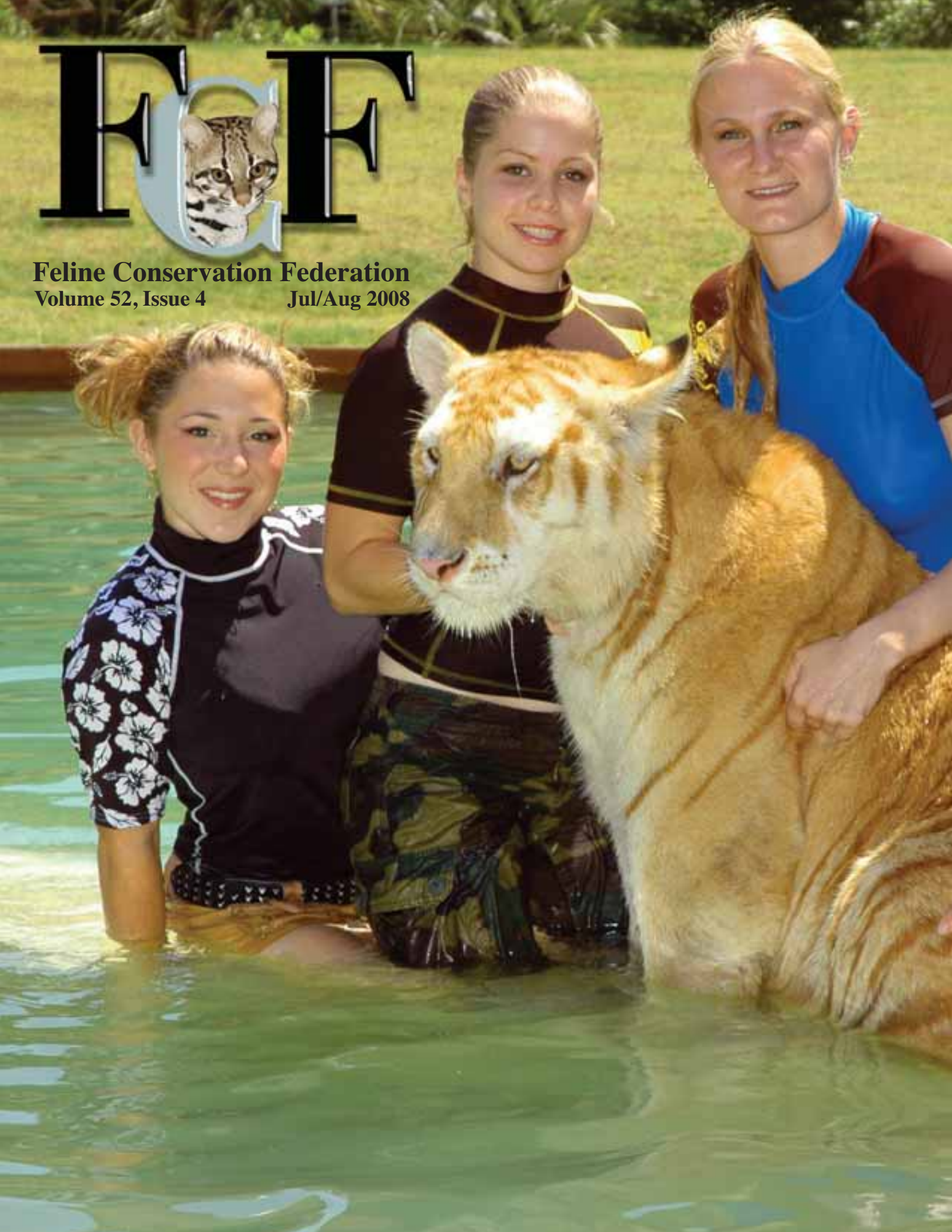


# FCF



**Feline Conservation Federation**  
Volume 52, Issue 4      Jul/Aug 2008



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

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

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**Cover: Young golden tabby tiger, Kumar, learns to balance on the water bridge in the preserve's new pool with his friends Ashley, Julia, and China. Photo credit Kyle Antle. Background: Pu'uch'ub, Shelleen Matthews outreach Canada lynx, just 4 weeks old.**

## 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

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Feline Conservation Federation

## Letter from the President

I am now deep into kitten season. The rhythm of our home starts at 6:00 am every morning when I make coffee, make kitten formula, start bottle-feeding, butt wiping, and change the towels and pads in crates and carriers. I let the various kittens interact and play for awhile before gathering them back up for another nap. By the time I am finished, I will only have an hour or two to read FCF email and make phone calls before the whole process starts all over again.

FCF is now deep into its nomination season. If you have not thought seriously about running for a board of director position, please take some time to consider it now. Nominations can be received now until August 10. You may nominate yourself but it takes two member signatures to properly nominate someone. Mail or email your nomination to the FCF secretary, Betsy Whitlock.

Some members think that other people have everything under control so their efforts are not needed—not so. Some members think, “nobody knows me, I should not run”—not so. Please do not hold back; take that first step forward and make FCF a more active part of your life.

The duties of the board of directors are divided into services and programs. Probably the best-known FCF program is the husbandry course. The Director of Education oversees this program. While it is not mandatory that the director be a certified instructor, historically, they have been. Traveling around the country teaching feline husbandry is a prestigious service and can be lots of fun, as you meet others interested in felines and help them become better keepers. George Stowers developed the husbandry course when he served as Director of Education. Additionally George donated rights to his book *Mainly Felids*, which was edited into *Basic Exotic Cat Care* by another former Director of Education, Tracy Wilson, and is included in every new member package. FCF needs to develop additional educational materials for our outreach educators such as handouts, pamphlets, and PowerPoint presentations designed for school age children and community groups. Items such as these could be downloaded from the members-only sec-



tion of the FCF web site and could help more members get involved in conservation education and also go a long way toward standardizing educator messages and bringing awareness of FCF to the community level. If you are an active educator, why not run for this position?

The Conservation Director works closely with Dr. Jim Sanderson and heads the Conservation Grants Committee. This is another prestigious board position that allows you the opportunity to influence the financial support for the various feline species and researchers. This director also

chairs the Safety Net Program, a newly created fund to help stabilize our captive habitat through transport of felines that have lost their home. Captive conservation is the legacy of the FCF. There is plenty of room for development to aid captive conservation, such as registries. If this is something you are passionate about, please run for office. Our present director, Mindy Stinner, has declined automatic re-nomination, though she intends to continue serving on the Conservation Grants committee.

Director of Legislation has a very demanding schedule when the legislative season heats up. As long as there is still legal habitat available for captive felines, rabid animal rights fanatics will continue to push for the passage of their ban laws. But when the legislative season ends and freedom still rings, there is appreciation from our members and a feeling of satisfaction that is its own reward. The Director of Legislation also works with the new Field Representatives addressing legislative issues.

Not as glamorous or high profile, but vitally important are the behind-the-scenes service positions of treasurer, secretary, and membership services director. FCF is incredibly fortunate to have three very dedicated, conscientious, and hard working team members Kevin Chambers, Betsy Whitlock, and Carolyne Clendinen filling these positions. These team members process your membership dues, keep our membership and corporate financial records current, and keep our membership database accurate. They are the reason that this organization runs so smoothly. The FCF membership database is maintained on the web site and the books are kept using QuickBooks Online, so high speed internet is needed to fulfill these duties. Both Betsy and Carolyne have declined automatic renomination, so these positions are wide-open and new candidates need to step up to the plate and run for these positions.

The Director of Public Relations is in charge of the FCF web site, drafts FCF press releases, and develops the new online newsletter and public information campaign. This position requires strong writing skills and the ability to react swiftly to current events. This director works with the other board members promoting their projects to the members and public. This position has great potential that, so far, has not been realized.

The final two positions were actually carved out of the original Director of Public Relations duties. The Director of Marketing works with the journal team and the Convention Committee to gain advertisers, sponsors, and vendors so that we can continue to produce such a high quality publication and annual event. Robert Bean, the current Director of Public Relations, has declined automatic re-nomination. Someone new needs to run for this office.

The Director of Development works to gain FCF funding. The job of fund-raiser is critically important to any non-profit organization. An organization that does not invest in fund raising is not being fiscally responsible. Two very important FCF causes that need funding are the Conservation Grants and the Safety Net Fund. This is a relatively new board position that has much flexibility and room for expansion. Our present director Deborah Rabinsky has declined her automatic re-nomination. This director position will work closely with the president and the executive director (when hired). If you have experience in grant writing and fund raising, wish to promote FCF projects and events, and bring health and stability to the working budget of this corporation, then please run for office.

The final two positions are president and vice president. The vice president position assists the president and acts as a backup.

The constitution limits the office of president to those who have served on the board or members who have been with FCF for a decade or more. When I accepted the nomination for the office of president in 2006, I had great hopes of inspiring FCF forward. Recently one board member informed me that under my presidency two records had

been set: the greatest increase in membership and the most number of board member resignations. I guess this is what is known as growing pains.

I have enjoyed chairing meetings and working with the other board members to develop our new programs. Mediating the differences between board members and our working volunteers comes with the job and I found it a challenge and a learning experience. I regret that non-participating board members and resignations took up so much of my time and prevented me from accomplishing more. I am pleased to have overseen the purchase and development of a new FCF web site that has better navigation, sign-up, and database capabilities.

I am declining the automatic renomination as president. Being the president of FCF has required a tremendous amount of my time this past 18 months. For the rest of this year as your president, I will be working with the other directors to continue the upgrades on services and to meet the goal of raising the funds to hire a full time executive director. I am inspired by all the new members and have faith that the next generation of board members can lead this organization. I plan to stay very involved in FCF working on projects and helping accomplish even greater things in the future.

FCF membership has increased by 20% this year. FCF has successfully made the transition from small social club to international conservation organization. We are doing something right and attracting a wide cross section of feline enthusiasts from pet owner to professional. There has never been a better time to get involved in FCF and I invite you to jump in with both feet today!

—Lynn Culver

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## The Chilean Puma Situation and Reality of Getting Pumas Out of Trouble

By Fernando Vidal  
*Fauna-Andina*

In the past, Chilean pumas were considered to have four subspecies. They ranged from the north to the south of the country and were broken into the following subspecies:

*Puma concolor incarum*

*Puma concolor puma*

*Puma concolor araucanus*

*Puma concolor patagonica*

After the subspecies and genetic deter-

minations turned to mitochondria DNA, it was decided that Chile has only one subspecies, *puma concolor puma*. This same subspecies is also present in Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina.

I do not doubt that genetically this is correct, since I am not a scientist, but I would like to know how many samples were analyzed and how many individual animals were captured to make this determination and what locations were represented.

In my region, Region de la Aracuanía, in southern central Chile, this only “one subspecies” sounds strange, since there are two, quite different pumas present.

One type resides in open fields and are big cats with grayish hides. Their canines are short but thick.

The “other cat” lives in the Valdivian forest. It is not as big. Its hide is reddish in color and its canines are thin and very long. Curiously these two distinct felines overlap in territory. So, what is the reality? The

“Valdivian forest puma,” as I call it, is not common at all, so, are they represented on the samples? A good question for the final determination of a subspecies.

The conservation status in Chile for the puma varies depending on the region. But no matter what the law says, in reality no real data is available for saying accurately what the real status is.

In some places, puma population has increased. My opinion is they are responding to the exotic prey population numbers, which are also increasing. Wild boars and red stags are expanding vermin and pumas are learning fast how to hunt them.

Sadly, pumas are getting more visible to humans. Chileans do not like pumas. The perception of the animal is not very good.

As Chile continues growing, human populations are getting closer to where pumas live. “Conflict puma” alerts are getting more and more common every day. Sadly many animals pay with their lives when they make the mistake of coming close to humans.

Fauna Andina has been rescuing and helping pumas in trouble for many years but it is not enough to stop the whole problem. There is a big problem with the cultural attitude towards pumas. We humans are not used to coexisting with wild animals, especially if they are “dangerous big cats” as people call them.

When people say that they have “problems” with pumas, in reality what has happened 80% to 90% of the time is that a puma has been seen several times by people. As soon as people are able to see the feline, they start complaining to authorities, saying that the puma is killing the livestock.

Most of these pumas that people see and blame as killers are two-year old animals, inexperienced in avoiding humans and looking for available territory. On the other extreme, there are full-grown pumas, sometimes old males that are highly territorial, living almost together with humans, but smart enough to keep hidden.

When you ask people about pumas in the neighborhood they say, “no they do not exist here, they live in the mountains.”

It is a reality that I personally have seen for many years. I know we need to end this attitude. The challenge is to educate the community to initiate the change; we have seen this accomplished with *guiñas*.

But how can we educate the whole country? Definitely it is a problem of big, big dimensions and the government should get involved.

The last puma that we dealt with was, once again, a male about two years old. He was living within 300 yards of a small town. He was seen several times by people, even in daylight. He was declared guilty of killing lambs in the town so he has to be relocated.

Well, even though we disagree, it was best to remove the animal otherwise he would have definitely been killed. After analyzing where he was and the trails that he was using, we placed the trap to capture him.

After some days passed, bingo, there he was, a wonderful animal that should not be there. We estimated his body weight and prepared the rifle and the drugs to immobilize him. Thank God, the immobilization went well and we conducted our work without problems.

We now record body measurements and take blood, fecal samples, and DNA on every capture so we will have hard information about the health condition of the wildlife in the region, data unavailable until

now for the species.

What I did this time—knowing that it is something risky in some ways—was let the people that were complaining about this puma touch the individual. I let them feel how soft the “devil” is, see up close how beautiful he is. Then we told them that we were taking him to such a place where he would not be able to come back again, ever.

Well, the people stayed very quiet after hearing that. I am not saying that they will never complain again about pumas but I can guarantee that at least they will think twice.

Even though I had one VHF radio collar available for an animal, I did not want to risk collaring him since he was not full-grown, and if we lost contact with him as he grew, the collar could harm him.

So it was time to go and give a second chance to my lovely puma. Now the second problem, where could I take him to avoid human problems? Well, a simple answer is a place where no humans live. How far to go? Fifteen kilometers from the place of trapping? Could he come back? You never know, but this time he learned a lesson and he will never enter into a trap again. He has to stay away from the real devil—*humans!*•



**Fernando kisses his cougar friend.**

## Fauna-Andina Collars “Trouble” Puma

Since Fernando contributed this article on the status of Chilean pumas, Fauna-Andina has been asked to relocate another puma. This one is called Pillan, which means “spirit of the volcanoes” or “devil of the volcanoes” in native Chilean indian language.

According to Fernando, this female puma has been responsible for four confirmed kills of full-grown guanacos (a camel-like animal). The local people do not like her. She has been captured and radio-collared for long-term study. The battery life in her collar is estimated at four years, so it is hoped that this “spirit feline” will give insight into the life and ecology of this

species.

Guanacos are the puma’s natural diet. Guanacos, which were extirpated more than 100 years ago from Reserva Huilo Huilo, have been introduced into the reserve. It is Fernando’s hope to someday also reintroduce captive-born huemul, the shy southern Andean deer, back into this reserva.

Conventional wisdom would support the culling of predatory pumas before a reintroduction of the endangered huemul might be attempted. Fernando believes that studying the relationship between puma and guanacos is essential before any future huemul reintroduction can be attempted. The relocation and radio-collaring of Pillan will

benefit not only this female puma but also the conservation of several species.

Fauna-Andina would gratefully accept donations from FCF members who wish to support the future protection of problem pumas. Trapping, sedating, and relocating these great felines is done entirely through the donations of time and materials of Fauna-Andina and those who contribute financially to its work. If you wish to donate to Chilean puma protection and research, send your tax-deductible donation to the FCF treasurer, and indicate you wish to earmark it for the Fauna-Andina puma project. FCF will forward 100% of your funds to Fauna-Andina. •



**Fernando installs radio collar on Pillan.**



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# Cat Postage Stamp Collecting

Picture 1—Rusty spotted cat, Animals of Sri Lanka

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Over the years I have been an avid collector of postage stamps depicting wild cats. I have managed to collect every species of wildcat recognized today with the single exception of the bay cat (*Catopuma badia*). I never counted just how many stamps of cats I have but it must number close to 1000. One of my rarest stamps is of the rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosa*) issued by Sri Lanka in 1982 (Picture 1). This is the only rusty-spotted cat postage stamp I know about.

One of my favorite stamps was issued by the African country of Republique du Benin in 2003 (Picture 2). Among the four species of cats on this stamp is the Andean cat. The Latin name given is *Oreailurus jacobitus* that I wrote about in the May/June issue. This stamp provides evidence that the wild cat depicted on the stamp need not be found in the country that issued the stamp. This makes collecting wild cat postage stamps all that more interesting.

Recently I attended the semi-annual Andean cat working group meeting in Arequipa, Peru. During the meeting I managed to slip out and visit the local post office. I asked to look through the book of stamps that were available. Deliberately turning each page, I closely inspected the stamps. Page after page passed my inspection before a stamp titled *Fauna en vías de extinción* caught my eye (Picture 3). As I stared at the four stamps issued as a single

plate, the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end and I got those tingles of excitement. There it was—a wildcat—in the lower left corner. But which cat?

The cat stamp was labeled Gato Montés—Mountain Cat. The Latin name was

given as *Oncifelis Colocolo* [note that the species name was mistakenly capitalized] but I recognized it as the pampas cat (*Leopardus colocolo*). But this was no ordinary pampas cat! The moment of great discovery came in a heartbeat. I bought all six



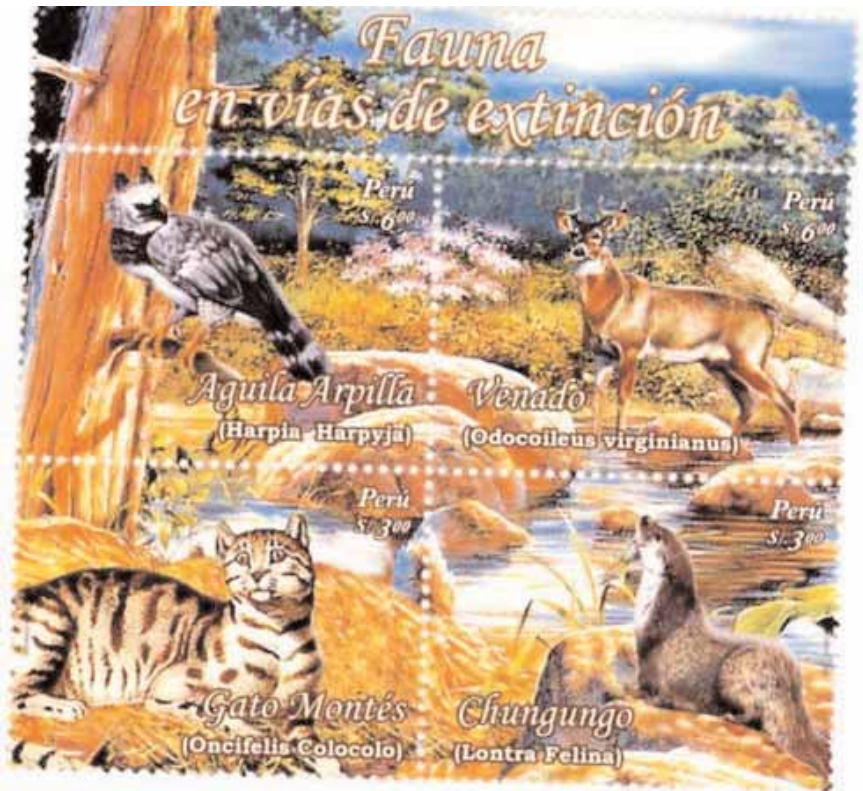
Picture 2—Four stamp plate featuring Andean cat

plates causing local extinction of the stamp in Arequipa.

On the way back to the meeting, my thoughts were on my stamps—and there was something very special about this stamp. Imagine, producing a stamp of a wildcat and mislabeling it with the incorrect species name! Oh sure, sometimes the Latin genus is incorrect or even the species name is misspelled. But here was a gem of a find, unique among the wildcat stamps! Here was the Andean cat lifted directly from the very hand of the most famous wildlife illustrator of his day, Josef Wolf, from his illustration in Daniel Giraud Elliot's monumental 1878-1883 *Monograph of the Felidae*, the single most famous and as yet unrivaled book about cats ever produced. And just as in Elliot's imposing volume, the Andean cat was labeled *colocolo* (Picture 4).

But how could I be so sure that the stamp and Wolf's illustration was the Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*) and not the pampas cat (*L. colocolo*)? Well, this is quite simple: the stripes on the pampas cat run parallel to the ground, and the stripes over the back of the Andean cat are perpendicular to the ground. Of course, having the cat in my hands also aided diagnoses.

I guess this stamp also illustrates the old adage that most anyone can recognize what animals are cats but that often the opinion of an expert is required to distinguish to which species the cat belongs. So here was a stamp with not just one, but three mistakes: the illustration and the Latin species name do not match, the genus is incorrect, and the Latin species name was capitalized. I am hoping this stamp will become highly sought after when other collectors realize these notable flaws. Until then, I am not selling! •



Picture 3—Three errors on one stamp (lower left)



Picture 4—Misabeled Andean cat from *Monograph of the Felidae*

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# The Making of the Caracat

*By Joy Geisinger*

I wanted a big cat—one that would grow to weigh 20 to 30 pounds, but would have the gentle disposition of a domestic cat. I researched savannahs, chausies, and bengals. Each of these hybrid cats has wonderful qualities, but something was missing.

Hybrid cats all have the physical advantage of crossing two breeds of cats. This removes any breeding problems encountered when purebred animals are bred too closely. Any genetic problems are usually discovered in the first generation and responsible breeders produce subsequent generations with the most desirable characteristics.

The chausie is a cross between a jungle cat and a domestic cat. The Savannah is a cross between a serval and any domestic cat. The bengal is a cross between an Asian leopard cat and a domestic cat. All of these beautiful hybrids have their own charm and beauty. However, they all look like big housecats.

Most of these hybrid cats have spots, stripes, or rosettes. They all have, to some degree, the qualities of the foundation cat. Of course, these qualities diminish with each generation. The large size is the greatest contribution of the foundation cat.

The chances of the kittens surviving a premature birth diminish with hybrid cats, as the gestation period of the exotic cat is significantly longer than that of the domestic cat. The gestation periods of smaller exotic cats are more compatible with that of the domestic cat, so hybrid cats must be a cross between a smaller exotic cat and a domestic house cat.

I wanted something different in a hybrid cat. Crossing a big exotic cat like a cougar with a domestic cat is not feasible because of the size difference and genetics. So, what is the next best combination?

I have always been intrigued with the beauty of the caracal. I love the long ear tufts and the cougar moustache. This is the smaller exotic that could contribute the cougar look and the larger size for the hybrid cat I wanted.



Now, which domestic cat would contribute the most cougar-looking qualities to this hybrid? The Abyssinian cat has the cougar appearance I was seeking, so I decided that the Abyssinian would be the most logical partner to the caracal to create a hybrid cat that looks like a miniature cougar.

These hybrids would have the large size, the exotic ear tufts, and the cougar mustache of the caracal as well as the sweet disposition and the ticked fur of the Abyssinian cat. No spots or stripes, just a smooth, even-toned reddish-brown coat. Ticked fur is unique in that each hair has four to six rows of color. There is a downy undercoat, which makes the fur of an Abyssinian exceptionally soft.

Granted, it is difficult to cross a smaller exotic cat with a domestic cat. Most hybrid cat breeders will use any domestic cat that will tolerate the violent breeding procedure. Unfortunately, after months of research, I was disappointed to find that no hybrid breeders had tried to breed a hybrid cat using a caracal. Nor could I find a hybrid breeder that had tried to cross any exotic

cat with an Abyssinian.

I decided to make the financial and time investment to create my own hybrid cat. This way, I could cross a caracal with a full-blooded Abyssinian domestic cat. I have always been told that you should love what you do for a living. I have always been a cat lover, and I was newly retired from a 24-year career working for the federal government. It was time to start a new career, and I could not think of anything I would rather do than work with cats.

With my sweet husband's support, I attended the FCF husbandry course in August of 2005. Shortly afterward, I purchased a male caracal kitten, Mandela. A few months later, I purchased a small harem for Mandela; two female Abyssinian kittens Bonnie and Beverly. I raised these three kittens together, along with my senior Himalayan cat, Elvis, and my miniature dachshund, Moxie.

My husband and I went above and beyond reasonable efforts to socialize Mandela. I bottle-fed him until he was six months old. He had free reign of our home, and he slept with my husband and me until

he began to spray. I wept for days when my little boy became a little man, but he needed to move into our finished basement.

We erected an 8' by 40' enclosure for Mandela from 6' chain link gates. We created a roof for this enclosure from chain link fencing. We put a vinyl floor over the car-



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pet in the enclosure and put several tables, a tree log, and numerous toys in the enclosure. During most of the day, Mandela stayed in the cage, but in the afternoon and evening, Mandela was allowed to wander throughout the basement and spray on *everything*.

The girls, Bonnie and Beverly, reached sexual maturity six months before Mandela did. However, I was not prepared for the violence of the mating ritual of cats, so I thwarted Mandela's efforts to impregnate the girls for almost a year. Finally, in May of 2007, Miss Beverly produced the first litter of two caracats.

Miss Beverly has a bicornate uterus, and she delivered the first kitten 36 hours before the second kitten. Perhaps it was because she was an inexperienced mother, or perhaps it was because she was still in active labor for the second kitten, but she had no interest in the first kitten whatsoever. In spite of my efforts to keep him warm and give him little swallows of KMR, I was unable to keep the first kitten alive, and I was devastated as his little life slipped through my fingers.

I was stunned when Beverly began to scream with the same labor pains that she had demonstrated with the first kitten. I had a chance for redemption from the guilt I was suffering for losing the first kitten. I had no experience with the birthing process of kittens but I learned quickly. I was prepared with black thread, scissors, and waterproof pads.

As with the first kitten, I massaged Beverly's back and whispered gently to her through her contractions. When the second kitten crowned 36 hours after the first kitten was born, Beverly bit me because her pain level was off the charts. I gently pulled the baby out of her while continuing to whisper gently to her.

My husband stood by with a large bowl of hot water and a hand towel. With a warm, wet hand towel, he massaged the kitten while I cut the umbilical cord about three inches from the kitten's belly. I held the kitten while he rinsed the hand towel in the hot water to keep the kitten massaged and warm.

Beverly quickly devoured the placenta while I tied the thread about the umbilical cord less than an inch from the baby's belly. I probably did not need to tie off the umbilical cord, as there was no bleeding



from it, but it gave me peace of mind that there would be no fluid loss from this orifice. Beverly settled down with this kitten and nursed her.

What an incredible moment this was! I shall never forget the beauty of Miss Beverly as she bathed and nursed her baby. I was blinded with joy! Beverly was rightfully proud of her production. She beamed with joy over her new infant, finally free of pain after two full days of active labor.

We settled in for the night with Beverly's nest in the headboard of our bed. I did not sleep for the balance of that night, as I was concerned that another kitten might come forth, but this litter was a grand total of two.

When Beverly's last litter came five months later, I was prepared for the two days of labor pain. All three kittens survived, as Beverly was an experienced mother. She lay down with her first kitten even though she was in active labor for the second two.

I would not allow Beverly to breed immediately after weaning the last litter. Her little body needed a rest. Mandela moved to his new home in February 2008. Neither Bonnie nor Beverly became pregnant the week before Mandela left. Only five caracats were produced and four survived.

Beverly's first litter produced one little girl, Miss Hillary. Her last litter consisted of two little girls, Miss Jennifer and Miss Monica, and one little boy, Master Jude. I kept all of the little girls to breed F2 kittens, and sold Master Jude in December of 2007.

The weekend that Jennifer and Monica were born, I purchased a full-blooded

Abyssinian husband for them, Master Romeo. He is eight weeks older than they are, but they have already grown considerably larger than he is. He has not yet reached sexual maturity, but this will happen any day now.

Miss Hillary is ten months old now, and she has not yet reached sexual maturity. I will not allow her to breed in her first season, as I want her to be more mature when she becomes a mother. Jennifer and Monica will not become sexually mature until next fall.

The F1 girls are very personable but they hiss often, like their father. They love nothing more than jumping up on the highest surface in the room and batting every object down to the floor. They hate being picked up, but they love to snuggle up on my lap. They have every quality of their Abyssinian mother, especially her ticked fur and temperament.

Without question, the F2 kittens will be the finest pets. They will be a bit smaller than the F1 caracats, but I feel certain that they will grow to be 20 to 30 pounds in weight. Their ear tufts and cougar moustache will be diminished, but still evident.

The F1 caracats were born with their mother's ticked fur, so the F2 caracats will have an even softer quality of ticked fur, much like a mink. They will have Romeo's sweet temperament. They will be genuine lap cats, *plus* they will look like miniature cougars.

It is possible that I will be able to produce a litter of F2 caracats as early as the fall of 2008, so the kittens will be available for the 2008 holiday season. Please call Joy at 603-929-9066 with any questions. •

# FCF Expands Its Online Capabilities

The Feline Conservation Federation web site has been totally rebuilt from scratch and replaces the former site on [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org). The new web site has many new features that will help FCF better manage its membership services such as automatic renewal notice emails and easy on-line renewal forms. The first renewal reminder is electronic and when members respond, it saves the member services director from mailing out a form. Moving to electronic renewals helps reduce the time it takes for the member service director to handle the membership rolls and enables the FCF to serve a larger membership. Please do your part, and renew when you receive your first notice.

The FCF board reviewed seven bid proposals for building a new web site and awarded the contract to Eagle Web Designs, a company in South Carolina. Partial funding for the new site was provided by a grant from the OnShore Foundation to assist FCF in its efforts to provide public education on wildcat husbandry and assist cats in need with FCF's new Wildcat Safety Net program.

The new web site is full of member photos published in various journal issues. Each illustrates the many feline species we manage, our commitment to their conservation, and our dedication to their welfare. So, everyone, take some time to visit the new FCF web site found at [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org) and let us know what you think about it by using the contact form on the site.

All members have been assigned a user identification and password that enables them to access the members-only section. This information was sent by email to all members with email contact information in the FCF database. If you did not receive an email invitation to visit the new web site and log onto the members-only section, you might have spam protection that blocked the letter, or we might have missing or incorrect email contact information in the FCF database. Please help FCF stay in touch with you. Give Carolyn Clendinen, Director of Membership Services, a call or send her an email (contact info is on the inside cover page of this journal) to tell her your current email address and we will update your membership profile and invite

you to the members-only section.

Why build a new site? The internet is the organization's biggest advertising market and the FCF site needs to speak to those who are not already members. It needs to be clear what the organization is about, what FCF and its members do, and how to support us, or join in FCF efforts. This is the new web site emphasis with easier online joining, easier online donating, easier online registering for FCF events, easier purchasing of FCF products, and an easy contact form to email questions to the FCF.

On the new site all the FCF organizational documents such as constitution, by-laws, board meeting minutes, and programs and policies have been moved to the private members-only section. Additionally, discussions and action planning and alerts on pro-

posed changes to regulations and legislation are now internal as well. There is a membership renewal form in the members-only section where members can easily renew using PayPal. Back issues of the journal are loaded onto the members-only section. There is a members' photo gallery. Other features are coming soon, such as members' forums, with polls to allow member input on FCF ideas.

In the members-only section, each member has the opportunity to check their membership profile and make updates when they change phone, address, email or web site. Every member has the ability to build a personal web page for FCF members to view. This is an opportunity to tell others about your felines, your work, and your interests,

**Continued on 16**

The screenshot shows the Feline Conservation Federation website. At the top left is the FCF logo. To its right are three small photos of cats. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: Home Page, About Us, Upcoming Events, Contact Us, Support Us, and Join Us. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a 'MEMBERS LOGIN' section with fields for 'username:' and 'password:', a 'Login' button, and a link for 'forgot your password?'. Below that is a 'Sign Up For Our Newsletter' section with fields for 'name:' and 'email:', and a 'Submit' button. At the bottom left is a 'SEARCH OUR SITE' section with a search box and a 'SEARCH' button. The main content area on the right contains a 'Welcome' message, a 'Visitors at T.I.G.E.R.S.' photo gallery, and several paragraphs of text. The footer contains the copyright information: 'copyright 1955 - 2008 © FCF / Feline Conservation Federation' and 'Site design by Eagle Web Designs'.

# Ode to Koko

*Kim and George Strohmeier*

Koko was a Siberian tiger which became a part of our family when she was a tiny cub. I spent every day with her, feeding her bottles around the clock and sleeping with her and yeah, she snored! It was a huge responsibility that involved a great amount of love, respect, time, and commitment. I was her mom and our bond quickly grew...and so did she! Even full grown, Koko still looked forward to her morning bottle, now used as a treat, and her belly showed it!

On hot, summer days you would find her lounging in her pool. If you brought the hose with you, she would flop to the ground and lay belly-up waiting to get squirted. She enjoyed playing with our Akita, Cobra. They would run together side by side—what a sight to see! Always chuffing and talking, she had a lot to say and you could have a conversation with her. In the evenings, my husband George and I would lie in the hammock next to her and watch the sun go down. At night, Koko would go to bed with a stuffed animal under her head as a pillow. Koko's favorite time of year was winter. Her coat would get long and fluffy and she would have a long ruff

around her beautiful face. Oh, what a magnificent animal! If it were snowing, she would lie outside until the snow covered her, a big snow angel! She was always our sunshine on the coldest, dreariest of days.

Koko was an ambassador to her species and did numerous conservation educational programs where she touched many people's lives far and wide, including my mom from Pennsylvania and George's mom and dad from Florida.

Sadly, Koko has moved on in the circle of life. The days are long and lonely without her but every time I see the sun shining or the snow falling, I can still hear her chuffing; she is a part of me. So many adventures and so many memories remain in our hearts! I am grateful for each moment of each day we shared together. Words cannot begin to describe the feeling of having such a close relationship with such a majestic wild animal that allows you into their life and shows you such affection. If you are one of the lucky few who experience it, then you understand!

Kim, George, Ronnie, and Mindy send out our love to her. Thank you Koko for bringing so much joy to our lives! Chuff, chuff. •



**Koko**  
May 2002 - February 2008

## From 15

and even upload photos. I hope that members will take advantage of this option and have fun introducing themselves to the other members of the FCF.

In the members-only section members are listed by state. Member name, address, phone number, email and web site is listed, along with a link to view their personal web page, if the member has built one. Any member wishing to be excluded from this list may choose that option in their member profile.

Another very important feature is the feline census. Each member is encouraged to keep their feline inventory updated so that the FCF has current feline census to refer to when speaking for and representing the captive feline population. We will be sending out reminder emails on occasion to encourage participation in this data collection effort.

The FCF is proud of its new site, so check in occasionally to see what is new. •

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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

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

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

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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## Lacy's Acts

by Leona Maddux

We picked her up at N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center and drove all the way to Alabama with her fussing the whole time. She did not like my husband right off even though he was not mean to her or anything. I found out she just did not like or trust men. We got her home, she would not have anything to do with Michael, and she stayed away from me for a while, then she started getting closer to me. She finally got to where she would sleep with me cuddled. I scratched her and brushed her. We gave her the name of Lacy. She got the name because she was hanging off the lace curtains all the time. I think we replaced 50 shades. Lynn was right about her personality; she has a funny one.

I feed her raw chicken wings. That is all she wants but I do put a supplement in her food. Her back comes to my knees and I am 5'7". She weighs 35 pounds now, having started out as the runt of the litter. She will turn four years old this May.

We did have an accident that taught me a lesson I will not forget. She was very upset about going to the vet. I made the bad move of taking her out of the cage before I came in the house. When I opened the door she jumped out of my arms toward my husband. I threw my arm up to block her from my husband. She bit me on the arm but not a bad bite. As soon as she realized it was me, she let go. She's been OK since.

She does like to sneak up on people and hit them on the butt. The greatest thing she does is use the toilet by herself. She learned this on her own. She kept watching us in the bathroom totally embarrassing us. When she was six months old, she jumped on the toilet and did her thing. She still does today.

She also likes to catch the little yellow balls in the air. You throw them over her head and she jumps up to get them in her paws. She runs around looking out all the windows, but if we open the door to outside, she will run into the bedroom. We have a little orange Manx tabby cat named Bobbie that we consider Lacy's sister. They play tag and sleep on the bed together. When Lacy was about a year old, we checked her predatory instincts by getting



a white mouse from the pet store. We put the mouse in the bathtub and she jumped right in. We thought, "That is the end of that mouse." Next thing we knew, the mouse was chasing Lacy around the bathtub! So much for being a wildcat.

When Lacy was about a year old, she got very sick. She had stopped eating for three days and she kept laying on her back wanting me to rub her tummy. I took her to the vet for answers. Our vet is a man, so even though she was sick, it was a fight. He X-rayed her and did not see anything and

recommended exploratory surgery. I did not want to, but I let him because I did not want to lose her. The next day I called after surgery was over and was informed by the vet that Lacy had an impacted cecum. The cecum marks the beginning of the large intestine and is basically a big pouch that receives waste material from the small intestine. The whole area was inflamed. She recovered from surgery at home and is doing fine today.

I love her like one of the family. The little Manx cat loves her too. •



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## J. R. Update

*Ed note: J. R. the cougar attended the 2007 FCF convention.*

*By Lynne Whittmeier*

In November 2007, we lost our panther of 15 years. Sammy was the reason for building “Lions, Tigers & Bears Wildlife Refuge.” He was the soul of LTB. We missed him immensely and did not know how to fill the void in our lives. A few weeks passed and we knew we needed another young panther to take up our time and fill our lives again.

The animal world is a small world and we contacted a friend Jessie who told us to contact another friend, Nanette. Nanette heard of a panther looking for a home a week earlier that was six months old. She was not sure but she thought that J. R. had found a new home, but she would check.

As luck would have it, or *fate*, we found out that J. R. was still looking for a new



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home. We spoke to Lynn Culver several times by phone to make arrangements for the transfer. J. R. was now 45 pounds. Bart Culver had to construct a custom wooden crate to IATA airline standards for the trip. Eventually everything was completed and J. R. was driven to the airport and loaded on a jet to fly to a new home. He left Arkansas at 6:00 am and was in his new habitat by 3:00 pm the same day.

He was so scared when the crate was opened he just stayed in it for several hours. He ate little the first night. By morning when we went out to see him, he came over and sat down beside me and whistled at me. Within a week J. R. had become a housecat.

He spends hours with us at night. He plays with his toys and we watch and laugh at him. He walks on a leash every morning around our property. He tries to stalk the peacocks and chickens. He has his favorite trees that he scratches and jumps on.

J. R. has become LTB's new mascot and helps us in our fund-raisers, traveling out on day trips during the tourist season. We know J. R. will be with us for many years to come. J. R. has hundreds of friends and he is quickly becoming well known. We are happy to become acquainted with Lynn Culver and thank her very much for J.R. •



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Anne-Sophie checks her camera trap.

## Pumas as a Tool to Fight Against Poaching in Brazil

By Anne-Sophie Bertrand

Here I am back from the woods where we examined everything from puma scratches to poacher's camp sites. While I was there, I had an inspiration. Let me tell you where this great idea came from. Last year, I had a meeting with Ivan Baptiston, a real conservationist. Ivan works at the Chico Mendès Institute, which is the governmental extension of the Ministry of Environment for Conservation Units (parks and reserves) Management. Ivan is the head of the Protection Sector at the Iguazu National Park. In other words, he is responsible for limiting and repressing illegal activities within the conservation unit. During this meeting, Ivan expressed to me the

limitations he was facing, basically the lack of men and resources. It naturally came to me that we could work together for a win-win situation. I would provide funds for food and other field work-related costs and he would provide trained men from the Environmental Police Force to go along in the expeditions and use the data for protection strategies improvement.

During these field expeditions, we would look for presence signs for both species: pumas and human beings. We wrote a proposal and submitted it to a well-known national foundation in Brazil called Fundação O Boticário de Proteção a Natureza and we got funded for 12 months. This was such good news for us and for the

cats. Finally an initiative that could help the cats to be safe, at least in their home! The concept of the project is quite simple: let us use pumas as a tool to fight against poaching. It does not take much money, it just takes men in the field tracking presence signs.

*Several hunting presence signs can be found:*

1. Salt heap (saleiro): Poachers find animal trails, identify a good spot and pour kilos of salt. As you may already know, all animals get crazy for salt as it is not available in such amounts in nature and it is much needed. So all species come running.
2. Bait (ceva): when it is not salt, it is

corn. Animals are fond of it too.

3. Hunter's tree shelters (jirau): Poachers usually build themselves a little shelter, up in a tree from where they can see what animal is coming to lick salt or eat corn.

4. Hunting camps where they stay at night during their hunting expeditions.

5. Motion-activated trap (espera de caça): this is the most dangerous, as you can be the one who triggers it and you can get injured or worse, killed.

*The presence signs we have found so far for pumas are the following:*

1. Scratches on the ground: they urinate on a pile of dried leaves in human trails and scratch the ground with their hind feet several times to make these two unmistakable rails.

2. Scratches on the trees: They possess scent glands between their toes and by scratching the tree bark, they leave their scent on the spot. Great inter-individual communication.

3. Scats: they tend to defecate on human trails or exposed rocks so it is quite easy to find. These samples represent a cheap and fast technique to identify the items that compose pumas' diet.

4. Kills: To find a kill, you have to be lucky as they half cover their kills and usually eat them all within five or six days.

5. Tracks: When substrate allows, tracks are identifiable. They allow determining the distribution range within a given studied area.

In 2006, we did a pilot phase of 40 days in the most intensively used trail in the park. We used camera traps, regular 35mm cameras triggered to a motion sensor. It takes a picture any time there is a movement detected within an angle of 120° and within 20 feet. If you install two cameras on each side of a trail, you can identify all the cats walking the trail using spots or any physical particular patterns. This technique has been extensively used since the beginning of this decade. It provides great results when there is plenty of quiet time.

Obviously, any field ecologist will acknowledge that nature never provides quiet time; tropical conditions and the poachers gave me a lot of work. Indeed, two of the 12 cameras were stolen. The rest of them started giving problems after 20 days of use. Humidity of 80% and up is tough on any electronics. Plus, a lock we



**Five signs of poachers in the vicinity (top to bottom): 1. salt heap, 2. bait, 3. hunter's blind, 4. hunting camp, 5. motion-activated trap. Photos: Iguazu National Park ©ACOM**

placed on the chains that were holding the cameras on the trunk received a gunshot. Poachers do not want to be seen. As a test, we started to tie banners with reflectors indicating “WATCH OUT, CAMERAS AHEAD” held at the neck level (to allow animals passing) with fishing line across the trail. A little loose tiny thread was placed ten feet ahead of the banner. We wanted to check the actual efficiency of the banner. If both lines (the thread and the banner) were untouched the next day, it could mean that nobody came. However, within one week, the little thread was broken but the banner and the cameras were still there. Believe it or not, we did not have any other cameras stolen until the end of the 40 days. Maybe we could diminish poaching by acting “civilized?” Just kidding, though I believe respect, education, and comprehension are critical components for any profound mentality change.

When Jim came over in February 2007, he explained to me how illegal hunting was the object of law enforcement in New Mexico. I explained to Ivan that we had to divulge our operations so that poachers hear that something new is happening in the park and that they should be aware that they are the hunted. Brazil reality is not comparable to what it is in New Mexico, but I think similarities exist. I believe that we have to work with locals—together, and not one against the other. They might hunt because they have been doing this or because they have seen their father doing it, repeating the same mistake over and over, at the sake of a so-called tradition. We are not talking about survival hunting here. We are talking about people with pick-up trucks, owners of huge farms. They benefit from the corruption of course. Here in Brazil you can buy the right to keep doing the wrong thing with \$25. Think about this fact for a minute. You can kill a jaguar and sell its pelt for several thousands dollars. What you risk is to face a police agent that is not corrupt and cannot be bought. I do not want to sound too pessimistic, but this is highly improbable given the economic situation. So the solution is to get to know the poachers and try to educate them. They all have sons. The younger they are, the bigger are your chances to get them to understand that poaching is not good for them and for the next human generation.

**Continued on 26**



**Five signs of pumas in the vicinity (top to bottom): 1. ground scratches, 2. tree scratches, 3. scat, 4. kills, 5. tracks. Photos: Iguazu National Park ©ACOM, Anne-Sophie Bertrand ©2007**







Two of Anne-Sophie's camera trap successes: a puma and an ocelot.



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If this does not ring a bell for a 50 year-old rich farmer, it does for a little boy who is more our peer. So I believe the solution is a participative approach of them towards positive changes in their lifestyle. Of course, it is tough, it takes time and we might never get to 100% compliance. But I give it more hope than pure repression for instance. I give it another chance because I have faced those people, I heard what they say, and the legends they hold alive just to be able to keep doing the same (wrong) things over and over again.

So now that I have finally got the federal permit to capture six pumas, let me tell you what phase II will consist of. We will use dogs to tree pumas and equip them with radio-collars. By doing so, we reduce significantly the stress associated with other traps. Besides, it is faster and safer (considering that the dogs are of the right breeds and well trained). They cannot be too aggressive but they cannot let the puma get away either; it is a subtle balance. The VHF/GPS telemetry monitoring will allow obtaining data that have never been collected in the region. We will monitor six individuals for one year. They will inform us about where they go, how often they are active, and their home range. It is going to be a very important information for local authorities as this kind of data is a prerequisite to any conservation plan or strategy. •

## Attend UAPPEAL “Circle of Unity” Expo!

### Tentative agenda for the UAPPEAL Expo:

Friday 8/29/08: Booth set up, registration begins, welcome party Friday night

Saturday 8/30/08: Trade show all day, seminars, dinner banquet with speaker, auction, raffle drawing

Sunday 8/31/08: Hospitality room, continental Breakfast. booth tear down. FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course

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

**When:** Labor Day Weekend August 29-31, 2008

**Registration:** Single \$100, Married couple \$150

Children 16-18 are \$75 each. (Children must be at least 16 years old)

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**Registration fee covers:** Seminars, speakers and trade show. Friday night welcome party. Banquet and auction on Saturday night. Sunday continental breakfast. And UAPPEAL T-shirt with the new logo!

**Lodging:** Velda Rose Hotel. Rooms: \$60 + tax. Pets are allowed. Pets must be caged when unattended and leashed while attended.

**Reservations:** Velda Rose Hotel, 1-888-624-3311, <http://www.veldarose.net>

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The UAPPEAL “Circle of Unity” Expo joins different animal organizations together in one place to showcase each organization, raise funds and attract new members. The UAPPEAL Expo is the umbrella under which the organizations come together. Attendees pay a fee to UAPPEAL, and may visit the different organization’s booths and buy their T-shirts or other merchandise and learn more about the 501(c)(3) organizations. It is up to each organization to create and manage their booth, info, sale and raffle items, memberships etc. Each organization will donate one item to the UAPPEAL auction, and provide one seminar to the UAPPEAL lineup of seminars. Booths are available for commercial vendors for \$250. Booths are available for non-commercial individuals that would like to sell their merchandise for \$25. This will be a fun trade show with about 40 booths available. If you or someone you know is interested in reserving a booth, please call Barbara Doherty at 501-596-0131.

Arkansas requires a \$25 import permit to enter the state with animals. They also require a TB test for non-human primates within 30 days of arriving in the state. All animals attending the event need a current health certificate. AR Game and Fish requests 8 weeks to process import permits. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205, 501-223-6300 or Toll Free: 1-800-364-4263. •

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# A Pondless Waterfall for Feline Habitats

By Vincent DeMaggio III  
Venom Traxx

With the popularity of waterfalls, ponds and fountains, it is only natural to try to incorporate them into a feline habitat. However some species, such as cougars and bobcats, will quickly soil the pond with their excrement. What starts out as a clean and refreshing enrichment idea can quickly end up smelling like a toilet.

I have created a pondless waterfall in my cougar Bekera's enclosure. It has the beauty and tranquil sound of running water, but it lacks a visible pool for the water to collect. If Bekera wants to poop there, I can just scoop the fecal deposit off a rock. The water circulating remains clean.

The project was easy, fun, relatively inexpensive, and quick to construct.

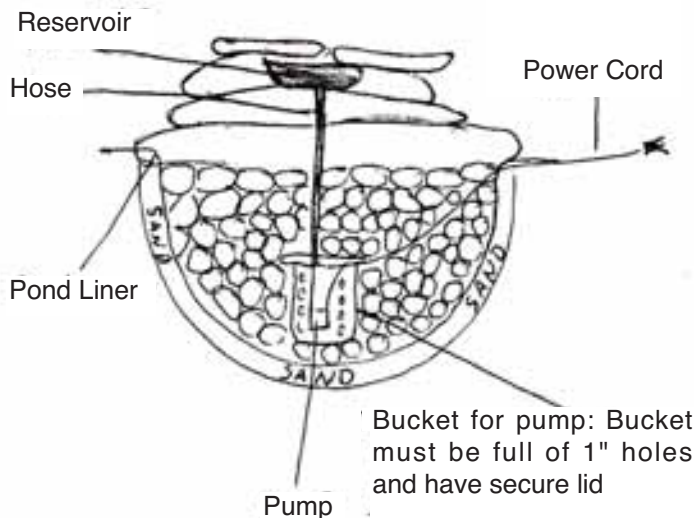
Dig a large hole to preferred size. Line the hole with sand and then place a 20-mil piece of pond liner into the hole and up onto level ground. Buy a water pump and place it inside a 2 1/2 to 5 gallon bucket, depending upon how deep you wish to dig the hole. Drill bucket full of one-inch holes all around. Cut a small hole in the bucket lid and run the electric cord out the top. Put bucket at the lowest point of the hole. Plumb the water pump up to 1-inch PVC



hot water hose that runs through the top of the bucket lid to about 6-inches below ground level. Attach a 90 degree angle and more pipe to reach the center of the waterfall. Attach another 90 degree angle to plumb the pipe up through the center of the stacked rocks to just below the top where you have made a reservoir space from the cement and rock, before spilling out over

the waterfall. Fill the empty space around the bucket in the hole with large smooth rocks. Turn on your hose to fill the space around the rocks with water. Plug in and enjoy.

For my design, I topped the waterfall with two large flat rocks and support the weight of Bekera. She loves to lie on top and watch the water fall. •



Vince and Bekera

# Rediscovery of a Extirpated Species in the Wild

By Tommy Young

On one of my deeper ventures through the woods this week seeking the ever-elusive wild turkey through the heart of a local mountain range, a brave companion and myself wearily stumbled upon a cliff face atop a large rock slide absolutely in the middle of nowhere. After five hours of nearly continual mountain hopping, we stopped on top of a particularly beautiful high mountain ridge that probably had not seen a man in a decade, if ever. There was a large fossil of tree bark from a three million year old tree on the rock slide we had just ascended.

Even though we were late, I always have to investigate any large rock formation. I always frisk these glacial rock piles and have found many relics like the antlers from a large 7 x 7 elk that were so old they were completely mineralized. On another trip, I discovered the last diamondback rattlesnake stronghold in Arkansas. I also found the elusive Rich Mountain collard lizard not seen since 1940 and a previously unknown black widow species on other remote rock slides. I always feel obligated to explore each one thoroughly.

The morning walk had been hard. We had dropped my companion's truck off on the opposite side of an old growth wilderness area I had always wanted to explore, and then we drove my truck the other side. A mere 9-mile walk I told my friend. He grumbled something about distance as the crow flies is different from walking mountains or something to that effect. Off we went up the mountain. At around 3 p.m. I realized I underestimated the ruggedness of the terrain, as we were not yet half way across the wooded expanse.

The turkeys were as quiet as death that day. The only gobbles I heard were from my buddy mumbling to himself about how there was no one to blame but himself for following me on the hike of his life. Everyone knows that a "Tommy mile" is at least double the distance anybody else wants to walk and "Tommy time" means you're not going to make it to the truck by dark unless you walk faster. He also was aware of my desire to always see what's over the next mountain or to look in the bottom of every

deep hole. Hunting with me is always an adventure. As the sun began to dip over Rich Mountain, his thoughts begin drift of home, food, and the couch.

Later as darkness began to approach, darker thoughts crossed his mind about the rumors of the perils of hunting with Tom Young. Peril: I had been forced to shoot a black bear with abscessed tooth that charged to within three feet from my barrel last year on the mountain range. Another peril: eight years ago I had been attacked by five hogs, suffering a cut on my calf requiring 80 stitches. Yes, also on that same mountain.

You would think after all of that I would not go there anymore, but I cannot stay away. Why I wondered. Then I heard it. A sound I had heard many times before, almost lost to the wind then repeated twice more. The call of a mountain lion! Not the sound you hear on TV, but a barely audible almost meow sound. Quickly, I edged out over a massive rock and looked 60 feet down the cliff face seeking the source of the sound. Almost immediately I found myself staring into the eyes of an American mountain lion.

Her lips tugged at the corners and I knew from experience she hissed. Yet I never heard anything but the raging wind. Suddenly, she flattened appearing to merge into nothingness as she disappeared down a steep cliff and out of my sight. I was taken aback for a second as I realized what we had just seen.

The last confirmed report of a mountain lion in Arkansas was in 1972, yet many hundreds of people have told me of sightings. I often did not take them seriously, but here she had been seconds before. I began to look for the one thing I knew I needed, proof of what we had seen. I picked a path downwind of where she disappeared and we quickly headed for a nearby mountain across from our position. When we reached the spot an hour of hard climbing later, I looked across the draw and spotted the cat on a large rock shelf with two large boul-

ders that formed a small cavern. As we watched her from a perfect vantage point that was near level with the cave mouth, she walked in, turned three circles, then laid down beside what I could only assume were her kittens. I watched for a few minutes then turned and waked away very excited and feeling blessed that God has allowed me so many discoveries in my life.

On our way down I had picked up a recent scat pile full of coyote fur that I found on a big rock and the remains of a recent turkey kill buried under a pile of debris that my buddy, whose feet had been dragging for hours, had churned up as we descended from her lair. The moral of this story is we have at least one panther left in Arkansas and I have her DNA. This should give our new mountain lion coordinator the first glimpse at the life of an Arkansas mountain lion in over 35 years. I believe

**The last confirmed report of a mountain lion in Arkansas was in 1972, yet many hundreds of people have told me of sightings. I often did not take them seriously...**

that if these cats could come back on their own, that the ecosystem of the Ouachita Mountains would flourish in their presence the same way the wolf restored Yellowstone. I do not suspect there are many cats about and she should not offend anyone as far removed from our world as she is. I believe we should let them return. They have hunted these mountains for thou-

sands of years and we should I owe them a safe place somewhere. •

*Tommy Young is a federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator, falconer, and educator. Tommy founded the Ouachita Nature Center, an educational facility that will feature native species of Arkansas.*

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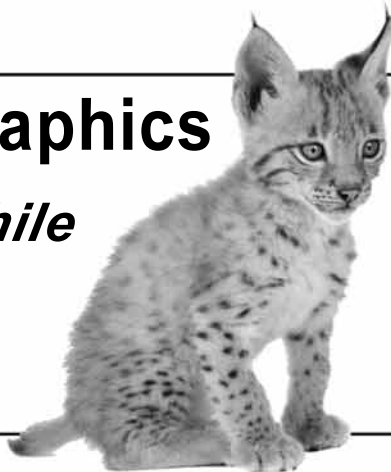
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## It's a girl...it's a boy...it's both...it's a...

By Kathy Thomas

My beloved female ten-year-old serval, Rafiki, died last year of kidney disease. I dearly wanted to get another female serval kitten to fill part of the resulting void. After a fruitless local search, I contacted Lynn Culver during last year's convention. She said she might have a kitten in a month or two.

In August, I got the call. Her serval, Sahara, had one kitten, and we would have to wait to find out if it was a male or female. Lynn pulled it and discovered it had a bit of a problem with its tail; it was a kind of a curled up little thing. Lynn called and told me it was a female and I was thrilled!

While waiting until it was 8 weeks old, Lynn bottle fed it, but noticed something strange: its urethra/vaginal opening was much closer to its anus than normal and she worried it might develop bladder infections from fecal contamination at some point. Plus, it seemed to suffer from bouts of constipation. She took it to her veterinarian for an X-ray of its spine, tail, and pelvis. Since the genital area was not completely normal, she wanted a professional opinion on whether the little girl really was a girl or actually a boy. During the physical exam the vet felt an undescended testicle. He declared that her female serval was not a girl after all—it was a boy. Inside the slit opening was a penis, but the vet told her, it appeared it was not peeing from the end of the penis, but from some point further back in the vulva-like opening, so it might actually have female parts too. The vet felt it was either a hermaphrodite—an individual with both sexes—or it was a boy... but it was not all girl. The X-ray showed that the pelvis opening was somewhat small and that was the reason the kitten was having trouble passing feces. Time would tell whether the kitten would grow out of this problem or succumb to it. Lynn told me about the findings, but my heart was still set on the little kitten.

In October my husband, Bill, and I drove to Arkansas to pick up our new serval. Because of the drive and the unsurity of the kitten's gender, I named it Safari—the Swahili word for a journey. Initially I had to deal with some constipation problems but

they passed as I started to wean Safari. She was *very* cute and went to work with me in a carrier until she was weaned.

My vet looked her over and agreed that it was a hermaphrodite. We would know for sure at six months when the spay, neuter, or both would take place.

In mid-February, Safari went in for the procedure, and the results were in...she, er...ah...*he* was all boy! (The vagina was just a dead end pocket and there were no ovaries inside.) It was not a little girl as I had thought, but it *did* explain the much more boisterous attitude and behavior! (Sorry guys!) I love her anyway. That is right—I will probably always call him a "her." I did it for six months and it stuck!

Safari is now harness and leash trained. I am working on walking her outside and socializing with other humans. Outside is no problem since we live on a farm but being around other humans is a hard task since we do not get many visitors. She is growing very fast and loves to retrieve. She eats Zupreem.

One interesting article I found in

"Equus," a horse magazine, describes the same syndrome as Safari's, but in a horse. It is actually called pseudohermaphroditism, because the animal does not actually have both sex organs. True hermaphrodites are actually very rare. More common is pseudohermaphrodites, the result of an error that occurs during embryonic development. Most are of the male gender. The male XY embryo forms testes but something goes wrong with the hormonal environment and a genetic error on the Y chromosome fails to give the correct instructions for development of a normal male. The result is an XY animal with underdeveloped genital anatomy. The outward appearance of a pseudohermaphrodite will often show anatomical structures of both male and female located high under the tail. In Safari's case, it was so high up it actually joined the edge of anus and the 'vaginal slit' opening did not lead to a uterus, but instead, held a small penis inside.

She still has some aggression issues but we are working on solutions. I would not trade her... it... *him*... for the world! •



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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

# Marli and the Big Spotty Cat Rescue

By Ann Westendorf

I have been critter crazy since childhood and I nearly drove my poor parents insane by bringing every abandoned, injured, or sick animal home with me. Luckily my parents understood and always encouraged my love of animals as though it was a gift. Then about three years ago, in 2005, I was at a pet expo. I was working in dog rescue when I met a woman named Cynthia King that had some Savannah cats for adoption. As I got closer to her, suddenly I saw him: her serval, Zuzu and my heart skipped a beat. I spoke to Cynthia at great length and the whole time I was in awe of the cat's regal presence and was absolutely captivated by his gentle eyes. That evening I needed to know more about servals so I went on-line and read everything I could find about them.

After about a year of talking it over with Mark, my best friend and also critter crazy, we decided to get a serval of our own. Cynthia put us in contact with Bill and Diana Johnson, serval breeders and then we waited. We could not have known then what was in store for us. Mark and I have a small, family-owned landscape business and life was already pretty full, but things were about to jump into warp speed. With our youngest child off to college we were ready.

It was in early May of 2006 that I traveled to Chicago to pick up Sir Marli, our serval cub from Carol Streit, a friend of Bill and Diana's. Nothing has been the same ever since. Marli has filled our lives with so much love. We have shared him with everyone we have met along the way. He is well socialized and loved in return. You see, when Marli was young, he went everywhere with me. From the time he was five weeks old he loved riding in the truck and visiting with people from my hairdresser, Barb, to all the gang at the local pet store. We made the rounds and most people responded positively. The more questions people asked me about Marli, the more answers I needed. I started contacting everyone that would talk to me: zoos, humane societies, rescues, breeders, USDA, etc. It was somewhere in this time that Mark and I realized that cats like Marli needed help.

Marli has always been so gentle and kind as he slept in bed with us and drank from a bottle until he was 11 months old. All of our kids and their friends helped greatly with





socializing and bottle-feeding Marli and because he is so intelligent, we had to come up with new games and enrichments all the time. My son, Mike, came up with an enrichment that he loved as a child. He made a tent out of a blanket and a card table on the family room floor and Marli quickly loved the idea of his own cave.

There is something about these serval cats. I have been blessed with lots of wonderful animals in my life but I have never experienced the intense love and bonding that I have with Marli. Marli's grandmother, Diana Johnson, says it best: "It is a privilege to be owned by a serval."

I have been in contact with CEOs of other cat rescues that think that many cats like servals should be let to go extinct forever; there should not be any responsible breeding programs. Their thinking is that the cat is losing its native habitat and many are poached by natives to feed their families and pay medical bills. But I am an optimist and I believe we have an obligation to not let this animal vanish. I believe in the future of humanity. The planet is shifting as we speak. As a society, we are becoming more and more aware of the need to care for the earth. I believe someday we could reintroduce many of these cats back to their native lands or even to new locations. At least they deserve a chance. If you listen to some of the big cat rescue horror stories about irresponsible exotic pet owners, they would like to see to it that no one owns an exotic cat. This is ridiculous. Just because some choose to abuse and neglect children, we do not ban having children. In a few short years, many scientists predict that the cheetah will be gone forever as they do not breed well in captivity and are being hunted to extinction. It's time that the people that really care about these animals band together and stand up for the right to own and breed these magnificent animals for a hope for a brighter tomorrow.

In 2007 we started Big Spotty Cat Rescue for small and medium sized, wild, and hybrid cats of all kinds. We had purchased a home in Oxford, Michigan some years earlier with over 11 acres of land. So many people from many different walks of life have pledged their support with helping to build Big Spotty Cat Rescue and get the sanctuary up and running. You see, Marli is truly special. Some of Marli's friends tell me a visit from him has a lasting effect on

them. Marli's friend, Jackie says she believes that he helps to lessen the effects of her Parkinson's disease. There are others that report that after time spent with Marli, they feel relief from stress, anxiety, and even arthritis. I receive calls all the time from people that just want to meet him. He is truly amazing.

Big Spotty Cat Rescue has developed contacts nationwide and is gaining recognition for the service it offers to the Savannah cat. We are proud to have played a role in the re-homing of 103 cats, seven wild and 96 hybrids. Our networking with experienced Savannah owners and facilities familiar with this hybrid helps us in our efforts to insure that all Savannahs have good homes with owners who are adequately prepared to care for their cats. Most of these cats have been successfully adopted out to their new forever homes where they can be spoiled and pampered pets like Marli is. All or some of the remaining cats will have to live out the rest of their lives here with us. It seems tragic to me that although it is perfectly legal to own serval cats here in Michigan and a lot of other states, if these cats need help or end up in rescue, they would most certainly be destroyed. Michigan is not the only state that has an automatic destroy policy on any wild animal found in or near city limits. I was told by many of our humane societies that they do not have the funds to feed a wild animal a raw diet, so they would be destroyed. Other shelters say they have no experienced veterinarians or personnel that would want to handle these cats and again, they would be destroyed. Sadly, zoos do not want these gorgeous cats either. They are too small to draw a crowd, I was told by one zoo, but Marli seems to have no trouble doing just that wherever we go.

In this disposable day and age, these cats need our help more than ever. It seems that some wild cats have been sold in Michigan out of pet stores with little or no education about their special dietary needs and the constant enrichment they must receive. I have also noted that it is equally as easy to purchase them online and not all breeders spend the time with a potential customer that Bill and Diana have spent with us. It is to my deepest regret that Big Spotty Cat Rescue has had to turn away six wild cats in the last 10 months due to the lack of space and the cost of feeding these magnificent

animals.

Thanks to all of our friends and family that have offered their help with the construction of our new and permanent indoor/outdoor enclosures that we are hoping to build in late 2008. The overwhelming support of everyone has been a positive motivation for Mark and I and has really kept us going. However, there are always going to be some people that do not take the time to understand what it is that we are doing.

Just last week we suffered a setback at our beautiful home and rescue when some people tried to break in to our cat refuge. These individuals believed that their abandoned and sick cats that they left in a drug filled hotel room in Plymouth, Michigan were in our rescue. They were not. There was considerable vandalism done to the doors, windows, and siding but no cats were harmed or removed so we are good. We are investing in a much-needed gate and a security system to prevent this problem from happening again.

We also have, or I should say, Marli has made friends with our local sheriff's office as well and they seem to be dedicated to protecting him and his friends. There is much more to do and I know this is just the beginning. I am hoping that other breeders and pet owners will share their knowledge and experience with outdoor enclosures with us. It is my hope that we can also implement some tactics to help protect wildcats; I would like to work with the USDA to start a wildcat ID program. This program would require all breeders of wildcats to chip each and every cat they produce and register that number and the buyer's ID and track them in a national database. This way if the animal ends up in a rescue, we know exactly where they came from and who the breeder is. I would like to be able to give compensation to all the responsible breeders, which have spent all their own money and time to help in the rescue of cats that have been abused. Lastly I would like to create a hot list of unsuitable pet owners, this list would have the name and ID of any person that had animals confiscated from them before and proven them unfit to care for animals. It is up to all of us to protect our right to keep animals like Marli and many others alive. Please help by always reporting any neglect or abuse of any animal. All it takes for evil to prevail is for a few good people to do nothing. Until next time, thank you from all of us at Big Spotty Cat Rescue. •

## How We Are Providing For Our Animals in the Event of Our Death

By Kathy Stearns, Director  
Dade City's Wild Things

This question came sooner than any one of us thought it would. Life comes at you fast and without any notice. Just this last fall my husband, Kenny, started to feel bad and after repeated hospital and doctor visits he discovered that he had a carotid artery dissection in his left artery and that 80% die immediately. After being scared out of our minds and counting our blessings, we realized he is on gifted time now. What if things had gone differently? It makes you appreciate your health but most of all makes you understand how quickly life can change.

Kenny and I have a non-profit sanctuary zoo called Dade City's Wild Things in historical Dade City, Florida. We have over 150 animals we committed to provide lifetime care for. We have worried many times how they would be cared for if something happened to us. Finding someone to care for the animals is hard enough but expecting then to handle the huge financial bur-

den is almost impossible. The other option I have heard others put into place in their will is to have their animals euthanized; this is not even an option for us. We have also become concerned after hearing many times of a death of an animal owner, the spouse or children who tolerated the animals while the animal lover was alive wanted nothing to do with them upon their death. We also became concerned with the financial burden that arises when a provider dies and money becomes hard to come by and the animals become a burden. We pondered these problems and came to the realization that it is no different than providing for your underage children.

My late father, Jim, instilled in my husband and I at an early time in our marriage, over 30 years ago, how important life insurance can be to the peace of mind of family or businesses during a time when you lose a major income provider due to a death or disability. By taking this same principal and turning it to my animals, we had a solution and the problem was solved.

Our non-profit corporation becomes the beneficiary of the life insurance. This will guarantee a time period of security for the adjustment time of losing a major director and provider. We also have our kids control the corporation upon our death. If by some reason the kids are killed simultaneously with us, a beneficiary will still provide for the animals through the corporation. It is a lot easier to find someone to care for animals when the money is there to do the job. This provides me the peace of mind knowing that my animals will be provided for. It also gives my family peace of mind knowing that the money will be there to provide for the animals that have become such a passion for me. I think it is important to have something you have worked so hard to build have the ability to survive you. But most of all, these awesome animals deserve to have a secure future and a long life. We have been entrusted by God and nature to care for them and it is our responsibility to work out the logistics to continue that care even after we are gone. •  
<http://www.dadecityswildthings.com>

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### Two Board Members Resign

In May, Carol Bohning, Director of Education, submitted her resignation from the board, citing increasing family and financial responsibilities that have kept her from participating in FCF affairs. Carol has taught the FCF husbandry course the past few years.

In June, Irene Satterfield, Director of Public Relations, submitted her written resignation from the board. Irene gave no reason, but she has been uninvolved in FCF events and board meetings. Irene developed our previous web site in 2005 and introduced FCF to the concept of using the web site for maintaining the membership database.

On behalf of the board of directors, we wish to thank both Carol and Irene for their past service to the FCF and hope these ladies will be able to participate in FCF programs and events in the future.

As president I wrote to all FCF members with email to ask for volunteers to fill these empty seats. I am pleased that so many members answered the call and the FCF board is presently conducting a meeting for the purpose of appointing two candidates to fill these empty seats. •

# Shock in a Serval Kitten

By Lynn Culver

I woke up at 6:00 am to my daily routine of bottle-feeding an assortment of kittens including a pair of 7 week-old servals, and a trio of 5 week-old bobcats, and a month-old serval. I opened one nighttime crate to release the older servals and opened the other crate for the younger serval and bobcats. Immediately one of the bobcats bounced out and followed me to the kitchen. I picked her up and noticed that there were two slightly moist areas on her back fur that smelled of sour milk. I suspected that one of the other kittens had vomited upon her so I returned to that crate to discover the serval kitten still sleeping inside a double decker cat condo. I picked her up and immediately knew she was gravely ill. Her body was limp, her eyes were sunken and glassy, open but unseeing, and she was totally unresponsive. She was in a coma.

As I took inventory of the situation, I could see that she had skin tenting when I pinched, a total loss of brightness and roundness of her eyes, dry mucous membranes, coolness to her ears and paw pads, shallow breathing, and a rapid heart rate. All the signs added up to 12% to 15% dehydration. She was in serious shock and near death.

Being 6:00 in the morning, I was on my own. I had to draw upon my years of experience to aid this critically ill patient. I knew this kitten would need heat and fluids immediately. I plugged in the heating pad and laid her directly upon it, and then I opened a fresh bag of Lactated Ringers solution. I filled a 6cc syringe and heated the fluid in the microwave before injecting it under her skin around her shoulders. I did this four times, giving her a rapid bolus of 24ccs of electrolytes.

I had to make some assumptions about the cause of her condition. Clearly her vomiting played a role. What was not clear was why she vomited. Other kittens were fed the same formula and were doing fine. Was she in hypovolemic shock from fluid loss? Or was this a case of septic shock from systemic bacterial poisoning? Was there possibly a pneumonia component to the problem? I decided to inject her with

0.05cc of Baytril, an antibiotic that attacks a wide range of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. The bactericidal activity of enrofloxacin (Baytril) can cause cell death of susceptible bacteria within 20-30 minutes. I was not sure this was a bacterial problem, but I could not take a chance.

It was now 6:10 am. Her breathing was shallow, she began to gasp for breath, and then her breathing stopped. Her heart was still pumping, but she was in the final stages of shutdown. I pressed on her chest to get her breathing again and stroked her body to stimulate her and let her know she was not alone. I turned her over to heat the other side of body.

I decided to administer a hefty dose of dexamethasone. This would help stabilize her and, as my veterinarian says, “never let an animal die without the benefit of steroids.” I injected 0.1cc of this corticosteroid into her thigh muscle. Then I filled two more 6cc syringes with Lactated Ringers solution and injected her again. I placed a blanket over her and never took my eyes off her. The blanket was gently rising and falling, telling me she was breath-

ing.

It was now 6:30. I had just conquered my first hurdle. She was still in extremely critical condition, but she had moved one step away from death and that gave me hope to continue trying. Again I looked for clues as to the source of her problem. The fact that her breathing had stabilized and there was no chest noise assured me this was not pneumonia. As I felt all over her limp body I noticed a very large bulge in her gut, not where her stomach should be, but lower. It was her bladder, larger than I have ever felt before. I pressed upon the swollen bladder but no urine was expelled. I wondered, did she have a block in her urinary canal and that is what is poisoning her? Then I laid her on her belly and tried expressing the bladder as I stimulated her anus area with toilet paper. The combined actions caused her to void urine and I was able to relieve the intense pressure.

Over the next 2.5 hours I kept a close watch. I administered 0.3cc of vitamin B complex to help boost her red blood cells, which can be destroyed during a hemolytic crisis. During that time period I also inject-



**Saved by a steroid: serval kitten fully recovered.**

ed an additional 24cc of Lactated Ringers solution around her spine near her hips and I gave her a second 0.1cc shot of dexamethasone.

Vomiting can trigger hypoglycemia, especially in small kittens, and critically low blood sugar can bring about shock as well. Several times I dribbled a few drops of maple syrup on her tongue to raise her blood glucose level.

She was still alive at 9:00 am, but still in a complete coma. I could touch her eyes and nothing happened, no blink reflex at all. I wondered about her temperature. I inserted a thermometer and was surprised when it only registered 94 degrees after lying on a heating pad for three hours. Clearly I needed to get more aggressive about warming her up because she was not going to pull out of this coma until her core temperature reached a more normal range.

I thought about using a warm water bath, but decided against it for fear she might inhale some water and because I did not want her to go through a chill when I removed her from the water. Instead, I got out another heating pad and wrapped it in between another blanket so that she had one pad below her and another on top.

I had been turning her over every 15 minutes, to equalize her heating and prevent fluid build up around her lungs. Now I nervously checked her temperature every five minutes. Over the next 45 minutes I gradually raised her temperature from 94.2 degrees up to 100.2.

Four hours had passed since I first discovered her. I had administered a total of 60cc of Lactated Ringers solution, steroids, antibiotics, B-vitamins and maple syrup, but she was still in a coma. She had no voluntary movements, not even a blink reflex. Her eyes still looked like a dead animal, she was not out of the danger zone yet.

I switched to liquid glucose when my husband Bart came home at 10:00 am and told me where it was stored. He keeps it around for his diabetes. I filled a 1cc syringe and dripped it under her tongue, knowing her mucus membranes would absorb it. I stroked her body and for the first time, noticed a slight movement in the tip of her tail. This was a big development.

Over the next half hour, I gave her two more 1cc syringes of glucose. I placed the syringe in the back of her tongue and caused a gag reflex to cause her to swallow.

She was finally coming out of it.

I kept monitoring her temperature, rotating her body, stroking her fur and willing her to wake up. At 11:00 am, five hours after I had first discovered her, I whispered into her ears that I loved her, and she let out a tiny, faint purr. She heard me and responded! She was coming back. I called Bart in to see her. He feared I was telling him to say good-bye. I told him no, go talk to her and tell her you love her. He knelt down beside her and spoke softly into her ears and she squeaked and squeaked at him and purred. It was a miracle. Over the next 30 minutes I witnessed her waking up from her coma and waving her paws. She responded to squeezing her paws by pulling back. But her face looked so thin; it was amazing how much weight she had lost overnight. The fluids I had administered had her skin soft and supple now, but her face was gaunt and covered with sticky maple syrup. I knelt beside her and licked around her mouth and told her I loved her and she raised her head for the first time. At 11:30 she squeaked and sat up and purred. She was awake now, but exhausted. I injected her another 12cc of Lactated Ringers solution and covered her with the blanket to let her sleep it off, knowing that she was safely on the road to recovery.

At noon I lifted the blanket and petted her and she stood up and purred and was so happy to be alive. I picked her up and cuddled her and she nuzzled my hand looking for a bottle. It was amazing. I warmed a bottle and she nursed while she purred and kneaded me with her paws. She was ecstatic and could not really nurse, for all the purring. She drank about  $\frac{3}{4}$  an ounce. Her normal feeding is 2 ounces. But considering how dehydrated she had been, this was plenty. I gave her a final dose of 12cc of subcutaneous fluids and put her on the ground. She pranced and danced and purred and trilled. I believe some of her happiness came from her shot of steroids.

I kept her locked up a lot that day to let her sleep and recover. By the evening she drank  $\frac{3}{4}$  of her normal amount of formula. I discontinued the antibiotics because I do not think she needed them. With her drinking fluids in her bottle, I also discontinued her Lactated Ringers injections.

She has recovered and is gaining back body weight with no apparent long-term effects to her near-death experience. •

## What is Shock?

In cases of clinical shock, the cardiovascular system fails to move blood to peripheral areas (limbs), fails to provide nourishment, and fails to remove waste products. There are two main types of shock.

Hypovolemic shock is caused by a loss of circulating blood volume, either through internal or external bleeding, or dehydration from lack of fluid intake, or vomiting. Hypovolemic shock will reduce venous return to the heart and lower cardiac output. To compensate for its reduced cardiovascular efficiency, the animal will mobilize what defenses it can, constricting the smaller blood vessels to reduce capillary pressure. Blood is shunted to the brain and other areas requiring high oxygen levels. If this condition is not corrected, it will eventually cause organ failure.

Another type of shock is septic shock, which is caused by cell destruction from bacterial endotoxins that have become systemic throughout the animal's body. Possible sources of intestinal endotoxins are *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *pseudomonas*.

Shock is a life-threatening syndrome that can cause organ systems, such as the kidneys, to fail. The gastrointestinal tract can lose its protective layer of mucus, which allows fluids, plasma, and even whole blood to leak into the intestinal tract, leaving the body even more deficient. As this system shuts down, bacterial proliferation occurs. All of these processes make the work of the heart progressively more difficult. If not corrected, the heart will fail.

The goal in shock therapy is to stop the peripheral shutdown by reversing the vasoconstriction and simultaneously increasing the blood volume. The patient must be warmed and lost fluids must be replaced. Steroids should be given soon after fluid therapy has begun to assist in the recovery. In cases of septic shock, antibiotic therapy is also instituted.

By warming a patient, the cutaneous vessels become dilated and that increases blood flow, pulse, blood pressure, and breathing rate.

Derangements in acid-base balance usu-

**Continued on 37**

# You Can Still Attend FCF's Convention!

It's not too late to register for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Feline Conservation Federation Convention July 24-26, 2008 and Wild Feline Husbandry Course July 23. Both are in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Hyde Park Villa accommodations at the Hilton Kingston Plantation are extremely limited now. We have reserved a couple of two bedroom villas (\$225 per night) for late registrants. Call convention committee member Carolyn Clendinen (571-292-0118) if you want to have one of these villas reserved in your name or ask her to check if any bedrooms or sofa space is still available in other villas.

The FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course starts 8:00am Wednesday, July 23.

Convention begins Thursday afternoon in the Brighton Towers FCF Hospitality Suite with registration and social mixing. That evening we'll have a icebreaker reception with hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

Registration and social mixing that afternoon are followed by an icebreaker reception and general membership meeting that evening.

Friday we take a special tour of the lushly landscaped feline resort known as The Institute for Greatly Endangered and Rare Species—T.I.G.E.R.S. It is the home facility of Bhagavan "Doc" Antle. Doc has several special events lined up for us, including watching his tigers chase lures. He has just completed his brand new water habitat that will enable us to watch underwater action through glass as big cats and elephant swim with the trainers (see back cover). We will also see a falconry demonstration and meet many trained animal actors and goodwill ambassadors. Friday afternoon and evening will be free for enjoying the beach, local sights, or to relax in the villas and play with the kittens members bring.

Saturday's super lineup of speakers includes:

- Nigel Marven, international naturalist and a regular host on Animal Planet and Discovery channel shows.
- Dan Stockdale, a sought-after animal issues expert.
- Dr. Jim Sanderson, FCF conservation advisor and internationally recognized expert in feline species population research and habitat protection.
- Anne-Sophie Bertrand, FCF sponsored researcher is returning from Brazil to report on ongoing puma and margay protection and studies.

Saturday evening is the grand finale with a full banquet dinner and fun-filled benefit auction. The FCF annual auction is everyone's chance to contribute to FCF. Proceeds

from your donated auction items help this organization provide valuable services. Whether you can attend convention or not, please donate to this auction by mailing your item to our secretary Betsy Whitlock, %Keller Williams Realty, 33 Pine Lane, Franklin, NC 28734.

Convention registration fee is \$225 per person and \$75 for each child. Husbandry course fee is \$65 or \$95 for non-FCF members. To register, send check and contact info to FCF Treasurer, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, IN 47879. More details on the convention and husbandry course and an easy to use on-line registration form can be accessed on the FCF web site at [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org). Questions? Call convention chair Kevin Chambers at 812-397-2302. •



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## From 36

ally accompany dehydration, so one must correct both electrolyte and fluid deficits, and mild acidosis. The most commonly used solution for rehydration is Lactated Ringers. This fluid is isotonic, which means it will not draw fluid out of the cells

by osmosis.

Steroid drugs are synthetic analogues to hormones produced by the body in the adrenal cortex. Large doses of corticosteroids in shock therapy increase the cardiac output by strengthening the cardiac contractions and cause a vasodilatation

effect on arterioles and venules that assist in the delivery of antibiotics when used in septic shock. Steroids also increase the cellular waste disposal, improve citric acid cycling, increase energy production, stabilize the cellular membranes, and restore the capillary endothelial membranes. •

# Blast from the Past. . . .

## The Saga of Sydney

**Long Island Ocelot Club**

**July/August 1994—Volume 38, Issue 4**

By Sandra Cassalia

I remember asking, “What is a jungle cat?” I was talking with a friend, Joyce, who breeds quite a few different species of exotic cats. She offered me a jungle cat kitten, seven weeks old. I’d raised servals, caracals, cougars, and now had a Bengal tiger, yet I had never heard of this cat also referred to as the “swamp cat” or “reed cat.” After researching this feline, I called Joyce and said I’d take him. When he arrived I fell instantly in love! Here was this tiny little black ball of fur with ear tufts. He was absolutely adorable! He spent all his waking hours with me so it did not take long for us to bond to each other. He was so sweet; he loved to sit in my lap and lick my lips, all the while purring.

Then *it* happened. Sydney, as we had named him, was now 11 weeks old and just adored my Doberman, Cajun. They were playing in the bedroom while I was on the bed talking on the phone. I heard the most pitiful cry. I looked for Sydney who had run behind the waterbed. When I coaxed him out, he was dragging his back legs, completely stretched out, behind him. We rushed him to the vet on emergency call (it was 12:30 am). After X-rays were taken,

the vet told us Sydney had broken his back. Cajun must have jumped on him while playing. He told us it would not heal and there was nothing we could do for him. He advised us to put Sydney down. My immediate reaction was “no!” He was so special to me. I asked if he was in pain—the answer was a probable yes. I spoke with my husband, David, who said that if Sid was in pain and there was nothing we could do and maybe we should put him down. We asked to see Sydney again. When we walked in he was purring and trying to crawl to me. He did not look as if he were in pain, he was not crying or wincing in pain except when the vet was feeling his back. We just could not end this happy boy’s life so we called Texas A&M. They said to bring him in, maybe they could help.

We immediately left for the three-hour trip to College Station. Upon our arrival, they took Sydney and his records and told us they would call us later after his evaluation. I sat on pins and needles until mid-afternoon when they called and said that we

should put him down. He would never walk again and although he did not seem to be in much pain, they still felt it would be better to put him down. I begged them to do everything in their power to help my precious Sydney.

Two days later they called to tell me Sid had completely stopped eating. I asked if he were in excruciating pain. The answer: no. I told them I would come and try to hand feed him. It worked! He would eat everything I’d give him and then some. So, every morning I left David to care for the 200+ animals we had and drove the three hours to see Sydney. I would stay with him during the day, feeding him. Despite all his problems, he was a very happy, active kitten. He would drag himself all over his cage, roll on his back and play, and still loved to give me kisses. On the third or fourth day the vets said there was nothing



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**U.A.P.P.E.A.L. has retained The Ferguson Group lobby team and is currently opposing Haley’s Act (SB1947), the Captive Primate Safety Act (SB1498), and Technical Amendment to the CWSA HR 4933. Your membership and donations are greatly appreciated.**

more to do for him. Again they asked if they could put him down. I took Sid, paid my bill, and went home.

I called everyone for advice on how to help my baby. Then Sidney and I started home therapy. He was kept in a small cage to restrict his movement. He still wanted to be hand-fed and needed to be cleaned often as he would soil himself every time he went potty. We started out slowly, every 3-4 hours I would take him out and stand him up on his hind legs, holding him yet letting some of his weight fall back on his legs. We gradually increased his therapy to 20 minutes of therapy every hour. He began to gain strength in his legs, so we started walking. I would literally have to move his back legs, but boy his front legs sure wanted to go!

He never once complained when he was getting his medicine whether it was liquid, pill, or injection, he would take them willingly. Progress was being made and he could actually take a few steps on his own before his back legs would fail him.

One morning, about two and a half months into this therapy, I opened his cage and he came leaping into my lap. From that day on, he improved tremendously. By the age of 5½ months he was 95% better. On good days you'd never know this happened. Bad days did occur, but they were becoming further and further apart. He would walk with his back legs very stiff.

He rejoined the family which, in the house, included a cougar kitten, three serval kits, and Cajun. Everything was going so well...and then *it* happened. He was now 8

months old and growing daily. He was walking around the bedroom and all of a sudden he made a horrible noise. He was stretching his neck out all the way and his tail was going a mile a minute. "He's choking," I thought. I jumped up, screamed for David, grabbed Sid's face and shoved my fingers down his throat to dislodge this unknown object. Just one problem, there was nothing there. Sid stopped making the noise, obviously—my fingers were down his throat—and gave me a look as if he thought I was losing my mind. He was fine. We all settled down for bed and then he started again. Again, fingers down the throat, again nothing there. But this time he continued doing it. I rolled him on his side and tried the Heimlich maneuver. Nothing! Again he looked at me as if I'd lost my mind. I put him in bed with me and we went to sleep.

The next morning we awoke to his choking again. This time Sidney ran away from me, all the while looking back as if I were trying to murder him. He just could not understand this new fascination of mine of thrusting my fingers down his throat. I called Joyce and was trying to explain to her what was going on when Sid started again. I held the phone up to him so she could hear the noise and immediately heard her laughter. "That's just his mating call, Sandy," she said. Well, I felt like the biggest fool. I had no idea that such a small cat could make such a loud noise. Poor Sidney must have thought somewhere along the way his mating call went bad, because every time he did it, I'd come running

along and shove my fingers down his throat.

This reminds me of a couple we sold one of our baby spider monkeys to. They called us one morning at 3 am crying hysterically because their monkey was having some sort of epileptic attack or something and they did not know what to do. They were all asleep, with the monkey on her side when she woke up from its noise. It was furiously shaking its head back and forth and making a sort of "ell-ell-eh" noise. Boy did they laugh (and probably feel like fools, as I did with Sid), when, after they put the phone to the monkey's mouth I told them their spider monkey was definitely having an attack—a laughter attack! Spiders shake their heads and laugh when they're having a good time.

Anyway, Sidney is now almost 4 years old. He weighs about 24 pounds and he has proven to be quite the stud. He now has sired 62 kittens, both pure jungle cat and jungle hybrids (Nile cats), with another litter on its way. He is just as sweet today as the day he flew into my life. He does have bad days, especially when it is overcast or raining, when he gets stiff. He loves for me to give him a back rub on these days. He also has medicine that helps. For the most part though, he is one healthy, happy jungle cat and I could not be happier with him. He is not mouthy at all, I can carry him anywhere, and he just loves to head butt me.

In closing I'd just like to thank Joyce for opening my life to such a wonderful animal.

*Ed. Note: Sydney suffered a compression fracture of the L3 vertebrae.*

## SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



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

## FCF Board Meeting Minutes, May 2008

The board meeting was opened on May 16, 2008 by Lynn Culver on new web forums. The polls on this forum do not record the voter identity, so board members were asked to indicate how they voted in the text boxes. The follow topics were posted for discussion, ratification, or voting:

A report on the Field Representatives program, ratification of a target mailing expense, ratification of Felid TAG expense, ratification of amendment to the ballot counting policy, discussion on creating a mail forwarding service, review of the progress on the new website, a discussion on web site advertising, review the first quarter Financial Report, and approval of a new written reimbursement policy.

### *Field Representatives program:*

Evelyn Shaw presented a list of states that do not yet have state representatives and noted that Wayne Sluder was stepping down from his position as chairperson and

Region 5 Representative to spend more time working in conservation.

### *Ratify the expense for a target mailing:*

Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Betsy Whitlock to spend \$400 to print and mail extra *FCF Journals* and letters, membership applications, and convention registration forms to USDA licensed and Florida licensed feline facilities. The balance of this expense is being covered by a grant from the FCF editor, Mike Friese.

Yes—Culver, Chambers, Whitlock, Shaw, Stinner, Clendinen, Satterfield, Bean, Rabinski. The expense is ratified.

### *Ratify expense for Kevin Chambers attending Felid TAG:*

Moved By Lynn Culver and seconded by Betsy Whitlock that Kevin Chambers be reimbursed up to \$400 for travel expense receipts for FCF representation at the April Felid TAG in Cincinnati.

Yes—Culver, Chambers, Whitlock, Shaw, Stinner, Bean. The expense is rati-

fied.

### *Discussion on creating a mail forwarding service:*

Bobby Bean proposed contracting for a mail forwarding service to provide FCF with a permanent address and eliminate the problem of changing addresses every two years as officers and directors come and go. Estimated monthly costs run from \$40 plus postage expenses. Further investigation on costs and long-term contractual obligations were recommended.

### *Review of the progress on the new web site:*

Lynn Culver presented an overview of the status of the new web site and what work was left to complete. Irene Satterfield did not provide the new webmaster the membership database so Lynn and Carolyn had to recreate it. The board forum database files have also not been forwarded by Irene. The FCF will not renew the hosting contact with Irene and M6. Forums on the new site will be in the members-only section, and will be available for discussion on FCF projects, committees, and volunteering.

### *Web Site Advertising:*

There was discussion on offering advertising on our web site to various commercial advertisers.

### *Ratify motion to amend the ballot counting policy:*

Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Evelyn Shaw that the voting policy be amended to allow accountants who are not “CPA” accountants to count membership ballots.

Yes—Culver, Chambers, Whitlock, Shaw, Stinner, Clendinen, Bean. Amendment passes.

### *First quarter Financial Report:*

Income	\$12,373.94
Expenses	\$13,296.55
Total Assets	\$51,124.01

### *Reimbursement policy:*

Kevin Chambers provided written policies regarding reimbursement into the record. Moved by Brian Werner and seconded by Kevin Chambers that the policy on reimbursements be adopted and added to the FCF Programs and Policies docu-

## 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: Convention Speakers**

Tina Thompson  
Richard Hahn  
Tim Stoffel  
Laura Walker  
Abraham Basmajian  
Sanctuary Supplies-Kathy Creed  
Betsy Whitlock  
Debi Willoughby  
Margaret Woodard

### **Project: Legislative**

Helen Turner

### **Project: General Use**

Betsy Whitlock

### **Feline Transport Fund**

Brian Daiaga

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

*Betsy Whitlock*  
*Secretary FCF*



ment:

1. All requests for reimbursement are to be made to the treasurer. The request must include a detailed description of what the expenditure was for and either an original or copy of the receipt(s). Only expenses occurred in the performance of the duties of an FCF office or appointment will be reimbursed, unless previously approved by the FCF board.

2. All travel expenses paid for by FCF will be reimbursed to the person authorized to receive the travel expenditure, and will not be prepaid by FCF. Before reimbursement is made, the recipient will submit either an original or copy of all receipts to the treasurer and submit a report, suitable for printing in the *FCF Journal*, to the board of directors (though it may not necessarily be printed).

3. Money owed to FCF for any reason by an individual may not be subtracted from a reimbursement owed to that individual or a third party by FCF. A check for the full amount of the reimbursement must be made to the recipient for accounting purposes. The money owed to FCF must also be paid for in the full amount of the debt without any subtractions for expenses for accounting purposes. FCF must receive payment of any current debts first before for the reimbursement will be sent.

4. If an FCF member is delinquent in paying funds due to FCF, their payment for membership dues or any other product or service of the FCF will be held until the debt has been resolved. If a person submits a renewal or application for new membership while delinquent in a debt owed to FCF, the person shall be notified that the debt must be resolved before the new membership is approved or the renewal made effective. If, after 10 working days after receipt of written notification by the individual, the membership dues will be returned to the individual. If the individual is a current member past the grace period on their renewal, they will be dropped from the membership. Dues will be accepted once the debt is resolved.

Yes—Culver, Werner, Chambers, Whitlock, Clendinen, Bean. No—Satterfield, Shaw. Motion passes.

The meeting was closed on May 23. •

## Call for Nominations to the Board

From May 1 to August 10, 2008 all FCF members may submit by US Mail or electronic mail, their nomination of candidates for board positions to the FCF secretary, Betsy Whitlock. (Contact information is on the inside cover of each journal.) It takes two FCF member signatures to properly nominate someone as a candidate for office.

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.

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 are mailed in the September/October issue of the *FCF 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.

*Lynn Culver*  
*President FCF*

## Constitutional Amendment Ballot Results

Hirman Munger has counted all ballots and the results on the motion to amend Article I of the Constitution to change the name of the corporation to Feline Conservation Foundation are as follows:

*40 votes in favor of the amendment*  
*60 votes against the amendment.*

The motion did not pass.

I wish to thank the members who took an interest in the organization and submitted a motion for change. As a democratic society,

it is your right to propose amendments to the constitution for the membership's consideration.

I wish to thank everyone who took the time to vote, and in some cases took the time to mail their ballot a second time. Your participation in the future direction of the FCF is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Culver*  
*President*

FOCUS ON NATURE®  
*Insight into the lives of animals*  
**JAGUAR**



The heavily-built, solitary JAGUAR (*panthera onca*) lives among dense, riparian vegetation in the rain forests of Mexico, Central, and South America. He uses stealth and power to overcome large prey, such as peccaries, in a single bound. Males weigh about 79 kg (174 lbs) and females about 59 kg (130 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](http://www.Rmasonfinearts.com)*



**Clockwise from top:**  
Kurt Beckelman with some of  
Lynn Culver's serval and bobcat  
kittens • ServalSofa—Cathy  
Spohrer • Judy Beren's chee-  
tahs Matt and Charlie relax  
under their new cabana. Judy,  
please mix the mai tais!—David  
Linde

# Your best Spot





**T.I.G.E.R.S. staff practice swimming with Nariyana, a royal white male tiger, in the new pool at the Myrtle Beach facility. Teaching tigers to swim with people changes their perspective of size and balance for the animal and the trainers as well as creates a great perception of the tiger's power and grace for the guests at the T.I.G.E.R.S Preserve. From left Julia, China, Kody, Kyle, Rajani, Moksha, and Ashley. Photo: Kheira Knoop.**

#### **FCF Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, July 23** FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. Brighton Towers, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Presented in conjunction with the FCF convention. Eight modules teach everything from feline natural history to contingency planning, behavior training, enclosure designs, regulations, and more. \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 non-members. 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](http://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 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 \$225 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](http://www.felineconservation.org)

**August 29-31** UAPPEAL Expo. Hot Springs, Arkansas. Velda Rose Hotel. Expo features seminars, speakers, and trade show, Friday night welcome party, banquet, and auction on Saturday night, Sunday continental breakfast, and UAPPEAL T-shirt with new logo. FCF will be participating with a booth and seminar. Registration fee is \$100, payable to UAPPEAL, 23412 Hwy 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

**Sunday, August 31** FCF Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. \$65.00 FCF members, \$95.00 non-members. 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](http://www.felineconservation.org). The course is held in conjunction with the UAPPEAL Expo in Arkansas at the Velda Rose Hotel, 105 Westhill Lane, Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913. Rooms: \$60 + tax. Call 1-888-624-3311 [www.veldarose.net](http://www.veldarose.net).

