



**Feline Conservation Federation**  
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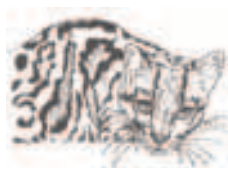
A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of this journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to the convention, and participation in our discussion groups. Your membership helps the conservation of exotic felines through support of habitat protection and conservation, education, and breeding programs. 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/The_FCF)

**Cover: Devlin, a black-footed cat born in captivity February 2007. Photo by Marion Holmes. Background: Roger Newson's cougar, Kowe.**





## 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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Feline Conservation Federation





## Letter from the President

I have just returned from a four-day stay in Omaha, Nebraska attending the annual conference of the Zoological Association of America. About 20 FCF members were in attendance, including the treasurer, Kevin Chambers, the director of education, Sylvia Gerber, and journal editor Mike Friese. Several of the speakers lectured on educational messages, which is right in line with this journal's theme. It was an honor and pleasure to meet Jim Fowler who is a new member of FCF. Jim has contributed a great article; please read his words of wisdom.

I have some wonderful news to share. Through the dedication, perseverance, and connections of T.I.G.E.R.S. and its founder Dr. Antle, who are members of our organization, the FCF was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to fund in-situ conservation projects. Supporting multiple global pro-

jects that protect habitat and the animals we care about is vitally important to both the felines in nature and to the FCF organization. Endorsing these projects reinforces our reputation as a conservation organization. The board is working hard to secure other grants and donations as well.

At the ZAA conference we learned about a worthwhile organization called the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria. Called PAAZAB (<http://www.paazab.com>), this association works to bring the zoological community in Africa under a cooperative umbrella to develop best practices and ethical standards for animal welfare and conservation. I was surprised to learn of the number of countries in Africa that don't even have a single zoological park. And of those counties that do, many have facilities that only feature a small

number of species and desperately need financial and husbandry support. The presentation at the ZAA conference by Joyce Bazel convinced us that the first appropriation from this conservation grant should be for FCF to join PAAZAB as an international member. As captive husbandry experts, FCF members understand the link between captive conservation and protection of wildlife habitat. It is vitally important that the citizens of Africa be able to see, learn, and care about wildlife so that their governments can be motivated to make policy and decisions that protect ecosystems. FCF members have the knowledge to offer feline husbandry support to these struggling zoos. Look for an article in the January journal on this African association.

I am proud that the FCF is a respected voice for the conservation and welfare of



wild felines. I thank everyone who has assisted this organization over the years to reach this status and invite everyone to stay involved and continue support.

The FCF has a new permanent address that will improve our national visibility and reduce confusion between administrations. From now on the official mailing address for all correspondence and payments is:

*Feline Conservation Federation  
PO Box 96503 #17555  
Washington, DC 20090-6503*

The Feline Conservation Federation membership dues have been increased. US dues are \$35, Canada dues are \$40, and International dues are \$50 annually. October 1 is now the universal renewal date. We would appreciate if you would voluntarily extend your membership to the new October 2009 renewal date. You can reference the date above your name on the mailing label of this journal's envelope to see what month is your current renewal date, and use the enclosed form to remit the appropriate payment now. Thank you.

The board is in the process of developing membership cards to be mailed to identify you as an FCF member and as a registered handler. If you are not yet a registered handler, please participate in this important program to document the expertise of this organization's membership. Fill out the enclosed registered handler form included. Or you may log into the FCF members-only web site and use the new, convenient, fill-in form, and remit payment with PayPal, or you can mail a check or credit card information to the new Washington, DC address.

Exhibitor members are being surveyed to gain entry fee discounts to FCF members. If your facility has not been contacted yet about discounts you can offer, and you wish to participate in this program, please fill out the enclosed form and return in the addressed envelope provided. All FCF discounts will be listed in the members-only

FCF web site.

FCF members may purchase gift journal subscriptions until December 31, 2008 for only \$20. Five-issue gift subscriptions start January 2009 and end with the September/October 2009 issue. This is a great holiday or thank-you gift for any family member or friend of felines, veterinarian, student or facility volunteer, or employee. Use the enclosed form to order journal subscriptions for gifts.

The feline census is another important part of the FCF. Knowing what genetics we hold and the number of cats in breeding situations helps us understand the future health of captive husbandry. In the January issue I will be reporting on the current results of the census. There are only 125 members so far who have reported their felines. This means that 450 members have not reported. Please log into the members-only section of the web site and take the time to report so that the January article can be of greater value.

The ability for the FCF to further its Safety Net feline rescue program, its legislative and public education efforts, and continue improving services to the members requires a larger budget than annual dues can generate. It is up to members who support FCF and can afford to make a tax-deductible donation to fill this need so that we will have available funds for developing and distributing educational packets to legislators, press releases to the media, continued upgrades to the web site and computerization of office duties, and improvements on the journal.

FCF membership has grown by one-

third this year. FCF has now reached the size where it requires a full-time executive director who will be responsible to insure that all functions of this organization are operating properly. Daily operations have increased. Increasingly media and legislative national events require quick responses. The operation of the FCF requires attention to details to insure that FCF meets the needs of its membership and also looks outward and can network and cooperate with the conservation and captive husbandry community.

I have enjoyed the challenge of serving as this organization's president the past two years and if the next board wishes, I will take on the responsibilities of executive director. I am asking all members who believe in the FCF and support our mission to donate now to help meet this expense.

Breeding felines in captivity and educational outreach may be the only hope for many threatened and endangered feline species. The FCF must put extra time and funds into public relations and personal appearances. FCF must educate the public, the media, the legislators, and the wildlife regulators about the conservation value of our felines, and the husbandry expertise and safety record of FCF members and facilities.

Please use the enclosed form and pre-addressed envelope provided in this journal to make a generous tax-deductible contribution to the FCF today so that FCF can continue to be the voice for you, the felines, and their habitat, both captive and wild.

*Lynn Culver, President, FCF*

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# Black-Footed Cat: The Smallest Cat in Africa

By Marion Holmes

Everyone knows about the big cats of Africa but how many people actually know about the smallest cat in Africa or that it only occurs in Southern Africa? Of the 10 cats found in Africa, seven occur in Southern Africa. As far as I am concerned, the most spectacular of all African cats is the smallest. It is also the second smallest cat in the world. It is nocturnal and extremely shy and only weighs between 2.5 to 5 pounds. Let me put it into perspective for you. This cat, when fully grown, is the size of a newborn lion cub or half the size of a house cat.

This amazing little cat is now called the small spotted cat (aka black-footed cat). It looks like a mini-leopard of sorts with its spots and stripes. It is ferocious for its size.

The Afrikaans name for this little cat is quite descriptive—Miershooptier—anthill tiger. This name comes from the fact that they have been known to use and live in an anthill dug out by an aardvark.

We are privileged to have this unique and beautiful cat in South Africa, yet so little is known about it and it is rarely seen. Unfortunately this CITES Appendix I animal is the victim of habitat destruction, blanket vermin control against the black backed jackal and caracal as well as indiscriminate poisoning and poisoning of locusts, the latter which is part of their diet. Their diet consists of rodents, birds, insects, and sometimes small mammals (up to the size of a cape hare). The success rate for kills is one of the highest of any cat at

around 60%; it kills on average one prey animal every 50 minutes! The average consumption of a single cat is around 3,000 rodents per year.

This solitary cat lives in areas that some would call inhospitable: semi-desert areas such as the Karoo. They have to contend with extremes in temperature ranging from 105°F in the summer to 15°F on a cold Karoo winter night. Their small bodies have a high metabolism and they therefore have to consume around 20% of their body weight per night. In this harsh environment where water is scarce, they obtain all the water they need from their prey. For such a small cat it has enormous territories. Males roam an average of 20 km<sup>2</sup> and females 10km<sup>2</sup> over the course of one year. This





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could be due to the fact that there are lower prey densities in the habitats where they are to be found. The small spotted cat shares a large part of its distribution with the African wild cat. Research is currently underway which will establish a more accurate distribution.

Most people would consider the roar of a lion to be spectacular. To me, however, nothing is more memorable than listening to the deep throated call of this cat. It is a rather loud call for such a small animal to produce and is a sound not easily forgotten.

Their predators include the giant eagle owl, caracals, and black backed jackals. The kittens are vulnerable to a much larger host of predators.

Nearly all cat conservation focuses only on the large cats. There does not seem to be much interest in the conservation of the smaller cats, especially here in Africa. Is this because they are not seen that often and therefore forgotten or is it that they are not “eye catching” or “have no tourist potential?” There is no single approach that will be successful in the conservation of the smaller cats, but education and public awareness play an important role in this regard. Any conservation must include the “man on the ground” as most land in this country is in private hands and that translates into the farmer’s hands.

At the Cat Conservation Trust (non-profit public benefit organization), one of our aims is to raise the awareness of the existence and plight of this spectacular cat as well as some of the other small cat species. Our school’s road show started with a limp this year as there does not seem to be much interest in sponsoring this kind of a project and we have to make do with limited resources.

There is so much research to be done with this species but unfortunately not much interest in this endeavor. We are working together with the world’s leading scientists in this field to try and help this species.

The cost of our work with ex-situ breeding and research as well as education on this species is currently being totally funded by Dr. Mircea Pfeleiderer and ourselves. We have managed to lower the high mortality rates which have been a huge problem in captivity in the past and are breeding happy and healthy cats using a unique system which we designed. •



# From the Fist to the Felines



*By Patty Perry*

How did this happen? A decade ago I found myself in a totally unfamiliar place. I barely knew the definition of a raptor let alone all the different species! Somehow, I agreed to volunteer with a local center dedicated to rehabilitation and education for raptors. Being the only reliable volunteer and taking in an average of 1,500 animals per year, I quickly learned whether I wanted to or not! I grew to appreciate all of them. However, the eagles became my focus. Over a period of eight years I seem to have developed my own programs for these magnificent birds. Along the way, various species of mammals crept into the equation. Unexpectedly, bobcats became a part of my everyday life. This part of my development did not fit into the mission at the center. I had officially outgrown my shoes. Having been approached with an offer I couldn't refuse, I packed up my eagles and bobcats and established my own sanctuary.

Exploring the wonderful world of felines has opened up a whole new dimension. All the bobcats were released back into the

wild. The main focus for Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Inc. would now be education. I had the raptor thing nailed down. Now it was time to expand. I networked myself all the way from California to Arkansas, where I found Lynn Culver, not a bad source for my first fountain

of information—and I acquired a serval in the deal!

Let me tell you about Sabi, the serval. She was a bottle-feeding kitten when she landed at Los Angeles International Airport, where I anxiously awaited her arrival. She is now approaching a year old and has





become an ambassador for her species, as well as for environmental issues. She is successfully participating in a very important mission. Sabi has decided to maintain her “princess” status in my home. When she is not working, she prefers to lounge around the house with her Burmese buddies and her beagle dog. She sleeps next to me at night and this is just one of the things that makes her irresistible. When I open my eyes in the morning, there she is. Not six inches from my face, staring at me, waiting for me to awaken. At this moment, she breaks into a loud purr, fluffs up and uncontrollably head butts me. Good morning!

My next feline acquisition for education was more in line with my history with the bobcats. Temba is a Siberian lynx. She is now five months old and equally involved in educating the public. She is, by far, the more outgoing of the two. She was born to entertain people. She also has far exceeded all expectations as an educator.

Let us not minimize just how important these cats are. Public awareness is the first step in conservation. I have been doing educational programs for about ten years,



**Patty in pool with Siberian lynx, Temba.**

an average of 100 programs per year. I have taught in all types of settings to all ages. The responses will vary with each group. It is up to the educator to make the adjustment to the particular situation. Teaching a group of four and five year old children is much different than an adult audience. The

information, delivery, and length of presentation have to be adjusted to the group in order to be effective. Each animal has its purpose for a specific message. Sabi delivers information, not only relative to her own species, but global issues as well. Temba represents both native and global issues as she is in the same family as our native bobcat.

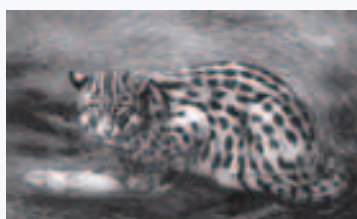
The responses are the most inspiring part of the whole process. The physical presence of the animals makes it all happen. I can remember just one program I had to do without them and it was the last! It was a large group of high school kids that slept and talked through the entire hour and the only question posed by one student was, “How do they have sex?” When the public can be up close and personal with a exotic animal, the message penetrates and stays forever as it becomes a reality for them. Stewardship is the most important responsibility that each and every one of us has. The animals give us the ability to make that concept a reality.

When we are not working, our daily routine includes long walks, swimming, and a lot of interactive play. Maintaining a good balance is the most important ingredient to having a great animal.

So far, my journey into the exotic feline world seems to be taking me to a whole new level of awareness. Most of you are, no doubt, far more sophisticated on some of the issues that face all of us. As I review

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the publications, attend the conferences, and network with many of you, I am quickly coming to the opinion that we as a society are down to crunch time!

What should we do about the present state of our global conditions as they relate to environmental and conservation issues? When I think about such things as habitat destruction, species decline, extinction, and all the things that cause these problems, I become overwhelmed. I then turn my focus to the people that are dedicating their lives to coming up with some solutions. A more passionate group of people will not be found. There is an incredible amount of time, energy, and care that many of you pour into this cause. In most cases the rewards are something other than financial but somehow you just keep going. Just as you seem to be hitting your stride, you run right smack into the animal activist groups.

Is it all too much? I do not think so. Again, I am speaking as the “new kid on the block.” My observation tells me that after a long and laborious journey, this whole effort is coming together. FCF is taking on a formidable life of its own. The key



is not how big you are; the success lies in the strength of the organization. I see a diversified yet cohesive group with a willingness to share information. FCF is steadily organizing and mobilizing itself into a force with which to be reckoned. There will always be a lot of work to do and room

for improvement. As this organization expands and stands in solidarity, it can deflect the harpoons and march forward. Having this safety net creates a chain reaction. It will allow programs such as yours and mine to grow. It gives us confidence and encouragement. •

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## Schreber's First Description of the Serval, 1776: Just What Cat is Schreber Describing, and Who First Described the Serval?

By Jim Sanderson

Carl von Linne, whom we now know as Linnaeus, provided the first *scientific* descriptions of many animals, plants, and minerals using his classification system. Providing a proper scientific description meant assigning the Latin binomial and describing the morphology (the physical appearance) of the subject *in Latin*. Linnaeus assigned each species a unique Latin binomial, provided a Latin description, and placed the species within his classification system. For instance, Linnaeus was first to describe the lion. This does not mean that before Linnaeus in the mid-1700s lions were unknown. Lions had been known to humans since the first humans evolved in Africa. The Greek historian, Herodotus, wrote that lions routinely attacked camel caravans and Pliny also wrote about lions. Leo is, after all, lion in Latin. Linnaeus was not claiming credit for making the lion known to science. What Linnaeus did was to place the lion within the family of cats,

“*Felis serval*” Sir William Jardine, *The Naturalist's Library*

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There are several levels of membership including individual, commercial, and facility categories. Associate and Professional are individual categories for people. Private, public and educational memberships are available for facilities. The Commercial membership category is directed toward organizations who wish to offer animals, supplies, services, equipment, or products to organization members. Accreditation programs are also available. Membership fees vary and some levels may require sponsorship.

ZAOA web site: [www.zaoa.org](http://www.zaoa.org)

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Hoppers:	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22	1.50 - 2.00	8.00 - 12.00	100
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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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assign to the lion the Latin binomial *Felis leo*, and provide a scientific description in Latin that could presumably be used by others to identify lions.

Linnaeus assigned Latin binomials and descriptions for other cats such as the tiger, jaguar, ocelot, domestic cat, and later, the puma as well. These cats were already well known. It was not until much later that other scientists first provided scientific descriptions of animals that were new discoveries.

In the 1770s Johann Daniel Christian Schreber wrote a treatise on natural history called *Die Säugthiere* that was updated and published over a number of years. Using the Linnaean system of classification, Schreber provided a Latin binomial and a brief description for each species. Schreber's name and dates of description (1775-1777) are commonly associated with eight species of cats. However, I am convinced that Schreber did not *discover* any new species but was instead first to place these species in the family of cats and provide a Latin binomial for these species that had in fact been discovered by other scientists. Just as with the jungle cat (*Felis chaus*),

some of these scientists were his contemporaries.

All of Schreber's descriptions contain credits to some of those who provided descriptions prior to his own efforts. The long-standing feud between the Swede Linnaeus and the French scientific establishment that included de Buffon, the most famous of the French naturalists, precluded the use of the Linnaean system in French natural history volumes. For instance, de Buffon described the serval in his *Historie Naturelle*, 1761, just as Schreber indicated. So did Thomas Pennant in his natural history volume *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, 1771. Since Pennant's description is in English, I have included it here.

Schreber's description of the serval leaves much in doubt as to exactly which cat he described. The following is Schreber's original description written in German. Just in case you cannot understand German, a translation provided by my colleague Angie Appel follows.

14.

*Der Serval.*  
*Tab. CVIII.*

*Serval. BUFF. 13. p. 233 tab. 35. PENN. syn. p. 186.*

*Chat-pard. Mém. pour servir à l'hist. des anim. tom. I. p. 110.*

*Maraputé; In Malabar. Serval; bey den dasigen Portugiesen. Buffon.*

*Er hat das völlige Ansehen einer wilden Kaze, aber eine etwas längere Schnauze, etwas längere Ohren, und einen Schwanz, der kaum bis an die Fersen reicht. Das ganze Thier ist oben bräunlich, unten weiß. Die Schnauze bräunlich, mit grau vermengt. Die Ohren schwarz gestreift. Der Rücken mit runden schwarzen Flecken ziemlich dicht bestreuet. Der Hals, die Backen, und die inwendige Seite der Beine weiß mit schwarzen Flecken, und zu oberst mit schwarzen Querstreifen gezeichnet. Der Schwanz gegen die Spitze hin schwarz geringelt. An Grösse übertrifft er die wilde Kaze<sup>a</sup>).*

*Er wohnt in Ostindien<sup>b</sup>) und Tibet<sup>c</sup>) in gebirgigen Gegenden, vielleicht auch am Vorgebirge der guten Hofnung und dem heissern Afrika; denn die Tigerkaze, deren Kolbe<sup>d</sup>) und andere Meldung thun, kommt der Beschreibung nach mit dem Serval nicht uneben überein. Sein Aufenthalt ist*



**Felis Serval Buff, from Die Säugthiere 1776, Illustrated by Jacques de Sève**





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*mehrentheils auf den Bäumen; er fliehet den Menschen, wenn man ihn nicht reizt, wodurch er wütend wird. Er läßt sich nicht zähmen<sup>a)</sup>.*

<sup>a)</sup> Perrault. Daubenton.

<sup>b)</sup> P. Vincent Maria S. Büffon.

<sup>c)</sup> D. Forster. S. Penn. a. a. D.

<sup>d)</sup> Vom Vorgeb. der guten hofnung S. 154

<sup>e)</sup> Daubenton.

In English this reads as follows:

14.

*The Serval.*

Tab. CVIII.

Serval. BUFF. 13. p. 233. tab. 35. PENN. syn. p. 186.

Chat-pard. Mém. pour servir à l'hist. des anim. tom. I. p. 110.

Maraputé; In Malabar. Serval; from the Portuguese there. Büffon.

*He looks entirely like a wildcat, but has a somewhat longer muzzle, somewhat longer ears, and a tail which barely reaches the heels. The whole animal is brownish above, white underneath. The muzzle brownish, mingled with gray. The ears black streaked. The back quite closely sprinkled with rounded black spots. The throat, the cheeks, and the inner side of the legs white with black spots, and above marked with black horizontal stripes. The tail towards the tip black ringed. In size he outdoes the wildcat<sup>a)</sup>.*

*He lives in East India<sup>b)</sup> and Tibet<sup>c)</sup> in mountainous areas, maybe also in the foothills of Good Hope and hotter Africa; since the tigercat, of which Kolbe<sup>d)</sup> and others report, looks, according to description, not unlike the serval. His dwelling is mostly on trees; he takes flight of humans, if man does not tease him, whereby he becomes furious. He cannot be tamed<sup>e)</sup>.*

<sup>a)</sup> Perrault. Daubenton.

<sup>b)</sup> P. Vincent Maria S. Büsson.

<sup>c)</sup> D. Forster. S. Penn. loc. cit.

<sup>d)</sup> From the foothills of Good Hope p. 154

<sup>e)</sup> Daubenton.

The morphological description and the illustration seem to match a serval. However, the second paragraph of the description creates much confusion. Malabar is on the west coast of India which was settled by

14.

## Der Serval.

Tab. CVIII.

Serval. BUFF. 13. p. 233. tab. 35. PENN. syn. p. 186.

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### German description of serval from *Die Säugtiere*



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the Portuguese. The rusty-spotted cat occurs in India and is known to be arboreal. Could it be that Schreber was just repeating other previous errors? Six years before Schreber's work, Pennant's *Synopsis of Quadrupeds* also contained a description of the Serval on page 186.

a. *Le Serval de Buffon* xiii. 233. tab. xxxiv.

Differs from the preceding [bobcat] in these particulars: the orbits are white; the spots on the body universally round; in its nature very fierce, and untamable; inhabits the woods in the mountainous parts of India; lives in trees, and scarce ever descends on the ground, for it breeds in them; leaps with great agility from tree to tree; called by the natives of *Malabar*, the *maraputé*; by the Portuguese, the *serval* (de Buffon).

Mr. J. R. Forster informed me, he saw an animal of this species in the Empress's menagerie at Petersburg. Its fur was of a whitish yellow; the spots dusky; had a wild and piercing look; was brought from Tibet.

Clearly, Schreber's 1776 description can be traced first to Pennant's 1771 description and both of these lead back to de Buffon's description of 1761. Note that Schreber's illustration reads "Felis Serval Buff." Thus the work of de Buffon must be more carefully examined to proceed further.

Pennant cannot be assigned credit for the first description because he too had problems with the Linnaean classification system and did not use a Latin binomial, although he did place the serval with the other cats. De Buffon most certainly did not use a Latin binomial. Recall also that the jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) was mistakenly credited to Schreber instead of G黶ldenstaedt because G黶ldenstaedt failed to use the Latin genus *Felis* followed directly by *chaus*. Based on this oversight, the same charge can be leveled at Schreber.

Schreber began each description with a number (for the Serval 14), a common name (der serval), an illustration number (Tab. CVIII.), and then the Latin binomial (for the lion this was—not in italics—*Felis leo*). Each description followed this format with only a few notable exceptions, one being the serval. In what must surely have been a typographical omission, the species name serval appears without the genus

name *Felis*. Thus, Schreber, like G黶ldenstaedt, failed to use the genus name followed by the species name as in *Felis serval*. However G黶ldenstaedt provided a lengthy description in Latin of a species new to science, *Felis chaus*. G黶ldenstaedt also provided an illustration for Schreber.

Recalling that Linnaeus described the first cats in 1758 and de Buffon described the serval in 1761 but in all likelihood did not use a Latin binomial, works between 1758 and 1777 must be identified, located, and examined. One need look no further than Christian P. Exrleben's 1777 *Systema Regni Animalis, Classis I, Mammalia* where species are placed within the Linnaean system and properly described in

Latin.

The serval is described on page 523 as:

*Serval. 13. F. cauda fubabbreviata, copore suprafusco maculis nigris, orbitis ventrequae albis.*

Exrleben followed previous authors by claiming the serval occurred in India and was named from the Portuguese living there. Exrleben provided a list of citations that included de Buffon and Schreber.

The serval should be properly given as:

Serval (*Leptailurus serval*), Exrleben, 1777

The cheetah and tigrina were also properly described by Exrleben. •

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# Zoological Association of America Conference

By Lynn Culver

I planned to attend the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) conference when I saw that FCF conservation advisor Jim Sanderson would be speaking, as well as Alan Shoemaker and Jim Fowler, all of whom I wanted to hear. What I didn't know was how interesting some of the other speakers would turn out to be and how close a kindred spirit I would feel to them as they shared their messages.

This past year the ZAA has experienced a rapid increase in membership and the associated growing pains. Some of the similarities with the expansion of the FCF were uncanny. There is no doubt that there is a desire for animal people to join together to stop the madness and turn back the media and regulatory craziness. Many of the newer members of the ZAA are zoos that are also members of the AZA and wish to support another party. They recognize that no one organization should hold a monopoly on conservation and species survival.

This year's ZAA conference was hosted by the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. All day Thursday and part of Friday and Saturday, 113 attendees listened to great speakers. We also toured the zoo. On Friday many of us took a 30-minute drive to the zoo's drive-through wildlife park. Food was abundant and delicious and the opportunities to network resulted in several new FCF memberships and a couple of facilities agreed to host future husbandry courses.

Henry Doorly Zoo is a star amongst the AZA accredited facilities. The facility represents many, many millions of dollars spent on habitat creation. It is also an old zoo, with buildings housing the large cats that hearken back to another era. The large cat building has an extensive underground system that I unfortunately was not able to tour, but those who did said it was amazing and was built to hold up to 100 big cats.

What I did see on display were many tigers, as well as snow leopards, Amur leopards, and lions. Some were indoors and some out. Enclosures were concrete floors and walls and artificial stone and logs. At least one of the tigers was a wild-caught Indochinese subspecies. It was resting peacefully, seemingly adjusted to life in

captivity. I would guess that the big cat enclosures averaged about 600 square feet, about 20 by 30 feet. The cats seemed to have little to occupy their minds, and I am forced to compare this to the private sector where the cage might be all chain link and of similar size, but the cats have the stimulus of being hand-reared and loved and provided interaction.

Another building held the small cats and they too lived in an all-artificial world of concrete. A pair of black-footed cats slept before me, one of these being the same individual as seen on this journal's cover.

The first building I visited was that of the large primates, housing orangutans and gorilla. We visited after dinner on Thursday evening. The zoo was closed, but it was still light and ZAA participants had the zoo to themselves. It was cold that day and though the primates do have outdoor yards, they were safely locked inside the climate-controlled building. A mother orangutan held a youngster close and two other adolescents were also in the enclosure. One of the participants, Moksha, understands this species; she misses them, being a mother to three of these hairy red primates at T.I.G.E.R.S. She shared moments with them through the

glass; the youngster offered her a kiss on the glass, pushed some food out of its mouth towards her, gave her a hand, and of course, a big toothy smile.

The other resident in this building was a lone silverback gorilla. His enclosure was built entirely of concrete, with a large artificial concrete tree in the center and very thick glass on two walls. There was no place to hide and not much to do for such an intelligent being. He stood motionless, deep-set, orange glowing eyes darted at us and then away. The mature male was a bit pensive, massive, and thinking. I was told he had killed his offspring in the past few weeks. The keepers have no explanation, and so he is alone for now. I consoled myself that this animal has an outdoor habitat as well. That it was cold outside, so for his comfort, he was locked inside. At other times, he does get to experience living things.

A much better exhibit was the inside rainforest, a tropical jungle with waterfalls and pools swimming with life. Here were birds and giant fish, otter, assorted primates, giant turtle, tapirs, a sloth hanging upside down from a tree, and more. Paths starting at ground level wandered upwards to give





visitors various perspectives of the multi-level environment. Several of our meals were served in the Tree Top Restaurant with one wall glassed to allow patrons to view the rainforest. If only the rainforest building could hold that gorilla!

The keynote speaker for the ZAA conference was Dr. George Hughes, a renowned expert on sustainable use of wildlife in South Africa. He has served as the CEO of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service and its trust.

Dr. Hughes explained that South African wildlife biodiversity was practically gone by 1895 because of rampant hunting, poaching, and habitat degradation. Antelope, zebra, rhino, giraffe and most large mammals were on the verge of extinction. For example, the white rhino population was reduced to just 30 animals.

This dire situation was turned around through a concept of sustainable use of wildlife. This approach increased biodiversity, empowered the communities surrounding the wildlife areas, spurred economic growth, and built international interest in South African tourism.

Wildlife populations have flourished under this sustainable use approach. Each year species are captured for auction. Licensed facilities in South Africa and zoos throughout the world bid on the wildlife offered. This generates funds for conservation of the remaining wild populations. For example, to date 5,348 white rhinos have been captured and sold through auction and now there are 19,000 alive in the world today.

John Seyjagat gave a very interesting presentation on the Baltimore Zoo's indoor Australian exhibit. The original reason for the exhibit was a need to expand the area devoted to parking baby strollers. Architects developed the answer at the unbelievable price of \$5 million. Eventually the simple project expanded into an all-glass, seven-story building on the harbor waterfront with a price tag of \$85 million. The Australian exhibit of native plants and animals features the tallest indoor waterfall, pools full of native fish, native reptiles, amphibians, and bird life, and one single mammal, the flying fox. There are a variety of temperature zones for the animals and visiting public. This was a truly spectacular display, and a prime example of the



**All FCF members: (L-R from top) Lynn Culver, Bhagavan “Doc” Antle, Moksha Bybee, Julie Reid, Kevin “KEVIN” Chambers, Mike Frieese, Jim Fowler, Sylvia Gerber.**

extremely high construction cost per species of creating habitat at municipal zoos.

Dr. Jim Sanderson, conservation advisor for the FCF and internationally recognized feline expert, gave a global update on small cat conservation. As a voting member of the IUCN cat specialist group, he has the latest IUCN Red List, a canon of endangered species. Two new species have been added to the critically endangered list—the fishing cat and flat-headed cat. Other felines listed are the Andean cat, bay cat, snow leopard, and tiger.

The Andean cat has no fear of people. Native people consider them good luck and will throw rocks at the felines to kill them and then stuff them as house charms. There are less than 20 bay cat specimens in museums worldwide and no living cats in any zoos.

Nearly \$1.5 million is spent annually on snow leopard conservation and this species is actually gaining in numbers to the point that Jim and his colleagues considered down listing it, but voted not to. Annual conservation spending on tigers has reached \$5 million but the Bengal tiger population

is losing ground. Jim reported that annual global conservation spending for all 11 species of endangered small cat species is only \$200,000.

Jim reported a major change in the documented range of the fishing cat. In 1940 this species was listed as occurring in Sumatra. The existence of five photo-trapped images was the justification for including Sumatra in the cat's distribution range. Upon examination by Jim and colleagues, it turns out the felines in the photographs were misidentified and are actually leopard cats.

In Southeast Asia, illegal nighttime logging, replacing natural forest habitat with palm oil plantations, and widespread poaching threaten the survival of fishing cats. What makes this situation especially dire is that the government is driving the changes that are replacing native rainforest with forest production.

In the vulnerable category is the black-footed cat, clouded leopard, guinea, marbled cat, rusty-spotted cat, and Sundaland clouded leopard, tigrina, cheetah, and lion.

Jim has identified a long-term plan for the island of Borneo in the country of



Sabah for the bay cat, flat-headed cat, marbled cat, and Sundaland clouded leopard. He has also chosen two projects in Chili. He chose the Chileo Island for the conservation of the guíña and critically endangered Darwin's fox. He will support conservation of the Andean cat and pampas cat in Chile, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Alan Shoemaker gave an overview of the various permits that govern captive wildlife. The Captive Bred Wildlife registration is issued on a species-by-species basis and registration lasts for three years. Annual reports of births, deaths, sales, and transfers are required. Alan encouraged all breeders of endangered species to register, even if they do not anticipate engaging in commerce, since if you ever do wish to sell or buy, having the permit will allow you to act immediately, and applying for a permit can delay a transfer for at least three months. Native endangered feline species, margay, jaguar, ocelot, and Florida panther are not covered by the CBW permit.

Importation of endangered felines is limited to educational facilities that are open to the public and operated as non-profits. The exception to this rule is cheetah bred at

DeWilt in South Africa. This facility is registered as a commercial breeder and offspring born at DeWilt may be sold to for-profit and non-profit facilities for display or breeding. Applicants must demonstrate prior experience.

Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha fame spoke on the need for new educational messages for the conservation of animals. Jim sported khaki-colored safari wear and I was amazed at how much Jim looked and sounded just like the guy on Wild Kingdom, a show that I grew up watching every Sunday. Listening to Jim's stories brought back memories of Jim wrestling anacondas while his less athletic sidekick, Marlin Perkins, gave advice, and of memories of Johnny Carson cracking jokes about the animal ambassadors Jim brought on the Tonight Show. His celebrity is truly universal, though some may mix up the details as a story Jim shared illustrated. A Louisiana fisherman upon seeing Jim declared, "Well son of a gun, it's the guy from Kingdom Come!"

I enjoyed spending a lot of time with Jim, as did our educational director Sylvia Gerber and Florida state representative

Julie Reid. There is no doubt Jim knows wildlife and environmental issues inside and out. Jim stressed to us the importance of showing respect for animal ambassadors. He advised educators to develop their messages to link the existence of animals and habitat, collectively called biodiversity, to human welfare. In essence, explain the benefits to mankind for the protection of open space and wildlife.

I have been to many ZAA conferences and typically the animals are separate, though visits to the zoos and parks often include behind-the-scenes tours where keepers provide more intimate opportunities to be near the animals. This time however, things were different. The Omaha educational department brought out animal ambassadors to help Jim illustrate his point. A beautiful spectacled owl perched on a wooden branch was first to arrive. Jim explained how wildlife such as this increases interest in learning about the outdoors, creates suspense, unpredictability, and this increased retention of information presented.

The next animal visitor was an armadillo. This enormous African mammal was in harness and leash and led the keeper up and down the rows of tables. I was amazed. When it first appeared, I had no idea what it was. Even though it has probably been displayed at zoos I have attended, I do not remember ever noticing this animal before, but now I will never forget it. It was the size of a hog, and hairless like one too, but its nose was like an anteater. It tried to burrow into a five-gallon bucket placed before it, demonstrating its hard-wired instinct to dig a burrow.

The next animal brought out was a springhaas. This African creature has the face of a cute rabbit and stands tall on its back legs like a kangaroo and balances itself with a long bushy tail. It definitely had the "ahh" factor.

Finally, a very large albino Burmese python was held before us with the help of four volunteers from the audience. While I was focused upon the snake's head, which was wavering around Lex Salisbury's chest and I worried what it was trying to do, I learned from Jim that the female volunteer holding the back end of the snake was in the most dangerous place.



**Beth, a keeper of fowl, shows Fowler a spectacled owl.**



Each of the ambassadors offered an up close and personal look at the species and Jim treated all of them with respect and his usual dose of humor. Jim told us of a recent survey that found that less than 5% of the population thinks about wild places and wilderness for more than 30 minutes per year. This is an astonishing and frightening figure. Nature Deficit Disorder is a national crisis and it's no wonder this planet is in such peril from human mistreatment. Jim stressed that how we treat the earth is the most serious issue we face. He pointed out that as we exceed over 50% of the planet with humans, we have a problem.

Jim stressed that wildlife educators need to go further than just providing facts. They need to educate. As an example of what Jim meant by this, he explained that telling someone that a stove is hot is information. Sitting on a hot stove is education! The difference being that education affects your life and changes behavior. To accomplish this mission, he suggests human welfare be linked to zoological exhibits.

Jim talked about terms being used by educators and the need for replacements. "Conservation," he pointed out, is a management term, not a communication term. "Sustainable development" is a political term, not a communication term. He suggests we call it "sustainable consumption" which communicates exactly what we need to accomplish. As an example he referenced the situation with commercial fishing off the east coast. It has been shut down because of over-consumption; it has exceeded the ability for nature to replace those fish taken out of the system. Fishing exceeded sustainable consumption.

Terry Cullen is an expert on crocodilians and president of the Cullen Vivarium Wildlife Conservancy, a non-profit conservation organization he founded in 1992. He proved he is also a supreme communicator. Terry is passionate about his species: something of little interest to me. He arrested my attention from the movement he walked up before us and it never wavered. He did this because he clearly understands human nature. Terry carried with him Moo-Shu, a Chinese alligator up against his chest. This 40-pound, four-foot long reptile fidgeted for a short while and then settled contentedly in Terry's arms, back legs and tail hang-

ing limply and trustingly for about an hour while Terry lectured us.

Terry had our interest. The contrast was unmistakable as he opened with the observation that mankind is disconnected from animals. Though we are living side by side, Terry said we deny relationships and our species needs to get in touch with the natural world. As he spoke, the toothy mouth of his alligator friend Moo-Shu rested peacefully just inches from Terry's carotid artery.

Terry identifies the heart of the problem as human overpopulation. And this problem affects all life on the planet. Conservation needs to include everyone: the survival of human species and all other species as well. "At best we are staving off the inevitable," he notes, "at the worst we are fooling ourselves. We are not stopping what's happening, which is profound damage to the eco-web of life." Terry stressed that modern conservation is not working; no species survival plan has achieved its goal. Adherence to political correctness is preventing success.

There are a lot of messages and a lot of cultures and they all need educators to create action. For animal educators, Terry points out that the ambassador animals are the hook, to gain people's attention, so we can deliver our message.

Terry urges us to find out about our animals because the information in books is often not correct. Terry blames the media for increasing the cultural disconnect with their coverage of "the most vicious" and "the most venomous," a Jerry Springer approach to wildlife education that lacks respect for the animals.

"Look what has happened to our relationship with animals!" Terry lamented, adding the question, "How have fringe people succeeded in undermining what we do?" He blames animal rights for having done more damage to animals in captivity and in the wild. Terry noted that these fringe elements are people who are powerless in their personal lives and empowered in this cause.

Terry advised us to watch our animals. "What's going on?" he asked. "Stress," he pointed out, "is the number one killer of crocs in captivity and a close number two, is death by veterinarian."

Another astute observation by Terry was

that TV inures people. The irony is that in the 1960s, we were less informed, but more concerned. In the 2000s, we are more informed, and less concerned.

Terry ended with a call for mentoring because the next generation needs mentors. Terry encouraged us to improve education and be the voice of what these animals need. Because, as he said, "It is supposed to be about the animals."

I was very glad to have attended the Zoological Association of America conference as the Feline Conservation Federation representative and I urge FCF members to join this worthy zoological organization and help it in its efforts to gain its members parity with the AZA. •

<http://www.zaa.org/>



**Terry Cullen and Moo-Shu, a Chinese alligator.**



# Meet the New Board of Directors

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# Wildlife Education: What is It? Where Did It Come From? Why Should I Care?

By Ron DeArmond

Wildlife Education is sharing wildlife diversity—animals, plants, ecosystems, habitats—the natural balance of how we all have a place in nature. The formats you can use to teach are only restricted by your imagination. School presentations, movies, radio shows, television specials, wildlife centers, and zoological parks are all places and formats used to educate people. Anywhere there is an interested person, there is an opportunity to offer wildlife education.

We often take young animals being prepared for ambassador programs to campsgrounds where there are many people. This helps condition the animal to sights and sounds and also helps us stay on our toes when we get unscripted questions.

*Where does it come from?*

The phrase that will open the door is Nature-Deficit Disorder. This is not a medical condition, however. Studies have shown that children that do not have an

understanding of wildlife or life experiences in nature have tendencies of underachievement and life skills difficulties. This is an area where you can help. You do not have to have a Ph.D. to be a good educator. Start where you are comfortable and that may be with preschoolers. Keep it simple: What is it? Where did it come from? What does it eat? These are three good points that will create curiosity and create questions and that feedback lets you know you have done a good job.

When choosing curriculum, make it your own by including personal experiences. Some resources that offer curriculum are Wildlife Forever, Acorn Naturalist, and National Wildlife Federation. A good source for cats is “The Best Book of Big Cats” by Christiane Gunzi. I found a copy on Amazon for \$4. You don’t have to use it word for word, but it does have good flow and can be modified for any cat species.

Just a couple quick tips about wildlife ambassadors. You do not need an animal to be a wildlife educator. If you choose to use animals in your programs keep it safe, your number one priority is not your animals, but those you expose to your animals. Not every animal is a good ambassador. Make sure your animal has been conditioned for lights, sounds, fast movement, people reaching and wanting to touch your animal. The worst thing that can happen is to see an animal stress and flip on the end of a lead. Go to the Animal Behavior Management Alliance for tips on behavior modification and conditioning. The future of animal ambassadors is in your hands.

Continuing education is necessary because you may know a lot but you will never know it all. Many times you will hear professional animal keepers say, “I have never seen that before” or “They are not supposed to do that!” Continuing education will keep you up-to-date on new discoveries and behaviors that will help you be a better educator. Continuing education can be done in a classroom like the FCF Husbandry Course or field studies like those offered by the Snow Leopard Trust and the International Wolf Center.

The Association of Professional Wildlife



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Educators is an association that focuses on three areas: organizing educators, giving them the tools for success (curriculum, continuing education, etc.), and giving them a place to communicate with each other. I invite you to join today.

#### *Why should I care?*

Because your future depends on it. With state laws becoming tighter and private ownership being discouraged, being an education or rehabilitation facility may be the only exemption option to these new laws. If you wait for your laws to change and then try to become exempt as an educator without having already done programs, you will not be included. Start now; embrace the opportunity you have to share the experiences that are unique to you because you have a relationship with wildlife.

Don't think you can hide your animals and prohibit people from seeing your facilities because if something goes wrong, you will be used as an example of why private ownership should be restricted or banned.

I actively work with federal, state, and local agencies that govern animal welfare regulations. They ask for help and my participation in forming new laws and regula-

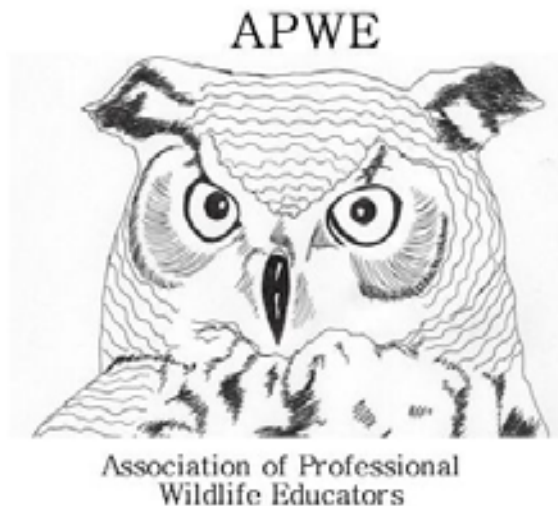


tions.

Get the media on your side and let them do stories about your positive impact on the community. Actively or passively, you are educating people about yourself and the animals you keep. Wildlife education builds your credibility and you become an asset to

the industry.

There is a common thread between the conservationist in the field and the conservationist in the classroom and that is, they work to *teach our kids*. You never know when or how you may impact a young life; the future of wildlife conservation and legislation may be in the classroom you are about to visit. Wildlife education is an opportunity to share from your heart and it can change the future. •



**No matter where your passion lies, wildlife education unites us all.**

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# CFA Registration of Exotic Cats

By Carin Sousa

I've been going through back newsletters from the 1970s, reminiscing about the days when we were all excited about breeding our cats to be sold as pets. We could thereby spare the ones in the wild from the trauma of witnessing their mother's murder and the fearful events a kit would suffer during importation to a pet store, department store, or even as one member found, a dime store. That's where she bought her margay.

Assuming the record keeping would quickly get out of hand, we asked for and received the privilege of registering our purebred wild cats with Cat Fanciers' Association Inc. (CFA) for ancestry purposes. We did not want to show the cats or in any way compete with domestic cats, but we did want the reputation of this prestigious, impartial registering body behind us. The Endangered Species Act was in the works and it was hoped that we could show the authorities, when the time came, that we had established breeding populations of at least some species in the country. We too, were working to stop importation by providing cats for the qualified and informed potential pet owner. Our approach was different from the government's, but could have proven more constructively effective than the prohibitions that were to come.

A few hybrids, mostly bengals as they came to be called, had accidentally been born, creating a good deal of controversy. CFA would not register them as they did not "breed true" and it was hoped the registering of purebreds would help discourage hybridizing. We had proof of our cat's lineage and a pedigreed animal from a reputable breeder should be more attractive than a cat of mixed background with unpredictable personality characteristics.

We hoped each succeeding, registered generation would further the perception of our responsibility. The onerous task of record keeping was being handled by an unassailable entity. We could suggest to potential pet owners that they go on the waiting list for one of our domestic-born rather than buy the jungle born in the pet store. Our experience had been when dealers had little luck selling the babies; they were not likely to import more. Frequently, they were glad to let any they had growing

up too fast or already grown go for a small "rescue fee." Placing them in qualified breeding facilities and registering them as founding stock, added to our growing gene pool.

In the May/June 1972 issue of the Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter, Judy Kamenik writes, in a letter to the editor, after saying they had registered their ocelot, Thor, with CFA as they hoped to have him participate in LIOC's breeding program: "I was disgusted to see our number was 0008. That only seven other cats were registered is not excusable!" Judy describes the advantages being offered to us and urges people to register their cats.

It is not clear whether Thor was the eighth ocelot or the eighth cat of any species to be registered, but a recent inquiry to the current registrar of CFA, Merilee R. Davis, elicited the information that a check of an old 3x5 card file located approximately 220 leopard cat registrations. The last such registration was in April 1980. She found no ocelots, and to dig deeper would rightfully begin to cost. One could access the files and do the research if they chose to visit the office. If we were to find the registered cats of other species, we would undoubtedly just have to add them to the growing "Where are they now?" list.

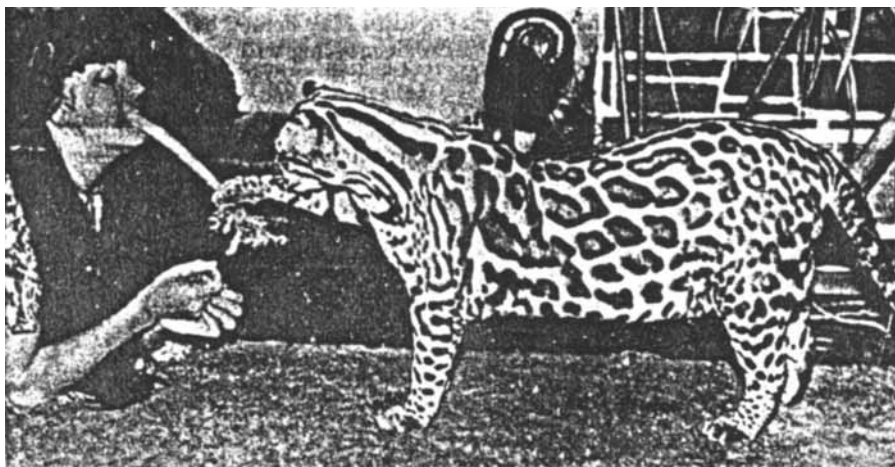
Alas! Proliferating legislation was already being discussed in the newsletters along with articles touting the club's breeding program and all the positive results we eagerly anticipated. Unfortunately, the laudable aims of governmental bodies to protect animals and the environment actually made the conservation of our cats nearly impossi-

ble. Movement to access new blood lines and to sell any resultant offspring, which was vital to the program's purpose and growth, became increasingly complicated. As city, state, and federal laws were raining down, we increased our efforts to communicate with the lawmakers and inform them of our sincerity in wanting to conserve and protect the smaller species by breeding them for the pet market. We may have been naive, but we were certainly enthusiastic. One of our frequent "battle cries" was, "There's a difference between a five pound margay and a 500 pound tiger." My personal favorite, ringing through the halls of council chambers and commission meetings was, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Our sincerity and dedication failed to impress. We are left with a dwindling few ocelot blood lines. Some servals, hardly any leopard cats, jungle cats, and so on. CFA now has what they call a Cat's Ancestral Tracking Service (CATS). They specify the system as, "...not open to the registration of cats of wild ancestry, which includes, but is not limited to, bengal, ocelot, African wild cat, etc." I have never met the African wild cat and it looks like chances are slim now that I ever will.

At that time, the Long Island Ocelot Club was also concerned with the needs of the original members. Primarily these were folks with one pet "house cat," whether ocelot, margay, or jaguarundi. They would have provided the market for our purebred kits; we would have responsible owners for our babies and the club would flourish.

We were naive, but times were more simple then. •



Ocelot from that same May/June 1972 issue.



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# Wildcat Safety Net Fund

By Lynn Culver

When a tiger at the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya facility in Missouri attacked a new volunteer, the tragedy signaled the end of a troubled history for the non-profit sanctuary. Wesa-A-Geh-Ya had come under regular attack from both PETA and the USDA, and relinquished its exhibitor license.

According to news reports, on August 3 the tiger climbed out of its enclosure and attacked Jacob Barr. The Smiths believe otherwise. In a phone conversation with Sandra, she told me she does not believe the tiger climbed out of its cage.

“That tiger had never tried anything like this before, even when my grandchildren were present,” which Sandra points out, “was a much stronger motivation for escape.”

Sandra believes Roy Elder opened the door to the cage and entered without closing the door behind him and that is how the tiger escaped. “Only two people know what happened, and that is Roy Elder and his friend Jacob Barr who was attacked.”

Sandra was inside her home at the time of the incident. She says the men spent the night before camping on the property. They



**Rescued tiger Mystik**

did not have permission to enter the perimeter-fenced area. Sandra says Roy

was a sanctuary board member and had keys to the facility and used them to enter.

The county sheriff has charged Sandra, her husband Kenneth, and Roy with evidence tampering for telling the authorities that a pit bull dog attacked Jacob. Sandra says they lied to protect the felines and the sanctuary.

Jacob Barr’s leg was amputated at the knee due to the tiger attack. Jacob has filed a personal injury lawsuit alleging that the attack occurred because the Smiths failed to adequately feed, protect, and maintain the animals at the facility, did not have proper barriers, and did not properly train volunteers.

The county council passed a new ordinance forbidding all existing non-domestic animals, and gave present owners 120 days to remove them. Businesses such as circuses and carnivals, zoos, or bona fide education or medical institutions are exempt from the ordinance.

The Feline Conservation Federation Wildcat Safety Net Fund was established to assist in the transport expenses of relocating cats in crisis. In 2007 FCF paid the



**Rescued tiger Pebbles**





## **Bear Creek Feline Center is hosting the next FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course**

**When: Saturday, February 21, 2009  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Where: Gulf Coast Community College  
Student Union West Room 347  
5230 West Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401**

**Price: \$95.00 FCF members,  
\$135.00 non-members.**

**Mail registration form and check to:  
Bear Creek Feline Center  
8822 Tracy Way  
Panama City, FL 32404**

The campus is approximately a ten minute drive from the Panama City airport. Lodging:  
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*walking distance to the college*  
5126 West Highway 98,  
Panama City, FL 32401  
\$54.00 850-763-7777

Course hosts are Jim and Bertie Broadus, of Bear Creek Feline Center.  
e-mail questions to:  
bearcreekcattery@juno.com  
call: 850-722-9927

**For other info call FCF Education Director Sylvia Gerber at 352-875-7699 or e-mail  
education@felineconservation.org**

This 8-hour course focuses on responsible captive husbandry. Featured topics include: Natural History of the Feline Species, Nutrition, Health Care Basics, Handling Equipment, Facility Design, Behavior Conditioning, Contingency Planning and Regulatory Agencies. This is an instructor-led, multi-media presentation, complete with student textbook, workshops, final exam and decorative certificate of successful completion.

### **Hot Springs, Arkansas FCF Husbandry Course Review**

My mother and I are new members of the FCF and we were sure glad that right after joining FCF, the U.A.P.P.E.A.L. Circle of Unity event was taking place in Hot Springs, AR and the FCF was offering its Husbandry Course. It was perfect beginning for us to get to meet so many members. We were also fortunate to take the Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course while there. Lynn Culver and Sylvia Gerber taught the class of eleven students. With all of their experience and knowledge any questions we had were certainly answered. It was a very useful course, a lot of information that we were completely unaware of, as well as a different look at some previous beliefs or techniques. I loved taking and passing the course. Even though I hate tests, I must say that this was a fun one.  
Misty Gilley

On Sunday February 22 students are invited to tour Bear Creek Feline Center. See cougar, serval, caracal, jaguarundi, bobcat, Siberian lynx, and jungle cat. Learn about the center's enrichments and husbandry practices. Tour begins at 10:00 am. \$15.00 fee.

**Registration form - please cut out or photocopy and mail in.**  
Bear Creek Feline Center, 8822 Tracy Way, Panama City, FL 32404

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Attending the Sunday tour of Bear Creek Feline Center ( ) yes ( ) no

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION



Exotic Feline Rescue Center for their transport of two troubled tigers from Ohio to Indiana. FCF gave \$1,000 and eBay sales and FCF member donations raised enough to meet the \$2,500 travel expense.

After this tragedy occurred in August, fundraising for the Wildcat Safety Net has generated almost \$1,700 for awarding grants. Up to \$1,000 for any facility translocation event may be granted. The membership can increase the amount by donating to the fund in the name of the facility.

Twenty-one of the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya cats were relocated to G.W. Exotics in Oklahoma. Carnivore Preservation Trust in North Carolina took in four tigers and the National Tiger Sanctuary in Missouri took in a pair of tigers as well. Fifteen tigers still needed placement.

Julie Walker made a grant request for the transport costs to drive the remaining Wesa-A-Geh-Ya tigers to Serenity Springs Wildlife Center in Colorado. I questioned Julie about her ability to take in 15 tigers on short notice. She said they were not incurring any labor costs. SSWC volunteers would build additional cages along with Peterson AFB members. The center had chain link donated and they had doubled up

some of the resident cats to free up temporary pens to enable them to immediately take the Missouri tigers. Colorado Wildlife Department approved the import permit for 15 tigers and Julie Walker and Nick Sculac drove to Missouri to pick up ten tigresses that week. FCF approved their Safety Net grant application.

The tigers reached Colorado safely and have adjusted well. Four females are housed together and three pairs of females are housed together.

However, instead of returning the following week to pick up the last five tigers as originally planned, Nick and Julie's plans changed and they only had room for two more. The last three tigers had death sentences hanging over their heads if homes were not found immediately.

Julie called the Conservator's Center, Inc. in North Carolina to ask Mindy Stinner to take in the last three tigers on very short notice. Since CCI had recently lost their older tiger Will to cancer, Mindy agreed to house one middle-aged male tiger.

Doug Evans, co-founder of CCI contacted Julie of Serenity Springs for more details about the final pair, and then he contacted Joe Taft of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center to ask him to take the tigers. Joe

was not only in a crunch for space, but especially busy. Doug relayed that a male and a female had been side-by-side through a fence and were possibly compatible. Joe agreed to rescue the remaining pair.

Time was short. Doug left North Carolina with a cage designed to fit in the van. After 14 hours of driving, a very distraught Sandra met him. It was then that Doug learned that there were no male and female tigers that could possibly be introduced, just three intact males who had never been near each other.

Joe Taft now had to build two separate cages for the two males. Joe made the trip from Indiana to Missouri the next day. Ironically, one of the cats had been offered to Joe many years ago, but the owner placed it at Wesa-A-Gey-Ya instead.

The ability for the sanctuary community to absorb so many suddenly homeless large felines in such short order is nearly a miracle. It took cooperation and the financial support of the various sanctuaries' donors and their communities. The FCF assisted Serenity Springs Wildlife Center with a \$1,000 grant, and donations from FCF members added approximately another \$100 for SSWC.

The Safety Net Fund functioned as envisioned, playing a role to insure that cats in crisis reached safe haven. FCF members are to be congratulated and I look forward to seeing this Safety Net develop into a reliable source of assistance in the future. The fund needs an advocate, a willing FCF volunteer who will oversee and champion this cause. The fund has much potential and is a worthy cause for donations and corporate grants. While FCF members have traditionally been the major supporters of this fund, donating to the fund should be attractive to animal lovers around the country. Fund raising ideas are needed along with members who will organize such projects or events.

With the rehoming complete, I would like to reach out to all FCF members and ask you to please make a gift to the Safety Net Fund today. Donations to the fund in the name of Conservator's Center and the Exotic Feline Rescue Center will help with their transportation costs and will be passed on. Donations made to the Safety Net Fund will be pooled for the next rescue need so that FCF can once again help stabilize cats in crisis. •



Rescued tiger Zoey



# Should We Interact with Exotic Animals?

By Sylvia Gerber

Among one of the most controversial questions in the animal care world is the question of whether it is progressive or helpful to have human/animal interaction with exotic animals. I am the Director of Education for FCF, but this is my personal view.

What is the purpose of interactions, or relationships with exotic animals? There are a number of reasons for interaction: the emotional well being of the animal, the health and welfare of the animal for medication purposes, and for safety of the animal, caretakers, and sometimes the public when doing conservation education work. And we cannot deny that the human derives great emotional benefits as well when we share mutual affection and respect with an exotic animal.

## *Emotional Benefits*

We know that our health and general well-being are dependent on proper nutrition, proper medication, exercise, and a positive and emotional attitude and outlook. So we should understand that our felines need more than just nutrition, medication, and habitat. They benefit from a positive mental and emotional environment as well.

Some people even argue that many exotic animals have a more developed emotional range than humans and therefore need more attention addressed to this element. I have found more differences of personality and characteristics between individuals of the same species of big cats than between separate species of cat. I have raised several different species of felines and witnessed two siblings raised together can be as different as two human siblings. Such personality differences can be greater than that of different species.

In my experiences, exotic animals have benefited from having a human to whom they can look for security, trust, and comfort. Captivity is an unnatural setting. With close proximity to humans, the cats are more relaxed if they view humans as positive. While the large cats are solitary by nature with the exception of the lions, my experience with captive-raised cats has revealed that all species of big cats crave

and desire positive human attention as much as another cat. In fact, the cougars and leopards seem to be the most affectionate with the humans they trust. Once the cat is comfortable with volunteers or employees, it greatly reduces their stress level and helps them to feel comfortable around tour groups.

The phrase, “positive one-on-one relationship” is critically important. I have worked with many types of exotic animals without employing discipline or food reward, just affection, trust, and respect. If the purpose in having interaction is to benefit the animal, it must be a completely positive experience for the animal. That means that one should start with the proper experience, knowledge, and motivation. Without all of these qualities, it is a recipe for failure—or worse—injury. You must know which individual is going to benefit. Since exotic animals have unique individual characteristics just like us, some individual wildcats cannot be trusted by even the most experienced human and perhaps do not want human contact. Next, the human must know what activities and interaction will produce positive emotional benefits and the human must be motivated only for the benefit of the animal involved. If one has any other purpose for the interaction such as ego gratification, desire to dominate, or to show off to others, the animal will probably not respect the human and it will not be a positive activity for either. In fact, when the motivation is improper, it increases the likelihood of injury and the animal will suffer as a result. Positive interaction does not mandate unprotected contact with the exotic animal. There are many benefits of emotional bonding and trust that can be had from protected contact through a fence.

## *Stress Benefits*

When an exotic animal experiences a feeling of security, trust, and comfort from its human keeper, then minor medical procedures can be accomplished without stress or sedation. There are some people who are able to administer injections, take urine samples, remove objects from teeth, check paws, and perform many other routines on tigers and other large cats without the use of sedation because they relied on the trust

they have built with the feline. This kind of relationship helps make all events in the feline’s life less stressful.

## *Safety Benefits*

There is a great safety benefit in having someone present that has a positive relationship with each individual animal. Their presence helps calm the animal and make it comfortable in its surroundings and this reduces potential injury to the animal or human. When moving or confining felines, the familiar individual that the animal trusts can minimize chances of escape or injury. Should the feline feel fear, it will seek comfort from the individual to gain back its sense of security. All escape plans should take into account that stress and agitation will cause aggressive/defensive behaviors that can be potentially harmful to all involved. It is important to remember conditioning a dangerous animal to accept care-





givers and not view them as a source of irritation can be the difference between life and death. We have all heard of instances where prior conditioning of different big cats has resulted in injury to a keeper that came in contact with the cat through “human mistakes.” If the conditioning is positive then the keeper’s chances to avoid injury are higher in unexpected contact instances.

#### *Public Education and Conservation*

As for public education, from my experience, this can be the most controversial. The animal rights groups believe all exotic animals suffer in captivity because it is too confining and the cages are too small. People like myself that have had relationships with exotic animals know they are as different as humans. They will differ on what makes them happy based on their personalities.

I consider myself an animal welfare activist. I believe that captive husbandry must satisfy the physical and emotional needs of the animals. In this respect, I understand that appropriate measures are necessary to enable the public to identify with individual species, particularly the feline species. Public education is necessary because many people only care about preserving animal species they can identify with such as dolphins, wolves, and panda bears. But even some of the familiar species are not thriving due to habitat destruction, poaching, and commercial activities.

We must be careful when commercializing animals. Using them for entertainment or even “edutainment” by making them perform for food can be stressful if the feline is not properly conditioned or does not have the right kind of personality. These situations give the animal activist more ammunition to use in their ban laws. Training animals to perform is considered by some as exploitation and inappropriate for the animal. The animal being trained must be treated with respect and should be exhibited in a dignified manner, demonstrating natural behaviors before the public.

The AZA zoological community has moved away from all contact and performances and is distancing the public from the animals and not allowing any keeper interaction. Habitat design has been greatly improved at the big municipal zoos and

wildlife has the opportunity to exhibit many natural behaviors, but the lack of any human connection with the animals distances the public emotionally, which reduces the public’s interest in conservation and preservation.

I believe that positive interaction with captive felines should include behavior that is enjoyable for the public and the animal. For exotic cats, chasing lures, climbing trees, or jumping from one area to another showcase their natural abilities. An excellent example of this kind of exhibiting was seen at the T.I.G.E.R.S. Preserve during our last convention. When properly done, the cats will enjoy the activity and the public will be educated on the feline’s behavior and enjoy watching it as much as the feline enjoys demonstrating it.

Those that are in the profession of training wildlife for television and movies should strive for minimal stress to the animal while insuring its safety and security. This kind of national exposure is not for the amateurs. Only animals that are conditioned to groups of people should be used. There should always be a message to

respect and preserve each species. Watching a stressed animal on a TV talk show gives the message it is okay to exploit and use animals without regard for their needs.

A well-planned and well-executed interaction between human and animal is a positive and constructive activity. It also helps younger generations respect wildlife. Better understanding and knowledge of exotic animals, particularly wild predators, will allow the public to recognize that the emotional make-up of the animal is more similar than different from our own.

Members of FCF who have made a life-long commitment to understand exotic felines on their terms and respect their emotions and instincts must do their part to educate the public. Our interactions and understandings will achieve results and help reduce mistakes that can cause injury. We are learning from past mistakes and we are improving our understanding of these incredible species. Let’s continue to educate the public to the best of our ability and give them a chance to understand why we chose to live, love, and work with exotic animals. •

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# Over-Regulation of Animal Presentations in the Private Sector

## Guest Editorial

By Jim Fowler

The state regulators don't seem to have a clue about the importance of education or the formation of a concern among the public, (voters), for saving the natural world. When facts indicate that less than 5% of the American public spend more than a half hour per year thinking about the importance of saving wildlife, wilderness, and open space, it becomes very clear that the mission and challenge of this century is to learn how to make people care about the continued existence of nature and "how the earth works" for the sake of all life on this planet!

You don't make people care when you disconnect them from the reality of nature or eliminate the possibility of forming a direct connection and an interest in the other species that are here with us. The old adage, "out of sight, out of mind" applies in this case also. Showing live animals safely, up close and personal, is one of the most powerful ways of connecting people to animals and their right to exist. Many of those people who are dedicated and passionate about saving animals and their environment are often those who had their interest sparked by having had the opportunity to work closely with animals or raise them in captivity when the person was young.

Someone needs to expose politicians and regulators to the reality of animals and the dangers that they *really* pose. It is popular for the media to dwell upon an animal attack and the horror it brings because it sells, but the fact is that the frequency of animal attacks hardly show up on a graph of what really kills, maims, or hurts people. Autos, stoves, motorcycles, dogs, horses, bicycles, taxi cabs, subways, swimming pools, farm animals, construction projects, electricity, guns, knives, and lawn mowers are just a few of the objects that kill thousands of people each year that aren't regulated and aren't news-worthy enough to make front page.

One of the biggest problems is that the horror of being bitten or clawed is programmed into our genetic material. Outlawing "potential dangerous" animals is not the answer. Permits make sense, or even apprenticeships or mentoring. Pet shops should be required to take the responsibility of requir-

ing evidence that the person obtaining the animal is able to take care of it, has served as an intern through a mentor, or has taken a course in its feeding and care.

Furthermore, there are already so many laws and regulations now, mostly based on misconceptions and fantasy, that it is almost impossible for anyone to obtain and possess a so called large non-domesticated potentially dangerous predator. Zoos should begin to be concerned because more people are being killed or maimed by animals in zoos than those held by the private sector. I know many dedicated educators who present educational lecture demonstrations with the help of safe, handleable animals before audiences for many years who have never had a single incident when a person has been hurt in the audience.

People crave to get near a live animal and even touch it. It is time that we take a stand that is based upon a mission to help people care about saving the natural world, not upon a law enforcement mentality that is the product of misconceptions and fantasy. This is supposed to be a free country where we have the right to pursue our dreams as long as it doesn't endanger our fellow human beings!

One thing is for certain. It is destructive to the future of wildlife and the natural world for the media to spread exaggerated propaganda from misguided "animal rights" groups and exploit the fascination and horror of a few animal attacks for commercial gain. The public and some regulators and politicians are led to believe that animals are dangerous and a menace to human welfare. If a majority of people become fearful of animals, the question is: will they lose their incentive to save wildlife and wilderness? Already in many parts of the world, animals have been wiped out because they have been feared or believed to be destructive to livestock.

The fact is, contrary to what some people may think, raising animals out of the wild so that people can recognize, understand, respect, and love them has little or no detrimental effect upon their survival in the wild. In reality, the growing pressure to regulate and prohibit their possession detracts

from our concern about the rampant destruction of wildlife and habitat.

We humans are the real danger. For over 6,000 years of written history, we have continually slaughtered not only wildlife but also ourselves. In the past 200 years this destruction of all forms of life on this planet has been accelerated beyond imagination. Perhaps now, it should be a crime to clear-cut a forest or destroy wetlands, but not to want to work with animals. There is a desperate need for dedicated educators who can become legitimate spokespeople for the natural world. People who have a passion for animals and know how to train and care for them so they can be presented to audiences safely and humanely may hold the key to reconnecting children and their families back to the world of nature. •

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**Jim Fowler speaks at the ZAA conference.**



# The Future of FCF Education

By Sylvia Gerber

Being the newly appointed Director of Education, I am getting my feet wet quickly. I am half way through the certification process for husbandry course instructors. I graduated in July and co-instructed the course with Lynn Culver in Hot Springs, Arkansas this past August.

I am working with a committee consisting of Ron DeArmond, Billie Lambert, Dr. Billiar, and Julie Reid on updating the modules. We are hoping to have it completed by our next scheduled husbandry course.

Bertie and Jim Broaddus at Bear Creek Feline Center in Panama City, Florida will host the next FCF husbandry course on February 21. Students can tour their facility on Sunday. Two other Florida courses are in the planning stages for next spring. Judy Berens of Panther Ridge Conservation Center in Wellington will host one course. Kathy Stearns of Dade City Wild Things in Tampa area has also agreed to host a class. Outside Florida, Kathrin Stucki from A1 Savannahs in Oklahoma is hosting a husbandry class in March. Patti Hall of Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo is planning to host a course in the spring, Robyn Barfoot from Cougar Mountain Zoo in Washington, and Matt Oldenburg from Acadiana Zoo in Louisiana is also excited about hosting a husbandry class in the summer.

My goal this year is to expand the husbandry course by adding some new photos

depicting different types of caging and adding additional material to the behavior and nutrition modules. Please email me any pictures that you feel are a good example or bad example for caging that I may use in the husbandry class. I also need to collect more pictures of cat expressions and body language.

Each FCF member needs to take advantage of every opportunity to educate the public on our cats. We must be responsible, educated owners. Animal activists use our mistakes to turn public opinion against us and gain support for prohibiting private ownership of exotic cats.

The public needs to be educated on captive wildlife. If they understood that most feline species are less than 40 pounds at adult weight they would likely be more tolerant of their presence in captivity. How many people have ever heard of the black footed cat or even know the differences in small and large cats? The more we can make the public identify with a species, the more we will be able to protect the species.

One of my goals as Director of Education is to expand on the present husbandry course and label it as advanced. There is a need for an advanced class covering more on big cats, on behavior, reading a cat's body language, with more details in health and environmental enhancement, training, and nutrition.

My other goal is to work with the com-

mittee and produce some sort of educational material for school children. I have researched a coloring/sticker book that Jack Hanna has out where the children can place the animal in their natural habitat. I would like to see FCF accomplish some type of educational material on the feline species that our grade school educators can use to teach children about different species, particularly ones that are endangered. I hope that any FCF members who are educators or exhibitors will contact me to join in and work to make this happen.

During 2009, I will be working with ZAA and Jim Fowler on getting recognition from our Fish & Wildlife officers and USDA inspectors to recognize the FCF Husbandry Course. Florida regulations require hours of experience to gain a permit. We need to impress upon the commissioners that "quality of hours" is better than "quantity of hours" and not all experiences are equal. The time spent at an FCF husbandry course should carry a lot of weight toward a permit.

For those of you that are interested in education and would like to contribute time or knowledge, please contact me. See the inside the front cover of this journal.

I would like to encourage facility owners to host a husbandry class in your area. If interested, please contact me for more information. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to help educate the public. •

## A purrfect holiday gift: FCF Journal subscription

FCF members may purchase gift journal subscriptions until December 31, 2008 for only \$20. This is a five-issue gift subscription that begins with the January 2009 Journal and continues through the September/October 2009 issue. It is a great holiday or thank-you gift for any family member or friend of felines, veterinarian, student or facility volunteer, or employee. The FCF secretary sends note cards to all recipients announcing the gift and gift giver. Use the enclosed order form and preaddressed envelope to order journal subscriptions today.





# Education or Decimation?

## Guest Editorial

*By Bart Culver*

My two great passions are nature and freedom. I still believe it is possible to have both. I love America because it is about freedom. But I am appalled that a few American fanatics are abusing their freedom of speech to attack my freedom to relate to nature positively, while many more Americans abuse their freedom to pursue a merciless war on nature. I am outraged that people manifestly unfit to lead have led us to the absurd belief that keeping the economy growing must take precedence over keeping our life support system alive. The corporatocracy expects us to wait to save nature until they find a way to make a profit doing it. But in our hearts we know that saving nature will require a lot more than painting the system green. It will take a fundamental change in our priorities. It will take sacrifice. It will cost a lot of money. And we have already waited far too long.

Who can speak for nature eloquently enough to motivate insatiable consumers to control their appetites? It just could be the beautiful, intelligent, loving, four-legged

earthling who lives with you. If you purchased a kitten from me, I had several reasons for selling it to you: so I could afford to care for many others, so they could have a value in commerce, the only assurance of survival under capitalism, and most importantly, so it would steal your heart for nature. I know that even a tame wild animal has a spirit that can never be broken. Yet they need love and when they return your love of their own free will, it is very moving. It will enrich your life more than any man-made thing ever could. I hoped the experience would inspire you, as it did me, to become a soldier in the war against nature—on nature's side.

Exotic feline owners, I exhort you. If nature has spoken to you through these creatures, stand up and speak for them now. Share the beautiful truth you are so fortunate to possess. Educate the public that we need nature like we need love because nature is what is truly essential, truly wonderful, and it does operate on love and wisdom as no human institution ever has, or ever will. Therefore we must reorient and rehabilitate ourselves to be good earthlings.

Nothing evokes compassion like looking into the eyes of our victims—the creatures we are driving to extinction so that ten billion people can drive their own cars and fill their closets with discarded cell phones, video games, and other frivolous claptrap. Nothing creates a committed nature lover like experiencing firsthand the intelligence and love that has evolved in these other species. My motto is, “if you can pet it, you can't kill it.”

As an exotic feline owner, you are doing something unusual. That is all it takes to make fearful conformist authoritarians feel a need to define and control you. By far the easiest way to retain your rights is to reach out to your community and define yourself before AR fanatics define you with their terrorist rhetoric. If you show people that you are a dedicated, caring, competent, responsible, knowledgeable educator and contributor, and your animals companions are affectionate and not dangerous, those people will stand up for you when AR fanatics try to outlaw your felines. FCF provides you the tools to accomplish this. Now is the time to use them. •

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## Election Results

*A report from:*

*Esther Stockwell,*

*CPA & Tax Accounting Services*

We have completed the count of the ballots for the 2009 board of director elections for the Feline Conservation Federation. We collected the ballots up until October 15, 2008 and then started performing the counting process on October 16, 2008.

We traced the ballots to the membership list and discovered there were two discrepancies. One active member voted twice. One person voted who was not a member. We excluded them from the vote. Additionally we received a letter, which was not opened, after the cutoff date so we did not include it in the count. We counted the ballots twice and verified the accuracy of the counts. While 167 ballots were received, only 165 ballots were counted. Here are the findings:

**President - Kevin Chambers 154**

**Vice President - Robert Johnson 109. Brian Werner 56**

**Secretary - Joe Fortunato 149**

**Treasurer - Kurt Beckelman 107, Amy Flory 46**

**Conservation - Pat Callahan 154**

**Education - Sylvia Gerber 152**

**Member Services - Betsy Whitlock 150**

**Marketing - Ron DeArmond 95, Mike Friese 65**

**Development - Billie Lambert 80, Robert Johnson 77**

**Public Relations - Dan Stockdale 152**

**Legislation - Robert Johnson 36 (write-in candidate)**



# **Blast from the Past. . . .** **Choices for Our World**

**LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation  
January/February 1993—Volume 37, Issue 1**

By Ron Eldridge

We are keepers because we share a common interest. We are all concerned and interested in the fate of all animal and plant life on our earth. By providing the public with information we help activate them. Action is what all of our endangered species need to survive. Action is the end product of information processing; without it you can't have usable knowledge.

How can we help? Habitat destruction by human beings of our rainforest is threatening the survival of many species. You can't talk about protecting the animal without saving the trees it lives in. You can't talk about saving the trees in the tropical forests and forget about the people who live there. The world is a very complicated place where everything is connected. The question is: "How can I help save a species?" Knowledge is what you need to help. Knowledge of: What you buy. What and how much you use of anything: paper, fuel, food, clothing, etc. What you say to another person about our global environment. What you teach to your children and visitors at our facilities. Remember, get out and vote. Make your concerns public through your government representatives. If you don't like what they say, don't vote for them. •

In all the world, there aren't enough zoos to effectively maintain even 1% of the species currently threatened. It has been reported by one genetic expert that you would need about 100 breeders per species to maintain a healthy gene pool. Zoos, governmental agencies, and non-profit groups don't have enough money or person-power to do this job. That is where people like you and I come in. By educating the public and, more importantly, the children, maybe

the animals, plants and yes... our earth may have a better future. Our vehicle to do this big job is LIOC ESCF, INC.

Many of us believe that all our problems such as habitat destruction, pollution, poaching, and global warming will be solved by our government or someone else. Historically, any change in society ultimately was brought about by the people. People like you, who finally said, "I've had enough, I'll do it myself." *Make it happen!*•



**Ron's male serval at 16 weeks, enjoying his enclosure. He is out of Donna Amos's lines and becoming a big boy fast. By 22 weeks, he weighed in at 20 pounds.**

**Believed to be a primary ancestor of the domestic cat, the African wildcat (*Felis silvestris lybica*) resembles the domestic in coat, size, and build. But they are not good lap cats. This photo interrupted the nap of an off-display specimen at the Henry Doorly Zoo during the ZAA conference.**





# Small Cat Conservation in the Karoo, South Africa



Mike Holmes

**Marion gives her back-footed cat, Jock, a treat.**

*By Marion Holmes*

In 1998 I was introduced to the wonderful world of the smaller wild cats through Dr. Mircea Pflleiderer. It is a fascinating world but one that is full of heartache.

After the death of my daughter and not being able to have any more children, I needed to “mother” something. I found a farmer nearby who keeps caracals in captivity and sells the newborn kittens. These cats are kept for various reasons including selling burlap bags that the cats of defecated on. These bags are then used to bait live traps which the livestock farmers use to catch and kill caracal—even though the cat in the trap may not be the offending “vermin.”

Sly arrived into our lives just before beginning of 1998. Our lives were never the same again! When our adopted son arrived

in 1999, Sly took to him and we never had any problems between the baby and the cat. One thing the cat had an issue with though was the fact that he couldn’t fit in the baby stroller with my son, so whenever he had the opportunity he would hop in the stroller in the hope that someone would find him and push him around too! The cat was a house pet and had freedom of movement on the 7,500 acre property. Unfortunately at the age of 2 years, Sly decided that the call of the wild was too strong and he wandered off and we never saw him again.

It saddens me to think that there is the possibility that he was killed by a neighbor. The livestock farmers in our area consider the only good cat to be a dead cat. This was once again confirmed when a neighbor killed our tame serval, Flash, who stepped over the boundary fence. I had contacted all

the neighbors about the serval and all assured me that he would not be injured by them and that they would call if the saw or caught him in one of their many traps. To this day they will not believe me that a serval cannot kill a sheep or goat. They did not even have the decency to shoot him—they had their staff stab him to death. This was a huge blow to both my son and I. He was like a second child in this house. I could not afford to take action against this person because my son has to go to the local school with all their children. My son is already isolated enough at school because we are English, are game farmers, and breed cats so I could not do that to him.

The authorities don’t really know what goes on here on the farms. Although it is illegal to use gin traps and poison, many still do. I have given up going to social



evenings as I grew tried of hearing how many jackal, caracal, and other “vermin” were killed. Many find it funny to tell the stories of how they used the poison, leg trap, or arm trap and watched the animal fight to survive.

Mircea had a tame African wildcat male, Manuel, who was the gentlest soul you could wish for. He lived around her house, roaming free on a 3,250 acre property. He too made the fatal error of stepping over the boundary fence. The neighbor’s staff saw this cat, slightly larger than a house cat, close to their houses and got the farmer to shoot it. Fortunately not all the farmers around Mircea’s house are this way inclined. Many of them in her area now call when they catch a cat they want removed. This gives us the opportunity to try and place the cat safely. On our end, however, we regularly hear the dog packs running and barking, killing everything in their path.

I have been fighting the cause of the smaller cats for many years now and have found that in most cases when you talk to the adults it goes in one ear and out the other. I decided to try several different angles. One was to start a publicity awareness campaign for the black footed cat in 2005. We were pleasantly surprised at the response. Not everyone who responded was calling in connection with the black footed cat but it showed us that there are people out there who want to know more. Not having the experience or time to run such a large project, Dr. Alexander Sliwa and Beryl Wilson started an international poster campaign. The data collected will form part of Beryl’s masters degree.

The other route I decided to take was an “education road show” for school children. I feel that I have more chance of getting through to the adults via the children than dealing directly with the adults. We have tried for almost two years now to get all the educational aides together but we were only able to obtain a few items. We had one of our American safari clients sponsor the full mount of an African wildcat kitten, our local taxidermist sponsored a caracal skin and skull, and Honda SA sponsored the printing of five beautiful posters which we use. We were not been able to find sponsors for the other items that are needed. Instead of waiting, we decided to go ahead with what we have.

I am limited to certain schools that have the audio visual aids and other facilities we need to do the presentations at the schools. We are still not able to bring the pupils to our captive breeding facility to bring them into direct contact with the animals. We had planned to convert one of our unused sheds into an educational centre for children to stay a few days on the game ranch, but after trying to deal with the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, I feel that I really don’t need the added stress.

Our education road show started in Cradock (nearest town about 40 miles away) during the second school term of this year at the Cradock Primary School and will continue there throughout the rest of the year. This school prefers me to do individual classes; younger kids in large groups don’t have a long attention span!

We are addressing the Cradock High School next week. They have divided the school of 500 pupils into two groups for the presentation.

In 2004 we formed a non-profit trust, the

Cat Conservation Trust. The aim of the trust is the conservation of the four smaller cat species in Southern Africa. This includes breeding, research, and education. We had also hoped that by gaining Public Benefit Organization status (which exempts us from paying income tax on donations) our efforts at fundraising would be less problematic. Unfortunately the “politically correct” causes to sponsor in South Africa at the moment are social development and the empowerment of previously disadvantaged communities. There is a lack of interest in funding small cat conservation in this country.

There have also been some good times along our path but given all the heartaches we have endured on our journey in the world of cats in the last ten years, I often ask myself why I still continue. The answer is simple: the world of wild cats is fascinating and if I at least make a difference in one person’s view on these cats, then it has been worth it! I have to thank the people who have spurred me on when I was ready to throw in the towel. •



**Caracal, Sly, waits to go for a pram ride.**



# So, What are You Doing Friday?

*By Frank Pyne*

That question, asked by Doug Evans and Mindy Stinner on a Thursday a few weeks back, was how our first rescue began. Doug and Mindy are the proprietors of the Conservator's Center Incorporated, a non-profit rescue and conservation breeding facility located just north of Mebane, North Carolina. We had been volunteering at CCI for about a year and a half when we were asked that question, doing such disparate tasks as construction, food preparation, yard work, cage cleaning, helping raise baby servals ("servlets," as we call them for fun), and giving scheduled, weekend tours to visitors.

We looked at each other, suspecting that our answer of "Oh, nothing much—going out to eat and then seeing what action-packed small-screen adventures await us on our DVR" was going to be dramatically revised. How correct we were. It turns out that earlier that day, a call had come in asking if we would be able to take in an animal from a facility in Missouri which had to close down and place all of their animals in other homes. CCI is a home of last resort for many animals, in addition to being a breeding facility for a few, select endangered species. CCI houses the largest collection of big cats in the state as well as providing a home for binturongs, caracals, servals, New Guinea singing dogs, and many others. As luck would have it, we have an older tigress (Samantha) which was quite interested in having a male tiger for companionship (as she has explained to us on a regular basis), and a nice, big cage that could hold the male until he could be vasectomized and introduced to Samantha.

The two of us had been very interested in helping out with a rescue, and seeing just what all was involved, so we quickly agreed to adjust our schedules on Friday and come out to CCI late that afternoon. Kim is a university professor and I am a programmer, so we are fortunate to have such flexibility.

Our plan: we would arrive in the latter part of the day, meet up with Doug, and a friend with a big-rig would arrive soon after. We would all load the transport cage into the back of the truck, climb into the

nice, roomy cab, and off we would go to Missouri at about 6:00pm. But naturally your friend and ours, Mr. Murphy, had shown up first and was waving his law judiciously about the time we had arrived. The gentleman with the big-rig? He would be unable to go due to a sudden and unavoidable conflict. The option of waiting until next weekend? Gone, as the owners of the facility in Missouri were at both their financial and wits-end, indicating that after this weekend, any animals left were to be euthanized. Sense of impending doom? Alive and well!

Fortunately, Doug and Mindy had recently purchased a large van, into which we could fit one of our transport cages, just not the one we had intended to use. This cage which would fit was, of course, in need of some minor repairs to the door and when we arrived Doug was busy with his

welding equipment doing just that. Mindy welcomed us to the madhouse and let us know that we would be taking the van and asked if we could remove the middle and back rows of seats, thus allowing us to fit the transport cage in the back. When they bought the van, the previous owner had told them that the seats 'came right out' so doing this sort of thing should be no problem. Apparently 'come right out' means 'getting down under the van and unbolting the seats from below'. Fortunately, the bolts were stripped, all but impossible to get to, and apparently put on with an impact wrench, because any less of a challenge and we just wouldn't have gotten the sense of satisfaction one gets when it takes over three hours to remove three seats from a van. As a nice aside, the final bolt was completely stripped, on tight enough it may as well have been welded, and hiding about



**Before the move: Tonka in his old cage before he was transported.**





a foot from the gas-tank. To get this one off, Doug had to actually get under the van with a cutting tool and do battle with it. By this time it was just after dark and the two of us were able to stand together and muse upon how romantic it is beneath the stars, bathed in the warm glow of sparks shower-

ing out from behind the gas-cover as Doug removed that last, recalcitrant bolt.

So instead of 6:00pm, it was closer to 11:00pm when the three of us loaded the transport cage into the van. The English poet, Richard Lovelace, once wrote "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a

cage." He was wrong about that; iron bars *do* make a cage, and an astonishingly heavy one at that. You see, this particular transport cage, in order to fit into the van, had no wheels, and CCI has nothing in terms of lifting equipment save for, well, us. After 20 minutes and the invention of several new curses, we managed to muscle the cage into the van, I made the decision to name my hernia "Doug," and off down the open road we went.

The drive took about 14 hours, with our only stops being for gas, caffeine, and whatever gastronomic delights we could find at the gas stations. We wanted to get to our destination as quickly as possible to meet up with a crew from yet another facility who had some equipment they had kindly agreed to share with us (i.e., a fork-lift with which to raise the soon-to-be-500-pounds-heavier transport cage.)

When we arrived, we were uncertain as to what to expect. We had heard varying accounts of the state of the facility and the emotional state of the owners. It turned out to be a modest-sized facility, with smallish enclosures for the animals, but certainly was not falling down with animals running loose. The owners were on-site and quite



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willing to help in whatever way they could, even though they were clearly upset and saddened by the loss of their animals.

After introductions were made, we were shown around the enclosures and met the tiger which was to come back with us: Tonka. Tonka was an average sized male tiger, seemingly in reasonably good health, and fairly non-aggressive. We were informed that he used to be walked on a leash and taken to different types of events, and oh by the way, when he was younger and at a different facility, he had killed someone. This did wonders for our comfort level, but regardless of whether or not he had killed a person in the past, we treated him as we do any large animal with the capacity to kill you—with care and respect.

We opted not to tranquilize him before loading him into the transport cage; he had no medical records, and there is always the danger that when you knock down an animal, they will react badly and not come back up. It just took some gentle coaxing, a bit of bribery with food that he really had no interest in, and soon enough he was in the crate and being loaded into the back of the van. Earlier in the day, just after we had arrived, several of the folks had asked us how we were going to take Tonka back to North Carolina with us. We pointed at the van and proceeded to bask in the warmth of their envy; while they had to make do with some roomy, air-conditioned, brand new 18-wheeler, the three of us got to contort ourselves into a late-eighties cousin to the Mystery Machine—and playing clown-car is so much more exciting when the fourth



**Tonka is stalked by adoring tigerazzi outside his new enclosure.**

clown might kill you if you get too close.

To be fair though, there was enough room that we were all situated safely for the ride back. Tonka settled right down as though being transported were the most natural thing in the world to him. Tired but in good spirits, we began our 14-hour trip back home. We had no idea the horrors that lay in wait for us.

To properly explain what follows, it is necessary to elaborate a bit on Tonka's diet

up until we rescued him. Upon touring the facility in Missouri, we noticed that there were chunks of beef lying in the cages—obviously dinner for the carnivores. But, oddly, they were all partially covered with an almost iridescent blue-green dye. We later learned that this is used to mark meat that has become unsellable for human consumption due to various forms of contamination. Tonka had been fed this grade of meat for some time, and when we were

## SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



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loading him into the transport cage, he had a little ‘accident’ that was rather loose, and pretty much the same blue-green as the dye on the meat. The cage was quickly hosed out and we really did not think too much more about it—until we got about 15 minutes down the road.

Now, it may not be exactly what you’re thinking—we didn’t find ourselves stuck in a van with a tiger suffering from Montezuma’s Revenge; we found ourselves stuck in a van with the most flatulent feline that has ever walked the earth. This tiger was so full of gas that it was, literally, coming out of both ends and the stench was such that it we were actually concerned that Tonka might be possessed.

The first incident of Tonka’s hindquarter serenade resulted in exclamations of amazement, rolling down the windows, and checking to make sure the back of the van had not been redecorated in day-glow blue. The van was, happily, unscathed and so we continued down the road, Kim driving, Frank in the passenger seat, and Doug in the back with the tiger. We had perhaps 15 minutes of peace until the next malodorous incident, but this time there was a twist; Doug was talking to Tonka, who was simply peering back at Doug serenely, when out of nowhere Tonka belched loudly. The first incident had been nothing compared to the almost palpable stench that wafted heavily over Doug and into the front of the van. Doug has been working with animals for decades, and he maintains that this was far and away the most ghastly odor he had smelled before or since. I turned around to check on man and tiger, only to behold Doug coughing and shaking his head, tears rolling down his cheeks from reddening eyes. It’s important to point out here that this is not artistic license...the smell really was so bad that Doug’s eyes had begun to water.

And such was the experience of the next 14 hours: 15 or 20 minutes of untainted air followed by a thunderous emission from our stripy friend (who, really, should have had but two stripes running down the center of his back), gagging and window-rolling, followed by another period of calm. It really is saying something when one starts looking out the window of a moving van whilst traveling through mountains and calculating the odds of surviving a fall down the side of a mountain versus surviv-



**Tonka relaxes in his new enclosure at Conservator’s Center.**

ing another ten hours in a rolling gas-chamber.

By the time we arrived back in North Carolina, we were exhausted but relieved that the journey was over. By this time, Doug was driving, I was in the passenger seat, and Kim was in the back with Tonka. As the van sat in the driveway and various keepers and volunteers approached, we briefly related the story of our trip, and then decided to begin the drive through the compound to Tonka’s new enclosure. The crafty tiger, however, decided that one final aromatic assault was in order. As soon as the smell hit, Doug and I dove out the doors. Note that Kim was not in that list; one other nice feature of the van is that the back doors do not really open very well from the inside. Kim was displeased by this. I came back and opened the door and attempted to mollify her by telling her that he figured she was being heroic and breathing in the gas to protect the rest of us, like throwing yourself on a grenade. Kim explained to him that he was in error, and I suggested that she really should not beat on him in front of the animals.

After everyone recomposed themselves, we drove Tonka the last few hundred yards to his new home, and with the help of several volunteers muscled the transport cage into the shift, and set Tonka free into a large, grass-filled enclosure with platforms, fire-hose hammocks, and a nice den in which to hide. Tonka was nervous at first, unsure about the new lions and tigers who had enclosures nearby. As the days passed and with the care and attention of the staff and volunteers, he relaxed and is now able to enjoy his new home—and his new diet, which seems to have assuaged his gassy predilections.

As of this writing we have not introduced him to the older, female tiger with which we hope he will spend his golden years. We will get him a vasectomy first, then allow a bit of time to pass to make sure no chance of an “oops” tiger-baby can occur.

So there we have it, Kim and Frank’s first rescue—a very rewarding, wearying, exciting, fetid, and completely worthwhile experience. We would not have traded it for the world. •



# Animals: A Voice in Education

By Tommy Young

Twenty years ago when I did wildlife education programs, I faced a naive public. Raptors were still mostly called chicken hawks and few people thought about the future of wildlife. I, like most people who deal with animals for a living, got into public education almost by accident. One day you are a wildlife rehabilitator bottle-feeding orphaned babies and bandaging wings and the next moment you give into a friend's request to say a few words about what you do for wildlife at the local 4-H club. Next thing you know (bam) you don't turn any group down, because after the first group, you are convinced that you can make a difference through education by preventing some of the problems with wildlife before they happen.

There is no substitute for seeing the huge yellow eyes of a horned owl. The appreciation and respect developed in a few minutes of observing living animals is immeasurable. The experience is real. It creates emotion, which in turn creates empathy, and most important, if I have educated them properly, they may have a life-long respect for living things.

I have always believed that God put us here to watch over the plants and animals and to tend to His creation that is nature. I feel very unfortunate that within the span of my lifetime, I will have been forced to witness the destruction of so many beautiful wild things. I believe that all animals are unique individuals and have a strong life force, if not a spirit. When a species leaves the world forever, they once called it extinction. These days it has a new name, progress. We humans are always looking for the lost Garden of Eden, yet somehow fail to recognize that it is all around us. Nature, as myself, will never again see the freedom or the bounty of the past because of the overwhelming nature of man to seek meaning in every thing and to control it all. Too many have the arrogance to believe that we can pick and choose which animals deserve the right to move into the future with us. This overwhelming philosophy is flawed for we are not here to rule over nature and each other.

I often talk to the animals, but more often I listen to them. There are ancient secrets and lessons hidden in nature. If you

pay attention, you may even discover secrets about life. In order to survive on this planet, everyone needs to learn its language. I believe if you talk to the animals, they will talk with you and you will know each other. If you do not talk to them, you will not know them and what you do not know, you will fear, and what man fears, man destroys.

I see this philosophy on a daily basis, more and more people seem to be afraid of wild animals these days and their first response is to kill. We have forgotten that the word "animal" in Latin means "soul" or "breath of life." The term "wild" comes from the Anglo Saxon language and means "living free within nature." Our forefathers who put these words together had the notion that the breath of the divine walking free in the world is what animals are. Modern man should remember that all ancient cultures listened closely to nature. Nature still communicates with us on many levels but more people have forgotten the ancient dialect.

Many people try to separate themselves from nature. The average person rarely understands their connection to, or their impact on, the environment. Many are from the city and are far removed from the animals and nature. Because of this, it is not surprising that they do not feel a part of the natural world. They have little connection to it and thus, even less concern for it. Many hold a fascination for nature but retain a lack of reverence, respect, and understanding for it. The world is merely a distant, abstract object to them full of different creatures and plants, with purpose of its own. Today's modern lifestyle has conditioned us to live in a manner entirely alien to what we really are and where we really came from. If you live true to your heart, you can hear and feel that the path we are currently on is not the path we were supposed to take. •

*Tommy Young holds a masters degree in ornithology and has 12 years of veterinary training. He is a master falconer and is also state and federally licensed as a wildlife rehabber. Tommy has rehabbed 37 bears and released 14 in southern Arkansas. In his career he has successfully rehabbed 10,000 hawks, 9,000 owls, 22 bald eagles, 18 golden eagles and 22,000 mammals. Tommy is also a licensed wildlife educator, working with the Arkansas State Parks system to deliver over 5,000 hours of educational programs.*



**Tommy is holding Tigger, his bobcat. Tigger was hand-raised and highly socialized and has been featured in many of Tommy's wildlife educational programs before retiring to live with Tommy and his wife.**



## Prohibition Against Exhibiting Oklahoma Bobcats

By Kurt Beckelman

In the State of Oklahoma there is a law that prevents bobcats from being used in educational and conservational venues. I have contacted the Oklahoma Fish and Game Department on several occasions trying to find out their justification and all I receive is a the usual answer:

*Kurt,*

*It is unlawful. OS tile 29-5-602 requires that all wildlife must be confined to the premises.*

*Capt. David Deckard*

*Training Coordinator*

*Law Enforcement Division*

*Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation*

To me the regulations are contradictory and confusing. They are open to interpretation as most governmental regulations are. In another section of Oklahoma law, one is allowed to exhibit cats and bears that reach over 50 pounds with a permit, but for some reason, there is no exhibiting allowed for native wildlife under 50 pounds.

*29-5-602. Confinement of wildlife to premises.*

*Except for native cats or bears which are exhibited under an exhibitor's permit issued to a person pursuant to Section 4-107 of this title, all furbearers, game mammals, game birds, game fish and minnows raised under the provisions of this code shall be confined to the lands or waters described in the application, and the wildlife shall be confined in a manner as to prohibit mammals, birds, and fish belonging to the State of Oklahoma from becoming part of the enterprise.*

Since I work at an animal sanctuary, I receive calls on numerous occasions from people who see a bobcat or raccoon in their yard or field asking me what they should do. I have also received calls from people who ask if its possible for house cats to get to 35 or so pounds. That shows me that it would be rewarding for both the public and the native species of Oklahoma to be introduced to each other on an educational and conservational level. We can educate the public on the safety issues if they come upon a wild animal or how to contact someone who can help them. Oklahoma is very pro-hunting and my personal opinion

is that they do not want the people to see that native fur bearers can be pets or for other purposes other than hunting.

I see the joy and excitement of individuals who see these animals when I take them to the vets. I am allowed to do that, at least. They ask many questions and are in awe of these wonderful animals. I have two bobcats, a serval, and a black leopard. I would love to be able to share at least my bobcat, Zara, with people.

Between now and January I am going to get as much information as I can to try and get these statutes changed. They are archaic. In North Carolina they are allowed to exhibit native species with a special permit. I am asking that we unite as an organization to oppose this law. If you are an Oklahoma resident or any member of the FCF and wish to help, please email me at [safarikube@aol.com](mailto:safarikube@aol.com). •

### Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of September and October the following individuals have made application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program. The registration of our members' handling experience aids the FCF in speaking for the qualifications of our members and this organization to speak for and represent proper husbandry and captive management. FCF provides input to legislators and regulatory agencies that make decisions that affect ownership, breeding, or exhibiting of cats. Registration of more members increases the weight and authority of our comments.

**Margaret Miller - Advanced**

**Debi Willoughby - Basic**

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

**Robert Hohn - Basic**

**Sandra Hohn - Basic**

**Rajani Ferrante - Advanced**

**Phyllis Parks - Advanced**

**Judy Berens - Advanced**

**Kheira Koop - Advanced**

**Shelly Tooley - Advanced**

We recently added a new online registration form that can be filled out directly and now payment can be made through PayPal. This way you can type your experience and qualifications on a separate document, and edit and spell check it before pasting it into the online form. You no longer have to use a paper form; it can be submitted electronically. We hope that this new feature will make your registration experience easier and you will take advantage of this. The online form for this program can be found in the members-only section of the the FCF web site:

<http://www.felineconservation.org>

The fee for registration is still just \$30 per membership, meaning if two members share a membership, they may both register their husbandry experience for the same price. The board further hopes that members will also take the next step and further show their support for excellence in the care of their cats by applying for 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*



## Board of Directors Meeting, August 19-24, 2008

Lynn Culver, President, called the meeting together on the board forums. All 11 officers and directors participated in the meeting. Agenda items were: Ratify the vote to not accept Bob Turner's nomination as valid, Ratify vote to not accept Wayne Sluder's request for exception to by-law 7.7, amend bylaw 7.7 to clarify the intent, approve the convention BOD minutes and general membership meeting minutes, chose an accountant for the general election and a policy regarding contact with the accountant, amend the internet list moderation policy, refuse memberships submitted by Joe Schriebvogel, propose a new by-law to rescind membership, propose a policy for multiple memberships to a single mailing address, propose a by-law to remove officers and directors for non-performance, vote on a resolution for Evelyn Shaw's resignation.

*Ratify the vote to not accept Bob Turner's nomination for President as valid:*

The board ratified its vote held on the board Yahoo list prior to this board meeting, of 9 votes to not accept, and 2 votes to accept Bob Turner's nomination as valid. 9 yes votes, the vote is ratified.

*Ratify vote to not grant Wayne Sluder, nominated for director of conservation, an exception to bylaw 7.7:*

The board ratified its vote held on the board Yahoo list prior to this board meeting, of 10 votes to not grant, and to 1 vote to grant Wayne Sluder's request for exemption to bylaw 7.7, due to it not meeting the requirements. 10 yes votes, the vote is ratified.

*Clarify the intend of by-law 7.7 by correcting the wording:*

In order to clarify the intent of by-law 7.7, Lynn Culver proposed the following amendment:

Persons who have resigned from their appointments, or positions on the board of directors shall be ineligible for any board or committee appointments for a period of one year from the date of resignation, and are also ineligible to be nominated, or to run for any position on the FCF board of directors for the next elected term, unless they ask

for an exception from this by-law stating that their resignation was a result of medical, work-related, or family hardship. The board of directors with a 2/3rds affirmative vote may grant the exception.

Moved by Betsy Whitlock, and seconded by Kevin Chambers to approve this amendment. 11 yes votes, motion passes.

*Approve the morning session of the convention BOD minutes:*

8 yes votes, minutes are approved.

*Approve the afternoon session of the convention BOD minutes:*

9 yes votes, minutes are approved.

*Approve the general membership meeting minutes from convention:*

8 yes votes, minutes are approved.

*Bids for ballot counting:*

Two bids were received for counting the ballots in the upcoming election. Esther Stockwell Tax Service bid \$45.00 per hour plus expenses. The firm serves the east coast and Washington DC area specializes in small to medium sized businesses, non-profits, ministries, and individuals. Roy Groesbeck, CPA, responded to a mass e-mail from Evelyn Shaw, and bid \$1,100. Lynn Culver moved, and Betsy Whitlock seconded that FCF hire Esther Stockwell Tax Service: 11 yes votes, motion passes.

*Limiting contact with the election accountant:*

For the purpose of holding a fair and impartial election, it is decreed that as of August 22, 2008, FCF BOD president, Lynn Culver and FCF BOD secretary, Betsy Whitlock will be the only contact persons through which any and all communication is exchanged concerning the 2008 election held by Feline Conservation Federation. Any and all communication concerning the 2008 election held by Feline Conservation Federation shall be directed to both the president and secretary. The president or secretary will then contact the accounting firm and relay answers, comments, etc. from the accounting firm to the question originator. In the event the president and secretary are unable to act as the

contact person for Feline Conservation Federation with the accounting firm, the FCF BOD will then appoint a contact person within the FCF BOD to act as the Feline Conservation Federation contact person communicating with the accounting firm. Any violation of this decree will result in immediate revocation of Feline Conservation Federation membership.

Moved by Bobby Bean and seconded by Kevin Chambers that the Board accept this decree. 11 yes votes, motion passes.

Modify the moderation policy to read 4. FCF internet lists:

*Carolyne Clendinen presented the following revision to the FCF Yahoo List Moderation Policy:*

#### *4. FCF Internet Lists*

It is FCF policy that all current board of director members be listed as list owners of all FCF internet chat lists. Board of Director members specifically wishing to not be listed can request such. FCF will establish a committee to review complaints of violations of the policies of the FCF list and any other list owned by the FCF. The committee shall be comprised of three currently serving members of the board of directors to be appointed by the president. The secretary is to receive complaints of violations and then will notify the committee. The three committee members shall select a single member to act as their committee chairperson. The chairperson may place any member on moderation for a period of not more than five days while reviewing a complaint should the chairperson deem this appropriate. The committee's decision will be communicated to the secretary who will then notify the subject of the complaint of the decision. If the complaint is deemed to have merit by a unanimous vote of the three-member committee, then the offending party shall be subject to moderation as follows. All subsequent complaints shall continue to be reviewed and acted upon by a unanimous vote of the moderation committee.

Moved by Deborah Rabinsky and seconded by Carolyne Clendinen to approve the amendment. 10 yes votes, motion passes.



#### *Refuse the membership of 15 applications*

A group of 15 memberships were mailed in and paid for by Joe Schriebvogel. Some persons in this list were known as former FCF members who are hostile to FCF and when they were FCF members, exhibited behaviors that were disruptive and draining.

Lynn moved, and Betsy Whitlock seconded, to reject this list of memberships under by-law 8.4 "The board of directors may deny membership to persons for cause or who have engaged in previous actions considered to be misconduct or represent behavior that are not consistent with policies of the Feline Conservation Federation."

Lynn reported during this meeting that she spoke with Joe and learned that Donna Verba asked Joe to pay for these memberships. Joe offered to not sponsor their memberships. The voting was suspended temporarily, but after receiving threatening and conflicting correspondence from Joe, the poll was re-opened.

8 yes votes, motion passes. Kevin Chambers, Treasurer, returned the applications and Joe's check.

#### *By-law to rescind memberships:*

Lynn Culver asked that the board adopt a by-law to enable the board to rescind the membership of persons whose behaviors, or actions, or philosophies are incompatible with the society. Lynn Culver moved, and Betsy Whitlock seconded the following new bylaw:

*8.5 The board may at any time by a 2/3 vote rescind the membership of anyone whose conduct has been disruptive, detrimental, or inimical to the goals of the FCF, or whom the board determines has joined the FCF with such intent.*

11 yes votes, motion passes.

#### *Propose a policy for multiple memberships at a single address:*

Betsy Whitlock, Dan Stockdale and Carolyne Clendinen discussed the issue of multiple members sharing a single mailing address. Several FCF facility members have on-site employees and volunteers that

share a single address. This discussion was prompted when Joe Schriebvogel wrote the board that he had fabricated at least one membership and registered it as a handler. One possible solution proposed was to require multiple members sharing a single address to provide ID or verification of existence prior to voting. The board tabled this discussion.

#### *By-law to remove Officers and Directors for non-performance:*

Lynn Culver proposed the need for a new by-law to remove non-performing board members. Betsy Whitlock moved and Kevin Chambers seconded:

8.6 When any board member ceases to fulfill the duties of their office by repeatedly failing to respond to e-mail, written, or phone correspondence, failing to complete their assigned tasks or defined duties as shown in the by-laws in a reasonable time frame, failing to participate in board meetings, is found to be acting against the best interest of the corporation or is creating such disharmony as to create distrust or impede the function of the board any member of the board may request their resignation. If the perceived non-performing/disruptive board member refuses to resign, a 2/3 majority of the board may expel that board member from the board and appoint a replacement. The reasons for such action shall only be given in an official board announcement without prejudice.

9 yes votes, motion passes.

#### *Resolution for Evelyn Shaw's resignation:*

Brian Werner moved, and Betsy Whitlock seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, the board of directors of the FCF requests Evelyn Shaw to submit her resignation from the board for supplying confidential FCF information and correspondence regarding possible litigation to the opposing party.

9 yes votes, resolution passes.

The board meeting closed at midnight on August 24, 2008.

*Betsy Whitlock FCF Secretary*

## **FCF board appoints Robert Johnson as Director of Legislation**

During the October board meeting, South Carolina State Representative Robert Johnson was appointed to fill the Director of Legislation seat for the remainder of 2008.

Robert has been employed at The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species for the past 14 years. In addition, he is a student at the Coastal Carolina University. Robert has begun the dissertation process for a doctorate in psychology, specializing in animal behavior.

Robert is an accomplished animal trainer, working big cats on sets for National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, and Disney. Robert is also a professional wildlife educator who has presented over 5,000 live educational wildlife shows at numerous venues around the world.

Robert traveled to other continents to observe and study felids in their natural environments. He has tracked mating pairs of leopards in the African bush veldt and followed jaguarundi through rainforests of Central America. He has also traveled to Thailand to assist in Southeast Asian tiger conservation.

As a state and federally licensed falconer, he is no stranger to regulations. His licenses for raptors and involvement with endangered felines have afforded him direct interaction with lawmakers, government officials, lobbyists, and ruling governmental bodies at both the state and federal level. •

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## Board of Directors Meeting, October 7-14, 2008

Lynn Culver chaired the internet forum meeting and all current board members participated. Topics of discussion were: Board Duty descriptions, Ratify vote to require ID from members submitted by Joe Scheibvogel, motions to ratify votes to rescind the membership of Joe Scheibvogel, Amy Rasmussen, Kelli Perras, Fund raising letters, journal gift subscriptions, target mailing of Nov/Dec journal, acquire a corporate credit card, approving ZAA conference representative, FCF booth at the America's Family Pet Expo, Approve 8/19/08 to 8/24/08 board meeting minutes, reciprocal advertising, FCF membership cards, appointment of Legislative Director, artwork offer, third quarter treasurer's report, Executive Director job description and duties.

### *Board duty descriptions*

Lynn requested all board members write duty descriptions to help the new board understand and perform their duties.

### *Ratify vote to require ID from members submitted by Joe Schiebvogel*

The board voted in September to notify members paid for by Joe Schiebvogel to provide official ID proof of existence or be dropped from the membership. This action was taken in response to information provided by Joe that at least one membership was falsified. Lynn Culver moved and Sylvia Gerber seconded that the previous board vote be ratified.

9 yes votes. Vote is ratified

### *Ratify vote to rescind Joe Schriebvogel's membership*

Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Sylvia Gerber that the board ratify its earlier vote to rescind the membership of Joe Schriebvogel according to bylaw 8.5.

10 yes votes. Vote is ratified.

### *Fund raising letters*

FCF received a grant from Brian Werner for a direct mail fund-raising campaign. The board discussed best use of these funds. No action was taken.

### *Journal gift subscriptions*

Lynn Culver moved and Kevin Chambers seconded a motion to approve a 5-issue gift journal subscription in the Nov/Dec journal. Gift subscriptions begin Jan 2009 and end with October 2009 and will cost \$20.

7 yes votes. Motion passes.

### *Ratify vote to rescind membership of Kelli Perras*

Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Sylvia Gerber to ratify the vote taken in September to rescind the membership of Kelli Perras according to bylaw 8.5.

8 yes votes, 1 no vote. Vote is ratified.

### *Ratify vote to rescind membership of Amy Rasmussen*

Moved by Lynn Culver and seconded by Sylvia Gerber to ratify the vote taken in September to rescind the membership of Amy Rasmussen according to bylaw 8.5.

9 yes votes, 1 abstain. Vote is ratified.

### *Nov/Dec journal target mailing to Florida and California USDA exhibitors*

Sylvia Gerber moved and Lynn Culver seconded a motion to allocate \$400 for journal printing and postage to target feline exhibitors in CA and FL.

9 yes votes. Motion passes.

### *Acquire a corporate credit card*

Lynn Culver moved and Sylvia Gerber seconded a motion for the board to authorize the treasurer apply for a credit card in the name of the Feline Conservation Federation.

9 yes votes. Motion passes.

### *Sending a representative to the ZAA conference*

Conservation Director Mindy Stinner could not attend this year's ZAA conference as the FCF representative. Lynn Culver moved and Sylvia Gerber seconded a motion to appoint Lynn Culver as the FCF representative at the ZAA conference. A \$400 travel allowance will be granted upon completion of a journal report.

9 yes votes, 1 no vote. Motion passes.

### *America's Family Pet Expo*

Lynn Culver moved and Kevin Chambers seconded a motion for FCF to reserve booth space at the Family Pet Expo to be held in Costa Mesa, CA on April 17-19, 2009. FCF representatives will man the booth.

8 yes votes. Motion passes.

### *Approve minutes of 8/19 to 8/24/08 board meeting*

Sylvia moved to approve minutes of the 8/19 to 8/24 board meeting submitted by Betsy and edited by Lynn.

10 yes votes. Motion passes.

### *Membership cards*

Production options for membership cards include purchase of laminating machine or contracting with Kinkos. Price quotes from Kinkos were provided by Lynn Culver. No action was taken.

### *Appoint a new legislative director for the remaining term*

Lynn Culver moved and Kevin Chambers seconded to appoint Robert Johnson for Legislation Director. 10 yes votes. The appointment passed.

### *Artwork Offer*

Deborah has been in touch with an artist who has offered to donate his work to the FCF for raising conservation funds. She will update the board at a later date once she has more information.

### *Third quarter treasurer's report:*

Kevin presented the third quarter treasurers report for review.

### *Executive Director Job description and duties*

The FCF board is preparing to create an executive director position. Potential job duty descriptions were presented and funding challenges and opportunities were discussed. No action was taken.

The board meeting closed at midnight on October 14.

*Betsy Whitlock, FCF Secretary*



## Julie Reid Named FCF State Representative

I opened Julie's Jungle in 1996 and have enjoyed a good relationship with both USDA and state inspectors since that time. I have raised animals that include serval, caracal, lynx, and bobcat. Non-feline species include fennec fox, genet, coatimundi, muntjac deer, kinkajou, suri alpaca, Nigerian dwarf goat, wallaby, cotton-top tamarin, and ringtail lemur.

My website was one of the first on the internet to emphasize responsible, educated ownership, including encouraging the potential owner to make all efforts to know their regulations on the state, county, and local levels. Raising and selling animals is my full-time job and since Florida's regulations directly affect my livelihood, I have a personal stake in becoming involved as FCF's state representative. I believe my experience and my passion for private ownership qualifies me for this position.

I began raising small felids in 1997 starting with a pair of serval kittens and a pair of caracal kittens. A few months after, I was the fortunate recipient of ten grown cats (bobcat, serval, and caracal) as a couple not too far from where I live decided not to continue to own cats. Within a year of moving them to Julie's Jungle, my first kittens were born. My experiences over the last 11 years have educated me significantly on the handling of these wonderful felines and has taught me that all are individuals with their own characteristics. I have enjoyed the indescribable bond one can have by raising an exotic felid from birth as well as learning how to safely and professionally manage felids that have come to me as adults.

Since attending the FCF convention in Myrtle Beach, I became convinced that there was a need to get more involved in the world around me. I read through and studied Florida's draft rule changes, then attended Florida's Fish & Wildlife's public comment meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. Recently, I returned from the ZAA conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

What these experiences have taught me is that there is a tremendous need for us as felid owners to not just take care of our beloved animals responsibly, but to become professional ambassadors and conservators and educators, whether we own a single cat

or a hundred. The general public, as well as public officials such as Fish & Wildlife, have largely only been exposed to improper ownership and sensational and rare occurrences that cause fear and misunderstanding. Thus, we are judged unfairly and that leads to unreasonable legislation. If we, as responsible stewards of our felids and the natural world, do not step into these conservator roles, we stand to lose everything.

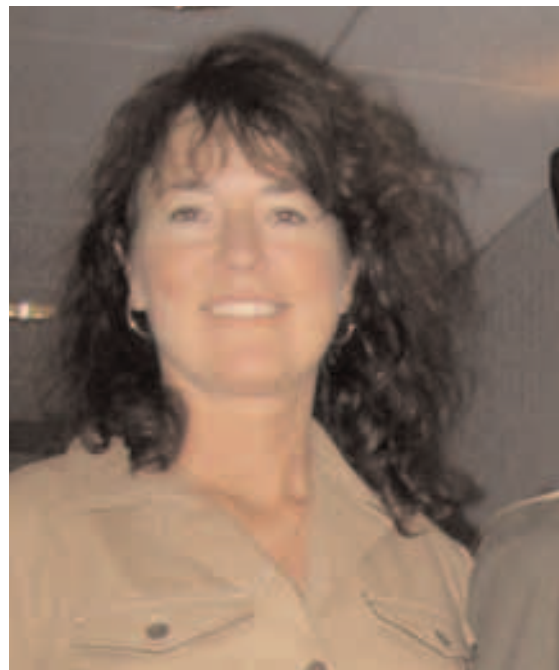
It is my goal as the FCF's state representative for Florida to work along with Sylvia Gerber, our education coordinator and other concerned Florida residents to develop a professional and interactive relationship with Florida's Fish & Wildlife officials. It is our hope that through this relationship the FCF may become a trusted and valuable tool that can help shape future laws in a practical manner, reflecting proper and responsible ownership, and negate or remove laws based on irrational fear and a desire to unreasonably control our basic rights and freedoms.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this position. If you would like to become a part of our effort, or contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. •

*Julie Reid is licensed by USDA and State of Florida for class II Felidae and class III small mammals.*

*She holds a Bachelor Degree in Business from Samford University, emphasis in management, minor in psychology.*

*<http://www.juliesjungle.com>*



## 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: Wild Cat Safety Net**

Kurt Beckelman  
Tony Teague  
John Lanzendorf  
Lynn Culver  
Ann Hedderick  
Glen Bagley

### **Project: Conservation, Fauna Andina**

Jim Sanderson

### **Project: Direct mail to USDA licensees**

Mike Frieze

### **Project: General funds**

Kheira Knoop  
Robert Hohn

### **Project: Field Representative Program**

John Turner

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

*Betsy Whitlock  
Secretary FCF*



# FOCUS ON NATURE®

*Insight into the lives of animals*

## FLAT-HEADED CAT



Small ears, an elongated muzzle, short legs, and a little rudder-like tail help the flat-headed cat to catch fish, which dominates his diet. This 1.5 - 2.5 kg (3 – 5.5 lb) civet-like cat lives in lowland jungles and forests near rivers in Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo.

*Rochelle Mason raises awareness about endangered species through her paintings, columns, and traveling exhibits. Her wildcat paintings and prints are sold through [www.Rmasonfinearts.com](http://www.Rmasonfinearts.com)*





**Clockwise from top:**  
Shelleen Mathews' serval  
Nyre-Elle • Two brothers,  
photo by Mace Loftus •  
Roger Newson's Isis •  
Erica Colombo's serval  
Chewie. Photo by Melanie  
Colombo

# Your best Serval







**Amani (African for peace), a black footed cat, is around 4 years old. He has cataracts and poor hearing. He developed a virus at the age of 3 months which left him with little vision, impaired hearing, and a slightly depressed immune system. This virus killed his brother outright and left his sister with an eye infection which took us eight weeks to clear. Photo by Marion Holmes.**

## FCF Upcoming Events

**Saturday, February 21** FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Panama City, Florida. \$95 FCF members, \$130 non-members. Mail registration names and contact information and check to: Bear Creek Feline Center, 8822 Tracy Way, Panama City, Florida, 32404.

**Sunday, February 22** Return for a guided informational tour of the Bear Creek Feline Center, home to cougar, caracal, jaguarundi, bobcat, Siberian lynx, and serval. This is an educational facility with an active intern program that features habitats and high quality enclosures. Learn about the center's enrichment and husbandry practices. Entrance fee for special tour on Sunday is \$15. Special guided tour begins at 10:00 am.

