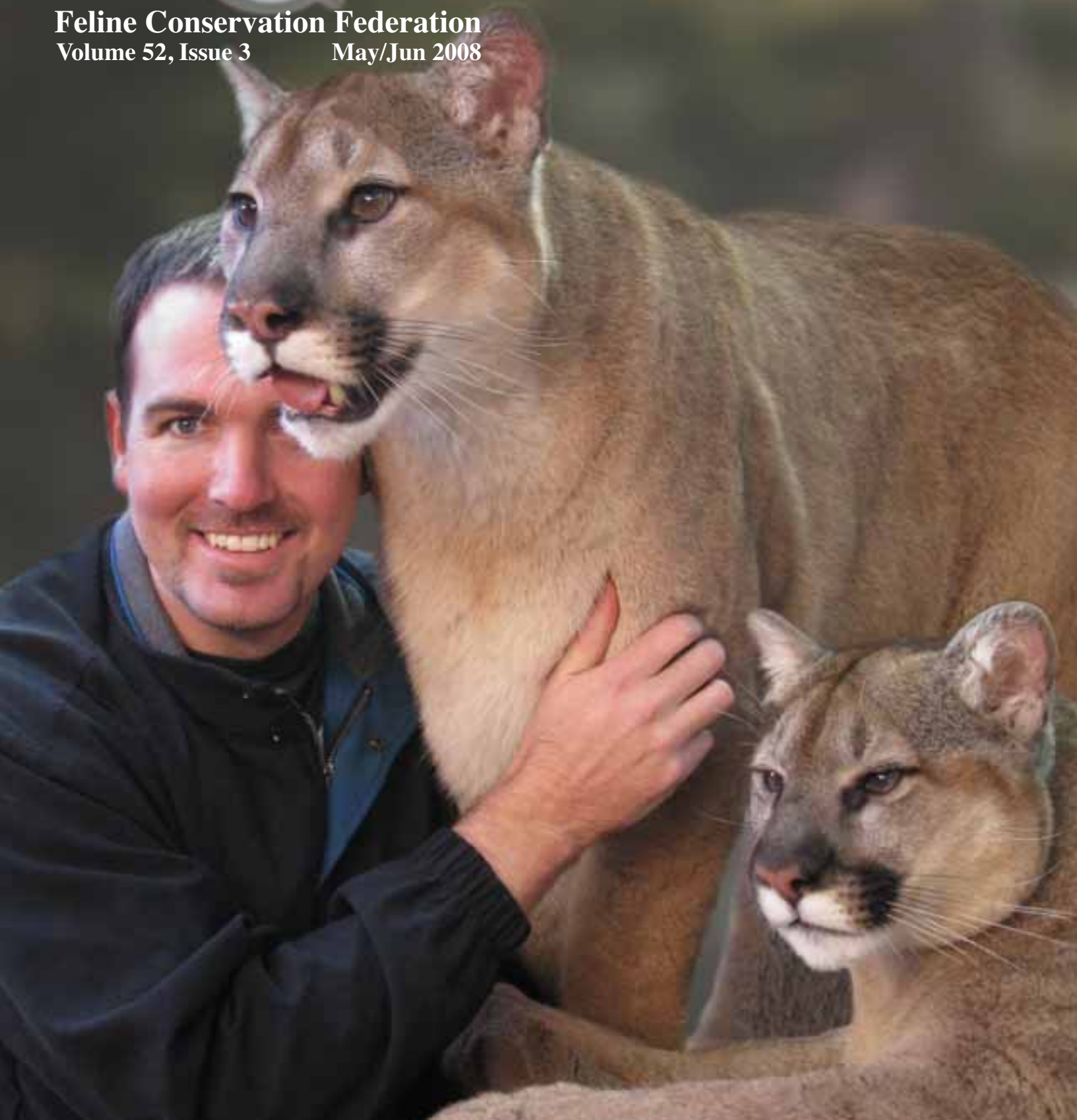




Feline Conservation Federation
Volume 52, Issue 3 May/Jun 2008



Feline Conservation Federation Officers and Directors Contact Information

Founder: Catherine Cisin

Copy Editor/Layout:

Mike Frieze

204 S. Batavia Street

Orange, CA 92868

714-532-4041

mike@frieze.com

Member, Cat Writers' Association

OFFICERS:

President:

Lynn Culver

141 Polk 664

Mena, AR 71953

479-394-5235

lynnculver@hughes.net

Vice President:

Brian Werner

17552 FM 14

Tyler, TX 75706

903-216-2072

tiger1@tigerlink.org

Secretary:

Elizabeth Whitlock

1385 Middle Burningtown Road

Franklin, NC 28734

828-524-6943

betsywhitlock@hughes.net

Treasurer:

Kevin Chambers

7816 N CR 75 W

Shelburn, IN 47879

812-397-2302

zooarc@att.net

DIRECTORS:

Conservation:

Mindy Stinner

PO Box 882

Mebane, NC 27302

336-421-0065

mstinner@mindspring.com

Development:

Deborah Rabinsky

834 W Gordon Street

Allentown, PA 18102

610-820-3829

dearte11@enter.net

Education:

Carol Bohning

13740 Blamer Road

Johnstown, OH 43031

740-966-6059

Lynxrufus@voyager.net

Marketing:

Robert Bean

4633 Chandler Road

Hermitage, TN 37076-4206

615-889-4633

wildcon2b@aol.com

Public Relations:

Irene Satterfield

34205 State Route O

Drexel, MO 64742

816-619-2344

irene@mokancats.org

Membership Services:

Carolyn Clendinen

10816 Lucasville Road

Manassas, VA 20112

571-292-0118

clendinens@hotmail.com

Legislation:

Evelyn Shaw

13262 Cleveland Road SW

Pataskala, OH 43062

740-964-9040

ecvshaw@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENTS

FCF Feline Facility

Accreditation Chairman:

Kevin Chambers

7816 N CR 75 W

Shelburn, IN 47879

812-397-2302

ZooARC@att.net

Conservation Advisor:

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

356 Freeman Street

Hartford, CT 06106

860-706-6081

gato_andino@yahoo.com

Field Representative Regional Directors



Region 1

John Turner

6926 River Rd. S.,

Salem, OR 97306

503-839-6623

catkatarn@yahoo.com

Region 4

(open)

Region 2

Bill Meadows

963 County Street 2930

Tuttle, OK 73089

405-381-9453

parkdirector@tigersafariorg.com

Region 5

(open)

Region 3

Nancy Nighswander

5426 W. Township Road 112

Tiffin, OH 44883

419-937-2378

Nicegroomer@aol.com

Region 6

Matt Baker

16832 266th Road

Atchison, Kansas 66002

913-367-4116

dantri@charter.net

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

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

Cover: John Prengaman poses with two cougars. See story about his cartoon alter ego in this issue. Background: Gorgeous cougar Macha lives at the recently accredited Phillips Park Zoo. Read more about the accreditation in this issue.



Feline Conservation Federation

This magazine is published bimonthly 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 consult instructions on inside front cover of this journal. Dues are \$30 US, \$35.00 Canada, and \$40 international.

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Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

It's May, and that means I will be bottle-feeding kittens. Caring for serval, bobcat, caracal, and Geoffroy's kittens will consume my time and energy. Neonatal care is a huge responsibility and requires constant supervision. Kittens can go from happy to helpless in a matter of hours when their immature immune systems are challenged by a bacterial infection. Missing a meal or refusing to wake up from a nap is a sign of pending trouble. Experienced breeders recognize this and have emergency supplies on hand. First time owners should refrain from purchasing a kitten too young; let an experienced breeder raise it at least six weeks.

For FCF, the month of May marks the opening of the nomination period for the FCF board of directors. There are 11 positions that need willing and dedicated volunteers to represent the Feline Conservation Federation in all its varied activities. Being on the board carries a commitment to work. It also carries a responsibility to maintain high ethics and live up to the respect that these board positions carry. I'll be honest, it is frustrating at times, but like all things in life, it is a learning and growing experience that rewards those who do a good job with the knowledge that you are making a difference for felines, for conservation, and for personal liberty in America.

The board voted last convention to approve the creation of an executive director and assistant position, and to raise funds to pay for these employees. For the past year, I have been doing far more than just being president; I have taken on the day-to-day operations of a non-profit corporation, filling in when other board members did not perform, insuring that the expected services of the FCF run smoothly.

FCF must have a paid executive director. I hope that we reach this goal by the end of this year. FCF is at a tipping point. We are too big to function reliably with an all-volunteer workforce and not quite big enough to hire. We have to get past this point quickly. So, in addition to asking members to consider running as candidates for office, I am calling upon all FCF members to join in this effort to raise substantial funds so that FCF can move to the next level of hiring an executive director and assistant to run this corporation. I am open to your suggestions.



This journal contains information on a proposed constitutional amendment to change the name of the corporation. Ballots are enclosed and they must be filled out, signed, and mailed within five weeks of the mailing of this journal. The board has retained an outside accountant to receive these ballots and tally them. Board members will not handle the ballots at all, and we are making every effort to insure that this vote goes smoothly.

I ask everyone to please read the motion and related articles on this amendment and cast a vote. We are a democratic society and it is up to you to participate. I challenge this membership to break all previous records of participation. The constitution belongs to the members. It is yours to

control and you decide to change it, or not. A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass an amendment, which indicates to me that the constitution is not supposed to be easily changed, nor should a vocal minority change it. However, that is what has happened in the past. Historically less than 30% of the eligible voters have exercised their right to vote and cast their ballots.

In March both Mindy Stinner and Carol Bohning taught a very successful husbandry course at the Tiger Safari Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma. Combined with this course was a field representative program meeting. The five regional directors, as well as several board members spent the weekend at the FCF accredited zoo to discuss plans for this program. At the meeting

Matt Baker, Region 6 director, offered to organize an FCF informational booth at the Lolli Brothers auction in Macon, Missouri. FCF members Jeannie Baker, J.B. Anderson, Teresa and Scott Schaffer, Bill Meadows, and Debbie and Dale Tolentino helped Matt run the booth, talking to attendees about proposed Missouri legislation, passing out FCF brochures and membership applications, and signing up new members. Thank you everyone for volunteering your time. And congratulations Bill and Matt on your new bobcats and Siberian lynx!

The totally new FCF web site is now online and includes a members-only section. Visit www.felineconservation.org. For the first time in over a year everyone has the ability to see who else is an FCF member and call or write them. I apologize for the long delay in providing this expected service; I thought that the members' sign in would get fixed some day. The board voted to hire a professional company to build FCF a functioning web site with improved database management capabilities, including online forms to join, renew, register, and donate, and a functioning store. This is an investment in the future of the FCF. New features on the site will streamline the membership services duties, and with the recent membership growth rate, it is coming none too soon!

So I hope that everyone will take the time to visit the new site, and the members' section, where you can update your profile with correct email and contact info, and especially update your feline population for the FCF feline census data. View the organizational documents and resources, check out the member photos and post your thoughts on the forums, submit a photo for the gallery. Then have some fun and build a personal web page that only FCF members can see. Let your artistic, friendly, funny side, show through.

This journal contains a long list of new registered handlers. This program is working and I urge members to show their support of FCF and document their feline experience by registering. We will have an online form in the members-only area shortly, which will make it easier to register.

The Accreditation Committee has accredited another facility. I am proud to announce that Randy Johnson, director of

the Phillips Park Zoo is to be congratulated for joining a growing list of accredited facilities. One look at the photos in this journal and it is clear that two very lucky cougars live in Aurora. I know FCF is on the right path when our members participate in our programs.

Accreditation committee member Richard Hahn has submitted notice that he needs to step down after the current group of applications has been processed. Richard has been busy in 2007 and I am very grateful to him for bringing his considerable knowledge and experience to this team effort. Another qualified FCF member needs to be appointed to fill the vacancy and if this is your area of expertise, speak up. Submit a resume to the board of directors so that this great service can continue to process applications uninterrupted.

The deadline to reserve a villa for convention is June 22. You do not want to miss this event, so don't forget to call the Hilton and reserve a villa, or get with Carolynne and arrange to room with another member. Myrtle Beach fills up fast and after June 22 there may not be any lodging around. We have great speakers. FCF's conservation advisor Jim Sanderson is returning. Dan Stockdale, an accomplished trainer, manager, and media spokesperson is on the agenda. Nigel Marven, British naturalist and documentary filmmaker, is flying in to attend our convention and speak. And Doc has pulled out all the stops for us and guarantees us once-in-a-lifetime experiences at his T.I.G.E.R.S. preserve. See you there.

And finally, I want to touch on a theme in this issue of the journal—safety and preventing accidents. After Tatiana escaped



Tiger Safari animal keeper Joe Keffer holds the park's new Siberian lynx.

from the San Francisco Zoo and killed a visitor last Christmas day, I think everyone with big cats got a real wake up call. No one is immune from tragedy, not even outspoken AZA tiger advocate, Ron Tilson and his SSP tigers. This past April two bite incidents at FCF member facilities made national news. A cat bite injured an exhibitor and a bear bite killed an experienced trainer/handler. I am saddened by both events and my heart goes out to these members and their families and associates. I hope that everyone reads this journal's articles on safety and heeds the authors' good advice and warnings. •

—Lynn Culver

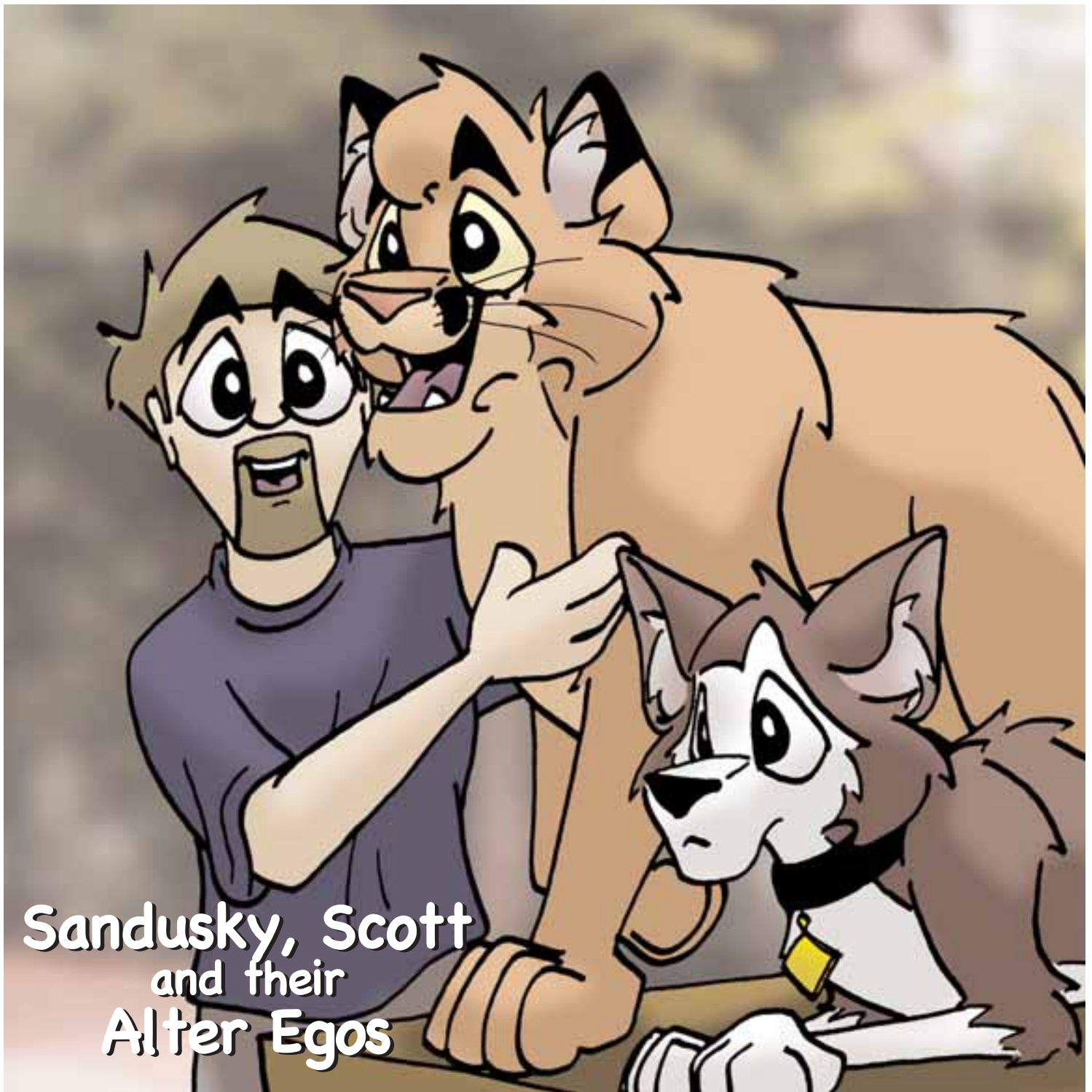
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Sandusky, Scott and their Alter Egos

By John Prengaman

Sandusky was born in a small cave tucked into the side of a mountain just outside of Phoenix, Arizona. When he was only a few weeks old, his mother was shot and killed by a hunter. The responsibility of raising him was subsequently left in the paws of his older sister. Being only a year old, however, she was unable to provide for

the both of them. Left with no other choice, she dropped him off on the doorstep of an unsuspecting apartment resident.

That doorstep belonged to a young bachelor named Scott and his trusted Siberian husky, Bunker. Scott and Bunker had no idea what they had gotten themselves into when they brought the spotted bundle of cougar fur into their household. It

wouldn't take them long to realize that a mountain lion isn't your typical, everyday, run of the mill housecat.

— — —

Like the fictional Scott, I knew very little about mountain lions when Sandusky found his way into my life. Unlike Scott, however, Sandusky only existed in my head and on the occasional scrap piece of paper.

So, I never had to deal with the shredded furniture, the broken lamps, or the astronomical food bills. I did, however, have to come up with brand new comic strips three times a week.

Anybody who works with mountain lions knows that the stories are the easy part. These cats are never-ending fountains of creativity. However, if you've never worked with one, you aren't quite sure where to start. Fortunately, my early jokes, which were based primarily on domestic cats I'd owned in the past, seemed to work out well enough. But, now that I've had the chance to experience mountain lions up close and personal, the stories are writing themselves.

— — —

After Sandusky had made his way onto the web, I received several offers from people who owned mountain lions in real life and wanted me to come and visit them. A little more than a year ago, I decided that these were offers I could no longer refuse. Soon thereafter, I found myself on a plane to the Pacific Northwest.

I made my way to the home of a family in Washington I now know quite well. It was there that I was introduced to a couple of mountain lion cubs which I have since seen grow up before my very eyes. I spent two wonderful days with those cubs, as they romped and wrestled with each other and me. The numerous claw marks and bruises I received were a small price to pay for an opportunity most people never receive.

While leaving the cubs behind was difficult, I still had another stop on my itinerary: WildCat Haven. This private sanctuary outside of Portland, Oregon is home to a host of rescued cats, ranging in size from "domestic" to "Sandusky." There I had the opportunity to meet and work with bobcats, lynx, servals, and a caracal among others. But, of course, it was the mountain lions who became my closest friends.

All of the mountain lions at WildCat Haven are rescues. Two of them came, emaciated and very sick, from an apartment in Indiana. Two more had been kept inside a pole barn in adjacent concrete enclosures smaller than most people's bathrooms. One was rescued, also emaciated and sick, from a mechanic's garage in Washington. The others had all been previously purchased as

household pets by people who had no idea of the extent of care and feeding that these wonderful cats require.

All of the cats, both great and small, are now thriving at the sanctuary. And watching them enjoy life, particularly knowing where they came from, has really had an effect on me.

— — —

Although I wasn't totally naive with regards to big cat ownership, it wasn't until I learned some of the stories behind the cats at WildCat Haven that I understood how truly devastating the situations can be. Sandusky was always meant to be a completely fictional account of a somewhat preposterous situation (I've yet to encounter any real life talking mountain lions). It was meant to be a "fish out of water" story and it most definitely was.

Of course, fish don't last very long out of water.

So, while having a mountain lion romping around a small apartment can lead to some enjoyable stories, it wasn't the message I wanted to convey to my readers. In the past year or so, Sandusky has gone through the process of moving out of his

apartment. For several months, he stayed at a local wildlife sanctuary, befriending a cheetah named Kashmir in the process. Once the paperwork had gone through, his adoptive family moved out of their second floor apartment and into a suburban home, complete with a large, lush, outdoor enclosure, perfectly suited for Sandusky's many adventures, be they real or catnip-induced.

So, after more than two years of hiding out and trying to avoid confiscation by those who would have most likely put him down, Sandusky is now a legal, privately owned mountain lion. To be perfectly honest, I don't have any idea whether or not Scott could ever legally own Sandusky in real life. But, I decided it wasn't imperative that I research the laws regulating the private ownership of mountain lions in the state of Arizona. If people weren't going to call me out on having a talking mountain lion in my comic strip, I doubted that they were going to call me out on the specifics of Arizona's exotic wildlife regulations.

— — —

Over the past year and a half, I've been back to visit my friends in the Pacific Northwest several times. Every time I visit,

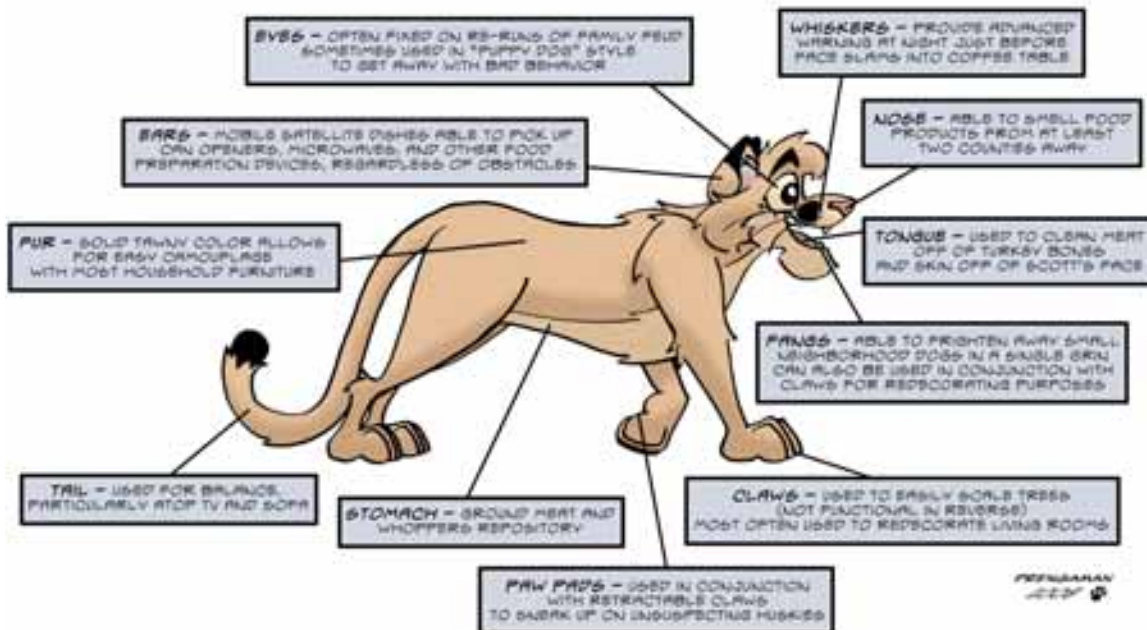


I come back with more pictures, more scratches, and, of course, more stories. I used to be frustrated, because I had trouble coming up with enough stories for Sandusky. Nowadays, however, I have so many stories that I just don't have enough time to tell them all. In some ways, that's even more frustrating. Finding a way to make Sandusky a full-time job would likely help to ease some of that frustration. Unfortunately, getting him into the newspapers is a bit like hitting the lottery.

The long odds aren't going to stop me from trying, though. In the meantime, Sandusky will still have a little corner of the web all to himself.

Well, I suppose Bunker is there, too. •

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for the Guiña

By *Fernando Vidal*

After many years of a total careless attitude, Chile is getting involved in protection of one of the most unknown felines of the New World, our beloved guiñas (leopardus guigna), the smallest wildcat of America.

FAUNA ANDINA together with the Chilean government wildlife service, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG) is attending to every animal with problems. Every individual found is designated to the breeding center of Fauna Andina. The goal is simple: we propose to save all the genetics available in such a way that the breeding program has more and more chances of being successful. This feline specie has never been breed in captivity and Fauna Andina is the only center working on doing so. All the attempts by others in the past have failed.

After Tala arrived at the center, SAG began to get more involved on the captive breeding project. The authorities were not convinced to put the specie under ex situ process. They did not want to give permits, especially if the interest was coming from private initiative. Analyzing the results on rearing Tala, an orphan female,

which has been an outstanding ambassador by letting many people know how adorable the guiñas are, SAG decided to give one more orphan to the center.

But this time the challenge was bigger: the new individual came in at the age of only 15 days. It was in good shape, since as soon as dogs killed her mother, SAG was notified and they brought the animal to the center. We named it Kalki, which means in Mapuches language “wool-plenty of wool.” Mapuches are the local aborigines.

Kalki has been in some ways more difficult to rear than Tala; she is more aggressive and more nervous. Her capacities for hunting are impressive; at a month old she started hunting some small chickens at the center. We let her roam free and she goes with my wife and daughter everywhere they go.

The body shape and

health of this little orphan is impressive. At this point I would like to highlight the effect of vitamins that WildTrax feline supplement had on Kalki. These vitamins were donated to our center with the help of FCF members, coordinated by Mindy Stinner.

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authorities on the conservation of the specie a triumph. But without the \$2,000 conservation grant donation of FCF, part of the project would fail, since building the enclosures is a costly task, something that every member of FCF knows deeply.

We do suspect that animals will continue coming. So with all the genetics available soon, the dream of an active breeding program and reintroduction are closer to fruition.

All the animals at the center come from distant places, so we are assured of having genetic variability in our felines.

With “Kalki” coming in, the center has five felines now, three males and two females.

Sadly one of the males is getting very old and now he is not able to eat whole pieces of food. I am afraid that it is too late for reproduction on this individual of unknown age.

I suspect that he is on the last days of his life; at least we have given him a comfortable life—for sure much better than where he came from.

On the brighter side, it is a reality that the whole center is moving to a bigger place in the next five months. The new place will be located in guiña country. There is native forest on it, enough for receiving all the animals that will come in the future. With a river in between, there is a hill where I suspect that some guiñas could still exist. This new place offers plenty of peace for breeding native animals. No more barking dogs in the neighborhood. And maybe, with some arrangements, it will also be a future place for releasing some animals.

Being realistic, building the whole new center will be a matter of several years. This work is something our animals deserve and need. Our present location is only five acres and there are some houses close to the center. We need a more remote location for our breeding center.

The new center will have no neighbors close enough to affect the animals. This privacy could make a big difference in the suc-

cess of captive reproduction of Chilean species that live in pristine places like guiñas do. I hope that at this location, stress will not hinder the attempts at captive breeding and we will succeed. •

If you would like to help the FCF sponsor the travel expenses to bring Fernando Vidal to the Myrtle Beach convention as a speaker, please send a donation check to the the treasurer. There is a separate line for donations on the registration form enclosed.

You may also donate using PayPal on the FCF web site's Support Us page at www.felineconservation.org.

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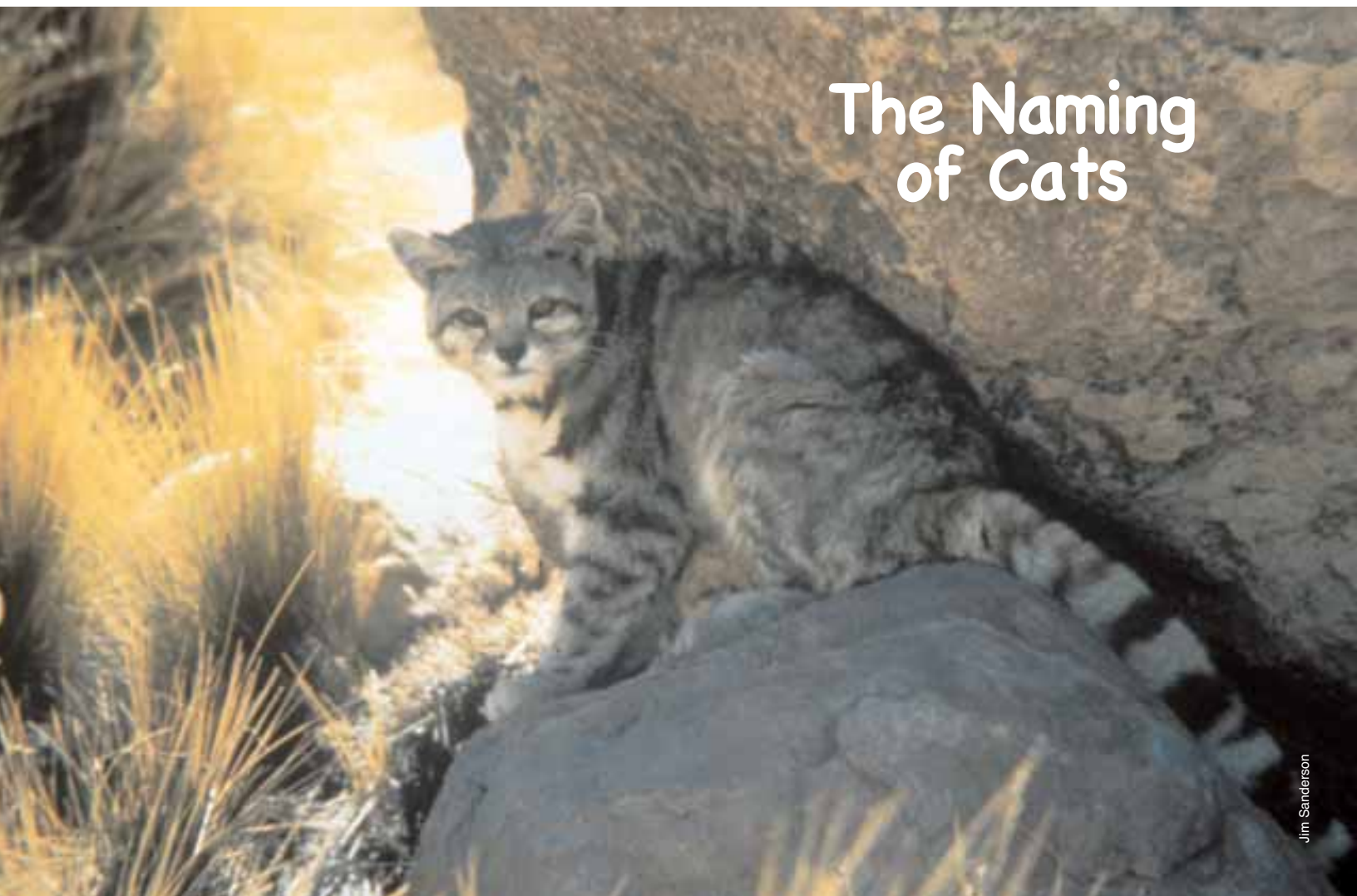


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Guiña kitten being socialized by little Florencia.

The Naming of Cats



Jim Sanderson

The elusive Andean cat.

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Have you ever wondered what goes into a cat's name? I'm not referring to the common name here, but the Latin binomial—the genus and species designation.

There are several ways to arrange the cats. One way is to place morphologically similar cats together. Another way is to group closely related cats. Linnaeus first proposed organizing the plants, animals, and minerals in a hierarchical way. In 1758 he formally described the first cat, the lion, to science using his system. It is not that people did not know what a lion was. What Linnaeus did was to place the lion within the framework of an organized view of animals. He put all cats in genus *Felis* and he assigned the lion the Latin binomial *Felis leo*.

In the beginning, all cats were placed in genus *Felis*. By 1792 however other genera

were in use. For instance, *Lynx lynx* appeared and is still used today. Suffice it to say that until recently, cats with a common morphology were grouped together. Today relatedness is used to organize the cats into different groups or genera. Obviously there is significant differences between genera and because cats are conservative (improving on perfection requires only small tweaks now and then), it was exceedingly difficult to understand the connection between the bones and the blood (morphology and relatedness). This is why some cats were placed in different genera now than

they were just ten years ago. For example, the puma, the cheetah, and the jaguarundi are now recognized to be closely related. Their morphology is similar in some respects—small heads, long tails—but different in others. Ten years ago no one would have placed them in a single lineage but today we do.

In 1865 the Italian scientist Emilio Cornalia described the Andean cat to science from a skin that was brought to Milan, Italy by a colleague who had traveled in South America. Cornalia wrote:

Questa nuova specie io chiamerò Felis o

The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter,
It isn't just one of your holiday games;
You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter
When I tell you, a cat must have [TWO] DIFFERENT NAMES.
—T.S. Eliot, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*

Leopardus jacobita in onore di Jacobita Mantegazza, donna d'ogni pregio ornata, figlia del libero suolo di Columbo, che, scelta l'Europa a nuova patria, fu generosa di parecchi oggetti alle raccolte del nostro civico museo.

My colleague Francesco Rovero has kindly translated this into English for me:

I will call this new species Felis or Leopardus jacobita in honor of Jacobita Mantegazza, who came from America and chose Europe as a new home and generously provided many pieces to our collection at the civic museum.

Note that Cornalia used the name *jacobita* and explained why he chose this name. Little did he realize that 150 years later controversy would emerge and yours truly would be forced to defend *jacobita*.

Somehow the name changes

In the 4th edition of *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference* edited by Don E. Wilson and DeeAnn M. Reeder, the Latin binomial of the Andean cat is given as *Leopardus jacobitus*. Because *Wilson & Reeder*, as we know this book, has become the standard reference used (sometimes blindly it seems) by students, professors, editors, and authors, the Latin names therein are to be used.

I noticed that the very nice 2007 Scientific American article on the Felidae by my colleagues Stephen O'Brien and Warren Johnson employed the name *L. jacobitus*. I found this to be very odd, and assumed it was in error. Soon afterward I received several papers on the Andean cat, some already published and some to review for publication. All used *jacobitus*.

Something was very wrong. When, where, and why was the name changed to *jacobitus*? Who committed this egregious error? And worse still, why were my colleagues accepting it without a fight? Well, this last question is easy to answer: because they do not know the rules by which species are named, they have never read the original description though they cite it all the time, and they accept what they read. You can see the true depth of the problem revealed by replacing an ending "a" with "tus" and it goes well beyond the issue of a scientific name. But getting back to the problem at hand...

Though I do not know who decided to

change the name—a peer-reviewed scientific publication is required—the name was changed. What was the justification for the name change?

There is something called *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (<http://www.iczn.org/iczn/index.jsp>), now in its 4th edition. The first appeared in 1961, well after Cornalia named the Andean cat. Let's use *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* to learn what it tells us about *jacobita* and *jacobitus*. The code is arranged into chapters; within each chapter are articles. Without more detail let's look at Chapter 7 in *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Chapter 7. Formation and treatment of names

Article 34. Mandatory changes in spelling consequent upon changes in rank or combination.

34.1. Family-group names. The suffix of a family-group name must be changed when the taxon denoted by the name is raised or lowered in rank; the author and date of the name remain unchanged [Arts. 23.3.1, 29.2, 50.3.1].

This article does not apply here.

Article 34.2. Species-group names. The ending of a Latin or latinized adjectival or participial species-group name must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined

[Art. 31.2]; if the gender ending is incorrect, it must be changed accordingly (the author and date of the name remain unchanged [Art. 50.3.2]).

This tells us that endings should match. Thus, the ending of *jacobit-* should be the same as the *-us* in *Leopardus* so that the genders agree. Therefore we should use *jacobitus* and the issue appears to be resolved.

But wait! Could there be more subtle issues involved? Scientific arguments are like legal arguments: we must support our case, while at the same time eliminating all other cases—systematically, methodologically, and above all we must remove every single shred of doubt.

The truth revealed

Are there other articles that might also apply or usurp some articles? We must dig deeper still.

Article 34.2.1. If a species-group name is a noun in apposition its ending need not agree in gender with the generic name with which it is combined and must not be changed to agree in gender with the generic name [Art. 31.2.1].

Could *jacobita* be a noun in apposition? To investigate this, we must refer back to Cornalia's original first description written in Italian. Fortunately, the excerpt above is all you need to know. That single sentence, resurrected from antiquity, dusted off and translated into English arms us with the weapon to slay this monster for good. Or

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does it?

Article 34.2.1 says that if the species name is derived from a proper noun, then it cannot be changed (the proper term is “cannot be declined” or “is not declineable”). So where does the name *jacobita* come from? Well, you already know: it comes from the name of a woman and is thus a proper noun, a noun in apposition.

Ah, but there is one more article that we must also investigate, a possible trump card. Article 31.1 also applies here:

Article 31. Species-group names.

31.1. Species-group names formed from personal names. A species-group name formed from a personal name may be either a noun in the genitive case, or a noun in apposition (in the nominative case), or an adjective or participle [Art. 11.9.1].

31.1.1. A species-group name, if a noun in the genitive case formed from a personal name that is Latin, or from a modern personal name that is or has been latinized, is to be formed in accordance with the rules of Latin grammar.

The argument could be made that the name should have been written *jacobitae*. This spelling shows clearly that the name is based on a personal name in the genitive case. In fact, *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* recommends that personal names not be used as nouns in apposition if the species name could be confused with the name of an author. I hope that it is not possible to confuse the name *Jacobita* with *Cornalia*.

Conclusion

From *Cornalia*'s original 1865 description of the Andean cat and by *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, Article 34.2.1, *jacobita* is a proper noun derived from a person's name and cannot be declined.

Though the common name might change (Andean cat, Andean mountain cat), and the genus name might change (*Felis*, *Oreailurus*, *Leopardus*), the species name will always and forever remain *jacobita*.

As we mathematicians like to say, QED baby!

But this is just the beginning

As Dr. Alfred L. Gardner of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and National Museum of Natural History, and authority of the code told me:

I suggest that the next time the name is used in a taxonomic paper, the author clearly state the origin and that it is a noun in apposition. Leopardus jacobitus is clearly wrong. Jacobita is a feminine diminutive of Jacob.

Next time I'll write about the first descriptions of the cats. When a cat's name is given you often see something like:

Andean cat (*Cornalia*, 1865)
or
Canada lynx (Kerr 1792)

The use of a comma in one case and the lack of a comma in another is covered by a rule. Now, I'll bet all of you accept as truth that an author credited with first describing one of the cat species is correct. You are not alone of course and the vast majority of scientists do too. Wouldn't it be surprising if one of these first authors was incorrectly attributed to a first description and that another author was ignored and forgotten? •

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Report: AZA Felid TAG, April 2008

By Kevin Chambers

I attended the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) meeting hosted by Cincinnati Zoo on April 11-13, 2008. The Felid TAG meets once yearly to share information and to update strategies for administering the felid programs within AZA such as SSPs (Species Survival Plans). Representatives from AZA zoos, invited speakers from throughout the world, and other interested parties attend. This year, there were just over 100 in attendance. The focus of this year's meeting was "Felids of the Americas." In addition to the three days of speakers and workshops, the four days prior to the TAG saw husbandry courses provided for small cats and big cats. The husbandry courses are limited to individuals sponsored by member AZA zoos and were established in response to the realization that the average AZA zookeeper has six years of felid experience and that many basic husbandry practices were not being passed down from one generation of keepers to the next. Registration was limited to 50 students and many were turned away.

The lectures started off with a presentation on the reintroduction of Canada Lynx in Colorado. 218 lynx from Canada were released from 1999 to 2006. The survival rate has been 80%. Confirmed breeding began in 1993. In 2004, 46% of the breeding age females produced kittens, followed by 42% in 2005. A fall in the snowshoe hare population caused those percentages to drop to 9.5% and zero in 2006 and 2007. At least 116 kittens are known to have been born. Radio collared lynx have migrated widely to neighboring states including Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah. One male even made it as far as Iowa before falling casualty to a car. Amazingly, it weighed more at the time of death than it did at release, proving that it had adapted well to the translocation.

Kerry Fanson of Purdue University gave a talk on her research on stress levels in translocated lynx using gluco-corticoid levels in feces as the indicator. As expected, stress levels were high in the freshly captured individuals while held in captivity and immediately after release. Female lynx showed higher levels of stress than did

males. Cats living in areas of high human activity such as skiing, snow mobiling, and hiking did not show a noticeable increase in stress. The highest stressed cats came from areas where there were high densities of competing predators, primarily coyote. FCF members had helped in the past with this project by providing feces of captive born animals to act as a baseline for corticoid levels in non-stressed cats.

Arturo Casa, Texas A & M University-Kingsville, reported on the status of ocelots in the wild found in Texas. The USF&W Service is slowly progressing with its Ocelot Recovery Team and should, in the next few months, be finalizing an overview plan for bringing the population back to viable status. Currently, there are thought to be 80-120 individual cats in Texas. While scattered, there are two areas that are proving to be breeding populations. Habitat is proving to be the critical factor. Radio tracking has shown that 75% of the ocelots are located in areas where there is full canopy of brush and scrub. The other 25% of ocelots inhabit areas where there is half canopy. No ocelots are found in areas used primarily for grazing with no cover. FCF has supported this project with a conservation grant in order to purchase radio-tracking collars for a study on reintroducing ocelots from Mexico into the USA. Though the original location in Mexico for the FCF-supported study site became unavailable, they still have the collars and are currently working on an alternative site.

A short report was given on the formation of the AZA Large Cat Safety Task Force. This group has been formed by the AZA as a response to the San Francisco Zoo tiger attack last Christmas. This task force consists of representatives from AZA, USDA, and TAOS. They will be meeting for two days in May in Washington, D.C. The purpose is to streamline the process for standardized guidelines in AZA zoos for handling procedures, husbandry guidelines, and accreditation for big cats in AZA facilities.

Kate McKinnon, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, presented information on using corticosteroid hormone levels to predict breeding success in clouded leopards. The North American population of clouded

leopards is very small and highly inbred. Much of the problem is attributed to the fact that pairing adult clouded leopards is extremely difficult, if not almost impossible. Only 2.5% of female and 0% of male clouded leopards have ever been successfully bred with more than one mate. This study looked at hormone levels and activities of newly formed pairs to see if any of these factors could help predict success. Five steps were used in forming the pairs and feces was collected daily. The five steps were: adjacent enclosures/protected introduction, supervised face-to-face introduction, left together unsupervised for at least eight hours, left together overnight unsupervised, and copulation. Cortisol levels were markedly higher in males in failed pairs. Females did not show the higher levels, but the amount of variation in cortisol levels was greater for females in failed pairs. Successful pairs spent much more time out of sight from the observers than did the failed pairs. Fighting and grooming the other cat were both found much more frequently in successful pairs. Some of the fighting may have been play fighting since several observers were used and some did not note if it was true or play fighting.

Heather DeCaluwe, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, discussed upcoming research using chemical methods to control aggression in male clouded leopards. The premise of this study is that high testosterone levels are the main culprits in the aggression that causes the difficulty in pairing adult clouded leopards. This study will involve the use of three different chemicals to see if they are effective in controlling aggression. Two are psychotropic drugs, Prozac and Clomipramine. The third is Deslorelin, which represses testosterone production (and is currently used as a birth control measure). When asked why a drug that is used to prevent breeding will be used to attempt to cause breeding, it was pointed out that the suppression from the implant lasts six months and that the goal is introduction, which hopefully will be achieved by the time the implant's effects wear off and breeding can occur. The procedure will begin with a three-month baseline without drugs, followed by five months of chemical treatment. The final stage will be the actual

introduction using the drugs.

Dr. Karen Terio from the University of Illinois presented information regarding cancer in clouded leopards. Of all the clouded leopards over one year of age that have died, 83% had at least one type of cancer. 62% of those animals had two or more types. There was a wide range of types of cancer found, some commonly found in cats, while others were extremely rare or not even thought to be found in felines.

Bill Swanson of the Cincinnati Zoo gave updates on research and activities involving Pallas cats in Mongolia. In January, he went

to Mongolia to radio collar, blood test, and collect semen from wild Pallas cats. The semen will be used to artificially inseminate captive females in the US. He currently has 115 straws of semen from 11 different wild males. This spring, he collected 53 eggs from females at Cincinnati Zoo and was able to obtain 50% fertilization with the in vitro process. The 28 embryos were implanted into females at Erie Zoo and Hogle Zoo. Unfortunately, none successfully implanted.

Another facet of the Felid TAG meeting is breaking up into working groups and

coming up with solutions to specific topics. This year's topics were felid education; In situ conservation linkage of felids of the Americas: jaguar, puma, ocelot, Canada lynx; AZA Felid Regional Collection Plan (RCP) broken up into to big cats and small cats for the working groups.

The felid education group focused on setting up plans for revamping the Felid TAG website and producing a quarterly e-newsletter.

The conservation linkage group plans to identify the different projects and have them available on the website.

The big cat RCP group recommended no changes. To explain, the Regional Collection Plan (RCP) looks at each felid species and decides if the species should be managed by the felid TAG. The criteria is if a good founder base is available (20 animals), the status of the population in the wild, if space is available for the species in zoos, if there is a scientific research need to keep the species, and if the species can serve as a model for an endangered species. If it is decided that a species should be managed, the RCP dictates to which level: SSP (Species Survival Plan), PMP (Population Management Plan), DERP (Display, Education, Research Population), POP (Phase Out Population), or PIP (Phase In Population). Big cat species currently are managed as follows:

SSP: Amur tiger, Sumatran tiger, Malayan (formerly Indo-Chinese) tiger, cheetah, jaguar, clouded leopard, snow leopard, African lion

PMP: Puma, Amur leopard

POP: All other big cat species or subspecies

The small cat RCP working group did recommend some changes. Pallas cats will be dropped from an SSP to a PMP to allow AZA institutions to utilize cats of needed bloodlines that are not owned by AZA institutions (those being cats owned by FCF member Joe Maynard). Due to the desire of many zoos to include native species, bobcats were recommended to be added as a DERP species. Several species were discussed to be added as a PIP species, but only jaguarundi (South American subspecies, not Central American) was recommended. These recommendations must be approved by the AZA in order for

Current Population Status of Managed Species

Term definitions: the first digit denotes the number of males, the second is the number of females, and the third is the number of sex unknown. 1.2.3 would be one male, 2 females, and 3 sex unknown)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Institutions</u>
Black-footed cat	15.13.3	0.1.1	9 in 4 litters	15
Fishing cat	22.38	7	2	25
Pallas cat	17.23	2.1	7 (3.2.2)	14
Sand cat	15.20	0	0	n/a
Serval	58.54	4	1	56
Caracal	46	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clouded leopard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Snow leopard	73.93	8.7.1	4.4.1	n/a
Cheetah	126.140	n/a	n/a	54
African lion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tiger	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



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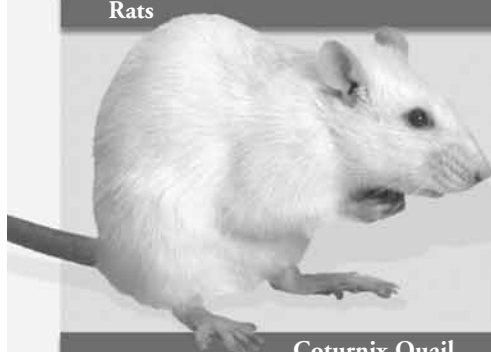
Mice



Size	Less than 500	500	1000	2500	5000+	Length(inches)	Weight(grams)	Count
X-Small Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	1.30 - 1.80	100
Small Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	1.90 - 2.40	100
Large Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	2.50 - 3.00	100
Peach Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.00 - 1.25	3.10 - 4.40	100
Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.25 - 1.50	4.50 - 7.00	100
Hoppers:	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22	1.50 - 2.00	8.00 - 12.00	100
Weanlings:	\$0.40	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.32	2.00 - 2.50	13.00 - 19.00	50
Large Adults:	\$0.45	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.37	2.50 - 3.00	20.00 - 29.00	50
X-Large Adults:	\$0.55	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$0.47	3.00 - 3.75	30.00 - 50.00	25

* We offer combined quantity discount mouse pricing. * Measurement does not include tail length.

Rats



Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Length (inches)	Weight (grams)	Count
Pinkies:	\$0.39	\$0.34	\$0.29	1.50 - 2.00	3.00 - 8.00	100
Fuzzies:	\$0.49	\$0.44	\$0.39	2.00 - 2.50	9.00 - 19.00	100
Pups:	\$0.79	\$0.74	\$0.69	2.50 - 3.50	20.00 - 29.00	25
Weaned:	\$0.89	\$0.84	\$0.79	3.50 - 4.50	30.00 - 44.00	25
Small:	\$0.99	\$0.94	\$0.89	4.50 - 6.00	45.00 - 84.00	20
Medium:	\$1.39	\$1.34	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:	\$1.49	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:	\$1.59	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:	\$1.79	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:	\$1.99	\$1.94	\$1.89	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00+	2

* We offer combined quantity discount rat pricing. * Measurement does not include tail length.

Coturnix Quail



Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Grams	Oz.	Count
1 Day:	\$0.34	\$0.29	\$0.24	7.50 - 10.00	.25	100
1 Week:	\$0.64	\$0.59	\$0.54	30.00 - 40.00	1.0	25
2 Week:	\$0.84	\$0.79	\$0.74	50.00 - 75.00	2.5	10
3 Week:	\$1.04	\$0.99	\$0.94	100.00 - 125.00	4.0	10
6 Week:	\$1.34	\$1.24	\$1.14	130.00 - 150.00	5.0	5
8 Week:	\$1.44	\$1.34	\$1.24	155.00 - 185.00	6.5	5
10 Week:	\$1.64	\$1.54	\$1.44	190.00 - 225.00	8.0	5

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits



Size	Our Price	Weight (lbs.)	Count
X-Small:	\$3.50	0.50 - 0.75	1
Small:	\$4.50	1.00 - 1.75	1
Medium:	\$5.50	2.00 - 3.75	1
Large:	\$6.50	4.00 - 5.75	1
X-Large:	\$7.00	6.00 - 7.75	1
XX-Large:	\$8.00	8.00 - 9.75	1
XXX-Large:	\$9.00	10.00 - 11.75+	1

Chicks

Size	Less than 500	500	1000	5000	10000+	Grams	Ounces	Count
Small:	\$0.25	\$0.20	\$0.15	\$0.12	\$0.10	30.00 - 35.00	1.0	25



Guinea Pigs

Size	Less Than 500	500	1000+	Inches	Grams	Count
Medium:	\$1.39	\$1.34	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:	\$1.49	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:	\$1.59	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:	\$1.79	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:	\$1.99	\$1.94	\$1.89	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00	2
XXXX-Large:	\$2.29	\$2.24	\$2.19	13.00 - 15.00	601.00 - 900.00+	1

* We offer combined quantity discount guinea pig pricing.



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A Tale of Two Panamas

*By Jim Broaddus
Bear Creek Feline Center*

There are six species of felids residing in the jungles and rain forest of the Republic of Panama, Central America. Some of them are indigenous, others transients. Those include the oncilla, margay, ocelot, jaguarundi, jaguar, and puma. This short essay will relate my recent experiences working with two of these species, the oncilla and the ocelot, and as well as our rescue of two ocelots held illegally in small cages by Panamanian locals. Proudly, my wife Bertie and I assisted in the building of a new sanctuary in the Panamanian mountainous rain forest in the Chiriquí province near the Costa Rican border which shall now be known as Volcán, Chiriquí Feline Center/ Centro Felino de Volcán, Chiriquí.

It is ironic that we live in Panama City, Florida and that we became acquainted with a caring, animal loving devotee, Linda Weldon. Linda was born in the USA, but grew up as a “Zonian” who was educated

in the old Canal Zone school system and decided to remain there after a few years living and working in the USA as a nurse. She reflects that she has pretty much been a bird lover all of her life. We discovered that she is also a consummate artist who makes at least a portion of her living selling an occasional painting here and there. Of late, she has become involved with exotic felines. She obtained her first cat, an adult female ocelot, in 2006, and about a month or so ago found a distressed oncilla kitten in a gunny sack hanging from the top overhang of the garage with a sign hand written on lined notebook paper taped on it saying: “Peligro, oncilla” or as in English translation, “Danger, oncilla.” Linda quickly sent out an all points bulletin asking for help as she had limited knowledge on mothering a young oncilla, much less any wild cat. Our dear friend Shelleen Mathews, who operates Wild Felid Advocacy Center in the Seattle-Tacoma area, answered Linda’s call for help and referred her to Bertie and me.

Thus, the journey began!

I exchanged emails with Linda Welden late last year as I attempted to assist her with her oncilla. Thankfully, she has an excellent Panamanian veterinarian friend, Dr. Roberto Crespo, who agreed to help. Linda, Dr. Crespo and I pressed on to save the oncilla. As we all had limited experience with oncillas, this quickly became a case of the blind leading the blind. I have successfully reared North American bobcats and a number of African serval kittens, two of which were delivered by C-section and became the ward of my wife Bertie and me at the age of four hours. With Dr. Crespo in the sidecar and Linda as an interpreter, we began a chain of email exchanges to develop diets, feeding, and enrichment schedules for the baby oncilla. Linda did all of the work on the ground with this rare cat and the credit goes entirely to her; the big news is that Ozzie the Oncilla thrives and is happy and healthy today.

Let me unwind this story for you. Earlier this year, Bertie and I decided to travel south to see Linda Weldon for the express purpose of building cages and working with her two rare felids. We booked our flights to Panama City and we were surprised at the modest ticket prices if we departed Atlanta, Georgia... about \$900 for both of us, round trip. By car, we departed Panama City, Florida on April 6 to drive to Atlanta to board Delta Flight 305. All was well until I attempted to obtain my boarding pass. It could just have easily been Delta flight 666 or 1313. Bertie cleared ticketing OK, but for me, the computer threw out my boarding pass request stating that I was “not approved to travel.” Mind you I have had my U.S. Passport for more than nine years. I was unaware that traveling to the Republic of Panama, our State Department in all its wisdom, has dictated that travel requires that the expiration date of one’s passport be at least six months beyond the date of intended travel. Well, here goes old “Panama Jim” with willing

wife, attempting to board on April 6, 2008 with a passport that expires on August 26, 2008. By my new world abacus, that expiration date is about two months short of the needed six months. We were beginning to think that something or someone was telling us not to make this trip. We pressed on, deciding to attempt boarding again by going through a different line, which led to a friendlier looking ticket taker. It worked! This Delta lady either was really nice or did not notice. We were both cleared for boarding and the journey continued.

The flight to Panama City was short and sweet, only about 3½ hours from Atlanta. Alamo had our car rental ready when we landed and everything went smooth as silk as we left the airport at 9:30 p.m. to begin our 300 mile drive cross country to Volcán in the province of Chiriquí. Only five or so minutes into our trek we encountered a security check roadblock where the guardia gave us orders to produce our “papers.” I was more than a little paranoid after the boarding incident back in Atlanta, but

quickly learned that this was a routine stop for reasons which remain unknown to me. The guardia explained in broken English that it would not be advisable for us to drive to Volcán at night. Although the route from Panama City to Volcán constitutes the main artery from Costa Rica to Columbia, it is not without its share of potholes and twisties. So, we bedded down over night at a nearby hotel and began our seven hour trip to Linda Weldon’s early the next morning. We found ourselves driving through the City of Panama smack dab in morning rush hour. To put it politely, stop signs and traffic lights in this city are suggestions, not mandates. Once out of the city and on the highway we noticed the absence of civilization, as we know it with only one McDonald’s strategically positioned in the city of Santiago, which is about three hours out of P.C.

We traveled on through to David with mountains high above us. We continued toward our destination, Volcán, altitude 4,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level. This



Volcán/Cherokee Sanctuary

was in itself unusual to us as we live at sea level. This area of Panama, blessed by nature, is famous for its year-round perfect weather (between 60-80°F) and the natural beauty of the territory; its mountains resemble the Alps. On clear days, from the highest craters of the dormant 12,000-foot high volcano called Barú, it is even possible to observe the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Volcán and its surrounding areas support an incredible variety of flora and fauna. Although tourism is starting to make its mark there, the most important commercial activities are still agriculture and cattle farming. The rich and fertile soil is ideal to grow oranges, coffee, and flowers, which are exported all over the world. People here enjoy sweet-water fishing, mountain biking, rafting, and hiking. Bird watching is another popular activity. Among the many species of endemic birds, it is easy to spot the resplendent quetzal. There are two important nearby natural reserves, the Volcán Barú National Park and La Amistad Park, which is shared with Costa Rica.

Travel log: first day on the ground at Volcán/Cherokee Sanctuary. I spent hours becoming acquainted with Ozzie the Oncilla and Dori the female ocelot. This was my first face-to-face meeting with an oncilla and I quickly learned that this one was to be reckoned with. The locals call this little buster respectfully a “tiger cat” and for good reason. This tiny guy was full of spits and slaps and very quick to make hostile advances even as I offered my affection. Back home at Bear Creek Feline Center in Florida, we teach our interns to “let the cat come to you,” well I did, but he didn’t. This oncilla was wild and clearly wanted his space. His appearance resembles an ocelot, but much smaller with a darker pelt. The profile of the oncilla’s head looked to me much like the side view of our jaguarundi back home which resembles the profile of a prehistoric felid with a convex forehead. This oncilla weighed in at about four pounds at what is thought to be less than six months of age. I understand that this species is endangered in this region and listed CITES Appendix I in all of their natural habitats. I am advised that they are extremely difficult to breed in captivity. To say that their appearance is stunning would be an understatement.

The ocelot female Dori, which is Linda’s



Sedated ocelot

treasure, on the other hand was well socialized. Bertie and I kept two ocelots back in the 1970s when you could buy them at many pet stores for about \$500. Linda’s female is much larger than I remembered ours to be and I am told that ocelots down south of Mexico grow to be quite large in

the wild in this region. I would say that this female was larger than the largest serval that I have seen and smaller than our Siberian lynx. This ocelot weighed in at about 40-45 pounds and that’s a *lot* of ocelot. Linda’s cages were built way beyond the minimums needed for this species, con-

structed in a round configuration with a vaulted center that provided at least a 15-foot perch for Dori. She looked down on me for about an hour as I sat alone with her with my eyes at half mast. Then, slowly and quietly, she lowered herself to the ground and sniffed her way toward me. She apparently wanted my new boots that I purchased for this trip. They were freshly waxed with mink oil, which totally intrigued this ocelot girl. I used a variety of ropes and found that by tossing each of them, she favored the one made of hemp. She quickly claimed it and I imagine that Linda is still using it for behavioral enrichment with this inquisitive, oversized ocelot. Later that same day, I encouraged Linda to touch her cat, which she did. Then, Linda looked up at me with tears in her eyes and said "I did it...after all of these months, I actually touched her!" At the risk of sounding trite...this was truly a "touching experience."

The next morning, ready we were! The itinerary called for us to present our credentials to the Volcán Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM). We made friends with specialist Maria del Pilar O'Brien who accepted copies of my USDA, FFWCC, US Fish & Wildlife licenses plus FCF and Bear Creek Feline Center brochures. We gave ANAM officials FCF hats and buttons and I was surprised when Officer Domingo allowed Bertie to pin the FCF button on the lapel of his ANAM uniform! As we were ushered through the ANAM office, a local cattleman came into the office and exclaimed in Spanish that there was a nuisance jaguar near his home, prowling for a quick beefsteak. Domingo formed a posse and enlisted my help. I thought to myself, how would we handle the movement of this big cat safely? I soon learned that ANAM office here in Volcán was not only a small organization in terms of personnel, but it was also ill-equipped to move a problem jaguar. The need for good training and help was so apparent.

News traveled fast in this jungle community and word quickly spread that there was a "new sheriff in town." That night, back at Volcán/Cherokee Sanctuary, Linda Weldon had heard from another American living in the area about a pair of ocelots living in substandard cages in an area called Bam-bito, outside Volcán. A quick records search

at ANAM revealed that the local Panamanian that possessed them had no trace of a permit to keep endangered species. It was decided that our group would accompany ANAM early the next day to confiscate these unfortunate cats. Linda then enlisted Dr. Crespo to help because Dr. Crespo knew the owner of this small animal confine. He was sent in to negotiate the transfer, while we all held in abeyance a short distance away. The ANAM officer, Domingo Jurado, had an order to confiscate the ocelots in his pocket and he was more than ready to exercise his authority. It was discussed and agreed that we should avoid confiscation so as to project the good name of those working and living in Volcán, Chiriquí. The worst thing that could have happened at this point would have been for the locals to lose confidence in us and to label us feline narcs. The rescue party

agreed to donate \$500 to the caretaker, which made this man very happy. We became the heroes of the day, not the villains. This is not the first time I have heard of payments or donations being made in order to rescue cats. We have made similar transactions back at Bear Creek. This is sometimes the best way to win the battle without losing the war.

So, what did we learn on this, our first mission into the rain forest of the Republic of Panama? Observing the obvious lack of manpower and much needed equipment, we learned that the government officials at ANAM are deeply concerned about the plights of wild felids (and other animals) that live in this region. They were friendly to gringos and made Bertie and I feel like celebrities. We agreed to return in June with a small live trap that will be used as a model to "reverse engineer" so that a trap



Building a cage addition.

can be constructed to accommodate even a Jaguar. I agreed to purchase a dart projector upon my return to the states. And, next trip down, I will deliver this projector to them and hold workshops that will teach the wildlife officers safe usage of this valuable tool of the trade. After attending Dr. Keith Amass' Safe Capture International seminar in 2005, I am proficiently comfortable with Telinject's Vario Projector, Model IV. The gun, syringes, needles, and practice targets will cost us \$1514.88, which we will purchase and donate to ANAM.

So, how can two people from a small sanctuary in Florida with limited funds make a difference in the Republic of Panama you ask? By building bridges with fellow FCF members like you as you read this essay. Perhaps you would like to become involved with us. There is plenty of work to be done at Volcán Cherokee Feline Center, the first order of business being to make homes for cats that are being held illegally in captivity. The two ocelots that we rehomed were living in cages four feet wide by four feet high by about twelve feet long.

Both ocelots had been housed in these tiny habitats for more than two years with not much human contact except from their caretaker who fed them and changed their water. There had been no enrichment provided for these felids whatsoever. There was noticeable fecal matter and food residue within their cage. The vet, Dr. Crespo said that the males' hind legs were atrophied due to lack of exercise. Crespo contends that in time we will quite possibly see improvements on his hindquarters. The right rear leg was twisted and it appears to be an old, badly healed fracture. Back at Volcán Cherokee, once released into her new quarters, the female could not jump from the ground to a tree limb that we provided for her, which was just about four feet high. He became sick from the medications we used to immobilize him, so we had a good look at his regurgitated dinner. The food fed to these cats



Turning an aviary into an ocelot enclosure.

can only be speculated, but we did notice noodles in the male's vomit.

There is no doubt that these beautiful ocelots are in the best possible place that they can be under the supervision of Linda who will keep them at Volcán/Chiriquí for the rest of their lives. Thanks to Bertie and Linda for the photos and to Domingo, the ANAM officer and Dr. Crespo for their assistance.

We all did something that really mattered! •

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A bit of sass from Ozzie the Oncilla.

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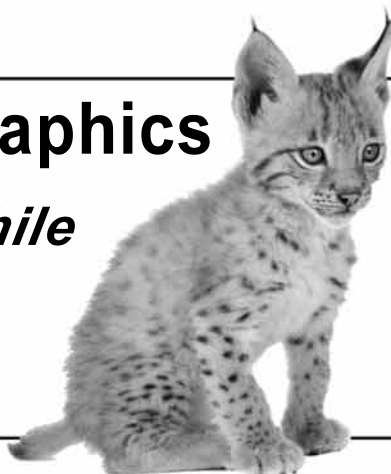
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FCF Convention Fast Facts

Dates:

Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, July 26; Husbandry Course—Wednesday, July 23.

Place:

Kingston Plantation, 9800 Queensway Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.

Accommodations:

Hyde Park Villas, single, double, and triple bedroom villas with kitchens, living room, laundry, patio, and porches. Reserve your villa before June 22. You may arrive up to three days early and stay up to three days late at our special FCF convention price of \$155 single, \$225 double and \$285 triple bedroom. Call 800-876-0010 or 843-449-1700 to reserve your villa. If you have troubles getting a room reserved with the hotel, call Kevin Chambers at zooarc@att.net or 812-397-2302. It is vital that you reserve your villa as early as possible. Once our room block is full or expires on June 22, it is highly likely that there will not be any more accommodations available at the Kingston Plantation.

<http://www.kingstonplantation.com/>

Carolyne Clendinen is coordinating people with villa rooms and those looking for a room. If you want to room in someone else's villa or have an extra room to offer another attendee, contact Carolyne at clendinens@hotmail.com or at 571-292-0118. Each room has its own private bath, so sharing a villa is no less private than staying in a normal hotel room.

Transportation:

Fly to Myrtle Beach "International" Airport (MYR) using Alitalia, ASA, ComAir, Continental, Delta Northwest, Spirit, United, or USAir. There are direct flights from Atlanta, Atlantic City, Boston, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Detroit, New York, and Washington DC.

Rent a car at the airport (weekly rates only) or hail a taxi to Kingston. It is about a 13 mile, 30 minute drive and one can expect to pay about \$33 for a cab, each way.

Activities:

Our meeting room is in Brighton Towers on the beach facing the Atlantic Ocean.

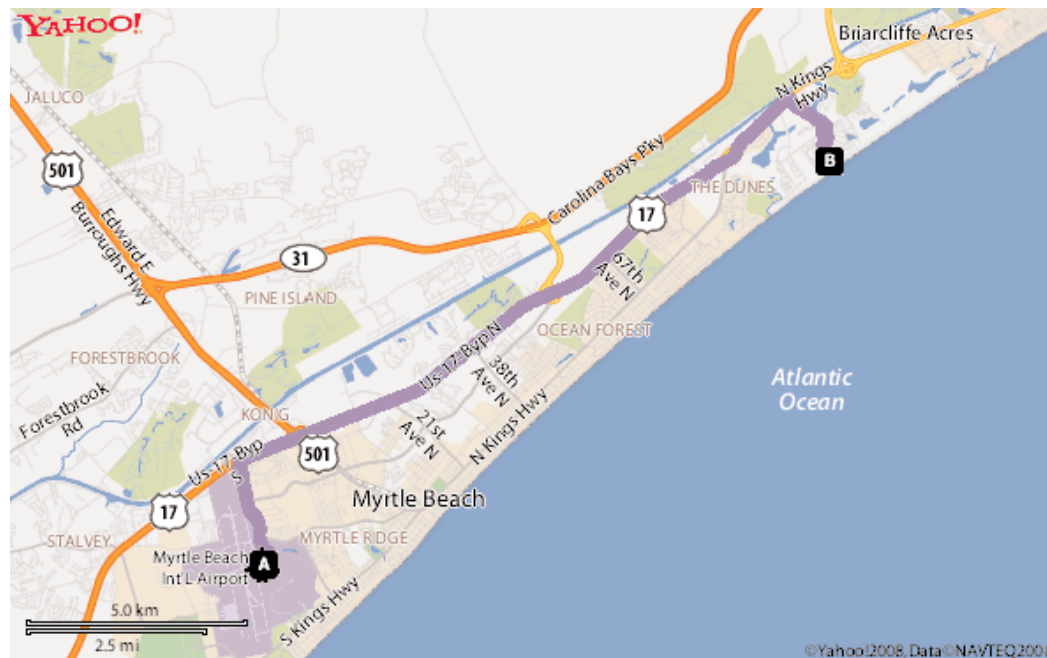
Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course begins at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 23 and runs to 5:00 p.m. in Brighton Towers.

Thursday morning the FCF board of directors will be conducting their annual meeting in the meeting room in Brighton Towers. Members may attend, but do not participate. Convention registration opens at 2:00 p.m. Members will have all afternoon to mingle with each other, the kittens, and vendors setting up their displays. Auction item donations will be cataloged and displayed, with the silent auction bidding sheets out so members may begin bidding. The icebreaker and annual membership meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. There will be a cocktail hour and assorted appetizers.

We will be bused to T.I.G.E.R.S. Friday morning and spend several hours there

experiencing Doc Antle's amazing facility and collection of rare and endangered trained animal ambassadors. We will be bused back to Kingston Plantation and you can have lunch on your own. Friday afternoon and evening will be free time to experience some of the other great attractions in this resort town or spend time with kitten and friends in villas. Friday evening, Nigel Marvin will be conducting a fundraiser in our Brighton Towers meeting room open to the general public. Convention attendees may attend at a reduced rate.

Saturday speakers will be starting in the morning and continue until mid afternoon. Saturday evening features the banquet dinner, awards, live auction, and more. The dress code at the banquet is quite flexible. Anything from tuxedos to t-shirt and jeans to a tiger costume has been worn and is acceptable. The silent auction will close and a few items will be offered by live auction. •



Convention Room Rates:

The rates for the villas per night are:

One bedroom villa \$155.00 (1 queen or king bed, possible sleeper sofa)

Two bedroom villa \$225.00 (1 queen or king bed, 2 doubles, sleeper sofa)

Three bedroom villa \$285.00 (1 queen or king bed, 4 doubles, sleeper sofa)

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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

What's in a name? Feline Conservation Foundation

During the months of February and March on even numbered years, any valid Feline Conservation Federation member may introduce motions concerning the future actions of the corporation. That motion must be undersigned with three more valid FCF members and copies of the motion must be mailed to all board members.

This year only one such motion was properly filed. It was a simple one and it is reprinted in it entirety below:

Motion

That Article I.I of the Constitution be changed to read:

The name of the Corporation shall be Feline Conservation Foundation.

Signed: Mike Frieze

Undersigned by FCF members in good standing.

Signed: Thomas Brooks

Signed: Virginia Catsoulas

Signed: Tony Richards

Signed: Tina Thompson

The name change is subtle and easy to miss: The motion proposed will change the name Federation to Foundation.

FCF has weathered a number of name changes over the years. It was founded in 1955 as Long Island Ocelot Club. By 1979, there were very few ocelots nationwide and almost none in Long Island. To reflect this change of direction, the name was then changed to LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation. This name was not used publicly until 1982. This name really didn't suit our organization because, quite frankly, the membership did not care as much for endangered species as it cared for cats. Even the demographics of our cats changed. The Endangered Species Act made it more difficult to preserve the gene pools of the endangered lines so members often turned to cats which were not endangered. To reflect this, in 2002 the name was shortened and changed to Feline Conservation Federation.

There are several reasons why we should change the name again.

FCF is no longer a federation.

Webster's definition of federation is "an

encompassing political or societal entity formed by uniting smaller or more localized entities."

In the 1980s LIOC-ESCFederation was a federation of branch membership clubs. There were at least six branches which shared some goals. By the time the name was changed to Feline Conservation Federation, there were only three branches. By 2007 there were zero. The board then voted to dissolve the branches completely. No branches, no federation.

FCF is more like a foundation.

There are several definitions of foundation. The most obvious one is "funds given for the permanent support of an institution." Although FCF does not insure permanent support of any institution, it does issue conservation grants every year to further feline conservation. Other definitions of foundation are, "a basis (as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands..." or "an underlying base or support." The very nucleus of FCF is feline conservation, especially ex situ private breeding programs and ambassadorship. That is FCF's foundation of feline conservation.

Foundation sounds more grown up

Like it or not, the most famous federation of all is the fictional United Federation of Planets. When you hear Feline Conservation Federation, that last word overpowers the first two and you are reminded of Star Trek and Trekkies more than conserving felines. How many times have we apologized for this name?

Foundations are more common than Federations

Guidestar.org is a web site which documents the performance of most, if not all, non-profits. You can even look up Feline Conservation Federation there. According to Guidestar, there are 12 times as many foundations than federations.

Corporations are more likely to support a foundation

A name which includes "foundation" is more likely to attract general corporate donations. Corporate giving is often driven by publicity, not altruism, and corporations are less likely to give to what their shareholders might perceive as Trekkies.

Legislators are more likely to follow a foundation's lead

Foundations have more credibility than federations. For the same reasons given above, our written and oral testimony will be taken more seriously.

Summary:

The word "Federation" is holding us back just like the name Long Island Ocelot Club once held back the growth of this organization. The name change is minor but with far-reaching benefits. We can still call it FCF, the logo stays the same, the name is still perfectly recognizable, and we'll feel more comfortable saying the full name out loud. With one less syllable, it's even easier to say! Help prepare FCF for the task ahead of conserving felines through hands-on husbandry and more effective legislating and fund-raising. Vote yes for Feline Conservation Foundation.

—Mike Frieze

An Opposing Opinion

Webster's Dictionary defines a foundation as "an organization or institution established by endowment with provision for future maintenance." This definition explains that a foundation most commonly associated with an organization that was either started with money to use for a specific purpose or an organization that grants money for a specific purpose. While FCF does offer conservation grants and Wildcat Safety Net grants, that is not the main focus of FCF, but merely a facet of FCF's purpose to preserve, protect, and propagate wild felines through education, conservation, and legislation. Nor was FCF established with grant funds to achieve these goals.

The Webster's definition for federation, currently in our name, is "an encompassing political or societal entity formed by uniting smaller or more localized entities." This is a much better description of what our organization is. The FCF brings together breeders, pet owners, researchers, conservationists, educators, exhibitors, and other people with an interest in wild felines to accomplish the goals of FCF's purpose.

Legally changing the name is no simple matter. All legal documents, articles of incorporation, federal tax information, bank

Continued on page 34



T.I.G.E.R.S.—The Convention Field Trip

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the site of this year's FCF convention, is a fun filled fabulous place for people of all interests. I think it's also a mecca for wildlife enthusiasts because we have three world-class wildlife immersion experiences that simply cannot be found anywhere else.

Ripley's Aquarium offers a first class aquarium experience. At Ripley's, visitors are surrounded on all sides by giant sharks as they travel through Dangerous Reef, a 750,000-gallon tank, on a 330-foot moving glide path. Other spectacular features at Ripley's Aquarium include Ray Bay, highlighting a variety of rays from multiple

viewing levels and Friendship Flats where guests touch Atlantic rays, southern rays, cow-nose rays, spotted eagle rays, and bonnet-head sharks.

The freshwater Rio Amazon exhibit showcases piranha and other exotic species unique to the Amazon rain forest. A collection of delicate undersea life such as Pacific giant octopus, sea anemones, living corals, jellies, and weedy sea dragons are featured as art in the Living Gallery.

Myrtle Beach is also the home of Alligator Adventure, the self-proclaimed reptile capital of the world. Boasting one of the world's largest collections of reptiles, they

also feature serval cats, caracals, and tigers.

And last, but by no means least, there is our T.I.G.E.R.S. Preserve where we will put you nose to nose with an incredible variety of wildlife.

This unique experience that we offer in just a few hours, would normally take you years, possibly a lifetime, to attain. To engage in the encounters that we offer with our beautiful 9 foot tall 9,000 pound elephant, Bubbles, both on land and in the water, you would have to travel through the jungles of Thailand and search out and befriend the elephant mahouts.

To duplicate the orangutan and other ape

experiences we offer, you would have to travel for a week up the rivers and trek the interior of Borneo or Sumatra, or journey deep into the jungles of equatorial Africa.

You could spend a lifetime on safari in India and never witness a tiger running at full speed or to view a tiger swim across a clear pool.

Finally, for the up-close bird of prey experience we offer, you would have to attend the Royal Academy of falconry.

And if that's not enough, we operate T.I.G.E.R.S. Preservation Station each evening. Here you can have your photo taken with tiger cubs, meet apes, and see the adult cats in their glass habitat. This exhibit is located in the center of Barefoot Landing, Myrtle Beach's premier shopping and dining experience, with 20 great restaurants and over 100 unique shops. For entertainment there's the House of Blues and the Alabama Theater and all this is situated around a 27-acre lake along the Intracoastal Waterway.

And if you are still looking for something to do in your spare time, don't forget about the 60 miles of wide, sun bathed sandy beaches with water as warm as your bath.

There is something for everyone in Myrtle Beach! •



Three Distinguished Speakers to Appear at FCF Convention

We have three distinguished speakers you will not want to miss at our upcoming convention!

Jim Sanderson

What better way to stay on top of the cats we love and work to conserve than listening to Jim Sanderson. Listen as he updates us on his world travels to seek out and explore new jungles, mountains, swamps, and forests in search of the world's rarest felines. His photo traps deliver. If a species is out there, we are confident Jim and his associates in foreign counties will catch its image. Jim's presentations are always interesting and informative. Voted last year's Conservationist of the Year by FCF members, Jim's making his fourth presentation at our Myrtle Beach convention.



Jim Sanderson and golden cat

the corporate world for his leadership skills that can turn sour companies sweet. He's in great demand as a motivational speaker. In



Dan Stockdale and tiger

Dan Stockdale

A man of many talents, Dan is known in

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TECHNOLOGY AND TOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

From page 16, Felid TAG Report

the recommendation to become effective.

SSP: sand cat, black-footed cat, fishing cat, ocelot, Pallas cat (pending drop to PMP)

PMP: Canada lynx, caracal, serval

DERP: bobcat (pending)

PIP: South American jaguarundi (pending)

POP: All other species or subspecies

Other notes on individual species:

Black-footed cat: Deaths due to amyloidosis are decreasing. In 1995, the average age of death for black-footed was 4.2 years. Now it is 7.0 years. Eleven of the 31 black-footed in NA are over 7 years old, with four being 14 years old.

Fishing cat: IUCN is moving fishing cats from the vulnerable category to endangered. Half of the current population is over 7 years old, which is at the end of breeding age.

Pallas cat: Eight pairs have bred in the past, but recently none of the kittens have been able to be reared because of toxoplasmosis. Only six cats out of the 40 cats are 4 years or younger.

Sand cats: Genetically, they are in very good shape, but there is a lack of interest in the zoos. This has caused breeding to cease since the young cannot be placed.

The 2009 Felid TAG meeting will be held in Tacoma, Washington. •

the animal world he is known for his tiger and big cat training and various environmental projects. He's involved in breeding cotton top tamarins for future reintroduction back into nature.

In the media world, he is a sought-after commodity for interviews relating to animal news. Whether it is the freak accidental death of Steve Irwin by a stingray or the escape of Tatiana the Siberian tiger from San Francisco Zoo, anchormen know that Dan will understand the issues and explain in a way that the public can relate. He is going to share some of his media savvy, secrets to making a great public appearance, and advice to help the FCF and its members do a better job of getting a clear message to mainstream America. Dan's experience will help us on any kind of news story, from crisis to conservation.

Nigel Marven

FCF is honored that Nigel Marven is flying in from the United Kingdom to spend

time with the FCF and speak at our convention.

The Wildlife TV host is long-used to associating with big cats. One of his first projects in front of the camera was "Big Cats" a one-hour documentary for the Discovery Channel in which he got down on the ground with adult lions on a kill in South Africa. He visited a cheetah sanctuary in Namibia and watched Siberian tigers on a kill amidst the snowy wastes of eastern Russia. He also had the privilege of trekking on elephant-back to see Bengal tigers in the wild in India.

More recently, Nigel spent a month in the Pantanal region of Brazil in the fall of 2007, searching for jaguars. He enjoyed many close sightings of these rare and powerful big cats, some from only a few feet away. These encounters formed the backbone of his most recent series, "Jaguar Adventure," which is currently airing in the UK to critical acclaim.

It's not every day you get to visit with

three traveled naturalists of such varied backgrounds, so don't miss this rare opportunity. •



Nigel Marven and cheetah



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Phillips Park Zoo's cougar habitat

Phillips Park Zoo is Accredited

Phillips Park has been awarded Feline Facility Accreditation by the FCF accreditation committee for its outstanding cougar enclosure. This gem of a zoo is nestled in the shadow of Chicago. The city of Aurora is proud to support this unique educational opportunity for schools, civic clubs, families, and tourists to visit this ten-acre park, home for about 100 animals, mostly North American species.

The park is nearly 100 years old and has gone through several phases, from its early days as a haphazard menagerie of donated animals, to a mid-life of aging and outdated enclosures, to its present state as an upgraded themed park of native species, featuring river otters, bald eagles, native snakes, wolves, fox, alligators, and now cougar.

Randy Johnson is the park's director and motivating force behind its decade-long revamping process. Randy has a degree in zoology and had previously worked in the

city's animal control division before taking over as park director. Older enclosures have been enlarged and upgraded and new enclosures are planned slowly to keep within budget. The park is open year-round and charges no entrance fee, a wonder in this day and age. Tax dollars and the associated non-profit Zoosociety fund the annual budget of \$800,000.

Phillips Park is described by some visitors as "small" or "cute," but mostly what the visitors remark about is how much they enjoy being able to see America's wildlife up close and personal. What is even more memorable about a visit is that the staff gives guided tours. Phillips Park fills an important niche in eco-education. Visitors can spend a day and see every animal enclosure without being exhausted. They are also more likely to linger to watch behaviors and they appreciate the animals more.

Two cougars are the only feline residents. The decision to add America's great cat to the collection was made in the spring of 2003. To prepare for the new specie, Randy and two of his staff took the FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course and also



Cougar Macha



Cougar TeTonka

attended the Big Cat Symposium put on by the USDA. Randy says he has a great staff and compliments Dave Burgess for all his fencing and concrete work. It took nearly two years to complete the cougar habitat because Randy maximizes the zoo budget by augmenting the five full-time paid staff with the city's water, electric, and other service employees for park construction and maintenance when there is an opening in their city work schedule.

The lucky resident cougars, Macha,

which means "Aurora" in Sioux Indian, and TeTonka, which means "he who talks too much" arrived as month-old bottle babies. Park staff hand-raised them and socialized them. Randy says they had full contact with the cougars for the first seven months but are now limited to protected contact through the mesh. Randy says the pair is laid back and likes being on display, though TeTonka is nervous around heavy equipment.

Macha and TeTonka's exhibit is a 3,600 square foot habitat that is topped with stainless steel mesh. In the summer one side of the mesh is covered with shade cloth. Inside their spacious environment are trees, an earthen den, rock piles, and huge claw logs. On one side is a glass wall to allow visitors an unobstructed view.

The habitat backs up to a night-time quarters and food preparation building. Inside is a panic alarm and phone for security. The indoor cougar enclosures are constructed of 9-gauge chain link and measure 12 by 12 feet and are 12 feet tall. These enclosures have heated concrete floors, loafing shelves, and automatic waterers.

Congratulations, Phillips Park Zoo! Hopefully we will be reporting on a bobcat enclosure some time in the future, as a zoo this nice deserves a pair of boisterous bobs! •



Public viewing area allows the public to get a close look.

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



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

Guest Editorial: Passion at a Price

By Betsy Whitlock

Passion defined:

Passion is an intense emotion compelling feeling, enthusiasm, or desire for anything, and often requiring action. Passion often applies to lively or eager interest in or admiration for a proposal, cause, or activity or love.

Passion is among the strongest of human emotions. It causes us to reach deeper into our souls and strive to do the seemingly unachievable. It can be the best of human attributes and one of the very few things that sets humans apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. Most people say they will never understand “a passion” for anything, let alone a passion that puts the holder in harm’s way. Yet they understand when a parent enters a burning home to save their child. I can only pity those who have not felt passion for anyone, anything, or any cause, since they have yet to fully live. Without passion we merely exist from one day to the next with no focus or direction.

Passion can take many forms. What about the passion of our sports heroes who have a “passion for the game?” We emulate them and hold them out as role models of achievement. There are those who are passionate about their ideals. Many a young man has devoted his life and given it, to service “For God and country.”

Passion is what makes life worth living. It takes the ordinary or mundane and moves it to a heightened level of perception, a greater cause for our existence, as it were. Without passion one never can fully experience the true depth of caring, the true exhilaration of unbridled joy, and unfortunately, the dark side, a complete sense of loss or failure.

Those of us who have a passion for animals, especially wild or exotic species, understand real passion. We also understand and accept the danger in our passion. The recent accident at Panther Ridge and the awful loss at Predators in Action has once again reminded all of us who have a passion for animals, the reality that there can be a high price to pay for our passion.

We, who choose to live our lives in the company of exotic felines and other wild species, that are our passion, accept the risk. We understand that we must take proper

precautions because there is always a potential that on any given day, events can spiral out of control, and we can find ourselves injured or worse. There are ways to reduce the risk of escape or injury, if we analyze most accidents. Just as professional athletes exercise to keep fit or a racecar driver constantly practices on the track, we know that we must stay focused on our animals daily. We must recognize that they too have good and bad days and we must be able to make informed decisions as to what any given animal is willing to allow on any given day. When accidents occur, we often see that a slip in the safety protocol probably contributed to the event.

Unfortunately, our infrequent accidents always qualify as newsworthy, which brings a hail of criticism from parties who oppose the keeping of wild animals and a poorly informed public. Sensationalism almost always follows an accident and suddenly our simple passion is blown into some twisted thing that the public just can’t or is encouraged to be unwilling to understand. We, as people with a passion for our animals, only ask that the rest of society would try to understand and allow us our passion, and celebrate our willingness to risk all in pursuit of it.

Nothing undertaken in life comes with a guarantee of outcome or safety, nor should it, as that would take away all creativity or spontaneity. When accidents happen—and they will—we need to learn from them, improve our procedures, and share what we know with others in the animal community. We do not need our local, state, or federal governments to chastise, punish, outlaw, or prevent us from continuing to enjoy our passion. If an injury occurs at a football game, do we outlaw the sport? If a race car driver crashes, do we close down all the tracks? Judy Berens, of Panther Ridge, is back with her passion, her cheetahs, before anyone ever read this and the family of Stephan Miller, lost at Predators in Action, will continue holding his loss out as a testament to his life.

Absolute safety is a myth since we are unable to control every aspect of our lives. There is a price to pay for living everyday. The feline and exotic animal community can work together to better the odds. We

can follow the advice of those with experience. We can comment on proposed regulations to help improve safety. We can share what we know so that we can continue to pursue our passion. We have no right to expose the rest of society to undo risk. We must be responsible for the animals in our care and protect them from harm. Once we meet those basic reasonable standards, others should not prevent us from fully experiencing our lives and our passion.

Those who constantly call to ban exotic pets or contact with non-domestic felines, and want to remove all wild animals from places where they can be enjoyed and appreciated by the general public, need to be reminded of the basic tenant of this country: “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Without passion, and therefore risk, there can be no real happiness. Passion has a price and I believe that most members of our society can come to accept and embrace that price when presented with real thought. I don’t believe people, any more than our animals, wish to live in safe, tiny boxes with no contact with other beings or be relegated to a quiet extinction in some imaginary natural place just to assure us that we will always be safe! •

From Page 27, Opposing Position

accounts, etc. must be changed to reflect the change. This is a time consuming process and also has associated costs. The cost factor also is increased because all currently printed materials containing Feline Conservation Federation become unusable.

Our organization changed its name from LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation to the Feline Conservation Federation just six years ago. In that intervening time, our name has become well-established and is recognized as the leading feline organization in the world. Changing the name would cause confusion until it is established again that we are still the same organization with the same goals that we were before even though the name is similar and would have the same initials. When you see the proposed name in writing, do you even notice the change...Feline Conservation Federation vs. Feline Conservation Foundation?

The cost and effort to change the name is not overcome by the benefits.

—Kevin Chambers

Taking the Unsafe out of the Unexpected

Some recent incidents have caused handlers to be injured by their cats. The FCF Accreditation Committee would like for everyone to read this and examine your own procedures and precautions you take while being in with your exotic cats.

We have all seen professional handlers working their cats, doing amazing hands-on activities. Many of us have our own cats that we are tempted to do the same things with. We hear all the time how, "My cat would never...whatever." In almost every instance of an attack causing injury or death, we also hear, "The cat has never...whatever." The lesson to be learned here is that there is a first time for everything. Just because something hasn't happened in the past doesn't mean that it can never happen given the right circumstances. We wear seatbelts in our vehicles, not because we are expecting to be in a crash, but because we want to be prepared if we are in one.

To be safe, please give thought to two things:

First, what kind of instances could cause the cat to do the unexpected? This is usually caused by fear, excitement, or natural instinct. Depending on the individual cat's temperament, any multitude of things could scare the cat and cause it to react instinctively. Loud noises like thunder, fireworks, applause, or any sudden loud noise can trigger fear. Sudden or unexpected movements can also scare a cat. Even little things like a bee stinging the cat can cause a bad situation. Sometimes a cat can become over stimulated by excitement, causing displaced aggression. This means that the cat may be angry or excited by something else, but it misplaces this aggression to the closest object near to it. That could be you. In big cats, small children moving around can cause over excitement, as well as things like balls, other animals...virtually anything. While you should always keep your attention on the cat, you must also constantly be aware of what else is going on around you and take preemptive action if it is something you can control. Natural instincts still

rule a cat even if it was hand raised and is tame. Wild felines are natural predators and the natural instinct for an easy meal remains, no matter how far removed from the wild. Show any domestic house cat a baby chick, and almost every time, you'll see them go into a predatory mode, even though they have been removed from the wild for hundreds of years. Exotic cats are exactly the same. Many people have been attacked simply because they fell down. This is what happened to Roy Horn of Siegfried and Roy. This has happened many times. A person familiar with the cat falls down and the cat instinctively goes for the neck even though it would never hurt the person under normal circumstances.

Any and all of these things, plus countless others can cause the unfortunate unexpected. 99.99% of the time, these things may not cause a reaction. It is that 0.01% of time that can cause severe injury or even death. If you prepare yourself for that fraction of a percent that could end up being a life and death situation, the better odds you have of preventing the situation from ever arising.

The second thing you should think about is carrying some sort of protective or defensive device at all times when you are in direct contact with a cat. The professional trainers of this age may not carry a pistol on their side like the Clyde Beatty era, but be assured that they have something on them. Tasers and pepper spray come in small easily concealed containers. Trainers may not carry the chair of times gone by, but they will have some sort of whip or stick that could save them seconds that may allow them to survive.

These protective devices can be effective, but some more so than others. Fire extinguishers can be very effective, but there have been times when the second time a cat sees and hears one, it may not be

nearly as effective. They can also be expensive and require frequent testing so that when the time comes that it is needed, you don't just get a fizzle. Water hoses can be effective, but only if it has enough pressure to knock the cat over. While a cat may hate a water hose under normal situations, if it is agitated, it may have no effect. Tranquilizers take too long to be effective and what normally would kill the cat may have zero effect due to the adrenalin during a situation. Electrical shock devices also must have knock down power, such as a taser. Normal "hot shots" just don't have the power to diffuse an enraged cat. Pepper spray has proven to be highly effective. It causes great temporary pain, but does not cause permanent injury. It is effective every time, cheap, and easy to carry.

In addition to those devices that may be able to back a cat off, carrying a long staff, asp, or nightstick can be invaluable. You can use these to fend the cat off as you make your way to safety. They can also be used to pry open a mouth if the cat is clamped down on you. They can be used to shove down the throat to get a gag reflex to release a bite. These items can really save you or someone else, but are no substitute for avoiding the situation to start with.

The most important thing you can have

99.99% of the time, unexpected things may not cause a reaction. It is that 0.01% of time that can cause severe injury or even death.

with you is other people. They can be used as spotters to warn of potential situations, to help you escape, to provide first aid, to call for help, and to help contain the cat once you have been extricated.

Please everyone, put some thought into your procedures and practices and prepare for the unexpected. One small mistake could lead to your injury or death and give ammunition to those who want to see our cats removed from us. Whether you have lions and tigers or servals and Geoffroy's use precaution to keep yourself and your cats safe. Being macho and lying in a hospital or morgue is not so cool. Being a responsible owner who does the best to protect the safety of yourself, the public, and your cherished cats is cool.

—Doc Antle and Kevin Chambers

Update on FCF contributions in Southwestern Brazil

By Anne-Sophie Bertrand

For those who don't know me yet, I am a wildlife researcher doing research on the neotropical cats associated with the Atlantic forest (a broad-leaf moist forest). Last year I was invited by Lynn Culver, the president of FCF, and Kevin Chambers, FCF's treasurer, to the Dallas convention to present my work. Our connection was made possible by Dr. Jim Sanderson, renown for his work on the Andean mountain cat and now, with his cat conservation efforts in Asia and South America. It didn't take long before Jim took a plane and came down here to bring support and radio-collars. Last year in February, Jim came to Brazil and my husband (another wildlife biologist) and I showed him our reality. At this time, two little margays had literally fallen from the sky and I had my puma project going on. Jim could also see the work conditions, the context, and the landscape. When I mentioned that despite our good will we could not afford to do margay monitoring with our own funds, he suggested getting in touch with FCF. That is why I got the chance to go to the 2007 convention and I was awarded a \$5,000 grant donation by Fred Boyajian, a long-term FCF member and certainly one of the greatest margay fans I've ever met.

Now, bumps are still on the road and it is not easy. We lost contact with both of our margays. The first one, Halloween, disappeared because of fading radio-collar batteries and the second, Phoenix, simply vanished from the place. Research can be very frustrating. Work conditions in tropical lands are also harsher. To make it all worse, my husband and I divorced. This personal event dramatically impacted the research I was able to do and prevented the initial margay monitoring to go forward. At least, I know that scat samples are currently being analyzed. I would like to thank Jim for his words in these hard doubtful periods of time, because he was the one to say the right things at the right time. He kept injecting hope and focus into the cat research I am trying to do here.

We can definitely say that Brazil's politically-corrupt administration is all red tape.

Believe it or not, cat conservation is another politically-controlled science area, nearby the human genome code sequence probably. We don't talk about science or conservation here, but instead we talk about who must have the credits, the funds, the cats, and to what extent research can be carried on.

I have been in Brazil for two years, initially invited by the Iguazu National Park's administration chief to do a research project on pumas within the park. The idea was to study pumas' response to human activities as there are many activities going on in the park, both legal (i.e. hiking, boat rides, helicopter overflights, bicycling, ATV, rock climbing) and illegal (i.e. poaching, fishing, palm-tree extraction and deforestation). When I came, things were OK. I was given the right to look for tracks and do some camera trapping—only. As time went by, things started to get complicated. I have been trying to get a research license to capture pumas since September of last year. The federal level authorized it but it was denied by the park's administration for equivocal reasons.

The most obvious reason is that cat conservation possibilities have fallen in the hands of a group of people that decided that from now on, those cats are going to be *theirs*. Data is not shared unless it has already been published. Trust does not exist and corruption is the strongest inertia. They are not skilled or competent people; they have no knowledge as for cat research or even research in general. I have been learning the crooked way human beings evolve in the Third World and I have managed to know the main local actors to be able in order to bypass the imposed difficulties.

In addition, I am getting contacts high up in the federal and local authorities that do have integrity and ethics. Apparently, it is starting to pay off! Despite the pessimistic appearances, yesterday I obtained my first

research permit to capture six pumas in the park within twelve months. This license was provided by the federal government without the park's administration awareness or consent. I have also used my savings to buy my first GPS puma collar. It is being built in Isanti, MN, (Advanced Telemetry Systems, Inc. sales@atstrack.com) right now.

So basically, we are now in the following situation. I have:

- Good-intentioned mighty partners;
- Two federal research permits, one being for margays in the entire state of Paraná and one for pumas in the Iguazu National Park;
- Two lightweight GPS collars (70 grams) are being built for the margay research. They will soon be sent to me.
- One GPS collar for puma is also being built. My friend Jim in his next visit should be able to hand-deliver it to me.
- Funds are limited but I am determined in getting more. For my cat research, I have been awarded by Idea Wild, FCF, and Fundação o Boticário de Proteção à Natureza (a national Brazilian conservationist foundation). I will try to attend the next FCF convention to provide a

detailed presentation of my results and work hypotheses.

I am trying to get my Ph.D. started too. Obviously Jim will be on the steering committee of this great adventure. The idea consists in assessing the use of

wildlife corridors using neotropical felids as a tool. This is going to be extremely exciting. I will keep you posted.

One last comment: If you have any information you would like to provide regarding any of the six following species: jaguars, pumas, ocelots, jaguarondis, margays, and tigrinas, please feel free to contact me. As pet owners, you have gained key behavioural information that could shed some light on field observations. Thanks for your unconditional support. •

Note my email address:

annesophie@reservabrasil.org.br

[In Brazil] trust does not exist and corruption is the strongest inertia. They are not skilled or competent people; they have no knowledge as for cat research or even research in general.

Blast from the Past. . . .

Conservation Relative to LIOC

Long Island Ocelot Club

May/June 1970—Volume 14, Issue 3

*By Dr. Michael P. Balbo,
Director of Conservation*

*“CONSERVATION, a conserving;
protection from loss, waste; preservation.”*

I felt a dictionary definition of the word would help clarify my primary aim which is to protect from loss the few remaining wild ocelots and margays in the United States and eventually to play a part in the conservation of all ocelots. (When I speak of the ocelot I am also including the margay.)

Since the ocelot is the main reason for the club's existence, don't we owe the animal something, no matter what state it is in, pet, captive, or wild, for all the enjoyment we have received whether it be from association with the animals themselves or the wealth of friends we have made because of them? The ocelot is in danger of extinction. This is now fact, especially right here in our own country.

All LIOC ocelots had their ancestral beginning in the wild and now we know that the ocelot is disappearing mainly due to man's land-clearing operations. Can the kittens born to pet ocelots keep the ocelot from dying out as a species? No. We as

people who love and respect these animals can fully understand what a loss extinction would be. We should not have a selfish interest in only our own cats, but in all ocelots, in fact, in all animals in general, primarily MAN. What our generation is able to preserve, future generations will enjoy. Haven't we, as ocelot owners, played a part in the demand for kittens resulting in the high mortality rate of young ocelots being imported? Are we guilty of playing a part in the slaughter? Yes—perhaps innocently because our motives are pure. We know ocelots and certain other felines do make wonderful pets, devoted and affectionate in the hands of the proper owners. Are ocelots the domestic cat of the future? How many ocelots are quietly “put to sleep” because they become a bother? Are we guilty? Yes! We should continue to try to breed ocelots, we should strive for acceptance of the pet ocelot under the law, but we must protect the ocelot as God created it; it is a debt we must pay.

If one or two species disappear, it will not change our lives greatly,

but if we destroy at the rate we are going, the balance of nature will be so disturbed that man himself will be in danger. We depend on nature for survival. Within the last 50 years about 20 species of animals have disappeared from the face of the earth and several *hundred* more are in danger of extinction. With so many problems in the world today it is difficult to get people excited about the disappearance of a few animals, but the people who are aware should make it their responsibility to educate others. We value masterpieces by great artists in the millions and preserve them for posterity, but these pieces of crumbling canvas and dried-up paint cannot compete with the beauty of a leopard, cheetah, or an ocelot which has something no artist can create, *life*. Will we leave our children concrete tombs of man's frustrations on canvas—or live masterpieces? •



“Circle of Unity” Expo!

Where: Hot Springs National Park, Velda Rose Hotel,
Hot Springs, Arkansas

When: Labor Day Weekend August 29, 30, 31, 2008

Registration: Single \$100 Married Couple \$150

Children 16-18 \$75 each (no children under 16)

Registration fee covers: Seminars, speakers, all day Saturday trade show, (40 booths expected) Friday night welcome party with food, Saturday night banquet dinner and auction, Sunday continental breakfast. Also includes UAPPEAL T-shirt with new UAPPEAL logo artwork.

Lodging: Velda Rose Hotel. Rooms: \$60 + tax. Pets are allowed. 1-888-624-3311 www.veldarose.net

Benefit raffle items already donated: Flat screen TV, a Dell laptop computer, digital camera, Sony compact stereo system, hand made animal quilt, and more! Sunday: FCF Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course!

More details coming. To reserve booth space, call Barbara Doherty 501-596-0131.

To Join UAPPEAL online, go to www.uappeal.org
UAPPEAL has hired the Ferguson Group Lobby Firm and is currently opposing the Haley's Act and Captive Primate Safety Act.

Randy Miller of Predators in Action

Preface: Liz Hatton spent several weeks interviewing Randy Miller and put the finishing touches on this article on Sunday. Liz and Randy collaborated because they wanted to help members improve their safety protocol. As Liz listened to Randy's decades of experiences, she realized that every day in the life of a stunt man and wildlife trainer is a day of risk. Randy has saved many lives, and his sage advice has helped increase handler safety in the animal training profession.

It is the genuine love of the animals, the desire to improve captive husbandry, and his commitment to increase wildlife conservation awareness through realistic movies, television, and documentaries, that motivates Randy in the profession of working intimately with the large, dangerous, and often misunderstood predator species.

On Tuesday April 22, 2008, tragedy struck when Stephan Miller, trainer and experienced handler, suffered a fatal bite from a grizzly bear while working at Predators in Action. Randy Miller and his fellow trainers were able to regain control by implementing a coordinated response, with perfect technique and protocol, resulting in the immediate and safe containment of the bear. Tragically, this single bite was to a life threatening area of Stephan's body. Had the bear bitten any other area of the body, Stephen would probably have recovered just fine.

Stunt work is a demanding and dangerous, hands-on animal profession. It requires years of experience and knowledge and even with proper procedures and handling equipment, the activity still carries an inherent risk that those in this profession fully understand and accept.

On behalf of the Feline Conservation Federation we send our sincere condolences to Stephan's family, Randy Miller, and his staff. The loss of life saddens us all. I hope that by publishing this article Randy can help save another's life.

—Lynn Culver

Imagine this: It's Saturday afternoon, you've just finished playing catch up over coffee with your friend who comes to visit you on a regular basis. You cover the basics

about how big kitty has gotten over the past few years, all the goofy antics she's been up to and you head out to the cage for a visit. Your friend is anxious to give some loving attention to your cat; he was, after all, there from the very beginning, assisting with bottle-feeding and playtime. With the exception of you, your friend has logged the most hours with your fabulous feline. Your cat greets your friend with an expected nudge. Then, something unexpected happens, a bite to the bone, perhaps a tackle to the ground. What do you do? If an instant image of appropriate action has not entered your mind, if you have to pause to think about it, you are not prepared. While captive owners boast a good safety record in comparison to other dangerous hobbies, we are naive to believe, "It would never happen to me, I know my cat too well." No one who has ever been on the business end of teeth and claws saw it coming; they would have otherwise avoided contact that day. Without a well laid-out plan of action in

place, in the time it takes to read this article, you've lost your friend, the authorities will likely kill your cat, and to add insult to injury, tomorrow you will make news headlines.

FCF turns to one of its respected professional members, Randy Miller, to shed some light on pre-planning for crisis situations. Randy is the owner and operator of Predators In Action, an animal entertainment company that has served both entertainment and educational needs of television and film industries. His impressive resume spans decades. Works are too many to mention but include a multitude of commercials and movies. His work in *Gladiator* won him a world stunt award. Beyond entertainment, Randy plays a key role in education. If frequency of use of service is any indication, National Geographic has him on speed dial. One of his most recent works included the reenactment of the tiger escape/attack from a California zoo. Many of the projects done by Predators in Action



involve recreating attacks for educational or entertainment purposes. This makes Randy an ideal person to offer expert advice on preventing attacks and, when necessary, putting a stop to them before serious injury or death occur.

When training animals, Randy begins with a loving hand tempered with a mutual respect and awareness for potential danger. Force is not used, however necessary tools for emergency purposes, along with backup handlers are part of his regular routine. Pepper spray carried “gun holster style,” is a practical and effective tool for both the professional exhibitor and private owner alike. A good spray to the nose should distract the cat long enough to safely remove all humans from the environment. However Randy reminds us, “It does no good if at the time of the incident it is sitting on a shelf in the garage. Since we cannot predict when an accident will occur, we must be prepared every time there is interaction. It’s also difficult to apply this method when pinned under an animal and you can’t reach down to get to the holster.” This shows the need for backup people who are also knowledgeable on correct deployment of pepper spray. It may be a good idea to have multiple holsters prepared for yourself and visitors. Make sure that you and your

guests have a grasp on proper use. According to Randy, “It should be second nature, there should be no hesitation or panic at the time, just quick response.”

Another valuable tool used by Randy and his team is CO₂ fire extinguishers. When modified to function without the hose, both pressure and sound are increased, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of use. (Modifications should be made by a company which is qualified to perform maintenance and refills. In other words, “don’t try this at home folks.”) There are four ratings used for fire extinguishers, A, B, C, and D. It is important to note these ratings are to distinguish what types of fires the contents of the canister will put out, *not* the quality of the products. The four types are; 1) dry chemical, 2) halon, 3) water, and 4) CO₂. *Make sure* the canister you purchase for possible use on your animal is CO₂. The others may not only be ineffective, but harmful to your cat’s health!

Tanks come in a variety of sizes. The larger they are, the more pronounced the pressure and sound. However, you don’t want to have a tank that is so big it is too awkward to handle. If you are unsure how to use the extinguisher, ask for a demonstration upon purchase. It is worth paying to practice with a tank rather than find out

you don’t know how to use it until it is too late. In the event of an attack, a blast directed towards the ear from behind should be enough to startle the cat and distract it long enough to diffuse the situation.

It is our responsibility as owners to continually raise the bar on safety. While it is impossible to create a zero probability for death or injury, we should strive to get as close to that percentage as possible. Every prevented accident is one less news story and one less case to be offered up for ban laws and insurance hikes. Take some time this week to review your own safety standards and make an effort, no matter how good they are, to improve them. Despite how sweet your cat is, until it can communicate verbally, you don’t know when it may be having a bad enough day to “communicate” physically. Have a plan in place should that day occur. Be sure to cover all the bases with friends and family members who will be coming in contact with your cat.

Schedule permitting, we look forward to seeing Randy Miller at the FCF convention in Myrtle Beach, SC this July. In the meantime you can find out more about Predators In Action by visiting their website, www.predatorsinaction.com.

—Liz Hatton



Randy Miller feeds cat treat from his left hand.

Meet the New State Representatives

Deeanna Croasmun Nevada

I am becoming more concerned with retaining the right to own exotic and wild animals as I see increasing amounts of limitations imposed by legislation through the efforts of Animal Rights groups. I would like to learn more about the legislative process and be involved with protecting our right to responsible ownership of whatever species of animals we choose to share our lives with.

I was born in Oregon. I spent much of my childhood traveling and living overseas in various countries such as Hong Kong, Australia, and Indonesia. Eventually my family moved back to Oregon where I graduated from high school and attended college. I have a BS in business with an accounting specialization from Eastern Oregon University.

My husband and I call Nevada our home. We live in Wendover, a community right next to Interstate 80, on the Nevada/Utah border. We own and operate The Wendover Times, a weekly community newspaper, which we established in March, 1995; the Wendover Raceway, a quarter mile drag racing strip, which we opened in

1996; and we are currently developing Pilot Peak Ghost Town and Wildlife Park, where we are restoring an 1800s mining town and building a small zoo.

The Wendover Times is the source for news for West Wendover, Nevada, and Wendover, Utah. My responsibilities with the newspaper include attending city council meetings and interviewing public officials, reporting local news, making ads, computer layout of the newspaper, and billing.

We operate the racetrack March through October on weekends, mostly Sundays. During the events, I often bring different animals to meet the public. Besides providing an unusual educational opportunity for spectators at a racetrack, introducing different species to the public provides me feedback as to what type of animals adults and children are interested in. Additionally, it gives our animals a chance to become comfortable being exposed to large groups of people.

We have been working on our ghost town/zoo project for the past three years. We have 200 acres 10 miles west of Wendover right next to I-80. We expect to be open to the public within the next year.

I first became interested in caring for unusual animals when I lived in Australia as a child, but only relatively recently have I had the opportunity to devote the majority of my time to working with animals. As our two daughters became teenagers and then adults, I decided to learn and experience as much as I could about wild and exotic animals.

I have been an FCF member since I took the feline husbandry course when it was offered in Las Vegas in the summer of 2004 and I am registered under the FCF's new Exotic Feline Handler Program. I became USDA licensed in February 2006, and I have been involved with breeding and exhibiting several species of animals on a small scale as I gain experience and knowledge through learning by trial and error, researching, and networking with others involved with exotics.

Species I am currently working with are bobcats, Canadian and Eurasian lynxes, jungle cats, Gordon's cats, wolves/wolfdogs, coyotes, silver foxes, ring-tailed

lemurs, Patagonian Cavies, and wallaroos. I have thoroughly enjoyed my small wild felids, my favorite being the Eurasian lynx. I am now shifting focus to some of the larger cat species.

I occasionally get the opportunity to be involved with wildlife rehabilitation in our area under the guidance of a very supportive veterinarian. Some of my other interests include running and working out, computers, physics, and astronomy. I have run in over 10 marathons and I hope to do more in the future when I can find some free time.

www.wildsidekats.com

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www.wendoverraceway.com

Doug Evans North Carolina

I consider it an honor to be asked to serve as FCF state representative for North Carolina.

I started volunteering with an animal facility (Carnivore Preservation Trust) in 1989. The founder, Dr. Michael Bleyman, retired geneticist and UNC professor, was my mentor and Mindy's as well. CPT was home to an extraordinary number of creatures from civets to tigers. There were approximately 268 animals on site when Michael died of bone cancer in the mid-1990s.

I was hired in 1997, first as director of construction, then as site director. I went to Lac Xao, Laos in 1997 and built a project site on government protected land. When it became apparent that changes in the mission of CPT were unstoppable, I resigned in 1999 after trying to work from within unsuccessfully.

I volunteered and worked at a few other small zoos, sanctuaries, and private facilities while Mindy and I took in a few small cats and cougars that were in need. In 1999 we decided to found Conservators' Center. CCI went from about a dozen animals in 1999 with Mindy and I as the sole caretakers to 16 species, four staff (three part-time) and a total of 80 animals today.

Our work comprises animal husbandry, transport, housing, and administration. Our philosophy is a bit different in that we do



Deeanna Croasman

not ever sell animals. Some are placed on permanent loan (only two great cats) and it is always under contract that they return on our whim. If we take in a rescue, it will have a place here for its lifetime. The center's educational and breeding programs focus on the less glamorous, keystone species such as singers, kinkajous, binturongs, jungle cats, and genets.

I travel as often as possible, usually to remote areas. I have been to almost every state here in the U.S., southeast Asia, (Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia), South and Central America, (Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Columbia) and most of Europe. In situ work is extremely important to our mission and if contacts are not made and nurtured, researchers located and encouraged, the offspring of the species we work with today will have no home to go home to.

Of course this isn't nearly enough to do; we have been fighting the animal rights groups for three years. API targeted North Carolina in conjunction with the NC Zoo, HSUS, and some of the local front groups. PETA has so far stayed in the background, but I believe they're paying for one of the lobbyists. (Thanks, Ingrid.)

However, I cannot publicly support big cats as pets. I believe that any individual has the right to own these animals if they possess the necessary skills, time, and expe-

rience. But I also believe that once you obtain the working knowledge needed to keep these animals healthy, happy and secure, most people would rather not make the commitment.

Here in North Carolina there have been incidents involving tigers and children. They were all avoidable, all caused by ignorance, stupidity, or ego. These are major issues that the animal rights groups can use to shut down legitimate businesses and responsible owners. I am a part of several organized exotic animal groups in NC that are proposing legislation that would require USDA licensing and grandfather current pet owners.

I am not in favor of legislation that would stop people from owning big cats but I am in favor of legislation that would end the casual purchase of cubs. The animals in question almost always end up losing: sometimes their lives—most often their health—through the ignorance of the impulse purchaser. I've been to several conventions, FCF included, where responsible private owners have brought healthy, well-socialized wildcats. It is a shame that lawmakers influenced by animal rights organizations have managed to halt a statistically safe lifestyle. Even with the knowledge that more endangered species are in private hands than in the AZA zoos and the fact that more incidents and injuries occur

in AZA zoos, just a few knuckleheads can give the AR movement ammunition. The usual result is a ban bill that causes harm to all private owners.

Robert Johnson South Carolina

I have been very fortunate to gain a working experience with a large variety of exotic species. For 14 years I have worked for the Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species (T.I.G.E.R.S.) in both Myrtle Beach, SC and Miami, FL. I have trained and handled all members of the Panthera genus as well as a number of smaller felidae. I have trained and worked big cats on-set for many film and television productions including those of National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, and Disney. I have performed upwards of 5,000 live educational wildlife shows at numerous venues around the world. While much of my time has been spent working with big cats, I've also lived with an elephant, worked with great apes, handled venomous reptiles, free flown hawks and falcons, and much more.

I started working for T.I.G.E.R.S. during my freshman year at Coastal Carolina University. Nearly a decade and a half later I still find myself working with all of these amazing animals and *still* in school. This year I will be starting the dissertation process for my doctorate in psychology (specifically animal behavior). I've conducted quite a bit of research directed towards constructing more appropriate feline enclosures based upon species specific needs and patterns of behavior, particularly spatial and structural preferences in the panthera. My hope is that this research will yield beneficial findings and allow us to create a more enriching environment for the animals we care for.

Many of you that I've met have recently gotten or are looking to acquire some type of exotic cat. I believe that it is essential that we preserve the right to do so. This is America, and a person should have the opportunity to own a bobcat or a tiger. I also believe, however, that there needs to be a set of standards by which to do so. A good analogy was mentioned in the previous *FCF Journal*. Just because you want to fly an airplane, doesn't mean you can just go and do it. You must have an extensive

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knowledge of procedure and protocol, a working knowledge of the aircraft, and a minimum number of hours with a qualified instructor. It might be in our best interest that *we* do something similar as it pertains to owning exotics. While many animal rights groups are doing their best to take away an individual's rights to own exotic animals, it is often the private owners who pose the greatest threat to themselves. Every time an animal escapes or bites someone, it's like dumping a bucket of gasoline on the political fire. Do you remember the tiger and alligator that were removed from a New York City apartment? Well, so does every legislator out there.

As well as working with big cats, I hold state and federal falconry licenses. One thing that I have learned from working with the USFWS and with numerous state fish and game commissions is that they would rather not see this flurry of proposed wildlife bans become ratified. New laws mean extra responsibilities for an already overworked and understaffed body of government. In the falconry community, much of the responsibility for maintaining animals responsibly, educating new apprentices, and promoting a positive image to the general public is left to the falconers themselves. Thanks to organizations like the North American Falconers Association and the Peregrine Fund, the federal and state authorities have *not* found it necessary to start implementing restrictive regulations and have pretty much left falconers alone.

I am very happy to see the FCF working in a similar direction. The existence of the accreditation committee for facilities is very promising. I would love to see the FCF become a virtual library of knowledge and experience, providing its members access to information needed to successfully and safely keep exotic felids and holding those members to the highest standards. If you own or are considering getting an exotic cat, I urge you to get involved with the process. Take a husbandry course, become accredited, and get involved with the politics. Policing ourselves will most certainly be difficult and will probably face some opposition, but consider the alternative. If we do not *all* become interested and actively involved in establishing a standard of practice for exotics, someone else will start doing it for us, and I guarantee they are not going to have the same interests at heart.

I look forward to my responsibilities as an FCF state representative and to working to help preserve our rights to responsibly own captive animals. If you are attending the FCF convention in Myrtle Beach this summer, I look forward to meeting you in person at the T.I.G.E.R.S. Preserve and introducing you to some of the amazing animal friends with which I've shared the past 14 years of my life.

Kathy Stearns Florida

My husband keeps telling me I am living my dream and how lucky I am. I can only think back to the nights of no sleep taking care of a young sick lynx cub or giving injections to a cougar cub we adopted for vitamin deficiencies. Then we took in a pair of jaguars who could not even step up on a log due to poor muscle tone. I continue to remember the seven days a week I work and I thought Sundays were a day of rest. Wow, was I wrong. It just means getting up earlier to make Sunday school. And I can never forget the two hour trip to University of Florida with a 2 month old bear cub in my lap having a seizure and talking to the after-hours phone service trying to get a veterinarian to meet me. I think of the time my snow macaque was so sick with a rare disease that I spent months in a cage at the UF holding my sick monkey so that he would not pull out his life lines. I remember giving injections and taking blood because their policy was not to work on macaques who were awake and thinking how crazy this is. He would never survive otherwise. I still remember the heartbreaking news that my beloved Canada lynx had feline AIDS from its mother and there was no cure, but having 11 months of joy sharing her short life. Wow, what blessings I have had sharing my life with these amazing animals and learning so much. How they have such emotions and interactions with us if we would just take the time to see it and love it. And what dumb mistakes I have made, building my in-ground swimming pools for my tigers and being wrist deep in cement only to learn that chlorine is not the number one skin blistering agent—*cement* is. Then having to feed and clean the next two weeks with raw hands and arms. Then seeing our friends taking these awesome winter ski trips, Caribbean Island

cruises, weekends in the mountains, and more and I forgoing these trips because another animal needs a home and a cage needs to be built and the animals still need to be fed on weekends.

Then I get up and take my coffee along and with my husband, sit on the lookout gazebo and glance out and see the tigers rolling a large ball around, black bears running around playing chase, and monkeys sitting by the pool grooming each other. Then I know that I am lucky and living my dream.

I have always been attracted to exotic cats and non-human primates. At an early age I remember visiting my uncle in Miami and being amazed at the capuchin monkeys and bears. At the age of 14, I met my future husband, Kenny. He grew up with a woolly monkey and it was neat interacting with him at the time. Three years later, I married Kenny and on Feb 25, 2008 we celebrated 31 years of marriage. I began working with fellow rehabilitators on native wildlife about 20 years ago, which I still enjoy doing. There is nothing like rescuing animals and returning them back into the wild. But working with exotic animals is a passion I began and have not been able to stop. I created Stearns Zoological Rescue & Rehab Center about eight years ago. We were lucky to reach a larger dream in opening our gift shop in historical downtown Dade City, Florida and began to offer trolley rides to the zoo and educational tours on a full time basis. We are operating this as Dade City's Wild Things. Check our website www.dadecityswildthings.com

With the help of my family, husband Kenny Stearns, children Randy Stearns, Kristy and Brandon Truax, we would not be where we are today. There is nothing like having your family enjoying your passion and being such a major support system. My son, Randy is now president of our non-profit corporation and is a major factor in our educational tours, driving our trolley, and fundraising. My children have grown up with monkey siblings, wild animals for pets, and a hard work ethic. It is a blessing to see all my children enjoy my passion and appreciate what animals bring into our lives and how precious and unique each animal is.

We have been blessed to work with and provide a home for many felids including jaguars, leopards, lions, tigers, servals, bob-

cats, jungle cats, panthers, Canada lynx, and Siberian lynx. Non-human primates include snow macaques, java macaque, bonnet macaques, squirrel monkeys, cotton top tamarin, chacma baboon, hamadryas baboon, capuchins, brown lemurs, and ring tail lemurs. We also have black bears, north American river otters, raccoons, coatamundi, skunk, prairie dogs, chinchilla, tegu lizard, iguana, snakes, tortoises, turtles, silver fox, pot bellied pig, horses, white tail deer, fallow deer, emu, rhea, African pigmy goat, alligators, numerous types of birds, parrots, pheasants, ducks, chickens, and more.

This last year, I was honored and lucky to serve on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee. I was supported by many exotic animal owners who believe in private ownership and are against all bans. I am proud of standing up for all exotic owners' rights. I look forward to hopefully serving on this again during the next term. It sparked a great desire to work on legislative issues because I experienced first hand on how quickly our rights

can be removed. I witnessed this by working with non-human primate owners in various other states like Pennsylvania where there is a ban on private ownership. I have also seen many private people enjoying their animals not realizing they were breaking any laws because disreputable breeders sold them animals without educating them on the state law requirements. Unfortunately most times the animals pay the price for the selfishness of the breeder. I feel strongly that reputable breeders care for their animals and want to make sure they go to good homes that are versed in the laws as well as the care of the animals. I would like to see a mandate on a federal level with USDA that requires all breeders who sell animals be responsible in making sure that the purchasers can legally keep these animals in their states. It would not take much time to contact those states they sell in and

find the requirements for ownership. If a license is required, a copy should be provided before the sale of any animals.

I have memberships in: SSA, AZA, FCF, U.A.P.P.E.A.L, AAZK, NWRA. •



Kathy Stearns



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State Rep Editorial: Responsible Group Self Discipline

By Shelleen Mathews,
Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington
FCF Washington State Representative

Owners and caretakers of exotic felines have many responsibilities. The very basics start long before acquiring one: thoroughly checking state, county, and city laws for complete legal ownership, learning species traits and making a sound decision based on those, costs associated with ownership, sound husbandry practices that will result in a well adjusted and healthy feline, contingency planning, etc. The basics of these practices are covered in the FCF's Feline Husbandry Course. The learning process is a life-long one and each new day presents opportunities for extended education.

Individuals involved in captive propagation of wild felids have an immense responsibility. It cannot be fueled by the allure of personal financial gain. The ultimate goal should be producing healthy and well-adjusted offspring that will continue the species survival in captivity. Additionally, they have the responsibility of assuring, as much as is humanly possible, that offspring will not fall into harm's way. Breeders should take the incentive to research potential placements and satisfy themselves regarding the proposed owner's motive for ownership, legality, and preparedness. Breeders should take 100% responsibility for each individual feline they have produced and be available to assist in its care. If a placement does not work out, the breeder is responsible for a backup contingency plan. They should assist in re-homing or be willing themselves to give the feline a home for the remainder of its natural life. I would further say it is a responsibility of breeders to actively support facilities that make themselves available for the commitment of stepping in and providing for displaced felines. While it may be nice to hear the standard "Thank God for facilities like yours" that is not (or should not be) the reason these facilities are doing it. It is an abiding love for each individual feline and caring that it will have a safe place to spend the remainder of its life. "Thank God" also does not go a long way in financially meeting those needs! Granted, these facilities have a responsibility to address the planning and implementation of programs



Shelleen's serval Kumara

to meet their goals. In today's climate of the animal rights movement, I believe that some of their opinions have been fueled by embittered facilities crying abuse of animals and, in turn, crumpling under the financial burdens which contributes to the agenda.

Regardless of our level of commitment—ownership, captive reproduction, or providing for those animals in need—the community of wild felids in captivity has profound responsibilities for the care of each individual animal and protecting its rights while assuring a future for others. •

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Oklahoma City Field Representative Meeting

By Wayne Sluder

The Oklahoma City Field Representative meeting was a great success. Bill Meadows, director of Tiger Safari, hosted a meeting of the Field Representative program on March 14-16. The meeting coincided with the OKC husbandry course and was held at Tiger Safari Zoological Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma. Bill Meadows hosted both the husbandry course and the field representative meeting. We really appreciated all that Bill did to make these events possible. Bill is also the FCF region 2 field representative director. He had been recently working closely with Lynn Culver, FCF president, and Evelyn Shaw, FCF legislative director, on exotic bill legislation that was before the Oklahoma House. Bill met with state representatives at the Oklahoma state capitol and members of the Oklahoma Wildlife Department to seek adoption of FCF suggested amendments to the bill. An excerpt from an email that Lynn Culver sent to the membership bears repeating. Lynn said, "The effect the field representative program had in Oklahoma is profound and I urge all FCF members to join this effort and volunteer to be a state representative. FCF needs your help. If you are concerned about protecting felines in your state, please contact the appropriate regional director. The regional divisions are listed on the inside front page of every journal."

The FCF regional directors and members of the board were able to meet for dinner with Oklahoma state representative Joe Dorman on the Friday we arrived for the field rep meeting. Lynn Culver and I drove over to OKC separately from Arkansas and met Evelyn Shaw, Mindy Stinner, Carol Bohning, and Nancy Nighswander (Region 3 director) at the OKC airport. From there we drove to Toby Keith restaurant and met Bill Meadows and his guests. Joe Dorman met us there shortly afterwards for a warm welcome.

After dinner I drove back to the airport and met John Turner, region 1 director. John had a round of bad luck and had missed some flights delaying his arrival and missed dinner with Joe Dorman. Leaving the airport, John and I headed over to Tiger Safari to regroup with everyone. Bill Meadows had brought two large new RVs onto Tiger Safari Park and had set one up

for the guys and one for the ladies. John and I turned in and some time later Matt Baker, region 6 director showed up. He had driven in from Kansas late that evening. Little did I know that Matt had brought a little friend with him. I was woken some time in the night to hear some snuffling sounds and I wondered laying there in the dark about what critter from the zoo had found its way into the RV! The next morning I awoke to find Matt feeding a kinkajou. He had brought an adult female and baby. They were a huge hit with everyone wanting to hold them. We all wanted to adopt them as they were so adorable and sociable.

On Saturday, some of the other regional directors and myself attended the FCF husbandry course. Carol Bohning, education director, and Mindy Stinner, conservation director, co-instructed the husbandry class. It was an excellent class and was held in Bill's education building, which was still undergoing some construction. Everyone jumped in setting up chairs and the projector screen. Bill brought in some extra radiant heaters. The previous day's weather had been warm but a cold front came in across the Oklahoma plains and it had turned quite cool.

After the husbandry course we started our field representative meeting. We covered our initial agenda items and while we all ate pizza for dinner, Evelyn presented a "How-to guide for legislation." Kevin

Chambers had also arrived from Indiana and joined us for the meeting discussion. After a late evening, we adjourned and headed off to bed in the RVs. John, Matt, and I had slept comfortably the night before. However, as we had arrived in darkness the previous night, we found out the ladies unfamiliar with the workings of the RV furnace had spent the night in the cold. Brrr... it was really cold. Thankfully this night they were better prepared and had the thermostat turned to a nice warm setting.

On Sunday morning, we started back up with our agenda items for the field representative meeting. Guests to the zoological park had started arriving mid-morning and during our breaks we each toured the zoo. In December, the FCF accreditation committee approved Bill's application for accreditation. The park looked to be quite popular with Oklahomans taking the guided tours. There were several private groups and one child's birthday party enjoying the zoo's entertainment and educational experience. By late Sunday afternoon we had completed our field representative goals and had covered an extensive range of topics. The next meeting of the field representative program will be held at this year's annual convention in Myrtle Beach. The program has made a difference in numerous states and will continue to do so with the efforts of the regional and state representatives. A special thanks goes to the board of directors for their guidance and attendance at the meeting. •



From left to right: Evelyn Shaw, Lynn Culver, Joe Dorman, Bill Meadows, Melissa Meadows (obscured), Nancy Nighswander, Mindy Stinner, Kurt Beckelman, Matt Baker.

Report on March 2008 FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course

By Kurt Beckelman

I have known Bill Meadows for about five years now and have visited his Tiger Safari Zoological Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma on several occasions. I arrived the night before the conference and was able to enjoy the company of many FCF members while we ate at Toby Keith's in Oklahoma City. I enjoy going to Tiger Safari and seeing the how the park has advanced in the short amount of time since it was started.

I am park manager at Safari's Sanctuary in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. We are going on our 13th year this coming June. I started out where everyone starts, with the non-potentially dangerous animals working my way up to the main cat caretaker. I have been volunteering here for seven years this summer and would not think of doing anything else. I am retired, so I am able to dedicate my time without reservations.

As far as my own personal animals I have at home, they include one black spotted leopard which I hand raised from 5 days old, now 4 years old, two bobcats, two wolves, one raccoon, one ring tailed lemur, and two coatimundis. I have an Oklahoma Commercial Breeders permit and an Okla-

homa Rehab permit.

On Saturday March 15, 21 of us were taught the Wild Feline Husbandry Course. Attending were Ashley Bates, Barbara Billups, Melissa Meadows, Jessica Cantwell, Pam Sperry, Shaina Wells, Wayne Slunder, Jeremy Bolton, Joe Keffer, Jamie Sinclair, Bettie Auch, Kayla Billups, Warren Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Teresa Masangale, Kurt Beckelman, Paul Gourley, Jannelle Gourley, Beth Corley, Mary Kjaeger, and John Turner.

Instructors Carol Bohning and Mindy Stinner presented the course. It was a little cold in the building where it was held, but everyone was a trouper. Carol and Mindy did a wonderful job presenting the information and added some humor to each topic, which we all know is needed when you are dealing with animals.

The featured topics included natural history of felines, nutrition, health care basics, handling equipment, facility design, behavioral conditioning, contingency planning and the "dreaded" regulatory agencies.

This course is a must for anyone who has wild felines or is thinking of getting one. We must band together to form a common

goal for the safety of the animals. Since there is more and more legislation being introduced against private ownership, private owners need to continue to educate themselves in the areas mentioned above. Taking courses like this will show that we are dedicated to our animals as well as being responsible caretakers of wild felines.

I came away from the course pleased to see that the people who attended were dedicated to what they are doing. Hearing stories about what they have to deal with reminded me that we are all in this together.

After eight long hours we had to take a test to receive our certificate and to everyone's relief we all passed. A lot of time and effort went into this program and I applaud those who compiled the information and traveled to present it.

I would like to invite every FCF member to visit Safari's Sanctuary in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Please call me at 918-407-0341 and I will be happy to show you around personally. It was a pleasure to meet all of you at the conference and to see we are for the same goals. •



Bill Meadows

Estate Planning for Your Exotic Felines

By Deborah Rabinsky

What will happen to your exotic felines if you passed away? Legally, an animal is considered tangible personal property, like your car, your furniture, your jewelry and upon your death, your felines would pass to your heirs or beneficiaries of your estate who are otherwise entitled to receive such property. If you have a will or trust that does not gift your exotics felines to a specific person, then the feline would pass to whoever receives of your tangible personal property, your heirs under state statute, your surviving spouse, or surviving parents, surviving brothers or sisters, etc.

You need to make arrangements for the immediate short-term care of your exotic felines after your death. At a minimum, you should have someone who will be notified and go to your house immediately in case of an emergency. First, consider creating care cards at your house or business and on you at all times.

You should also keep a file or "Exotic Feline Information Sheet" with a broad scope of information necessary for any caretaker to take over for the care of your feline. Some of the information that should be included:

Identification of the felines - (a photo ID) even if your presumed caretaker is able to identify your feline as a practical matter. If your feline has unique and immutable markings, then a picture and a description of those marking should be sufficient. Microchipping carries identifying information that a veterinarian can retrieve with a scanner and determine positively the identity of each feline.

Care of the Exotic Feline: Specify feeding timing, frequency, and type of food and amount, any that food prohibited.

Medications: Dosage, the purpose, the location, special directions for administration.

Physical accommodations: Where the pet sleeps, where to walk, special physical, medical, and emotional needs.

Behavioral considerations: Whether one pet gets along with another or is not fond of a particular type of person.

You may also specify your wishes for euthanizing or not, of your exotic feline in the event that it is suffering from a serious medical condition.

Veterinary information: You should provide the name, address, and phone of the feline's regular vet and a description of past

procedures and medical conditions of each pet.

Legal documents: you should keep original legal documents constructing your estate plan in a place where they will be safe and yet accessible to your designated fiduciaries, such as a safe deposit box at your bank, your attorney's office, or fire-proof safe in our house. Your caretaker should have a copy and access to the original documents.

Selecting a caretaker: Pick a suitable caretaker—a person or organization that is willing and able to provide the standard of exotic feline care when you no longer can.

1. Communicate your expectations and any special needs of your felines to the potential caretaker.

2. Decide and discuss with the potential caretaker whether or not, and to what extent, there will be reimbursement of expenses or other compensation. You should consider including, at very least, financial provisions for reimbursement of the caretaker's expenses. You should also consider whether or not addition compensation should be paid to your caretaker. The amount paid should be sufficient enough to buttress the caretaker's sense of responsibility, but not so generous as to foster improper incentives (e.g. needlessly prolonging the life of a suffering feline).

Your estate needs to consider the amount of funds it will need considering the feline's life expectancy, food, water, toys, veterinary care, and grooming. Finally, you need to determine how the funds will be administered, for example, will you give the caretaking funds directly to caretaker without restriction or establish a "pet trust."

Pet trust, honorary trust, statutory pet trust, and traditional legal trust refer to an arrangement whereby the caretaker's right to receive any caretaking funds is limited. If you not wish to leave caretaking funds to a caretaker, then the use of a trust is not necessary.

1. Depending on the circumstances, you may have to consider naming an organization as caretaker for your pets.

2. Once you have completed this process, the next is to do it all over again. That is, you should have a back up or alternate to your primary caretaker. •

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Example emergency card to be kept with you at all times

Call for Nominations to the Board

2008 is an election year for the Feline Conservation Federation. The nomination period was changed through an amendment to the constitution in 2006 and for the first time the nomination period opens on May 1 and runs through August 10. Candidates will have an opportunity to speak at the national convention in Myrtle Beach.

Running for office in the Feline Conservation Federation is a commitment to donate a substantial amount of your time to further the goals of this organization.

Eleven seats on the Feline Conservation Federation board of directors are open to nominations; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Conservation, Director of Education, Director of Legislation, Director of Member Services, Director of Public Relations, Director of Marketing, and Director of Development.

Each board member is automatically re-nominated for their positions, but may

decline the nomination in writing to the secretary.

The duties of each office are defined in the FCF bylaws. You can review these in the members-only section of the FCF web site, where corporate documents include both the bylaws and the constitution. Bylaws are also included in the membership handbook, a copy of which can be downloaded and printed from the members-only section of the FCF web site.

The FCF constitution restricts the office of president to those who have previously served on the board of directors or those who have been members in good standing for at least ten years. All other offices are open to the full membership. Ballots will be mailed in the September/October issue of the journal. Elected candidates take office January 1, 2009 and serve the members of FCF until December 31, 2010.

Please take this time to reflect upon your

dedication to the guiding purpose of the Feline Conservation Federation, the conservation of threatened and endangered feline species through the furtherance of responsible captive husbandry. I encourage everyone to consider running for a seat on the board of directors of the Feline Conservation Federation. It is through the volunteer efforts of its members that this organization has accomplished so much.

I know that the Feline Conservation Federation is moving in the right direction. Membership has increased 20% this year. FCF is building respect from legislators and regulators alike. Serving this organization as a volunteer board member is an honorable use of your time. I highly recommend it to any dedicated feline conservator.

Lynn Culver
President FCF

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: General Funding

Sheri Grinter
Steven Fowler
George Ellsworth

Project: Lobbyist opposing CWSA and CPSA

Doc Antle

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Betsy Whitlock
Secretary FCF

Announcing the Second Annual Conservationist of the Year Nomination Call

Who do you think is a great feline conservationist? Last year members nominated three highly qualified individuals and voted to award Dr. Jim Sanderson, Ph.D. with our first-ever plaque of recognition.

It's time again to submit your nominations by the US Postal Service or e-mail to the secretary. Contact info is on the inside of the front cover of this journal. Be sure to include not only the name of your candidate, but also include their contact information if known, and some of the accomplishments of your conservationist nominee.

This award is open to anyone of merit involved in habitat protection, scientific research, conservation breeding, education, or other work that promotes the survival of wild cats.

The list of nominees will be published in the July issue. The members' choice will be announced during convention at Myrtle Beach, SC. •

Taking FCF to the Next Level

By Liz Hatton

As the FCF grows as an organization, so do our financial needs. The recent approval of guidelines for the Safety Net Fund has gotten us off to a good start for insuring we can take care of our own and not be accused of being part of the problem. The FCF Safety Net Fund can provide viable resources for those who may not know of FCF, but nonetheless need our help to keep a non-domestic cat from becoming a sob story animal rights fanatics will use to denounce all cats in captivity.

In addition, we are gearing up to fight Haley's act. For those who don't know, Haley's Act will prohibit all contact between the general public and the cubs of the large cat species. Haley's goes far beyond stopping the commercial cub photo operations. Haley's stops your neighbor, your friend, your valued supporter, and everyone else from ever petting, touching, bottling, cuddling, holding or playing with the young of a large cat species. The implications, should this bill pass, are devastating. U.A.P.P.E.A.L. will be our voice in this fight. Legislative battles are expensive. The feline representation by the Ferguson Group Lobby team is \$9,000.

We are calling upon our members to take an active part in fund raising. As a non-profit we are in a unique position to simply ask both small businesses and large corporations for a tax-deductible donation. Why stop there? The possibilities are endless. Have a bake sale. Do a car wash. Get one of your local bands to host a benefit concert. For those who have cubs or kittens and an exhibitor's license, take advantage of possibly the last year you may do hands-on educational work and get out there and do a photo fundraiser. This would not only generate donations, but also consider the impact of placing a cub in someone's arms and just as they begin to feel the magic, you inform them, should Haley's Act pass, they will never have this opportunity again.

It is understandable that those with large facilities may not have the time to do a fundraiser. Perhaps you can call upon neighborhood kids, or your own. Teenagers in particular are exceptionally enthusiastic about making an impact by supporting a cause.

However you choose to get involved, your efforts, no matter how small they may seem to you, are tremendously needed and greatly appreciated. The FCF has brochures and other written materials available to print and use in a public appeal. Please be sure to have all events pre-approved by the board and make note of which project your fundraiser is intended for. •

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of March and April 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 that effect ownership, breeding, or exhibiting of cats, that FCF members 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.

Jim Broaddus- Advanced
Judy Domaszek- Advanced
Teresa Masangale- Basic
Sheila M. Robinson- Basic
Patrick Hase- Basic
John Finlay- Basic
Christopher Alex Binley- Basic
Josh Halliberger- Basic
Shannon Clifford- Basic
Chealsi Coffey- Basic
Ronald Easley- Basic
Donald "Colt" Baldwin- Basic
Johnny Baron- Basic

Donald Lowder- Basic
Geobani Barralaga- Basic
Santose Barralaga- Basic
Luis Cabanas- Basic
Sam Crowell- Basic
Brenda Sue Cherrone- Basic
Vickey Welch- Basic
Loren Short- Basic
John Nathan Reinke - Basic
Jesse Nelson- Basic
Tammy Markley- Basic
Joe Schreibvogel- Advanced
Beth Corley- Advanced

Additionally the following individuals renewed their commitment to the program and their cats:

Marcus Cook - Advanced
Carlos Lopez - Basic
Robert Boyce- Basic
Tim Stoffel- Basic

Lynn Culver- Advanced
Laura Walker- Basic
Regina Hardison- Basic
Deeanna Croasmun- Basic
Bart Culver- Advanced

Applications for this program can be found in the members-only section of the FCF web site:

www.felineconservation.org

Our first annual renewals in this program will begin in May. At this time individuals may sign up at the annual rate of \$30.00. In the case of couples, the FCF currently offers the program at a reduced two-for-one rate.

The board further hopes that in addition to the 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

TIGER



As the world's largest cat, the nocturnal, solitary *tiger* uses sight and sound to ambush prey consisting mostly of large mammals. The five remaining subspecies inhabit snowy terrain, forests, grasslands, and swamps from Siberia and India into Southeast Asia. This well-known cat weighs approximately 192 - 324 kg (422 - 713 lbs).

Rochelle Mason raises awareness about endangered species through her paintings, columns and traveling exhibits. Her wildcat paintings and prints are sold through www.Rmasonfinearts.com



Clockwise from top:

Wild serval at Ngorogoro Crater, Tanzania—Alan Shoemaker • John Prengaman interns with cougar youngster • Mike Frieze with Zuzuana Kukol's bobcat Jasmine—David Frieze • Nancy DeFusco takes a licking from cheetah Nikita

Your best Shot





FCF Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 23 FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. Brighton Towers, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Presented in conjunction with the FCF convention. \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 non-members. After July 9, registration fee increases to \$110. Mail registration form and check to: Feline Conservation Federation, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, Indiana 47879. Or register online and pay with PayPal at www.felineconservation.org

Thursday, July 24-Saturday, July 26 FCF convention. Hilton's Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The convention starts Thursday evening with icebreakers and the membership meeting. Friday will feature a trip to T.I.G.E.R.S. (The Institute for Greatly Endangered and Rare Species), the home facility of Bhagavan (Doc) Antle. Saturday morning features a series of interesting and informative speakers. The convention closes Saturday night with the gala FCF banquet. Registration for all this is \$200 per person. Mail registration form and check to: Feline Conservation Federation, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, Indiana 47879. Or register online and pay with PayPal at www.felineconservation.org

We will visit T.I.G.E.R.S as part of the FCF convention. There you'll experience the thrill of a tiger running at full speed after a lure. Photo by Thierry Plaud.

