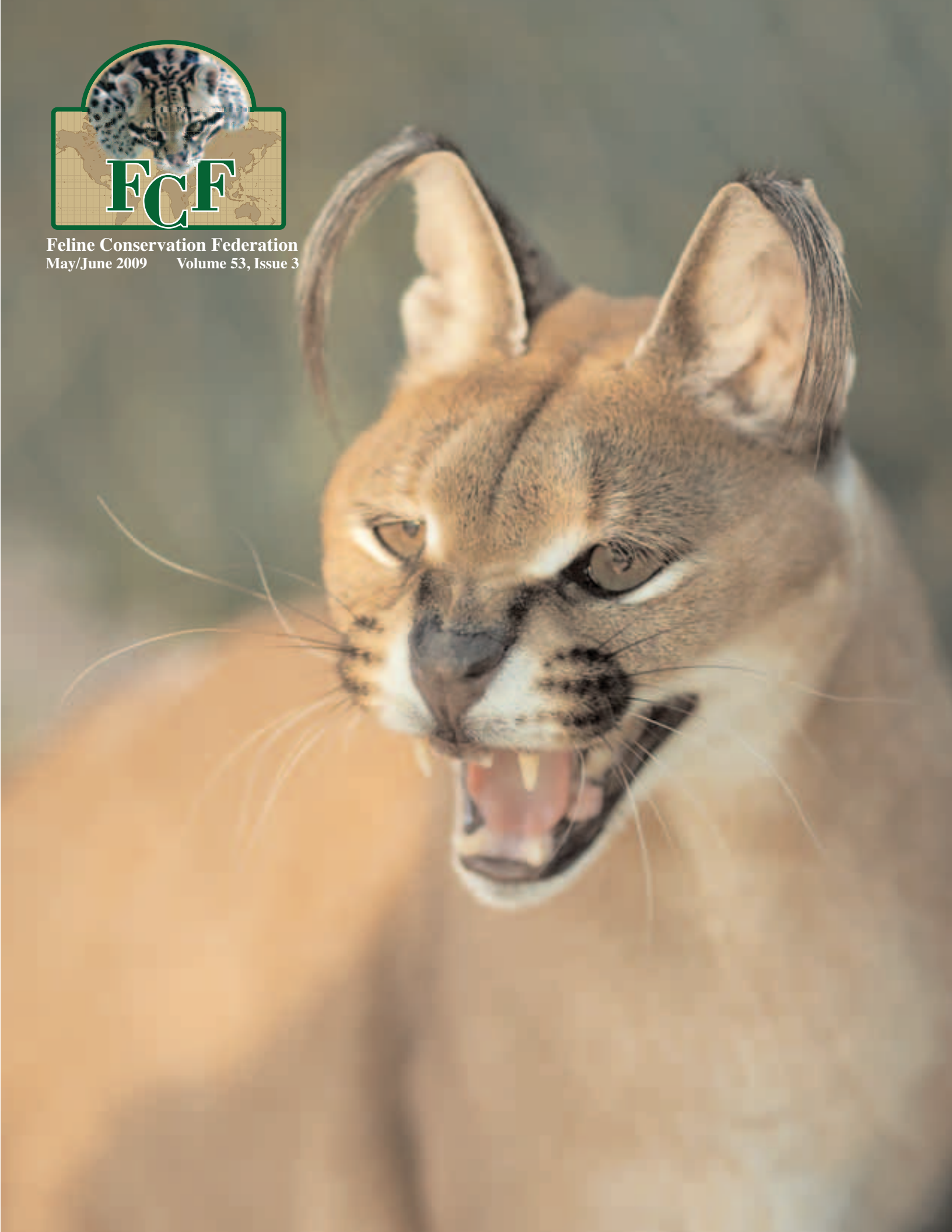




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A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of this journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to the convention, and participation in our discussion groups. Your membership helps the conservation of exotic felines through support of habitat protection and conservation, education, and breeding programs. Send \$35 (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 4403 S. 334th E Ave, Broken Arrow, OK 74014

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

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

Cover: Bear Creek Feline Center's caracal, Sally. **Photo** by Jim Peacock. **Inside:** Bobcat Jasmyn by Zuzana Kukol.



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 second Friday 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.

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Letter from the President

Spring is finally here and all those babies will soon be arriving. Here's hoping that everyone has a successful breeding season.

Spring also means that the legislation season is nearing its frenzied end in many states. In winding down the sessions, there is usually a flurry of action to get bills passed in last minute agendas. In Missouri, FCF member JB Anderson testified during the House Agriculture Committee public hearing on HB 426. He gained assurances this bill would not move forward. However, this assurance did not pan out. Apparently behind the scenes politics commanded that the legislators vote "do pass." The next step is for this legislation to proceed through the Senate, and all Missouri members must voice their concerns to their state senators to stop passage of this legislation.

Oregon is also dealing with Senate Bill 391, a bill to amend their long-established system of Department of Agriculture permits. FCF regional director John Turner attended its legislative hearings and has been active in the legislative process. Both these states have had AR bills introduced for several years. The determination of the Humane Society of the United States to see an end to private captive husbandry never wavers. Eventually legislatures get worn down, as do those of us fighting these bills, and that is how these dangerous HSUS bans get passed.

Don't rely on others to save you as an individual. You don't have to become a professional lobbyist to be a part of the legislative system. In the legislative off-season, invite your senator and representative to come visit your facility. Get to know them so that they recognize your name as a constituent who keeps exotic cats. If or when a situation arises, you'll be able to bend their ears and play a role in determining your fate. A constituent carries far more influence than any out-of-state person or organization can.

On the national legislative front, is HR669. This would eliminate the importation and interstate sales and breeding and keeping of non-native species. It has gone through the hearing stage and appears to be all but dead. Word has it that it may be gutted and could reappear at a future date. The



FCF supplied information to a lobbyists concerning the importation of exotic felines by our members that aided efforts to educate legislators so that they would not support HR669 as presently written. Many industry organizations sent letters of support to PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) whose representative, Marshall Meyers, testified at the hearing.

On to happier thoughts. Make your plans now for the convention in Monterey/Salinas California in July. Reservations have been coming in and it looks to be another great convention. Convention chair, Dan Stockdale, and his crew have been hard at work making sure that this event will be a do-not-miss gathering.

You'll see an article in this issue announcing the African Safari Sweepstakes. It's an opportunity to raise money for the FCF and one lucky winner will receive a seven-day safari for two people to Africa, including international airfare, all for a \$10 donation. As a member, you can receive a free entry for each ten entries you are listed on as the referring member. The more entries you bring in, the greater your chances of winning this trip yourself. Make copies of the entry forms included in this issue and please offer them this summer at all of the gatherings you'll be attending: ball games, fairs, festivals, etc. The person

bringing in the most entries will be rewarded with a free hotel room and convention registration at the 2010 FCF convention.

We have been receiving donations to Jim Sanderson's Andean Cat Conservation Center project in Chile. To date, our members have donated over \$2,000. In the last issue of the journal, I challenged the membership to match the \$5,000 the FCF Rare Species Fund has committed. We are almost half way there to meeting that goal. Jim will be attending the convention and said he will personally present anyone donating \$125 or more with a one-of-a-kind Andean cat plush toy during the banquet. We can photograph the presentation and write a press release to send to your local newspaper. What a great way for you to get some free press coverage and help save one of the planet's most rare cat.

Don't forget the various educational opportunities presented by the FCF Basic Wild Feline Husbandry courses which are scheduled for the convention in California in July and at Oklahoma in August. We are also having the inaugural educator's class at the convention. It will be an opportunity to learn how to get started in educational presentations and how to give them. The key to the survival of wildcats in captivity and in the wild, is through education, something in which we all must take a greater part. •

Letter from the Executive Director

I'm typing on the shady patio of the Panther Ridge Conservation Center, enjoying the typical Florida breezes, mild April temperatures, and overlooking an assortment of wonderfully landscaped enclosures housing some of the planet's rarest felines, including jaguar, clouded leopard, cheetah, and ocelot. Judy Berens, the center's founder, has been a gracious host for us and everyone is extremely grateful for this unique experience.

FCF education director Sylvia Gerber is busy creating topiary with the assistance of FCF member and husbandry course attendee Jeremy Gillow, who is helping her bend the nine gauge wires into appropriate shapes for Sylvia to fashion into a feline form that will hold the moss and greenery.

It is Sunday afternoon, and the latest group of FCF Feline Husbandry Course graduates have just finished touring the facility, picking up great enrichment ideas, and having been thoroughly impressed with the center's food prep areas and the variety of protein sources, vitamins, and supplements Judy uses to keep her felines, from juvenile clouded leopards to geriatric jaguars, healthy and spry. It's an honor to have Panther Ridge listed as an FCF Accredited Facility. This combination feline sanctuary and conservation education center sets an example we should all strive to attain.

While I dutifully type this executive director letter for the upcoming journal, Panther Ridge volunteers Liz Hatton and her daughter Heather are on-site to clean enclosures and also stimulate the resident felines with treats of goldfish and feather toys. Meanwhile our regional director Bill Meadows is making hammering and sawing noises in the background, constructing a box. A battery powered lure is ready for a cheetah run; all that is missing is this box which will be the final destination for the lure when it is racing down the 350 foot run being set up for the cheetahs.

Mike flew down last week to volunteer at the center. Mike's helping to build a cheetah running lure system and is also advancing his handling experience. Bill is also interested in cheetah, having plans to add this species at his Tiger Safari Park in Oklahoma. Bill and his park assistant Gail

Howell flew down for the weekend. Earlier this morning, the back seat of Bill's red Sebring convertible held several large pieces of plywood, precut to dimensions for this box. Or was it dimensions of the back seat?

I'm excited to say that the cheetah run did happen. Be sure to read Mike Friese's account of this accomplishment in this issue of the journal. Jeremy Gillow also contributes his perspective on this latest husbandry course and facility tour as well.

On Saturday, Sylvia Gerber and I taught the FCF Basic Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course to 15 Florida natives, including sanctuary volunteers, mobile educators, exotic cat owners, and several wishing to learn more and someday obtain a Florida license. Students arrived bright and early that morning and the first sight was the magnificent cheetah brothers, Matt and Charlie, lounging comfortably in their lockdown enclosure. We taught the class in a bungalow on Panther Ridge grounds with our view out the glass door of the jaguar's habitat complete with running waterfall and wading pool.

Over 550 students have graduated from this course since it premiered at the 1999 FCF Convention in Indiana. There is no other education opportunity like this. I am pleased that our facility members are signing up to host these courses. Their partnership enables the FCF to fill an important role that serves to improve feline welfare and raise the collective level of professionalism in the feline keeping community.

A1 Savannahs is hosting a husbandry course in Ponca City, OK, on August 22 and offering a tour of their facility the next day. If you would like to host a course this fall, contact Sylvia Gerber, education director.

The previous weekend I spent three days at America's Family Pet Expo in Los Angeles, California. FCF's California state representative, Tina Thompson, took on this project, coordinating volunteers, reserving our booth, creating our backdrop, and decorating the space. FCF successfully spread awareness of the FCF organization and our conservation projects during the three day event which drew an audience of around 60,000 animal lovers. Be sure to read



Tina's report about this event in this issue of the journal.

The FCF booth featured a variety of feline photos and a message "Your feline is your connection to the wild—and they are all worth saving." On Friday and Sunday, Dakar, an exotic half-serval, half-Siamese, was on display compliments our editor, Mike Friese. This was my first close encounter with a Savannah and it was certainly not your ordinary cat. Not gold like a serval, but a rich dark grey with large inky black spots, a black nose and bridge, and characteristically long serval legs holding up a delicate, lean body which appeared much heavier than his reported weight of only 7.5 pounds. Dakar spoke serval, with hisses and grumbles and gave typical head butt greetings. When he was back home in his element, he strut about Mike's home and then repeatedly stood up on his hind legs to exuberantly rub his face and full body against each of our legs, his tall body reaching well past our knees.

The FCF message is about conservation of nature's felines. Dakar is an artificial man-made creation, only a shadow of the

creature that naturally evolved in Africa, but he served as feline ambassador to draw thousands of domestic cat lovers into our booth where we could engage them in dialog about real servals, pass out our new brochures, and talk about the FCF and our ongoing project to help save the Andean cat. Not one person we spoke with had heard of an Andean cat. If this endangered feline disappeared from the planet tomorrow, the average person would not know what was lost.


Dakar was not our only ambassador. On Saturday, the FCF booth showcased an American bald eagle, a great horned owl, a Eurasian lynx, and a serval. FCF vice president, Patty Perry, brought them down for the day.

During the expo we passed out hundreds of brochures, signed up five new FCF members, raised over \$400 for the Andean Cat Center, covered our overhead and operating expenses, and raised several hundred dollars for our general fund through donations for African Safari sweepstake tickets, feline note cards, and other items.

This was the first time FCF has tried this kind public relations project. This event will be followed by an FCF booth at the Conservation Expo in San Jose in October. In between these two expos is the FCF convention in Monterey in July, making a total of three FCF appearances in this state.

The board is investing to gain FCF national recognition. There are many ways of achieving this but we have chosen to take the path of public appearances that afford FCF opportunities to meet with animal lovers across the nation. We need the help and support from our members to identify these opportunities and to volunteer to help coordinate the expos and booths. Our new Wildcat Safety Net chair, Caroline Alexander, has taken the lead for the Conservation Expo, but she cannot do it alone. California FCF members please contact Caroline to volunteer to help out.

Finally, I would like to close by asking FCF members who are licensed exhibitors to please contact me to request FCF brochures for your gift stores, front office, or for hand-outs at your public presentations. FCF printed up 10,000 of these new brochures to make them available at no charge to our members, to help spread awareness of the FCF and the work we do. The brochures have a built-in membership application, making it easy and inviting to join. •



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Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

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

Laura Walker—basic	Paula Zentz—basic
Mike Friese—basic	Jim Wise—advanced
Dolly Guck—basic	Janet Wise—advanced
Carolyn Alexander—basic	Nathan Hollenbeck—basic
Bill Meadows—advanced	Christopher Becker—basic
Pam Sperry—basic	Janet Becker—basic
Trish Feathers—basic	Leslie Lisdell—basic
Roger Newson—advanced	Paul Ervin—basic
Jeanne Newson—advanced	Kenny Stearns—basic
Loreon Vigne—advanced	Kathy Stearns—basic
Chemaine Almquist—advanced	Robin Perri—basic
Joel Almquist—advanced	

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.

A new online registration form can be filled out directly and now payment can be made through PayPal. Additionally, when making updates, you can view your previous experience and add new experiences to build your handler experience file.

The online form for this program can be found in the members-only section of the FCF web site:
<http://www.felineconservation.org>

The fee for registration is \$30 per member. The registration remains active as long as you are an FCF member.

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.

Joe Fortunato
FCF Secretary

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Fontanier's Spotted Cat

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Between 1878 and 1883, Daniel Giraud Elliot published and distributed to the subscribers his book, *A Monograph of the Felidae, or Family of Cats* that remains the finest work on the Felidae ever published. Each member of the family accepted by Elliot as a species, including the domestic cat, was illustrated by Josef Wolf, the most talented wildlife artist of his time. Elliot's book is oversized and extremely rare. I examined Elliot's great work at Trinity College's Wilkinson Library in Hartford, CT. Among the many illustrations that caught my eye was Fontanier's spotted cat (*Felis tristis*), the picture on this page.

I stared at this illustration wondering if the near-mythical Fontanier's spotted cat could still be found in the wild. Could it be that the cat was extinct? Why had no recent authors mentioned it? Is all that remains a few photographs of a long dead Fontanier's spotted cat in a zoo in China? I could deploy my camera traps if I knew where to begin a search.

Elliot's terse description provides all that was known in the late 1800s and, in fact, all that would remain known for nearly 80 years. Elliot must have examined the single skin in the Paris Museum for he suggested the cat "seems to have some affinity to *Felis marmorata*," the marbled cat. His single-page description is transcribed below:

FELIS TRISTIS.

FONTANIER'S SPOTTED CAT.

FELIS TRISTIS, Alp. Milne-Edw. *Recher. des Mamm.* (1872) p. 223, pl. xxxi.

HAB. China, Zichuan (*FONTANIER*).

This apparently distinct species was first characterized by M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards (l. c.); but beyond the fact that the skin was purchased by M. Fontanier at Peking, and that it was said to have come from the interior of China, nothing is known in regard to it. The skin was in a very bad condition; and the skull was wanting. In size this animal would seem to be equal to F. pardina, or the Spanish lynx, being 33 inches in length from the nose to the root of the tail, while the tail itself is 16 inches long. My description and figure here



given were taken from the type, at present unique in Europe; but before we can arrive at a satisfactory idea of the animal's appearance, we must wait for the acquisition of perfect specimens. At present, so far as I can judge, it seems to have some affinity to *Felis marmorata* in the shape and distribution of its markings and in the long bushy tail.

Fur soft and long. General colour light bluish grey, inclining to yellowish. Three or four blackish brown lines, beginning in the centre of the head, between the ears, run along the whole length of the back; rest of body, flanks, and legs covered with large spots of dark brown. Underparts lighter than the upper, less profusely marked and spotted with brown. Two bars of rufous brown pass across the upper part of the breast. Tail very long and bushy, rufous brown above, yellowish brown beneath, the upper part presenting a series of obscure dark brown bars.

Fontanier's spotted cat was collected during a French expedition to China in the late 1870s. Several cat skins were purchased in Beijing. One unique specimen was apparently purchased by Fontanier. Alphonse Milne-Edwards was a staff member at the Paris Museum and did not accompany the expedition. From these specimens purchased in China, Milne-Edwards described the Chinese mountain cat (*Felis silvestris bieti*), now recognized as a subspecies of the ubiquitous wild cat and Fontanier's spotted cat (*Felis tristis*). Milne-Edwards' original description was published in 1872. A few years later, Elliot included it in his imposing monograph.

St. George Mivart in his book, *The Cat* (1892), included Fontanier's spotted cat as a distinct species also, but provided no new information beyond Milne-Edwards' first description and that of Elliot that was taken from Milne-Edwards. Although he omitted Fontanier's spotted cat from *The Royal Natural History* (1893-1894), Richard Lydekker later included Fontanier's cat (note the omission of "spotted") in *Lloyd's Natural History* (1896). The distribution was always the same: the interior of China, and the type specimen was "purchased in Pekin." Those that waited for more specimens of Fontanier's spotted cat to appear remained disappointed for more than 70 years.

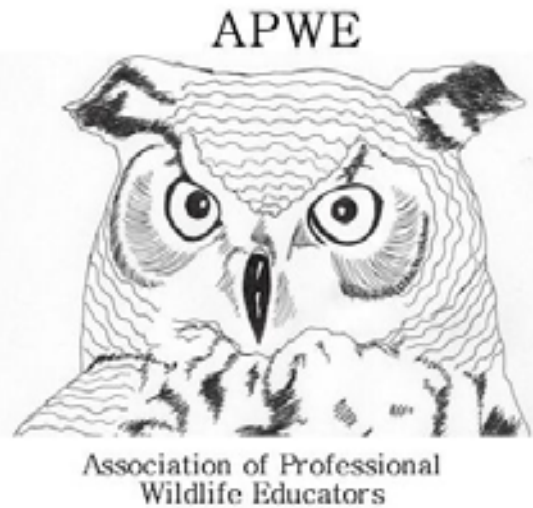
Although the possibility exists that pre-

vious photographs were published, Peter Jackson, founder and first chair of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group and Kristin Nowell included Jackson's photograph of Fontanier's spotted cat in their *Wild Cats: Status Survey and Conservation* (1996) (Fig. 2.). The photograph was taken by Jackson during a visit to the Lanzhou Zoo, Lanzhou, China. Later, molecular work suggested that Fontanier's spotted cat was in fact simply a distinct morph of the more common Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) (Fig. 3). Still, the question of the geographic distribution of the ocelot-spotted morph of the Asiatic golden cat remained a daunting mystery. Beyond knowing the cat probably occurred somewhere in China, cat specialists simply did not know where to look for one of the most beautiful cats in the world.

When the last individual of what had been known as Fontanier's spotted cat died in the Lanzhou Zoo, many cat enthusiasts assumed the worst. Not only would we never see such a morph again, we would also never know the origin of the skin purchased in Beijing in the 1870s or the living individual housed in a zoo in China. Moreover, when extensive camera trap surveys began in China in the early 1990s, no pho-



Fig 2: Fontanier's spotted cat



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tographs of Fontanier's spotted cat were obtained, although the Asiatic golden cat was repeatedly photographed in several areas, especially Sichuan (home of the endemic giant panda). As time wore on, some specialists began to believe Fontanier's spotted cat was extinct.

Finally, in late 2007, while attending a Cat Specialist Group meeting at Oxford University, UK, a colleague from Bhutan, Sonam Wangyel Wang, showed me a camera trap photograph of what he thought might be a new cat species. Of course, the

likelihood of discovering a cat species never before described to science and heretofore unknown is highly unlikely. Nevertheless, the opportunity to see any camera trap photograph of an uncommon wildcat is exciting under any circumstances.

During an intensive camera trapping survey for leopards and tigers in Bhutan, the Asiatic golden cat had been repeatedly photographed with camera traps. The photograph Sonam showed me was clearly neither a tiger nor a leopard. I stared at the

print; there was no mistake. This photograph was taken by camera traps running in Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park, northwestern Bhutan. Sonam's camera traps photographed, for the first time in the wild, Fontanier's spotted cat, the ocelot-spotted morph of the Asiatic golden cat (Fig. 4). Fontanier's spotted cat was not extinct! Immediately, however, questions flooded my thoughts.

Just as every worthy scientific discovery enables more questions to be asked, I wondered about the origin of Fontanier's spotted cats previously exhibited in the Lanzhou zoo in China. Could it be that these individuals also came from Bhutan? A bit of library work led me to the work of the British mammalogist Reginald I. Pocock. In the late 1930s, Pocock examined specimens of the Asiatic golden cat collected in Sichuan Province and Tibetan Plateau, China. Several skins, as luck would have it, were of Fontanier's spotted cat. On the basis of his examination, Pocock recognized Fontanier's spotted cat as a distinct subspecies of the Asiatic golden cat with the Latin trinomial *Catopuma temminckii tristis*. The occurrence



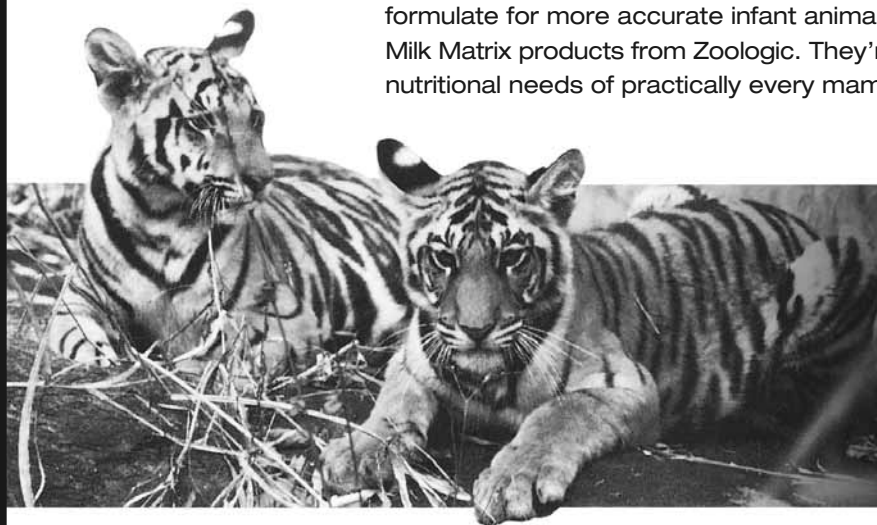
Fig 3: Asiatic golden cat

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Fig 4: Fontanier's spotted cat as camera trapped by Sonam Wangyel Wang

of Fontanier's spotted cat in Sichuan was later reported by Banjie Tan in 1984. Whether or not Fontanier's spotted cat continued to exist in Sichuan was another question altogether. But at least now cat specialists knew where to search. Fortunately, I did not have to wait long for an answer.

In January 2009, I awoke to an email from my Chinese colleague, Li Sheng. Li Sheng, together with Dajun and other colleagues, had been running camera traps in various giant panda reserves in Sichuan. Li Sheng and I had discussed whether or not Fontanier's spotted cat continued to exist in the wilds of Sichuan. His email asked me to take a look at the attached photograph

taken of a wildcat in Mao Tangjiahe Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province, China. I could

hardly open the attachment fast enough. Yes! Yes, there it was, alive and well, the first record of Fontanier's spotted cat, the ocelot-spotted morph of the Asiatic golden cat, in China (Fig. 5).

Between 2007 and 2009, the solid evidence of living wild Fontanier's spotted cats had been found by camera traps, first in a national park in Bhutan and then in giant panda reserves in Sichuan Province, China. Time, persistence, patience, and a boatload of camera traps had again paid off. •



Fig 5: Fontanier's spotted cat as camera trapped by Li Sheng

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Opinion: Science and Conservation: What's the Difference?

By Jim Sanderson

One insidious problem is the diversion of conservation funding into the hands of scientists using the plight of threatened species to support their research projects that typically have no lasting conservation impact.

Scientists are most interested in their own research. The job of a scientist is to create new knowledge. Scientists use many methods to raise funds to support their research agendas and build their résumés. Because science is a tool that can be used for conservation, scientists often seek donations from conservation organizations to support their research projects. Most often scientists collect information, publish their results, and seek out new opportunities.

Conservation requires mitigating threats to species. Conservationists use all the information available, including scientific information, to mitigate threats. Scientists rarely work on threat mitigation because such work rarely results in publications.

The problem we face is that scientists use the plight of threatened species to raise funds to support their research projects that, more often than not, do not result in threat mitigation and real conservation

Scientists use the plight of threatened species to raise funds to support their research projects that, more often than not, do not result in real conservation.

actions. We frequently encounter the words "little is known about this species" and what we discover "can be used for conservation purposes" or "will directly influence management actions," vaguely worded phrases that translate to "we hope that maybe someone someday makes use of this information for conservation purposes because we won't." We see the word "conservation" used in an abstract to a proposal and that is the last time it is used.

In summary, I see a diversion of conser-

vation funding going into science projects that do not have any conservation impact because there is no one working to mitigate threats to the species that was used to secure the funding. This must stop. When the name of a threatened species is used to raise funds for a science project,

When the name of a threatened species is used to raise funds for a science project, a way must be found to ensure these projects benefit conservation.

a way must be found to ensure these projects benefit conservation, i.e. to use scientists and their funding (and perhaps their results) to mitigate threats. Scientists come and go. Let's see their lasting conservation impact. I submit that it rarely exists and that it is our duty to make it a reality. •

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Mice



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

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

Rats



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

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

Coturnix Quail



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

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits



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

Chicks

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



Guinea Pigs

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

* We offer combined quantity discount guinea pig pricing.



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FCF Convention 2009: The Call of the Wild!

Where will you be July 22 through the 25? If you are looking for the most amazing feline and wildlife encounter in North America you will be answering “The Call of the Wild!” in Monterey-Salinas, California!

This year’s annual FCF convention offers an up-close and personal view of the most exotic animals on the face of the earth—and it all occurs on a working Hollywood animal ranch and film set. Our host? None other than Charlie Sammut, one of the best celebrity film and television trainers in the world.

Of course, no FCF convention would be complete without something new and this year we have a double dose of new offerings: an Educator’s Course as well as the Advanced Wildcat Handling course for Registered Handlers only.

Wednesday begins our FCF educational offerings with the Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course and the Wildcat Conservation Educator’s Course, running concurrently.

If you currently provide or want to offer wildlife education programs, you cannot miss the new day-long Wildcat Conservation Educator’s Course being held on Wednesday at our host hotel. The purpose

of a wildlife ambassador is to represent our wild relatives in a positive, safe manner that is educational and creates an appreciation for wildlife conservation. In addition, you will receive a free copy of the wildlife education textbook included in your registration fee.

Of course, Wednesday also offers the opportunity to attend the Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course where you will learn the foundations and principles of wildcat care. Every FCF member should take this course.

We officially kick off this year’s convention on Thursday evening with a BYOB icebreaker. You are in the heart of wine country so select your adult beverage of choice and renew old acquaintances. Hors d’oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided.

On Friday we will be whisked away by private motor coach to Vision Quest Ranch (VQR) where we will tour a working exotic animal ranch from 9:00am until 3:00pm. The Wild Things Day at VQR is reserved for those at least 12 years old. We will also experience some very close encounters with some very exotic creatures! In addition, you will receive a “behind-the-scenes” tour of one of the country’s best-run facilities.



Late afternoon and evening on Friday is a night on your own where you will be free to explore Monterey Bay, Cannery Row, and the other amazing attractions of this beautiful, historic region.

Saturday brings education galore from 9:00am until 3:00pm with a full slate of



special speakers. You will learn the latest in safety, conservation, and husbandry. If that’s not enough, we’ve added a second *new* program for Registered Handlers only—Advanced Wildcat Handling. If you have ever wanted to learn the inside secrets of an experienced Hollywood animal trainer, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This course is limited to Registered Handlers only and is designed to give those with prior hands-on experience an opportunity to advance their skills to the next level. Taught by our convention host, Charlie Sammut, this course will take place on Saturday afternoon. And best of all, it’s *free* for Registered Handlers.

Of course, we have all of the traditional FCF convention offerings as well including our annual membership meeting, banquet, and auction. We encourage all members to





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donate appropriate items for the auction and come prepared to bid, bid, bid!

Finally, our host hotel is the beautiful Laurel Inn located in Salinas. We are being offered the lowest rates I have ever seen for a convention in California—just \$86 per night. Also, free bus transportation will be provided between our host hotel and Vision Quest Ranch.

And just in case the educational offerings, hotel, and Hollywood training experiences are not enough, the food alone will be worth the trip! Can you say “Hyatt

Regency?” Lunch on Friday and Saturday, as well as the banquet on Saturday evening is being catered just for you. But we’re not talking about just any food—all catering will be provided by executive chef Alex “Tapang” Flores from the Hyatt Regency Monterey Resort & Spa. Of course, a vegetarian selection will be offered for us non-carnivore types. As an added bonus, there will be free beverages provided throughout the day on both Friday and Saturday, again compliments of the Hyatt Regency.

Terrific education, great food, new



friends and old! Answer the “Call of the Wild!” and make your plans now for FCF Convention 2009! The deadline to receive the early registration price is June 30. Also, in order to receive the special FCF room rate at the Laurel Inn, your reservation must be made by June 30. Of course, earlier is better because room availability is limited and it is first-come, first-served. Make plans now and we will see you in California! •



Saturday Evening Banquet Menu

First Course

Caprese Salad

Young arugula, vine-ripened tomatoes, sliced mozzarella, served with basil-balsamic dressing

Main Entree

Spice rubbed chicken breast served on a bed of saffron-herb orzo with broccolini and thyme bordelaise

Vegetarian Option

Butternut squash ravioli with mushrooms, pine nuts, and sage.
Fresh baked dinner rolls and butter

Dessert

Orange pound cake with strawberry salad and whipped cream

Coffee and hot tea service

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Big Cats in the Classroom:

The Basics of Conservation Education Using Felines as Ambassadors

A course to be offered at the FCF convention

Ron DeArmond,
FCF Director of Marketing,
Vice President, The Association of Professional Wildlife Educators

The area that FCF can make the largest impact is in the area of conservation education. Your home town may only have you to teach them about conservation efforts concerning native felines, feline species of special interest, and endangered felines. Species diversity, current habitat status, conservation efforts for the future are all points of interest that local schools, libraries, and other conservation minded organizations are looking for qualified teachers to learn from. As a member of the Feline Conservation Federation, that person should be you.

At convention this year, we will hold our first educators course specifically designed to give you the tools necessary to become qualified as a professional wildlife educator specializing in feline species. Some of the topics we will study will include:

- A Star is Born!—How to select the perfect cat to be your wildlife ambassador.
- The USDA and *you*—Knowing your responsibilities under the law.
- Lights, Camera, Action!—Training

methods that start from day one.

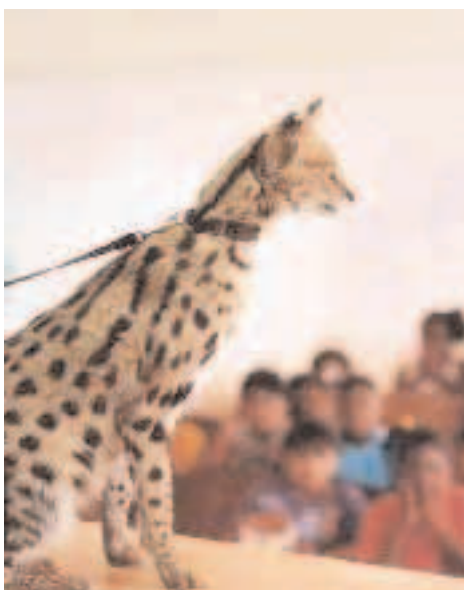
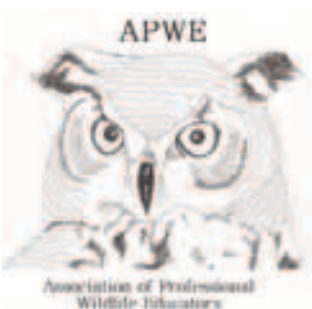
- Ambassadors—The basics of conservation education using felines outreach tools.
- On the Road Again!—Transportation and program set up.
- Keep Your Distance—Crowd control and cat control.
- That's Not Supposed to Happen!—Escapes, bites, emergencies, and contingency planning.
- It's a Wrap—When is it time to retire your ambassador?

From bengal cats to bengal tigers, you will learn how to create and present a wildlife conservation program that will keep your target audience interested, entertained, and inspired.

If you own a feline of any species, your time has come to be recognized as a source of information that is credible. As your reputation

grows, your community and state will recognize the service you provide and include you on legislative issues to help you, as a professional wildlife educator, continue to impact the lives of students and adults of all ages.

Become a part of FCF history and participate in the first ever FCF wildlife educators course. •



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FCF Convention Fast Facts

Dates:

Discount Registration: June 30

Convention: Thursday, July 23 through Saturday, July 25.

Husbandry Course: Wednesday, July 22.

Wildlife Educator's Course: Wednesday, July 22

Highlight:

Vision Quest Ranch, Salinas, CA

Accommodations:

Laurel Inn, 801 West Laurel Drive, Salinas, CA. Rooms are \$86 a night, single, double or more. Reserve your room before June 30 to get this special FCF rate. You may arrive up to three days before or stay up to three days after at this rate. Call 831-449-2474 to reserve your room. If you have trouble getting a room reserved with the hotel, call Dan Stockdale at 865-300-3232 or email publicrelations@felineconservation.org. Kittens and cats under 30 pounds are allowed, however, you must contact Dan Stockdale to let him know that you are bringing a cat. Exotic cats cannot be brought into California without an import permit. The permit to exhibit in CA is a yearly permit, and runs around \$1,000, therefore this convention will probably only have state resident exotic cats in attendance.

Transportation:

Closest airport is Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRY). Transportation from Monterey Airport to the Laurel Inn hotel is not provided by Laurel Inn. You may hail a taxi at the airport to take you directly to the Laurel Inn, about a 20-mile drive.

Other possible airports to fly into are San Jose (SJC) or San Francisco (SFO), about 90 to 120 minutes, respectively from the hotel. There are some non-stop flights to these airports from certain airports. A car rental can be arranged at the airport. There is also scheduled public transportation from both of these airports using the Monterey Airbus. The Monterey Airbus provides passenger service between the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas, Morgan Hill and San Jose (SJC) and San Francisco (SFO) International Airports, every 1.5 hours starting at 4 am. Reserve online at [www.mon-](http://www.mon-tereyairbus.com)

tereyairbus.com. The Monterey Airbus picks up at terminal A and C of San Jose Airport. Look for "Scheduled Buses" sign. They also pick up at San Francisco Airport terminal 1 and 3. Look for "Airporters" sign. This bus service drops off at the Prunedale Park and Ride Lot, in Prunedale, which is about seven miles from the Laurel Inn. Rates are \$40 from San Francisco and \$30 from San Jose, each way. From the drop off point you will have to take a taxi to the Laurel Inn, about \$20.

Activities:

The Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course and the Wildlife Educators Course will be held at Laurel Inn. Both will start at 8:00am Wednesday, July 22 and run to 5:00pm.

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

Friday we will be bused to Vision Quest Ranch at 8:30am and spend several hours there experiencing Charlie Sammut's amazing facility and collection of rare and endangered, trained, animal ambassadors. Lunch will be provided at the ranch. We will be bused back to Laurel Inn, and you have the late afternoon and evening as free time to experience some of the other great attractions in Monterey and bay area.

Saturday, we will again be bused to Vision Quest Ranch at 8:30am to listen to our great lineup of speakers until early afternoon. We will eat lunch at Vision Quest, compliments of Dr. Marty Dinnes of Natural Balance. After the speakers, a bus will take attendees back to Laurel Inn for a few hours of down time, to relax, play with kittens, or get freshened up for the Saturday evening banquet. Those who are attending the registered handlers-only animal training class, will remain at Vision Quest Ranch for another 90 minutes and be bused back to Laurel Inn at the conclusion of the class. A bus will pick up members at the Laurel Inn at 5:30 to return to Vision Quest for the Saturday evening banquet dinner, awards, live auction, and more. The dress code at the banquet is quite flexible; anything from tuxedos to t-shirt and jeans to a tiger costume has been worn and is acceptable. The silent auction will close and a few items will be offered by live auction. •



The Captive Wild Felid Symposium

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

The Captive Wild Felid Symposium was held in Olympia, WA on Saturday, March 28. Our site was the posh Olympia Country and Golf Club overlooking Budd Inlet. The snow falling outside did not diminish the enthusiasm of featured speakers and attendees who came from as far away as New Zealand. As participants arrived and checked in, they were given their copy of the symposium agenda, printed proceedings and then directed to the morning breakfast bar. Pu, the Canada lynx and ambassador cat for the Wild Felid Advocacy Center, made an appearance to oohs and aahs and posed for photos as the cameras came out. Special guest, Annie (an eight week old Russian Grizzly Bear) totally stole the show, cuddled and toddled around the country club the entire day. Country club staff waited on us hand and foot and provided an outstanding meal during our lunch break.

The symposium kicked off at 9:00am with our first speaker, Susanne Beauregard, Director of Animal Services for Thurston County, who discussed the intricacies of laws pertaining to exotic animals in the U.S. She shared insights on dealing with exotics from the standpoint of animal con-



trol and recounted some of the amazing stories they have dealt with. Thurston County Animal Services and the Wild Felid Advocacy Center have a strong bond of cooperation and training. We currently have three college interns who are receiving part of their college credit through technical and practical experience at Animal Services under our direction.

Our second presenter was Molly Schaefer of Jungle Fever Exotics, an Oregon based exotic animal facility. Molly's segment covered felid species likely encountered in captivity, their typical behavior and traits, proper handling, and training. Molly has many years of experience with wild cats and numerous other species.

Enrichment was the topic of Patrick McDougall and Jennifer Hackett, two seniors from the Evergreen State College. Last term they participated in a learning contract with the Wild Felid Advocacy Center to develop enrichment activities for the wild cats at the center. Patrick and Jennifer are also stalwart volunteers at the center.

Our next presenter, Shirley Scott, took us in an entirely different direction. Shirley is an animal communicator. She fascinated attendees with her discussion of the mechanics of how she does animal com-

munication and its benefits to animals both physically and behaviorally.

During our lunch break (all you could eat cobb salad bar and side dishes) attendees mingled and got to introduce themselves to one another and help themselves to literature provided by vendors. Our two major sponsors for the symposium were Mazuri and RodentPro. Our group was diverse, covering the areas of animal control, wildcat handlers and owners, veterinary professionals, wildlife rehabbers, animal sciences students, and law enforcement. As the lunch hour wound down we had to drag everyone away from the bear and get back to business—after all, this was a wildcat symposium!

After lunch our first speaker was Tammy Grundl from A All Animal Control, a national company dealing with “pest” animals in our environment. She recounted the reasons we do not want these animals such as opossums, raccoons, or rats in our animal's environment because of the endo/ectoparasites and diseases they carry. Our speaker for this segment was to have been Jack Thompson, a wildlife biologist, but he is an army reservist and was called up for active duty at the last moment. Tammy graciously agreed to step into his shoes. No event goes without its unfore-



Suzanne holds Annie, a Russian grizzly bear

seen glitches and we certainly couldn't tell the U.S. Army that Jack had a prior commitment and was unavailable!

Following Tammy's lead, our next speaker was Robert Gilpin, DVM, who gave an in-depth discussion of fleas and the management of these nasty creatures. In a multi-wildcat facility, these pests can be particularly difficult to deal with. Dr. Gilpin talked about integrated pest management and safe products available for use both topically and internally in felids and their habitat. He also outlined the shortcomings of some products and their reliability.

We were scheduled for a short break at this time, but Molly Schaefer was recalled by popular demand to answer many more questions and expand on some of the information she had previously presented.

Our final speaker was Noreen Jeremiah, DVM, who talked about the healthy wildcat. Noreen was formerly a vet at the Bronx Zoo and has provided veterinary care for a wildlife rehab facility in Canada. Her topic covered a proper and thorough animal examination, handling, equipment and drugs, vaccination, preventative care,

nutrition, medical testing, parasites, hygiene, and other health care considerations. Noreen is a wealth of information and quite the comic. She had us totally wrapped around her little finger with her approach and love of animals, not to mention some very amusing stories. We all began to panic when we realized we would have liked her to go on forever but our time was running short. She agreed to come back for future symposiums and seminars.

In closing, we received positive feedback from the attendees. We had been concerned that it would be difficult to provide valid content for such a diverse group of people, but it appears—much to our relief—that we succeeded. A symposium follow-up project is a guide we are producing entitled "Wild Cat 911," aimed at animal control and law enforcement to assist in their recognition of wild cat species, behavior, appropriate handling, and care. Months of planning and production went in the Captive Wild Felid Symposium and once it was over, we were very pleased with the outcome and the value it presented. We are grateful to a hardworking board of directors and staff of hardy volunteers! •



Noreen Jeremiah, DVM, talked about the healthy wildcat.



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FCF's new Fund Raiser—The African Safari

Who hasn't dreamed of visiting the ancient Dark Continent of Africa? Ever imagined yourself being awakened by the roar of a wild lion pride, experiencing the thrill of watching a great cat stalk an antelope, or just soaking in the ambiance of an African sunset while watching elephants forage? Only a very lucky few of us are able to afford such a life changing experience. Well, for two lucky people, the FCF is going to change all of that. We are proud to announce that the FCF African Safari Sweepstakes will send the winner and a friend of their choice on a six day and six night safari in South Africa at their choice of one of three Zulu Nyala properties. Also included is international airfare, valued at almost \$7,000!

This could be you, just for making a \$10 donation to the FCF! For each \$10 donation, we will enter your name in the sweepstakes. You can enter the sweepstakes from now until January 1, 2010. The winning entry will be drawn on January 16, 2010. The winner will be notified and will have one year from the drawing to select a date and take the safari.

The safari includes six days and six nights accommodation for two people (double occupancy) at either Zulu Nyala Game Lodge, Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge, or Zulu Nyala Nyati/Ndlovu Lodge. You'll enjoy three full meals per day prepared by the finest international chefs—with an African flavor, of course. Two game viewing activities per day are guided by professional game rangers in open game viewing vehicles. International airfare for the winner and guest aboard South African Airlines is also included in the grand prize package. Additional people may book Zulu Nyala in conjunction with the winner at the special discounted rate of \$2,950 per double occupancy room. A third person may join at the special rate of \$975 and children under 12 pay 50% of the discounted rate. International airfare for additional people is not included. Optional extensions, variations, and other tailor-made tours within South Africa or the neighboring countries can be arranged by the winner at additional cost through Adventure Boutique, Inc., Cave Creek, AZ. The toll free phone number is 877-515-1303.

Zulu Nyala was the setting for the film-

ing of the recent motion picture, "I Dreamed of Africa." This section of paradise is home to a wide variety of game from majestic elephant, rhino, buffalo, and stealthy predators to abundant plains game and a wealth of bird life. All of the facilities are of superior quality and are rated at 4 or 5 star. Zulu Nyala's website can be seen at <http://www.zulunyala.com>.

The net proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to further FCF's presence in conservation, our work in education, and our efforts to preserve the right to own wild felids.

Entries for the African Safari Sweepstakes will be available in three ways: through www.felineconservation.org, by regular mail, and from FCF members. The FCF website will have a page where people can fill out the on-line entry form and make their donation using PayPal. People can also print out the entry form and send it by regular mail along with their donation. The other method is to get their tickets directly from an FCF member.

In this issue of the FCF Journal, you will find a sheet of entry forms. Each sheet has four entries on it. We encourage you to make as many copies of this form as needed. Cut along the horizontal dotted line to separate it into the four tickets. If you need another entry sheet, additional copies may be downloaded from the members-only section of the FCF web site. If you are not on the internet, give Lynn Culver a call at 479-394-5235 and request another sheet be mailed to you. The left hand side of the tickets have blanks for you to fill out giving the information on the person receiving the

entry ticket as well as a place to put your name so that you get credit for the prize point system described below. The right hand side of the entry ticket is a receipt for you to give to the person receiving the sweepstakes tickets. All you need do then is send the left hand side of the form along with the money collected to the address on the form. These must be postmarked on or before January 1, 2010.

In appreciation for FCF members helping to make this fundraiser a success, we will be offering incentive prizes. An FCF member that is listed as the referring member on ten sweepstakes entries will receive one free entry into the sweepstakes in their name. If you are listed on 20 entries, you receive two free entries, etc. Only FCF members are eligible to receive this incentive and you must make sure that your name is filled in the correct space on the entry form. There will also be a place on the website entry form for your name to be given by the person obtaining their entry online, so be sure to tell people to put your name down if you direct someone to the website to make their entry. If no FCF member's name is given on the entry form, we cannot give credit to anyone. Entries from yourself are also eligible, meaning if you donate \$100, you will get 10 entries for the donation plus a free entry for referring your own entries.

The FCF member listed as the referring member on the most entries will receive free registration and three nights stay in the convention hotel at the 2010 FCF convention. That will be around a \$500 value!

Official rules and frequently asked questions and answers are posted on the FCF web site. •



Mike Friese



Kathrin Stucki

Nature as Our Teacher: Observing the Serval

By Kathrin Stucki, *A1 Savannahs*

- Why do bottle-fed baby servals get diarrhea the day their teeth are breaking through?
- Why do servals start to bite into our ankles when they are 6 months old?
- Why are servals more open to strangers and easier to train before one year of age?
- Why do serval kittens come in the “fuzzy” stage, and color and contrast fade?

Running the idyllic A1 Savannahs Farm in the middle of nowhere in Oklahoma has not only brought me 14 hour work days and a lost sense of time, but it also has taught me about nature and how perfectly every little wonder is planned.

With servals and savannahs being seasonally polyestrous we have kittens at every time of the year and there is never a day in our life where we don't start the

morning with warming up a heating pad and then bottle feeding some little fur balls. Since this is all we do from morning to night, one could think we have pretty much figured it out and we know everything there is to the art and science of properly hand raising a young wild or hybrid cat. But I find myself as a student on my own farm learning every day from the experienced cat mothers that raise their litters so naturally without being ever thought.

I often just sit in the grass near one of the cat enclosures and watch and observe the mothers with their babies. Here are a few things I have learned:

- *Why do bottle fed baby servals get diarrhea the day their teeth are breaking through?*

The breakthrough of the babies' teeth are telling us that the kitten is ready to eat

some solid food no matter at what age that happens. This happens often around 4 weeks but sometime as early as 2.5 weeks. Instead of just going by a strict feeding pattern, we watch the development of the individual kitten. Mother cat knows when the teeth are coming in and it is the day she will bring her babies some solid food in the den and she will eat it in front of her babies so they can watch her. The kittens will start eating most of the time after the second day she does that. Because the kittens were not eating on their own, I used to poke the food in the kittens mouth when I wanted them to eat just to see them spitting it out as fast as I could put it in there. Sometimes I mixed it in the bottle to make them drink the blended solid food. Today I take a little “fore eater” kitten that happily eats the food in front of the bottle babies. Soon after they start to imitate and eat

on their own. If we ignore nature's clue and we miss giving them solid food when the teeth are breaking through, the kittens often react with a diarrhea, dehydration, and other signs of malnutrition.

- *Why do servals love to bite into our ankles when they are 6 month old?*

One might think that it might just feel good biting into things while teething but the pushing through of the permanent canines makes the adolescent ready to hunt for themselves. The kittens may have watched mother to see how it is done, but they have to actually bite and wrestle a few prey animals before they are ready to take care of themselves. In the lives of our pet servals, the birds are usually on the other side of the window and dinner comes served already wrestled and plucked on a plate. During this time of the kitten's life an extra variety of fluffy toys are helpful to keep the cat mentally and physically stimulated and pleasantly it keeps them also off your ankles and hands.

- *Why do serval kittens come in the "fuzzy" stage that makes color and contrast fade?*

The "fuzzy" stage, as we call it, is the time where the color and contrast of the kitten fades for a few weeks and the coat gets an overall fuzzy look. I did figure out that it is mother nature's camouflage for the vul-

nerable kittens but not after carefully studying the entire growing up period, I realized how perfectly mother nature has timed the event.

Momma cat usually prefers to have her kittens in a dark den. Serval babies usually are born perfectly spotted with a vibrant color and a clear coat. No extra camouflage is needed as the babies cannot crawl out of the den to get in danger just yet. Perfectly timed right before the kittens take their first steps out of the den, their fuzzy stage has started. The kittens are now camouflaged and it makes it hard for predators to see the young kittens exploring around their nest box.

The older they get and the further they are going from their nest, the more camouflaged their coat becomes. At 4 months of age, a young kitten can scratch and spit and look pretty ferocious to a predator but it could not really protect itself with its baby teeth. Camouflage is still important to avoid an unnecessary encounter with a dangerous animal. At around 5 months of age, the serval kittens get their permanent canine teeth. As soon as they are grown in, the fuzzy coat goes away and their vibrant contrasting spotting pattern is back once again. The change to the striking looks is perfectly timed as it will not be long before the young cat is ready to show off its beau-

ty and find a mate.

- *Why are servals more open to strangers and easier to train before one year of age?*

In nature servals stay with their young until they are about a year old then adults start to chase them away. The males are usually the first ones to leave; females are sometimes allowed to stay a few months longer.

With knowing that it comes to no surprise that a young serval is much more open to be trained to do different things than an adult cat. Even a lack of training or a bad habit can often be easily corrected during this fast learning period. The kitten is naturally open to learn new things and tolerate strangers or other cats and pets without being alerted. After the age the mother cat would chase them off, the adolescent cats are programmed to take care for themselves and to only get better at what they have already learned at a young age. While it is still possible to teach an older cat a new trick, it needs considerably more time and patience.

It is the responsibility of us breeders and owners of young wild cats to spend the extra time necessary to properly train and socialize our young cats so they can live a safe and happy life alongside their lifetime owners. Nature teaches us every day but sometimes we have to stop and just watch and observe. •



Kathrin Stucki



Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright From

By Robert M Johnson
Senior Trainer
The Institute of Greatly Endangered
and Rare Species

What's in a color? There has been great debate in the world of conservation as to the relevance and appropriateness of differ-

ent colored tigers. This is even truer when we start looking at white tigers and organizations like the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). It is important, however, to understand the variety of tiger colors that exist and their suggested origins.

A common theory holds that all tigers

once came from Siberia. During the last ice age tigers were forced to migrate south to warmer climates. Tiger territories moved as far south as the island of Bali and as far west as the Caspian Sea. During this great migration, and over many thousands of years, tigers went through varied physio-



Orange to Tabby, Snow and White

logical changes in order to fit into very specific environments. Over time, most tigers became smaller in size; the Balinese tiger was a mere 200lbs. Another adaptation which occurred amongst the Bengal tiger populations was the occurrence of unique color changes, helping members of this

sub-species to adapt to specific ecological niches. Historically tigers are known to have existed in a wide variety of colors. In 1773, artist James Forbes painted a watercolor of melanistic black tiger that was killed near Kerala, India.

The most recent verified sighting of a

black tiger occurred in 1993, when a young boy shot a female black tiger with a bow and arrow just west of the Similipal Tiger Reserve near the village of Podagad, India. Tiger colors have also been reported to be chocolate, gray and even marbled.

Today four separate colors of the tiger

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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

still remain: 1. Standard (orange and black), 2. Royal White (white with black stripes), 3. Golden Tabby (red to pale orange cream stripes and saddle), 4. Snow (all white or with ghost strips). All of these varieties of the tiger once occurred in the wild.

Currently tigers are severely endangered. The tiger population has experienced a drastic decline, particularly in the past couple hundred years. The fate of the tiger was heavily shaped by the expansion of the human population and the refinement and widespread distribution of firearms. Today, less than one percent of the original tiger population still exists. In losing the vast majority of the tiger population, we have also lost much of the biological variety that once naturally existed.

Today, as the future of the tiger seems to be in captive hands, there have been great differences of opinion as to the importance and relevance of different colored tigers, white tigers being at the forefront. While the AZA (the largest and most well known zoological organization) is often associated with the dismissal of white tigers as worthy of preservation, this is by no means an institutional wide policy or practice. Many of AZA's biggest members are displaying, or have displayed, white tigers as a prominent part of their exhibits. These members include San Diego Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Miami-Metro Zoo, Kansas City Zoo, The Smithsonian National Zoological Park, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Bush Gardens, Discovery Kingdom, and of course the organization centrally responsible for white tigers in this country, the Cincinnati Zoo.

One of the biggest denouncers of white tigers is Ron Tilson of the Minnesota Zoo. He has stated that from his point of view the breeding of white tigers is "irresponsible, if not reprehensible." Lee Simmons former, director of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and long time friend of Ron Tilson says, "Ron is a good friend but he's a little bit idealistic," and expresses that he (Lee Simmons) has absolutely no qualms with the breeding of white tigers. The Henry Doorly Zoo has been breeding white tigers since the late 1970s and currently owns three white tigers, all of which are on loan

to other zoological parks.

Many zoos rely on the draw and revenue that is generated by animals like the white tiger. When the Kansas City zoo geared up for a marketing campaign revolving around their Asian themed exhibit, the campaign revolved around its star, a white tiger named "Silver." A gift shop full of stuffed white tiger toys, as Simmons puts it, is what "helps with the light and gas bill." Supporters of white tigers bring up the fact that white tigers do no harm and they allow zoos to increase their financial bottom line, making other conservation efforts possible.

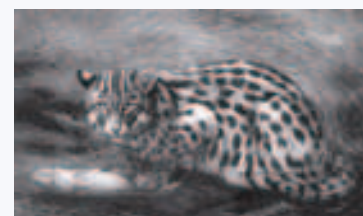
This last sentiment holds the true importance of the white, the snow and the tabby tigers. The fact that these animals are rare is why people come to see them. Human nature by design draws our attention to the unusual. Whether you are fan or a critic of these tigers, it is hard to deny that they have the ability to draw a crowd. This simple fact has two very important implications for conservation. First, these animals become a calling card for a much broader scope of

wildlife conservation. In order to convince someone that we need to save the Sumatran tiger—or even the tiger beetle—you need to get their attention. A white tiger will do that. Second, by coming to see the white tiger, much needed funding becomes available to support the zoo itself and to provide funding for conservation projects that would otherwise not exist.

The white tiger—along with the snow and tabby—have become an extremely political issue, and has done so in a society obsessed with making sure that everything said or done is politically correct. This pre-occupation unfortunately diminishes and obscures the fact that, just by existing, these tigers draw attention, providing benefit to their own species, wildlife at large, and all of mankind. These varied colors of tiger no longer exist in the wild and the standard color tiger is following close behind. Just the fact that we can preserve this naturally occurring biological variety for future generations does make the world a more wonderful place. •

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FCF at America's Family Pet Expo

By Tina Thompson

Public outreach, a membership drive, and fundraising for the threatened Andean cat were the goals that thrust FCF into “show business” as an exhibitor at the American Family Pet Expo in Orange County, California.

The annual event, held April 17-19, draws 60,000 animal enthusiasts from throughout Southern California. While the event focuses on pets—dogs, cats, birds—it also features a range of exotics from alpacas to large reptiles to monkeys to a crowd pleasing young tiger, courtesy of FCF members Joel and Charmaine Almquist of Forever Wild.

To complement the expo's family pet theme without suggesting that exotic cats are part of it, FCF titled its exhibit “Your Cat is Your Connection to the Wild.” The theme struck the right chord. In talking to expo visitors, FCF members staffing the booth found that people who care for a domestic cat also care deeply about all cats. They were receptive to the conservation message that exotic cats are deserving of protection in the face of declining habitats and human encroachment. They also



understood the need for properly managed husbandry programs to ensure that threatened species survive.

The outreach efforts of booth staff: FCF executive director Lynn Culver, journal editor Mike Friese, Tony Richards, California representative Tina Thompson, and JoAnne Ellerbrock were supplemented with guest appearances by Mike's Savannah cat, Dakar, on Friday and Sunday. Dakar took his duties as animal ambassador seriously and successfully attracted scores of curious cat lovers into the booth. With a living “connection to the wild” to observe, visitors were motivated to learn more about FCF and its members. We used creative discussion transitions to turn questions about Savannahs and hybrids into tutorials on the Andean cat and why it needs to be protected.

Dakar was given Saturday off and FCF vice president Patty Perry and friend, Larry Bertram, filled the booth with her lynx, serval, horned owl, and adolescent bald eagle. She brought each one out for a short time, allowing the public to experience the wild in a controlled setting.

Although FCF was located in the expo's “cat” building, the bald eagle was the biggest draw of the day. Initial concerns that a bald eagle in the cat building would be a disconnect in the public's mind, that “cat people” would not be interested in a



Adolescent eagle was a popular attraction.



Dakar and his best serval impression.

bird were quickly put to rest as the predator, perched on Patty's arm, attracted a crowd. Some opted to have their photos taken with Patty and the eagle for a \$20 donation.

With Patty controlling the eagle, Lynn taking pictures and printing them, Tina and Tony engaged the ready-made audience with talks about FCF membership, the endangered Andean cat, and a \$10 opportunity drawing for a trip to Africa. The team also actively encouraged donations, which trickled in a dollar at a time. If we do this again, we will need more booth volunteers!

By the end of the three-day event, FCF had handed out 1,000 brochures, signed up several new members, sold a number of Africa trip sweepstakes tickets, journals, note cards, and the gorgeous stuffed Andean cats. Of equal note, we introduced hundreds of cat fanciers and feline friendly people to the goals, mission, and preservation efforts of FCF. You will meet some of them at the FCF convention in Monterey this July. •



Tony Richards, Patty Perry, and Canada lynx.

Servals in the FCF Feline Census

By Lynn Culver

In the mid-1990s, this organization was thought of as a mostly small "pet" cat organization. Supporting that reputation was the 1995 census that revealed pantheras and cheetah numbered less than two dozen each, the notable exception to that size rule was the cougar, numbering 104, and also popular pet species at that time.

The FCF annual species census published in the May/June 1995 newsletter totaled 712 cats. Servals numbered 120 and eight Savannah (serval/domestic hybrids) were also listed.

By 1996, the serval population grew to 125, but the savannah population dropped to 7, and the total feline census increased to 891 cats.

By 1997, servals numbered 163, Savannahs numbered 16.

By 1998, servals numbered 186 and Savannahs remained steady at 16.

In 1999, members registered 198 servals and registration of Savannahs jumped to 33.

In 2000, the census numbers did not change much, 195 servals and 35 Savannahs.

The census published in 2001 listed 203 servals and 52 Savannahs and 1417 cats total.

The 2009, census represents input from 183 members. Ninety-one members reported 275 servals, and 27 members hold 96 Savannahs.

Forty-six servals are in 11 different zoo habitats and of these zoos, eight out of 11 zoos hold both sexes, and so there should be the potential for this habitat to provide breeding opportunities as well. About 16

percent of the FCF zoos represent potential breeding habitat, and less than one percent of these zoos only have a single serval and so are non-breeding habitats.

Sixteen breeder members hold 95 servals. These FCF facilities hold both sexes and do not list savannahs on their inventory, so it is assumed they breed servals, not savannahs. This represents 36 percent of the serval population.

Servals are also a popular educational animal. Forty-three servals are held by 12 educational facilities. Some of these facilities could also be considered sanctuary habitat, as their felines arrived as displaced adults, but these particular facilities place a higher priority on their educational mission. Eight of these educational facilities might also be potential breeding habitat as they maintain both sexes of serval. Thirty-eight servals reside in this kind of habitat. Nearly all of the educational facilities are also potential breeding habitat as they possess both sexes of serval, and this adds up to 13 percent of the serval population. Approximately two percent of the educational cats are single animals and so are lost to the gene pool.

For non-breeding habitat, there are 31 servals held by 26 owners, and these servals conceivably occupy the niche of companion animal. This is just about 11 percent of the servals reported.

Thirty-nine servals are held in 14 sanctuaries. The large number of some servals, such as five out of 11 registered at one facility, represent births, not rehoming. The servals in sanctuaries are approximately 13 percent of the captive population.

Finally, 12 FCF member facilities hold 23



Jim Peacock

servals and also hold Savannahs of the opposite sex and these cats are being treated as if they are lost to the serval gene pool, and are instead being used in hybrid breeding programs. This is approximately eight percent of the total reported population.

Breaking down the serval population, approximately 65 percent live in actively breeding or potentially breeding habitat, and about 34 percent in non-breeding habitat.

This is actually a healthy mix of animals, certainly much better looking than the tiger situation reported in the last FCF Journal. However, is this an accurate representation of the total captive habitat being occupied by servals in private hands?

With two-thirds of our servals living in active or potential breeding habitat, there should be many more servals being produced. Where are all these offspring being dispersed? Are breeders breeding servals to sell to serval breeders? I doubt that, though there is definitely a strong call for servals as pets, but our membership does not reflect that. Two thirds of the FCF servals are in USDA inspected professional habitats. One could conclude from this sample census that the FCF membership is moving away from pet owners towards professional owners, even with the little cats.

A curious statistic reveals that pet owners of servals are not joining the FCF at the

rate one would expect to see for so many breeders of this very popular feline. Are single serval owners not joining because they are not interested in conservation, the prime mission of the FCF? Are they not being invited to join by the breeder who initiated them into the world of wild felines? Or do they feel that being an organization about so many species of feline, that it is not specialized enough to satisfy their narrow serval interest? I hope that this startling statistic will inspire more of the serval breeders to include membership in the FCF with their kitten sales. For only \$35 a sale, breeders have the power to double our membership in a year and greatly increase our representation for the companion serval owners.

What effects have the sale of servals for savannah hybrid programs had on the population of captive servals? How many Savannahs are out there? Is it possible though, that since the FCF is about true wild cats, that savannah breeders do not reliably join the FCF and there are actually a much greater proportion of servals in these programs than the FCF census would indicate? Could it be that serval offspring are largely being lost to savannah programs and that is why we have so many breeders? This breakdown is not what one would expect to see, with more servals in breeding habitat than non-breeding habitat.

Every Cat Fancy magazine features many cattery ads for this beautiful domestic breed. Many serval genes have crossed into the world of domestic cats. Just looking at the census numbers from early 1995 when less than a dozen of these hybrids existed in the FCF rolls, to today's population of 96 Savannahs indicates something major has transpired. Servals have nearly tripled since 1995 but Savannahs have exploded 12-fold in the same time period. Is this where the serval breeders are sending their offspring? And are we looking at a bleak future for servals?

One effect of the interest in hybrids is that there is another habitat niche for the pure serval. Every hybrid program needs a male serval and many times more than one is required before the perfect cross breeder is found. This creates another need for serval offspring. And unlike the pet serval owner, these felines are not surgically sterilized. If they fail in the hybrid program, they can circle back around into the gene pool as serval breeders.

Right now it appears to be a healthy mix of habitats, with only a small percentage in sanctuary habitat. Sanctuaries will always play an important role as safety net habitat, and for the servals at least, it appears that only a small percentage of the population must seek out the "habitat of last resort." So far, so good.

The interest in servals as educational animals is on the rise as increasing insurance premiums and state laws prohibiting mobile educational shows to use large cat species fuels the desire to switch to the smaller cats. With ecological damage happening globally, there is a steady need for those trained to provide conservation education.

Servals are an interesting species, having successfully made the cross to companion animal with the most reliable personality. They are beautiful display animals, striking educational animals, and lend their unique genetic coat spot pattern and large frame to a nationally recognized exotic domestic breed of cat. They have adapted and succeeded in every habitat niche, but does that insure their survival in captivity? Legislation to outlaw their habitat can undo their success in an instant. We must be vigilant to insure that their habitat remains legal, and that enough of these cats remain reproductively viable to pass on their genes to serval breeding programs. •

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Guest Editorial: The Case Against Feline “Hybreeders”

By Fred Boyajian

This article was edited by Mike Friese for space and content, and reflects the opinion of the author, but does not necessarily reflect the views of the FCF board of directors or the FCF organization.

As a 40-year member and past president, I have a long-running perspective and see history repeating itself. Although we profess to benefit exotic cats, different personal priorities over the long run can have the opposite effect on the cats and FCF. In recent years, we have seen more FCF members who cross exotics to produce hybrid cats. I call them Hybreeders.

Let's examine why hybrids are a threat. Most feline species have the potential to injure or kill humans, livestock, and damage agriculture. Despite safety precautions, the animal industry has a few unfortunate incidents annually, which the media magnifies negatively. Large adversarial lobbies cry for local, state, and federal governments to protect the public health, safety, and public lands with a myriad of confounding laws that restrict or prohibit all animal activity regardless of applicability or effects on the species. Like it or not, to own, sell, exhibit, and move wild animals—especially carnivores—has become a regulated privilege. This may require a facility investment, inspection, and prior experience. FCF networks with affiliates to ensure the legal rights and interests of the private sector that holds 90% of exotic cats, not zoos.

FCF is a non-profit charitable wildlife corporation, dedicated to the enhancement and future welfare of all wild and captive-born feline species. FCF members are owners, professionals, exhibitors, educators, breeders, keepers, and vets who advocate responsible ownership. FCF sets standards, conducts feline conservation programs, and via its website and newsletter, publishes educational information. FCF members are obligated to its guidelines to protect cats and their habitats.

In the 1960s thousands of ocelots and margays were imported for pets. Since little was known about rain-forest cats, Catherine Cisin, an ocelot owner, founded the Long Island Ocelot Club, hosting meetings at home and printing a newsletter to share

care experiences. This drew owners of many cat species nationwide.

In the 1970s, weak Central and South American conservation laws did not stop the onerous cat loss by poachers to satisfy US pet and fur trades. To stop the plunder, CITES was ratified and it prohibited international commerce in endangered species. Congress passed the US Endangered Species Act (ESA) and listed ocelot and margay as endangered, and prohibited interstate commerce of these felines as pets. Instead of saving species, the ESA repressed breeders' interstate trade, reducing the remaining ocelots and margays in private hands to less than 40 today.

Historically, man has bred domestic dogs to enhance physical traits and senses for advantage in racing, hunting, herding, fighting, and environmental purposes into specific breeds. Man line-bred recessive genes to produce varieties that would not survive natural selection: cat paws with double thumbs, white tigers, etc. He crossed different domestic livestock into hybrid animals for other benefits. A horse-donkey cross

created a mule, proving superior as a pack animal. Man's genetically engineered improvements created livestock and food free from disease and pests.

In the wild animals rarely mate with different species. Tinkering with Mother Nature is a bad idea and a risky, dangerous business with the potential to confound medical science with unknown problems that could challenge the public interest.

Man consumes exotics for fulfillment in sports, trophies, pelts, aphrodisiacs, adornment, and leisure. Until now, man had no scientific, medical, or task need to hybridize cat species. In pursuit of something new, Hybreeders created an economic incentive. By experimenting with captive feline crosses, their spots were artistically captured in a hybrid that appealed to affluent pet lovers seeking a cool domestic pet.

Crossing *Felis domesticus* with genetically different *Felidae* species with misaligned gene types creates *Felis ridiculous*. These hybrids have no scientific names or classification, nor pass muster as a research



Billie Lambert

Continued on 32

Hybrids as a Stepping Stone to a Full Exotic Cat Outreach Program

Debi Willoughby, Jungle Encounters

I am a wildlife educator in Massachusetts. I worked at zoos for many years taking care of the animals and doing educational shows on and off the zoo premises. I loved what I was doing and wanted to have some small exotic cats at my own home, so I got my USDA and state licenses to do educational shows with exotics. Massachusetts is a very strict state when it comes to possessing wild animals. You cannot have any wildcats as pets and you can only have an F4 or greater hybrid as a pet. I know of only two people in the state licensed to have a small wildcat. Getting an “educational” permit from the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Division is one of the only ways I could have a small wildcat in this state, so that is what I did.

My hope was to get a serval. I had been working with and training two of them at a zoo and really wanted to have my own. Well guess what, it did not happen! The state denied my request for a serval! How

could they deny me? I had been doing traveling shows with tigers and leopards for the zoos, so why couldn't I get a tiny little serval? I could not understand it. Luckily I do not get discouraged easily; I figured I would just keep trying! Well try I did, and I was denied two more times!

I then became a member of the FCF, figuring I could meet some people with a lot of good knowledge and experience. That turned out to be one of the best things I could have done! I learned a lot from the “private owner” aspect of things. I also met a lot of great people. One person was Jim Sanderson. We both shared the love for small wildcats and I wanted to try to help him with his projects, so I decided to create a show to raise awareness about small wildcats. The money I get for doing these shows goes directly to Jim for his cat projects. At first I was not sure how the public would react to a small wildcat show and I didn't even have any cats to use in my shows, but I was determined to make it

work!

I had a meeting with Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife and requested a Savannah cat. I figured if the state would not give me a permit for a true wildcat, why not use a hybrid? That would be my foot in the door to work on getting approved for true wildcats in the future. It would also let me be able to start raising money for Jim's projects right away instead of waiting years to be able to get and use a true wildcat. I held discussions with the state why I wanted a hybrid and how I would be sending funds to Jim Sanderson to help save small wildcats. It worked! The state approved an F2 Savannah cat. I was very excited and started working on my show which is called the Jungle Fund. One concern: Would the general public be interested in a small wildcat show? If I had big cats, I knew they would love it because they are so popular, but would small cats interest them? Of course, all of us FCF people love to see any wildcats, but would the general public love it?

Hybreeders: From 31

effort without recorded data methodology for independent scrutiny.

Serval, Geoffroy, and Asian leopard cats crossed with domestics yield spotted hybrid progeny seductively tagged Savannah, Bengal, and Safari cats and are recognized as domestic breeds by the USDA and International Cat Association (TICA). But many Hybreeders are amateurs who may not use the same sex formula. For example, a serval could be crossed with a Maine coon, Siamese, American shorthair, or Abyssinian with varying results that are difficult to duplicate.

F1-F4 generations are cats whose genes might bless them with hybrid vigor or they might contain latent congenital defects. There are public safety, health, welfare, and legal issues too. Unlike house pets, some hybrids can exhibit unpredictable aggressive behavior with injurious potential requiring similar exotic husbandry and caging.

Most states require a license to own an exotic cat. Hybrid cats are often exempt because their domestically-diluted DNA fails the legal definition of regulated wildlife species. This allows hybrids to be sold publicly like domestic pets to owners

who were unwilling or unable to comply with exotic license laws. Some states have banned exotic pet ownership outright to the frustration of potential exotic owners. They buy faux exotic hybrids as a alternative, circumventing state license laws, augmenting the Hybreeder's pet customer base.

Exploiting a loophole does not resolve, relieve, nor address the issue with repressive ownership laws and thwarts our common interest to the protect public.

Worse, our limited captive exotic gene pools (paired species progeny potential) suffer. When exotic genes intended for natural progeny get diverted to hybrids, the result is fewer future exotic cats. Exotic genes are lost by dilution and cannot be recovered from later generations and are unable to create viable gene pool. Until F5 or so, each hybridized generation requires further dilution with domestic genes. To proliferate, Hybreeders' demand for more exotic genes may overwhelm the available genes and possibly lead to captive species extinction.

In the United States, serval appear plentiful but most progeny are consumed singly as pets and hybreeders reduce the available genes for captive breeding to a stagnant

level. The few US Geoffroy's and Asian leopard cat fragile gene pools cannot sustain Hybreeders consumption, which might render these cats extinct in private hands, just like the pet owner's consumption of ocelot and margay gene pools has done.

What is good for Hybreeders is not good for our wild cats. Our mutual love for cats is not enough to bridge our divided interests. Hybreeders leach exotic genes.

What hybrid cat owners do with their animals is none of FCF's business. My objection is the adverse affects of hybridizing. I am not against profit, but I do question the motives of creating faux exotics at the expense of what is best for nature's feline species. Hybreeders create more hybrids, diminishing exotic genes reserved for future pure species, adverse to FCF conservation programs. Hybreeders are not conservators.

Hybreeders may have entered FCF's open door with good intents, and FCF did not imagine any long-run negative effects and FCF tolerates member diversity of opinions on feline welfare. However, I feel that FCF should take a stand on this issue because I think Hybreeders diminish our cats. •

An opposite view was published in the FCF Journal, Sep/Oct 2008, page 31.

For the show, I decided to use two hybrid cats, an F2 Savannah and a Bengal cat along with a few other small animals wildcats would coexist with in the wild. I would talk about each animal, talk about the wildcat projects I was supporting, and the audience would vote on which project they wanted to support. That last piece of the show seemed very important to the public. It made them feel like they were really making a difference for small cats—and they were! It also made them realize that donating to conservation efforts is easy!

It was amazing at how popular the show had become! In my second year of doing the Jungle Fund show, I was booked every day of the summer! Who knew the public would be so interested in tiny little cats?

At the beginning of my show, I ask the public to name as many small wildcats as they could. They usually came up with two or three. Most people are familiar with the bobcat, serval, and sometimes the ocelot. Other than that, they have no idea any other small species exist. Upon realizing this, I

was even more determined to help spread small cat awareness.

Over the years I have spoken with many FCF members and have received good advice on what I should do to get closer to obtaining a cat permit. And over the years, I have worked on my research and gathered a boatload of information and facts to help plead my case to the state. After eight long years of working on it, I am proud to say I have been approved for a small wildcat! I have been on cloud nine since they approved me and am now preparing to welcome a new spotted friend into my home! While working with Jim and his projects, I fell in love with the guinea and the public has been also most interested in this species. I decided a Geoffroy's cat would be the best fit for my shows since they are the closest living relative to the guinea. I think the public will really be amazed when they see how small most wildcats really are!

I would like to thank everyone who gave me advice on wildcats. Whether we just had a casual conversation and you did not even

realize you were helping me or you gave me some good solid advice about Massachusetts laws, thank you! A special thanks to those who really helped make a difference: Jim Sanderson, Fred Boyajian, and Doc Antle. Thank you from the bottom of my heart; you helped make the almost impossible come true!

Please do not become discouraged in your quest to get a wildcat where you live or if you have wildcats, do not become frustrated with the constant badgering from Animal Rights and proposed banning laws. Sometimes we all wonder if it is worth it. I say it is! With a lot of determination and backing from fellow FCF members and the organization, we can accomplish what seems impossible. Years ago Lynn Culver told me the only way I could get a wildcat is to move out of Massachusetts! And many others told me basically the same thing. I am glad I was able to prove them wrong! Let's continue to support the FCF because they will support us when we are in need. •



Hunter, F2 Savannah cat used in Debi's outreach programs.

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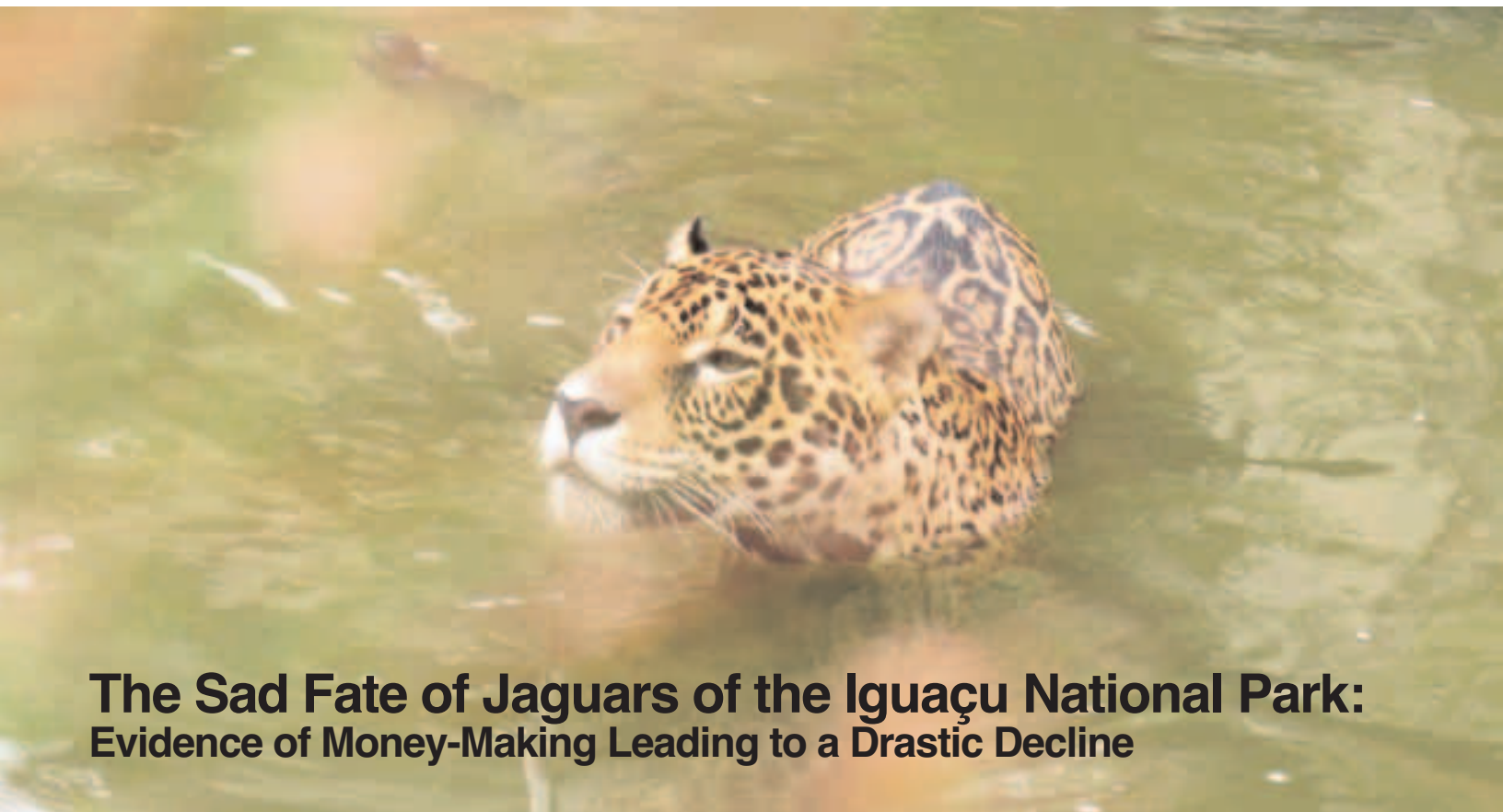
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The Sad Fate of Jaguars of the Iguazu National Park: Evidence of Money-Making Leading to a Drastic Decline

By Anne-Sophie Bertrand, MSc.

We have just completed one year of track surveys which represented 100 miles of dirt roads and trails in the Iguazu National Park (INP). While we found 87 records of pumas (most of which were scrapes on the ground), we only found two jaguar records, and there were infrared photographs that one of our camera traps got in a remote part of the park (see Fig. 1). As if these data were not meaningful enough, jaguars are not helped. The situation becomes clearer every year. There are less and less jaguars in the park. Consistently over time, we observe a lack of jaguar

tracks and presence signs, fewer and fewer sighting reports, less and less livestock depredation (if any today). Jaguars are known to be cryptic animals but there used to be a time when we had almost daily jaguar events in the most visited area of the

Fig 3: Jaguar crossing water

park. There are very rare reports in the most visited area today. Now I hear you saying that jaguars do not like humans and tend to stay away from us and you are correct. But

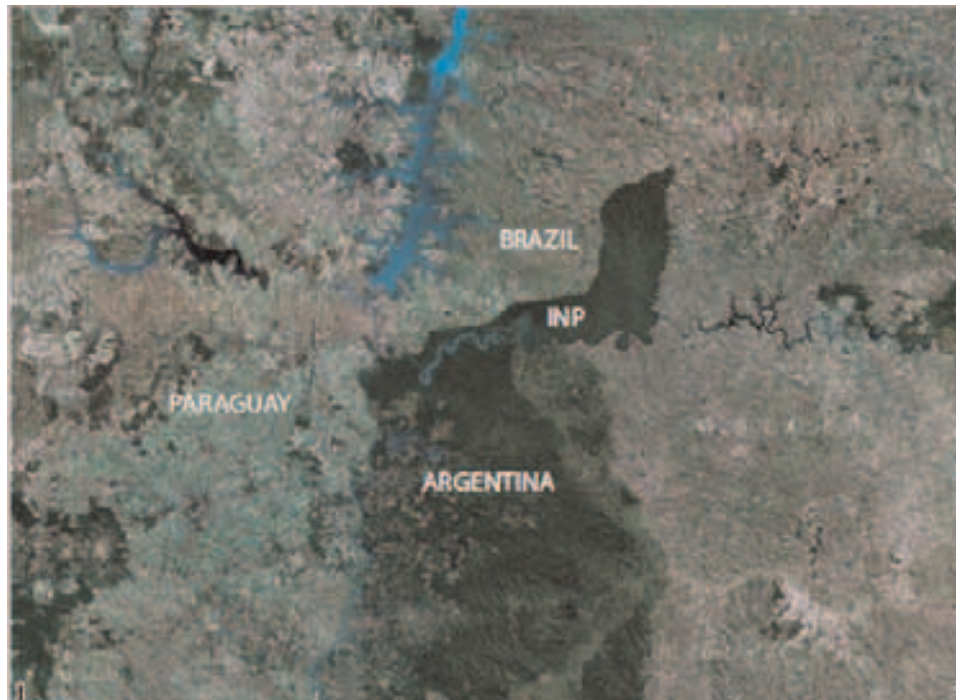


Fig 2: Map of the region



Fig 1: Jaguar in camera trap

the thing is, the INP is connected to its Argentinean counterpart through the most visited part (see Fig. 2). On the Argentinean side, the park rangers are doing a great job and infractions are uncommon events. As a result, wildlife is doing great on the other side of the Iguazu river. Now Jaguars love water (Fig. 3), they definitely cross the Iguazu river as it was reported several times in the past. They come from the Argentinean side, all cozy and protected, to the Brazilian side with speeding cars and trucks within the forest: they are helpless. Sadly enough, a jaguar was killed in the park in early April on the road that gives access to the waterfalls (Fig. 4). How it happened cannot be determined as (1) the car traffic control within the park boundaries is rudimentary (a security guy notes your license plate as you go in and not as you go out, offering you the chance to become anonymous and commit environmental crimes with impunity), (2) the animal was found laid on the side of the road, showing evidence of being carried there, (3) necropsy revealed it did not die during the collision, (4) no damaged car or truck was found to exit the park after the “accident,” suggesting it could have been somebody residing within the park (park head staff and the military force providing security services to the park administration). The fact is: a young, full-grown male is gone, impairing chance for the species to survive. In a viable population, one individual is not critical to the population health and survival. But in Iguazu where the population is believed to be on the brink of extinction, one individual is very precious and a severe loss when it dies. Such loss could have been avoided with proper management and law enforcement.

We cannot blame the lack of funds for this situation as the park administration received \$500,000 to do research and conservation in the park about a year ago. But violations continue to occur and not much is being actually done to make things change.

After I walked 100 miles in this park in 2008, I was sick and tired of seeing this natural jewel being wrecked with total impunity. In 2007, I managed to get the national TV channel to do a situation report entitled “Red Alert in Iguazu.” Unfortunately, its impact was diluted as the press minimized the tone of the report; it was

presented with other unrelated matters. People are so familiar with crime, devastation, and death on TV that none of this would actually reach them. I have sent my results to both the federal government and the national foundation that funded our surveys. Nobody moved. I finally got in touch with UNESCO in Paris as the Iguazu National Park has been a World Natural Heritage Site since 1986. They bluntly told me they could not do much as UNESCO Brazil was saying everything was great with the Iguazu National Park.

I might be a fool to “risk it” but this park is in hands that could care less about its integrity as long as they can make a profit out of its nice looking cover. I know one thing can make this all unacceptable and unaccepted.

If the people and the international society acknowledge the ecological value of this 715 square mile Atlantic forest remnant, things could change and conservation and research could actually be implemented.

Instead of just wishing it to be different, I am doing what I can. After I warned UNESCO, they decided to send me one of their partners who is actually assessing whether the Natural Heritage designation promotes conservation or not in their sites. I found it utterly appropriate. Of course, I accepted. I will be showing this UNESCO partner the park for him to see and map the situation habitat-wise. We plan on combining my surveys’ data and those high-definition maps to inform the international scientific community. This might help to stop that “what my eyes do not see, my heart does not feel” behavior.

I have also enforced my work with my Argentinean colleagues. Wildlife biologist Agustin Paviolo has been working on jaguars for the last six years on the other side of the Iguazu River (Fig. 4). He has made tremendous progress with camera traps. Now you would not be surprised if I tell you there is no international collaboration so cats can go across the river and it is considered a new event, from scratch. So we started working together. Agustin set up seven baited liveboxes in March and April. Two vets from the the Wildlife Conservation Society were helping him. At the end of March, he successfully captured a young male that he had seen before during his



Fig 4: Agustin Paviolo with killed jaguar

camera trapping. He named him Guacarí. Guacarí has been equipped with a VHF/GPS radio collar and will be monitored for two years, with GPS positions collected every 30 minutes. If Agustín captures a puma, I will equip it with a VHF/GPS radio collar and monitor it for a year.

Meanwhile, we are also collaborating for scat analyses. Hundreds of felid scat samples will be sent to the American Museum of Natural History where G. Amato, S. Rabinowitz, and Luke Hunter (Great Cats Program) are developing the Global Felid Genetics Program. This program is financed by the Panthera Foundation and WCS and intends: 1) to provide standardized methods for the collection of biomaterials from cats, 2) to provide assistance in the experimental design of genetic research projects, 3) to recommend the application of genetic techniques to questions of concern in the management and conservation of cats, 4) to assist in the interpretation of genetic results, and 5) to provide recommendations, based on genetic findings, for the long-term management and conservation of wild cats.

More results to come. Stay tuned! I am regularly reporting conservation efforts on my website (<http://rede-verde.org>). If you want to help, get in touch or donate online to Rede Verde or to the Puma Endowment Fund. •

annesophie@rede-verde.org

A Weekend at Panther Ridge

By Jeremy Gillow

On Saturday, April 25, I had the pleasure of attending the FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course, graciously hosted by Judy Berens of the Panther Ridge Conservation Center in Wellington, FL. I took the two hour drive down from Melbourne that morning and when I got to Wellington, it was very clear that I was entering equestrian territory. Polo is the big event in that area and surrounding Panther Ridge are a number of farms and horse-friendly communities. Panther Ridge is enclosed by well-manicured hedges that camouflage the perimeter fence, in fact I was not sure if I was at the right address because the animal enclosures cannot be seen from the road. The class was held in a stylish guest apartment with a view of the cheetah pen on one side and the jaguar waterfall on the other. There would be time to visit with the animals later, so we got down to business and started the course which was led by Lynn Culver and Sylvia Gerber.

After getting through introductions, I was surprised that a majority portion of the class was comprised of individuals who already owned or worked with exotics. It is promising to see people who want to further their knowledge of proper husbandry and facility design. Some attendees were representatives of other sanctuaries and exhibitors in Florida who were able to get some ideas and inspiration from Panther Ridge. Unlike the other students taking the course, it was not my first time attending. Back in the summer of 2007 I passed the course led by Carol Bohning at the annual FCF convention. The course content has been updated and improved for 2009, including a new interactive section relating to contingency planning. I learned that the Asian leopard cat, from which my two hybrid bengals at home are derived, is now called *Prionailurus bengalensis* rather than *Felis bengalensis*. Also, since September 2007, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (CWSA) has been in effect and is an important consideration for members intending to transport big cats across state lines. The presentation slide show has been enhanced with better photos, especially the enclosure design section.

Judy was kind enough to supply lunch



so that we would not have to travel off-site. During the break I was able to go see her two male cheetahs, Charlie and Matt. They appear to have quite a luxurious life, spending most of their day in a landscaped 150 by 350 foot enclosure complete with tropical palm trees and a stone kopje. It was an excellent opportunity to see them up close in full detail. When the lunch break was over, we finished covering the material in the handbook and then reviewed for the final exam. The test was relatively quick and painless, yet comprehensive of the course contents. Lynn, Sylvia, and Mike were busy grading as soon as we turned them in, and within half an hour we had our signed certificates in hand. Some folks who were unable to return on Sunday had a guided tour from Judy before they left, and had a chance to see the cheetahs each enjoy a rabbit snack.

It was another early morning on Sunday as I headed back to Panther Ridge for the group tour that started at 8:00am. Judy had another tour group coming in at 10:00am, and wanted to keep the FCF group separate. After everyone had their breakfast coffee, we started the tour with the cheetahs. At this point we got some details about their history, diet, and daily routine. Matt and Charlie were captive-born in Africa, but they serve as ambassadors for their

wild counterparts. Their exhibition serves an educational purpose and hopefully helps the survival of those in the wild. The tour continued in the back section of the compound, which houses the remaining cats. Two cougars in separate cages gazed inquisitively at the group, and Judy mentioned that one had recently lost a cagemate but was becoming less melancholy as the weeks progressed. A beautiful black leopard in an enclosure with arboreal canopy showed off his jumping skills, although unfortunately he did not demonstrate the function of his playground slide.

Phoebe the caracal and Duma the serval, who live together, were next on the tour and their cage had lots of platforms for basking in the sun. Quietly awaiting the attentions of Judy was her "old man" in the next area, Aztek the jaguar. He gets spoiled with his own swimming pool and fountain. Charlie and Maya are two cougars that live together in a large enclosure built underneath a pole barn. They have their own park bench and a high platform in the middle that gives a nice vantage point. Across from those two is the ocelot named Cody, who avoided attention and remained most of the time inside his tube at the top of the cage.

The clouded leopards were next on the tour, starting with the two youngsters who share a cage that is divided into three sec-

tions in case they have to be separated. They seemed to have limitless energy and would climb and bounce off the chain-link walls in their excitement. A tree house had been installed in the middle common area, and the two had just recently started utilizing it. Like tigers, they make chuffing noises and also an adorable chirping noise when they want attention. Judy has several full-grown clouded leopards as well, including one from a zoo that adapted very well to an environment with human contact. One had recently been shaved on its hindquarters and tail, leaving just a lioness tuft at the end.

The remaining ocelots were the last animals on the tour. Two of them got a “chick-sicle,” a frozen day-old chick as a treat; apparently the temperature makes little difference to an ocelot as long as it is edible. Mike was warning everyone about Monty, who is a deviant plus-sized guy who tries to tempt visitors into sticking a hand near his cage. He will act loving and hungry for attention until you get within striking dis-

tance. The others were not as aggressive as Monty, but they still let us know they were wary with a deep growl that seems unusual coming from a small cat.

Judy took us all into the air-conditioned food prep building and showed us some of the portion sizes and various components that go into the daily meal for her cats. Freezers and refrigerators lined one side of the room containing beef, chicken, lamb, fish, quail, rabbits, chicks, mice, and other items. Blue Ridge Beef, Variety raw frozen diet, Grizzly salmon oil, salmon fillets, and RodentPro whole prey were some of her recommendations. She mixes in vitamins and supplements with the meat and each cat has its own designated bowl. Also on hand is a large selection of veterinary supplies for the cats, including medicines for those who are getting treatment for ailments. Dish washing happens daily outside in a three compartment sink.

Like the cheetah pen, all of the enclosures used chain-link fence but with closed tops instead of recurve. All had den boxes,

plenty of shade, natural vegetation and things to scratch, double entry doorways, and environmental enrichment, important characteristics of cage design that were discussed during the husbandry course. Many of them also had sliding doors that could be raised and lowered from outside the cage in order to put an animal into lock-out for cleaning or maintenance. Water hose connections and electrical outlets were run to all areas, cooling fans were installed in the cages for hot summer days, and an automatic pest control system kept bugs at bay. I have toured a number of exotic animal facilities within Florida and elsewhere, and Panther Ridge Conservation Center is the best private facility that I have yet seen. I am not surprised that it is an FCF accredited facility; it was obvious that a lot of planning, labor, money, and time went into its construction and to its continued upkeep.

I stayed for a while after the tour and found out that a couple people from Tiger Safari in Oklahoma were coming to help with a lure system similar to the one that



Mike Friese

the Savannah Cheetah Foundation uses. Bill Meadows and Gail Howell showed up with some hardware to build the wooden box. While Mike and Gail worked out a solution for a break-away lure, I assisted Bill with the box construction. Once all the pieces were assembled, we had a semi-portable contraption that could be placed in the cheetah exercise area and powered from a 12 volt car battery. One person standing outside the fence at the far end can use the remote trigger to draw in the lure, and ideally the cheetahs would chase it. Judy thought we would get the best results if we waited until dinner time so that the cheetahs would be more prey-driven and the temperature would be a bit cooler. In the meantime I helped Sylvia a bit with her feline topiary project and we fought to get the steel support wires into a reasonable semblance of a cat.

Liz Hatton and Mike Friese made a trip to PetSmart to get some behavioral enrichment items which included a bag of feeder goldfish and a feather wand. First up were the caracal and serval, who were far more interested in the wand toy than the fish. Mike made some encouraging splashes in the tub but ultimately only the serval made a few weak attempts to grab a fish. We thought there might be better luck with the young clouded leopards, so that was the next destination. Although apprehensive at first of the strange container of water, they soon were batting the water, then climbing

halfway in and trying to splash all of it out of the tub. Soon they forgot about the fish and were wrestling each other over who got the better position for drying out their wet fur. The wand toy proved to be a great exercise tool for the ocelots, who would chase it around the perimeter of their cage even though the feathers were on the outside of the chain-link fencing. Yet they do not seem to pay much attention to live birds that fly into their cage;

I guess feathers on a plastic stick are more appealing.

Eventually it was time to give the cheetahs a chance to show what they could really do. Four of us carried the lure system down to the end of the cheetah pen and then Mike got in position to operate the motor trigger. The lure being used was the head of a mop so he did a test run to make sure it would not get caught on the grass. Bill got his DSLR camera ready to take some rapid-fire snapshots as the cats ran by, and treats were waiting at the end of the run so that the cheetahs could get some positive reinforcement if they followed the lure all the way to the end. All of us waited with anticipation until everything was in place. Then Judy let the cheetahs out of their holding area and they took off after the lure. Matt was intently focused and took the straight-line approach whereas Charlie seemed to be watching his brother and took a more roundabout route. It was quite the rush of excitement to see them run, and everyone was ready to try it again. Well, everyone except Matt, who was still convinced that the lure box at the end of the field contained the prey he had been chasing. In fact it had already been removed



Judy Berens describes her very detailed cat feeding procedure.

from the box and passed over the fence to Sylvia. After some coaxing with the food bowls, both returned to their holding area and the lure was set up again. On the second run, Charlie decided not to chase the lure but Matt was even more determined than the first time. Bill fortunately was able to get some great photos of him running.

As the cheetahs settled down to eat their dinner, the box was retrieved so that Mike could later make some improvements to the design and also install some castor wheels to allow easy transportation over the grass. I also heard rumors of a possible checkered flag paint job in the works. We all had enough excitement for one day, and as it drew to a close I was left with a great sense of appreciation for being allowed to take part. Not many people get a chance to see a cheetah up close, let alone experience them showing off their natural gift of speed.

I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to Judy for hosting all of us in the husbandry course at Panther Ridge Conservation Center. Her disposition, work ethic, and attention to detail is enviable. Lynn, Sylvia, and Mike were all fantastic as usual, and I am glad that you were able to offer the husbandry course not once, but twice, in the state of Florida this spring. The program deserves to grow in success, and we need a lot of great facilities like Panther Ridge to participate and showcase not only their animals, but also the infrastructure and processes that support them. •



Bill Meadows and Jeremy Gillow get started on the cheetah machine.



Bill Meadows

Establishing a Cheetah Coursing Program

By Mike Friese

I have been attracted to cheetahs since the 1980s but it wasn't until my South Africa trip in 2006 that I was able to spend ten days directly interacting with three outreach cheetahs at Bobby Hartsliet's Savannah Cheetah Foundation.

Little did I know that I would once again cross paths with two of the adolescent cheetahs I saw in the adjoining enclosure. Judy Berens worked tirelessly to import cheetahs Matt and Charlie to the United States. (You can read about her trying experience in the September/October 2008 issue of the FCF Journal.)

Judy gives the very best to her cheetahs. They live in a beautifully landscaped 50,000 square foot enclosure. They get exquisitely complicated meals twice a day consisting of perhaps a dozen ingredients. And then there is exercise.

Judy knows that running would help keep her cheetahs in top shape so she purchased an Injoy dog coursing machine. This machine consists of a 12" take-up reel powered by a starter motor from a 1961 Ford pickup truck. You attach this machine

to a car battery and switch it on with a hand-held plunger. The speed of this device was not specified by the vendor, but we presumed it would require some modifications to bring it up to cheetah speeds.

As it turns out, it is plenty fast, probably much too fast for dogs, or even cheetahs. I would later find a serendipitous solution to this problem.

Then there is the problem of the cheetah becoming possessive of the lure at the end of the run. When Catherine Hilker demonstrated her cheetahs running at the Cincinnati FCF convention, she had the lure zip into a sideways traffic cone which the helper would then tip vertical, hiding the lure. Catherine would then reward the cheetah with a treat to distract it from the lure. This takes coordination, timing, plus well-trained cheetahs to avoid "prey transference."

Still another problem: The coursing machine has significant inertia, yet we needed to slow the 70 MPH lure instantly inside the cone. Some sort of braking mechanism would have to be implemented.

These significant hurdles prevented Judy

from using the Injoy machine directly.

Fortunately, we had some pioneers to look to for inspiration. Doc Antle and the crew from T.I.G.E.R.S. had traveled to Matt and Charlie's birthplace (FCF Journal issue 51-2) to set up the initial cheetah coursing program at the Savannah Cheetah Foundation. They coursed the cheetahs in a 50 yard-long front yard area of Pieter Kemp's house. On another trip to the Savannah Cheetah Foundation, Bill Meadows and his rugged Tiger Safari crew constructed a cheetah runway, doubling the cheetah's path. (Issue 51-4) Bill Meadows' experience with cheetah coursing would turn out to be a key ingredient.

These efforts in South Africa made me keenly interested in what it would take to start a cheetah coursing program right here in the USA with Judy's cheetahs. I used this as an opportunity to spend a week working on the problem.

I took the first day at Panther Ridge to learn all about the dog coursing machine. Judy had already purchased a nice car battery to power it, so I decided to try running the machine sans cheetah. Judy suggested I

set the machine up adjacent to the enclosure to see if the cheetahs showed any interest. Amazingly, they chased the lure the very first time! Over the next 36 hours, I ran the lure four more times and half the time the cheetahs took chase.

On the second day I found a way to stop the lure instantly using a breakaway string. The weakened string would release the lure at the end of the run, or in the event the cheetah captured it prematurely. I replaced the boring utility rag lure with a spiffy rag mop.

I still felt uncomfortable with using a traffic cone as a lure receptacle because of timing issues and the risk to the cone tipper that the cheetahs in their excited state might view them as prey.

On Friday Bill Meadows and Gail Howell stopped by for a visit. Bill mentioned that Doc Antle had a box which would conceal the lure at the end of a run. This sounded like a great way to hide the lure without having a human operator present.

We decided in a two-compartment box. One compartment would hold the motor, reel, switching solenoid and battery. The second compartment would be completely empty with only a small slit in the adjoining wall to allow the lure lanyard through. Outside of the box, a one-foot square opening was concealed by a kitchen towel. At termination of the cheetah run, the lure would fly through the doorway, easily pushing the towel out of the way, then slam into the partition wall, stopping instantly. The reel would keep spinning due to its considerable inertia, disconnecting from the lure by breaking a 20 pound-test cotton string. We had a plan.

On Sunday, Bill Meadows returned with the back seat of his rental convertible comically filled with plywood and parts like a four seat pick-'em-up truck.

Jeremy Gillow had attended the FCF Husbandry Course the prior day and returned for the tour. Loitering after the tour, he joined forces with Bill Meadows and by late afternoon, the box materialized to a point where a first cheetah run could be attempted.

Judy called the cheetahs in from their 135' x 350' play area into their lockout. Several people loaded the coursing machine onto the back of a ATV-style pickup truck and carted the machine to the farthest point

of the cheetah enclosure.

The lure was pulled from the machine some 300 feet back to the cheetah side of the enclosure. Since I did not have the parts handy to properly wire the self-contained car battery to the motor, I borrowed some jumper cables from one of Judy's staff. I ran the activation switch through the fence where I could control the machine without getting mowed over.

Since we were having problems with the breakaway prematurely dropping the lure, we did a full speed, full-length test. The machine worked beautifully, though the batteries appeared to be low.

Upon further investigation, I discovered the jumper cables were really cheap and small wire size, exhibiting very high resistance, slowing the motor. This might sound bad, but the basic dog coursing machine was far too fast for dogs—or even cheetahs. What were they thinking? The jumper cables slowed the motor, making the lure much easier to control. I would later incorporate these old jumper cables into the coursing machine, integrating them so it appeared that we planned them all along. Serendipity!

With this perfect practice run, it was time to release the cheetahs.

The lure was reset, everybody lined up outside the enclosure, and I took my spot at the speed control.

Judy took her place inside the enclosure with lure in hand. She opened the door and tossed the lure to the ground. The cheetahs' initial reaction was "What is this?" but as soon as the lure took off, Matt started after it at full speed. Charley was a bit confused and ran along the fence looking for the lure in the place it had been during my practice runs a few days earlier.

From my viewing point near the winch, it was difficult to determine how close the cheetah was to the lure. I panicked and ran the lure at full speed. Amazingly, Matt managed to follow just a few yards behind.

The lure slammed into the cheetah box and disappeared which confused Matt terribly. He was nosing around the door until I invited him over for a chicken neck treat.

Jeremy caught the run on video but Bill was only able to take a few photos because the cheetah had run by him so fast.

Flush with success, we herded the cheetahs into their lockout, reset the machine, and managed a second run of the day.

Over the next few days, I reinforced and refined the cheetah machine so it was simpler to operate and could withstand daily use. The only thing left incomplete was the paint job but I think Judy has something special in mind.

I appreciate the opportunity that Judy Berens gave me to set up her cheetah coursing program. I also appreciate the help that Bill Meadows, Jeremy Gillow, and Liz Hatton contributed to the design and construction. And none of this would have happened if Catherine Hilker and Doc Antle had not set up their own inspirational coursing programs in Ohio, South Africa, and South Carolina.

Now Matt and Charley enjoy the ultimate enrichment: speed! •



Bill Meadows

Judy Berens combining the forces of Matt and machine.

Blast from the Past. . . . *Life With an Ocelot*

Long Island Ocelot Club

May/Jun 1982—Volume 26, Issue 3

By Theresa Parrott

Caca Poqui'ta came to me through our veterinary practice when she was 10 weeks old. The owners had brought her in because of a birth defect in one of her hind legs. I remember thinking to myself at the time, how small she was, (3/4 pound), yet quite capable of defending herself, being all claws and teeth. After a few weeks of braces and casts, we took the advice of a veterinary orthopedic surgeon and amputated her limb at the hip joint. We also declawed her three other limbs during the surgery.

With teeth and all, I soon found myself very attached to this South-American cat. After talking with the owners, they agreed to transfer ownership of the cat to me. Caca, then became a definite member of our family and an intricate part of my life.

Being a sophomore in veterinary school and a surrogate mother to an ocelot was a very interesting experience. With a husband and a home to tend to in Miami, Caca soon learned about life in the fast lane of the Florida turnpike. She got along very well with the other members of the family at first. However she soon outgrew the five domestic cats and Kojak, our Indonesian Macaque. Roughhouse, was Caca's middle name. At six months she was a terror on three legs. She learned how-ever what "NO!" meant and many times felt the wrath of the almighty fly swatter.

Her first heat was at 13 months. She was a completely changed cat. One minute she would be purring by my side and the next minute, I would find myself frantically searching for the fly swatter, Caca at my heels. Her cycle lasted four to six days and she would re-cycle every two weeks. That is when I learned about Ovaban and ocelots. I keep her on it for

three to four months and then take her off it until she resumes a heat cycle.

An interesting fact about her family line is the hair loss and skin thickening that occurs during the heat cycle. This skin change occurs on the dorsum of the neck caudally to the level of T3-T4 vertebrae. The skin change seems to be a protection factor for the female against the male's teeth when he grabs her for mating.

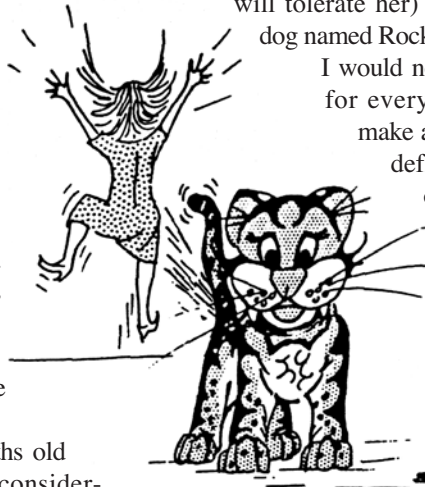
Caca is now 20 months old and has calmed down considerably. She still likes to climb up on my lap and suckle on my finger in the evening, while purring constantly and eventually

drifting off to sleep. She is 25 pounds now and her only playmate (the only one who will tolerate her) is a 20 pound mongrel dog named Rocky.

I would not recommend an ocelot for everyone, however they do make affectionate pets and will definitely add zest to any one's life.

My husband and I presently own a small and exotic animal clinic in Hollywood, Florida. My husband is a graduate of Auburn, 1973, while I am presently attending

the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine and graduate in 1983. •



REVEREND FUN



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Book Review: **Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals**

A review by Pat Callahan,

OK, so there is a dog on the cover; contain yourselves. This book brings us to the other side of wildlife conservation: happy, healthy animals in captivity. Now as a newer member of FCF, I have come to realize that most of the members I have met not only have a passion for their cats, they also have significant expertise as care providers. Grandin's books will help confirm cat owners' ideas of how cats think (do they?) and also provide some helpful background and terminology on animal psychology. Grandin uses excellent endnotes to cite her sources.

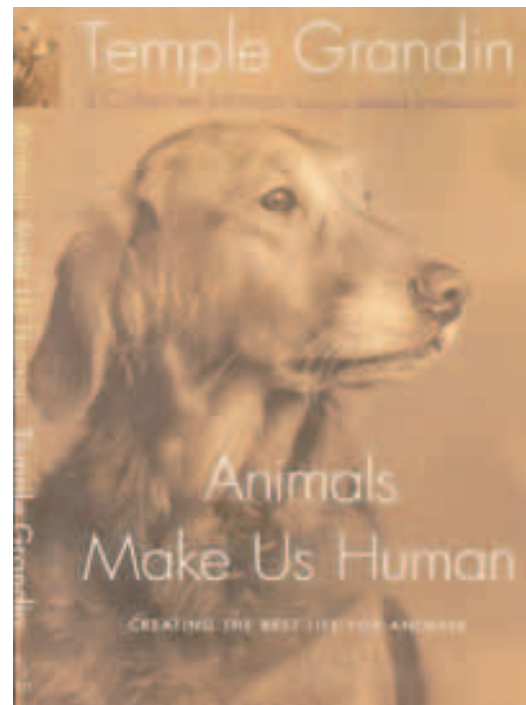
Grandin was in Cincinnati recently on a book signing tour, and some of my co-workers were very impressed with her. Grandin's unique perspective comes from, she writes, her autism.

She feels that this gives her a different way of thinking and relating to her environment, one closer to the way animals may think and relate to their world and co-inhabitants. This book covers chapters on domestic animals, and certainly many FCF members care for these as well as cats, and chapters on zoos and free living wildlife. Temple Grandin does consulting work in all these areas. So does autism give her an edge in "reading" animals wants and needs? This very readable book would indicate "yes." We have all heard of cases where animals reached otherwise withdrawn, isolated people and autistic children. Dolphins and kids came to mind to

me. It works in reverse too, it seems.

Chapter one is "What do Animals Need?" Here she quotes a British government study, the Brambell Report, a kind of a basic rights list. She follows that with a list of fundamental emotions she calls "blue ribbon" emotions that she weaves into the whole book, as landmarks: seeking, rage, lust, care and play, panic and fear. Let's look at a good example. Why are polar bears becoming so controversial in captivity? Well Grandin notes correctly, stereotypic behavior is very common in these bears. Doing figure eights, pacing relentlessly. Not good! What is the solution to this? Her answer, and she cites studies, is that these bears are "rangers." They are one of the farthest ranging predators known. But they are not "seeking" as in hunting, they are nomadic animals driven to cover large territories, and swimming remarkable distances, looking for seals. They do this regardless of whether they are hungry or not. Current thinking, Grandin notes, is to use seeking and playing behaviors to enrich the bear's lives. Give them things to do, things to accomplish and then record whether the "bad" behavior decreases to quantify the improvement in the bears' life. We all know that enrichment is a hot topic among animal people and is becoming a required part of care by regulating authorities.

Enrichment log books are required for primates. Although animals kept in social groups, like primates, may need less



enrichment, I would argue, because they have each other and their humans to interact with. Social groups for cats other than lions, is less of an option.

I have purposefully avoided talking too much about cats but the book does cover them, discussing mountain lions that kill hikers, and why do lions pace more than leopards in captivity (do they?) and fancy zoo enclosures that look nice but are really boring for the cats in them and more.

Read her book and try some psych tests on your animals. Get some interns to do formal studies. Look for subtle forms of stereotypic behavior. This is fascinating stuff and a topic we all need to address. Be proactive!

Books like this can help us all defend and promote our livelihoods and our way of life, in an increasingly critical world. Fight back with facts! •

Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals
By Temple Grandin and Catharine Johnson
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishers
(2009)

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Goodbye to a Carakit

By Bart Culver

Tomorrow I have to say goodbye to another caracal kitten. I know it is going to a good home, a competent, loving home. If I were not certain of that, I could never let it go. Still, saying goodbye is the hardest part of this job. And the better I do my job, the harder it is, because already that baby loves me and I love it.

I have done my job very well this time. I took her and her two sisters—fragile, frightened little creatures, and gently and patiently assuaged their fears and attended to all their needs. I served them like the little princesses they are. I fed them, pottied them, bathed them, caressed them, spoke to them in their language until they are strong and unafraid, and scooting around the house, delighting in being alive. And when they got lost, they called for me, and when I answered, they ran to me and gave me that wide-eyed adoring look.

I have won my share of awards and prizes and trophies, but none of them mean a thing compared to that look. That look is the embrace of innocence; it is absolution for my sins: for the songbird that I shot with my BB gun as a kid, for all the poisons that passed through my hands into the planetary life support system. That look is nature befriending me, telling me that I have earned the right to breathe her air, drink her water, and eat her sweet fruits. The people who condemn us for committing this act of husbandry surely must never have received the high honor of seeing that look, and never felt the inspiration to nurture that look nature instills in decent people. Otherwise they would have more to say about exotic animals than they are dangerous, you should fear them hysterically, and they do not make good pets.

Some people do not make good pet owners and for them, nothing makes a good pet. Sometimes they bolster their egos and conceal their guilt with walls of lies. All in support of one essential lie: they did it wrong only because it is wrong to do it. The people they despise the most are the people who do it right and teach others how to do it right. Such is the darkness of the fanatic mind. The worst example is the Termagant of Tampa and her increasingly hateful harangues.

The first time I heard this woman's name, it was from grieving people to whom she sold dying babies and then refused to talk to them. She gave them no solace, no support, and of course, no refund. She was an aggressive, high volume dealer who raised babies in five gallon buckets and could not possibly have given them the attention and devotion they needed and deserved. I doubt she ever saw that look, much less what was inspired by it. She has so much guilt to bury, she spends all her time manically shoveling dirt. She even condemns conservation as just an excuse to have these animals. Her discussion of the wild is limited to one slogan: "They belong in the wild." Dismissing such an important subject with one sentence is the unconscionable act of a charlatan courting the favor of fools in a terrible abuse of democracy. Fools can confer on her the awesome power to eradicate the truth and exterminate a species. Let us replace this with a truly compassionate and perceptive look at the wild.

Somewhere near you right now there is a mother bobcat that has been caring for her three kittens with utmost devotion. For the few days they have lived they have known only the soft warmth of her body, the gentle stroking of her tongue, the reassuring rumble of her purring, the sweetness of her milk. They cannot even see yet, but they have learned to purr. As they nuzzle at her belly they purr happily, thanking her for the life she has given them. But now she must leave them alone for the first time. She must hunt before her milk dries up. She presses them down firmly and somehow tells them not to move, and not to make a sound. She promises to return soon. And then she is gone into the deepening twilight, perhaps to eat someone else's babies, because that is the safest thing for her to do and her babies need her.

This is the moment Br'er Fox, Br'er Bear, Br'er Raccoon, or Br'er Possum have been waiting for. Swiftly, one of them enters the den. The kittens smell something. It isn't mother; what is this awful smelling thing? They hiss bravely at it, to no avail.

There is terrifying agony as this thing hurriedly eats them alive. You do not know this mother, but if you did, you would feel her pain as she returns to her empty den. You would surely consider this event to be a terrible tragedy. But this is not an accident. This is the life story of two thirds of all cats born in the wild. This is how it works. Kill or be killed, eat or be eaten. And while the big things eat the little things, even smaller things eat them all from the inside. Scientists and trappers consistently find wild animals, especially felines, to be covered with bloated ticks and filled with worms. They are a habitat for parasites. And then there is starvation. Scientists studying the Darwin finches on Galapagos can see evolution happening in a single year. Frequent dramatic changes in rainfall favor one type of beak over another causing massive die-offs that prompted one researcher to say, "Life is hell for most living things."

"Survival of the fittest" is a euphemism for the death of all but the most fit and fortunate. The Garden of Eden is a beautiful dream that only exists inside fences. Outside those fences there is merciless unrelenting war. When the Termagant of Tampa berates pet owners—or any captive husbandry—and asks for money to keep the terrible indignity of captivity befalling wild animals, she is preying on the sympathies and ignorance of others. She is telling a monstrous lie. *"For every kind of beast is tamed by man, but the tongue no man can tame. It is a unruly evil, full of deadly poison."* James 3:7-8

The truth is that captive born felines of any species are usually the luckiest of their kind in the world. In the hands of the Termagant of Tampa, they were not, but in our hands, they are. That is our intention, our obligation, our calling. What does it mean to have dominion over the earth and subdue it? Does it mean to carelessly exploit it until you destroy it and magnify the savagery of it? I think it means just the opposite. It means stewardship. It means nurturing husbandry that strives to take the violence out of the world and out of ourselves. •



Wild Cat Safety Net Fund Committee Wants You!

By Caroline Alexander

You just never know where opportunity may strike. I joined Feline Conservation Federation back in 2005 because of my passion for exotic cats and hoping someday to be able to get more involved with them and make a difference. The opportunity to make a difference came when I renewed my membership this year. On the renewal application I noticed a section where you could check off areas you would like to know more about. I checked off Wild Cat Safety Net Fund, never dreaming I would be asked to head this committee! (Be careful what you wish for!) I gladly accepted this challenge and am seeking others to join me in this effort to promote this program. I would also like to thank John Chuha for stepping up to join this committee!

What is this fund and what does this committee do, you may ask? In a nutshell, this fund assists in transport of cats in emergency situations, such as cats that have been confiscated from non-permitted owners and need to be relocated to a permanent situation. Committee members assist in coming up with creative ways to raise funds for this endeavor as well as help with putting the word out that this fund exists.

The committee also looks at applications requesting funds and determines if funds will be granted in each situation. Finally, we also share success stories with the media when a cat is successfully rescued and placed. If this sounds like something you would like to help out with, please let myself, Lynn, or Kevin know. You can email me at:

WildcatSafetyNet@felineconservation.org •



Caroline Alexander holds Bonnie Cromwell's ocelot.

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman





Help Dr. Jim Sanderson build the world's first Andean cat conservation and monitoring center. With your help we can present Jim with a \$5,000 check at convention in Monterey. Members who donate \$125, will receive this half size, life-like stuffed Andean cat in appreciation for your support.

FCF member and avid conservationist, Fred Boyajian, has pledged to match up to \$2,000 in FCF member donations that are received between the arrival of this journal and July 22. **Every dollar you donate turns into two!** Take advantage of this great opportunity to double the impact of your conservation support.

Mail your check to the treasurer or visit www.felineconservation.org and chose *Andean Cat Fund* in the drop down menu on the *Support Us* page.

FCF Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 22, FCF Educators' Course: Laurel Inn, 801 W Laurel Drive, Salinas, CA (www.laurelinnmotel.com) Course starts 8:00am and runs to 5:00pm. Registration fee is \$95.00 or \$130 for non-FCF members. Use registration form inside.

Wednesday, July 22, FCF Feline Husbandry Course: Laurel Inn, 801 W Laurel Drive, Salinas, CA. (www.laurelinnmotel.com) Course starts 8:00am and runs to 5:00pm. Registration fee is \$95.00 or \$130 for non-FCF members. Use registration form inside.

Thursday, July 23-25, FCF Annual Convention: Salinas/Monterey, CA. Members stay at the Laurel Inn Motel in Salinas, (\$86 FCF room rate, to reserve call 831-449-2474) and then tour Vision Quest Ranch, home of trained felines and other working wildlife as well as sanctuary to elephants. Learn from outstanding guest speakers, enjoy the Saturday evening banquet dinner, special events, and fund-raiser auction. Registration is \$195 per adult, \$225 after July 1.

Saturday, August 22, FCF Feline Husbandry Course: A1 Savannahs is hosting the next husbandry course at Holiday Inn Express, 2809 North 14th Street, Ponca City, OK 74601, 580-762 3700. Class starts at 8:00am and concludes at 5:00pm. \$95 registration fee or \$130 for non-FCF members. Mail contact information and registration fee to: A1 Savannahs, 7750 West Riverview Road, Ponca City, OK 74601. Questions: a1savannahs@yahoo.com. On Sunday, students may tour A1 Savannahs in Ponca City, a breeding facility for serval and savannah.

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

Heather McCulloch

John Chuha

Diana Forsyth

Jane Ho

Michael Watkins

John Lanzendorf

Stephen Hedderick

Steven Salton

Judith Hoffman

Ann Hedderick

Project: Rare Species Fund

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The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Joseph Fortunato

Secretary, FCF

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



Clockwise from top: Christian Mikusevich and his bobcat, Kisa • Nancy Vandermey and serval at Exotic Feline Breeding Center—Eric Baralow • Elusive Andean cat—Jim Sanderson • Vincent DeMaggio III with his cougar, Bakira

Your best Shot





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WHEN: July 22-25, 2009

HOTEL: Laurel Inn, Salinas, California
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Reservation deadline June 30, 2009.
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Call now and mention "FCF" to reserve
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CONVENTION ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY

- ★ *Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course*
- ★ **NEW** *Wildcat Conservation Educator's Course:*
This course will have its inaugural class at the 2009 convention. Learn the latest and best methods for educating the public on conservation issues.

THURSDAY

- ★ Afternoon registration and auction donation drop-off.
- ★ *Evening Ice Breaker:* Join us as we greet old friends and meet new ones!

FRIDAY

- ★ *Wild Things Day!*
Bring your cameras and spend the day experiencing a working exotic animal ranch! Children must be at least 12 years old to participate.
- ★ *Evening On Your Own:* Use public transportation to create your own special evening. Visit Cannery Row and the world famous Monterey Bay.

SATURDAY

- ★ *Speakers:* Learn the latest in conservation, safety, husbandry and more!

★ **NEW** *Advanced Wildcat Handling:*



Learn advanced handling techniques as Hollywood animal trainer, Charlie Sammut, teaches this special class for **Registered Handlers Only**. Register online now to gain access to this class. The fee to become a registered handler includes admission to this class.

- ★ *Banquet and Auction:* Enjoy an evening of great food under the stars at *Vision Quest Ranch* with an exotic "dinner guest" or two. Then, have your cash handy for the annual FCF auction!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Individual:** \$195 per person before June 30.
\$225 per person July 1 and after.
- Kid's Rate:** \$75 per child age 12-18 years old. Children under 12 free!
- Husbandry Course:** \$95 for members.
\$130 for non-members
- Educators Course:** \$95 for members.
\$130 for non-members
- Registered Handler's Course:** Free to registered handlers