



Feline Conservation Federation
Volume 53, Issue 1 Jan/Feb 2008



Feline Conservation Federation Officers and Directors Contact Information

Founder: Catherine Cisin

Copy Editor/Layout:

Mike Friese

204 S. Batavia Street
Orange, CA 92868
714-532-4041

editor@felineconservation.org

Member, Cat Writers' Association

OFFICERS:

President:

Kevin Chambers

7816 N CR 75 W
Shelburn, IN 47879
812-397-2302

president@felineconservation.org

Vice President:
(open)

Secretary:

Joseph Fortunato

146 Frog Hollow Road
Churchville, PA 18966
215-852-9030

secretary@felineconservation.org

Treasurer:

Kurt Beckelman

4403 S. 334th E Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74014
918-407-0341

treasurer@felineconservation.org

DIRECTORS:

Conservation:

Pat Callahan

3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220
513-304-7155

conservation@felineconservation.org

Development:

Billie Lambert

P.O. Box 40175
Panama City, FL 32403
850-532-5652

development@felineconservation.org

Education:

Sylvia Gerber

1679 NW 114th Loop
Ocala, FL 34475
352-875-7699

education@felineconservation.org

Marketing:

Ron DeArmond

1203 Columbus St.
Pella, IA 50219
312-213-7975

marketing@felineconservation.org

Public Relations:

Dan Stockdale

P.O. Box 221
Harriman, TN 37748
865-300-3232
publicrelations@
felineconservation.org

Membership Services:

Elizabeth Whitlock

1385 Middle Burningtown Road
Franklin, NC 28734
828-524-6943
membershipservices@
felineconservation.org

Legislation:

Robert Johnson

PO Box 31210
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
786-390-8553

legislation@felineconservation.org

DEPARTMENTS

FCF Feline Facility

Accreditation Chairman:

Kevin Chambers

7816 N CR 75 W
Shelburn, IN 47879
812-397-2302

ZooARC@att.net

Conservation Advisor:

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

356 Freeman Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-706-6081

gato_andino@yahoo.com

Field Representative Regional Directors



Region 1

John Turner

6926 River Rd. S.,
Salem, OR 97306
503-839-6623
catkatarn@yahoo.com

Region 2

Bill Meadows

963 County Street 2930
Tuttle, OK 73089
405-381-9453
parkdirector@tigersafari.org

Region 3

(open)

Region 4

Kathy Stearns

36909 Blanton Road
Dade City, FL 33523
352-567-9453
peatmaker@earthlink.net

Region 5

June Bellizzi

13019 Catocin Furnace Rd
Thurmont, MD 21788
301-271-4922x13
rapunta@yahoo.com

Region 6

Matt Baker

16832 266th Road
Atchison, Kansas 66002
913-367-4116
dantri@charter.net

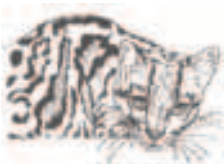
TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FCF JOURNAL AND JOIN FCF IN ITS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

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, P.O. Box 96503 #17555, Washington, D.C. 20090-6503

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

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

Cover: Leopard Legadima and her cub photographed in Botswana by Gail Laviola. Legadima was featured in National Geographic's "Eye of the Leopard."
Inside: Mace Loftus' Siberian lynx in his element.



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.

Letter from the President	.4
Letter from the Former President	.5
The Florida Panther and Conservation Breeding	.6
Bringing Up Babies	.10
A Matter of Very Little Moment? Who First Described the Jungle Cat?	.12
Pet Lion, Crime Solver	.19
Captive Wild Felid Symposium: Building Bridges to Understanding	.20
How I Got Started	.21
Puma Tracking in Brazil: A Step Toward a Sustainable Future	.24
Rare Species Fund	.27
Leopard and Cheetah Project	.27
The African Association of Zoos & Aquaria	.28
Cat Writers' Conference Trip Report	.32
Processing Animals for Consumption by Exotic Felines	.33
Amnesty Day	.35
Blast from the Past... The Geoffroy's Cat	.37
Surprising Cheetah Kill	.39
Botswana Beckons!	.40
Sobering Facts of Species Decline	.42
What is Captive Habitat?	.43
Current FCF Feline Census	.44
Really Knowing Your Feline: A Look Into Big Cat Behavior	.46
Contingency Planning	.47
Update on Florida Regulations	.48
Board Meeting, December 15-22, 2008	.49
Focus on Nature® Clouded Leopard	.50

Copyright © 2009 Feline Conservation Federation. All rights reserved. Some material is reprinted with permission of other copyright holders.



Advertising

All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. FCF, Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. FCF, Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only FCF members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes where no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual advertising. Ads must state whether the individual is a private owner or broker. Full current address with a phone number must be stated in the ad. Display ads are \$10 business card, \$25.00 quarter page, \$50.00 half page, \$100 full-page ad. Color ads available, contact Director of Marketing, opposite page, for price quotes.



Feline Conservation Federation



Letter from the President

The new year is upon us and with this comes the seating of the new FCF board. I want to welcome Joe Fortunato, Kurt Beckelman, Billie Lambert, Pat Callahan, and Ron DeArmond to the board. They will be joining myself, Betsy Whitlock, Sylvia Gerber, Dan Stockdale, and Rob Johnson. This is an extremely talented and hard working group of individuals and we hope to continue the growth in both memberships and recognition and respect of the FCF name. The outgoing board members had much to do with our growth and I would like to give my sincere thanks to those people for their hard work and dedication. Even though they are no longer on the board, I am sure that they will continue to help keep FCF strong.

With this continued growth and services, the workload is ever-increasing. There are many projects that could use your help,

either by volunteering or financially. Contact any board member if you'd like to give FCF additional support or have ideas for making the organization better. We are always available to hear what you think.

You should have noticed that FCF has a new permanent address. It is P.O. Box 96503 #17555, Washington, DC 20090-6503. We established this for a couple of reasons. First, the FCF address will not be changing every time a new set of officers takes over. This gives us more permanence and allows for correspondence to come directly to the organization, rather than to an individual. The appealing feature for the service we chose is that it is "green" and will dramatically cut down on the use of paper. When your letter arrives at the service, it is scanned and email notification is sent to us. We can download the scanned documents and then either have the corre-

spondence forwarded to us, or recycled. This service does create a lag time in receiving some correspondence. We are still learning how to use this, so please bear with us. It may take a little longer for your checks to clear and for us to get back to you on certain items, but we hope that once we get familiarized, this should not be noticeable. If you do not hear from us in a reasonable amount of time, please contact us so we can follow up.

If the FCF is truly a conservation organization, we should take the lead in going green. We are doing this by cutting paper usage and recycling as I just mentioned. We encourage all members to go green at every opportunity you can. Avoid products that contain palm oil. Palm oil plantations in southeast Asia are destroying wildcat habitat at an astonishing rate. Use and purchase natural cork products as often as you can. Cork is produced from the bark of the cork tree in Spain and Portugal. The diminished use of cork has led to the destruction of many cork farms that provide critical habitat for one of the most endangered cats in the world, the Spanish or Iberian lynx. You may think your contribution is insignificant, but adding up all the little accomplishments can, and does, add up very quickly, when multiplied by all of us doing our part.

We are always looking for articles for the *FCF Journal*. Please share your knowledge with the other members. Whether it is an article on ways to help conserve and go green, husbandry tips, medical advice, or just an interesting story, write it up and send it to Mike Friese. He can help you edit your article. Don't be shy, fearing that you are no author. We can help you get your expertise across to help the cats.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Lynn Culver for her many years of service on the FCF board. Under her leadership, FCF's membership grew by over 30%. We now represent over 800 individuals with an interest in preserving, protecting, and propagating our planet's wild feline species. Together as FCF, we have a strong voice and we will make our presence felt. Working together, we will make the difference.

—Kevin Chambers

Letter from the Former President

Time flies. Especially when you get older. After serving this organization as a board of director for seven years and for the past two as its president, I am stepping down. It has been an honor to serve the Feline Conservation Federation members and I am proud of the fine people I have gotten to know and respect as I worked alongside these fellow officers and directors.

A new group of leaders have volunteered to take on the details of running this corporation and will guide the FCF into the future. Please give them your respect, cooperation, input, and assistance to help them get this job done right.

We live in the age of the World Wide Web and computer information. During my presidency, we invested heavily in our new web site and modernized our database capabilities. FCF offers its members an easy online renewal, easy online feline census, and easy online handler registration. FCF can also maintain these records online and develop a profile of the FCF membership. I do believe that this investment in FCF funds and time was one of the most important achievements of last year. Now a new board will be training to make the most of this capability.

This journal issue contains a feline census report. So far, only 180 members have participated in this census. I know we have many more members who hold cats. Nothing is more important in this public relations and legislative battle than to be able to prove through our feline census and handler registration the expertise of our members and conservation relevance of the FCF feline population. Please participate in these programs.

The Safety Net Fund awarded \$1,000 last year to help move tigers from Missouri to Colorado. We know there will be other requests for assistance and through the Safety Net Fund, the FCF is positioned to be a leader in feline welfare needs. I am happy to report that my application to the On Shore Foundation for a \$2,000 grant to the Safety Net Fund was approved last month. Additionally, several members sent in donations in response to the questionnaire inserted in the November/December journal. Thank you everyone.

2002 was the year members voted to change the corporation's name from LIOC-ESCF to FCF. Membership had stagnated in the previous few years to around 330. Shirley Wagner, then the managing editor of the organization's newsletter, suggested during the 2002 annual board meeting that the newsletter would have to be reduced to 16 pages to balance the budget. Two challenges to the constitutional amendment vote led to a climate of hostility and hard feelings inside the federation. Many long-time members left to start their own organization. Those who remained worked overtime to repair the damage and get the organization back on track. Today the FCF has the highest membership ever and publishes an award winning 52 page *FCF Journal* complete with color cover. Here are a few statistics from the annual financial reports to show you just how far we have come.

- In the July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003 fiscal year report, membership dues generated \$7,550. Newsletter production cost was \$6,490. Advertising income was \$290. Donation income was \$2,321. Husbandry course income was \$1,380. The total income for the fiscal year was \$21,688.
- By 2007 the annual report showed membership dues generated \$12,370. Journal production cost was \$11,420. Advertising income was \$2,800. Donation income was \$14,160. Husbandry course income was \$2,347. The 2007 total annual income was \$56,709.
- In 2008 a record growth in membership

swelled the membership dues income to \$20,312. Journal printing and postage ran \$16,389. Advertising income was \$5,550. Donation income was \$43,889. Husbandry course income was \$4,991. The total 2008 FCF annual income was \$115,752.

All of these increases in membership and funding came about through the hard work of the board to put together top-notch conventions, deliver three to four husbandry courses annually, develop a registered handler program, launch several targeted membership drives, and gain partnerships with corporate sponsors for journal advertising and conservation grants. Combine that with the support, participation, and donations from FCF members and FCF is a winning ticket.

I want to thank the board members who are stepping down with me, for their past hard work: Mindy Stinner, our conservation director; Bobby Bean, marketing director; Deborah Rabinsky, development director; Brian Werner, vice president; and Carolyn Clendinen, membership services director. All of these great people and the board members who have accepted another two years of service to FCF, Betsy Whitlock, Robert Johnson, Sylvia Gerber, Dan Stockdale, and Kevin Chambers, put in long hours developing new programs, serving the members, and dealing with the endless issues and challenges. The future looks bright for the Feline Conservation Federation.

—Lynn Culver

ANIMAL FINDERS GUIDE

18 issues a year for only \$30.00
Single issue \$2.50



Informative articles on exotic
animal husbandry. Exotic animals,
products, services, auctions and shows advertised.

PO Box 99, Prairie Creek, IN 47869
812-898-2678 or Fax 812-898-2013
visit our website at www.animalfindersguide.com
email: animalfinder@thnet.com

The Florida Panther and Conservation Breeding

By Amanda Libert

I saw my first Florida panther in June of 2008. Her name was Dani and she is the 70 pound high percentage panther at Bear Creek Feline Center (BCFC) in Panama City, Florida. I had long been interested in the panther and, like many native Floridians, want to ensure the success of these animals both in the wild and in captivity.

We have been trying to encourage breeding with the mature adults at BCFC with little success. It is disappointing to continuously come up with no kittens, not only for our own selfish desire to raise a panther kit-

ten, but also because of the dire straits that these beautiful animals are in statewide.

There are three panthers at Bear Creek and, sadly, that makes up roughly three percent of the total state population. With only between 80 and 100 left alive, they are amongst one of the most endangered mammals in the world.

A variety of factors have caused the numbers to become so dangerously low. For a time, inbreeding was the biggest problem. There were so few panthers and they were so close together that brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers were all inter-

breeding, causing the gene pool to become tighter and tighter. In fact, some of what are now considered to be the best indicators of a Florida panther versus some other *Puma concolor* subspecies (the fat black tip of the tail, or the cowlick on the neck) are thought to be, rather than adaptations to their environment, the results of so much inbreeding. Other more serious issues include heart murmurs and underdeveloped males.

In order to curb any further effects of inbreeding, a few Texas cougars were brought in to strengthen the gene pool. However, this still has not proven to be enough. The breeding program has been successful (numbers have increased from 50 to 100 in about 10 years), but there were more problems facing the panther than just a lack of biodiversity.

Highway traffic is one of the biggest risks facing the current population of Florida panthers. Florida loses 10 to 20 panthers a year as roadkill. There have, of course, been measures taken to help prevent these deaths. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has commissioned the building of wildlife crossings, underpasses through roads where panthers are known to often cross, adjoined by continuous fencing through these stretches. These measures seem to have proven effective, as the commission reports that no panthers have been killed in the areas of continuous fencing and underpasses.

However, despite all of the measures taken to ensure the existence of the Florida panther in the wild, their numbers are bleak and they still face the problem of habitat encroachment. The simple fact is: Florida does not have enough space for the continued existence of the panther, at least not a healthy population. Mark Cunningham of the FWC is reported as saying that "Young males look for new territory, and north is the only direction they can go. Their habitat is almost filled up."

The natural habitat of the panther is not there anymore, and this subspecies will vanish, unless we do something to help. That is where facilities, like BCFC, come in—facilities that encourage the breeding of animals in captivity. Species survival depends on having a healthy population of breeding captive specimens and fortunately enough,



Paul Winterman

Marilyn, a 6 month-old high content Florida panther lives at Bear Creek Feline Center and is owned by Mike Myers, their director of education.

Jeffers

Premium Products for the
Health & Care of Your Pet



Shop On-Line at
JEFFERSPET.COM

Full Line of Supplies for Cats - Large and Small



Safe-Guard Paste with Fenbendazole
I6-S2, 1DS \$5.99



Jolly Ball Critters™
H7-J2, chipmunk 3" \$5.25
H7-J3, squirrel 4.5" \$7.99
H7-J4, raccoon 5" \$11.49



Chase'n Pull Toy
BE-V2, \$14.95



Performer® Ear Mite Killer with Aloe
A2-H2, 6 oz \$3.95

Standard Stainless Steel Bowls

G3-F4, 5 qt \$3.45
G3-F5, 10 qt \$10.95



Heavy Weight Stainless Steel

G3-HG, 3 qt \$6.45
G3-HJ, 5 qt \$8.70



The Best Ball™

HU-B1, 4 1/2" D \$4.95
HU-B2, 6" D \$6.85
HU-B3, 10" D \$9.95



Egge® Cat Toy
BD-D1, 13" L \$18.95



Call for your **FREE** catalog today.

1.800.JEFFERS

\$10 off your next order of \$50 or more.

When ordering online or by telephone, enter code ZZ-F3.
Limit 1 per customer. Excludes Zupreme products.



Paul Winterman

they can be bred in captivity with some degree of success. Bear Creek is proof of that, with the newest addition of Marilyn, a panther kitten born in May of 2008.

Marilyn was not born on the BCFC site, but she has many of the indicators of being a high percentage Florida panther: Roman nose, cowlick, and black tipped tail that does not taper off at the end. She is a lively, rambunctious kitten and a true joy. She walks on a leash, knows how to heel and sit, and steals the heart of everyone she meets. Most importantly, she is happy!

All three of the panthers I have had the honor of working with can easily be qualified as happy cats. They are fed meals of beef, chicken, and deer six days a week. They get constant enrichment from their various handlers, and all the love and praise and affection that we can give them. We know that their small space in captivity pales in comparison to where they would

be allowed to roam in their natural habitats, so we try to give them everything they could possibly want to make up for it.

We feel that since man has put them in such a predicament, it is our responsibility as keepers and handlers to make it up to them. They deserve the absolute best that we can give them, and we are glad to give it to them.

So it would seem that loving, caring people in the private sector would be the best hope for the species. However, the state of Florida does not seem to agree.

The Florida panther (and all other *concolor* subspecies) are currently listed as Class II Wildlife. This means that in order for someone to legally keep a panther, they must put in 1000 hours over the course of a year at a facility (or 100 hours and the completion of a basic husbandry test), possess 2.5 acres, and have the habitats inspected before the permit is issued. This makes it

easy enough for anyone honestly serious about keeping and breeding the panther, while the requirements are tough enough to discourage people with casual interest in owning a big cat for the fun of it. This would seem to be the perfect solution.

However, Florida Fish & Wildlife is currently proposing that *Puma concolor* be moved up to Class I and future permits will not be issued for non-commercial purposes such as a pet/companion animal. The proposal would grandfather in existing owners to be allowed to keep their puma with their Class II license, but any future applicants would have to meet all Class I requirements, including the minimum 1000 hours of experience, five acres of land, two references, being commercial exhibitors, and posting a \$10,000 bond or \$2 million in liability insurance coverage.

Even if this proposal to move puma to Class I licensing is not passed, and it stays a Class II feline, another proposal under consideration is to change the Class II hours of experience requirement for persons who pass a test, from 100 hours to 500 hours. This proposal to enact a five-fold increase in minimum hours of experience will reduce the number of new applications for Class II cats.

The high cost of the Class I requirements for insurance and land are what will prevent most people from doing some honest good for the panther by being able to exhibit or breed this species. Your average small-scale facility that exhibits and educates using the Class II cats will be struggling to pay high insurance premiums required for exhibiting puma under this proposed regulation. It is the small scale facilities that are doing the most good to educate the public and help save the species.

Dedicated conservationists are going to have to persevere and not give up. It is the only way that private conservation breeders and educators can continue, and may be the only way the subspecies can survive.

It is our responsibility, as humans, to protect the planet we live on, and the species with which we share it. So far, as far as the Florida panther is concerned, we have not done a good job. We have let their numbers become so low, it is probable that they will never recover to their full

strength, and while the measures we have taken have helped to some degree, the future of these beautiful creatures is still bleak. That is why it is up to us to carefully breed these animals, and to ensure them at least some kind of future. While that may not be in the wild, at least we can ensure their existence. We owe them at least that much. •

Sources:

“Conservation Timeline.” Florida PantherNet - Official Education Site. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 22 Dec. 2008 <<http://myfwc.com/panther/handbook/conserve/indexn4.html>>.

“Florida panther killed on highway.” PhysOrg.com 23 Mar. 2007. United Press International. 18 Dec. 2008 <<http://www.physorg.com/news93850452.html>>.

“Frequently Asked Questions.” The Florida Panther Society, Inc. 15 May 2002. The Florida Panther Society, Inc. 22 Dec. 2008 <<http://www.panthersociety.org/faq.html>>.

MacKenzie, Tom, and Paul Souza. “Fish and Wildlife Service releases Draft Florida Panther Recovery Plan for public review.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 31 Jan. 2006. Southeast Region. 22 Dec. 2008 <<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2006/r06-008.html>>.

Naccarato, Andee. “Florida Panther Facts.” Help Save the Endangered Florida Panther. Feb. 2008. Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge. 18 Dec. 2008 <http://www.florida-panther.org/panther_facts.html>.

Scott, Beth. “Florida panther deaths increase from collisions with vehicles.” Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 29 June 2007. FFWCC. 18 Dec. 2008 <<http://www.floridaconservation.org/whatsnew/07/statewide/panther-rk.html>>.

United States. Florida. FFWCC. Florida Administrative Code. Tallahassee: FFWCC, 2008. 234-37. CHAPTER 68A-6 WILDLIFE AS PERSONAL PETS. 1 Jan. 2008. 18 Dec. 2008 <http://myfwc.com/codebook/2006/68A_Freshwater_Fish_and_Wildlife.pdf>.

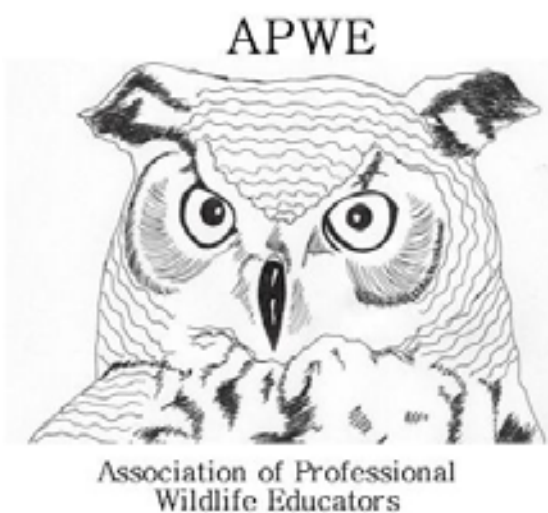
Florida Panther Captive Breeding Efforts

Captive breeding was first put on the table in 1981 with the introduction of the Florida Panther Recovery Program. However, it was not seriously considered until 1987 when the plan was revised to state that one of the new goals was to have three self-sustaining breeding populations. The problem: there was only one. The other two would have to be captive bred.

Adults were then captured and placed in captivity for breeding purposes. In 1991, Holley Jensen and the Fund for Animals sued US Fish and Wildlife because no provisions were made for rereleasing captive bred cats in south Florida, and that the effect of removing adult panthers from the wild had not been studied. A settlement was reached out of court, with provisions that only kittens would be taken from the wild and that a habitat protection plan would be prepared. Ten kittens were removed from the wild in 1991 and 1992.

These were placed in designated captive facilities in the state; the primary of these being White Oak Conservation Center (currently possessing five panthers), which now runs the program. Mating has been observed between two of the females and both of the males there. As of yet, no kittens have been conceived. When these captive panthers are beyond their prime breeding age, they will be placed in accredited zoos for educational purposes.

The Florida Panther Recovery Program was most recently revised in 2006. The new provisions state that the panther be moved from endangered to threatened when there are “two viable populations of 240 individuals each, which have been established and maintained for at least 14 years” and when “sufficient habitat to support these populations is protected in the long-term.” The panther will be considered fully recovered if there are “three populations of 240 individuals each, which have been established and maintained for at least 14 years, and sufficient habitat to support these populations is protected in the long-term.” •



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

The APWE has organized educators at all levels so those looking for professionals only need to look at one web site – www.apwe.org

Member benefits include curriculum resources, continuing education opportunities, and continued support through our list serve.

Go to www.apwe.org for details



Bringing Up Babies

By Kim Barker

A few months ago, I was asked about being involved with helping raise some baby serval cubs that were on the way. My first thought was, “Absolutely!” but then I had to evaluate the time it would take to invest into these little lives so they would grow up to be healthy, well-socialized cats and if I was ready to take that on. That struck me as exactly what it is: a big responsibility and commitment. I decided yes, and realized I had made the right decision the second I held my first two week old serval named Tail (his name is Obi now, and I am one of his adoring sponsors). These cubs were born to a rescued serval that arrived already pregnant.

Every Sunday and Wednesday, I show up to help Doug and Mindy of Conservator’s Center with these creatures. I have watched them grow for six months now. In the beginning, everyone had to be completely clean to handle the babies and had to do so with extra care as serval cubs are very fragile. I remember Doug reading the first draft of the warning notice to me that he planned to put on the front door. This notice informed folks of the rules of the house to protect the new residents and there was an unwritten notice of wrath if the rules were disobeyed. If one

was unsure of the rules or not going to follow them, you were not going far (not just for the babies’ protection, but your own.)

Many a day, I came into the house with Doug and Mindy bleary-eyed from frequent feedings and cleaning. Doug’s arms would have these razor like scratches on them from a very exuberant baby serval that just could not get enough formula (usually Sammy or Murphy). You learned quickly that a towel over your hand while feeding was your best friend, as it could keep the scratches down a bit. Mindy was frazzled and tired as the little ones swarmed her feet as she prepared more formula but was always patient with the babies and those of us who were learning to care for these guys.

With those adorable faces, it did not take long for every little baby to be sponsored by people eager to help with the new residents. They were impossible to resist. Two of the first ones sponsored were Sammy and William. Sammy was named after Sam lion and William was named after Will tiger, two magnificent older cats that we lost over the summer. The other three were named Murphy, Mojo, and Obi.

Early on, there were a few scary complications. One of the fragile babies, William,

had ingested something while still nursing on his mother that made him very ill. Doug rushed him to the vet and was very upset that he had to leave him alone overnight. The sadness could be read all over his face when he returned without him. The vet was certain he would not make it through the night, but he did. In the morning when Doug went to visit him, William had vomited up a small piece of string. We have no idea where it came from. William’s recovery was almost immediate.

The babies began to have strange complications when they were about six weeks old. Mojo bounced down from a waist high platform one morning and then began limping. He had broken his leg! When it was X-rayed, the vet said it looked like a metabolic bone disease problem. Some of the cubs in the litter were absolutely fine, and others developed this metabolic bone disease which prevented them from processing vitamin D and calcium to make strong bones the way they should. They were all on the same diet and in the same environment, so we think there might be a genetic factor involved.

These already exceptionally fragile creatures were now even more delicate and handling them felt like handling the most breakable item you can imagine. Obi suffered

some back issues due to the metabolic bone disease. While Doug and Mindy were in Africa, Obi was boarded with a veterinarian in Durham to protect him the best way they knew how. I visited him while he was there, and though he was grumpy because he was away from his family and in noticeable discomfort, he welcomed company. While he was there in a small kennel, he somehow managed to break one of his front legs! Fortunately, it did not need surgery or a cast in order to heal. He seems to have had the most health issues and though he still runs a bit like a frog, the littlest serval has one of the biggest hearts. No coincidence, Obi means 'heart' from the Igbo tribe in Nigeria. I am happy to say that at this point in their lives their health-related problems have been resolved, though we still watch Obi for signs of limping.

In spite of the joy this experience has given me, it has not been without tragedy. We unexpectedly lost Murphy late in the summer. After a visit to the vet where he got anesthesia, he did not recover. The vet believes it was an embolism. It was a devastating loss to those of us who had spent so much time with him. His brothers also sensed

the loss and responded noticeably. Even though we only knew him a short time, it was incredibly difficult to say goodbye to an animal and friend who loved life and loved his people. He will be missed for years to come.

They are now long past formula and have been eating chicken, rats, and other meats. There is nothing pleasant picking up mice and rat "leftovers." Cleaning up after the babies is similar to cleaning up after most animals, but the ammonia smell will knock you over if you are not ready for it. Ice cubes and other "toys" are excellent distractions while trying to do something when you don't need their "help"—and they love to be helpful. To them, ponytails are an unwritten invitation to scale your back. Noses and ears and toes are for biting or at least nipping. And good luck if you are trying to leave their room. An escape plan is needed for this.

Now that they have gotten older, it is fun to see them play and watch their little personalities grow into big personalities. Sammy is the biggest by far and does not meet anyone he doesn't immediately love. The difficult part of that is he sometimes

shows his love with a monster head-butt and a nip on the nose or ears. Most of us have learned and now take the necessary steps to protect ourselves. William will greet visitors with a purr and head-butt, but he loves his independence. He can get aggravated quickly and is quite vocal about letting you know he is unhappy. Mojo is the sweetheart, clown, and daredevil all wrapped up in a serval shaped package. While healing from his broken leg, he barely slowed at all. He has a winning disposition. He loves to greet his human friends with a head-butt and will snuggle up when he finally wears out, which isn't often. And last but not least, is little Obi. He may be behind in size, but he makes up for it with heart. He is the first to the food dish and he defends it with gusto! Though he loves his brothers, he is quick to start a tussle and he has gotten very good at holding his own. And he loves his people. He is a sweet, snuggly serval when he finally settles down.

This journey of mine has just begun and has a long way to go. These are messy, feisty, sweet, and smart young servals. I count it an honor and a blessing to be a part of their lives. I am looking forward to continuing this journey. •

We are dedicated safety, reliability and quality

We are focused on quality equipment to suit your needs:

- **Chemical immobilization** (syringe poles, blow darts, CO2 guns)
- **Tracking equipment**
- **Stretchers/Litters**
- **Hazmat certified sanitation system** (Portable or stationary)
- **Reptile handling** (Snake tubes, hooks, tongs, bags, protective gear)
- **Versa-nets** (Modular nets flex to help with netting - minimizes harm)



**We are innovative and will build
customized equipment to fit your need.**

www.ace-cap.com



1-866-339-9960

**Animal
Capture
Equipment, Inc.**





By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.
Small Cat Conservation Alliance

While searching for the first illustration of the black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*) (Burchell described the black-footed cat in 1824 but failed to include an illustration) I ran across a curious footnote on page 150 of Reginald Innes Pocock's book *Catalogue of the Genus Felis* published posthumously in March 1951 by the Order of the Trustees of the British Museum four years after Pocock's death at the age of 84. The footnote read as follows:

Some authors reject Gldenstdt as the author of this name [*Felis chaus*] on the grounds that he did not publish it in accordance with the binomial system of nomenclature. Its ascription to him or Schreber is a matter of very little moment.

A matter of little moment? Let me think about this. I do not believe this is a matter

Join the Zoological Association of America



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

*promoting the responsible
ownership, management, and
propagation of animals in both
private and public domains.*

There are several levels of membership including individual, commercial, and facility. Accreditation is also available. Membership fees vary. Professional level requires sponsorship.

Zoological Association of America
P.O. Box 360038
Tampa, FL 33673-0038
(813) 449-4356

www.zaoa.org

FAX (813) 449-4357
ZAA e-mail: info@zaa.org

RODENTPRO.COM® Wholesale Feeder Price List



RodentPro.com® is proud to offer you premium quality feeder animals for sale at wholesale prices. Our company specializes in the production and distribution of mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chicks, and quail. RodentPro.com® has been providing premium quality feeder animals to the reptile and birds of prey community since 1993. Since then, our company has set industry standards for quality, value and convenience. These standards have been set by offering unsurpassed quality, breeder direct pricing and year round availability. RodentPro.com® is committed to serving your feeder animal needs. Quality is of the utmost importance to us, whether it be through the value of a product or the integrity of a relationship. We understand that our success depends, not only on the quality of our products, but more importantly, on the strength of relationships established with our customers. We look forward to being a part of your success and hope you will give us the opportunity to serve you.

Mice



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

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

Rats



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

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

Coturnix Quail



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

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits



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

Chicks

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



Guinea Pigs

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

* We offer combined quantity discount guinea pig pricing.



RODENTPRO.COM®
MICE • RATS • RABBITS • CHICKS • QUAIL

Place Your order online today! www.rodentpro.com

Call: 812-867-7598 24 hours a day
Fax: 812-867-6058 24 hours a day

P.O. Box 118 • Inglesfield, IN 47618-9998

E-mail: info@rodentpro.com

Terms: Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, PayPal, cashier's check or money order payable to RodentPro.com®



of little moment. I believed Schreber first described the Jungle cat *Felis chaus*. In fact, I believed Schreber was given credit for eight first descriptions. Why could I not just go on believing like everyone else and keep up the search for the first illustration of the black-footed cat?

Consulting the authoritative book *Wild Cats of the World* by Mel Sunquist and Fiona Sunquist, I found on page 60 that the first description of the jungle cat was attributed to Schreber, 1777. Fully seven other first descriptions were attributed to Schreber. Why then would so knowledgeable a specialist as Pocock attribute the first description of *F. chaus* to G黶ldenst鋎t? I had to know. My search for the first illustration of the black-footed cat had to be postponed.

I decided to begin my search, well, at the beginning. There is no better place to start than the Smithsonian. Was a special trip to Washington, DC necessary? Because Johann Christian Daniel Schreber's *Die S鋟gthiere in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen* published over several years beginning in 1775 is so very rare and because very few libraries have it, the answer was clear. I made an appointment to see one of the librarians and forwarded her a list of books that included Schreber's work. My belief was that this mystery would not take long to resolve.

As was clear from the name of the author and the title of his book, my skill in the German language would be tested. In fact, *Die S鋟gthiere* turned out to be a book on the natural history of mammals. Moreover, as I came to learn from other references, Schreber was a professor who never really explored anywhere but the university. Here is what Schreber wrote about *Felis chaus* and just in case you cannot understand the original German, my dear German colleague Angie Appel has kindly provided a precise translation.

18.

Der Kirmyschak.

Tab. CX. B.

Felis Chaus. GULDENSTEDT. nov. Comm. Acad. Imp. Petrop. tom. 20. p. 483. 500. tab. 14.

Kir-myschak; Tatarisch. Moes-gedu; Tschirkassisch. Dikaja koschka; Russisch.

Er ist dem Karakal 黚eraus 鋛hnlich; der

18.

Der Kirmyschak.

Tab. CX. B

Felis Chaus. GULDENSTEDT. nov. Comm. Acad. Imp. Petrop. tom. 20. p. 483. 500. tab. 14.

Kir-myschak; Tatarisch. Moes-gedu; Tschirkassisch. Dikaja koschka, Russisch.

- a) SHAW voy. tom. 1. p. 320. andern. S. die B黶ffonische Beschreibung dieses Thieres.
b) Man findet sie beim Thevenot und c) B黶ffon.

18. Der Kirmyschak. *Felis Chaus*.

413

Er ist dem Karakal 黚eraus 鋛hnlich; der Kopf aber mehr der Raze gleich obgleich etwas l鋛nger, und die Physiognomie etwas anders. Die Ohren sind mehr abgerundet, und kazenartiger; die Haare ziemlich lang und hart; auch zeigt sich ein betr鋛htlicher Unterschied in der Farbe. Das ganze Thier ist oben gelb mit braun 黚erlaufen; unten ganz gelb. Das feinere Haar auf dem Grunde grau, an der Spitze wei脗gelblich. Das l鋛ngere auf dem R黱cken braun, mit einem gelben Fleck unter der Spitze; an den Seiten gelb mit einem braunen Fleck unterhalb der Spitze; unten ganz gelb. Die Lippen und die Kehle sehen wei脗. Die Bart- und 黚rigen Borsten, welche theils auf der Wange 黚er dem Auge, theils auf der Backenwange stehen, haben eben die Farbe. Die Ohren sind au脗wendig br鋛unlich, und nur die B黵ste schwarz. Der Schwanz ist, bis 黚er die Mitte, oben dem R黱cken an Farbe gleich, unten wei脗licher; weiter hinaus hat er zwischen drey weissen, zween schwarze Ringe, und die Spitze sieht schwarz. Er reicht dem Thiere bis an die Fersen. Die kahle Haut um die Nasenlacher und auf den Fu脗sohlen ist schwarz. Die Krallen wei脗. Auf der Brust machen sich zwei R鋛the in den Haaren, die einander kreuzen. Die L鋛nge des Korpers ist gemeiniglich drittelhalb, zuweilen drey Fu脗 und dr黛ber; mithin 黚ertrifft er die wilde Raze an Gr鲞e.

Der Kirmyschak wohnt in den sumpfigen mit Schilf bewachsenen oder bewaldeten Gegenden der Steppen um das kaspische Meer, und die in selbiges fallenden Fl黛sse. Auf der Nordseite des Terekflusses und der Festung Kiaklar sieht man ihn selten, und gegen die Wolga hin gar nicht; desto h鋛ufiger aber bey der M黱dung des Kur, und in den persischen Landschaften Gilan und Masanderan.

In dem Naturell und den Sitten kommt er mit der wilden Raze sehr 黚erein. Er gehet nur in der Nacht aus, um Fische, M鋛use und V鵑gel die im Rohre nisten, zu fangen. B鋛ume besteigt er selten. In bewohnte Gegenden wagt er sich nicht. Die Gefangenschaft scheint er nicht zu ertragen.

Dieses bisher ganz unbekannt gewesene Thier ist von dem Herrn Professor G黶ldenst鋎t in S. Petersburg, welcher sich durch die oben ange-



Purrrfect for Your Exotic Cat!

Delight your felines! Feed them **Mazuri® Feline Diets** - a constant formula diet supplying complete life cycle nutrition for reproduction, lactation, growth and maintenance. They will thank you from whisker to tail

For more information, visit us at **www.mazuri.com**
or call **1-800-227-8941**, for your nearest Mazuri® Dealer.

Mazuri®
The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

Mazuri® Feline Feeds: Exotic Feline Large-5M53, Exotic Feline Small-5M54

Kopf aber mehr der Kaze gleich obgleich etwas länger, und die Physiognomie etwas anders. Die Ohren sind mehr abgerundet, und kazenartiger; die Haare ziemlich lang und hart; auch zeigt sich ein beträchtlicher Unterschied in der Farbe. Das ganze Thier ist oben gelb mit braun überlaufen; unten ganz gelb. Das feinere Haar auf dem Grunde grau, an der Spitze weiß gelblich. Das längere auf dem Rücken braun, mit einem gelben Fleck unter der Spitze; an den Seiten gelb mit einem braunen Fleck unterhalb der Spitze; unten ganz gelb. Die Lippen und die Kehle sehen weiß. Die Bart- und übrigen Borsten, welche theils auf der Warze über dem Auge, theils auf der Backenwarze stehen, haben eben die Farbe. Die Ohren sind auswendig bräunlich, und nur die Bürste schwarz. Der Schwanz ist, bis über die Mitte, oben dem Rücken an Farbe gleich, unten weißlicher; weiter hinaus hat er zwischen drey weissen, zween schwarze Ringe, und die Spitze siehet schwarz. Er reicht dem Thiere bis an die Fersen. Die kahle Haut um die Nasenlöcher und auf den Fuß sohlen ist schwarz. Die Krallen weiß. Auf der Brust machen sich zwei Näthe in den Haaren, die einander kreuzen. Die Länge des Körpers ist gemeinlich drittheil, zuweilen drey Fuß und drüber; mithin übertrifft er die wilde Kaze an Grösse.

Der Kirmyschak wohnt in den sumpfigen mit Schilf bewachsenen aber bewaldeten Gegenden der Steppen um das kaspische Meer, und die in selbigen fallenden Flüsse. Auf der Nordseite des Terekflusses und der Festung Kislar siehet man ihn selten, und gegen die Wolga hin gar nicht; desto häufiger aber bey der Mündung des Kur, und in den persischen Landschaften Silan und Masanderan.

In dem Naturell und den Sitten kömmt er mit der wilden Kaze sehr überein. Er geht nur in der Nacht aus, um Fische, Mäuse und Vögel die im Mohre nisten, zu fangen. Bäume besteigt er selten. In bewohnte Gegenden wagt er sich nicht. Die Gefangenschaft scheint er nicht zu ertragen.

Diese bisher ganz unbekannt gewesene Thier ist von dem Herrn Professor Gildenstädt in S. Petersburg, welcher sich durch die oben angeführte genaue Abbildung und

sehr umständliche Beschreibung desselben, wovon ich hier nur einen kurzen Auszug liefere, wie durch mehrere aus seiner Feder in die Commentarien der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften daselbst geflossene Aufsätze, wesentliche Verdienste um die Thierkunde erworben hat, auf seiner Reise nach Georgien entdeckt worden. Das Gemälde, wornach vorerwähnte Abbildung gestochen worden ist, habe ich von diesem würdigen Naturkundler nebst mehreren Thierzeichnungen, mitgetheilt erhalten, und kan nicht unterlassen, bey

dieser Gelegenheit seine Freundschaft mit Abstattung des gebührenden Dankes zu rühmen.

• • •

My five years of German language classes emboldened me to read the original text. First and foremost note the common name of the cat and immediately following that, the Latin binomial *Felis chaus*. Note also that the name is attributed to none other than Gildenstädt! I was compelled to read on and though I understood very little, the last paragraph caught my eye and the

446 Vierzehntes Geschlecht. Die Kaze.

führte genaue Abbildung und sehr umständliche Beschreibung desselben, wovon ich hier nur einen kurzen Auszug liefere, wie durch mehrere aus seiner Feder in die Commentarien der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften daselbst geflossene Aufsätze, wesentliche Verdienste um die Thierkunde erworben hat, auf seiner Reise nach Georgien entdeckt worden. Das Gemälde, wornach vorerwähnte Abbildung gestochen worden ist, habe ich von diesem würdigen Naturkundler nebst mehreren Thierzeichnungen, mitgetheilt erhalten, und kan nicht unterlassen, bey dieser Gelegenheit seine Freundschaft mit Abstattung des gebührenden Dankes zu rühmen.

Page 416 of *Die Säugthiere*, 1775



#6910

24, 14oz cans-25lbs/cs
(1 can feeds a 40lb cat)
MC/VISA only. No COD's

Complete Feline Diet
chicken formula designed
for **EXOTIC CATS**
Buy Wholesale Direct
From Distributor!

**only \$31.99/cs
+ UPS shipping**

Great Eastern Distributors

255 Ottley Drive, Atlanta, GA 30324

Phone 800-251-5800 Fax: 800-251-2515

chill of enlightenment ran down the back of my neck. This is precisely the explanation I was looking for. Here was the answer before me. Time stood still in my moment of discovery. Ah, but let me not assume my learned readers can also read the original text.

18.

The Jungle cat.

Tab. CX. B.

Felis Chaus; GULDENSTEDT. nov. Comm. Acad. Imp. Petrop. tom. 20. p. 483. 500. tab. 14

Kir-myschak; Tatarian. Moes-gedu; Tschirkassian. Dikaja koschka; Russian.

He looks very much like the caracal; but the head more like a cat although somewhat longer, and the appearance somewhat different. The ears are more rounded, and more cat-like; the hair quite long and coarse; a considerable difference in the color reveals as well. The whole animal is yellow above spilled over with brown; underneath completely yellow. The finer hair on the background gray, on the tip whitish-yellowish. The longer hair on the back brown, with a yellow spot below the tip; on the sides yellow with a brown spot below the tip; below completely yellow. The lips and the throat appear white. The whiskers and other bristles, which stand partly on the verruca [small raised spot] above the eye, partly on the verruca of the cheek, are of the same color. The ears are brownish outside, and only the brush black. Up to over the middle the tail above is equal to the back in color, below more whitish; further away he has two black rings between three white, and the tip appears black. It reaches up to the heels of the animal. The bare skin around the nasal openings and the soles of the feet are black. The claws white. On the breast there are two seams in the hair which cross each other. The length of the body is usually two and a half, sometimes three feet and above; thus he is larger than the wild cat in size.

The jungle cat lives in the marshy reed-covered but forested areas of the steppes around the Caspian Sea, and the rivers flowing into the same. On the northern side of the river Terek and Fort Kislar he is rarely seen, and towards the Volga not at all; but the more often by the estuary of the

Kur, and in the Persian landscapes of Silan and Masanderan.

In the character and the customs he is very much concordant with the wild cat. He leaves only at night to catch fish, mice, and birds nesting in the swamp. He rarely climbs trees. Entering populated areas he does not dare. Apparently he does not bear captivity.

This so far completely unknown animal has been discovered by the gentleman Professor G黶ldenst鋎t in St. Petersburg on his journey to Georgia, who has rendered great service to zoology by the above mentioned detailed illustration and very laborious

description of the same, of which I only provide a short excerpt here, as well as by several essays flowed from his quill into the comments of the Imperial Academy of Sciences thereat. The painting, based on which aforementioned illustration has been engraved, I have received from this dignified naturalist along with several animal drawings and on this occasion cannot refrain from praising his friendship and expressing my sincere gratitude.

...

There is no doubt that G黶ldenst鋎t discovered the jungle cat and named it *Felis chaus*. But now Pocock's statement hit me

Specializing In Manufacturing Exotic Carnivore Diets

Since 1960

BRAVO
PACKING, INC.

Carney's Point, NJ 08069

**Using Fresh Meat & Only Prime Cuts of
Meat in All Meat Eater Diet Products.**

CHOICES OF MEAT EATER DIETS

*SUPREME 100% HORSEMEAT
*PREMIUM 50% BEEF & 50% HORSEMEAT
*REGULAR 100% BEEF
*Bird of Prey 50% BEEF & 50% HORSEMEAT

CHOICES OF FORMULATIONS OF MEAT

PORTION WITH TRIPE, VITAMINS & MINERALS
*90% HORSE 10% TRIPE & 5% FAT
*40% BEEF & 40% HORSE 10% TRIPE & 10% FAT
*80% BEEF 10% TRIPE & 10% FAT

*** SPECIAL ORDERS CHUCK BEEF & HORSEMEAT**

*** RAW BONES BEEF & HORSE WITH & WITHOUT MEAT**

*** ALL BEEF PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM U.S.D.A. INSPECTED PLANTS**

*** ALL MEAT IS SAMPLED & TESTED FOR B.S.E. BY U.S.D.A.
VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

Bravo Packing, Inc. MAINTAINS FULL PRODUCT LIABILITY

Contact Us at: Toll free (888) Bravo40

Visit Us at: www.bravopacking.com

like an avalanche. With *Die Säugthiere* still open on the desk before me, I collapsed in my chair. Searching for my notes I reread Pocock's footnote. The key phrase was:

...on the grounds that he did not publish it in accordance with the binomial system of nomenclature.

But *chaus* means chaos in Latin. Could Gldenstdt have forgotten to assign the genus *Felis* to his new cat?

I immediately asked to see all works by Gldenstdt. Alas, the Smithsonian did not have the reference I was after. How could this be? I was crushed, defeated. Smithsonian has nearly every natural history book ever published. Why not Gldenstdt? The librarian, Daria Wingreen Mason, came to my rescue.

Gldenstdt's article was published in a journal. Yale University's Beinecke Library of Rare Books had the journal. To see it, I had to go to New Haven. Had I not been in the Smithsonian on a Friday, I would have gone the next day. Instead I had an interminable wait over the weekend.

On Monday I was sitting in the Beinecke Library waiting. It took 75 minutes of waiting and because entrance into the sacred reading room precludes anything but clothes, a computer, and a pencil, I had to wait with very little to do. The suspense was killing me but soon I was able to relax and watch the clock. Finally the journal arrived. I found page 483 and indeed this was the first page of the article by Gldenstdt. I've included the first page of the article here. Suffice it to say Gldenstdt's article was fully 15 pages of Latin.

Does the Latin binomial *Felis chaus* appear in the article? The answer is no. Was Gldenstdt the discoverer of *Felis chaus* and did he thoroughly describe the jungle cat in his article? Yes. Did he provide an illustration? Yes but it was published by Schreber in *Die Säugthiere*.

Now we are armed with as many facts as can be unearthed. The question that is in Pocock's words:

a matter of very little moment

that so consumed me must now be answered. To whom do we attribute the first description of the jungle cat *Felis chaus*?

I will deal with Schreber's other "first descriptions" in future articles. •

❧ (o) ❧

483

CHAVS, ANIMAL FELI AFFINE DESCRIPTVM

Auctore

A. I. GULDENSTÆDT

Affinitas, qua animalia plurima, quorum *Cel. PENNANT*, (vid. *Ei. Synopsis of Quadrupeds*), specificè distincta enumeravit octodecim, Feli seu Cato, quem ceu notissimum nominamus, coniuncta sunt, adeo arcta ac multiplex est, ut vix nisi magnitudine corporis, caudae et auricularum proportionè, atque pilorum colore tantillum inter se externe differant. Illa, quae auriculis barbatis gaudent, facile a reliqua affinium cohorte distinguuntur. Olim praeter Lyncem, nulla alia ad hanc familiam pertinens, hac nota instructa species cognita fuit. Innotuit dein saeculo praeterito labente per itineratores Africam et Persiam australem visitantes, quos inter SCHAW et THEVENOT eminent, alterum cognatum animal auriculis pariter barbatis instructum, a Lynce sat diuersum, quod tandem in *Historiae Naturae Buffoniana* Tom. IX. et XII. scientificè sub nomine Caracalis (*) descriptum atque

P p p 2

icone

(*) Nomen huius animalis turcicum: Karrah Kulak; et persicum: Siyah Ghush, non Catum nigrum, seu Catum auriculis nigris, ut Schaw, (vid. *Voyages de Monsieur Shaw* T. I. p. 320.) et ill. Comes de Buffon illi peregrinatori

First page of Gldenstdt's jungle cat journal article, 1776

Pet Lion, Crime Solver

By Zuzana Kukol, www.REXANO.org

Some of you might remember my article from FCF Journal, September/October 2006, titled: *Mouthy Lion's Life of Bam Bam-Or how I went from striped to slightly spotted buff*.

The short history is that I was always into tigers, than my magician friends' male lion decided to like me. Also, I was keeping two lions temporarily at my place, and fell in love with the male.

Long story short, when the two lions went back to their owner, I, my fiancé, Scott, and my neighbors missed the lions' roar at night, so we ended up getting our own lion, Bam Bam or BB.

BB was a retired photo cub, extremely sweet and socialized because of all the human interaction he got the first four months of his life before he came to live with me and Scott.

Our neighbors were delighted to have the lion's night sounds back in the neighborhood.

We live in Pahrump, Nevada, about a 1.5 hour trip from Las Vegas. Once in a while we have a dinner with friends in town and spend the night there.

In 2007, Pahrump had a rash of robberies throughout the town, and suspects kept evading the police.

Then one night when we were in Las Vegas, I got an email from my neighbor. Supposedly, the country house next door that was mostly unoccupied at the time (the owner's primary residence was Las Vegas) was being robbed and weapons kept there were stolen. When we got home to Pahrump next morning, all was back to normal other than the broken window that the thieves used to get into the house.

The mostly missing neighbor installed a new security system and recently his son moved there. We did not give the incident much thought after that. After all, we have guard dogs, wolf hybrids, lion, tigers, and our own weapons, and an eight foot tall electrified fence topped with barbed wire protecting us.

We are not the most social people in our country neighborhood. A few months ago we had lunch with one of the retired couples in our neighborhood. They noticed that Bam Bam roars more at night when we are



Mike Friese

not home, as he is missing us. They told us they talked to the neighbors who called 911 the night the weapon robbery was occurring. These neighbors informed them that they decided to call 911 after hearing our lion roar more than he usually roars at night when we are gone, he just refused to shut up. Our neighbors just knew instinctively something was going on. The wife supposedly said to her husband that she felt the lion was trying to tell them something.

The concerned neighbors were right. Bam Bam was roaring not only because he was missing us, but also because something unusual—new sounds and movements—were happening in what he considered his territory. He can plainly see the robbed neighbor's house from his habitat.

By roaring loud he was protecting his territory from what he considered to be the intruders in his territory. He also helped to solve the crime that was unsolved for many months by alerting the neighbors who called the police and who showed up and arrested the suspects. Since then, we started paying more attention and definitely noticed he roars more if something unusual is happening.

Thanks, Bam Bam. •

November 20, 2007

Large-scale burglary ring uncovered; suspects sought

By CHRISTINA EICHELKRAUT
PVT

Nye County Sheriff's Office general assignment detectives have linked together a string of burglaries that have taken place throughout the valley since late spring and early summer.

Although several individuals have already been arrested in connection with what the sheriff's office has called a large-scale burglary ring, they are searching for information for a number of additional suspects.

According to the sheriff's office, the burglars have been stealing and distributing large quantities of weapons.

In addition, in at least one of the burglaries, a residence was burned down.

Once the burglaries were committed, more individuals were involved, in either disposing of, or receiving the stolen property.

But property isn't the only thing getting stolen. Several of the victims had their identities stolen and used in fraudulent financial transactions.

Charges that may be filed against persons involved in the ring include, but are not limited to burglary, auto burglary, malicious destruction of property, grand larceny, grand larceny auto, grand larceny of a firearm, conspiracy to commit a crime, transfer of stolen property, ex-felon in possession of a firearm, habitual criminal, leaving the scene of an accident, possession of stolen property, first- and second-degree arson, use of a credit card without the cardholder's consent, receiving stolen property, forgery, and using the identification information of another.

Captive Wild Felid Symposium: Building Bridges to Understanding

By Shelleen Mathews, Director, Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington

On March 28, 2009 the Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington is presenting a first of its kind—the Captive Wild Felid Symposium. What makes this symposium different and groundbreaking is its focus on bringing together handlers and owners, animal sciences students, veterinarians and their staff, animal control agencies, and law enforcement—all for the benefit and understanding of wild cats in captivity.

The one day symposium in Olympia, WA will examine pertinent topics presented from differing viewpoints. Education is the key to understanding and the appropriate behavior of humans.

1) Owners and handlers need to understand the needs of their felines and making educated decisions. The FCF Husbandry Course (look for one coming to your area!) provides a good basis for this. In addition to sound husbandry practices, the Captive Wild Felid Symposium goes a step beyond in giving them an understanding into the mind set of professionals and agencies they may likely encounter.

2) Through the Wild Felid Advocacy Center's College Intern Program we have found that students, hoping to make wildcats their life's work, have few resources for learning through the day-to-day observation and care of wild cats. Our students acquire college credit through their specific "learning contracts" in such areas as animal care, behavior, and enrichment techniques. For students not under contract, this symposium will give them a glimpse into the overall basics.

3) Veterinarians and their staffs frequently do not have information and resources readily available to them when dealing with a captive wildcat.

4) Animal control agencies and law enforcement are often caught off-guard when a situation arises and they must deal with a wildcat. When that need arises, they are ill-equipped to make sound decisions.

In preparing our list of guest speakers,

we have taken care to include professionals in the fields of handling, care, and behavior. Major presenters include handlers with many years of experience: a veterinarian, animal control director, animal nutritionist, students relating their enrichment techniques, integrated pest management specialist, and an animal communicator who will be speaking during our lunch break. Symposium attendees will receive a copy of the printed proceedings (which will include resources), lunch, and a completion certificate.

Information and registration for the Captive Wild Felid Symposium can be found at:

www.wildfelids.org/captive_wild_felid_symposium. Printed proceedings of the symposium will be available beginning April 1, 2009. They can be pre-ordered beginning March 1. Additionally, we will produce a companion guide for animal control agencies and law enforcement. •



MEAT COMPLETE WITH TAURINE

RAW MEAT SUPPLEMENT FOR ALL CARNIVORES

Based on whole prey composition, this supplement balances the nutrients lacking in skeletal muscle meat-based diets for carnivores: vitamins A & D (normally supplied by the liver), B vitamins (from gut contents of whole prey), and of course calcium (found in bones). This supplement also contains added taurine – an essential amino acid for felids – and the antioxidant vitamin E.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PACKING, INC.

PO BOX 550 ~ NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69103-0550

1-877-900-3003 ~ 1-800-445-2881 ~ FAX:1-308-532-2744

EMAIL: cenpack@kdsi.net WEB PAGE: www.nebraskabrand.com

How I Got Started

By Julie Reid

This story does not actually start with a cat...but rather a wallaby. You see, when I first started raising and selling animals, it was because I wanted to raise animals...the selling part was the means to the raising part. But my time at Disney World and my father taught me to always do everything to the best of my ability with a sense of honesty, integrity, and responsibility, so I have done my best to responsibly place my animals in the best homes, zoos, and educational facilities as possible.

Back to the wallaby tale. It was one of my first sales; everything went fine. A few days afterward, I received a phone call from the wallaby owner's best friend. She explained to me that her friend had been through some hard times. She said that the smile and pure joy her friend exhibited when holding and caring for her new joey had been absent for a very long time. She loved her friend and simply wanted to thank me for providing such a beautiful healing creature.

I had no idea that my basically selfish pursuit could be such a positive thing for other humans. I knew for myself the kind of profound affect animals have on my life but to be able to provide this for others is a truly rewarding byproduct. Then came another positive benefit: I became friends with many clients who have kept in touch over the years, regaling me with pictures of the animals we both love and stories about how much these tame, extraordinary exotics have enriched and changed their lives.

As Dr. George Hughes so aptly stated at the ZAA Conference in Nebraska, for the most part, humans do not usually give unless they are getting in some form and went on to prove his theory with the success story of bringing back much of South Africa's wildlife through "sustainable use." Here in the US exotic owners are now under fire, especially pet owners. There are many that are demanding justification for our right to ownership stating there is no positive purpose and in the case of pets, nothing toward conservation of the species.

As a breeder that provides tame kittens to qualified homes, I feel these kittens are little positive parts of our natural world that become ambassadors for their species, even

if it is for just the few humans that occupy their world. In turn, these humans become more positive people because of sharing their lives with their cats, and they become stronger advocates for cats, both in and out of captivity. Now there is a ripple effect much like a single pebble thrown into a pond. But do not just take my word for it. Here are a few stories from some of my good friends and cat owners.

• • •

I became a serval owner a little over a year ago, and I must confess it has been a very fun year! I have always loved animals and always had a dog or cat in my life. After a particularly rough year and the passing of my 15-year-old dog, my sister who works for a vet, said I needed to research servals as they can be a great pet.

She was right! My serval loves to meet people. I take him on a leash to Petsmart, Starbucks, and local parks. Everyone wants to pet him (which he loves) and they always ask a million questions. This gives me the opportunity to educate them about where servals originated and how they have been pets in Africa for thousands of years as well as living side by side with humans in nature. I also tell them what an incredible, loyal, and loving pet he is. My serval sleeps at the foot of my bed, wakes me every morning with a gentle head-butt and a rumbling purr. When I come home from work, he runs to the door to greet me then proceeds to talk. I am guessing he is telling me about the fish and birds he has been watching. I have two other domestic cats and they all get along beautifully. I built a



Brenda and Tiki

fully-enclosed outdoor enclosure so that my cats can go in and out of the house whenever they like which enables my neighbor to talk to my serval everyday. They have become great friends. My exceptional serval even loves kids! I have a 4 year-old granddaughter who he follows around the house and loves to play with. He even lets her roll him around in her doll buggy!

My serval is the most interesting and one of the most loving pets I have ever had and I cannot imagine my life without him. He knows if I am not feeling well or have had a bad day, and he comes and curls up next to me on the couch, just to be with me. Otherwise he goes about his daily routine which includes getting into more mischief

than any cat or dog I have ever owned.

The reason I have such a wonderful story to share is because I got a tame, well-socialized serval from a breeder who loves her animals. She is very particular who she places her cats with and she is available for the thousand questions I might have. She has such a great passion for her cats—and it shows.

—Brenda

• • •

Five years ago I had never even heard of an African serval. I always knew that someday I wanted to live with an exotic cat and started doing research. I came across Julie's website one day while doing an online search for exotic cat breeders.



Paula and her serval

Unfortunately, she did not have anything available at the time, but her serval information page sparked an interest in me.

I spent some time doing research about these cats, their natural habitats, their diet, and personalities. I talked to several breeders and responsible private owners.

A year later, I got my first serval. I will never forget the way I felt when I first saw Grendel.

He was 3 weeks-old, a tiny furball with huge ears and an attitude that did not fit his size. The beginning of an incredible bond was in the making.

Several weeks later, I got a phone call and was offered another little male serval!

Of course I could not do that! Two? I'd be crazy!

No one has ever accused me of being sane. Grue arrived when Grendel was about 12 weeks old. Grue was 8 weeks old when I got him. A little older than Grendel was but not about to pretend he did not need his bottle anymore! Matter of fact, Grendel weaned himself from his bottle when he was about 3 months old, while Grue (shh, don't tell anyone) still takes a bottle at night and he is going on 4 years old.

I never imagined how big a part of my life they would become. Having them in my life has opened up an interest in me that was not there before: the natural habitat and preservation of this species. How could I have not known that these cats even existed? They are such awesome creatures with such unique personalities.

Living with my servals has encouraged me to find out everything I can about their habitats and share that knowledge with everyone I come into contact with, as well as educating interested people on responsible private ownership.

An interesting and heart warming thing happened to me last summer. A young man doing missionary work stopped by our house to offer his book of faith. While talking, he happened to notice a cluster of pictures I have on my wall of my servals. He showed interest, so I asked him if he would like to meet Grendel and Grue. I took him to meet them and I'll never forget the look on his face. He spent the next hour sitting on the floor with a cat toy, playing with



Jon's cougar

them and petting them. We talked a lot about what parts of Africa they come from and how they, and cats like them lose habitat as our human population grows and what things can be done to preserve habitats for all animals. It was quite an interesting conversation to be having with this young man! Before he left, he turned around with a huge smile on his face and said, "This was the best day of my life."

The first question people always ask is "What kind of cat is that?" So much opportunity for education! It is wonderful to be able to bring awareness like this to other

people.

Over the years, Julie and I have stayed in contact and she has become a special friend.

I also befriended a wonderful young lady who was running Exoticcatz.com. Happily, I found out she lives in Oregon as I do! She's always been available to answer questions and we have lent each other a hand at different times putting additions on our outdoor enclosures.

The community at Exoticcatz.com is made up of some really fantastic people and friends. It is not only educational but

it's a nice place to go at the end of the day and chat with friends about our beloved furry family members.

It really is rather amazing how much these two servals have changed my life. I am not only dedicated in my desire to educate others on responsible ownership, but in educating anyone who will lend an ear on the importance of the survival of these cats, and of all animals on our planet.

Time to go hug my servals!

—Paula

• • •

My exotic experience started back some 15 years ago with reptiles. It drove my mother crazy. Once I purchased my first home, I moved to felines, starting with the serval, the caracal, then bobcat, and finally cougar. Each species came with a new learning experience as my cats educated me on their unique and extraordinary characteristics. While I have enjoyed all the experiences with my cats, I believe the relationship with my cougars is the most magical. The joy in their eyes when I play with them is a sight to behold. When that big paw gently rubs my face and she pulls me in for a hug it is a wonderful experience.

It has been extremely gratifying to share my cougars with special friends. When I let my friends see the cats they are amazed how gentle they are. Often cougars in zoos are not tame, socialized animals. When my friends see zoo cougars, the cats can look very excited and mean. My cougars show my friends how intelligent, affectionate, and fascinating they can truly be.

Because of my relationship with my felines, I have been proud to be a member and supporter of the FCF for many years. My felines are everything to me and I hope I am able to share my life with them always.

—Jon

• • •

If I did not own, raise, and sell exotic cats I would not be so passionately involved in their survival. I would not be involved in the FCF. I would have lost out on the community and friendship and all the positive energy that is part of life with these cats, coming from both human and feline. Without our cats to enrich us, I think the world will be a much smaller, colder place for everyone. •

Puma Tracking in Brazil: A Step Toward a Sustainable Future

By Anne-Sophie Bertrand

Here I am back from the woods after having combed 120 km of Atlantic forest. A total of 25 field expeditions were conducted in the Iguaçu National Park at the borderline of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. This was a chance for the people in charge of the park's management and conservation to look closer at the current

situation. This project directly involved 12 people from Brazil, the United States, and Canada. Track surveys were planned over a 12-month period. We started in January 2008. So far, we have had very interesting results. We had for instance a very high rate of poaching with one poaching occurrence every couple of covered kilometers.

I would like to remind you that the

Iguaçu National Park is a 2,000 km² forest remnant placed under federal protection. It is composed of the most threatened Brazilian ecosystem and it is also a World Heritage Site since 1986.

The bad news is that it is not in good shape. Look at it with me: the rivers entering the park are polluted by agricultural toxins, woods are removed from riparian areas so the soil is intensively eroded and washed away, noble tree species were removed long ago and palm tree extraction still continue at an unbelievable rate, and wildlife is poached and fish populations are decimated.

The good news is what scientists called nature's resilience. But don't get me wrong here: I am not saying that this entire dramatic environmental situation is OK. I am just amazed to see how nature can handle our misbehavior.

Pumas were found in all sampled areas (n = 53; 6.5% of all animal presence signs) and easily noticeable through territory marking, i.e. scrapes (64.2% of total puma signs), bark scrape and feces. Puma adaptability to cope with our impact on the environment is no news to any of us. However, it is worthwhile to note that its sympatric species, the jaguar, was never recorded during our entire field data collection. Little spotted cats were present in most areas, as I believe they benefit from their small size, adaptability, and varied diet. Despite that observation, we must not forget that margays, jaguarundis, and tigrinas are killed in unknown numbers at farms and chicken husbandries.

Presence of other mammals (tapir, brocket deer (red and pygmy), capybara, white-collared peccary, crab-eating fox, coati, raccoon, agouti, skunk, and rabbit) were registered (n = 884). Animal trails were found everywhere in all forest parts and it is suspected that poachers use them to suppress evidence. Animal tracks were also found in great numbers (n = 372; 42.1% of total indices), mostly brocket deer, tapir, and agouti. Substrate quality was a limiting factor as foliage, stones, or drought would conceal footprints in most areas. However, muddy spots provided



Cut branch is an indicator of human activity

EIB Unleashes Animal Liability Line

Domestic
Exotic
Dogs
Cats
Snakes
Birds
Ferrets
& more!

EIB provides animal liability coverage for dogs, cats, big cats and performing animals. If you have been denied first time coverage, or your homeowner's insurance does not cover your animals for liability, this protection is for you! 10% discount with the insured's proof of FCF accreditation.

- EIB can quote coverage for all breeds, and especially hard-to-place breeds.
- Exotic animals such as big cats, snakes, birds and ferrets are also considered for liability coverage.
- Animals used for business purposes like security and guard dogs, show dogs and other performing animals will be considered for coverage.

As a pet owner, give us a call today to learn how EIB can help you get the liability coverage you need.

Learn more, today!



www.eibdirect.com



info@eibdirect.com | 877-678-7342

high quality footprints. Ten percent of all footprints were of hounds, suggesting poaching practices.

Talking about poaching, we caught sight of a poacher and his hounds one day during our field collection in the park's surroundings. He was riding a horse, holding a rifle, and six hounds were following him. Within a blink of an eye, the man disappeared in a corn field. A few minutes later, we could hear the hounds barking in the distance, where a forest fragment could be seen. A total of nine hounds were seen, some of which go snuffle in the park on their own. Considering the size and characteristics, there is no need to be an expert to know what they are used for. Brazilian people are dog people. Everybody has a bunch of dogs in his house, but we are talking about small cross-breeds. So whenever you see a bloodhound sniffing the ground and following the scent track, you know it is not the next-door-neighbor's cute doggie.

As for pumas, we were blessed by a sighting last May and we were followed by another puma in the most pristine areas of the park about two weeks ago. There was a huge fallen tree over a trail leading to a waterfall. There I noticed, on our way back, a strong musky smell and yes, the kitty had peed onto the bark, just to let us know that this was its territory. I came back last week and put out a camera trap. We should know shortly what cat we are talking about.



Puma track recorded in mud

Well, this is all very interesting, but we are just chatting here about ground data. Let us look at this from a “higher” perspective.

This project is supported by FCF and Fundação o Boticário de Proteção a Natureza, a Brazilian foundation supporting conservation activities throughout Brazil. So far, we have been able to provide a database of over 1,400 entries with detailed

information on wildlife and illegal activities (poaching, fishing, palm tree extraction) to local environmental authorities. GPS locations are available for all of our points and high-quality maps are given to the park's staff for conservation and management purposes.

This project is an example of what conservation-related research can offer. We no longer have time for fundamental research. Researchers should offer concrete short-term solutions that are both quantitatively and qualitatively measurable. It is highly recommended to seek collaborations with natural resources managers, providing definite key information for them to establish conservation strategies for the natural resources they are responsible for. It is a win-win concept for both researchers and natural resources managers.

Actually, all people benefit from such a dynamic as we all depend on our natural resources to live and prosper. This project also involves the private sector, academia, and the general public. What for? Because we are all related to our natural resources. They provide us the raw material we use for everything: our houses, clothing, medicines, water, food and, oh yes, oxygen. We entirely rely on what Earth creates and yet we are ripping it from all it produces and throwing



Puma scrape on fallen tree

everything away in a non-biodegradable form in open dumps, as if there were no tomorrow. It is as if we had forgotten where we came from. We broke the natural circle and made of it a straight line. But nature does not work this way and we know it now. Things are to be recycled. In any sustainable system, everything is reusable and reused. But we are not doing this, are we?

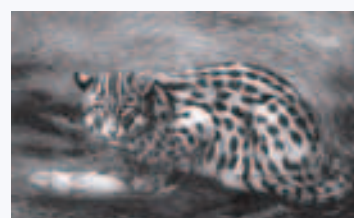
The world is to fire and sword as for natural resources. It has been over a decade that natural disasters and environmental issues fill headlines of newspapers in America, Asia, or Europe. And here we are nodding at that dwindling reality. Yet few are actually doing something. I sometimes wonder what it will take for us to wake up from our lethargy and actually start paddling in the opposite direction. We can see it coming, we can see us doing what we know is the wrong thing, but it is as if some kind of fatality was preventing us from starting to feel responsible for what we have been doing with *our* natural resources.

There is always something each one of us can do to make tomorrow more like we all want it: natural, healthy, and loving. Regardless of our nationality, social class, or religion, we all want the same thing.

So I am here to tell you that I am here down south in Brazil. It is certainly not the easiest place to start shaking the establishment. Yet, I try to wake people up and get them to step into the decision process as much as I can. Most major choices have been made by just a few people. We tend to forget that and sit back and live our little

Commissioned Paintings Original Wildcat Art & Prints

Felines are my specialty!



Rochelle Mason, Artist
(808) 985-7311 Rmasonfinearts@aol.com
www.Rmasonfinearts.com

life in our little world.

This work is just an example to show you that we are all able to actually do something to reverse the trend.

Even at home, you can do so many things to live more harmoniously with nature. Watch what you use for washing your clothes, your dishes, your body, and cleaning your kitchen. And, most impor-

tantly, watch the messages you are giving to your children and friends. Kids look up to us all the time. And as we did with our parents, chances are that they will adopt our principles. We all have the power to show them how to live harmoniously with nature, the only path to a sustainable future. Let each one of us do our part. •
annesophie@rede-verde.org



Typical pet cross-breed dog in area



Possible hunting dogs caught in camera trap

Rare Species Fund

The Feline Conservation Federation and T.I.G.E.R.S., The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species have recently presented \$2,000 in funding from their Rare Species Fund to the Matabeleland Leopard and Cheetah Project. This fund was created by T.I.G.E.R.S. and is managed along with and distributed by the FCF for worldwide conservation of felines and the territories they inhabit.

The Matabeleland Leopard and Cheetah Project was started in 2001 in Zimbabwe. This project works closely with Viv Wilson and staff at the Chipangali Wildlife Trust in support of the wildlife strategies of Zimbabwe's National Parks. The main objective of the research is to monitor the home range, movements and behaviors of leopard and cheetah in order to aid in their conservation.

Data collected is invaluable to the Zimbabwe's National Park system.

Park wildlife managers use the data to better understand species population dynamics, home ranges, core areas, and species behavior. This knowledge enables them to set sustainable hunting quotas, determine whether or not to issue building and road construction permits, and make decisions on other uses of the national parks.

The wildlife in this part of the world has not been well documented over the last 10 to 12 years with the unrest going on in Zimbabwe. Matabeleland Leopard and Cheetah Project provides critically needed information for conservation of this wildlife population.

We wish to thank the Zimbabwe Conservation Research Unit for giving us this opportunity to help with their project. We wish them much success. •



Leopard and Cheetah Project

The main objective of this project is to capture as many leopards as possible and after recording their body measurements and mass, fit radio-collars on them, release them, and monitor their home range, movements, and behavior.

During the last year, two females and one young adult male were successfully trapped using drop door traps and fitted with radio collars. Body measurements and weights were recorded for all leopards caught. Ectoparasites were collected and each leopard was fitted with a radio collar.

In order to more fully understand the food and feeding habits of the leopard, as many leopard scats (droppings) as possible were collected in the study area. When found, each scat was placed in a plastic bag and labeled with a collector's number, date, time, and locality. When possible, a GPS record of where the scats were found was also noted.

Hwange National Park has proven to be a suitable site for release of "problem" cheetah. Game is plentiful, there is an established population of cheetah and although super predators like lions and spotted hyena are found in numbers, they have not been an issue to the released cheetah as of yet.

When cheetah are released, they are released with the same members of the group as they were caught with. Due to this fact and the expense of collars, not all

released cheetah are collared. Experience has shown that when released, the cheetah stay with their released group. They may

accept other cheetah into the group, but on only one occasion has a group member split off from its release group. •



Bhagavan Anile

The African Association of Zoos & Aquaria

During the Zoological Association of America Conference, Joyce Basel presented information about an association of African zoos. The presentation so impressed the members of the Feline Conservation Federation that we immediately decided that the first use of funds drawn from new T.I.G.E.R.S. and FCF operated Rare Species Fund should be for FCF to join the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZAB) at the three year sponsor level. This commitment level sends \$1,200 of much needed financial support to the fledgling African zoo association. The FCF member expertise in feline husbandry, our ability to help raise awareness in the US of the captive conservation issues in Africa, and potential additional financial support our individual members can generate will further benefit PAAZAB. By helping support this association's efforts to improve African zoo collection management, captive animal husbandry, and public educational messages, FCF is doing its part to help educate the citizens of this continent to appreciate the wealth of their wildlife diversity and the threats to its continued existence in Africa.

By Joyce Basel

At the heart of most of the ancient cultures is a reverence for the wild creatures that existed at that time. Beautiful carved totems of bears, wolves, and eagles are associated with the cultures of the Mayans to the Eskimos. Across the face of Africa where some of the most magnificent wildlife is found, the folklore always tells of elephant and buffalo, lion and hyena, and many more. The tragedy in today's world is that about 90 percent of the world's young people only see these creatures as characters in the media, unless they have the opportunity to visit a zoo.

On the continent where millions of wildebeest make an annual migration of several hundred miles, covering a huge swath of two countries, accompanied by zebra and other plains game, almost 99 percent of all African youth will never see any of the animals in their natural habitat. Sad to say, most of them do not live close to a

zoo or other wildlife facility where they might see and learn. Even if they did, most of the zoos across the continent are relics of colonial times. Nearly all of them are in disrepair with animals housed in poor conditions and little funding for veterinary care. Certainly no money or thought is given to educating visitors about conservation.

During the 1980s, as the first world started to improve the exhibits in zoos in Europe and America, concern was expressed about the conditions prevailing in the zoos of the third world. At that time, several South African zoo directors came together with the idea of starting an African zoo association. A huge enterprise on a continent with over 50 nation-states and island groupings, dozens of different languages spoken, and in many instances tribal wars and historic enmity.

Nevertheless, in 1989 under the auspices of the National Zoo in Pretoria, a small del-

egation of dedicated individuals (mostly South African zoo directors) formed the Pan African Association of Zoological Gardens, Aquaria and Botanical Gardens. PAAZAB! In order to make every effort to ensure "pan-African" representation the objective was "to augment pan-African representation and active involvement within the association in an equitable and sustainable manner." Much easier said than done since funding for PAAZAB was limited!

As a South African living in America, but actively involved in the zoo world, Joyce Basel was invited to join PAAZAB and encouraged to invite American colleagues to join as individual members to augment the finances. She undertook to raise funds for PAAZAB to enable them to reach out to the rest of Africa in order to accomplish the objective of the pan-African mission.

Due to the huge generosity of American zoos, the so-called Outreach Fund was initiated and by 1993, PAAZAB had invited and sponsored senior zoo personnel from facilities in central and north Africa to attend the annual meeting and conference held in South Africa. Several of the institutions sponsored are exemplary in terms of their mission and standards of care, however, many African zoos remain in serious need of financial resources, human resources, and technical assistance. While this effort certainly allowed the initial contact to be made, in some instances the individuals invited were political appointees and had little influence in the decision-making processes in their own institutions. Nevertheless, progress had been made and by 2003, in recognition of this problem, PAAZAB launched the WOZA Africa initiative.

This initiative tackled several important objectives including:



African zoo provides outreach to a new generation

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

**When: Saturday, February 21, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 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
\$130.00 non-members**

Mail registration form below & check to:

Bear Creek Feline Center, 8822 Tracy Way, Panama City, FL 32404

**For more course 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.

The campus is approximately a ten minute drive from the Panama City airport.

Lodging: Sleep Inn Motel walking distance to the college

5126 West Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401 (\$54.00) 850-763-7777



**Here's what some of our
graduates have to say
about previous FCF Wild
Feline Husbandry
Courses**

I would recommend the course to people from those seriously considering their first "exotic" cat to those with ownership experience. Pete Bergersen

Being a person that believes you will never have all the answers pertaining to Exotic Cats and there is always something new to learn, I believe taking the FCF Husbandry Course is one of the best ways to begin your education and search for information regarding Husbandry and Exotic Cats. Cathryn Freeman-Sporher

I would give this course a "two thumbs up". George Stein

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.

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

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone : _____

E-Mail _____

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

Total enclosed _____

**Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance®
Zoological Formulas™**

**DICK VAN PATTEN'S
Natural Balance
CARNIVORE DIET**

- All Beef
- All Stages
- 5, 10, and 15% Fat
- Emulsifies Easily
- Palatable
- Better Stools
- Very Clean
- Leak Proof Casings
- USDA/FSIS
- Available in 1, 2, 5 lbs
- Bones Available

Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance® Zoological Formulas™
12924 Pierce Street, Pacoima, CA 91331 - 1 (800) 829-4493 - www.naturalbalanceinc.com
Contact: Martin R. Dinnes, D.V.M., Dipl. ACZM, Director, Product Research & Development
zoovet@naturalbalanceinc.com



AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION



Inadequate lion enclosure at an African zoo

- Confirmation, identification, and documentation of all known African zoos,
- Identification of facilities with obvious needs and capacity for improvement,
- Increased awareness of the PAAZAB network and its resources, and
- Mobilization of those resources within the network.

During the years 2004-2005, PAAZAB representatives conducted site visits to 13 African institutions in eight countries including Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Swaziland, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, and Nigeria. The association's executive office is in communication with other facilities in some of these countries, all of which have expressed interest in membership in PAAZAB. By the close of this initiative in 2007, PAAZAB had contact with or representation with 17 African countries. Future plans include PAAZAB representatives conducting programs at these zoos providing veterinary services, capacity building, skill transfer at staff and managerial levels, and other professional assistance as required.

Significant to this effort is the fact that visited zoos will thereafter be included into the larger network as represented by

PAAZAB throughout the world. By these efforts, PAAZAB seeks to:

- Forge partnerships within the African continent to promote biodiversity conservation in line with the outcome of the

Convention of Biological Diversity and other activities of the United National Environment Program.

- Promote high standards of animal welfare and to encourage sustainable growth and development of communities using zoos as a key source of information on the consumptive and non-consumptive use of natural resources.

Our work is far from finished and the way forward has challenges on all fronts, not the least of which is the financial capacity to continue with this outreach. Our organization seeks partners in all fields of endeavor, but most importantly we urge you to consider membership with us. The small amount of \$120 for international membership or \$60 for individual membership, and \$120/\$60 annually as dues, equates to a significant amount of money in African terms and helps us to continue to achieve our goals.

For those of you who attended the conference in Omaha and heard and saw the presentation I gave, you will realize that there is a huge need for PAAZAB's presence and continuing efforts within the African zoo community. Please consider becoming a member of our organization. •

<http://www.PAAZAB.com>

630-327-3871

joyceb@inbox.com.



Inadequate tiger enclosure at an African zoo.

Cat Writers' Conference Trip Report

By Angela Anderson

Mike Friese posted an offer on the FCF list encouraging any writers in FCF to be his "guest" at the 15th annual Cat Writers' Association (CWA) conference. I decided to be Mike's guest.

Attendance was less than the FCF convention but was very well sponsored. Though registration was \$100 for me as a guest, it included a gift bag, three breakfasts, a lunch, two hosted cocktail hours and three dinners. There were also many raffles (I won a very nice brass pet bed).

One goal seems to best describe the CWA: "Be a major influence for the good of cats by providing news, information, and education on all aspects of cats."

Attending the CWA may also be a good resource for FCF members trying to publish a book about cats (including exotics) and magazine articles about domestics. During the convention there were 15 minute sessions with editors and agents that the attendees signed up for.

Mike was an excellent ambassador for exotic cats as pets at the CWA. He even had a lengthy discussion with the president of CWA who also happens to be a Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) employee. Perhaps this may start a dialog with the exotics personnel at HSUS! Or not.

Thursday Night

On Thursday night, Mike and I joined the "Thursday Night Team" and helped fill the very generous gift bags paid for by various sponsors. There were plenty of volunteers and the work was quickly done. While waiting for our dinner (paid for by the CWA), we all introduced ourselves. Mike gave a very good plug for the FCF and the journal and I promoted the FCF husbandry course.

Friday

Friday started with seven hour-long seminars and ended with a networking reception and informal dinner. The first seminar was given by Dr. Robert Menardi of Pfizer about "Developing Feline Vaccines and Meds." He gave an interesting history on vaccines and then described the latest research and safety tradeoffs.

Three seminars were about writing: "Finding Inspiration for Fiction," "Writing Humor," and "Fact from Fiction" and two

seminars were about marketing: "Public Speaking, Promotion, and Pulling Your Hair Out," and "Marketing Plans for Fun & Profit."

"Writing Competitions 101 - How to Write Award-Winning Material and Judge Your Peers" turned out to be about the Cat Writer awards. Two nights later the presenter, Dusty Rainbolt, won a record-breaking number of special awards, cementing her authority to teach the course. She told how a judge did her a favor when she lost to "Cats for Dummies" by hinting that the winner presented a lot of information while being funny and non-pretentious. Taking this to heart, Dusty later wrote "Kittens for Dummies."

During the dinner, Marion Lane gave a brief talk about how the ASPCA is trying to achieve its goal of no longer having to euthanize animals. Melinda Merck, of the ASPCA, gave a talk about veterinary forensics. She helped the prosecutors in the Michael Vick case and now drives a mobile animal CSI unit that is used for evidence gathering in animal abuse cases.

Saturday

On Saturday, there were four hour-long panels, followed by a free lunch. The panels consisted of several authorities answering questions posed by a moderator and the audience. The four panels were: CATalyst, veterinarians, animal behaviorists, and editors and agents. CATalyst is a new organization that wants to promote the cat. For example, dog is well known as "man's best friend" and according to statistics, receives more veterinary care than cats. Dan Kramer of CATalyst would like the cat to be known as "man's companion" and even had some

ideas for commercials.

In the afternoon we had a tour of the ASPCA CSI van and attended the CFA International Cat Show. Then we attended the formal hospitality reception and awards banquet.

The *FCF Journal* did not win this year. However, at the seminar about the Cat Awards, Mike Friese learned that he can submit individual articles along with the entire journal which will increase the FCF's opportunities of winning. (Some of the prizes can be up to \$1,000!) We had the pleasure of sitting with the co-winners of last year's award—Alley Cat Rescue. They help feral cats throughout the world. Mike and I saw pictures of their trip to Africa where they spayed and neutered feral domestic cats to prevent them from mating with the African wildcat. In one picture, they were petting a king cheetah!

Sunday

The CWA conference ended Sunday morning with breakfast and the membership meeting. The membership meeting, where the new president takes the gavel, was a brief meeting. The Cats Writers' approved the proposal from their long-range planning committee to have their 2009 convention with the The International Cat Association (TICA) cat show in New York. This will be the first time the CWA conference will not be associated with the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) cat show. The CFA cancelled a cat show in California and CWA conference attendance has been down ever since. However, because the TICA will be near New York City, the CWA is hoping to "host more magazine and book editors, agents, media-centric speakers; and publishing professionals." This is good for me because it is just a 30-minute train ride from my home. I will be there. •



Writing panel at Cat Writers' Association conference

Processing Animals for Consumption by Exotic Felines

By Lynn Culver

Wild felines kill and eat other animals. They have evolved to digest skin, fur, bones, muscle, and organs. There is some nutritional value in every part of an animal so when consumed in their entirety, prey animals form a balanced diet.

In captivity carnivorous species are often fed commercially processed meat, usually poultry, beef, or horse. In the case of beef or horse, it is muscle meat lacking the bones, skin, or organs and must be supplemented with vitamins and calcium.

At N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center we feed commercially prepared chicken leg quarters and we also butcher cow, horse, deer, beaver, squirrel, rabbit and chicken for our cougars and smaller cats.

Before accepting an animal for feeding, one must know when and why the animal perished to make a decision concerning wholesomeness and freshness. Freshness is a matter of temperature; during summer months animals spoil much quicker. Fresh-



ness can be determined by the presence of any off-smells, appearance of green in the belly area, or stomach bloat. Grain and grass in the stomach and intestines heat up

and compost creating gas that will back up into the bloodstream and spoil the meat.

If you have never butchered before, start small with a calf or deer and work up to the adult animals. Many times a developing bull calf is too large for the birth canal so it gets stuck and smothers and is delivered stillborn. It will be perfectly suitable for feeding. A deer hit by a car will die of shock, internal bleeding, or broken bones and be wholesome food as long as it is still fresh.

Always remove stomach and intestines, a source of *E. coli* bacteria and potentially parasites. The sooner it is removed, the better for the meat. For ease of processing, hang the animal. We have a chain hoist permanently mounted in a large oak tree. Commercial processors hang cows by a back leg, but we butcher an animal hanging from the neck and so I give guidance this way.

We do all our butchering using sharp knives. Keep a sharpener on hand and use it frequently during the process. We do not use chain saws or other mechanical means, just a knife and knowledge of anatomy.

First step is to eviscerate the animal. Slice up the center of the belly from groin to the rib cage and then slice perpendicular along the last rib bone to reveal the stomach and intestines. Next sever the liver from the diaphragm and also free the stomach and intestines to fall out of the hole you have made. Pull and cut the intestines free from

There Is No Substitute - Oasis is the #1 Selling Vitamin Supplement in the World!

Do Not Settle for Imitators

Oasis Vitamins with Taurine is specie formulated to complete appropriate raw meat diets!

Kittens require bioavailable and pure calcium. Don't risk broken bones and poor bone density. Prima-Cal is formulated to work with Oasis for optimal response & growth.

Our friendly technical support staff is the best in the industry! We are always available for you!

Specialized Natural Health Products
Formulated by
DR. GARY PUSILLO

1-866-807-7335
www.apperon.com

APPERON

5% Discount for All FCF, LIOC
& Phoenix Exotic Members.



the anus. Cut the liver free and retain it for food. Liver is an important nutritional package of iron and mix of B vitamins. The kidneys are usually embedded into the back and cushioned by a protective wad of fat. Cut them out for feeding as well.

I do not skin newborn calves or deer, but I do skin cows. I start at the stomach area using a knife to separate the skin from the stomach muscle, pulling the skin with one hand and swiping the knife along the meat with the other. I usually skin from just below the neck to the thigh in one piece, dealing with the neck area separately later.

For a young calf or deer, remove the legs whole, starting with the hind legs. The leg is connected to the hip by a ball and socket. Slice around the groin and rotate the leg to get a feel for where the ball and socket are

and aim your cut towards this area. There is a tendon that actually holds the ball in the socket and even though you cut around the socket, you have to maneuver your knife to reach this tendon attached to the top of the ball and sever it before the leg will be free.

The front legs are different. You have heard of a shoulder blade, that is a description of the bone. It is flat and blade-like and there is no ball and socket. So just cut under the armpit and pull the leg back to facilitate more cutting and you can cut all around the blade and remove it from the body.

A slice of the knife down both the right and left of the spine and then another several inches away to form a long trough will reveal the prime rib. This is very tender meat and a great treat. Inside the body cavity along the lower spine is another pocket of meat, the tenderloin and I cut that out as well. This leaves the body and the neck and head. Slice around the neck where it meets the body. Run your knife into the spine to sever the cord and separate the vertebrae with a knife. It takes some skill. If you do not succeed, you may then need to resort to an ax.

Sever the body into two pieces above the hip and pelvis area. Slice deeply with a knife from the backside and then from the inside. Apply pressure to crack the spine and help finish severing between the vertebrae joints with the knife.

Place the chest cavity on a level surface and slice through the diaphragm, which is a flap that separates the chest cavity from the stomach cavity. We remove the lungs and heart. The lungs do not really seem like food to me; they are like a sponge. We feed the heart, but discard the lungs along with the stomach and intestines.

This makes four legs, a neck with head, a pelvis and a chest cavity, and a bag of tenderloin, prime rib, liver, kidney, and heart. A large newborn calf feeds seven cougars one meal. When feeding young calves there will only be lower parts of the legs to dispose of, or pieces of the skull and lower jaw.

Larger animals are just like the calf, though with adult animals you spend considerable time cutting hunks of meat off the animal. We cut with a knife and use a hay hook to pull the meat away from the animal

as we are cutting. We have several large pans to hold the meat. Periodically we pause from butchering and bag the meat for freezing.

Not all animals are suitable as animal grade protein. Some are old and skinny and will be a big disappointment. The single best indicator of the meat to bone ratio will be the appearance of the back and spine. A good cow or horse has a flat back; you cannot see the spine. If there is a ridge or any sign of an indent along the spine, the animal is not optimum and the meat to bone ratio will be less than ideal. Keep that in mind because you want results for your work and a thin cow with little meat is still a lot of work and creates hundreds of pounds of gut contents, skin and bones to dispose of.

When offered an animal, ask the farmer questions. Buy a *Merck Veterinary Manual* and look up cattle illnesses and problems. Call your vet and consult with him. When in doubt, do not use it. A few safe causes for death that you can accept for feeding are lightning strikes, hip and leg injuries from





breeding or other reasons, calcium deficiencies (eclampsia) after birthing that leave the momma cow paralyzed, uterine prolapse, pinched nerves from delivery that render the cow unable to stand, grass tetany caused by eating too much fescue in the spring, acorn poisoning from eating acorns in the fall, or hardware ingestion, usually hay bale strings or plastic bags consumed by the cow that wad up in the stomach and prevent digestion. Most horses offered will

be a result of colic or foundering. Horses have less problems birthing, but gorging causes either an immediate death from colic or irreversible injury from foundering.

Life is harsh and sometimes the most merciful thing a rancher can do is humanely destroy his stock. The best place to shoot is the brain, and the best way to hit the brain is to visually draw an X from the eyes to the ears and aim for that spot. The brain cavity on a cow or horse is rather small,

and high up. Aiming head on is the best approach. Wait until the animal is settled and not moving and then take quick aim with a pistol or rifle up close. A .22 hollow point will work, but a larger caliber bullet is recommended. When aimed right, an adult animal will drop immediately. When there is no eye reflex upon touching the eyeball, you know you have hit the brain.

We let large animals hang and cool before processing. This firms up the muscle meat and helps it freeze faster when it is bagged because it is already cool. In the summer, if possible, we arrange with the farmer to destroy the animal later in the day so it is eviscerated just before sundown and hangs to cool overnight when there are no flies. We begin processing at daylight before the flies wake up. In the winter, time of day is not so critical. If it is quite cool, once the stomach and intestines are removed, an animal can hang for days; neither flies or spoilage is an issue.

We compost intestines and stomachs and burn the bones and skin. We live in the country and have plenty of firewood for fuel. The job is not finished until everything is disposed of. It usually takes several hours to process and clean up after a “free” cow. •

Amnesty Day



Rear: Jenney Tinnell, Julie Reid, Scott Hardin.
Front: Ken Holmes.

By Julie Reid

On November 22, 2008 at the Jacksonville Zoo in Jacksonville Florida, the FCF participated in Florida's Fish and Wildlife amnesty day. Amnesty day was created as a one-day public event and has a twofold purpose. First and foremost people can surrender exotic pets that they can no longer care for, free of charge with no questions asked. A licensed veterinarian examines all surrendered pets and if they appear healthy, Fish & Wildlife will try to place them with willing, qualified adopters. Hopefully this will prevent people from simply letting non-native animals loose. The second purpose is to educate the public about native and non-native wildlife and the husbandry of such animals along with Florida's rules and regulations. Several associations were represented including the Jacksonville Herpetological Society and wildflorida.com along with FCF. This event allowed the FCF to network with Fish & Wildlife and talk with them about our organization, hand out a few journals, and promote our organization and husbandry course to both officials and the public as a valuable resource to all. Amnesty day is held in several locations around Florida throughout the year and we have been invited to participate at the Miami event in March. Thanks to Jenny Tinnell and Fish & Wildlife for this wonderful opportunity! •

Blast from the Past. . . .

The Geoffroy's Cat

Long Island Ocelot Club

March/April 1980—Volume 24, Issue 2

By Patricia Nell Warren

For centuries, the Geoffroy's cat has had the dubious honor of being one of the smallest and most ignored wildcats in the world. But these days, this fairly gentle wildcat is a little better known—in a good news/bad news sort of way.

First the good news. American cat folks are becoming aware of the beauty and fascination of the smaller wildcats. Examples: A recent *Cats Magazine* article celebrated the Pallas cat. The leopard cat enjoys a long-standing appreciation. Last year the Western Reserve Cat Club (a midwest CFA club) held a benefit show in order to purchase a pair of captive born Geoffroy's for the Cleveland Zoo. The club is proud of "their" cats and eager to educate the public about them.

Now for the bad news. Though never fashionable in its own right, the gentle Geoffroy's is hunted for its pelt, as a legal substitute for the now illegal ocelot.

At a recent Empire cat show in New York City, a visiting spectator drew indignant stares from exhibitors. She was wearing a midi-length coat made of real spotted cat.

Because of the new restriction on the import of endangered species, one does not see many ocelot, cheetah, or leopard coats walking around Manhattan these days. This lady however, had a coat that was made unmistakably from Geoffroy pelts. The Geoffroy's cat is not currently listed as endangered. To make the coat, the furrier had used only the backs. These are the choice portions because the markings are arranged in neat rows along the spine. An exhibitor who knew something about the furrier business sadly estimated that around 100 cats had been killed to provide a few moments of chic for one uncaring New Yorker.

Just what is this good-tempered little cat with the funny name? I do not own any Geoffroy cats but I know a number of people who do. Thus I have had the opportuni-

ty to visit them and their cats.

The Geoffroy's cat—fondly called "G cat" by some of its admirers—is native to the southern half of South America. Its scientific name, *Leopardus geoffroyi*, derives from the name of a 19th century French biologist, Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire, who traveled Latin America. Actually however, the first Europeans to note the cat's description for scientific posterity were d'Orbigny and Gervais in 1843.

Long before the Europeans, of course, the indians knew the Geoffroy's cat at close hand. A number of ancient South American textiles have startling designs of small spotted cats with long tails. Some of these could be Geoffroy's cats. The pre-Columbian indians stood in awe of cats. They worshipped the big ones, jaguars, and cougars. They also respected the little ones. The gentler of the small species were semi-domesticated, kept as pets or for rodent control. If the Spanish conquest hadn't

destroyed indian culture, it might have developed its own domestic cat.

Geoffroy's cats are among the tiniest wildcats on earth. A grown Geoffroy's male might tip the scales at 9-12 pounds. The mature female runs as small as six pounds. Thus they compare in size to the domestic cat.

They have a wide distribution in the southern hemisphere, over more than 30 degrees of latitude, which is nearly 2,500 miles. The cat has been recorded north of 20 degrees latitude, in Bolivia. In between, it frequents parts of Uruguay and southwestern Brazil. And it has been seen south of 50 degrees on the Rio Gallegos in Patagonia.

Apparently the Geoffroy's cat is found only on the east side of the Andes. West of the continental divide, in Chile, is found the rare kodkod or guña. For a long time, the kodkod was confused with the Geoffroy's cat. But now it is recognized as a distinct



Tigger, a male Geoffroy's cat is shown here at 14 months of age and weighing 10 pounds. He's a domestic bred cat, born at the Hatfield's compound.

species.

The Geoffroy's is a rugged little cat. It has to be. It thrives in some of the most forbidding terrain on earth.

In Bolivia, for instance, it is found at 12,000 feet on the Altiplano. This is a vast, barren, windswept plateau glittering with salt flats. Poverty stricken indians scratch out a living growing potatoes in the poor soil.

In northwestern Argentina, the cat is found right in the Andes. Many Geoffroy's cats are found in the Gran Chaco. This is a vast central lowland lying along the eastern slope of the Andes, mainly in northwestern Argentina. Part of the Chaco is known as "the green hell." It is swampy and forested. There, the Geoffroy's cat has to contend with swarms of stinging insects, summer flooding, and the hottest temperatures in all of South America. Other parts of the Chaco are dry. There is open rolling bush country, alkali flats, and little forests of quebracho trees. There, the Geoffroy's cat is at home amid the thorn bushes giant cactus and low grasses.

But the most intriguing haunt of this cat is Patagonia, that vast and sparsely inhabited southern quarter of Argentina

In Patagonia, powerful and cold winds are always blowing. Dust storms drift along the horizons. Stretches of the dry prairie support lonely estancias, or sheep ranches. A last handful of aboriginal indians, the Tehuelches, live there.

For a living, the Geoffroy's cat can hunt little desert animals such as the murine opossum. Or he can try to catch rare birds like the tinamou and the tawny throated

dotterel

In the southern hemisphere, the Geoffroy's cat, the cougar and the pampas cat are the only felines found south of 50 degrees. All three species range down to the strait. And both the pampas cat and the cougar have longer or heavier coats.

That leaves the Geoffroy's cat as the only truly short-haired cat to thrive so far from the equator. How does he manage?

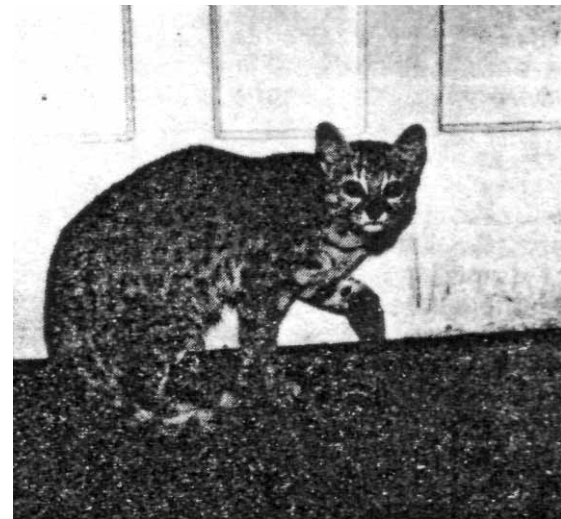
Because of their wide north-south range, the Geoffroy cats obey some basic rules of wild animal genetics.

The bigger specimens are found near the poles. Their larger size evolved as a thermodynamic trick to help conserve body heat. The smaller specimens get along better toward the equator. Thus the biggest Geoffroy's are found in Patagonia and the smallest in the Gran Chaco.

The Geoffroy's has also improved his chances of survival by evolving a special type of short coat. Closer to the equator, the coarse coat does lie close to the body to help fight the heat. But down toward the South Pole, the coat becomes longer and bristly. It is resilient, waterproof like a seal's pelt. The stiff guard hairs are very shiny. The undercoat is plush and dense.

Finally, the Geoffroy's cat tints his coat to blend with the geography where he lives. The big cats from Patagonia have a ghostly pale look, a light tan or silvery gray. This gives them more camouflage in the dusty desert or in snow and fog.

By contrast, the little Geoffroy's from the sub-tropical Chaco have a burnt orange or egg-yolk color. This helps them blend in among trees and grasses. In the wooded



Shere Kahn at 7 years. Female, only 4 pounds.

reaches of the cat's range, one also finds a goodly number of the rare melanistic specimens. These cats have a dark brown ground color. The spots show only when sunlight strikes one at a certain angle. One of the two animals donated to the Cleveland zoo was such a black specimen.

Spots are the theme of the Geoffroy's markings. By contrast, the ocelot and oncinx usually wear some type of rosettes. And the margay wears large egg shaped spots.

The body of the Geoffroy cat is covered by small dots, evenly spaced. The dots travel down his legs, shrinking in size to pin-sized dots on his toes. Sometimes the dots cluster into loose rosettes. There may be a few tabby bars on the lower shoulder and haunch. The head is attractively streaked and dotted.

The tail is dotted and ringed. Even each whisker sprouts from a tiny black dot.

Of special interest are three white dots: one is found on the very tip of the tail and the other two are found on the backs of the neat rounded ears. The dots are found on most of wildcat species, both large and small and are called ocelli.

The paw pads are usually dark. Eye color ranges from clear gold to smoky amber. The nose leather is usually brick red. On a Geoffroy's that carries the melanistic recessive, these markings are usually very heavy and dark. The nose leather may even be black.

To date, as far as I know, the "new biologists" have not dignified this cat with a formal and long-term study in the wild. But we do have quite a bit of knowledge about

ANIMAL FINDERS GUIDE

**18 issues a year for only \$30.00
Single issue \$2.50**

**Informative articles on exotic
animal husbandry. Exotic animals,
products, services, auctions and shows advertised.**

**PO Box 99, Prairie Creek, IN 47869
812-898-2678 or Fax 812-898-2013
visit our website at www.animalfindersguide.com
email: animalfinder@thnet.com**



the cat thanks to his sojourns in captivity.

Most of the original imports came in by mistake passed off as ocelots by ignorant or dishonest animal dealers. This was during the great “ocelot craze” of the 1950s when everybody wanted to walk down Fifth Avenue with their pet ocelot on a leash.

In the wild, the Geoffroy’s cat is not a creature of wide-open spaces. He likes to keep cover handy. He stays in the rocks or the brush. As a pet in the home, he does not cross a large room directly, but zigzags happily from beneath one chair to another.

Though they do not mind climbing trees, they are mainly terrestrial. They are bold hunters and will try to take prey far bigger than themselves. I once heard of a pet Geoffroy’s who got loose and grabbed a turkey gobbler by the neck.

During mating, the male sometimes carries the female around by the scruff like a kitten.

Litters are small, two or three kits. The babies are born with their plushy undercoats fully spotted. Like most wildcats, the mother probably rears them on her own without help from the male. Sexual maturity usually comes at about 18 months although I heard of one precocious male who sired at 10 months.

Geoffroy’s cats breed fairly easily in captivity. One man I know has a wild-born female who is quite tame and nests casually in his closet or bureau drawer. She lets him handle the kittens from birth.

Many of the Geoffroy’s cats now in the U.S. are second and third generation domestic born. There are enough unrelated bloodlines to maintain genetic vigor.

Private owners who hand-raise them as pets swear that they have the kindest disposition of all the wildcats. In fact, in recent years, there has been a kind of “trend” toward Geoffroy’s cats. (Of course when not hand-raised, they show the same wariness as any wildcat.)

If a male Geoffroy’s has been raised with a domestic female he will mate her readily. The result: a striking hybrid with all the Geoffroy markings including the spots on their ears.

The pet Geoffroy’s responds to his human in many ways uniquely his own. The Geoffroy’s cat has a very loud purr for his size. He also likes to bump heads gently against his owner’s and give him little kiss-

es. One has to watch for quick little love-bites at the nose. A light tap on the head and a firm “no” and the cat quickly learns that these love bites are not good manners.

The Geoffroy’s talks a lot in his hoarse, cirring, complaining little voice. People who know the different species tell me that the Geoffroy’s voice is different from that of the other leopardi. For instance, the oncilla utters a sharp, bird-like cry. The ocelot has a deep, loud harsh call.

The tame Geoffroy’s cat can be aggressively curious and affectionate and not at all shy. One little female pattered straight to the door to greet me. She stood on her back legs and tapped my hand gently with a paw to make sure I noticed her. Geoffroy’s cats, at least the hand-raised ones, seem to be curiously polite with their claws and do not bare them unless they mean business.

The intelligence and sensitivity of these little cats is worth noting. Not long ago, a male Geoffroy’s got hung up by the buckle of his flea collar as he darted through his swinging cat door into his outdoor run. By the time the owner noticed, the struggling cat was half choked to death. When this kind of a pickle occurs, most wildcats do not recognize their owners and go bananas if you try to help them.

However, this cat did not scratch or bite while his owner extricated him. He was drenched with sweat, and so weak with terror he could hardly walk. Nevertheless, he staggered and flopped over to his owner. There, he purred weakly, kissed him and bumped heads with him.

From that day on, he was more affectionate and demonstrative. Clearly he knew and remembered that his human had saved him.

Geoffroy’s cats have some other curious traits too. They like toys and they like to carry things. One Geoffroy always carries pine cones into the house from his outdoor run so that he can bat them around the house. Several owners report that Geoffroys are fond of sucking on their owners ear lobes. They adore the smell of good leather. Purses and shoes send them into ecstasy of chin rubbing.

They trot with an arched back and a tuck up like a greyhound, but they run with a curious supple side-winding motion like a galloping otter. Sometimes they sit straight up on their hocks, like a chipmunk so they



Coffee and Missy’s kits at 6 weeks of age

can see better.

When it comes to ankle-rubbing, the Geoffroy’s cat is not content with the mere sedate rub of the domestic. He enthusiastically flings his haunches sideways against your ankle—something like the disco step called the Bump.

Like most wildcats, the Geoffroy’s cats are very clean and very predictable. If litter trained, they will use a pan. If they have an outdoor run, they will pick a single spot where they will build up a neat little mound of hard, whitish pellets.

Both males and females spray when grown. This is territorial behavior. One connoisseur tells me that he can distinguish the smell of Geoffroy’s from that of the other small wildcats.

They like raw chicken necks or wings. One owner has a commercial meat grinder and makes a special “hamburger” for his four Geoffroy’s. It consists of raw beef hearts, chicken necks, and Vionate. A few cats can be conned into eating Zupreem or other commercial calcium-rich diets.

Like all wildcats they adore greens. They like to chew coarse grass and have a healthy vomit; it is nature’s way of ridding them of hairballs and some parasites.

The Geoffroy’s cat in the wild pits his ten pounds and his bristles against some of the most rugged terrain on earth. He is truly a stormy little petrel among the cats. He makes his home where the gales of the Roaring Forties sweep across the bottom of the world.

We could do worse than link our own future survival as a species with that of this fascinating little cat. •

Surprising Cheetah Kill

Recently while on safari, we had the extraordinary experience of coming upon a coalition of two adult male cheetah. We first noticed them as they crested a large termite mound eyeing a small herd of zebra and wildebeests. We watched in fascination while these two males made a daring charge into the herd. They quickly went after the zebra with the ferocity of lions, artfully cutting a youngster out of the group, and in a few breaths, were taking it to the ground.

An adult female zebra, most likely its mother, blazed in, attempting to rescue her offspring but one of the cheetah held his ground fending her off while the other dispatched the young zebra.

We often think of these magnificent animals taking only smaller prey, but here they went beyond the norm acting more lion-like and going for the larger and more difficult and dangerous kill, really showing us what the cheetah are capable of.

—*Doc Antle*





BOTSWANA BECKONS!

By Gail Laviola

Someone once told me, “If you can go to Africa only once, you must go to Botswana.” I believe they were right. It is a unique country with diversified game and topography. The Okavango Delta has been the subject of hundreds of books and films. We were gone for two weeks, flew from camp to camp, and stayed in only small camps for four nights each. I planned it a year and a half ahead of time, but I think it was well worth it.

After a long flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg, we spent the evening at the Intercontinental Hotel, which is only a two-minute walk from the airport. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of local South African seafood and listened to piano music while dining, something you don’t get to do in Mena, Arkansas. Our flight to Botswana

left early the next morning.

Our first camp was Linyanti Bush Camp in the Linyanti Concession. We had our own guide and vehicle which enabled us to set our own timetable for activities. We were very interested in seeing an aardvark and our guide, Tati, did show us one. We actually saw the aardvark three times! The Linyanti River flooded for the first time in almost 30 years so not only was the game terrific, but the bird life as well. We had lions from the Linyanti pride sleeping outside our tent and we were fortunate enough to see a beautiful male leopard on an evening game drive. We saw zebra, giraffe, impala, and buffalo. The bird life was quite represented: lilac breasted roller, fish eagle, tawny eagle, and giant eagle owl to name a few.

One day while at Linyanti, we decided

to go to Savuti. On our way there, we saw the endangered roan antelope and a honey badger. What a way to start the day! We took a picnic lunch and celebrated Carl’s birthday with a bottle of sparkling wine surrounded by elephants in the distance. On our way back to camp, we saw a lion and lioness drinking at the water hole with elephants.

We then flew to Duba Plains Camp in the Okavango Delta. This camp gained recognition after the filming of “Relentless Enemies” which exhibited how the Duba Boys (lions) swam in the water after prey. The Duba Boys have since passed on but the Duba Girls have now taken over. We saw the “girls” set up a buffalo hunt. Slowly, one by one, the six lionesses got into position. Then, right in front of us, the chase was on. They singled out an old buf-

falo cow. Two lionesses flanked each side, one lioness in front, and one in the back and in a matter of one minute, she was down and six lionesses were frantically feeding. While at Duba Plains, we also saw an attempted attack of a male buffalo. Although two lionesses had a firm grip on him, he managed to escape. There is no plains game at Duba Plains but there is so much activity with the lions. We did have two serval sightings, one in the daytime and one at night. The bird life was excellent: endangered wattled cranes, rosy-throated longclaws, little bee-eaters, and many others.

We flew to Little Mombo Camp (my last camp) in Moremi National Park. Because it is a national park, there are no night game drives as you must be back at camp at 7:00pm. The park is abundant with game and there is much to see during the day. After being out only 20 minutes on our first game drive, our guide spotted the lovely Legadima (meaning “lightening”) up a tree with an impala kill. Legadima is famous at Mombo as Beverly and Derek Joubert,



National Geographic’s top-rated wildlife filmmakers, discovered Legadima when she was only 8 days old and documented her life in the film “Eye of the Leopard.”



As we were sitting in the jeep, down from the tree she came and walked about half mile and called for her two cubs. As a family, they all walked back to the tree, easily traversed the trunk, and the three settled down for a hearty meal. As only life in Africa has it, during that night the impala got knocked down and the hyenas then feasted! Legadima had not been seen for two months before that sighting and while we were there we did not see her again, but the memory of her and her cubs is one that will last a lifetime.

White rhino has been reintroduced back into the park from South Africa and are doing quite well. We saw one baby, named Valentine, and an older male teaching him the ways of the world.

Little Mombo was my last camp. As I sat on our porch, looking out on the island and watched monkeys frolicking and a pair of fish eagles calling. I was so fortunate to be able to visit such unique wildlife and appreciate their beauty. Although I have a beautiful Bengal tiger to look at each day, it is very different seeing wildlife, and especially the cats, living free in nature.

I returned home after Mombo and Carl continued on for another two weeks visiting my favorite camp in Botswana, Little Kwara, then on to Tiger Fish, and on to San Camp where he had meerkats in his camera bag, saw the brown hyena, and visited with the San people. •

Sobering Facts of Species Decline

By Lynn Culver

When faced with news about the mounting global environmental degradation, many react by burying their head in the sand. It is too overwhelming, too depressing, and seemingly too impossible to fix.

This apathetic indifference leads to inactivity and a lack of assistance in addressing the immanent destruction of all of planet Earth's life forces, including our own species. This environmental apathy disorder is characterized by a failure to develop an environmental conscience and its essential feature is a pervasive pattern of failing to help reduce planetary destruction, combined with over consumption of the planet's limited resources.

People are using denial as a way to avoid threatening their sense of well-being, and their relatively comfortable lifestyle. While it is instinctual to want to avoid pain and suffering and to seek comfort, safety, and happiness, if we do not pull our collective heads out of the sand and face this grim reality and take action to reverse the pressure that humanity exerts upon this planet's ecosystems, we will all suffer dire effects across the entire globe.

There is a moral and existential imperative that we unite to overcome the problems associated with overpopulation, consumerism, and capitalism. It is this unholy alliance that is exacerbating the severity of the global climate change and the loss in species diversity.

We who are the caretakers of nature's

felines must increase our efforts to protect their dwindling captive habitat. We must also devote our time and effort to raise awareness of the problems facing their cousins in nature.

Here are some sobering statistics about nature, and our planet, that should be shared with friends, neighbors, media, and legislators.

The world's population in 1600 was at 500 million. Two hundred years later in the year 1800, it had doubled to one billion. Another 140 years later in 1940 the global population tripled to 3 billion. From 1940 to present day, 66 years later, the world's population has more than doubled to 6.6 billion. It is projected to reach ten billion by 2050.

In 2003, the human consumption of natural resources exceeded bio-capacity by 25 percent. This means that with a global population of 6.6 billion people, the world is currently consuming at a rate of 25 percent more than what the earth is capable of regenerating.

Ten years ago, seven out of ten scientists from the American Institute of Biological Sciences concluded a mass extinction was underway and that within 30 years, one fifth of all living species could become extinct. We are now one third into this time period and little success has been achieved in stopping this extinction process. Unless humankind changes behaviors, as many as two-thirds of world species could be extinct by 2100.

According to the Global Biodiversity Outlook, there was an average species population decline between 1970 and 2000 of 40 percent. Species in rivers, lakes, and marshlands have declined by 50 percent during the same period.

The 2007 World Conservation Union Red List contains 41,415 species that are threatened with extinction. The Red List reports that 25 percent of mammals, 13 percent of all birds, 33 percent of all amphibians, and 70 percent of the world's assessed plants are now threatened with extinction.

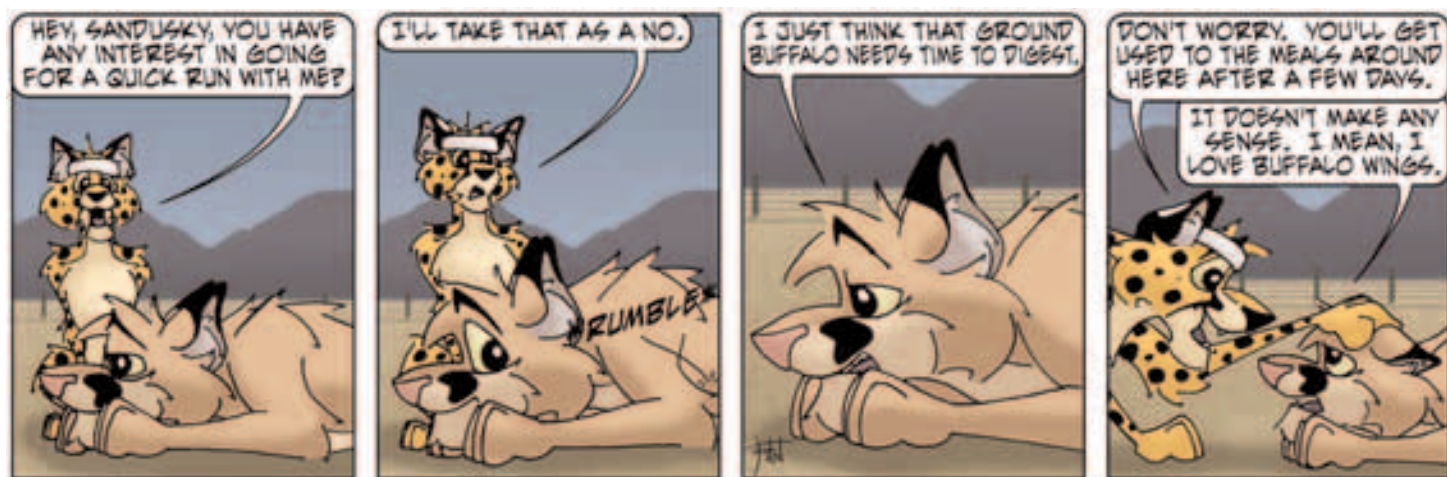
Life in the ocean is in peril. Thirty percent of aquatic species are at risk for extinction. Twenty percent of the earth's reefs have been destroyed over the past thirty years and another 50 percent are endangered by human activity.

Of particular concern is the rapid loss of plant species. From 1996 to 2007, the number of critically endangered plant species jumped from 909 to 1,569 and the number of endangered plants rose from 1,197 to 2,278. During this time period the number of plants listed as vulnerable rose from 3,222 to 4,600. Altogether, the number of endangered, threatened, and vulnerable plant species listed jumped from 5,328 in 1996 to 8,447 in 2007.

In spite of millions of dollars spent in the past decade to protect tigers in India, their population has declined more than 50 percent since 2002, and it is now believed that no more than 1,500 Bengal tigers are in the wild. •

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



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

What is Captive Habitat?

By Lynn Culver

What is natural habitat? Each feline in nature occupies an eco-niche that satisfies its need for food and shelter and opportunities to reproduce. Individuals are confined to home ranges by an invisible force known as territorial imperative. Offspring disperse from the mother's home range when they have mastered survival skills to find their own territory.

Habitats vary in their suitability, some being only marginally able to supply food and shelter needs. The prime habitat, also known as core areas, supports successful reproduction. When prime habitat is opened up through mortality, the lack of fresh territorial markings signals its availability and neighboring felines will move in to occupy it. This shift in territories has a domino effect and many translocations follow. This is how felines that formerly resided in marginal habitat can eventually move into core breeding habitat. Natural translocations also happen when a stronger and more dominant individual displaces the present occupant. It is this survival of the fittest and free flow of genes that insures species health.

If populations become small and isolated, the continued inbreeding leads to a reduction in animal health, an increase in reproductive failures, and if reproduction does not keep up with mortality, the end result is extinction.

Captive habitat works on the same principals as natural habitat.

In captivity, the basic needs for species are very similar. Individual habitats must provide food and shelter, and a minimum number of these habitats must be core habitats that provide opportunities for reproduction. There must be dispersal options for offspring, and a free flow of genetics through feline transfers from location to location. If captivity fails to address each of these parts of the whole system, the habitat can become fragmented, and if the problem is not corrected, the captive population will face extinction.

In the past century various feline species have been bred and kept in captivity in American zoos and private collections. But it has only been in the past four decades following the passage of the Endangered

Species Act and the national awakening of the threats to species survival that managed captive breeding became a focus of zoos and collectors.

The AZA is one possible captive habitat.

The AZA regional collection plans dictate which feline species to breed in captivity. (In zoo lingo this is known as a SSP Species Survival Plan.) Any other species held at AZA member zoos are supposed to be managed to extinction. (In zoo lingo this is called POP, phase out population.)

Historically the AZA enhanced their genetics by cooperating with the other holders of captive wildlife. This allowed the free flow of animals into and out of their 180-member association, but in the last 15 years the AZA has devolved into an increasingly closed gene pool, managed separately from all other wildlife holders in America. This causes problems. To understand the consequences of this type of management, consider what happens when you dam up a free flowing stream. The resulting pool of water will eventually spill over the dam. The AZA answer to this problem has been to cut off the flow of more water to the pool, (very little breeding in zoos) and allow the water level to naturally evaporate and lower before letting any new water enter. In other words, natural mortality of

the felines in zoos will very slowly free up cage space. This approach has the undesirable consequence of creating stagnant water (reduced genetic diversity). For confined water to remain healthy, there has to be constant fresh water flowing in, and excess water flowing out (gene flow). Eventually this confined pool fills up with silt. It takes drastic measures to return the system to a healthy state. This is what happens in tiny gene pools, such as those kept by the AZA zoo system. AZA zoos will periodically bring in new animals from the wild or turn to high tech answers to increase gene diversity. Artificial means of reproduction that allows sperm and eggs from felines no longer alive are being embraced as answers to clean up their stagnant pools.

Most captive habitat is not AZA habitat.

The AZA is one habitat in captivity, but it is not the only habitat available for felines. For felines living in non-AZA zoos, there are plenty of other habitats available to them. Many hundreds of zoos exist that are completely independent of the AZA. Other habitats include breeding centers, outreach education exhibitors, animal training facilities, and circus and stage shows. For some of the large cats and plenty of the small cats, there is also the personal pet habitat. This greater holding capacity for



Anthony Lachica

Homes can be part of captive habitat

wildlife enables much greater reproduction and with it, the luxury of genetic redundancy, similar to that in nature. With greater holding capacity and increased breeding potential, it is not as catastrophic when a single individual fails to reproduce. One of the most important captive habitats is the sanctuary habitat. This is the safety net that protects our captive populations when habitat is lost. The sanctuary is what enables the private gene pool to expand and enables each habitat niche to specialize.

Felines Held by FCF members

The 2009 FCF Feline Census gives us an idea of the status of the privately held feline population. When compared to the 2001 census, the last feline census published in 2001 totaled 1414 felines held in 98 facilities. The current census shows 2,367 felines held by 180 members.

In 2001 the most popular species was the serval (203), followed closely by the tiger (191), then cougar (167) and bobcat (137). The next most popular feline was the Bengal hybrid (115), followed by caracal (83), lion (64), Canada lynx (59), Savannah hybrid (52), and leopard (40).

The 2009 census shows the most popular species is the tiger (613), followed by serval (266), lion (201), cougar (197), Bengal hybrid (181), bobcat (152), leopard (106), Savannah hybrid (99), caracal (69), and leopard cat (61).

The rise in the number of lions, leopards and tigers held by FCF members can be attributed by several factors. A greater number of today's FCF members are zoos, exhibitors, and professional trainers that maintain these species. But the biggest reason for this jump in the tiger population is the growth of tigers in FCF sanctuary habitat.

80% of FCF tigers are in sanctuary habitat.

This love of tigers has led to a large and diverse captive population. But both the financial and legal burdens of maintaining such a large and powerful carnivore has led to a mass migration. Today, it is the collectively owned, publicly funded sanctuaries that provide the vast majority of habitat for this endangered species.

Analysis of the census reveals that sanctuary habitat contains most of our tigers, with 503 being held in just 13 FCF member sanctuaries. Additionally, four exhibitors

Current FCF Feline Census

	Females (1054)	Males (809)	Unknown (497)	Total Cats	Owners
African Wildcat	0	0	0	0	0
Amur Leopard	0	3	0	3	1
Amur Leopard Cat	9	4	0	13	2
Bengal Hybrid	142	39	0	181	25
Black Footed Cat	0	0	15	15	1
Bob X Lynx	3	1	0	4	2
Bobcat	78	70	4	152	59
Canadian Lynx	18	15	2	35	21
Caracal	42	23	2	67	28
Caraval	1	1	0	2	1
Chausie Hybrid	34	4	1	39	12
Cheetah	25	16	2	43	4
Clouded Leopard	4	2	28	34	2
Cougar	83	72	42	197	61
Eurasian Lynx	11	8	4	23	13
European Lynx	0	0	0	0	0
European Wildcat	2	0	0	2	1
Fishing Cat	8	5	0	13	4
Geoffroys	22	18	0	40	10
Gordon's Wildcat	1	2	0	3	2
Jaguar	4	4	1	9	7
Jaguarundi	1	3	0	4	2
Jungle Cat	14	15	1	30	15
Jungle X Serval	0	0	0	0	0
Leopard	37	36	32	105	25
Leopard Cat	48	13	0	61	4
Liger	4	2	4	10	4
Lion	69	73	59	201	26
Margay	0	0	0	0	0
Ocelot	20	21	0	41	12
Pallas Cat	0	0	4	4	1
Safari Hybrid	5	1	0	6	1
Sand Cat	1	1	0	2	1
Savanna Hybrid	60	38	1	99	27
Serval	128	127	11	266	88
Siberian Lynx	5	6	4	15	8
Snow Leopard	7	5	16	28	4
Tiger	168	181	264	613	39
Tigrina	0	0	0	0	0

and trainers provide habitat for 53 tigers, 10 zoos hold 42 tigers, and 10 “unknowns” hold another 14 tigers. These unknowns might be the mythological back yard pet tiger owner or possibly they are more sanctuary, zoo, or professional educators. This startling census proves the often-quoted “backyard tiger” or the 5,000 “pet tigers” in Texas, are shopworn urban legends that need to be put to rest once and for all.

Mindy Stinner and Doug Evans founded Conservator’s Center, Inc, in North Carolina. This sanctuary presently holds 37 big cats, including 12 tigers. According to Mindy, only one tiger was formerly held as a family pet. The rest came from USDA licensed facilities where some government agency (USDA, USDI, health departments) was doing its job by removing the animal, or where the facility chose to downsize for one reason or another. The one pet tiger at CCI was placed after spending ten years with her family and only after the family’s financial situation crashed.

Of the 503 tigers in FCF sanctuaries, 333 reside in just three facilities. In an interview with Nick Sculac, founder of Serenity Springs Wildlife Center, presently housing 66 tigers, I learned that over the operating life of the sanctuary, 60% of their tigers arrived from private, non-commercial owners, 5% were zoo surplus, 10% were the much maligned “photo cub,” 20% were retired circus, magic, or trained performers, 5% were born at the facility, 20% came from closed down sanctuaries, and none of the cats came from closed down breeding facilities. (This adds up to more than 100% because some of these cats are now dead.) At Tiger Haven, an accounting of 132 tigers on their web site shows that 37 came from private owners, 13 from closed down zoos, 14 were zoo surplus, 22 were circus cats, 4 were photo cubs, 22 were breeder’s cats, and 22 were born at the sanctuary from cats that arrived pregnant.

The alarming truth is that the vast majority of tigers have been displaced into sanctuary habitat. This is a potentially ominous statistic for the future of tiger survival. It is also a wake up call for us as we look at the other species we love so much.

Present day sanctuary habitat in captivity is similar to the marginal habitats in nature as far as function and reproduction is concerned. This comparison is not meant to

criticize sanctuaries or imply that this habitat is not enriched and fulfilling, just that it is not habitat devoted to species reproduction and continuation, but it does however, provide habitat for a population in reserve.

As tigers are gathered into fewer and fewer arks, sanctuary operators are recognizing the need to expand their mission beyond that of animal welfare. Sanctuaries are providing in-house husbandry training opportunities to the next generation of keepers. And sanctuaries are transforming themselves into conservation education

centers.

Enlightened sanctuary operators recognize that the future survival of tigers in nature is not guaranteed. Captive tigers must be used to gain the public’s attention and raise its awareness of natural habitat destruction. It is very unwise to sterilize these sanctuary tigers because if we do not reverse the population decline of tigers in the wild, sanctuaries may need to evolve again, this time, into core breeding habitat to save this irreplaceable species from extinction. •

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of November and December the following individuals have made application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program. The 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.

Laila Fernandez - Advanced

Jamie Gunn - Basic

Lori Acordagoitia - Advanced

David Sol - Advanced

Wayne Sluder - Basic

Rhonda Sluder - Basic

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

John Chuha - Basic

Terri Chuha - Basic

Fred Boyajain - Advanced

Margaret Staley - Advanced

Bettie Auch - Advanced

Christina Bush - Basic

Pamela Sellner - Basic

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

Really Knowing Your Feline: A Look Into Big Cat Behavior

By Robert Johnson

For many of us, our lives have been greatly affected by exotic felines. Whether you own an exotic cat, work with them as a profession, or are one of those who long to be among those ranks, we all share a common interest and a passion.

Most of us are all too aware of the current state of cats in the wild. Our feline friends are disappearing at alarming rates and many species are facing the threat of extinction in the wild in the very immediate future. It should then come as no surprise that the survival of many of these species would be possible only through captive breeding.

As conservators, we hold the responsibility of caring for these animals to the best of our ability. Not only do we supply the basic necessities (food, water, shelter), we do what we can to provide enrichment and mental stimulation. One aspect that is often

overlooked is the specific needs of the individual species we are caring for. This oversight is not a result of neglect but rather a lack of precedent. One might assume that an enclosure built for a lion would be equally appropriate for a tiger. In fact, given free choice, lions and tigers often prefer very different surroundings.

As a psychology graduate from Coastal Carolina University, I was required to conduct a unique research project prior to graduation. One field of psychology concerns itself with animal behavior. While the public generally associates psychology with Pavlov's dog and mice running through mazes, a relatively small group of researchers is using naturalistic observation to determine patterns of behavior in wild animals. Historically, much of this research has been conducted with wild populations, but due to the decline of these animals in their natural habitats, there emerges a

greater importance and necessity to observe the behavior of these animals in a captive setting.

With this in mind, and the fact that I had been working with exotic cats at T.I.G.E.R.S. for a number of years, I set out to create a study that would help improve the life of captive animals. It was, and is, my belief that by better understanding the behavioral patterns of an individual species, we can provide that species with habitats and enrichment better tailored to their naturally existing behaviors. With most of my readily available subjects being large felines, an obvious subject to focus on was determining which type of habits lions and tigers prefer. Now this may sound like it is straightforward and should be a relatively simple task, but in order to go about things scientifically, everything had to be operationally defined and everything had to be quantifiable. In order to determine which type of enclosure a cat preferred, we had to decide what exactly we were going to measure. After much deliberating over which variables were best to be observed, we finally came up with an overall theme and title: *Comparisons of spatial preference and preference for proximity to structure in lions (Panthera leo), tigers (Panthera tigris) and ligers (Panthera leo x tigris) in a captive environment*.

The purpose of the study was ultimately to decide which size enclosure the different cats preferred and to determine the importance of being next to an object versus being in the open. After looking at the natural history of lions and tigers, I hypothesized that lions would prefer a larger open area because of their tendency to live and hunt on open grasslands and savannahs. Conversely, I surmised that tigers, because of their natural existence in more densely forested areas, would tend to spend more time in confined areas and closer to physical structures. To my surprise, I could find almost no similar prior research. I could find no literature that would either support or refute my hypothesis. Because of the lack of relevant previous research, I could also find no methods of observation that could be replicated. It seemed that I would have to start from scratch.



After coming up with a plan of attack, the first hurdle was to create enclosures of varying sizes in which the animals could freely move. Starting with a preexisting structure and building from there accomplished this. When construction was finally finished, we had four interconnected enclosures of varying sizes and makeup. The areas ranged from a 10'x10' room with concrete walls and a ceiling to a 12,000 square foot grassy enclosure. This latter habitat was completely open, save for an island of trees in the center and a slightly raised hill on one side. During the study, the cats were introduced into the habitat in small groups and were allowed to freely migrate through the enclosures for a predetermined amount of time. In order to observe the animals, video cameras were positioned to determine the location and movement patterns of the felines throughout their allotted observation period. Visual markers were also visible on the video footage helping to identify when a cat was within 10 feet of a physical structure (i.e. walls, trees, etc.). By reviewing the footage from all the cameras, we could ultimately determine how much

time each individual animal spent in the four varying enclosures and how much time they spent either near or touching a structural element.

After collecting the data, statistical examination showed that, yes indeed, a significant difference existed between lions and tigers. As predicted, lions spent a larger percentage of time out in the open, whereas tigers spent more time near a structure and in smaller, more confined areas. Out of interest, two ligers were also observed. Ligers, like the lions, seemed to prefer the largest enclosure, but interestingly spent a greater amount of time lying near the trees. It is also interesting to note that both lions and ligers spent the majority of their time lying around. Tigers, on the other hand, moved more frequently and migrated more freely between the different habitats. Lions also appeared to spend a larger portion of their time sitting on top of the small berm where visibility of the surrounding area was best.

This study, as far as I know, is unique and the findings should be viewed as preliminary. Further research would be needed

to prove these theories conclusively. Even so, this first step gives us an interesting and potentially applicable insight into the behavior inherent in lions and tigers. When building a new habitat we might, for instance, provide a tiger with a den box and trees or rocks to hide between. If it is a lion we are working with, we might want to add a single large boulder or small observation platform to offer better visibility.

Animal behavior is a vast subject and the knowledge to be gained is limitless. One could spend a lifetime probing the depths of the feline mind and it seems as if I am currently on that path. Shortly, I will be working with California Coast University to begin my doctoral dissertation and will again be conducting research aimed towards improving the quality of life for the animals entrusted into all our care.

Keeping captive felines comfortable and mentally engaged is the key to success. The more we learn, the more we can provide appropriate care for our animals. And for all of us who share our life with these felines, let's remember, "a happy cat means a happy owner!" •

Contingency Planning

By Sylvia Gerber

A contingency plan is a plan devised for a specific situation when things could go wrong. Contingency plans are often referred to as "Back up plans" or "worst case scenario plans" or "plan B."

Contingency plans include specific strategies and actions to deal with a particular problem, emergency, or state of affairs. They help individuals to recover from a serious incident in the minimum time with minimum cost and disruption.

What is contained in a contingency plan? Names, telephone numbers, defined roles and responsibilities, escalation procedures, relocation information, vital records and data location, critical vendor information, media information, and resource information. This should always be kept in a place that is known to everyone on staff.

During times of emergencies, we do not think clearly and quickly enough, so write a detailed contingency plan for your animals. When an emergency happens, do not forget to take advantage of the plans you have developed.

Florida FWC now requires all Class I and Class II license holders to submit a contingency plan with their application renewals. USDA, APHIS is taking comments on their new draft proposal to require contingency plans and training of personnel by research facilities, dealers, exhibitors, intermediate handlers, and carriers.

This USDA proposal requires all licensees and registrants to prepare contingency plans that include the following criteria:

- Identify situations the facility might experience that would trigger the need for a contingency plan, including emergencies such as electrical outages, faulty HVAC systems, fires, animal escapes, as well as natural disasters the facility is most likely to experience.
- Outline specific tasks required to be carried out in response to the identified emergencies including, but not limited to, detailed animal evacuation instructions or shelter-in-place instructions and provisions for providing backup sources

of food and water as well as sanitation, ventilation, bedding, and veterinary care.

- Identify a chain of command and who (by name or by position title) will be responsible for fulfilling these tasks, and
- Address how response and recovery will be handled in terms of materials, resources, and training needed.

USDA, APHIS is taking comments until February 20, 2009. Send two copies of your comments to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Be sure to state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159.

Or comment online at: <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2006-0159>

Contingency planning is just one of the eight modules taught in the FCF Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course. The next class is offered February 21, 2009 in Panama City, Florida. If you need help putting together an outline, this is a great resource. •

Update on Florida Regulations

By Sylvia Gerber

I recently sat down with Captain John West and Captain Linda Harrison in a two-hour meeting to discuss some of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) proposals that will affect FCF members.

FWC has proposed moving cougars to Class I, and creating new regulations for “sanctuaries.” To date Florida does not regulate so-called sanctuaries and is pondering a definition of what a sanctuary is and how to regulate it. They are proposing a definition of sanctuary that includes operating as a 501(c)(3) and being closed to the public. These facilities would not qualify for a USDA license, but would be allowed to hold Class I cats.

Most existing sanctuaries holding big cats exhibit to earn revenue. So if FWC decides to start regulating the sanctuaries in that manner, these facilities will not qualify. They will be considered exhibitors, not sanctuaries. I question how the non-exhibiting sanctuaries with big cats, will be able to afford the Class I requirement of either a \$10,000 bond or \$2,000,000 liability insurance coverage.

Florida does not seem to be wavering on their proposal to move cougars into Class I. When this happens, licensees with cougars will be required to have a \$10,000 bond or \$2,000,000 in liability insurance. Already existing cougar facilities will be grandfathered, but if the animal dies or you move, you will be forced to abide by all of the Class I regulations, including the 5-acre minimum property size.

So, let's think here. This proposal will also impact the small exhibitors that house mostly small cats but do have a cougar. If

they cannot abide by the Class I insurance regulations, they will be forced to give the cougar to a sanctuary. So, where does the cougar gene pool go?

FWC has received over 1,400 letters and emails concerning the cougar and its size, which we all know is being motivated to write by the animal activists. Those of us who have experience with this specie and know about it need to get in our comment.

My main concern is the captive gene pool for cougars. There are not many breeders now and if cougars are moved to Class I, that will hurt the future conservation of the species.

Another concern is the felidae hybrids. The way this proposal is written, if someone calls in and says, “my neighbor has a leopard,” when in fact it is a Savannah, the FWC will determine if the cat is a serval or hybrid by its habits, appearance, and personality. There is plenty of room for error.

To make my point to Captain West, I presented pictures of both a domestic cat and a hybrid knowing he would not be able to tell the difference. I used the Geoffroy as an example. So, how are his officers going to be knowledgeable when it comes to determining whether a cat is a hybrid or wild?

If FCF can continue developing a good relationship with Florida FWC, then perhaps our teaching manual and expertise can be a resource on these matters.

I proposed that Florida FWC acknowledge our accreditation program and husbandry course as hours toward acquiring licensing from the state. They are very much in favor of working with FCF and will at a later date want to sit down again.

As many of you know, Florida sets an

example to other states when it comes to regulations and I made mention of it several times, so they would think long and hard on some of these regulations.

One of the most important topics was putting together a manual for Florida FWC officers to teach them about different species and things to look for when doing inspections. This is something Kathy Stearns has been working on and mentioned to the FWC at the meeting in Jacksonville in September. Captain West and Captain Harrison are both in favor of putting together manuals for their officers on different species and they want to use FCF as a resource for felines. This is a monumental step for FCF in working with wildlife agencies in every state. Once our facility accreditation program and our husbandry course is acknowledged in Florida, other states will follow and FCF will have a more significant impact when it comes to regulation changes or additions.

The main take-away here is Florida FWC is actively considering working closer with FCF because of our history and knowledge.

On another note, FWC has agreed to put a link on their website to the FCF website.

With the next husbandry class being hosted by Bear Creek Feline Center in Panama City, Florida, I am assured we will have some FWC officers in attendance.

I would appreciate it if everyone will email their thoughts about what may benefit our wildlife officers in regulating felidae to be part of a teaching manual. Also, if you would like to be on a committee working on writing a teaching manual for Florida FWC, please let me know. •

2009 FCF Convention

It is not too early to begin making plans for the FCF convention in San Diego, California on July 30-August 1, 2009. The exotic feline husbandry course will be held July 29. Our host hotel will be the Hilton DoubleTree Downtown, 1646 Front Street, San Diego. The hotel is conveniently located close to the airport with free shuttle service as well as being only two miles from the San Diego Zoo. As an added bonus, the hotel is going to offer the convention rate to FCF members for up to three days prior and three days after convention in case you want to stick around and enjoy beautiful, Southern California! Mark your calendar now and be watching for more information in the next issue.

—Dan Stockdale, Convention Chair



FCF Board Meeting, December 15-22, 2008

Lynn Culver, president, called the meeting together on the Board Forums. Ten officers and directors participated in the meeting. The following items were placed on the agenda: A letter from the president, husbandry course lunch, husbandry course lead instructor qualification, consolidated membership, executive director funding, January board meeting, discussion by the board.

Letter from the President:

Lynn Culver asked for additional agenda items and Betsy Whitlock presented two issues:

- 1) Determine if the forums are open for members to view in real time as now required in our policy and procedures. Lynn reported that the webmaster will need to build this feature into the FCF website forums. Such a feature is not an option on the forums presently being used by the board.
- 2) A request by Betsy that we notify the members that the use of several charitable sites on the internet could result in income for the organization and that these sites should be updated and prompted to our members.

Moved by Betsy Whitlock and Seconded by Kevin Chambers that the incoming Development Director update Goodshop.com, Goodsearch.com, iGive.com, and Mission Fish and all of these types of sites and promote them by mass email and the Yahoo list to the membership four times per year encouraging members to use the "Goodsearch" engine which is a pay per click site for us and costs the member nothing. At least two of the promotions should be in the fall and prior to the Christmas shopping season. Place the links and information on our web page both in members only and in the front-page site. Place some type of promotional advertisement in the journal every issue.

7 yes votes, motion passes

Husbandry course lunch:

Sylvia Gerber proposed that lunch be included as part of the husbandry course. Moved by Sylvia and seconded by Kevin that the husbandry course policy be modified to require that the course host provide lunch for the students as part of the host contract. A budget of \$10 per student is approved and will be subtracted from the registration income as an official expense of the course.

9 yes votes, motion passes

Husbandry course Lead Instructor qualification:

It was proposed by Sylvia Gerber that the lead husbandry course instructor qualification be reviewed and changed to allow for more rapid qualifying of new instructors. Moved by Sylvia Gerber and seconded by Kevin Chambers then modified by Lynn Culver and seconded by Sylvia Gerber that we change 1.4 Lead Instructors under the programs and policies:

1 classification

a. Qualifications - Lead instructors shall:

- 1) Have successfully completed the course with a score of 88 or more.
- 2) Have helped deliver the course at least two times as an Assistant Instructor.
- 3) Have been recommended by a Lead Instructor whom they helped deliver the course and the Director of Education.
- 4) Be confirmed by the board of directors.

c. Duties & Responsibilities:

- 16.) To represent FCF in a professional manner by dressing in khaki pants, khaki shirt with FCF logo, and appropriate shoes when teaching husbandry class. Shirts with logos are the responsibility of the instructor.

6 yes votes, 2 no votes, motion passes

Consolidated Membership:

The new universal October renewal date and various new membership dues present challenges to marketing and membership record keeping. Possible amendments to the current policy were explored, but no consensus and no motion for change was proposed.

Executive Director Funding:

Kevin requested an update from Brian Werner on his offer of last August to fund \$20,000 for an FCF director. Brian indicated two matters impacted this pledge and he could not provide a firm answer until the end of January. He was awaiting the outcome of a capital campaign at Tiger Creek and he is also concerned that his \$5,000 grant to FCF for a direct mail fundraising effort has yet to be launched.

January board meeting Nashville, TN:

Kevin Chambers indicated that he did not yet have the anticipated costs for board members to get to Nashville on January 24, 2009 for the new board's first meeting.

Kevin Chambers moved and was seconded by Dan Stockdale that up to \$1,500 be approved for reimbursement of travel expenses for the new board to attend the meeting January 24, 2009 in Nashville, TN.

8 yes votes, motion passes

Discussion by the board:

There was a discussion of the recent outbreak of hostility between several members on the Yahoo chat list. Dan Stockdale proposed permanently banning persons participating in name-calling. Lynn indicated that the problem might resolve itself. It was generally agreed that the board should consider a review of the rules and how the list is or is not moderated.

The meeting closed at midnight 12/22/08.

—Betsy Whitlock, secretary

Donations

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

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

Project: General Funding

John and Terri Chuha
Caroline Titherington and
Scott Alexander
Tina Thompson
Leila Wassom
Terri Cabral
Greg Lyons

Charlie Sammut
Mazuri Foods

Project: Safety Net

Leila Wassom

Grant:

On Shore Foundation

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Betsy Whitlock
Secretary, FCF

FOCUS ON NATURE®
Insight into the lives of animals
CLOUDED LEOPARD (*NEOFELIS NEBULOSA*)

The solitary, arboreal
CLOUDED LEOPARD
blends well into the tropical
forests of Southeast Asia. A
long tail aids his balance while
climbing and descending
trees. Prey consists of mon-
keys, small deer, and rodents.
A medium-sized wildcat, the
clouded leopard weighs 11-20
kg (24-44 lbs).

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





Clockwise from top:

Bobcat Tiger Lily uses Jim Broaddus for a handy perch—Shirley Brown • Six month old bobcat Rufus toilet trained himself. Looks like he needs a magazine—Jim Battista • David Norris gets a kiss on the nose by serval Thumper—Cathy Norris • Caracal Crackers dances with Santa—Theresa Shaffer

Your best Shot





P'uch'ub, a Canada lynx, licking a nature's own sno-cone. Shelleen Mathews: "We are having our first snow of the year and it is Pu's first experience with it! It is truly evident that this he is 'made' for snow and loves everything about it."

FCF Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 21, FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Gulf Cost Community College, Panama City, FL. \$95 FCF members, \$130 non-members. Hosted by the Bear Creek Feline Center. A special guided tour of the Bear Creek Feline Center follows on Sunday, February 22 starting at 10:00 am. \$15 tour fee. To register, mail contact information and registration check to Bear Creek Feline Center, 8822 Tracy Way, Panama City, FL 32404

Saturday, April 25, FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wellington/West Palm Beach area, Florida. \$95 FCF members, \$130 non-members. Hosted by the Panther Ridge Conservation Center. Exact course location to be announced shortly. Students are invited to tour Panther Ridge on Sunday, April 26 to view felines and learn about husbandry and enrichment practices at the center. Mail registration names and contact information and check to: Panther Ridge Conservation Center, 14755 Palm Beach Point Blvd, Wellington, FL 33414.

