where that very morning Scarlett and I walked.

There is an 18-year-old female leopard who uses the Land Rovers as cover and will leap out and catch an impala. She can no longer carry her kill up a tree so she brings it into deep ravine cover.

The Sabi are noted for their leopard and obviously we were not disappointed.

During our stay we also saw a beautiful lion pride called the “Sand Pride” plus elephant, rhino, buffalo, duiker, waterbuck, zebra, giraffe, and much more.

The European bee-eaters had just returned and there was much bird life.

At camp, there is a lovely swimming pool nestled in between a small lagoon and the main dining area. One day a young male elephant decided to explore the dining room. This is greatly discouraged by the staff because, as exciting as it is to see an elephant up close and personal, it is not safe for either the guests or, ultimately, for the elephant. Scarlett was stranded at the pool. A cool head prevailed and she waited patiently for the elephant to move onward.

As busy as we were, it was also nice to sit on the big, wrap-around deck of our rondaval and listen to the sounds of the bush. A purple lourie was serenading the entire camp one afternoon.

We met some interesting folks, shared stories, and enjoyed the entire bush experience.

We proceeded onward to Madikwe National Park. We were very fortunate to have two sightings of the painted dogs. We were taken to a house right outside the park, where a woman has a caracal, which was a



rescue.

During the 15-day trip, we were constantly amazed at the wonders of nature. To see animals adapting to their changing environments and co-existing with other species should make us humans a tad more humble and thankful for all we have.

If you have any interest in participating in a safari to Bobby Hartslief’s Savannah Cheetah Foundation and the Sabi area call me at 479-394-3327. I believe our president of FCF would like to plan a safari in 2008. We are attempting to accommodate your schedule when planning the trip.

The more participants, the less expensive the trip becomes per person.

Also, please note that the US dollar is not valued highly in the European market. It costs \$2.00 to purchase one British Pound Sterling and \$1.38 to purchase a Euro.

So let's show Bobby some support and visit his magnificent cats and then proceed onward to view leopards and lions in Kruger National Park.

You'll see magnificent game and share the experience with your friends, relatives, and fellow FCF members. •

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



Used with permission. <http://sandusky.com/genesis.com/>

Blast from the Past. . . .

Jenni

LIOC-ESCF

January/February 1980—Volume 24, Issue 1

By Kent Zink

Because of my love for animals, I joined LIOC two years ago. Later I went to a few local branch meetings and saw many different species of cats. My parents thought I was crazy at first when I told them I wanted a “wildcat.”

My first choice was a cougar, but since I am 18 and live with my parents and will live in an apartment in the near future, I decided a small cat would fit my lifestyle better. After bombarding people with questions via the telephone and by letter and seeing different species, I decided on a female Geoffroy’s cat.

After waiting six months, the Hatfields had two female Geoffroy’s. At eight weeks of age, my long-awaited kitten was flown to me. When she arrived at the airport, she was so scared she was shaking. But when we got home and out of her carrier, she let



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us love her and she purred so loudly you could hear it all the way across the room. She slept on my pillow by my head the first night in her new home.

As a kitten, she liked everyone. Since she is one of the family, I gave her a person’s name—Jenni. When I took her to the vet, he thought she was an ocelot. As she got older, she got smarter and friskier. She would run down the hall and jump up on my back, climb onto my shoulder and rub her face on mine. It was sometimes a little painful because if she thought she might fall she would put her claws out. As she is a housepet and stays inside most of the time, she was declawed when she was four months old. Now we can play with her without fear of getting scratched and I feel we have a much better relationship.

She seems to like my mother and I best, but doesn’t care for my

brother. She is a little afraid of large people, like my father. She is very good with strangers, especially children. If she senses someone is afraid of her, she jumps on their laps and rubs her head on their chin proving to them she is nothing to be afraid of. Her love-nips to my arms and chin took a little getting used to however.

She picked up fleas and I had a time getting rid of them. I fumigated the house three times, gave her three baths and powdered her regularly. But that didn’t seem to do the trick. A Sargent’s flea and tick collar was put on her and she has now worn it over a month with no ill effects and the fleas seem to be under control. I tried a natural herbal flea collar made with eucalyptus oil and vitamin E. The smell did faze her but it did not deter the fleas.

In the daytime she has run of my bedroom and bathroom.

When someone is home, we let her out in the rest of the house. She sleeps in the bathroom cabinets. She gets up with us in the morning and stays up until we leave. When we get back home, she gets up and plays until 1 or 2 AM then goes back in her “den” in the drawer.

On warm days she has access to an outdoor run which adjoins my bedroom through a window. The pen is constructed with two by fours and totally screened. I am filling it with wood shelves and tree trunks for climbing and sunning. I am also adding shrubbery and non-poisonous plants.

Jenni eats twice a day, but she prefers to eat at night. I feed her Nebraska brand exotic feline food. She never touches other food on the cabinets or table except to sneak a bite of meat occasionally.

When Jenni is in the living room in the evenings, our collie, Lady, comes to play through the glass patio door. Jenni jumps at the glass and runs back and forth and stalks Lady. At times she sits up on her back legs and boxes with her.

Jenni enjoys playing with ping-pong balls and cotton sweat socks. She likes to



have us throw the sock across the room and play fetch with it. If we are busy, she will throw it up in the air herself. She likes the ping-pong balls as they are light enough for her to bat all over the room making a funny noise when they hit something solid.

Now at seven months, Jenni weighs 3 lbs, and is 21 in. from the head to the base of her tail. Her tail is another 11 inches

long. She is very calm and quiet most of the time. It may be because we have a quiet household. If she wants something she meows at us and rubs up against us. Her meow is scratchy and split, similar to a Siamese cat.

I plan to breed Jenni when she matures. We are all extremely pleased with Jenni as she has fit right in and is a full-fledged member of the family. •



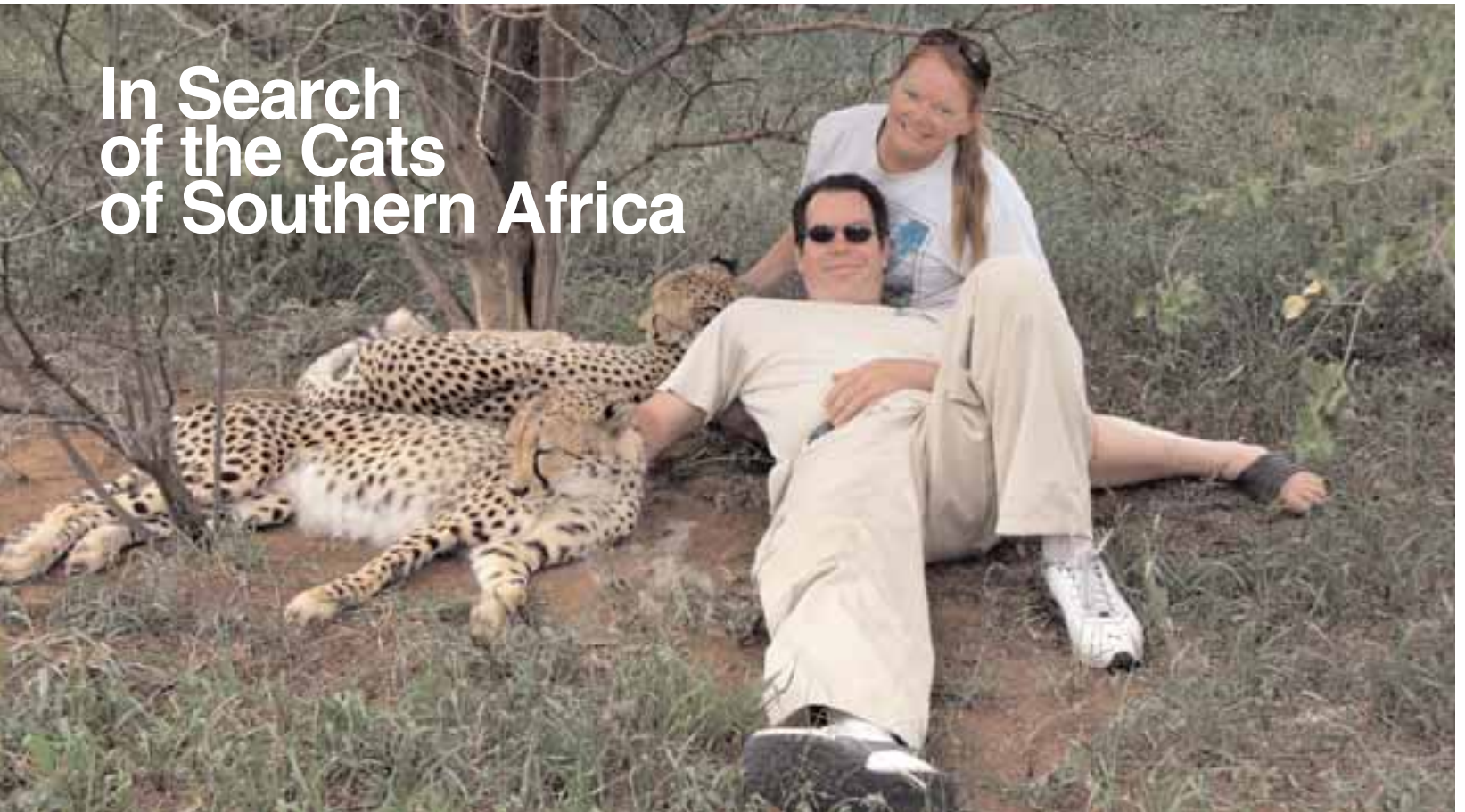
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U.A.P.P.E.A.L. has retained The Ferguson Group lobby team and is currently opposing Haley’s Act (SB1947) and the Captive Primate Safety Act (SB1498). Your membership and donations are greatly appreciated.

In Search of the Cats of Southern Africa



By Nancy Vandermeij

I recently took a five week-long trip to South Africa and Botswana with my husband Eric. This article is a quick overview. Many more details about the trip can be read online. See link at end of this article.

I planned this trip myself, with lots of research done on the internet. Most of the lodges we stayed at have “ranger’s diaries” on their websites, so you can follow game sightings from home! As for booking and paying for things, that can be interesting. Twice I wired money to Africa, a few times I could input my credit card number on a secure web site, but other times I actually emailed my credit card information. I broke it up into four emails and kept an eye on my statement online for any unusual charges. *[Note: Some credit card websites can issue single use card numbers—Ed]* One hint is to make sure you use a credit card that does NOT charge extra currency conversion fees—most do. In addition, make sure your ATM card will work in Africa, and that they don’t tack on extra ATM fees. I used Capitol One, and was very pleased with the exchange rates I received.

The itinerary was designed with cats in mind. We had a rental car (actually a small SUV) for the whole trip, and had a mix of self-drive safaris, high-end camps, and camping mixed in. Obviously adding in all-inclusive lodges will raise the cost of the trip, but self-driving has its limitations, such as not being allowed to go off-road or driving after dark in most parks or being in an open-air vehicle. Of course, the self-drive issues of driver fatigue and not being able to concentrate on wildlife searching is a problem too.

Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi is South Africa’s oldest game reserve. They are well known for their role in saving the southern white and black rhino from near-extinction. While feline sightings are rare, the big cats are all present here, as well as better opportunities to see forest dwellers such as nyala, which are rare in the more well-known Kruger Park. The wilderness trails here offer a chance to walk

with the rhinos and learn about the ecosystems around you

St. Lucia is known for its estuary and boat cruises to visit large groups of hippo and crocodiles. We were extremely lucky to have a leopard sighting from the boat cruise!

The world-renowned Kruger Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. This national park, larger than Ireland, is unrivaled in the diversity of its flora and fauna. Most visitors self-drive, staying in a series of well-run rest camps throughout the park. Night drives can be booked from the rest camps. You are pretty much guaranteed lion sightings in this

Itinerary:

Oct 22-26, Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi, including 4-day walking trail
Oct 27 St. Lucia
Oct 28-30 Kruger
Oct 31 Mala Mala (Sabi Sands Game Reserve)
Nov 1-2 Exeter Leadwood (Sabi Sands Game Reserve)
Nov 4-5 Mashatu (Botswana)
Nov 6-7 Planet Baobab, Nxai Pan (Botswana)
Nov 8-16 Mobile Safari to Moremi, Khwai, Savuti (Botswana)
Nov 18-20 Vumbera Plains (Botswana, Okavango Delta))
Nov 21-23 Jwana Game Park, Cheetah Conservation Botswana



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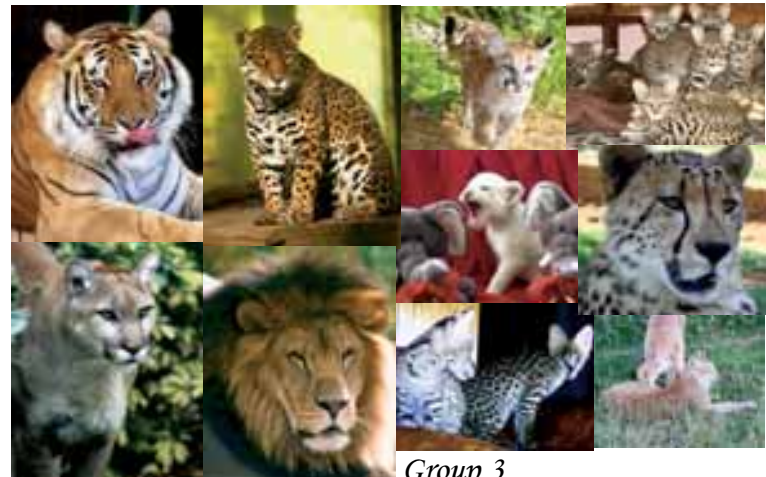
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park! Leopard and cheetah are more elusive, but with luck will be seen. The other visitors are friendly and share information about sightings; we would have missed the pregnant leopard in a tree otherwise. Good binoculars and a zoom lens come in handy, as you cannot drive off-road. The SanParks website has a forum with discussions about the different rest camps and roads. The southern part of the park is more scenic and has better wildlife sightings.

Adjacent to Kruger are several private game reserves, including Sabi Sands. There are no fences, so animals cross between Kruger and the private reserves. However, no self-driving is allowed; you stay at an all-inclusive lodge and two daily game drives in open-air Land Rovers go off-road to follow animals and provide close-up encounters. The various lodges offer a range of prices depending on the luxuriousness of the room and food, and the number of guests you will share a vehicle with. This is the place to see leopards, leopards, and more leopards! Cheetah are more rare due to the high density of lions and leopards.

The Tuli Block area is a triangular piece of land in Botswana bordering South Africa and Zimbabwe. We drove here to stay at Mashatu Tented Camp, known as home of large elephant herds. If you've read about there being too many elephants in Southern Africa, we can certainly vouch for that. We saw lots of destruction caused by these huge animals. Mashatu offers special drives with their resident predator and elephant researchers, in which you track collared animals. Cheetah sightings are fairly common



here.

Driving from the Tuli Block region to Maun involves crossing the salt pan areas of Botswana on the northern edge of the Kalahari Desert. We wanted to visit Nxai Pan, so we stayed at a place called Planet Baobab. The sand road to Nxai Pan required skilled 4x4 driving, so self-drivers are limited by that. This was the only day on our trip where rain limited our game viewing. Desert species such as the springbok and gemsbok (oryx) are found here.

From there we headed to Maun, safari capital of the Okavango Delta. We had booked a mobile camping safari, as again self-driving required competence in a 4x4. Plus, the driver is then missing out on game

viewing plus you would have to set up your own tents and cook your own food. The mobile safari turned out to be very cost efficient and very fun! Our lion luck continued, with daily lion sightings of the best male lions of the trip. We were also lucky in that nearly all of our cat sightings were of active cats; we had few "flat cat" (sleeping) sightings. We would spend two or three nights in each camp site. Our tent had an attached chemical toilet area, very handy when there are hyenas and lions walking outside your tent at night.

On returning to Maun after the camping safari, we had several free days. We really wanted to visit the Okavango Delta in a fly-in camp, but most of them are ridiculously pricey, up to \$1,500 per person per night. I had read online that last-minute trips could be booked at discount prices. Which worked out well for us, but I was surprised at the limited availability in mid-November, which is not high season due to the rains. We ended up at an extremely upscale camp for three nights, a nice way to end our trip! Once again lions were common and we saw two gorgeous leopards here as well. I would say that for game viewing, the Sabi Sands area can't be beat, but the Okavango Delta was certainly beautiful.

We ended our trip with visits to the Cheetah Conservation Botswana research camp in Jwaneng and the program office in Mokolodi Game Reserve. Of course a visit with their tame cheetahs was a highlight! • <http://www.wildcatzoo.org/africa07/africa07.html>



Tiger Safari is Accredited

Tiger Safari Interactive Exotic Zoological Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma is the latest facility to be approved for FCF facility accreditation.

Bill Meadows is the owner and operator. Bill has owned and cared for exotic animals since the early 1990s. In 2002 he began construction of a zoo on a 40-acre parcel outside Tuttle. The park opened to the public on September 28, 2003. Over 100 animals are exhibited including several species of large and small feline. The zoo hosts on-site parties, weddings, and corporate events. Last year Tiger Safari was the site chosen by Wood Group Corporation for their annual employee appreciate day. Over 700 people played games, visited the animals, and enjoyed catered meals under tents. Bill estimates the zoo had over 10,000 visitors last year.

Doc Antle, FCF facility accreditation board member said, "We are pleased that Bill has taken the time to let us get to know his facility and see that he has created well-built cages out of high-quality materials which provide the necessary space to give the animals an enriching life." What is also noteworthy according to Doc is that, "He has accomplished this feat without an extraordinary budget, but instead with first-rate



volunteers and lots of personal blood, sweat, and tears, as is required of anyone attempting to keep felids."

The park has nine veterinarians on call

insuring that no matter what the species or time of day, there are plenty of options for general and emergency care. Four staff members and seventeen regular volunteers see to it that the cages stay clean and the animals well fed.

The lion and tiger enclosures are constructed using three-inch oil field pipe and nine-gauge, 12 foot-tall chain link fencing to enclose 9,000 to 10,000 square feet. Bill says he is very concerned about safety, "I went kind of overboard", says Bill. "We have triple entrances; you have to go through three gates to enter the cages."

Even though many of the feline residents are hand-raised, Bill's employees and volunteers do cage cleaning with the large felines locked in their security cages. Each cat has its own lockout. The zoo has both Siberian tiger and white Bengal tiger and African lion and Barbary lion.

Cougar and both black and spotted leopards round out the big cat collection. These climbing felines are housed in 40 by 40 foot square roofed habitats that are ten foot tall. The roof is supported with logs and the recent record-breaking ice storm that the

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central Oklahoma City area experienced tested the enclosure design to its limit. Bill says, “The roofing bowed a little under the over one-inch of ice load, but the supports held it from collapsing”

Serval, bobcat, and savannah cat make up the small felines. These are also

enclosed with a similar design to the cougars, using 9-gauge chain link and they also enjoy 1,600 square feet of living space.

Big cats get bowling bowls and smaller cats play with footballs.

Housing for the cats is made of landscape timbers that create a log cabin appear-

ance. Six cages are connected through a common shuttle so that small cats can be shifted if necessary.

Anyone visiting central Oklahoma should set aside time to visit Bill and the Tiger Safari Interactive Exotic Zoological Park, an FCF accredited facility! •



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Convention 2008

Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, July 27, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
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The convention committee has found us the “purrfect” spot to enjoy our time in the sunny resort town of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

You’ll want to come early, stay late, and bring the kids for this one.

FCF’s annual convention is being held at Hilton’s Myrtle Beach Kingston Plantation. (www.kingstonplantation.com) Kingston is a 145-acre beachside complex containing villas, condominiums, lodges, and resort hotels, spread around blue lakes and beautiful landscaped woodlands. Kingston offers the Arcadian Shores golf club, tennis courts, and the SPLASH Water Park, a 50,000 square foot Caribbean playground of water slides, water spouts, arch jet sprays, Jacuzzis, lazy river, and kiddie pools to play in. Kingston Plantation borders the white sandy beaches of the blue Atlantic Ocean, promising a vacation experience sure to please everyone.

The FCF convention goers will stay in the heart of the resort at the West Hyde Park Villas, which offer one, two, and three bedroom accommodations with parking in front

of each. Some of our Hyde Park villas face Arrowhead Lake, others face the landscaped woodlands, and all have convenient beach access.

The FCF hospitality suite, speaker, and banquet room is in Brighton Towers, an oceanfront meeting facility. The distance from the Hyde Park Villas is about a five-minute walk, or you can use the convenient shuttle service to commute between your lodging and FCF events.

The one bedroom villa has king or queen sized bed and bathroom only. The two and three bedroom villas have king or queen beds in the master room, and two double beds in the other bedroom(s), with separate baths, two TVs, full kitchen, living room with fold out sleep sofa for additional guest, washer and dryer, and an outdoor patio and deck. All villas come with daily housekeeping. Room service is available.

The FCF special rate for our Hyde Park Villas is \$155 for one bedroom, (sleeps two), \$225 for two bedrooms (sleeps up to five), and \$285 for three bedrooms (sleeps up to seven). Villas are only held at this

price only until June 22. Since the two and three bedroom villas are more economical, we suggest you reserve one of these and report to the convention committee the number of available rooms you have and we will help coordinate with other convention attendees to fill up your villa. Reserve your villa by calling 800-HILTONS.

Look for more exciting convention news in the next *FCF Journal*. •



Join ZAOA—Guest Editorial

For 30 years I have felt like a small cry in the wilderness because I am a pet big cat owner. Every sanctuary person, zoo person, zoo vet, started in their youth as a pet owner!

For all these years I have tried to connect with the private exclusive club called AZA only to be shunned and not even recognized even though FCF has more cats than all the AZA zoos combined.

We are sick and tired of all the laws and rules from the feds to the states exempting this expensive club (association) called AZA.

Now comes what I believe is our savior and future of private exotic cat ownership. The Zoological Association of American (soon to be ZAA I think.)

ZAOA welcomes the private sector. I

have attended their last two annual conferences where FCF members were about 25% of the attendees. We are treated as equals and our inputs are taken as important, knowledgeable, and experienced. What a welcome change! Many animal people were there: private zoos, some quite large, breeders of all kinds, large public AZA zoos, etc. I had several long conversations with Jim Fowler who is a ZAOA board member. I hope to get him to come to FCF convention.

ZAOA announced that their accreditation committee would work with FCF's accreditation committee to accept our accreditation as theirs and vice versa. I hope FCF will change some things (annual renewal) so FCF accreditation will be accepted by ZAOA. FCF accreditation is

less expensive to get than ZAOA.

ZAOA is working with the federal government to attain the same status as AZA. Case in point, two FCF members now have permits to import cheetahs.

I implore all FCF members to please join ZAOA, cats or no cats. They have several types of memberships. See the ad in this *FCF Journal*. The associate membership is only \$36.00 per year. We all have many dues to pay, WWF, National Geographic, Audubon, Snow Leopard Trust, but I think that \$36.00 membership in ZAOA is the last hope for us FCF folks to have cats.

Don't miss the 2008 conference. See you there.

—JB Anderson

Going once! Going twice! Sold!

New items at the store: The Savannah Cheetah Foundation DVD with Dr. Antle—listen and watch the video while Nikita tells her story! Watch and listen to Doc Antle tell us about the cheetah chase and his visit to Africa's premiere spot, the Savannah Cheetah Foundation! • Beanie Babies! We have an assortment of Ty Beanie Babies up for auction! • Jahari's Adventure Read-Along storybook and DVD. Listen, watch, and read as you travel with Jahari!

<http://fcfauctionstore.com/>
<http://stores.ebay.com/Feline-Conservation-Federation>



Hobbyists: Can you make jewelry? Do you paint? Are you gifted with arts and crafts? Need that extra spending money for Christmas? Got a bunch of stuff hidden in that attic? Or in that closet? Don't throw it away! If it is resellable and in good to excellent condition, help supply the FCF eBay store with your items!

After the Fact—The San Francisco Zoo Tiger Escape

By Lynn Culver

One thing is for sure, Christmas 2007 won't be forgotten for a long time and I am not talking about the snow that fell. I am talking about the blizzard of news stories about tigers.

There is something about tigers. They are the pinnacle of feline evolution—beauty, intelligence, affection, and fierceness, wrapped in 500 pounds of muscle. When hand-raised in captivity, tigers show amazing restraint as they interact with their human keepers. When mother-raised in municipal zoos, they are indifferent to the constant racket of gawking crowds.

Whether you love them or hate them, support them or want them gone, there's no getting away from one universal aspect of tigers in captivity—the mightiest feline is mighty exploited. And if you stand on a soapbox, no matter what side of the fence you are on, you can broadcast your view, gain an audience, hold out a cup, and collect some coin.

Animal Rightists hate private owners for loving and taming tigers and Animal Rightists hate municipal zoos for imprisoning tigers kept wild.

This past Christmas the inevitable happened. An escaped big cat killed a member of the public. Our mantra, “this is *our* risk, this is *our* business, and *we* accept this risk” has a hole in it now, and someone other than us is dead.

It's possible that the attack by Tatiana, the San Francisco Zoo's Siberian tiger, was not without provocation, and if that is so, then there is still a fine line in the sand that has not been crossed. No uninvolved “innocent” bystander has ever been killed by an escaped big cat. But I suspect that with attorneys and courts and lawsuits involved, we are never going to know what really happened.

What we do know is that the damage is done. And we in the feline community, private and AZA alike, will all pay the price. It won't be just the San Francisco Zoo that has its insurance rates jump; it won't be just the San Francisco Zoo that USDA scrutinizes. Upgrades will be expected and there will be a premium to pay.

The tiger escape and visitor death is probably a two-part problem: failure of the tiger enclosure to protect the public and failure of the barrier fence to protect the tiger from the public.

I have been to plenty of zoos and been amazed when I see barrier fences that look more like requests to stay back, than demands to stay back. These structures rely upon the visitors showing respect for the animal and the zoo. But some people respect nothing and no one.

Now that the escape has occurred, San Francisco Zoo is taking steps to address its deficiencies. “Protect the Animals” signs ask patrons to leave the animals alone, portable loudspeakers will remind visitors to leave promptly at closing time, and a hard-wired notification system is planned to alert visitors to any animal escapes. I think zoos should also consider mounting cameras to record belligerent behavior.

A 6.5 foot tall glass wall is planned to top the concrete grotto wall. This will greatly increase the wall height to 19 feet and prevent any future climb outs. It will also provide another people barrier. Not only will the tiger be unable to climb out, it will be much harder for anyone who violates the public barrier fence to walk over and fall into the grotto.

Tatiana escaped over a 12.5 foot concrete wall. Many private facilities use 12 foot chain link fencing. Some facilities add re-curveds and some have electric hot wires. USDA does not set exact cage requirements. They don't tell us what we can build, how big to build, out of what materials to build. Now that a lethal breach of a 12 foot wall has occurred, USDA will revisit this height

in other facilities.

The ability to expand our big cats' living space from the constraints of a roofed enclosure into the enrichment of fenced habitats must be sacred ground we do not concede. When the time comes to comment on policy changes proposed by USDA, we need to express ourselves.

Let this terrible tragedy bring about improvements in all of us. Review your facility design. Review your security barriers. Review your contingency plans for escape and injury. Review your plans to deal with the media.

On this same day, in Dallas, Texas, motorists observed a dead yearling tigress by the interstate. Claws surgically removed and a short lead and collar around her neck, she was shot multiple times and dumped by the side of the road. I know nothing of her life and her keepers, but her violent death suggests a miserable existence. The abuse of such a magnificent feline, born amongst humans, raised by humans, and murdered by humans, sickens me. This disgusting act casts a shadow of shame over the feline community.

Tigers are nature's crowning glory, superior to us in many ways. Humans are crowding them off the planet. Those of us who care about tigers must be their voice and speak out for tigers and all the other feline species facing extinction. We must protect them from abuse and violence. We must save them if we are to save ourselves. •



San Francisco Zoo file photo

FCF Board Meeting Minutes 10/26/07 to 11/06/07

Lynn Culver opened the FCF board meeting on Internet Forums. Lynn Culver, president, Brian Werner, vice president, Kevin Chambers, treasurer, Betsy Whitlock, secretary, Mindy Stinner, Carol Bohning, Irene Satterfield, Carlyne Clendinen logged in. Evelyn Shaw was late in attendance due to a family emergency but was able to participate in the last two days.

The following agenda items were introduced: Treasurers report, ratify convention board minutes, membership report, ratify \$482.00 expenditure for additional FCF brochures, Ratify \$5,000 grant to Anna-Sophie, Ratify \$80.06 expenditure for a FCF banner, ratify logo improvement project, FCF note cards, grant for another FCF website and demo of public sector site, Tiger Transportation Fund, FCF property recording policy, two empty board seats, donate flex net to Fernando Vidal, 2008 convention hotel prices, donate \$100 to Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary, FCF

microchips, appoint a new member to the accreditation committee, Yahoo list moderator, budget for field reps, discuss method by which Lotty winners are chosen, and offer a journal gift subscription at a reduced price of \$15.

Kevin Chambers presented the 3rd quarter treasurer report.

Kevin Chambers moved that the board minutes from the 2007 convention be ratified as written. Lynn Culver seconded the motion.

9 yes votes, motion passed

Membership report: 417 paid memberships, 210 listing a spouse-partner on the membership. 13 lifetime memberships

Kevin Chambers motioned to ratify the expense for 5,000 additional brochures; Betsy Whitlock seconded the motion.

8 Yes, Motion passed

The Conservation Committee approved a \$5,000 grant to Anna-Sophie to radio collar and study margay in Brazil. This

amount was donated to the FCF by one of our members for this purpose. Kevin Chambers moved to ratify the FCF Conservation Fund Grant to Anne-Sophie Betrand. Mindy Stinner seconded the motion.

9 yes votes, motion passed

Kevin Chambers moved we ratify \$80.06 expenditure for a FCF Banner. Betsy Whitlock seconded the motion.

8 yes votes, Motion Passed

Lynn Culver asked for update on the Logo improvement project but received no feedback from Irene Satterfield. No action was taken.

Lynn Culver moved that we allocate \$270 for printing full-color note cards using FCF member photos submitted for this project. Printer with best bid will be awarded the project. Cards will be advertised in journal, web site and eBay store. Betsy Whitlock seconded the motion.

9 yes votes, motion passed

Brian Werner motioned that we move to

Cougar Development DVD

Cougar Development covers a two and a half year period of research and behavior observation.

It is produced and shot by Lynn and Bart Culver at the Natural Order Animal Husbandry (NOAH) Feline Conservation Center.

Shot in 1988 to 1990 with a video camera and now remastered on DVD, the amazing two hour program offers viewers entertainment as well insight into the stages of growth, behavior, and personality development of America's great predator, puma concolor.

This video contains amazing footage that could not have been captured without the close bond of love and trust existing between cougar and researcher. View-

ers of this video watch Tara's natural instincts guide her through her first delivery. Other scenes include Tara and her sons playing in the snow, the adolescent cougars running through their spring-fed watercourse, fantastic jumping demonstrations in a lively game of catfishing, and finally, the adult cougars walking with researchers through Cougar Country.

Cougar Development teaches you about the patience necessary to be a cougar mother, the sibling roughhousing which is a natural part of cougar behavior, the humor, good nature, and the incredible capacity for love that exists in these wondrous creatures. Order a copy today for only \$25.00. Mail check made out to FCF to: Cougar DVD, 7816 County Road 75 W, Shelburn, IN 47879.



appropriate the entire OnShore Grant of \$2,000 for the creation of an FCF public marketing web site for FCF. The new site is proposed to create interest in FCF membership and donation to FCF projects. The new site will be linked to the present site, making the old site a member's-only resource. The site address will be www.felineconservation.org. There is an additional \$250 that is needed for the completion of the on-line form that which Brian will cover by a donation from Brian or his organization. The marketing web site will be built using the template www.creatingflash/fcf/ and contain online membership application/renewal form and donation form with PayPal links and secure server for credit card payments, with e-mail notices sent to both the treasurer and member services. The web site will be hosted by Creatingflash.com with Ron overseeing the hosting. Hosting contract to FCF is \$19.95 per month, \$5/month for a new unique IP, (needed for the SSL) and the SSL fee is \$30/year. Kevin Chambers seconded the motion.

5 yes votes, 4 abstain, motion passed

Betsy Whitlock moved that the Tiger Transport Fund be called "Cats in Crisis Project" Kevin Chambers seconded the motion.

3 yes votes, 5 no votes, motion failed

Brian Werner moved that we call the fund "Wildcats in Crisis Project" Lynn Culver seconded that motion.

3 yes votes, 5 no votes, 1 abstain, motion failed

Kevin Chambers proposed a policy for keeping track of FCF property. Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Kevin Chambers: "An individual holding any property, supplies or materials that were purchased or produced, in whole or in part, with Feline Conservation Federation funds, must report the transfer of the items to another individual to the secretary of the Feline Conservation Federation. Any individual receiving items accepts financial responsibility for the replacement cost of the items should they become lost or damaged while in their possession. The secretary shall keep records of FCF property and the person who is currently in possession of

each item.

The financial responsibility shall remain that of the person listed in the records. If they do not report a transfer to the secretary and the item subsequently becomes damaged or lost, they will be held financially responsible." This will be added to the Policies and Procedures Manual.

7 yes votes, 1 no vote, motion passed

Lynn Culver moved, and Kevin Chambers seconded, that we amend the by-laws for director duty descriptions to read:

6.7 Director of Public Relations: Acts along with the president as media contact of FCF, develops press releases for FCF and promotes FCF programs and services and related events to media. Oversees the management of the FCF's web sites.

6.8 Director of Marketing: Promotes FCF, its programs and services and related events through advertisements and other means available. Solicits sponsorship advertising from other organizations and companies for the journal, convention, websites, etc.

6.9 Director of Development: Develops ideas, programs and services to promote growth and fund development including the prospecting and cultivation of donors, sponsors, as well as grant writing and special events, etc

7 yes votes, 1 no vote, motion passed

Kevin Chambers nominated Bobby Bean for Director of Marketing and Deborah Rabinski for Director of Development. Brian Werner seconded the motion, but no poll was posted.

It was decided to advertise in the journal for volunteers for these two new positions and to make additional nomination at the next board meeting.

It was suggested that one of the FCF husbandry course flex nets be donated to Fernando Vidal in Chili. Lynn Culver spoke with Furrhman Diversified to donate a net to Fernando. They have agreed and will get back to the board regarding shipping expense. Mindy Stinner suggested that we get the net to Jim Sanderson and he can deliver it on his next visit to Fernando's in February and save the cost of shipping.

Tracy Ellsworth, long time FCF member has passed away this past week. Lynn Cul-

Donations

The FCF membership and the board of directors wish to offer a special thanks to the following individuals who have made donations to various projects over the past few months. These donations make it possible for the FCF to provide additional funding for special projects, fight negative legislation, and support conservation projects which we might not be able to fund as fully in our annual budget.

We thank these contributors for their special effort and encourage others to follow their example by helping to provide extra funding for those projects that are of special interest to each individual.

Project: Haley Act Lobbyist
Karl Mogenson

Project: General Funding
Robert Hohn

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Betsy Whitlock
Secretary FCF

ver moved that the FCF make a donation to help the cats at Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary 501(c)(3) in Punta Gorda, Florida in her name. Kevin Chambers seconded the motion

8 yes votes, 1 abstain, motion passed

The FCF still holds 42 AVID Friendchip Microchips in syringes. It was proposed that we offer these chips at \$10.00 each to whom ever wants them on a first come first serve basis.

Mitch Kalmanson has left the accreditation committee, citing not enough time to devote to the position. Kevin Chambers moved we appoint Karl Mogensen to the accreditation committee to fill the position vacated by Mitch Kalmanson. Brian Werner seconded the motion.

2 yes votes, 4 No votes, 3 abstain, Motion Failed

It was decided to advertise the position in the upcoming journal.

Irene Satterfield moved we remove the anonymous Yahoo moderator login for security reasons. Kevin Chambers seconded the motion.

7 Yes votes, 2 No votes, Motion Passed

Lynn Culver proposed budgeting to allow the field reps along with several board members have a face-to-face meeting. Evelyn Shaw and Mindy Stinner also wanted a face-to-face meeting prior to the legislative session and suggested a central location and some assistance with lodging costs by the host could make this more affordable. The issued was tabled in favor of some provision for the field representatives in the budget to be discussed at the December board meeting.

Since there are no life directors left to oversee the Lotty nomination and the by-laws for this no longer exist, a new policy is needed. Betsy Whitlock moved that former Lotty winners that are currently active members of the FCF in good standing, form the nominating committee and that former winners vote, as well as past and present board members and past and present regional directors all of which must be current FCF members in good standing at the time of the vote.

The Lotty winners current FCF members in good standing, should vote for a

chairperson who will over see the process annually. Nomination should be made at least 60 days prior to convention and the voting should take place at least 30 days prior to convention with results to be held by the chairperson and announced at convention. The ballots shall be turned over to the board of the FCF within 14 days after convention. Irene Satterfield seconded the motion.

7 Yes votes, Motion Passed

Evelyn Shaw named the following state representatives:

Laura Jeffries—

Missouri State Representative

Marsha Hague—

Wisconsin State Representative

Tina Thompson—

California State Representative

Greg Lyons—

Nebraska State Representative

An anonymous donor has come forward to offer to off set any cost above \$2.50 per issue in order to reduce the cost of gift subscriptions to the journal for the 2008-year to \$15.00. Betsy Whitlock moved that we offer members the opportunity to give these one-year journal subscriptions to non-members only at \$15.00 per gift subscription, offer good until December 31, 2007, and allow an anonymous donor to pick up any additional cost over \$2.50 per issue. Lynn Culver seconded the motion.

9 yes votes, motion passes

The meeting adjourned at midnight, November 6, 2007.

Respectfully submitted by

Betsy Whitlock, Secretary

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of November and December the following individuals have made application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program. The board cannot stress enough the importance of participating in this program. It is proof positive, to the legislators that make decisions which directly effect our ability to continue to own, breed or exhibit our cats, that we as an organization are committed to responsible ownership and excellence in the care of our charges. We hope more of our membership will take advantage of this program to show their commitment personally.

Autumn Skoczen – Basic Level

Pam Sellner – Advanced Level

June Bellizzi – Advanced Level

Applications for this program can be found on the FCF website at the following hyperlink:

<http://www.thefcf.com/husbandry/reghandlerapp.asp?key+486>

The board further hopes that in addition to this program that members will take the next step and further show their support for excellence in the care of their cats by applying the FCF Facility Accreditation Program. The overview, basic standards, and application can also be found on the FCF website.

Congratulations to all of these members for their dedication to their cats.

Betsy Whitlock

FCF Secretary

FOCUS ON NATURE® *Insight into the lives of animals* **BORNEAN BAY CAT**



With a faintly-speckled, golden-colored (sometimes grayish) coat, the sleek *Bornean bay cat* (*Catopuma badia*) moves secretly through an upland forest bordering one of the small rivers. Here, he forages for rodents, small mammals, and birds, which is a bit easier than hunting in the lowlands where it's becoming increasingly difficult due to more human presence and lack of cover for both predator and prey. Although this seven to nine pound wildcat possesses a long tail, which perhaps could aid balance in the trees, he seems to prefer living on the ground. And, true to the nature of most felines, the bay cat lives a solitary lifestyle.

The tropical forests here on the island of Borneo used to provide plenty of cover allowing the Bornean bay cat to hunt and raise a family. Nowadays, much more light reaches the jungle floor as trees are removed. As with many other locations in Southeast Asia and around the world, native habitats supporting wildlife populations are shrinking.

Very little is known about the endemic bay cat from Borneo since sightings by both locals and naturalists have been extremely rare and only a few specimens have ever been collected. Now camera-traps enable scientists to capture, on film evidence of this wildcat's elusive presence in order to gain an understanding of how many exist, its biology, reproduction, and range sizes before the seemingly-few remaining individuals of this only population disappear.

Even in the 21st century, little is known about the small wildcats, weighing less than 45 pounds and comprising three-quarters of the world's 36 cat species. However, as the public's understanding and awareness blossom, starting with a visit to a wildcat sanctuary or local zoo, conservation programs there along with organizations such as Small Cat Conservation Alliance can garner support needed to study these elusive cats. Ultimately, conservation through understanding benefits all.

© 2007 Rochelle Mason. Rochelle Mason raises awareness about endangered species through her paintings, columns, and traveling exhibits. Her wildcat paintings and prints can be purchased through <http://www.Rmasonfinearts.com>

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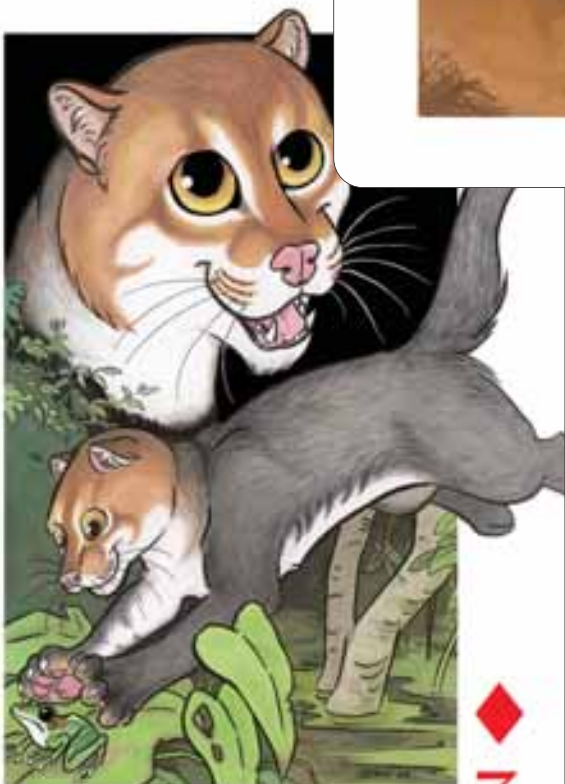
Clockwise from top:
Sand cat—Terrie Smith •
Geoffroy's cat—Samantha
Robinson • European Lynx—
Blotch • Snow leopard—
Heather Bruton • Flat headed
cat—Roz Gibson. All art is
copyrighted by their respec-
tive artists.

Your best Card



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10



FCF Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 15, 2008 FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Class to be held at the Tiger Safari Zoological Park, Educational Building, 963 County Street 2930, Tuttle, OK 73089 (18 miles south of the Oklahoma City Airport) \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 non-members. After March 1, registration fee increases to \$110. Mail registration form and check to: Feline Conservation Federation, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, Indiana 47879. Or use PayPal and send to treasurer@felineconservation.org

Sunday, March 16 Return for a guided informational tour of the park, home to tiger, lion, cougar, leopard, serval, bobcat, and savannah cat. Tiger Safari is an FCF accredited facility with large habitats and high quality enclosures. Learn about park enrichments and husbandry practices. Entrance fee for special tour Sunday is \$6.00. Special guided tour begins at 10:00 am.

Keep your eye on the birdie. Siberian lynx flushes three quail. Photo: Mace Loftus.

