

Feline

Feline Conservation Federation
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A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of this journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to the convention, and participation in our discussion groups. Your membership helps the conservation of exotic felines through support of habitat protection and conservation, education, and breeding programs. Send \$35 (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, c/o Kevin Chambers, 7816 N CR 75 W, Shelburn, IN 47879.

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

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

Cover: Judy Berens with her cheetah, Charlie. Photo Copyright © 2008 David Linde, Lake Worth, FL.
Background: P'uch'ub, Shelleen Matthews outreach Canada lynx, just 6 weeks old. Photo by Erika Colombo.



Feline Conservation Federation

This magazine is published bimonthly by the Feline Conservation Federation. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this publication is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members. The material printed is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. FCF's Statement of Intent is contained in our bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the secretary. Reproduction of the material in this magazine may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. We encourage all members to contribute articles. Articles on exotic feline ownership, husbandry, veterinary care, conservation and legislation are gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Submission deadline for the next issue is the first day of even numbered months. Please submit all photos and articles to the editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should consult instructions on inside front cover of this journal. Dues are \$35 US, \$45 Canada, and \$50 international.

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Letter from the President

With this journal you will find many interesting reports on the convention in Myrtle Beach. This was the biggest gathering of FCF members in our 50-year history. Over 180 people traveled from all across the country and even from other continents to participate in the fellowship, learning, and feline experiences offered. I wish to thank Doc Antle for his hospitality and careful planning that enabled us to tour his wonderful T.I.G.E.R.S. preserve. It was a day that will live forever in our memory.

During the convention's Saturday night banquet, FCF awarded a \$2,000 grant to Fauna-Andina for the captive breeding of guïñas, under the guidance of Fernando Vidal. The FCF commitment to conservation of endangered felines and support of managed breeding programs may result in

the world's first captive birth of guïña in the near future.

I was truly surprised to have Cathryn Hilker honor my work in a video presentation and to have Nigel Marvin give me the beautiful original painting of my bobcat and Geoffroy kittens by artist Rochelle Mason. I am humbled at the appreciation for my service to this organization. Over the years I have spent many days and many nights either worrying or working to see FCF through both difficult and happy times. I intend to continue to assist this organization into the future, possibly as its first executive director if the newly elected board chooses.

Conventions do not just fall together; they are the result of continuous efforts by our convention chairman Kevin Chambers

and the other committee members. Kevin is one of the few volunteers who will reliably perform whatever he is assigned. Whether he is asked to take our corporate finances into the 21st century with QuickBooks Online or orchestrate a fund raising raffle for the Conservation Grants Fund or gain donations for international speakers or lead the planning of an entire convention, I know I can count on Kevin to see the project through.

The board recently voted to enact a single renewal date to handle the high volume of memberships and renewals. The annual renewal date for all members is now October 1. The board also voted to increase annual renewal fees for U.S. members to \$35, for Canada members to \$40, and for international members to \$50. FCF is pre-

pared for the continued increase in membership growth and public recognition that a conservation organization like ours deserves.

In this issue you hold the future of the FCF. This is the most important issue of the year, because inside are the candidate platforms for the offices of the Feline Conservation Federation. Also included are a pre-addressed envelope (we have carefully checked the accountant's address twice) and a ballot for voting. If you do nothing else for this organization the entire year, you cannot afford to sit on the sidelines of this election.

When people are elected and do not serve out their term of office, it causes a serious drain on the board's time. The board responded this year by passing a bylaw. Volunteers who resign from appointments or elected positions are not eligible to run for office in the next election cycle. Three nominees were ineligible by this bylaw.

The candidate platforms in this journal contain a lot of new names. Not only are these names new to you, but also some are new to FCF. I am pleased at the interest our organization has generated in the members. Together we must pick a board that shares a unified vision and can work professionally and harmoniously together. This is a great group of candidates and I believe no matter who is elected, the next board will not be drowned in wasteful drama.

I have set up FCF Forums in the members-only section of the web site where the candidate platforms you are reading in this journal are also posted, along with the opportunity for candidates to expand their platform. Members may ask questions, post support, or express concerns. This is a fair way to allow those with Internet access to participate in the political process and learn more about the candidates. If you are a Yahoo member and not used to forums, it is easy to use so do not be intimidated. These forums do not arrive in your email inbox, but stay in cyberspace on the FCF web site. You must visit the FCF private home to view the forums. All I ask of members is to keep harmony in our home. If you wish to point out a concern about a candidate, do it politely and with respect. Any slanderous posts will be deleted. There is also a section in the forums that cover the dozen non-running candidates and who nominated them

for what position and why they have decided not to run.

This organization has seen tremendous growth this past year. Some who joined recently did so with intent to undermine the progress this board has worked so hard to accomplish. This reality has brought to light the significant lack of protection against voter fraud or hostile takeover and the board is now working to address these deficiencies.

One member had been paying for a large number of new memberships. This person was also nominated for vice president. The last batch of memberships paid for by this person contained people who have been outwardly hostile to the FCF. The board voted to deny membership to these 15 people. This past month the distractions and drama and ever-changing demands on the board by this one member reached a critical point. The board voted to rescind this person's membership. He is no longer a candidate for office.

This past spring Carol Bohning resigned due to pressing family issues and Irene Satterfield also resigned. The board has appointed excellent replacements and filled both these empty seats.

I am very pleased to welcome Sylvia Gerber as our new Director of Education. She was one of eight highly qualified individuals that volunteered for this position. Sylvia is excited to be in charge of the husbandry courses and has already organized an education committee to work on other projects. Sylvia and I just finished teaching a successful husbandry course at the UAP-PEAL Circle of Unity Expo in Hot Springs, Arkansas over the Labor Day weekend.

Dan Stockdale is a wonderful choice for our new Director of Public Relations. Dan has already jumped right in with two press releases over the two tiger incidents in Missouri. Dan has plenty of corporate experience and he has advised the board on streamlining our communications. He has crafted announcements on sensitive issues related to the election and possible voter fraud.

During the last board meeting Evelyn Shaw resigned under duress and has left the FCF as well. After resigning, Evelyn deleted the Yahoo lists created for the Field Representative Program. All the uploaded resource files and all the planning and discussions by state and regional reps are gone. This program was designed to enable legislative information to be passed from one generation of representatives to the next. Evelyn has destroyed the hard work of many members. The legislation director position will be filled by appointment. Legislation is an important and sensitive position. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact me by phone or email.

FCF will never abandon pet ownership as the origin of our love of the cats and as an essential part of conservation. But we cannot afford to have an amateurish board. Our leadership must be professional. I know that each of these candidates running for office shares that love of the feline and shares special relationships with their cats. And when combined, these candidates will create diversity, build unity, and strengthen this organization, insuring that FCF protects all exotic cat species so that they will always have habitat, both captive and wild. •

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So You Want a Cheetah?

By Judy Berens

Easier said than done. Be prepared for an exercise in frustration that will try your patience like never before.

The permit process is complicated and I would recommend choosing an experienced person to write and submit your permit to the USFW. They will want to know every minute detail about your current animals—births, deaths, ages, sexes, origin—your facility, your intentions, and plans for the future.

You will be expected to have an enclosure in place before your permit is granted. Drawings must be submitted and USFW will not hesitate to question why you put a bolt here and a screw there.

Questions on your initial permit submission will come back from the DMA—Department of Management Authority and

the DSA, Department of Scientific Authority. Both agencies are unfortunately understaffed so it can take ages for your files to go back and forth. If you have chosen to get your CITES cats from a known CITES II breeder, it might be a little easier, otherwise it is almost impossible. The DSA will automatically question the origins and history of your chosen cats. Your motives then become suspect to the DMA, and the whole thing goes around almost ten times before it gets sorted out.

By that time you are exhausted and will be told “no” or there might be so many stipulations added to your permit that you will feel that you have lost your basic rights as an American citizen.

Ex-situ enhancement is an important part of the process. An approved project must be supported for several years as a

condition of being granted a permit. This is a really important aspect if cheetah in the wild are even to survive, the people who have their boots on the ground out in the field must have funds to carry out their life saving work. Here again your permit writer will advise you on an appropriate selection—USFW decides ultimately how long you must contribute.

Please remember that anyone interested in having a cheetah at their facility must be open to the public. The cats must be part of a program that raises awareness of all of the issues facing the cheetah in the wild, and your facility may be called upon to host fund raisers that, at least in part, benefit facilities and projects in Africa. This is in addition to your enhancement. The real bonus of this is that you may be included in one of the scheduled trips of Vanessa

Bouwer from DeWildt or Annie Beckhelling from Cheetah Outreach. They both give powerful presentations and are sure to captivate your audience.

You will need an expert agent and shipper in Africa and one at the port of entry into the U.S. Though it happens every day, it still amazes me that live animals move between continents. Animals get boarded onto planes in shipping crates strapped onto pallets like boxes of clothing or machine parts. The animals are not tranquilized and to me the crates seem a bit cramped. By the time the front of the fully enclosed crate is opened so

the USFW agent can see the cat, they will have been in them for as much as 30 hours.

It is a magical moment when you first look into those amber eyes. You may be greeted with a purr or a hiss—or both. The cats will be overwhelmed by about 100 cargo employees in orange vests taking pictures with their cell phones. In my case, the cats then had a ten hour drive from Atlanta to West Palm Beach! We cleaned the bottom trays and hit the road, giving some food and water along the way.

Having driven all day and not knowing what to expect, we unscrewed the mesh

front upon arrival in the dark. Their release was a non-event. They walked out of the crates, turned and hissed at them, and proceeded to stretch every which way they could. They slept the first night feet out on their sides in the grass. Next morning, they were ready and waiting for breakfast and a romp in their field and their new life in America.

So in the end, it boils down to how much aggravation you are willing to go through and how much you are willing to support the survival of the cheetah in the wild. That is what this is really all about. •



Mike Friese

You need plenty of room to give the cheetahs a chance to run. This is Matt and Charley's 80,000 square foot enclosure.

The 2008 FCF Convention

By Tim Stoffel

Anticipation ran very high for the 2008 Feline Conservation Federation (FCF) conference. Everything about it promised to be special, and I was not disappointed. The 2008 FCF conference was the finest that I have ever attended, and I am sure the other 187 attendees fully agree. It was also the highest-attended FCF convention in the group's long history!

For many years, I had a liger friend that I helped care for named Hobbs. Sadly, in February of 2007, my big friend died leaving a liger-sized hole in my heart. Since then, the need for a "liger fix" has been great. So when it was announced that the 2008 convention was going to be at Bhagavan "Doc" Antle's T.I.G.E.R.S., my excitement

escalated and this trip was a must. Doc has four ligers, all of which are world famous.

After a very hard year financially, budgeting for this trip was imperative for this dream trip to come true. It took some doing, but finally everything came together.

To make this trip affordable and a lot more enjoyable, the conference was combined with a visit to see my good friend Harold Maxwell. Max still has a pair of lions which are good "friends" of mine. So, the trip got off to a great start. Judah Daren, Max's male lion, was ecstatic to see me. Of course, he immediately expected a good, heavy mane scratch which I generously gave!

We drove down to Myrtle Beach from

Bowling Green, KY, visiting some of Max's friends and family along the way. This added greatly to the enjoyment of this trip for everyone involved. Max has relatives who own a hotel in Myrtle Beach, so we stayed there. Although Max could not fully participate in the convention, he and his wife Marge still had a great time in Myrtle Beach.

I was not ready for Myrtle Beach. It was much more of a beachfront resort than I ever expected. As a result, I was not prepared to take advantage of the beautiful beach right out behind our hotel. Budget constraints prevented me from shopping to remedy this problem, but even so, it was enjoyable.

After we were settled in our room, we



Liger as seen at T.I.G.E.R.S.

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Lynn Culver addresses all at Thursday's membership meeting.

went over to the FCF venue for the Thursday night reception and immediately found out that there was much paperwork to take care of so we could go to T.I.G.E.R.S. the next day.

Compared to previous years at the FCF conferences, there were a lot of cats in residence including caracals, servals, a Geoffroy's cat, and a bobcat. Seeing everyone's precious babies was very special. No lion cubs, though!

I was caught off guard by having the membership meeting held Thursday night, but in the end, I think it was an excellent idea. Member participation was high and two very clear messages emerged. The first was our need to put our differences aside and work together on the basic goals and challenges facing everyone. The second message was the need to get deadly serious about dealing with legislation and animal rights. The passion and seriousness of those who were speaking was impressive. It is my hope that we can now put this passion into practice.

Friday morning could not come soon enough and sleep eluded me just thinking

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about going to Doc's place. We all arrived on schedule with no hitches.

We were asked to form small groups of people and to stay with our groups on tour. Our group consisted of Max, Pat Callahan of the Cincinnati Zoo, one other person for whom I apologize not catching her name, and myself. Then, for the time being, we were seated in an amphitheater, which had a pool with a glassed-in wall facing the audience. A live steel band performed for us while we waited for the tour to begin in the main lodge where we were given a safety briefing.

Surprise! We were asked to turn around and there he was—Hercules the liger! We got to watch Hercules stretch to his full 11+ foot height and take a tiny meat snack from a keeper with a meat stick on a lifeguard chair. While Hercules enjoyed a bottle of milk, our groups were photographed in front of him. I was happy. I had my liger fix!

Next, we were treated to a demonstration of a Harris hawk. This was fascinating as and these birds can do some really remarkable maneuvers!

We were once more seated in the liger display area, where we were introduced to a binturong. Bints are interesting creatures and are also known as bearcats. Bints deposit a somewhat pleasant, buttery-smelling musk on everything it touches. This was instant love and the hope that this unusual animal could find a home at our zoo!

The next demonstration was of a pair of Siberian lynx. These are rather large for small cats and are about the size of a medium dog. They chased and jumped after lures that were swung around on fishing poles.

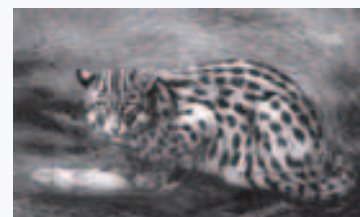
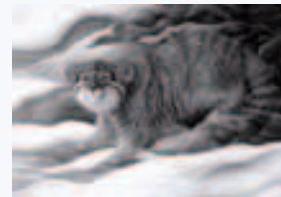
The next adventure was to sit on a bench that surrounded a small group of trees. A lion and tiger cub were brought out and we were individually photographed with them. While seated around the periphery of the bench, two tiger cubs and the lion cub were brought back out and allowed to wander from lap to lap. The cats went around about three times talking and being spoiled and by all the cat lovers! The cubs responded differently to each person; they looked for touches and other times they explored. Sometimes they would simply stop and rest. One tiger cub liked my lap enough that the



Harris hawk flies the FCF gauntlet at T.I.G.E.R.S.

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handlers had to help him to the next person! This was personally enjoyable and it was my first time ever handling a tiger cub.

The two viewing pavilions were next and we split into two groups and moved up about 12 feet from the ground. After some refreshments, we were instructed to look out and witness three tigers which ran chasing a lure dragged across the ground. This was my first experience at seeing a tiger run flat-out. It was so amazing to see such a large animal at this speed and being graceful at the same time.

Bubbles was next on the docket. Doc Antle did this part of the program which was particularly fascinating and up-close. Bubbles is unique in that she is an African elephant while most people who work with elephants use Indian elephants. We were all given a carrot and allowed to hand-feed Bubbles as she walked along in front of our group. After Bubbles was given a whole watermelon to eat, and she did this in two bites, we were then photographed by groups with Bubbles. What an experience to be able to touch her hairy skin (more hair than one realizes) and see her long eyelashes. I will never look at elephants in quite same way again!

The primates were then brought by their keepers. We were shown a very young gibbon which was in public for the first time, a young orangutan (hair of which felt like



Tiger chasing lure at T.I.G.E.R.S.

lion's mane!), and a young chimpanzee.

We were all taken to the amphitheater to relax and three cats, two tigers and young liger, were brought out to the swimming pool. These cats eagerly took to the water and we could see them using their bodies to swim through the glassed-in pool. The

trainers swam or walked alongside the cats while they were swimming and one trainer swam upside-down under the cat which thought this made a good game! During this time, the conservation message was given for everyone to take home and apply it to their lives. Common sense ideas to conserve were also given such as not trading your car in every two years and using compact fluorescent lamps.

Food was now waiting for us at the main lodge—tables and tables of food. There was everything from fruit and veggies, bread, cookies, and ice cream—more than we could eat. There was time to chat with the trainers, Doc, and new-found friends. Some of the photos taken during our tour were displayed on multimedia monitors around the room. Some of these monitors also were showing various movie and TV shows where Doc and his people have worked.

After we were returned to the hotel, the rest of the day was ours and Max, his wife Marge and I went to Barefoot Landing for a nice seafood dinner and spent some time to exploring the shops and visiting an exhibit of Doc's. This smaller facility had cub and adult tigers present and one could have pictures taken with the cubs. I was there pri-



marily to get a plush liger and some other liger memorabilia. One function this exhibit served was to get members of the public to take the tour at T.I.G.E.R.S.

Saturday was presentation day with plenty of speakers. There was Anne-Sophie Bertrand talking about the use of cougars as a conservation tool in Brazil, Fred Boyajian who had visited this area of Brazil and shared his impressions of what he saw, and Dr. Jim Sanderson, a leading authority on the lesser-known wildcat species. Dr. Sanderson gave us a comprehensive update on the work he has been doing in different parts of the world which also included a discussion of status changes of wild cats on the IUCN threatened and endangered lists. Year after year, Dr. Sanderson's presentations are favorites among convention attendees. Fernando Vidal arrived from Chili and his facility, Fauna-Andina, works with the native species doing rescue and rehabilitation. He talked about the puma in his area and his work to capture and relocate problem cats and gather biological samples. He then gave an update on the guïñas in his care and the successful rehabilitation of one



Nigel Marvin speaks at FCF convention.

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Julie Reid is awarded a husbandry certificate by Mindy Stinner as Lynn Culver looks on.

that was released back into nature. Fernando has several others that will stay with him and hopefully will successfully breed someday and, if he is successful, it will be a first. Fernando hopes to repopulate the wild with this tiny and rare feline.

Doc Antle gave a presentation on safety, good caging practices, and a strong warning to prevent incidents before they occur. The next two papers were somewhat related and dealt with developing a good public relations strategy. Dan Stockdale is now Public Relations manager for the FCF and he gave us a good look on how to give our best face in front of the public and what to do if something goes wrong. The second paper covered how one facility developed an effective educational program and gave many tips on developing a program for one's own facility. Ron DeArmond, who is the vice president of the Association of Professional Wildlife Educators, provided this presentation.

The final presentation was from TV host Nigel Marvin who discussed production of a number of shows he is currently working on for the Animal Planet cable network. He had numerous clips to share with us from various shows, including his latest series, *Prehistoric Park*. This was a candid look inside the world of TV production involving animals. This presentation was very well received, and many people lined up to get Nigel's autograph. (I was happy to be his video/multimedia operator.)

After long break so everyone could

relax or change clothes, we convened for dinner. As is tradition, I had my kilt on.

After dinner, a silent auction was held for a wide variety of cat-related items (and a few non cat-related items, such as fine wines). The items for the later in the evening live auction were also presented with one item being a cast of a liger claw.

The annual FCF awards ceremony was held and certificates were handed out for the attendees of the FCF Exotic Feline Husbandry course. There were 43 graduates including one USDA inspector!

Awards were given for various functions and duties performed by people in the organization over the last year. The regional directors and state representatives for the FCF were introduced to those present.

Finally, it was time for the FCF's highest award—the Lotty. This year's Lotty recipient was Dr. Jim Sanderson. The award recognized the many contributions he has made to the study and conservation of the various neglected species of small felines sharing the planet with us humans. As all agreed, Dr. Sanderson certainly

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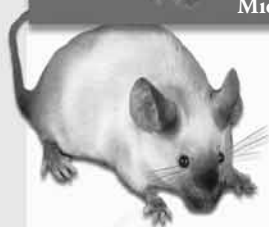
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Small Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	1.90 - 2.40	100
Large Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	2.50 - 3.00	100
Peach Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.00 - 1.25	3.10 - 4.40	100
Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.25 - 1.50	4.50 - 7.00	100
Hoppers:	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22	1.50 - 2.00	8.00 - 12.00	100
Weanlings:	\$0.40	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.32	2.00 - 2.50	13.00 - 19.00	50
Large Adults:	\$0.45	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.37	2.50 - 3.00	20.00 - 29.00	50
X-Large Adults:	\$0.55	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$0.47	3.00 - 3.75	30.00 - 50.00	25

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

Rats



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

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

Coturnix Quail



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

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits

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



Chicks

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



Guinea Pigs

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

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Nigel Marvin, auctioneer.



deserved this award

The last award was a real surprise. On video was a greeting from the Cincinnati Zoo's "Cheetah Lady," Cathryn Hilker. As she could not attend the conference, she and Pat Callahan (who was in attendance) announced on video an award to Lynn Culver for her many years of service to the FCF. Nigel Marvin presented Lynn with a framed original painting of her bobcat, Sue Ellen, and her Geoffroy's cat, Lucy, feline ambassadors she shared with us at last year's conference. The painting was created by artist Rochelle Mason. It was a beautiful and meaningful gift.

The auctioneer for this year's live auction was none other than Nigel Marvin who brought along his sharp sense of humor. Like last year, only a small number of high-value or unusual items were auctioned off live. There was jewelry, including a bracelet made from cast-off African porcupine quills, artwork, and two open commissions by FCF member Rachel Arnott which drew a lot of bidding action. A cat LoCA-Tor radio tracking system was also auctioned.

Finally, the liger claw came up for auction. This claw is a cast in German silver (a copper-nickel alloy, similar to the alloy used in nickels), of Sudan the liger's right front dewclaw. It is by far the largest cat claw I have ever seen. It was two and one-half inches from base of bone to claw tip and a whopping four inches measured around the curve of the claw, including the

bone. The hard metal preserves all the intimate anatomical details of the real claw and for its size, it is massively heavy. There was one other serious bidder for this item besides myself and that was Patty Perry. When the bidding got to over \$400, Doc announced he had a second liger claw available and in the end, both Patti and I won a liger claw for \$500 each. This item means a great deal to me, and it was worth "busting the budget to pieces" to obtain. The claw is a record of the life of a very famous and special cat, Sudan. Only a few of these were made, primarily for the peo-

ple who were privileged to share their lives with this animal and makes this item valued above anything monetary. It also reminds me of what my departed liger friend Hobbs' claws would have looked like and will serve as a nifty educational tool for school lectures plus a reminder of a special conference!

The final thing done before closing each year's convention is announcing the location of next year's convention which will be somewhere in California. The anticipation is high for the next conference and it will be within driving distance! •

An advertisement for a playing card deck. On the left is a detailed illustration of a lynx's head in profile, looking towards the right. Above the text are four playing card symbols: a red heart, a black club, a red diamond, and a black spade. The text reads: "Wild Cats of the World", "Playing card deck", "54 different cats, 40 artists, 1 beautiful card deck", "\$25 + \$5 postage, worldwide!", "To order, go to:", and the website "http://www.huzzah.com/".

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Some More Perspectives of the FCF Convention

Billie Lambert

It was July 22, 2008 at 11:00pm and I was in bed, wide awake, staring into the darkness. I was so excited that I could not sleep. I wondered, “When was the last time I felt like this?” Christmas eve as a child? The night before I went to boot camp? The night before I moved to Korea for a year? What was so special about this July 22, 2008?

Ten months ago, my life changed forever. Being cat crazy all my life, I just *had* to get my hands on the beautiful serval and bobcat babies I saw at the Nature’s Gallery Fall Festival in Panama City, FL where I met Jim and Bertie Broadus of the Bear Creek Feline Center. I started volunteering and it wasn’t long before Jim mentioned that I should become a member of FCF.

What is FCF? Who are these FCF people? Fast forward 10 months and I was sleepless on July 22. The next morning I would be attending the FCF Exotic Feline Husbandry Course and then the FCF convention over the next few days. I was thrilled about the prospect of meeting a couple hundred “cat people.” I could not believe there were other people like me and we were assembling in one place. This was enough to keep me wide-awake with excitement!

The husbandry course and convention was everything I expected and more. I knew I would learn lots of great cat info and socialize with other cat lovers. What I didn’t anticipate was the overwhelming emphasis on conservation (the whole point of having an FCF!) and the very strong gamut of opinions and emotions expressed by many FCF members.

Whammo! For the first time, I was face to face with the *real* issues in the exotic cat world.

I learned the devastating fact that most wild cats are threatened or endangered and in a few short generations, most wild cats may be extinct! Exotics may survive only because of the love, dedication, and work of private owners because many zoos have trouble breeding their animals. Then, I found out there are organizations such as PETA, Big Cat Rescue, the Haley’s Act, legislation, and many others who are trying to *ban* private ownership!

People are afraid of what they do not understand and they make extreme decisions based on fear. We in FCF have a responsibility to help others understand what’s at stake.

Ron DeArmond reiterated the FCF motto of “Education, Propagation, and Conservation” in his talk. He said, “You may know a lot, but you will never know it all...continue your education.” That goes for educating yourself as well as educating

the public. Dan Stockdale emphasized the importance of us getting our unity together. Yes, we have some very strong opinions within the FCF, but it is going to take *all* of us to combat our well-organized opposition. We must stand as a unified organization, professional, polished, and educated. Our cat’s livelihood and their future literally depend on us, the FCF members.

Every one of the speakers had an important and amazing message to share. The



Julie Reid and Billie Lambert



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entire convention was executed like a well-oiled machine. I met many fabulous people and have made lots of new friends who I will know and love for a long time, including Julie Reid, owner of Julie's Jungle, who had the cutest baby kinkajou I've ever seen. I will never forget our day at T.I.G.E.R.S. Thank you Doc for a true class act.

This cute "exotic cat hobby" I started 10 months ago has taken on a whole new meaning for me since attending the FCF convention. Now I lie awake in my bed, staring into the darkness, and wonder, "How can I make a difference?" I am a different person now...Is that what the convention planners intended? If so, then they did a great job!

Julie Reid

When I started raising exotic animals years ago, I quickly tired of the general public. As Ron DeArmond stated in the beginning of his talk at the FCF 2008 conference, I was one of those people who just wanted to do what I do and be left alone. I assumed my peers felt much the same as I did, having neither the time nor the inclination to be any kind of activist. I accepted that my way of life would come to an end sooner or later.

Fast forward to this past spring and a conversation I had with a friend and head keeper of a small private zoo. I was in search of a male breeder bobcat and she said to me, "you should become a member of the FCF. It seems like a lot of their members have bobcats." So I went to the website and was surprised and impressed! There were many of you, saying the right things and wow—there's even a husbandry course coming up in Myrtle Beach with a convention and a cool field trip. I decided to join and help myself to all the convention had to offer.

Here is the part where I gush—you have been warned. Mindy Stinner was an absolute delight as instructor of the husbandry course. Even with over 10 years of experience raising small cats (among others) I still learned a few things and came away with some tools to more responsibly manage my facility. While there, I met fellow Floridian Billie Lambert who volunteers at a nearby (160 miles is nearby isn't it?) sanctuary. We instantly struck what I believe will be a lasting friendship with our love for exotic cats at the core. Can I help it

she fell in love with my baby kinkajou?

Throughout the convention I reacquainted myself with old friends (I have missed the Beans, even the little Beans) and got to put faces and personalities to several people I have had e-mail correspondence with, in addition to meeting many new wonderful people. I fell in love with Lynn Culver's little Geoffroy's kitten! I was amazed at the camaraderie everyone seemed to share, whether it was a volunteer or Nigel Marvin, everyone had a great time sharing experiences. We were all equal in our love of cats and a shared sense of purpose.

Everyone is going to talk about our trip to T.I.G.E.R.S. so I will be brief. A one of a kind experience and I thank Doc Antle and

his staff for the awesome job they did in handling double the usual numbers simultaneously! Saturday's lineup of speakers was dynamic and once again, I took home more tools and thoughts to be a more responsible owner and ambassador of my cats.

I realize that there is now an organization that fights to keep my way of life for which I am deeply, deeply grateful. I do feel ashamed of myself that I have had my head buried in my own little piece of paradise and have not been doing my part within the FCF to help preserve the private ownership of exotic animals. I do not have a lot of time or resources but I will find a way to contribute more than my yearly dues to the FCF and hope that everyone

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that managed to make it to the end of my little reverie will do the same!

Sylvia Gerber

Like the rest of you, I looked forward to the FCF convention in Myrtle Beach. It was everything and more than I ever expected.

It was a wonderful experience and I hope the members who were not able to make it can make it next year. They say, "It will be hard to beat," but I am sure that our newly-elected convention chairman, Dan Stockdale, will make every effort to top the year's success. FCF members represent a variety of passionate beliefs concerning the feline species.

It is a worthwhile challenge being a new member of FCF and the recent appointment of Director of Education. I am looking forward to expanding on the husbandry course during my time in this position.

My greatest memory of the convention will be with me for a long time. I was fortunate enough to spend time with Fernado who was a guest speaker this year. His enthusiasm of his work with the Chilean puma protection and research inspired me. So much so, I made a donation to him to purchase a radio collar. Luck was with me, within a week, he found a young female that was in bad shape. Due to the lack of prey in her area, he immediately transported her to an area overpopulated with red deer. So hopefully, my next picture will be of a happy, healthy puma. In a small way, I made a difference and seeing the picture of her gave meaning to preservation.

Lauren Bean

Wow! This year's convention had a great turnout. It sure is good to know that this organization is growing, plus it was great meeting all the new faces and getting to know more people who share my wonderful passion for animals.

I think we even broke a record for the husbandry course, which I took with my sister Rachel, the youngest ever to graduate. The course was taught by Mindy Stinner who did a really good job of keeping everybody awake with her funny stories and experiences with exotics. She was assisted by Brian Ferko, a sixth grade science teacher from Las Vegas. I recommend the course to anyone interested in getting



Bobby Bean and daughter Lauren discuss cat tracking with Mike Friese.

an exotic for the first time or working for a facility that houses exotics.

The board members had their meeting on Thursday, which I heard went well. In the hospitality room, there were plenty of animals to play with including servals, a Geoffroy, a caracal, a bobcat, a kinkajou, Savannahs and Egyptian Maus. If you are an animal lover, Myrtle Beach was the place to be!

That night was the icebreaker which was really nice. I was able to visit with old friends and meet plenty of new ones as well, not to mention the good food! Our president, Lynn Culver, spoke during the general membership meeting where we talked about different issues and future plans for FCF. She then opened up the mike where some lively discussions were had and many diverse points and opinions were voiced.

Friday, described in one word, was just amazing! I mean, how often do you get to feed an African elephant? We went over to Doc Antle's place, T.I.G.E.R.S., and got to interact with a variety of different animals. We were able to see Bubbles the elephant swim, Hercules the liger, a Harris hawk perform some aerial acrobatics, some baby orangutans, a baby chimp, a baby white-faced gibbon, a binturong, some lion, tiger,

and liger cubs, a pair of Siberian lynx, some wolf puppies, and a pair of alligators. After the tour, Doc provided a spectacular lunch with the help of his crew. The thing that really topped it off was we got to purchase and take home a disc with pictures of all the animals.

Saturday was a very eventful day as well. We listened to the guest speakers talk about various subjects involving exotic cats. I chose about three to listen to including Jim Sanderson who updated us on his work with the Wildlife Conservation Network and Small Cat Conservation Alliance. Jim sets up camera traps in numerous countries worldwide in order to help conserve many of the highly endangered exotic felines including the Andean cat and the guinea. I also listened to Doc Antle talk about being prepared to own exotic animals. Doc gave a number of tips for those of us who already do own exotics to help make our facilities safer and more secure. If anybody has experience in that department, Doc sure does. Last but definitely not least, I listened to Nigel Marvin speak about the work he was doing with Animal Planet and also about his trips to Africa to see lions and to South America to see jaguars. He showed us many different videos of his "wild encounters" which were

pretty amazing. The other speakers consisted of Anne-Sophie Bertrand, Fred Boyajian, Fernando Vidal, Dan Stockdale, and Ron DeArmond of which I heard from many people who said they all did a good job.

Later on that night was the banquet dinner and auction. The food was delicious, especially the dessert, my favorite—cheesecake! There were some pretty nice things on the auction table this year, which disappeared quickly after the silent auction. While we missed J. B. Anderson as our “animated auctioneer,” this year we had the privilege of having Nigel Marvin auctioning off our items. He did a great job getting people to support FCF by participating in the auction. He had us all laughing with his great sense of humor. One of the funniest moments was when he auctioned off a joke that included a kiss. Brian Werner bought the joke and seemed to really like the kiss more than he should have!

Overall, the convention was a great experience for me along with many other people. It was so exciting to see people step up and volunteer their time, services, and ideas. One thing I really want to talk about is this organization as a whole. We all have

different species of animals, not just cats, and we are spread out across many states and countries. Yes, we do have our strong opinions about various issues, but we all share something in common: our love for animals. I heard a couple of people talk about this at the convention and would like to bring more light to it. We need to put our differences aside and unite as an organization. After all we are doing this for the animals...right? One of Doc's ideas was for more people to get accredited by FCF and by doing this, we could pose a united front to the government officials who are trying to ban ownership of exotic animals in many different states including Florida. It is so much easier working with government officials when you have a big group of good examples for them to deal with and look at.

There are so many things we can do to help the animals we are trying to save and one of which is education. If the public can know about these animals and learn to appreciate them instead of being afraid of them, this would illuminate so many of the problems we are constantly dealing with, such as neighbors who want a ban established.

To summarize, I would like to say I am

one of those “crazy animal people” for sure; I have been all of my 16 years and will always be proud of it! I currently live in Nashville, Tennessee since my family moved from Knoxville last summer. Right now, we house 26 exotic cats at our facility, which for us, is actually a very low number. Our place is Tennessee Nature Center, a non-profit organization that my parents started in 1989, designed mostly for cats, but also for other animals as well. I would definitely consider myself blessed to be able to work with them every day. I mean seriously, how many people do you meet outside of this organization that can say “yeah, I just went outside to get some cougar kisses?” It is just amazing, and I am sure anyone who owns exotics would have to agree.

Rachel Arnott

For my very first FCF convention and being a new member, this experience will never be forgotten. It was a place for owners, breeders, handlers, trainers, conservationists, sanctuary operators, and everyone in between. It was a meeting of the minds, mingling between old friends, a gathering of all ages with the feeling of a community,



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Artist Rachel Arnott

and putting faces to names only seen on the web. This was all because of the outstanding actions of many who made this all possible. We should all give a hand to those involved, not only in the convention, but everyone who helps bring to light the need

for such organizations such as FCF.

I only signed up as a member in June and already had the privilege of coming to the convention in July, and I already feel more of a union in these couple of months than I have with any other organization membership. I made a speech the first night, just basically wanting to say hello, and thank everyone who made it possible by putting their time and energy into presenting such a wonderful event for all of us. It was a little nerve-racking to get in front of everyone, and so I do not remember exactly what I said, so I did not know how much I touched people just by having the same love as them, the cats. Everyone was there for the same basic reason: the cats. Big and small, exotic, hybrid, and domestic. We were there to listen, learn, and act on what perils these cats suffer in the wild. The speeches made were eye-openers into what we see and do not see in our own captive cats. We saw pictures we could only imagine, we learned the truth about what we are doing to our planet Mother Earth, we received information about different techniques to handle and care for our own, and what to do when the media has a grasp on one small incident and sensationalizes and exploits it to the full extent. The banquet was wonderful, the whole city of Myrtle Beach was fantastic! There was great shop-



Iberian lynx by Rachel Arnott

ping, entertainment, and parks to visit, and the presence of the kittens at the convention was a highlight throughout!

Most of you might remember that I had begun a drawing of an ocelot profile, which the following week I had finished and posted on the yahoo group. Since then I have also completed another, in the same style, of an Iberian Lynx. I hope to create an entire set of all the feline species, and subspecies. But to do this, I am asking everyone to help me in this quest. I need the profiles of any and all species of cats, this includes all the subspecies of cats. From Amur, Bengal, Indo-Chinese, South China, Sumatran tigers to servals and caracals. African, Asiatic, Barbary, and white lions to Geoffroy's cats and bobcats—all cats. For your time and effort in sending me the photos of these cats, I will in return send you a limited edition print of the drawing done from your photo. This is one way I can give back to you all that can help me in this endeavor.

This convention was only the start to a life with exotic cats. I thank all that made this possible: the guardians that gave us the privilege of playing with their "fuzzy angels" and to all the speakers that gave everyone an inside look at their work and efforts in trying to save our furry wild cousins and the threats they are facing at the hand of man on earth. Thank you for everything that was done; you are the driving force to help save all. •

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Husbandry Course Review

By Joe Fortunato

AKA - Jungle Joe—Pet Detective

Director, Animal Junction, Inc.

I found the course to be very engaging, well presented, and informative. In particular, the area of contingency plans was very enlightening.

From many standpoints, safety procedures and standards are of utmost importance in our industry. We have to ensure the safety of our employees, the public, our personal safety, not to mention that of the animals. Many of us feel that we have a thorough plan in



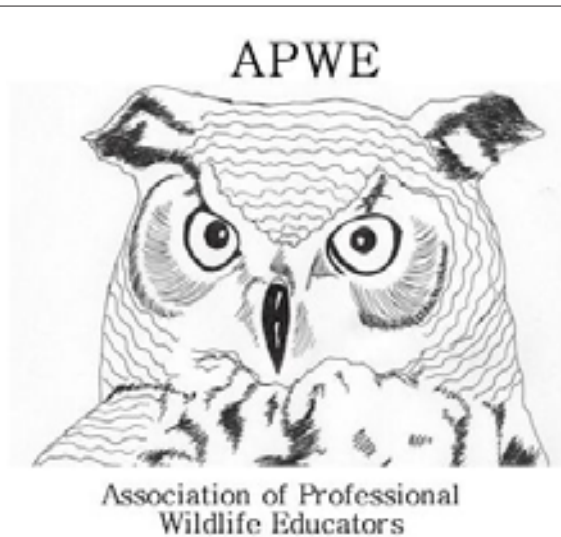
place with regards to safety procedures at our facilities. As an educator with a traveling zoo as well as my own facility, I know the extreme importance of safety. The safety standards, ideas, and procedures in this course were extremely well presented and were very detailed. More importantly, it brought to light aspects of emergency preparedness that are not often considered.

Contingency plans for emergency preparedness are not emphasized enough in our workplace. After taking this course, I now have a different view of my current plan in place, and I see where the new information learned can be put to great use at my facility.

The topic of contingency planning covered in the FCF Feline Husbandry Course can be applied to all species of animal care. I believe that the key principles from this course could be adapted for different types of animals (birds, reptiles, mammals, etc), and should be a mandatory course for any professional zookeeper, wildlife educator, or any person wanting to own an exotic animal.

The knowledge I gained was well worth the time spent at the conference and will be worked into my current employee training program. I feel that everyone who attended the course, regardless of their position, walked away with valuable information.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend your course, as well as to write my viewpoint. I look forward to working with your organization and it would be an honor to be accredited by the Feline Conservation Federation. After attending this course, I am looking forward to your annual conventions as well as speaking with other members of the organization. •



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Dr. Jim Sanderson is Awarded the 2008 Lotty

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

I must confess to being completely surprised to hear my name called to receive the Feline Conservation Federation's highest honor, the Lotty. The Lotty resembles an ocelot, the founding feline of the Long Island Ocelot Club (LIOC), later known as FCF. Only past recipients of this honor are allowed to nominate and vote on a recipient. Moreover the honor is not bestowed lightly and is only given out intermittently.

If you attended the dinner party on the last evening of our 2008 event in Myrtle Beach, you would have seen President Culver step up to the podium carrying the gold-leafed statue of a head of what could only be an ocelot. You might recall Lynn's explanation of the Lotty.

A wide variety of recipients have been awarded the Lotty for service to the cats and to the organization. Do not ask me how the first person was chosen who was the Long Island Ocelot Club's secretary, Gene Brill. Also honored was Cathrine Cisin, whose desire to help spread knowledge of the ocelot led to the creation of the LIOC. The name of this gold statue, "Lotty," was actually taken from the name of Catherine's ocelot, Carlotta. Ken Hatfield, the organization's first president, and his wife Jean, who managed one of the most successful ocelot breeding facilities in the 1970s, also received the Lotty.

Other recipients include Dr. Michael Tewes, director of the Ceasar Kelberg Wildlife Research Institute who was honored for his work to study, protect, and restore the Texas ocelot. This program is ongoing. Other members have given more than their share of time and energy: Jeff and Scarlett Bellingham and Nanette McGann, who also helped my efforts to find the Chinese mountain cat in 2007.

The extraordinary efforts of Marvin Hierlmeier were honored as well. Marvin, who along with his faithful feline companion, Hush, visited over 735 nursing homes to share the love of his special feline and brighten the lives of countless people. Former president George Stowers, was awarded a Lotty for the FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course and current president, Lynn



Tony Richards

Culver, and her husband Bart received the Lotty for their extraordinary efforts for, among so many other things, rescuing stranded tigers in Arkansas.

I am humbled to receive the 2008 Lotty and to join this exceptional group of people whose dedication to the cats will never cease. •

Winner of LIOC's very first Lotty in 1966 was membership secretary Gene Brill from Kenmore, New York. That's Cleopatra ocelot congratulating her. The Lotty was created by sculptress Brenda Duprey of Lennox, Mass. The current Lotty is based on a different design.



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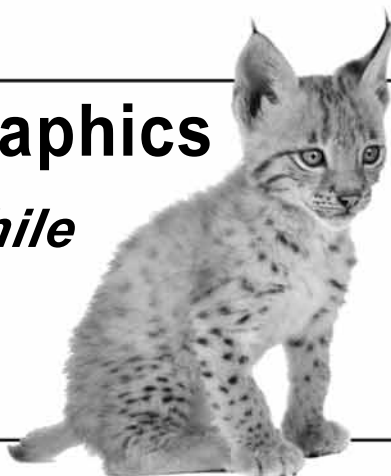
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Delilah

By Denise Little

Our exciting lives with exotic cats started in 1993. Bruce and I lived in Green Castle, IN at the time, we had our USDA and USDI licenses in hand ready to go.

Our goal was to raise snow leopards. Unfortunately at this time, everyone I called for information and guidance were not willing to share such knowledge to a stranger. We could not understand why people would not share experience and knowledge. Sharing is for the animals' best interest.

Finally I called Pat Hctor from Animal Finders Guide. He and Sharon did not live far from us and they invited us out for a visit. These two wonderful people shared so much great information. Plus they convinced us to start out working with "lesser cats" before getting into "greater cats." We were so naive at that time, we said, "What? bobcats and Canada lynx?" Then Pat and Sharon opened our world to 30-some species of lesser cats that we were not aware of! We fell in love with caracals and servals. We were young and on a quest!

But, love isn't enough to care for these beautiful creatures. We still needed to learn so much more. Between Pat and Sharon, our dear friend Callan and his parents, and Joyce Shrouffe, we gathered as much knowledge as possible. Though all these years, we have learned that experience and knowledge is never enough. Each animal is different and they change what you think you know to teach you something new.

Our very first pair of lesser cats were Samson and Delilah, a magnificent pair of caracal lynx. Like I said, we were young and on a quest, with a few bucks in our pockets. Our many thanks to a chiropractor that we begged and pleaded and pestered to sell Samson and Delilah to us. I wish I had his name and address to send some of their offspring. Bruce and I feel this was a privilege we stumbled into. We had no idea this moment would put us on a life-long journey.

The chiropractor was honest. He told us Samson was five years old. Delilah was six years old and has never produced. We purchased them anyway with lots of hope. Our

vet checked them out and felt they were not producing because the male was so overweight. Samson was 60 pounds and his belly touched the ground while he was in a sitting position. So we slowly got him to a normal good weight.

On March 13, 1994 they gave us two gorgeous cubs. The curator for the Lafatte Zoo in Indiana bottle-fed the first litter of cubs. I was so afraid of hurting the little things. The curator trained me and half way through the second litter I was on my own. The curator was only a phone call away if I needed help.

Later in 1994 Samson had a urinary tract blockage. The vet in Indiana unblocked him and sent him home with antibiotics. In 1995 he had another U.T. blockage. We told this vet it was the second blockage. We lived in Alabama this time. The vet unblocked him and sent him home with antibiotics.

We almost lost Samson through the second blockage. Although we told the Alabama vet not to use Telazol, he used it anyway. Bruce spoon-fed chicken broth to

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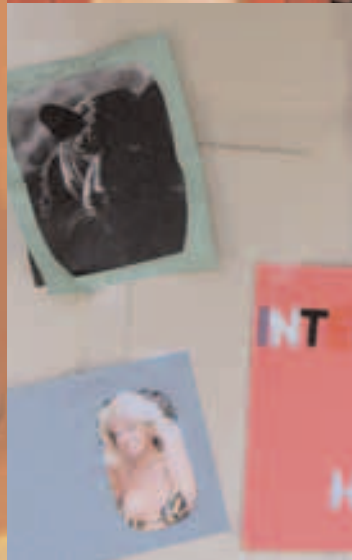
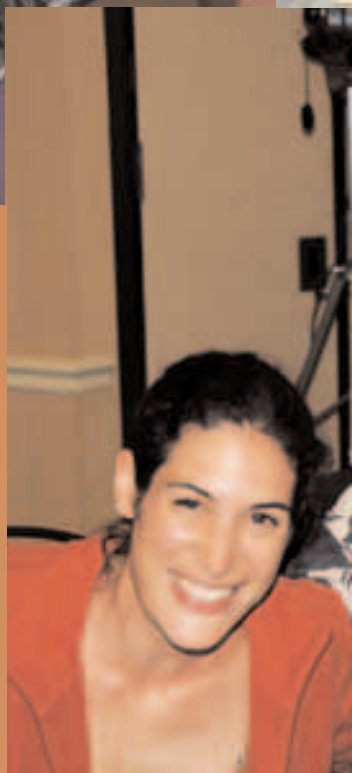
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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

Convention 2008





Photographers: Mike Friese, Phil Parker, and Tony Richards.

Samson around the clock until he finally started eating meat on his own. Bruce would sit with Samson for hours just talking to him, petting him, and reassuring him.

In early 1999 Samson had another U.T. blockage. By now we had moved to Florida. Our vet in Florida grew up in Kenya caring for African wildlife. He not only unblocked him but also explained to us what kind of crystals were causing the blockage and why he was getting the crystals.

This excellent vet put Samson on a special diet: Hills Prescription k/d canned food and chicken with no bones plus, of course, his ultra-amino vitamins and medication for the rest of his life.

Unfortunately Samson passed away in 2001. Bruce never left his side until it was over, petting him and consoling him. Our vet reassured us it was just his time and old age.

Thank goodness for this vet's good advice on the special diet and preventative medication because it gave us three more years of special time with Samson and three more years for him to feel healthy and



Samson

playful with Delilah.

On August 30, 1999, Samson and

Delilah gave us their last cub, a female that went to the Miami Metro Zoo. They call her Kala.

After Kala, Delilah's estrus cycles were slight and short term, very different from her normal cycles. She and Samson would breed and Delilah would not conceive.

Samson and Delilah seemed as though they enjoyed each other's company so much we could not bear to separate them. They spooned together from the day we purchased them. Delilah stayed close to Samson during his last days.

Fast forward to 2008. Delilah is still with us. Her goal every day now is to charge me, stop dead at my feet, look up at me and hiss, then just turn around and walk away to go lay down somewhere. After that routine everything is good in her world! I am allowed to clean or do whatever I need to do. She is 21 years old now. She is beginning to show age a little bit this year but she is still quick as lightning! •



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Guest Editorial What About Hybrids?

By Betsy Whitlock

There is much discussion within the cat world and most recently at our annual convention concerning the role hybrids play in the conservation, education, and ownership of wildcat species. Contrary to popular opinion, hybrids do occur in nature. They are not common and frequently represent genetic dead ends but nonetheless are a part of nature. When species become so rare

and widely dispersed that no suitable mate can be found of their own species, the need to propagate becomes so intense that hybrids do occur. It is speculated that the eastern grey wolf, decimated by hunting in the southeastern United States, resorted to hybridizing with coyote resulting in the species we call the eastern red wolf. Many of the evolution twists and turns that resulted in our current known species have

**F1 Savannah (top) and two F2 Bengals.
Photo by Mace Loftus.**

begun with hybridization of species facing extinction.

As to man's part, what self-respecting American settler did not use the services of a mule (donkey/horse hybrid) to do the work for which either originating species was not fully suitable? Ligers are amazing and represent the best docile attributes of their wild lion and tiger parents as performers and ambassadors for both wild species.

Turkens (chicken/turkey hybrids) are a curiosity in many a petting zoo and curiosity is a good thing when it comes to animal species. True, these are unnatural and “man made” but so are most breeds of domestic dogs and cats being engineered by humans to fit a particular niche.

For purposes of “Preserving, Protecting, and Propagating” wild species—our mission in the FCF—hybrids can and do fill a vital role. Many a wildcat owner or fancier is brought to our organization because of their love for domestic cats and through that channel they became aware of the most common hybrid breeds, Bengal (Asian leopard cat/domestic cat hybrid), Savannah (serval/domestic cat) and Safari (Geoffroy’s cat/domestic cat). For many, that was the first time they had ever given any thought to the small wildcat species of this planet. Many who previously considered owning a wildcat as irresponsible or cruel, were able to see that not all wildcats are ferocious beasts of their imagination but just wild naturally occurring animals with a truly deserved place in nature. Further, through learning the plight of their beloved hybrid’s wild parent, they are brought to love, understand, and are compelled to preserve places in the natural world and in captivity for all the wild species.

Many would say that hybrids are the bastard children of the wildcat trade. I disagree. Many a responsible cat owner can find himself or herself living in a state that has banned fully wild species. Their desire to have the next best thing drives the market for hybrids. Further, hybrids fill a niche that the fully wild parents are really not necessarily suited for. Through responsible hybridization, it is possible to produce an animal fully capable of fulfilling its owner’s desire to see the wild nature of a cat but have the social graces of its domestic parent, making it a happy companion animal able to fit comfortably into households that could not tolerate fully wild marking and prey drive behaviors. By placing hybrids into responsible homes, we gain ambassadors where none could be

found before for the wild parents of these beloved and cherished pets. Early generation hybrids are unmistakable for their wild attributes. They inspire people to know more about the wild ancestry of the cats.

In a perfect world we should all be allowed to choose which species with which we wish to share our lives but this is far from a perfect world. One of the best ways to turn back ban laws is for people to come to accept hybrids and know that if the hybrid is not a monster, then maybe the parent cats are not either! I personally have been able to change people’s opinion of wild ownership by introducing them to the hybrid first. It is not much of a stretch from an F1 (first generation) hybrid to a real serval.

As to the loss of captive populations from hybridization, this really is a valid concern. With fewer and fewer homes for our wildcat species, it is all too easy to turn to hybridizing the last few representatives of our captive gene pool. I personally love Geoffroy’s cats and they are a prime example of loss of genes to hybridization. Geoffroy’s are not actually great candidates for private or pet ownership. Charming as adorable kittens, once mature they are extremely active and can have difficulty remembering the line between play

and aggression. They are extreme markers with both the males and females of the species creating enough “yellow toxin” to repel the most ardent proponent. They are difficult to breed with females frequently not accepting their mates. Unfortunately, the males are not so picky and the Geoffroy’s hybrid (Safari) is not nearly as difficult to create. By looking back through the archives of the FCF journal itself, you can see the potential beginning of the end of our captive breeding population back in the late 1960s when by accident the first hybrids appeared. The Geoffroy’s hybrid is like the liger in that the gene that controls growth is unchecked and the resultant kittens grow to two to three times the size of its parent cat, a very desirable trait for the pet market who desires a larger and wild

looking pet. Unlike the serval and Asian leopard cat hybrids, it would appear that for the most part, the Geoffroy’s hybrid is a genetic dead end. First generation Savannah and Bengal females are fertile so creating subsequent generations to start a truly domestic breed is possible by breeding back the hybrid female to domestic or lower generation male hybrids. Safaris being for the most part completely sterile in both genders, are unable to reproduce subsequent generations and require the continued use of Geoffroy’s males, taking them from available stocks of pure wild captive breeding colonies. Those of us who own and propagate Geoffroy’s cats must be diligent to not allow our gene puddle to completely dry up to create a genetic dead end. I personally never intend to sell a Geoffroy’s cat for use as a hybrid breeder.

Both the serval hybrid and the Asian leopard cat hybrid are great success stories as pets. Unfortunately, as wild parent cats are removed to hybrid programs, the genetic diversity of the captive breed wild species can be compromised. There are very few Asian leopard cats being bred in captivity at this time and should their keepers not be diligent, they too will be as rare as the Geoffroy’s in captivity. We as an organization must be ever careful to walk a fine line between preserving our gene pools and taking maximum advantage of the hybrid potential as ambassadors for their wild parent. Many an education program can only offer hybrids to the public because of strict ban laws, so from that point of view, the hybrids stand in for their wild fathers. We must also not forget that hybrids are also frequent targets of ban laws. The loss of too many foundation cats from our captive gene pools either as pets or as hybrid originators is too great a price to pay. Like most things in life there is no real black and white, good or evil, just a constant balancing act. The FCF has a role to play. We *must* practice responsible breeding and management of captive gene pools. We *must* encourage those in legal states to develop and manage new captive pure wild gene pools and breeding colonies of as many small wildcat species as possible. We *must* roll back the tide of ban laws so we can accomplish both of the prior goals and to that end the hybrid as an ambassador does have a real place in the FCF. •

**...through learning
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places in the natural
world and in
captivity...**

Guest Editorial

What is a True Exotic Animal Sanctuary?

By Zuzana Kukol

www.REXANO.org

Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership

The last few years has brought an increased number of so called exotic animal “sanctuaries” that supposedly rescue abused, neglected, and unwanted exotic pets and circus animals. At the same time, the number of abuse cases and convictions in courts does not seem to be on the increase. The number of private zoos and educational facilities which do not claim their display animals are rescues, seems to be on the steep decline as well.

So what is going on? If most of the exotic industry is rescuing their animals, how can the breeders survive? Or is this all just one big fraud to get donations out of an

unsuspecting public under the guise of rescuing exotics in need? Are most sanctuaries really pseudosanctuaries or as the industry insiders call them, *scamtuanaries*?

Each of these “rescuers” has their own definition of the term “sanctuary” that fits what they happen to be doing at their facility.

To help the potential donors, reporters, and legislators sort through all the exotic animal rescue/sanctuary lingo, we decided to define what a true exotic animal sanctuary is and is not.

True Exotic Animal Sanctuary

- Is honest, ethical and does not lie about the source of its animals.
- Only takes animals nobody else wants, ones that truly have no other place to go.
- Is not political; it does what is truly best for the animal instead of what fits their own agenda with the animals just becoming the props to accomplish their personal goals.
- It rescues animals on a first come, first serve basis.
- It takes in animals in need of being rescued and rehomed regardless of the age or species, versus selectively rescuing the animals the sanctuary is missing in their collection or animals that come with the big media exposure—which means donations.
- Does not breed animals.
- Does not buy animals.
- Does not kill animals except in medically necessary euthanasia.
- Does not have to be the final place for the animal if a better home can be found to suit the animal’s need, be it in a private pet or zoo sector. The sanctuaries should consider what is best for the animal. Any well socialized animal brought up in a

home and capable of adjusting to a new owner/family would definitely have a happier and more rewarding life if put back into a pet environment. If a sanctuary takes in an animal from this situation and realizes it would be happier in a home environment, the sanctuary should do everything in its power to find it a good new pet home. Many sanctuaries claim they are the final home for all their residents, but for specific animals that may not be what is best.

- Small exotic cat species or cubs, pups, and kittens usually do not need rescuing. They are marketable and there are enough responsible private pet homes available for them where the new owner will cover all of the cost of taking care of them.
- Any sanctuary that rescues cute small exotics or babies without adopting them out to a proper new home is wasting the space and money that could be used to adopt an animal that truly has no other place to go.
- A true exotic cat sanctuary would have



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mostly adult orange tigers, few adult lions and cougars. All other exotic cat species are marketable and almost never are in need of a rescue unless it is a rare confiscation of an illegally kept or abused animal by authorities. Even then, the sanctuary could eventually free up the space by adopting them out to a private zoo or self-supporting pet home.

- An exotic cat “sanctuary” full of small cats of different species is unlikely to be a sanctuary; it is a personal collection of somebody who is asking the public to support their pets.

- Housing retired circus tigers while the circus pays for their upkeep is not a rescue; it is a business transaction of a circus boarding their animals at another facility for a fee. This is not any different than boarding your dog long-term at a kennel.

Does an exotic animal sanctuary need to be federally tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3)?

Many exotic animal bans exempt sanctuaries that are 501(c)(3). Unfortunately, many legislators do not engage their brain when passing these laws, since being a registered tax exempt charity has nothing to do with animal welfare or public safety. All this means that fewer people are paying the taxes and there are more facilities for the donors to do their tax write offs. From a realistic point of view, a facility does not have to be non-profit to be a true sanctuary. What does tax status have to do with animal welfare and the ability to take care for animals?

Many people abuse this loophole to get financial support for their own pets. Some truly do it because there was a ban with no grandfathering clause in their community and becoming a tax-exempt sanctuary was the only way to keep their pets. People who do this usually keep a low profile and do not fraudulently solicit the public to pay for their pets.

There is however a huge community of irresponsible pseudosanctuaries in the U.S. that buy or breed too many personal pets for different reasons and then realize they have no means to support them. They eventually form a federally tax-exempt sanctuary, put their friends and family on the board, rescue few high profile media cases, then push for the bans on others (such as for-profit businesses and pet owners), using them as scapegoats claiming that is where their “rescues” came from.

That said, there are some honest exotic pet owners, zoos, or exhibitors who got in over their heads and who ask for help for the good of the animals.

We will not judge the sanctuary that started with their own pets and then turned non-profit and started rescuing after that if they are honest about their beginnings and the extent of the original commercial or pet activity.

The issue is dishonesty. Most sanctuaries won’t disclose to the donors what percentage of their animals were their personal pets and how many are true rescues.

And what constitutes a rescue? Most “rescues” are really simple adoption/rehoming cases. Not many came from horrible near death conditions as many sanctuaries claim.

Too many of the major exotic animal sanctuaries fit into the potentially fraudulent category, misleading their donors about the condition and source of their animals. Here are some hints to help you to decipher their lingo:

Exotic Animal Pseudosanctuary Vocabulary

1. Animals *saved from fur farm* means that it was cheaper to buy their exotic kitten at the fur farm than from the pet breeder. By buying from a fur farm, an owner (before becoming a sanctuary or sometimes after)

not only acquires the cats cheaper, they are also supporting the very business they are trying to badmouth by giving them money. If the sanctuary truly was rescuing, they would buy the full grown breeder cats, not the cute fluff balls. Some fur farms never had any intention of being fur farms. Some states ban exotic pets but if one wants to keep or breed bobcats or lynx, all they have to do is to get a fur breeders license. So some rescues from fur farm may be completely bogus because the fur farmer does not pelt any cats. He sells all kittens to the pet market.

2. *Saved from the auction* is the same as saving from the fur farms. Babies are cheaper and full-grown big cats are not allowed on the auction premises, so anybody going to action is there to buy a baby.

3. *Saved from a circus* usually means that a major circus placed the tigers at the sanctuary and is paying for their upkeep.

4. *Saved from a breeder* usually means, it was purchased from the breeder as a cub or kitten before a “bad person” could buy it.

5. *Saved from the pet trade* or *born into the pet trade* usually means this was a personal pet of the sanctuary owner they bred or purchased themselves before they turned into a non-profit sanctuary.

6. *Throw-away photo cubs* are the well-



Former photo cub, Bam Bam gets a foot massage as he lounges on his hammock.

socialized cubs everybody wants. They are either acquired by the sanctuary from their exhibitor friends at 4 months of age, which is the age at which USDA/APHIS rules prohibit public contact. USDA/APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the federal agency that regulates the commercial activity and exhibitions of many domestic and exotic animals and it oversees the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Other sources of photo cubs are the sanctuaries themselves. They breed them while claiming the mothers arrived pregnant. These people want to have it both ways: breeding their photo cubs and getting money exhibiting them and then claim they rescued them to get even more money. This is unfair to the honest breeders and exhibitors who have legal tax-paying animal business and who in the end find loving homes for their photo cubs. Business people need to be more picky about placing their animals to make sure they do not place them with one of the sanctuaries that will make up fraudulent stories about how abused the photo cub was.

7. *Saved from canned hunts* is a very common lie to get money from the donors. Canned hunts of big cats are illegal in the U.S. If these sanctuaries truly are saving cats from these illegal places, then they need to report them to proper authorities instead of keeping their identity secret. Exposing them will result in the illegal hunt facilities (if they exist) to be prosecuted and shut down. *What about the breeders, pet owners, zoos and educators that occasionally adopt?*

There are many instances when non-sanctuaries adopt animals. These places usually do not take an animal that just needs a home. Usually they adopt it because they need one for their breeding, zoo, or educational program or to replace the one of the same species that just died.

These places are not true sanctuaries, since “rescuing” is not at the core of their activities and they are selective which animal they rehome or adopt. However they serve an important role by offering the home to the animal that would otherwise have to take a valuable true sanctuary space.

What are the main problems of sanctuaries?

Even the people who went into sanctuary business with the purest of intentions, sometimes end up with hearts bigger than their wallets or donation flow. This can often



result in excessive population and substandard care. Sanctuaries, even if incorporated as non-profit, must be run like a business with donations secured and enough money set aside for a year's worth of animal care in case donations dry up or a serious medical emergency occurs. Anything else is irresponsible. Wise owners, whether pet owner, zoo, or sanctuary, should not take more animals than they can afford to feed and care for.

Sanctuaries often lose sight of the fact that they should be in it for the animals. Some get greedy or too political, attacking fellow animal owners and discrediting them to get more donations for themselves. They often adopt animals for political reasons: often a pet home might be available but a sanctuary that has more clout in the public eye steps in to take the animal preventing a responsible pet owner from doing the same. This is simply stupid, wasting sanctuary space with animals that can be in a pet home with individual attention, as opposed to an overcrowded sanctuary.

Final thoughts

Self-proclaimed labels are useless, that includes the label, sanctuary. What matters is what you do and who you are, not what you call yourself. It would be nice to see this industry self-regulate, get ethical and honest, and play fair with all other private owners. If you call yourself a sanctuary but most of your animals are your own purchased ex-pets, then you need to be honest with the public and your donors, so they know the truth about which animals are true rescues. If they still want to donate and pay

for your pet collection, then it is fair. Lying and making up abuse stories that blame pet owners as the main problem to solicit donations is fraud and once discovered, makes everyone with an exotic animal look foolish.

By making up stories of abuse, the sanctuary owners are also giving ammunition to extreme animal rights groups. The stories of supposed abuses/rescues are used as a tool to ban loving exotic owners under the common wisdom of exotics being abused in private hands and sanctuaries supposedly being full. Yes, many sanctuaries are full, but they are not full of true rescues.

The pseudosanctuaries are also sucking the money away from the true dedicated honest sanctuaries, and are diverting the funds that should go toward the care of truly needy animals.

Just like domestic dogs and cats, many true sanctuaries are simply private owners who take in animals that are in need of a home, accept them as a new family member, and never ask for a dime. These are the silent rescuers, the silent majority.

Some good sanctuaries are big non-profit sanctuaries which never forgot their roots as a private pet owner or breeder. They realize that since they are in the sanctuary business, it makes sense that is what they hear about is needy animals, but needy animals only make a small percentage of the exotic animal population.

Why would anybody with a happy, spoiled, loved exotic pet call a sanctuary? As a healthy person will not go to an emergency room, a sanctuary will not see or hear about the well cared-for pets. •



Blocked or Not?

By Roger Newson

Every owner's nightmare: your cat appears to have an intestinal obstruction. The symptoms are all there: loss of appetite, lethargy, apparent constipation and vomiting accompanied with a foul odor, and possibly coughing and breathing difficulties.

Ingestion of foreign objects is the most common cause, usually resulting in surgery to remove the objects and often a portion of the intestine that was actually blocked and starting to die off. Sometimes, the cause is much more sinister.

An intestinal blockage is what I suspected with my 7 week-old baby cougar, Kowe. (Kowe is short for Kowechobe, which means "panther" in the Seminole/Miccosukee tongue.) Symptoms appeared the very day I brought her home after the first feeding. Upon eating, Kowe immediately regurgitated her meal of ground turkey. Then, she would re-swallow her meal and regurgitate again. This

occurred four or five times before the meal finally stayed down.

I made a quick phone call to Kowe's breeder to ascertain if the breeder had observed this eating response. The breeder assured me that there had been no previous indication of any vomiting or any other digestive problems. The breeder suggested that, perhaps, I had fed Kowe too much or allowed her to eat too quickly and that I should warm the meal before feeding.

Over the next three days this pattern continued with every meal, no matter what the portion size of the meal, the frequency of feeding, or the serving temperature. In addition, Kowe had achieved no bowel movement.

I had brought Kowe home on a Saturday afternoon, and my standard veterinarian was not available until Tuesday morning. Although I suspected that she had ingested a foreign object at some time before I brought her home, I decided to wait for professional help rather than risk aspirating

her by administering Ipecac or something similar to dislodge the foreign object. Kowe otherwise had a good appetite, appeared healthy, and had no other symptoms.

On Tuesday the veterinarian performed a complete physical and gave Kowe a clean bill of health. He suggested that I change her diet to Hills Prescription a/d as he felt that the raw ground turkey may be causing the regurgitation, since she had just recently been weaned. He believed that the colon was empty and that the ground turkey probably had a high utilization factor, hence no stool... not to worry.

Kowe continued to regurgitate every meal over the next week, including Hills Prescription a/d, which she obviously didn't care for. However, she did produce a stool six days after I brought her home.

The regurgitation became more extreme over the next few days and Kowe began to lose her appetite. In an attempt to keep her nourishment levels high, I blended the

ground turkey and supplements into a liquid paste to minimize the regurgitation. Even so, once she had ingested an ounce or two, it was repeatedly expelled.

On the following Sunday Kowe began to vomit violently, so much so that it was driven out of her nostrils, accompanied by a foul odor. This, of course, presented an ominous threat of asphyxiation and further solidified my belief that she had an intestinal blockage. I was terribly worried for my precious little Kowe.

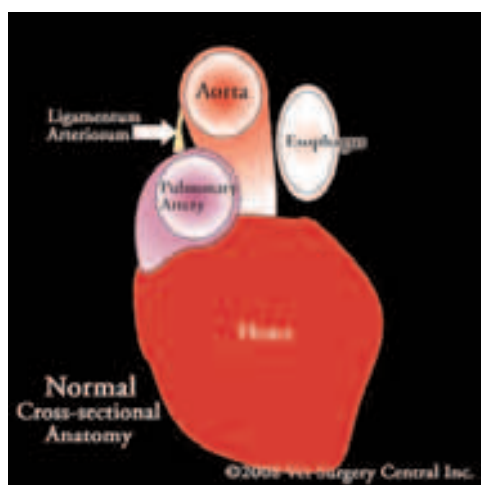
By now I had contacted a number of experienced exotic experts and several different veterinarians seeking help for Kowe. The consensus was mixed. Some believed that there was an obstruction, others did not. Blocked or not? One of the exotic owners suggested that I contact Dr. Salvatore Zeitlin, a renowned veterinary surgeon and past director of the Palm Beach Zoo.

Dr. Zeitlin agreed to see Kowe immediately on Monday morning. He gave her another complete physical and performed blood analysis. Except for the vomiting, her general health was good and her blood levels were all normal. He suggested a blockage of food passage to the stomach due to either bone or the possibility of a vascular ring anomaly.

The next step was radiology. The initial X-ray divulged an enlargement and displacement of the esophagus. Subsequent barium radiology confirmed not only a displacement of the esophagus, but also a severe distention of the esophagus indicating a stricture to the esophagus that prevented food from passing to the stomach. Consequently, the esophagus had become expanded out of shape as food built up in the esophagus rather than passing into the stomach. This explained the regurgitation immediately after eating.

Dr. Zeitlin suspected that the stricture resulted from a Persistent Right Aortic Arch (PRAA). PRAA is a congenital anomaly of the blood vessels of the heart that results in constriction of the esophagus and surgery is the only viable treatment option. The earlier the treatment is performed, the better the prognosis for survival.

The diagnosis of a PRAA is generally made from radiographs (X-rays) made after a barium swallow. The esophagus in front of the heart will appear dilated. In some cases the esophagus behind the heart will



also be dilated. This is a warning sign that the cat could have poor function of the esophagus even if surgery is performed.

Radiographs are also used to determine if the cat has concurrent pneumonia.

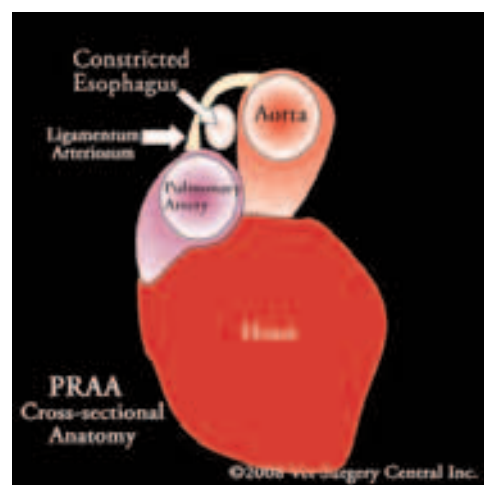
Blood testing including a complete blood count, chemistry profile, and urinalysis are recommended to make sure that the cat has healthy internal organs prior to surgery and may show signs of low blood sugar or a high white blood cell count if infection is present.

An ultrasound may also be recommended to rule out other congenital heart defects that may require attention.

Dr. Zeitlin went on to explain that during development in the uterus, the fetus has a right and left aortic arch. Normally the left aortic arch forms the main artery that extends off the heart and travels to the abdominal region. If the right aortic arch develops into the aorta, the esophagus becomes trapped and constricted by a ligament that extends from the pulmonary artery (vessel that pumps blood to the lungs) and the aorta.

In 95% of the cases of a vascular ring anomaly, a constricting band prevents solid foods from passing to the stomach which prevents the animal from getting nourishment. In the remaining 5% of cases, a bizarre anomaly of the vessels is present (double aortic arch and aberrant subclavian artery), which is very difficult to correct and presents a poor prognosis.

Usually signs are not seen until solid food is fed at the time of weaning off the mother's milk. Signs include regurgitation of food or fluid, poor nourishment, stunted growth, and signs related to pneumonia (lethargy, coughing, breathing difficulty). These animals usually have hearty



appetites, because they cannot get the nutrition that they need.

Dr. Zeitlin sent the X-ray photos to a board certified radiology specialist to confirm the diagnosis. In the meantime, he put Kowe on a strictly liquid diet of KMR milk replacement for kittens to build up her nourishment levels in preparation for surgery. Prior to surgery it is important to provide as much nutrition as possible to the cat. This may include feeding high calorie gruel. During and after feeding a meal, the cat's front end should be elevated so as to make sure that the food will pass into the stomach by means of gravity.

Kowe appeared to thrive on the liquid diet. Her appetite returned and she continued to gain weight.

In the interim, Dr. Zeitlin called me with confirmation of the diagnosis, and in an honest and straightforward manner, informed me of the inherent risks and the considerable cost involved to perform such an extensive and delicate operation. There was no guarantee that the surgery would be successful. He said that considering the economics and potential hazard involved, perhaps, euthanasia may be an appropriate course of action. I explained to Dr. Zeitlin that the moment Kowe became a part of my family, it involved a 20 year commitment to her and her health and well being and that I always keep my commitments. Surgery was scheduled for the following Thursday. Hopefully, she could withstand the effects of anesthesia and the delicate surgical procedure ahead.

On the day of surgery an intravenous catheter is placed to provide intravenous fluid therapy. Young cats are also very susceptible to developing low blood sugar. Therefore, a sugar solution is typically

incorporated in the intravenous fluids.

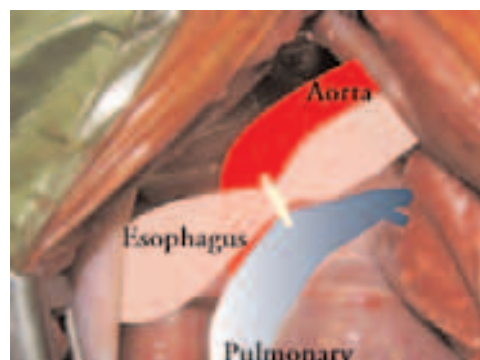
An incision is made on the left side of the chest and between the fourth and fifth ribs. They are spread to expose the covering of the heart and band (ligamentum arteriosum) constricting the esophagus. The band is readily identified by running a finger or the tip of a surgical instrument along the esophagus. The phrenic, vagus and recurrent laryngeal nerves, located near the constricting band are identified and protected during the procedure.

The constricting band is isolated using a surgical instrument, tied twice with a suture and cut. The constricting band must be tied off, as the ligamentum arteriosum frequently still is a patent vessel in very young animals. After the constricting band is cut, fibrous tissue that may be constricting the esophagus is dissected off the esophagus. A tube is placed down the mouth and through the area of the esophagus to make sure that there are no additional constrictions.

After surgery, medication is given to the cat to ensure a pain-free recovery. Intravenous fluids are commonly administered overnight or longer if indicated. Once the cat is eating and drinking well, intravenous fluids may be discontinued.

The cat may or may not have a chest tube after surgery, which is used to remove fluid and air from the chest cavity. Typically, the tube can be removed after 12 to 24 hours. Some surgeons prefer to administer pain relieving medication (local anesthetic) through the tube to numb the incision.

Elevated feedings may be required for an additional month after surgery. If the cat is no longer regurgitating, the elevated



feedings can be discontinued. Once the cat can swallow well and there is no regurgitation, solid foods can be gradually introduced.

Exercise must be restricted for three weeks after surgery so that the surgical site can heal properly.

In spite of performing the corrective surgery, some cats never regain normal motility of the esophagus and the cat will remain unnourished and likely will die.

Pneumonia is a possible problem due to aspiration of fluid that may pool in the esophagus. Infection of the surgical site is possible, but an infrequent complication.

It has been shown that cats less than 2

months of age have a much higher death rate due to anesthesia and surgery. Yet, the surgery should not be delayed too long, as permanent damage to the esophagus may occur.

Overall, about 80% of cats having early surgery to correct this condition will have resolution of the regurgitation and they thrive well. The remaining cats may do poorly and may deteriorate from the preoperative condition.

Thank God! Kowe not only survived the surgery, but is recovering very well. She is successfully eating solid foods and is gaining weight properly. She can eat a normal diet now with the exception of bone. All bone content must be fine ground for the next few weeks while her esophagus heals and gains muscle tone.

Thanks to Dr. Zeitlin for providing such tremendous skill and dedication. In addition, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the following fine folks for providing their help and expert advice to save my Kowe: Sue Arnold, Dr. Terry O'Neill, DVM, Lynn Culver, Lisa Welch, Dr. Lee Corbridge, DVM, and Pat Garvey.

Special thanks to Dr. Daniel A. Degner, board-certified veterinary surgeon (DACVS) and Vet Surgery Central, Inc. for allowing the use of their content and drawings. •



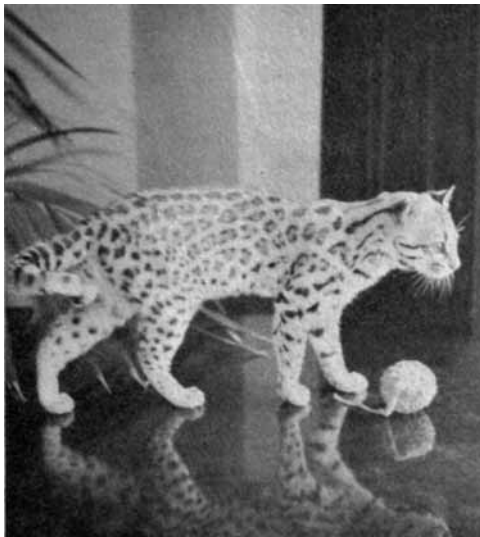
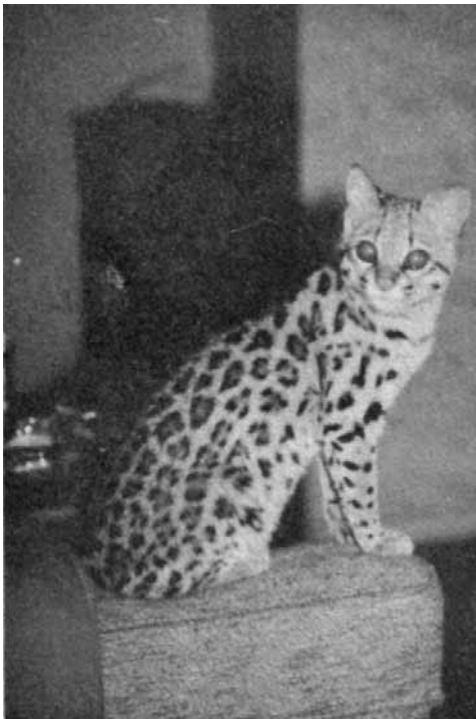
Blast from the Past. . . . *Mari, Miniature Mystery*

Long Island Ocelot Club

January/February 1960—Volume 4, Issue 1

Mari is truly a miniature mystery. Her weight is about four and a half pounds. Two veterinarians have estimated her age at “over five months.” One suspected she might be considerably older, basing his conclusion on the accumulation of tartar on her well developed teeth.

She measures 12 inches from nose to tail, her thin tail adding another eight inch-



es. Her shoulder height is seven inches. Her legs which are in length and thickness the size of her owners fingers, are tipped with pointed tiny feet, as dainty as those of a young Siamese. Her fragile head is well proportioned by domestic shorthair standards. Her eyes are brown. She has been known to utter only two kinds of sound—a strong purr and the conventional growl.

Mari does not part her hair near the shoulders as ocelots do. It grows in the same direction (back) from her eyes right down her tail. Its texture is quite soft, yet it appears to be firm like an ocelot's. Her color is beige with brown rosettes, not quite as sharply in contrast as an ocelot or margay might be. The characteristic pattern at the shoulders is lacking; there are no stripes which bend vertically toward the legs. Her ears are round, with the usual white spots on their backs.

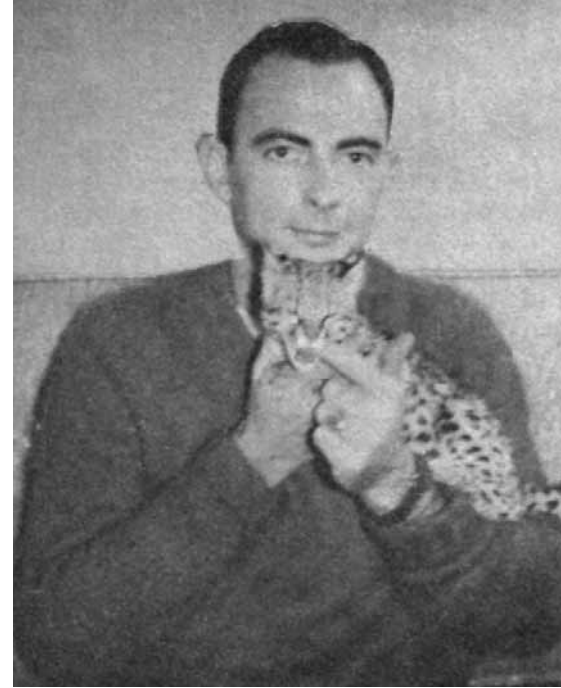
A margay owner who inspected Mari asserts she is definitely not a margay. An ocelot owner states she is unquestionably not an ocelot, but suspects she may be the product of an indiscretion between a margay and a domestic cat. Another ocelot owner recalls having read an article in Pet Life Magazine which describes the “fish cat” native to Thailand. The description could have fit Mari.

Thus far, the Long Island Ocelot Club has not been able to classify little Mari.

We need your help!

Will any reader who can shed light on Mari's identity please communicate with her owner, Dr. Thomas Griffith, 191 Willoughby Street, Apt. 16H, Brooklyn 1, New York?

Next page: Our own Dr. Jim Sanderson comments.



“Fighting to preserve the rights of responsible exotic animal owners”

Barbara Doherty, president

Phone:(601) 497-3850 - FAX:(601) 847-5045

email info@uappeal.org

To learn more or to join using the online membership form visit:

www.UAPPEAL.org

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.

The Mystery of Mari A Cold Case—Solved!

The Long Island Ocelot Club (LIOC) of Amagansett, New York was founded in the late 1950s to bring together owners and aficionados of ocelots and other wild cats. The bimonthly LIOC newsletter often had photographs of owners and their cats. The headline on the cover of the January 1960, Vol. 4, No. 1 issue of the LIOC Newsletter was typical—almost.

There is an old saying about wild cats that has been known for 200 years and remains true today: Even the casual observer can tell whether or not an animal is a cat, but more often than not a skilled observer is required to tell to which species the cat belongs. Dr. Thomas Griffith found himself in this position with Mari, his gentle small spotted cat. The headline of the LIOC newsletter read:

Mari, Miniature Mystery

And below there appeared three photographs of a small spotted cat the last being Mari with her owner.

As can be seen, the article that accompanied the photographs contained useful information—real data with numbers. Mari's weight was 4½ lbs. Based on the accumulation of tartar on her well-developed teeth, two veterinarians suggested Mari was an adult. Mari's head and body measured 12 inches and her tail was another 8 inches. Her shoulder height was 7 inches. Her legs were the thickness of a man's finger and her paws were described as dainty (not the size of a nickel you understand, but an adjective lacking any quantitative value). Mari's eyes were brown and she was known to purr and growl (unlike some members of the genus *Panthera* that roar).

Other morphological features were mentioned. Mari's color was noted to be beige with brown rosettes, not quite as sharply in contrast as an ocelot's or margay's might be. Her ears were round, with white spots on their backs.

The article continued: A margay owner who inspected Mari insisted she was definitely not a margay. After reading an article on a "Fish Cat from Thailand" another ocelot owner suggested the description did not fit Mari. The last sentences read:

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

Staff: Mrs. Harry G. Child, Editor, Amagansett, L.I., N.Y.
Miss Sherry Brooks, 38 E 10th Street, New York 3, N.Y.
Mrs. Wilbur Murray, 472 E. 10th Street, New York 3, N.Y.

Published bi-monthly by: LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB at Amagansett, N.Y. Vol. 4, No. 1 January 1960

MARI, MINIATURE MYSTERY

Mari is truly a miniature mystery. Her weight is about four and a half pounds. Two veterinarians have estimated her age at "over five months". One suspected she might be considerably older, basing his conclusion on the accumulation of tartar on her well developed teeth.

She measures 12 inches from nose to tail, her body height is 7 inches. Her legs which are in length and thickness the size of her owners fingers, are tipped with pointed tiny feet, as dainty as those of a young feline. Her fragile head is well proportioned by domestic short-hair standards. Her eyes are brown. She has been known to utter only two kinds of sound, -- a strong purr and the conventional growl.

Mari does not part her hair near the shoulders as ocelots do. It grows in the same direction (back) from her eyes right down her tail. Its texture is quite soft, yet it appears to be firm like an ocelot's. Her color is beige with brown rosettes, not quite as sharply in contrast as an ocelot's or margay's might be. The characteristic pattern at the shoulders is lacking; there are no stripes which bend vertically towards the legs. Her ears are round, with the usual white spots on their backs.

A margay owner who inspected Mari asserts she is definitely not a margay. An ocelot owner states she is unquestionably not an ocelot, but suggests she may be the product of an interbreed between a margay and a domestic cat. Another ocelot owner

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Thus far the Long Island Ocelot Club has not been able to classify little Mari.

WE NEED HELP ! ! !

Will any reader who can shed light on Mari's identity please communicate with her owner, Dr. Thomas Griffith, 191 Wilmington Street, Apt. 100, Brooklyn 1, New York, and/or with Club Headquarters?

THE NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1960, at 2:00 P.M. at home of - CHARLIE AND BECKIE STARK, 1000 CHATELAIN BLVD., NORTH BRIDGE, N.J.

Bernie will show movies he has taken at the 1959 picnic, in Amagansett and at New Market, and of Jose's first birthday party.

All Newsletter readers are invited. Charlie requests that all who expect to attend advise her either by letter or phone (CH 9-0441) before the first Sunday in January.

THANKS: From Gen. Wash. Bridge: After tall booth, go under overpass then take first right, turn right, Pass Ft. Lee Theatre to N.J. 67 - Act. 2 East to Palisades Monument Park. Continue straight. Turn left after fourth and once station. From Lincoln Road: First right turn off ramp is Boulevard East.

Thus far the Long Island Ocelot Club has not been able to classify little Mari. We need help!

Not unexpectedly LIOC members generously offered their opinions in the subsequent newsletter.

There was much activity in the effort to identify Mari, the Miniature Mystery of the January newsletter. This is summarized below, and the consensus that Mari was of the *Felis bengalensis* species is in agreement with the thinking of Dr. Thomas Griffith, Brooklyn, N.Y., who owned her.

From Mr. Henry G. Moser, Los Angeles 43, Calif. came the following:

"From the descriptions of the various spotted and striped cats of the world, I have gleaned the following information: "Leopard-cat (*Felis bengalensis*) is arboreal, lives in holes in trees by day, and is found all over India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Formosa, and Coastal China. It has a striped face, spotted body, and ringed tail. It is about two feet long.

"Taking the word of the two veterinarians who examined her, we might assume that Mari was approximately half grown. She was about 20" long from nose to tip of tail (the tail alone being only 8" long) it was stated. In body alone, she might have grown to almost two feet in total length. Being a

female would of course be all the more reason to believe she would be somewhat smaller than the male of similar species [sic].

"I rule out fishing cat because they grow to almost three feet in length. Nothing on the South American continent fits the description of this diminutive creature, unless by some remote possibility she might have been a dwarfed ocelot. However, my strong convictions lead me to believe that she was (like the fishing cat) indigenous to Asia."

From Neil Todd, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass:

"This zoologist is going to be careful about what he says and not make any assertions. First, I would like to know if anyone has asked from where the animal was taken. This is of extreme importance. Secondly, has anyone gone over to the Bronx Zoo to look at the *Felis bengalensis*, an old world form exclusively? I would like to see the animal before I dismiss the possibility that it is a margay. Just as an opinion would say it was a margay displaying some genetic variability. I will agree that she is not an ocelot, but doubt that *F. wiedii* x *F. catus* hybrid would resemble the animal in question. I am checking on a species known from Costa Rica, *Felis pardinoides*."

From Mr. Alton Freeman, Kendall, Fla., animal dealer:

"It looks like a margay to me and there are so many varieties that I would imagine it is one of these. I do not believe it is crossed with a house cat, and would think it might be of the South American variety."

Tom Griffith, having visited the Bronx Zoo and inspected their specimen of the *Felis bengalensis*, is of the opinion that Mari was a *bengalensis*. Dr. Joseph Davis, the curator, acquainted Tom pictorially with many other small felines.

While the cat at the zoo is old, torpid, and none the better for 15 years of inactive confinement, Tom sees so many points of similarity between her and Mari: the very small feet, dainty face, length of tail and, as reported by her keeper, total lack of voice other than a growl. Dr. Davis showed Tom

pictures of her taken shortly after she was acquired (at probably a year of age) in 1946, which were very like Mari.

Solving the mystery of Mari.

Unfortunately, Mari's owner, Dr. Thomas Griffith, may well have died before he discovered the real truth about Mari. Remarkably, just one of the above suggestions was close. I have included two photographs of Mari that appeared in the LIOC newsletter. Each shows Mari in the center, a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) in the lower portion and a tigrina (little spotted cat or oncilla) (*Leopardus tigrinus*) in the upper portion. Note that I prefer to use the common name tigrina because it more closely resembles the Latin name *tigrinus*. Perhaps in this case

small spotted cat more closely describes Mari—look at those small spots!

Mari's body appears sleek and trim; her paws small. One might think she is a house cat in a spotted coat. Her demeanor was described as gentle and so unlike most leopard cats. Although it is hazardous to go by spot patterns, the spots of the leopard cat are more or less filled while Mari's are often open. The density of spots is also higher on the tigrina than the leopard cat.

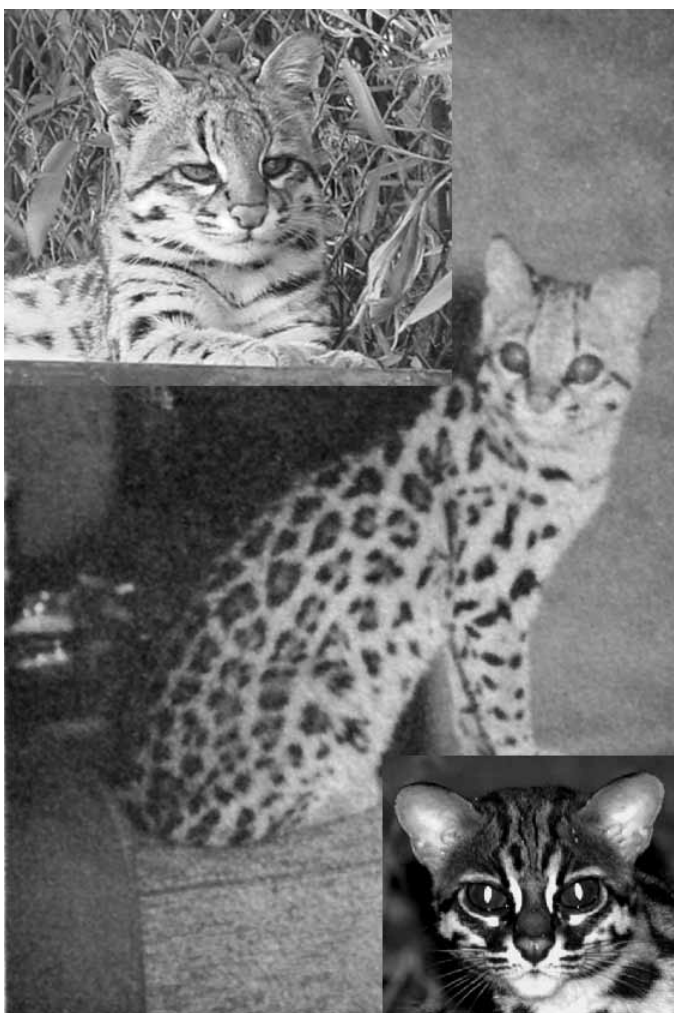
Mari's ears and the tigrina's ears are notched. The leopard cat has unnotched ears. Mari's ears are proportionally the same as the tigrina's whereas the leopard cat has larger ears, perhaps an adaptation to its nocturnal habit as a rodent specialist.

I have been told by owners of tigrinas that the cats can become as tame as a house cat. I do not know about leopard cats but if the old literature is correct, you would not want to have an adult in the house.

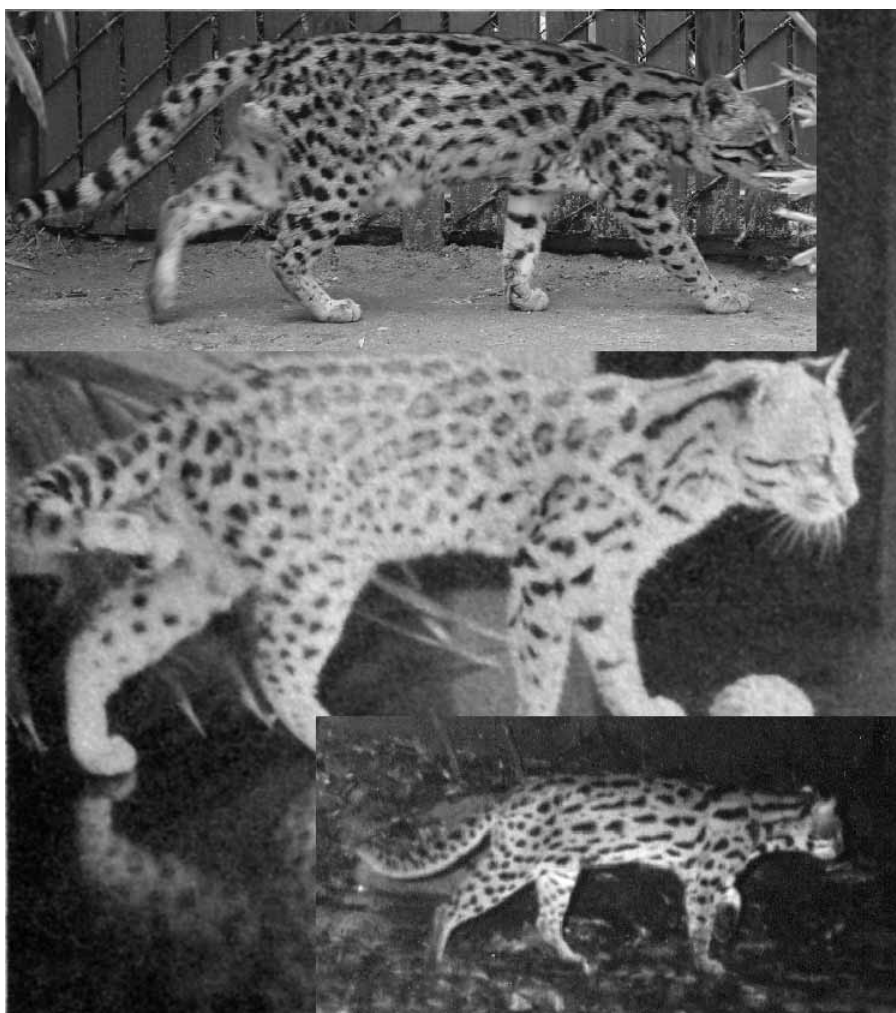
What about the measurements? Mari's weight of 4.5lbs = 2.04kg, head and body of 12 inches = 305 mm, and tail 8 inches = 203 mm is even a bit small for a female adult tigrina. The smallest leopard cats are females from Sabah, Borneo that are a bit larger.

Who of the above was closest to being correct? *Pardinoides* mentioned above is the subspecies of tigrina from southeastern Brazil.

After 48 years, mystery solved! •



Face comparison (above Tigrina from Sao Paulo Zoo, Brazil, below Leopard cat from Cambodia). Photographs by Jim Sanderson.



Body comparison (above male Tigrina from Sao Paulo Zoo, Brazil, below Leopard cat from Cambodia). Photographs by Jim Sanderson.

Board of Director Candidate Statements

Your opportunity to familiarize yourself with each candidate before voting.

President

Kevin Chambers

I am the current FCF treasurer and am running for the president of FCF. I have previously served as FCF vice president. In addition, I have served on several non-profit boards (collectively for 41 years) and have been president for many of them.

I grew up on the family farm and have been working around animals my entire life, both domestic and exotic. I operate the Zoological Animal Reproduction Center, which breeds various species of wildlife in addition to exotic cats. This USDA and USF&W licensed operation specializes in breeding, brokering, exhibiting, importing, and exporting. I bred my first exotic feline in 1982 and was the first person to successfully breed Irkutsk lynx in North America. I have transported animals all over the USA and to and from over 20 different foreign countries, dealing with facilities from all venues which include: research facilities, domestic and international zoos, private breeders, pet owners, entertainers, and exhibitors. I have worked with over 130 different species of wildlife.

I have served as FCF convention chairman for six years. In that time, convention attendance increased each year, from 75 in the year before I began to 188 this summer. I also serve on the accreditation committee and on the conservation committee.

This experience gives me good qualifications to be the president of FCF. I am

very proud of the growth of FCF in the recent years. Not only the growth in membership, but in respectability and programs that benefit the membership as well. My goal as president would be to continue this growth and make the FCF one of the leading wildlife organizations in the world. We have some extremely well qualified candidates running for office and with them, the potential for FCF is boundless. New projects are in the idea stage and improving some of our current programs to accomplish this goal has already begun. I plan to lead FCF further upon the path on which it currently is headed.

Vice President

Robert Johnson

I was fortunate enough to meet many of you during the FCF convention in Myrtle Beach this summer. For those of you whom I do not know yet, let me introduce myself.

I am a college-educated psychologist currently finishing up a doctorate in animal behavior. For 15 years I have worked for The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species (T.I.G.E.R.S.) and have worked hands-on with hundreds of exotic cats ranging from servals to ligers and everything in between. The extensive exposure and interaction I share with these felines transcends a mere occupational experience and has truly become a passion and a way of life for me. Currently there are more than 65 big cats that I live and

work with on a daily basis.

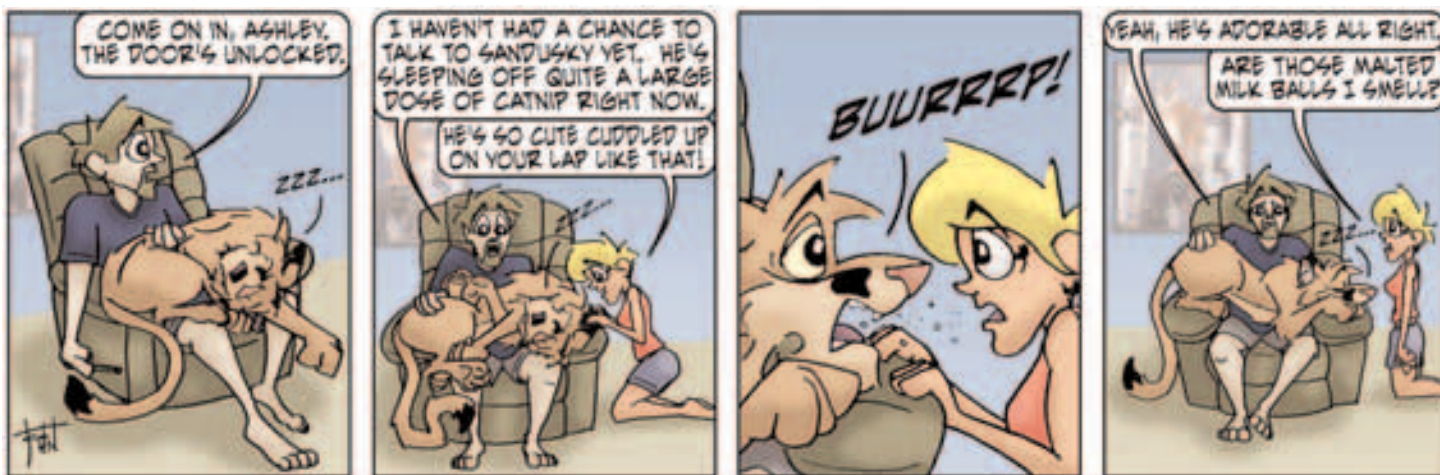
My career has involved everything from husbandry to educating the public about wildlife. I have scrubbed cages, delivered newborn tiger cubs, and performed for audiences of more than 10,000 people. I have also spent quite a bit of time helping train animals for film and television and have worked directly with National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet.

One of the most educationally rewarding aspects of my life is conducting and participating in wildlife research. I created and conducted a study, in association with Coastal Carolina University, to determine spatial and proximity preferences of big cats. The results of this study are currently helping to design better captive environments for big cats based on the needs of the specific species. This spring I also helped work on a leopard DNA mapping project in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

My big cat experience is not limited to a captive environment however. I have spent a significant amount of time observing and studying these magnificent animals in the wild. I have tracked breeding pairs of leopards deep in the African bush veldt and I have followed the elusive jaguarundi through the dense steamy rainforests of Central America. I spent a significant amount of time in Thailand working on tiger conservation efforts for Southeast Asia and actually brought (personally transport-

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



ed) a collection of the four different colors of tigers to a wildlife preserve near Bangkok. This zoologically significant collection represents the first such group anywhere in Asia.

In addition to my experience with felines, I personally hold state and federal falconry permits. The extensive bureaucracy involved in possessing captive raptors, along with my many years at T.I.G.E.R.S., has given me direct interaction with lawmakers, government officials, lobbyists, and ruling governmental bodies at both the state and federal level. I believe that with the impending onslaught of exotic animal regulations, my experience in such matters will be beneficial to FCF's goals.

Under the current political situation in this country, we desperately need to protect our right to own and maintain exotic felines. I believe that the rights of the individual non-commercial owner and the breeder are just as important as those of the larger zoos. The foundation of this organization was built upon private ownership, something that we will continue to embrace. Many larger organizations started with just one person and one cat. The important factor is that the animals are kept responsibly and in a manner that reflects what we hope this organization will become.

I am happy to see that over the years FCF has evolved from a social club to a more professionally-minded organization with specific plans and goals. This progress has been most evident over the past couple of years. With such a diverse cross section of members, from individual pet owners to career wildlife educators, zoological caregivers, animal trainers, and hobby and conservation breeders, FCF has had some internal conflicts, which we must, as a group, overcome. While a free exchange of ideas is a vital aspect of this organization, I believe that it is in all of our interests to step back for a moment and take a look at the larger picture. If we do not put our differences aside and band together, there will no longer be a need for FCF as an organization, because no one will own exotic cats.

We need each other and need to cooperate in the future if we are to collectively defend and preserve our right to own and maintain these animals. Our best chance to do this is to follow FCF's recent progress

toward becoming a professional organization. Our ability to self-govern, accredit, and inspect our own members, whether private or commercial, and hold those members to the highest possible standards, will help to establish FCF to the rest of the world as a legitimate and responsible organization that serves an important purpose and is providing a significant contribution to wildlife conservation.

I am honored to have received nominations for both vice president and director of development for FCF. While I may only hold one office, after speaking with the current board of directors, I have decided to accept both nominations. It has been agreed that, in the interests of FCF, if I am elected to both positions, I will fill the position that will be most beneficial to the organization. (So when you fill in that ballot, feel free to vote twice for me.)

As a director of FCF, it is imperative that personal agendas be put aside. If we focus on making FCF a professional organization of responsible members and top-notch facilities, we will be one step closer to assuring that we all retain the right to responsibly keep exotic felines. I have no doubt that my experience and abilities will be beneficial to this organization and will help FCF to reach its potential.

Brian Werner

If you have ever been to East Texas you have probably heard of Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge or Tiger Missing Link Foundation and if you have a tiger you probably are familiar with me. I have been around exotic cats since 1974 and since being introduced, I have developed a love for them that has driven me to be an ambassador for their care and conservation.

In 1995 I started the Tiger Missing Link Foundation in hopes of conserving genetic diversity and eliminating the inbreeding of captive tigers. In 1995 I co-founded Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge. Our organization was founded the same year as the Save the Tiger Fund (1995). Tiger Creek provides homes to abused, neglected, and displaced big cats. In founding Tiger Creek, I also assisted in developing an educational program for school children and a college internship program to train the future keepers of America. I am also responsible for the fundraising, development, and market-

ing of our facility. These endeavors in turn have generated millions of dollars for private sector big cats.

I was the first to genetically test the private sector tigers for sub-species identification. Since that time I have been campaigning for all private sector owners to participate in our DNA research to help with the conservation of tigers. In addition, I was also the first person to have open-heart surgery performed on a tiger cub in an attempt to save its life. This led to many veterinarian advances that will save additional big cats in the years to come.

Over the course of my career I have given advice through former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on how to track and sustain tigers in Baghdad. I also provided big cat tracking for the U.S. Army, given expert testimony to Florida's Fish and Wildlife service for permit procedures as well as many other states and federal agencies. The non-profit I founded was featured on Animal Planet's "Growing up Tiger" and I have been consulted with and spoken for many news and media outlets.

As your current vice president, I along with my colleagues have been instrumental in advancing the development of the programs of the Feline Conservation Federation (FCF). During my term I established a reoccurring grant through the On Shore Foundation (valued at \$100,000 over the next 30 plus years). I also developed and implemented the field representative program as well as the regional directors. This program will serve as a vehicle allowing us to transcend from a national presence to a local level and vice versa. As a leader in tiger conservation and to enable FCF to maintain a national presence, it is imperative that our board of directors have strong leadership capacity with working experience of big cats. Through rights come responsibility that in turn brings accountability for both our leadership and our organization. I have laid down personal friendships and set aside conflicts with advisories for the benefit of FCF. Through that I have built new and stronger allies with the conservators, educators, rescuers, and the remaining private sector. While I have been at the helm of FCF, our membership ranks have nearly doubled, our funding has increased by more than 35%, and our services to members continue to increase

above and beyond the standards of the industry. During my term I have never missed a board meeting and have attended every conference. I have personally invested my time and money toward the development of FCF and I invite you to do the same. I have never accepted any money from FCF for my travels and always paid for any incurred expenses for my staff and myself. Also under my leadership, there is a new dynamic members service oriented website. I donated the *felineconservation.com* domain in addition to the numerous donations contributed during the annual conferences and auctions.

There is still much more work to be done without any time to waste. That is why it is vital that you reelect me as your vice president for an overall strong program and development course charted for FCF and its members! By giving me your vote you are supporting a proven and tested leadership with a direction for FCF that we count on!

Secretary

Joseph Fortunato

Joseph Fortunato, zookeeper and wildlife educator, is the founder of Animal Junction. Fortunato, aka “Jungle Joe—Pet Detective,” saw the need for a professional wildlife education service in southeastern Pennsylvania that was fun, educational, and affordable. Using exciting live animal shows, Animal Junction enlightens audiences, while teaching respect and appreciation for exotic, unusual, and amazing animals, as well as the importance of recycling to protect the environment. Joe’s programs inspire consciousness and passion for wildlife and the world around us.

“Jungle Joe” Fortunato has more than 20 years of experience working with exotic animals such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids, just to name a few. In his new indoor facility, one of his newest attractions is a serval named Sasha. His feline line-up will soon include a bobcat, a lion cub, and a caracal. On numerous occasions, Fortunato has had the honor of working with world renown wildlife expert Jack Hanna. Mr. Hanna sponsored Joe for membership into the Zoological Association of America which recognizes Animal Junction as an Educational Facility mem-

ber. Through this sponsorship, Animal Junction has applied for the facility accreditation program and is also seeking accreditation through the Feline Conservation Federation.

Fortunato has always been fascinated by wildlife. As a teenager, Joe volunteered at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He also managed a large pet store chain, Worldwide Aquarium, for many years. While working at the pet store, Fortunato bought a blue and gold macaw named Ziggy, which is the oldest and dearest member of his zoo.

In 1989 Joe became a Philadelphia police officer, graduating second in his class at the police academy. After working as a Philadelphia police officer for a couple of years, he was assigned to the Tactical Response Team (TRT), a special unit that responded only to in-progress felony calls in high crime areas of the city. As a hobby, Joe traveled to warm climates, including Florida, to collect tropical plants such as palm trees and orchids, while researching wildlife animals.

In 1992, Fortunato moved to Broward County, Florida, to continue his career in law enforcement, while pursuing his dream of setting up an exotic animal breeding facility named Creatures of Myth, Inc., which was located in Boca Raton, Florida. After six years away from home, Joe missed his family and friends and returned to Pennsylvania. He joined the Falls Township Police Department where he was selected to serve as a member of S.W.A.T. and C.S.I. After September 11, 2001, Joe was selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to assist in homeland security and was designated as a customs officer.

After 17 years on the force, Joe sustained an injury in the line of duty. Despite surgery and months of physical therapy, Fortunato was no longer able to return to full duty and was forced to retire. During Joe’s recuperation period, he began focusing on his true love of wildlife. Joe decided to turn his lifelong interest and knowledge of unique animals into an educational experience for people of all ages to enjoy. Joe went from being sworn to “protect and serve” to that of “protect and preserve.”

Fortunato continuously advances his

knowledge of exotic wildlife, through extensive research, attending lectures and seminars on the latest procedures and technical advances, hands-on training, consulting outside professionals, and extensive travel. Joe recently returned from Africa where he worked with Clyde Peeling, director of Clyde Peeling’s Reptiland. Peeling asked Joe to join his team as a tour leader in 2010. Fortunato has also booked his trip to the Galapagos Islands in 2009.

Joe’s life beyond the wildlife includes his wife, Tara, and his two children, Joseph, 3, and Catherine, 1, who share his enthusiasm for animals and the environment. Joseph’s first word was “Bubba,” the family tortoise. “Jungle Joe” is proud when his children wear their junior zookeeper uniforms and he hopes to see them follow in his footsteps and become an integral part of Animal Junction.

Through Fortunato’s hard work, knowledge, and love of animals, he created a wonderful wildlife business which educates and entertains. His company was awarded the 2007-2008 People’s Choice Award for best children’s entertainment from the Philadelphia Daily News and the 2008 Neighbors’ Choice Award for best children’s entertainment from the Philadelphia Inquirer. Although Joe has never previously served on a board, his extensive entrepreneurial skills, dedication, sincere love of wildlife and ability to work well with others for a common goal, qualifies him for the position of secretary of the Feline Conservation Federation.

Listed below are the numerous professional affiliations in which Fortunato is involved: American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK), American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABNA), Association of Professional Wildlife Educators (APWE), Bat Conservation International (BCI), Feline Conservation Foundation (FCF), International Crane Foundation (ICF), International Reptile Conservation Foundation (IRCF), National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (PAWR), Philadelphia Herpetological Society (PHS), Philadelphia Zoo, Zoological Association of America (ZAA), Better Business Bureau (BBB), Lower Bucks

County Chamber of Commerce (LBCCC), Newtown Business and Professional Association (NBPA), and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

Treasury

Kurt Beckleman

I worked for Mid Continent Medical Supply where my duties were in the account payable and receivables department as well as overseeing the payroll. I started here as a temporary employee and found a \$14,000 discrepancy in the general ledger in about four hours and was hired full time for the next five years.

My next position was at Redman Pipe and Supply in the accounting department where my duties included preparing invoicing for payment as well as invoice discrepancy, verifying travel and miscellaneous expenses, and preparing checks for payment. I was employed there for two years.

The City of Broken Arrow was my next employer in the account payable department for three years verifying payments to vendors for the approval of the city council and entered all invoices for payment into the computer to process checks. The monthly budget was an average of \$190,000.

At the Bergen-Brunswig Medical Company, I assisted in the account receivable department where I made computer entries for payment, made bank deposits, assisted in correcting invoice discrepancies and when not helping in the accounting department, I was a customer service representative and employed for three years.

I have been a member of the FCF since February 2008. I graduated from the husbandry course in March 2008. My personal belief in private ownership is that as a citizen of the U.S. we should have the right to have exotics as companions and pets. But with ownership comes responsibility. Without that we are doomed if the government feels they need to step in to dictate to us. We as owners need to show that we are responsible and do go above and beyond to protect the public as well as our animals. I believe that if an individual decides to own an exotic cat, no matter the size, they should have the training and knowledge to own the cat and be educated to care for, train, work with and learn the proper proce-

dures and protocol with the cat. I will do all everything possible to help the FCF grow and assist in their strength as a viable organization.

I myself have two bobcats, one serval, and one black leopard. I am presently raising a caracal for the park at home. I am the park manager and vice president at Safari's Sanctuary in Broken Arrow and have volunteered there for seven years. I am lead cat curator and have worked with the cats for six years. Along with my duties, I also do the accounting for the park and am well versed on Quickbooks and Quicken.

If voted as treasurer, I will abide by the bylaws of the FCF.

Amy L. Flory

My skills and dedication will be beneficial to the FCF organization. My diverse accounting qualifications includes cash duties, such as balancing bank statements, reconciling bank transactions, applying checks to open invoices and approving credit cards. I also have extensive accounts payable experience from a variety of backgrounds and billing experience such as invoicing and inventory tracking.

As for computer experience, I have many years of experience in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, Powerpoint). I have worked with AS400 systems and am familiar with various accounting software, such as Quickbooks and Quicken.

I have an Associates in Applied Business in Accounting from Northwest State Community College and some of my relevant courses included managerial accounting, income taxes, payroll, auditing, business law, and marketing. I had a 3.91 Accounting Technical GPA.

I feel qualified to perform and implement a sound accounting system for the Feline Conservation Federation that will be acceptable to the board of directors and will be able to provide the board of directors with precise quarterly statements. I feel I am responsible enough to oversee all Feline Conservation Federation funds.

Conservation

Pat Callahan

I grew up in Greenhills, Ohio. I was offered a job with the Ohio Division of

Wildlife Forest Game Research Project as a conservation aide.

In 1974 Lion Country Safari Inc. built a 125-acre animal park at the Kings Island Ohio Theme Park. I was an original employee. Along with the exotic hoof stock, they featured elephants, rhinos, lions, and tigers. Because I could shoot a gun and also drive a four-wheel drive stick shift, I was made head cat ranger. The 50 African lions we had quickly became 80 lions which is entirely too many, so we pioneered vasectomies in big cats. I will not mention the 50 baboons escaping, because that was not my fault. I spent part of my honeymoon looking for an escaped lioness who was quickly named "Daisy" to make her sound innocuous and was located and dispatched after three days.

I was promoted probably for being a workaholic and a survivor. And yes, there was an employee killed by lions after we had instituted a rigorous safety program. I persuaded four lions to yield the body to me before the monorail train came upon it. The lion that killed the man was one of the "tame" ones. I have never forgotten that you cannot stop being ever watchful of big cats and never turn your back.

Various changes came to pass and I found that the head keeper of cats at the Cincinnati Zoo was near retirement. I joined the zoo in 1981 and became head keeper of cats a couple of years later. The zoo had what is now called a postage stamp collection of cats: everything from rusty spotted cats to cheetah, jags, snows, lions, and tigers. We sometimes had up to 20 to 22 species of cats. The opportunity was there to breed over a dozen species of small cats as well as the big cats. I can say that small cats and cheetahs are the hardest cats to work with and succeed.

I have traveled to Namibia, Kenya, and South Africa for the zoo and on my own for cats; I cannot help it. So many things have changed, especially the emphasis on in-situ conservation and better exhibit design, too.

Development

Robert Johnson

See biography under "vice president."

Billie Lambert

I was born and raised in Bangor, Maine. When I graduated from high school, I joined the United States Air Force. I am still active duty today and have served for 25 years at assignments in England, Korea, and all over the United States. In January 2002, I achieved an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Human Resource Management and in September 2005, I achieved an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Administrative Management. I recently completed my Bachelor of Science Degree in Adult Education from Southern Illinois University and will soon begin my Master's degree in Human Resource Management. Currently, I have an assignment to Papa, Hungary and upon completing three years there, I will retire from the Air Force. I plan to work full time with exotic felines and adult education.

How do my qualifications enhance my job as the FCF director of development? I am not a stranger to the world of business and politics as I have been doing it for 25 years. My time in the military has provided me unparalleled experience in leadership and managing large projects. I was hand selected for my current position in Hungary to help build a military base; this is the equivalent of planning and assembling a small city. The strengths I bring to the director of development position are strong computer skills, management, leadership, imagination, creativity, and a "can-do" attitude.

I have a life-long love of exotic animals, especially felines, and grew up with non-human primates and a menagerie of animals. I am a new member to FCF but not new to the world of exotics. I completed the FCF Feline Husbandry Course at the convention in Myrtle Beach and over the past year, I have spent my every free moment in an internship at the Bear Creek Feline Center in Panama City, Florida. I achieved my written examination and internship hours for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Class II Wildlife Handler's License in record time, not an easy feat with Florida's stringent guidelines.

I am very concerned about Animal Rights groups and their legislation to end our right for responsible ownership of exotic animals and especially felines. We, the FCF, need to put our collective heads

together and not only talk about, but also demonstrate what it means to be a responsible owner. We need to continue and perfect our self-regulation and prove to legislators that they need us. Even with knowing that more endangered species are in private hands than in AZA zoos, a few incidents regarding either our animals or our public image gives the Animal Rights groups ammunition and we are left holding the empty ammo can. Right now, and more than any other time in history, the FCF needs to grow and develop into a mature, well-spoken and well-represented organization.

My position as Director of Development while I am living and working in Hungary will be a huge bonus to the FCF. I would like to expand FCF awareness and membership throughout Europe. Many of the FCF Journals we read illustrates heart-wrenching stories from all over the world. It makes sense to expand FCF and the fantastic work we do to a global scale. I plan to establish a development committee in the United States and will easily manage internet meetings and brainstorming sessions for our development team. FCF is in the process of building respect from legislators and regulators alike. My serving this organization as the Director of Development will be an honor and a privilege. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or would like to discuss my ideas, or if you are interested in being on my committee! Telephone: 850-532-5652 or biliekatz@yahoo.com.

Education

Sylvia Gerber

Sylvia Gerber is the current Director of Education for the Feline Conservation Federation. She is a new member to FCF, but no stranger to exotic wildlife husbandry.

She has 30+ years of working with many different exotic animal species. Ms. Gerber's knowledge and experience comes from many years of teaching basic animal husbandry. Her classes consisted of captive wildlife nutrition, veterinarian care, behaviors, handling, environmental enhancements, tranquilizing, transporting, caging, and rules and regulations for the state of Florida Fish and Game Commission. She currently possesses a Class I, II, and III

license with the state of Florida to own captive wildlife.

Ms. Gerber, through the years, has conducted educational seminars with schools and other public organizations on animal conservation and preservation. She has also trained and handled many different animal species for television shows such as Jay Leno, David Letterman, Good Morning America and has worked with Jack Hanna, National Geographic, and Jim Fowler with Animal Kingdom on educational shows and films.

Ms. Gerber currently works in real estate. Her professionalism and passion for improving the quality of life for captive species through education brings her to FCF.

If elected, during my term as Director of Education, I plan to increase the number of FCF instructors to expand the husbandry courses throughout each region. This will increase membership and awareness of owning wild captive felines.

My goal is to update the basic husbandry course and develop a secondary advanced husbandry course. Along with expanding the FCF husbandry courses, my hopes are to develop educational materials for schools on different feline species to target a better public awareness on feline conservation.

I hope fellow members of FCF will recognize my sincere desire to make FCF the leader in education for feline ownership.

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Marketing

Ron DeArmond

I have held a USDA license and DNR licenses in Iowa and Illinois for over 25 years. I am currently the vice president of the Association of Professional Wildlife Educators, a professional member of the Animal Behavior Management Alliance, member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, International Wolf Center, Snow Leopard Trust, and current member and on the education committee of the Feline Conservation Federation. I am the

founder and CEO of Pella Wildlife Company, a nonprofit organization that is working on a \$20 million project that will include a Wildlife Education Center, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and a 220 acre drive-through wildlife safari that will feature extirpated Iowa wildlife.

As a candidate for the director of marketing, I bring over 25 years of experience in direct sales and marketing. I have held the position of general sales manager for a radio group that managed three ESPN radio affiliates and country music stations. I have worked with many national advertising agencies and been involved with the Iowa Broadcasters Association. I have helped clients assess their market position and make plans on how they can increase their market share by defining their target market.

For FCF I can help define our current position as a marketing option for potential advertisers and target vendors that will be of interest at the conference. I can also put together a marketing plan that will network FCF with other animal welfare and wildlife conservation organizations that will help broaden our base of recognition, increase membership, and generate revenue that will help FCF continue to grow and offer more benefits to its members.

Mike Frieze

I am currently serving as the FCF Journal's copy editor and layout person. If I am elected as Director of Marketing, with the boards consent, I will continue to be your editor. I have been serving as the editor since the September/October 2005 issue. This issue you are holding marks my third anniversary as editor. In that time I have laid out 876 pages in 18 issues.

With the help of a team helpers, I was also able to assemble the 5,400-page, 50-year searchable archive DVD which has been distributed to all members both old and new. The cover of the journal is now in full color, making the FCF Journal a viable coffee table publication and invites even more eyes to the content inside.

All of these improvements to the journal would have been for naught if it were not for a steady supply of high-quality articles and photos supplied by the most important part of the team: you. I will carry this fine example of symbiotic teamwork to the

board and never forget that the board will be most effective if it works as a team with members as our partners.

What does the Director of Marketing do? According to bylaw 6.8, the Director of Marketing:

"Promotes FCF, its programs and services and related events through advertisements and other means available. Solicits sponsorship advertising from other organizations and companies for the journal, convention and websites."

I have already been doing some FCF marketing during my years as editor. My personal goal is to normalize the concept of exotic cats as pets. Notice that many of the covers of the journal, even this one, show interaction of exotic cats with humans.

Another example of my efforts to normalize the concept of exotic cats as pets is my membership with the Cat Writer's Association (CWA). CWA members comprise the bulk of people who write for publications such as Cat Fancy. The concept of exotic cats as pets was completely foreign to them until last year when the FCF Journal won CWA's coveted Muse Medallion for "Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation."

In 2007, I attended the CWA convention in Foster City, CA and distributed FCF Journals to dozens of conventioners; I even gave one to my counterpart at Cat Fancy Magazine. Since CWA is a domestic cat-oriented organization, most of the conventioners expressed surprise that there were such people as exotic cat fanciers. I encountered mostly enthusiasm and an occasional bit of hostility. Mostly, everybody realizes that cats are cats and all are important.

I will attend this year's CWA conference in Atlantic City but I expect to find far fewer people who have never heard of exotic cats as pets. The concept of exotic cats as pets has now garnered a small slice of their mindshare and has become a bit more normal.

Other marketing projects which were originated by and underwritten by me include the FCF Journal gift subscriptions and the journal mailings to USDA facilities.

Editor of the FCF Journal is not a board position. I have no better access to board meetings than any other member. If elected,

my marketing ideas will be easier to communicate to the board. Your yes vote will facilitate this line of communication.

Public Relations

Dan Stockdale

Dan is a conservationist and exotic animal trainer who works with various endangered species. When stories break involving exotic animals, he is the first call made by numerous national media outlets including Fox News, CNN Headline News, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and many others. Dan has provided expert commentary and analysis for national and global stories such as:

- the passing of Steve Irwin
- the San Francisco Zoo tiger attack
- the killer whale attack at Sea World
- and most recently, the grizzly bear attack in California

Dan's credits included multiple appearances on Hannity & Colmes, multiple appearances on Nancy Grace and multiple appearances on Fox News Live in addition to many other appearances. His experience with exotics dates back to 1978. He has also served as a corporate leader with over 1,000 employees and over \$50 million in revenue. Most recently Dan is appearing this summer at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee doing 20 shows per week with the American Eagle Foundation. He is a graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and he will complete a masters in communication at Austin Peay State University in 2008. He is also the author of the book, "Taming Tigers," now in its third printing, as well as numerous articles. Dan is a uniter whose personal mission is to bring together divergent animal interests for the betterment and survival of endangered species.

As an avid learner and active participant in industry associations, Dan is an associate member or member of the following organizations:

- The International Federation of Professional Speakers (IFPS)
- National Speakers Association (NSA)
- Incoming vice-chair of the Professional Expert Groups (serving over 2,000 members)
- The Elephant Managers Association (EMA)

- The International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE)
- Member, Education Committee
- Member, Conference Committee
- The International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA)
- Feline Conservation Federation (FCF)
- American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)

Member Services

Betsy Whitlock

My husband Stan, daughter Amanda (our resident veterinarian), and myself operate Belle Hollow Farms and Exotics, a small family farm and cattery in Western North Carolina. In addition to breeding sheep, goats, and donkeys, we are accumulating a new breeding colony of Geoffroy's cats and breed first and second generation serval hybrids (Savannah cats). I have spent my entire life in the company of various species and intend to continue my association with the natural world until my end.

I have served for the past roughly 20 months as your FCF secretary, a position to which I was appointed when no one stepped forward to serve after the last election. When appointed secretary, I promised to serve to the best of my ability and have done so. I only serve for the benefit of this organization, the mission of which, I believe in fervently.

Your new board will be challenged to fight for your right to choose the species with which you intend to share this world. We must be ever diligent to not lose sight of that goal. We must further understand that the FCF is a member's organization and without dedicated people and volunteers, we accomplish little. To that aim during my term as secretary, I have authored and championed policies that are now in place to make you the member, each and

everyone, count and to turn back the dramatics and "bridge club" behaviors of this organizations previous boards.

I asked and have succeeded in having all board meetings open for the membership to view in real time on the forums. With this tool, members may see who actually is conducting the FCF's business and contact board members at the time they are deliberating to provide input.

I authored the change in the moderation policy for the FCF Yahoo list so that no single member could silence another member in a personal vendetta.

I have authored a policy enacted by the board which prevents persons from running for or taking another board office or appointed position for a period of at least 12 months, after quitting a previously held office or position. This prevents the waste of the organization's time and effort spent on members who quit their board or appointed positions every time that they do not like the opinion of others or are asked to complete their assigned tasks. Board members and appointees must take their jobs seriously; board positions are not to be used for political or personal leverage.

There is a serious challenge facing the membership in this election. The board you elect will determine whether your organization returns to the "What's in it for me?" or "This is just a hobby!" attitude of the past.

As a member and voter, you need to be sure the people you place in office are not just "Johnny-Come-Latelies" that would use these board positions to gain respectability for their own purposes. We must continue on the course as a respected and a fully functional organization geared to protect private ownership rights and be a real force for conservation. Do not let this organization be hijacked by those who would serve only themselves. I am asking for your vote in the upcoming election. •

Treatment of Aspiration in Bottle Fed Exotic Cats

By Dr. Lonnie W. Blum

Kittens of exotic feline species being raised in captivity are often completely bottle fed or supplemented by their caretakers. This leads to cases in which formula is aspirated into the lungs causing a deadly cascading effect. Even though the milk formula aspirated is not of sufficient volume to outright drown the kitten, it is seen as an irritating foreign substance by the body and initiates an inflammatory response. This eventually pulls enough of the body's own fluids and inflammatory cells into the lungs to bring the lung function below what is compatible with life.

One of the things this response causes is pulmonary edema. This is a leakage of the body's fluids into the air spaces and tissue of the lungs where they fill up with water from within the animal's own body. Then, because the milk is viewed by the immune system as a foreign invader, the inflammatory cells migrate to the lungs and release enzymes and toxic factors that destroy the lung tissue right along with the particles of milk that they are there to clear out.

The final insult is the actual bacteria in the milk formula that have been transported deep into the lungs past the usual defenses in the nasal cavity that normally sterilize the air as it is breathed into the lungs. These bacteria immediately begin colonizing and causing an infectious pneumonia adding to all the other damage and making the inflammation even worse.

As you can see, there is a multitude of factors that go into play and propagate each other, all from the trigger of that small aspiration. To win this war, you have to start fighting early and battle on multiple fronts at the same time. Don't wait for symptoms to start before initiating treatment! If you know an aspiration has occurred, contact your veterinarian and get treatment started. Some of these things that will eventually occur in the animal's lungs have to be prevented, not treated after they get started or it will be too late.

I treat with several drugs to slow the various processes that cause the lung damage and death. As soon after an aspiration event as possible, I give furosemide by injection to help with the pulmonary edema. At the same

**Be sure to mail your ballot
so it is received by
October 15, 2008.**

time, I also give corticosteroids and antibiotics by injection to regulate the inflammatory immune response and to fight the bacteria that have gained access to the lungs. After the initial treatment with fast-acting injectable drugs, I then prescribe a broad-spectrum antibiotic and a corticosteroid orally for the next 7-10 days. I also often recommend Hills Prescription Diet a/d food to aid in the recovery with special nutritional support. Exotic feline kittens are lost to this problem frequently, but with early and aggressive treatment most of these kittens will survive and do extremely well.

Author is Dr. Lonnie W. Blum, founder of the Holden Animal Clinic and Supply, Inc. in Holden, Missouri. Dr. Blum is a 1987 graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. The Holden Animal Clinic serves all species including exotics as a primary care facility and also functions as a referral surgery center doing specialized procedures for surrounding clinics. •

General Membership Meeting Minutes

On July 24, 2008 the meeting was called to order by Lynn Culver, president. Her opening statement recounted the special challenges we have faced and will face in the future. She introduced the attending board members. She reviewed the board positions and duties.

Lynn discussed the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program and encouraged continued renewals.

Lynn updated the membership on the new website and the email potential. She asked that members review their member profile of contact info and email addresses and to update their feline census on the web site.

Lynn reviewed the need for an executive director and assistant with the membership.

Lynn advised the membership that the board voted to consolidate the renewals to October 1 and that FCF will be issuing membership identification cards. Lynn asked exhibitor members to consider offer-

ing member benefits to other members to improve recruiting.

The floor was opened to discussion:

JB Anderson proposed the annual convention be re-named the annual conference and by a show of hands the membership seemed to like the idea. The board will take it under consideration. He also objected to the preferential ballot system by which elections are held. Lynn advised him that this could only be changed by proposing a constitutional amendment in 2010.

Tim Stoffel addressed the membership on the matter of concentrating our efforts on defeating Animal Rights proposed legislation.

There was a heated discussion and exchange on the place of hybrid cats and hybrid breeders within the organization between Fred Boyajian and Betsy Whitlock. Fred's position was that there is no place for hybrids or hybrid breeders within the FCF and that selling cats for pets, education animals, and hybridization had lead to the decline of captive gene pools and cited the ocelot and margay as examples of species lost to the FCF. Betsy defended hybrids as the only legal alternative in ban states and that they perform ambassador roles and that excluding any one segment of our membership with different opinions was detrimental to the whole. Betsy encouraged working together for the common good rather than allowing the opposition to divide and conquer.

There were comments from exhibitor members who defended their use of cats in education work and took offense to the opposition to the sale of cats for education.

David Sol asked if there was interest within the organization to acquire group health insurance and received a positive response.

There was brief discussion that the Field Rep program was being moved to the vice presidents care so that more than just legislation matters could be covered, as the program was originally intended, and more effort should be placed on recruiting new members and helping with member services to existing members.

There was a call for any other matters. None were presented and Lynn Culver adjourned the meeting.

Betsy Whitlock •

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: Field Representative Program
John Turner

Project: International Speakers

Richard Hahn
Dale Meryman Ph.D.
Laura Walker
Abraham Basmajian
Sanctuary Supplies
Betsy Whitlock
Debi Willoughby
Lynne Hawksworth
Sherry Recinelle
Seth Langianese
Rochelle Mason

Project: Wild Cat Safety Net
James Gunn
Brian Daiagi
Joe Schreibvogel

Project: Conservation Fauna Andina
Pfizers Corp.
Sylvia Gerber

Project: General Funds
Cathryn Hilker
Margret Miller

Project: Mass Mailings
Brian Werner

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.
Betsy Whitlock
Secretary FCF

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, June-July 2008

FCF Board Meeting Minutes 6/26/08 to 7/3/08

The board meeting was opened by Lynn Culver. The follow topics where posted for discussion:

Candidates for Region 4 and 5 Director, Candidates for Director of Public Relations and Director of Education, amendment to the moderation policy, candidates for accreditation board, annual dues increase.

Regional Director of Region 5:

The following member has indicated an interest in the vacant position of Regional Director for Region 5
June Bellizzi

L Culver, B Whitlock, K Chambers, M Stinner, R Bean, C Clendinen, E Shaw, yes
June Bellizzi is appointed to Director of Region 5

Regional Director of Region 4:

No candidate was presented

Director of Public relations:

Dan Stockade was submitted to fill the current vacancy at Director of Public Relations:

K Chambers, B Whitlock, C Clendinen, M Stinner, E Shaw, R Bean, yes

Dan Stockdale is appointed to fill the position of Director of Public Relations.

Director of Education:

The following persons where submitted to fill the current vacancy at Director of Education:

Billie Lambert, Robert Johnson, Debi Willoughby, Kurt Beckelmen, Laura Walker, Brian Ferko, Silvia Gerber, Ron DeArmond

There was much discussion about having so many very well qualified candidates.

Silvia Gerber received 3 votes:

L Culver, E Shaw, C Clendinen

A fourth vote for this candidate was recorded but no name was recorded to correspond with that vote.

K Chambers, B Whitlock, M Stinner

Robert Johnson received 1 vote:

R Bean

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of May, June, July, and August the following individuals have made application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program. The board cannot stress enough the importance of participating in this program. It is proof positive to the legislators that make decisions that effect ownership, breeding, or exhibiting of cats, that FCF members are committed to responsible ownership and excellence in the care of our charges. We hope more of our membership will take advantage of this program to show their commitment personally.

Nancy Bowling - Basic
David Forsyth - Basic
C. Dale Meryman PhD - Advanced
Sylvia S. Gerber - Advanced
John Yang - Basic
Jonathan Yang - Basic
Julie Yang - Basic

Marisa Jackson - Basic
Jordon Jonhson - Basic
Carol Cochran - Advanced
Mindy Stinner - Advanced
Douglas Evans - Advanced
Robert Johnson - Advanced
Jamey Marinello - Advanced

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

Robert Turner - Advanced
Bobby R. Aufill - Advanced
Leah E. Aufill - Basic
Amanda Whitlock DVM - Basic
Elizabeth W. Whitlock - Basic

John S. Whitlock - Basic
Ron LaTorre - Basic
Brenda La Torre - Basic
Michaelyn Reeves - Basic

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

www.felineconservation.org

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

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

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

Betsy Whitlock
FCF Secretary

Since no candidate received a majority, so no appointment was made.

Amendment to the moderation policy:

There was conversation on amending the moderation policy to send complaints to the secretary but no action was taken.

Candidates for Facilities Accreditation Board:

The follow candidates where submitted for the vacancy on the Facilities Accreditation Board:

June Bellizzi, Autumn Grob, Bill Meadows,

Patrick Callahan

Patrick Callahan received 7 votes

L Culver, K Chambers, B Whitlock, C Clendinen, R Bean, E Shaw, M Stinner

An eighth vote was recorded but no name was recorded to correspond with that vote.

Patrick Callahan is appointed to the Facilities Accreditation Board

Annual Dues increase

Lynn Culver moved and was seconded by Carolyn Clendinen that international dues be raised to \$50 and Canada dues be raised to \$40 and that US dues be raised to \$35. The motion was modified to make the effective date be September 1, 2008.

L Culver, K Chambers, B Whitlock, C Clendinen, M Stinner, R Bean, E Shaw

Yes.

An eighth vote was recorded but the voter did not identify themselves.

The meeting closed at midnight 7/3/08.

Betsy Whitlock

FCF Secretary

**FCF Board Meeting Minutes
7/8/08 to 7/10/08**

Lynn Culver opened the board meeting. The following topics where posted for discussion: Second attempt to appoint by a majority the vacant position as Director of Education. Candidate offers for Region 4 Director.

Education Director

The following candidates where presented to fill the vacant position as Director of Education

Billie Lambert, Robert Johnson, Debi Willoughby, Kurt Beckelmen, Laura Walker, Brian Ferko, Silvia Gerber, Ron DeAr-

mond

Sylvia Gerber received 6 votes:

L Culver, E Shaw, C Clendinen, D Stockdale, R Bean, D Rabinski

Ron DeArmond received 4 votes:

K Chambers, B Werner, B Whitlock, M Stinner

Sylvia Gerber is appointed as Director of Education

Regional Director Region 4:

Kathy Stearns, the Florida state representative has agreed to accept a nomination as Region 4 Director of the Field Representative Program.

L Culver, B Werner, K Chambers, B Whitlock, C Clendinen, D Stockdale, R Bean, D Rabinski, E Shaw, M Stinner

Kathy Stearns is appointed Regional Director, Region 4

The meeting adjourned at midnight 7/10/08.

Betsy Whitlock

FCF Secretary

**FCF Board Meeting Minutes
July 24 2008
at the FCF Convention
Morning Session**

The meeting was called to order by Lynn Culver, president. In attendance were Brian Werner, Kevin Chambers, Betsy Whitlock, Mindy Stinner, Sylvia Gerber, Dan Stockdale, Bobby Bean, and Carolyn Clendinen. Lynn presented a long list of agenda items not all of which where addressed within the meeting.

Minutes of the last board meeting from 7/8/08 to 7/10/08 were presented and voted on for approval.

9 yes votes

All attending board members

Minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer report was reviewed and accepted. Kevin also presented a brief mid-year budget review.

Member Services Report:

Carolyn reviewed the status of her supplies for new member packages. Carolyn is going to have more DVDs and Basic Cat Care manuals printed. She will continue sending old journals with the new member packets. There was discussion about get-

ting volunteers to contact new members to review their feline census and push for getting facilities accredited.

Membership Cards:

The board discussed and agreed on the concept of an annual membership card. Brian said he would see about getting quotes for the cost. There was also discussion about moving all memberships to a common date and asking member facilities to offer some perks to members who present their membership cards in order to provide added value to membership. It was decided to revisit the membership date in an afternoon meeting during convention.

Husbandry Course:

We discussed changing the fee for the husbandry course and Betsy moved that the fee be \$95.00 for members and \$130.00 for non-members and that we should consider a facility discount for member facilities in the future. Seconded by Sylvia Gerber. The motion was modified by Betsy. The change become effective October 1, 2008 and seconded by Sylvia Gerber.

9 yes votes

All attending board members

Motion passes

There was a discussion that the next husbandry course would be offered at the UAPPEAL Circle of Unity Weekend, Labor Day weekend in Hot Springs Arkansas and that Lynn Culver would teach and Sylvia Gerber would co-instruct so she could be certified as a husbandry course instructor. It was hoped that the course could be further updated prior to the course offering.

Secretary's Report:

Betsy discussed the status of the Registered Handlers program. It was decided that the secretary would get the current donation letters and handler letters uploaded for use with automated renewals in the future.

Field Representative Program:

There was a discussion that we still do not have many state representatives in place and that the program was supposed to do more than just be a subcommittee for legislation. It was discussed that the board or the board member in charge of the pro-

gram should create a job description for regional and state reps so the current people would be less confused about what is expected of them. Kevin Chambers stated more than one rep had expressed a question about what they were supposed to be doing. A motion was made by Kevin Chambers that the Programs and Policies be revised and that the vice president take over oversight of the field rep program since Brian originally envisioned and proposed the program and it appeared to have lost its direction under Evelyn Shaw. Seconded by Betsy Whitlock.

9 yes votes

All attending board members

Motion passed

It was further discussed that Brian would meet with the attending field reps at the convention on Friday afternoon.

Conservation Grants:

Jim Sanderson asked the board what species were of most importance to the FCF and suggested that we as an organization try to work to get recognition for the fieldwork that we currently support. He

suggested we ask that USF&W consider allowing the FCF to bring in species of particular interest for captive breeding programs held by the membership.

Safety Net Fund:

We reviewed the current balance available for Safety Net Fund and discussed the need to find someone to champion the program in order for it to succeed. Lynn indicated that since Irene Satterfield had failed to make any press releases over the past year that we had lost many good opportunities to grow the fund and participate in high profile rescues. She expressed that the members with close ties or direct personal knowledge of Safety Net situations should play a point role in getting information and grant requests to the FCF, make a call for member participation and should work with the new Director of Public Relations to take advantage of good press.

The meeting ran past the appointed hours so it was decided that the board would meet again in an afternoon session to consider topics not yet addressed.

Lynn Culver adjourned the meeting.

FCF Board Meeting Minutes July 24 2008 at the FCF Convention Afternoon Session

Lynn called the meeting to order. Sylvia Gerber, Mindy Stinner, Carolyn Clendinen, Brian Werner, Kevin Chambers, and Betsy Whitlock were in attendance at the opening.

FCF property still held by Irene Satterfield:

There was discussion that Irene Satterfield has not responded to the president's request to provide FCF raffle database information or turn over domain registration for www.thefcf.org and www.thefcf.com.

Kevin Chambers moved that the president contact attorney Julie Roper to write a letter formally asking Irene for the data and domains. Sylvia Gerber seconded the motion.

L Culver, K Chambers, B Whitlock, M Stinner, C Clendinen, yes



Morning session of convention board meeting.

B Werner, abstain

Motion passes

Dan Stockdale joined the meeting.

Moving to a single renewal date for all memberships:

Moved by Dan Stockdale and seconded by Mindy Stinner that for coming renewals for the year beginning 10/1/08 to 10/1/09, members be permitted to renew with a fee schedule that reflects the time involved.

November renewals will be reset to October 2009.

January 2009 renewals will be invoiced \$24. Renewal date will be reset to October 2009.

Members up for renewal for March, May, and July will be invoiced for another year, plus the fraction of the year to take them up to October 2010.

The fee schedule will be:

\$54.00 for March/April renewals

\$48.00 for May/June Renewals

\$42.00 for July/August Renewals

\$35.00 for September/October Renewals

For new memberships, fees will change according to the join date.

September, October, November, and December membership is \$35.00. Renewal is October of the following year.

January, February, March and April membership is \$35.00. Renewal is October of that same year.

May, June, July, and August membership is \$50.00. Renewal is October of the following year (one year and a fraction of a year).

L Culver, B Werner, D Stockdale, K Chambers, B Whitlock, C Clendinen, M Stinner, S Gerber, yes

Motion passes

Brian Werner left the meeting and returned during the Accreditation Committee discussion.

Accreditation Committee Report:

Kevin presented a brief report from the accreditation committee stating the committee decided that accreditation of a new facility requires all satellite locations be considered and application include information for those. Fees for accreditation should be tied to number of cats, the type of facility, or a combination of both. The committee recommended reserving the right to require on-site inspections before

granting accreditation, and that this expense may need to be borne by the applicant in addition to the fee charged. The committee suggested adopting the Florida guidelines for cat facilities based on the species involved. The accreditation committee will present a written policy to the board at a later meeting for board review and consideration.

Bobby Bean joined the meeting.

Old Business:

1) Fund-Raising Letter

Follow up from last convention business. A fund-raising letter and mailing list was offered by Brian. The board assigned Brian to provide a draft letter by September 1 and Dan would edit the letter. Dan was also asked to draft a letter as well for a fund-raising mailing the latter part of this year.

2) Bylaw Rewrite

Brian proposed at last year's convention that the FCF bylaws be rewritten as policies and procedures as a prerequisite to apply for various grants and doing mass fund-raising mailings. Brian was assigned to make suggestions for change. Brian stated to the board he believed the FCF was not ready or willing to undertake a dramatic change in its structure, so he suggested we go ahead as we are for now.

3) Estate Planning:

There was a brief discussion that we should be reminding members that when doing estate planning, that they should remember the FCF in their charitable giving.

Use of the mass email feature of the new web site:

It was discussed how to decide what information should be disseminated to the members by the mass email feature of the new web site. It was discussed that issues concerning inquiries about acquiring cats or the placement of them should be made by the Director of Conservation.

Executive Director:

It was discussed and agreed at last year convention board meeting that the FCF should hire an executive director as soon as funding was available. With the growth the FCF has experienced this year and the rig-

ors of volunteer board positions, it was decided that this position was necessary to continue to provide good service to the membership. The job would include, but may not be limited to, assisting the Director of Member Services and the treasurer as well as any other needs identified by the board in the daily work to include reports, deposits, computer input, and bookkeeping as might be required. Betsy Whitlock moved that the board commit to hiring an executive director on a part-time basis beginning 1/1/09 on a part time contract labor basis expecting 15 to 20 hours work per week. Kevin Chambers seconded the motion

L Culver, B Werner, K Chambers, B Whitlock, M Stinner, S Gerber, B Bean, D Stockdale

8 yes votes, Motion passes

Permanent mailing address:

It was discussed that with the addition of an executive director that the FCF should have a permanent mailing address. Betsy Whitlock moved that Kevin Chambers be permitted to select a service and address for the FCF. Mindy Stinner seconded the motion.

L Culver, B Werner, K Chambers, B Whitlock, M Stinner, S Gerber, B Bean, D Stockdale

8 yes votes, Motion passes

Election:

It was discussed that the Board needs an accountant to handle the upcoming election. Accountant should receive, count, and store ballots. Accounting firm chosen should be familiar with the preferential ballot counting procedure required by the constitution. Mindy Stinner was asked to contact an accountant for a bid.

2009 Convention:

Dan Stockdale expressed willingness and was unanimously appointed to chair the next convention committee. There was discussion that it should be held somewhere in California. Kevin Chambers and Brian Werner are to assist Dan in this endeavor.

Lynn adjourned the meeting.

Betsy Whitlock
FCF Secretary •

FOCUS ON NATURE[®]

Insight into the lives of animals

MARBLED CAT



The round-headed MARBLED CAT (*Pardofelis marmorata*), weighing 2–5.5 kg (4–12 lb), lives predominantly in tropical forests from Nepal through southeast Asia into Sumatra and Borneo. Using a long, bushy tail for balance, he hunts birds in the trees and supplements this diet with frogs, lizards, and rodents.

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



Clockwise from top:

Teresa Shaffer's caracal, Crackers, hunts elephant. This is the sweet caracal which attended the last convention. • John Prengaman interacts with cougar • Leo the serval views the great outdoors—Marc Tuminello of Tuminello Exotics • Friendly the Geoffroy in tree—Lynn Culver

Your best Shot





Horse Caprice showing her usual indifference to cheetah Charlie's antics. Charlie, along with his brother Matt, live in this three acre habitat. Copyright © 2008 David Linde, Lake Worth, FL.

