



Feline Conservation Federation
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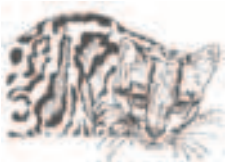
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Cover: Kathrin Stucki gets serval kisses from Mowgli—Photo by Martin Stucki. See article about the accreditation of Kathrin and Martin's facility in this issue. Inside: Serenity Springs' lion, Pharaoh—Photo by Caz Oswald.



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

The holiday season will soon be upon us and before you know it, we will see the end of another year. The year 2009 has been a busy one for FCF and we have accomplished much. We have put on four successful husbandry courses. There was the first-ever offering of the Wild Feline Educator's Course. We had displays at the California Pet Expo, the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo, and at the Lolli Brothers' Exotic Animal Auction. The FCF has awarded around \$19,000 to conservation projects through our Conservation Grants Program, the Rare Species Fund, and our hugely successful Andean Cat Conservation Center fundraiser. We have accredited three new FCF facilities. Legislation Director Robert Johnson has been working closely with the federal lobbyist in Washington, D.C. to keep tabs on federal legislation and several FCF members have been working with legislators in their own states. Thankfully, our Wildcat Safety Net has not yet been called upon this year to provide emergency help for wildcats in need, but Carolyn Alexander and her committee stand at the ready. There are a few people who complained after FCF raised so much money for the Andean Cat project. FCF was accused of changing its direction and only caring about being an effective conservation organization. As you can see from the list of accomplishments, FCF is right on track, and nothing has changed. FCF is just more successful than ever at what it does.

One of the biggest changes we did make this year was hiring our first executive director, Lynn Culver. With so many first time members on the board of directors, Lynn has been invaluable in getting everyone trained and keeping the organization going when board members were unable to perform their duties temporarily for one reason or another. Be sure to read the article in this issue, "Growing Pains" by Roger Newson. He hits the nail right on the head on where the FCF is. We have many dedicated volunteers, but from time-to-time regular life occurrences must make FCF duties take a back seat. The FCF must keep continuing to evolve if we are going to last another 50 years.

This evolution also means we need more money. So far, the African Safari Sweep-

stakes is lagging in expectations. At the current rate, we will be lucky to meet the expenses. Here is a way to help the FCF and possibly give someone you love a free African safari. There are great new feline note card sets advertised in this journal. Purchase a set of 10 note cards, make a \$100 donation to the FCF, and fill out 10 sweepstakes entry forms in the names of your holiday gift list. Let them know that a donation to the FCF was made in their name and that the enclosed receipt is for a chance for a safari for two. Then cross your fingers for your loved ones, because there is a very good chance the person you enter will win this incredible experience. With the money we raise, we can keep the organization going strong in its administrative needs.

I would like to thank the volunteers that manned FCF booths at recent events. Patty Perry, Debbie Willoughby, Jill Galindo, and Caroline Alexander did a fine job representing FCF at the WCN Expo. Thanks also go to Lynn Culver, Regina Hardison, Jeannie Baker, and Teresa Shaffer for taking care of the FCF table at the Lolli Brothers' Auction. Missouri is a state the animal rights people are targeting so it is important for FCF to reach out and educate as many



native Missourians as possible so that our input will have the strongest impact next year when this proposal is again on the legislative agenda.

Two FCF board members will be doing some international traveling and are helping to bring FCF's reputation to the world. Pat Callahan leaves for Chile in October. We will look forward to his report in the next issue of the journal. Robert Johnson travels to South Africa in November. He will deliver a multimedia projector awarded to Marion Holmes through the FCF Conservation Grants Program. Look for an update from Robert in the January issue.

I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and hoping that 2010 brings everyone joy and success.

—Kevin Chambers

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From the Executive Director: Raising Geoffroy's Cats

Raising Geoffroy's cats has been a learning experience for me. This tiny native of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, and southern Brazil only reaches a weight of 10 pounds, and females can be as small as half that weight. My husband and I began our adventure into wild feline husbandry over 25 years ago with the acquisition of a single puma cub that grew into his enormous paws and eventually weighed 150 pounds. Over the decades, we have expanded our husbandry experience with the smaller felines: bobcat, Canada lynx, serval, and caracal, eventually reaching one of the smallest of the felines found in US captivity, the Geoffroy's cat.

Judging from the historical accounts in the LIOC newsletters, the Geoffroy's cat was never as numerous as the ocelot or margay in captivity, but over the decades it has always carried a dedicated group of aficionados. In the 1970s and 1980s, Geoffroy's cats were bred by LIOC members John Perry, Ken and Jean Hatfield, Edna Phipps, Ethel Hauser, Jack Spiers, Pat Quillen, and Anne Krebbs. By the 1990s and into this century, other Geoffroy's champions emerged: Len Davidson, Violet Pontious, Colette Griffiths, and Gary Fulgham and most recently I joined this list of people who actively breed this species.

We were fortunate to be the recipient of a trio of these cats on a breeder loan in 2001 from Len Davidson. At one time Len had assembled about 30 Geoffroy's, the largest and most genetically diverse colony in the county.

Our trio was a melanistic mother, and an unproven pair consisting of her spotted daughter and unrelated spotted male. The six-year-old pair produced within a year of arrival and I traded one offspring with Colette Griffiths of Cocoa's Pride for a female kitten of hers named Molly. Raising Molly was my first experience with a tame Geoffroy's, and she has addicted me for life. Molly is a very people-friendly cat and to this day, is extremely happy when anyone visits her, talking in Geoffroy's as she greets you. Molly always climbs into our laps or onto our shoulders, rubs and purrs, and converses in her friendly Geoffroy's vocalizations.

The following year we acquired another eight Geoffroy's cats from Violet Pontious. We have been working to breed this species and found it both challenging and rewarding. One of the cats from Violet was a spotted female named Elizabeth. Jack Spiers imported Elizabeth along with her sister, Victoria, from England in 1992. Amazingly, Elizabeth is the most represented bloodline in US captivity. I say amazingly, because Elizabeth had no mothering skills and every one of her offspring had to be reared from birth. The number of her living descendants is a testimony to the husbandry skills of her various owners over the years, including Jack Spiers, Len Davidson, and Violet Pontious. I was only able to rear a single pair of kittens from Elizabeth. Her first litter was three kittens. She cleaned them up, fatally injured one of them, and then abandoned them to take a nap in her litter box. I put the surviving pair on a lactating domestic queen and successfully co-

reared them. I kept the female and sold the male.

Over the years I have lost several valuable founders before getting them to reproduce. At the time I was disappointed, but today I realized the full implications of this lost genetic diversity. When dealing with a small gene pool, each founder is critical to the survival of the population.

The Geoffroy's cat was once a species managed by the AZA zoos and a studbook tracked the population in the US. Studbooks were started using ISIS (International Species Inventory System) reported information. The US zoo population data was supplemented with information provided by private breeders John Perry and Len Davidson. When the AZA decided to eliminate the Geoffroy's cat from their Regional Collections Plan, I was able to inherit the studbook and gain valuable historic information about this species maintained in captivity. In addition to pedigrees,



Geoffroy's cat on Lynn's shoulder as she writes this article.

other knowledge that can be gleaned is average life spans and causes of death. Geoffroy's can be an aggressive species, and in my collection some males have inflicted serious injuries to the females. The Geoffroy's cat studbook documents 257 deaths. While 64% are attributed to "unknown causes," of the 36% of known causes of Geoffroy's cat deaths recorded, the number-one cause of death, "death from cage mate" outnumbers the next two causes of death, euthanasia and infection, by a margin of 2 to 1.

From the studbook, Geoffroy's cat longevity is recorded as follows:

Of the eight oldest males:

- #97 Captive born died at LINCOLN C at age of 20Y, 11M, 10D
- #31 Captive born died at JOHN BALL at age of ~20Y
- #172 Captive born died at NZP-WASH at age of ~20Y, 2M
- #133 Captive born died at HOGLE at age

of 19Y, 3M, 19D

#371 Captive born died at COUGARCOU at age of 19Y, 1M, 23D

#176 Captive born died at J PERRY at age of 19Y, 0M, 9D

#1 Unk birth type died at SACRAMENTO at age of ~18Y

#34 Captive born died at MELBOURNE at age of 17Y, 9M, 11D

Oldest eight females:

#122 Captive born died at HOGLE at age of ~21Y

#180 Captive born died at LITTLEROC at age of 21Y, 0M, 30D

#40 Wild born died at HOGLE at age of ~20Y

#129 Captive born died at SOCSCICAR at age of 19Y, 9M, 26D

#81 Wild born died at J PERRY at age of ~18Y

#344 Wild born died at HATFIELD at age of ~18Y

#203 Captive born died at JOHN BALL at

age of 17Y, 5M, 28D

#374 Captive born died at COUGARCOU at age of 15Y, 11M, 13D

Currently the Geoffroy's cat studbook registers 73 males and 90 females. If you have a Geoffroy's cat, even if it is a sterilized pet, post reproductive breeder, or even a non-breeder education or exhibit feline, I would very much like to include you in the studbook. You may reach me by phone or email. My contact information is listed on the inside cover of each journal issue.

The studbook records the first birth of a Geoffroy's cat in the United States in 1939. For the first two decades the average number of reported births per year was less than one in the entire AZA zoo system. Of the litters born, many times they were lost within a matter of days.

By the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, several AZA zoos became successful at breeding this species and some zoos transferred their offspring to USDA

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licensed dealers. Offspring from Little Rock Zoo went to Brackett, or Church, and Sacramento Zoo transferred to Crown, and Memphis Zoo dealt with Chase. These zoo bloodlines mixed with the private sector gene pool which originated from cats imported in the 1960s and early 1970s for the pet market.

One male Geoffroy's named Sampson born at Columbia Zoo, whose parents can be traced back to a founding pair of Sacramento Zoo breeding stock, eventually found his way into the private sector gene pool though a Bridgeton Zoo transfer to Edna Phipps' PGA facility. Many of today's Geoffroy's pedigrees can be traced back to Sampson.

The Geoffroy's cat has outlasted the margay, oncilla, and jaguarundi in US captivity. It will probably outlast the ocelot. But the long-term future of the Geoffroy's cat in US captivity is guarded at best. For any species to survive, it must both have ample habitat, and the ability to receive new genetic influx.

The Geoffroy's cat is not classified an endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service so it may be freely sold in interstate commerce. But the Geoffroy's cat is listed as CITES Appendix I, giving it the maximum amount of protection from international commercial exploitation. This listing protects it from being commercially trapped and sold in the pelt market. But

being CITES Appendix I also prevents captive stock from being commercially imported and exported. US commercial breeding facilities have little chance of gaining F&W permission to sell or trade their offspring internationally. Without the ability to reciprocate with other countries, breeders are hampered in their efforts to gain new genetics or to cooperate in global breeding programs.

Geoffroy's cats are smaller than domestic cats, they cannot satisfy the desire for a big cat experience for pet owners. Geoffroy's do not have the "wow" factor of larger felines in zoological exhibits. But Geoffroy's are worthy of admiration and devotion. I believe that when it comes to cuteness, nothing beats a Geoffroy's kitten. They are just adorable. With their little blue-black eyes and mouse-like rounded ears, and their goose-step gait, and their constant purr, they take the prize for being the most loveable feline species.

I also believe that the Geoffroy's cat is a species whose greatest value is in representing nature's many unknown and endangered small cat species. With the loss in captivity of margay, oncilla, and jaguarundi, and the rareness of ocelots, it is up to the Geoffroy's to be the ambassador for South American cats, and, also represent every other small cat from around the world, such as the little-known rusty-spotted cats of India, sand cats and black-footed cats of

Africa, and leopard cats and flat-headed cats of Southeast Asia.

The Geoffroy's is the last surviving small exotic cat available for use as an educational ambassador for the private sector. It is important that USDA licensed educators provide them captive habitat and incorporate this interesting and valuable feline into their wildlife programs. With proper rearing and operant conditioning, the young Geoffroy's develops an inquisitive, outgoing, and affectionate personality that makes it an excellent close-encounter ambassador. Several wildlife educators have purchased our Geoffroy's offspring and are using them in their programs and reporting great success.

Spotted Geoffroy's background colors range from rich golden, shades of ochre, to silverish. They are covered in either small spots or impressive dark rosettes. They can also be melanistic, with inky black spots and rosettes that are visible in direct sunlight.

Geoffroy's cats need to have their captive habitat expanded to insure their long-term survival. Hopefully Geoffroy's will return to zoological habitat as public display animals. The American public needs to learn about this small feline, and appreciate the immense diversity in the cat family, from the enormous 600-pound Siberian tiger to the tiny six-pound Geoffroy's cat.

—Lynn Culver



Spotted and melanistic Geoffroy's kittens sandwiched between baby bobcats.



Prejudices: The Asian Leopard Cat

By Thierry Plaud

Prejudices: The world is full of prejudices. We live with them, sometimes without even being conscious that they are rooted deeply in our mind. Hence, we have all heard that black people have a sense of rhythm, Italians are romantic, English people are understated, the French are arrogant, blond girls are stupid, and so on. Of course we also all know exceptions. People who do not fit our preconceived model just shows how we all tend to forget that a lot of common ideas are, in fact, just prejudices.

Cat people are no exception on this matter. Let's quote a few common ideas: Servals are often hissy, lynxes are very sweet cats, leopards are extremely intelligent and mischievous, cheetahs are not aggressive, lions are more difficult to work with than tigers, clouded leopards are easily stressed, ocelots are macho cats, and Asian leopard

cats, aaahhh, Asian leopard cats are just impossible to work with.

I am not saying that all these are completely false ideas. I am saying that this is so deeply rooted in our minds that it will influence our behavior with those cats. This will, in turn, influence that cats' own behavior with us which makes it difficult to know how a given cat would have really behaved if we started with him with a more open mind.

Let me quote a friend for whom I have an enormous admiration, a person who has accumulated years of experience and the most extensive knowledge on small cat species: Jim Sanderson. Jim wrote in the FCF Journal that "if the old literature is correct, you would not have an adult [leopard cat] in the house." Well, Jim, we spend the colder spells of the French winter with not only one, but four adult leopard cats inside our home and one female usually sleeps

with us on our bed.

To be honest, it did not happen just like this, so let's start at the beginning.

When we got our first young female ALC, I was warned that this was indeed a difficult specie to start with. Ella was our first real wildcat. When she came home at the age of four and half months, we already owned (or was it we who were owned?) two Savannah F2 hybrids but I had no previous experience with real wildcats. Once in our quarantine room, Ella gave us no sign that she was especially wild apart from eating whole quails at record speed.

The very first sign showed up when I introduced her to Kassai, our 18 pound male F2 Savannah hybrid. Kassai approached three pound Ella with a lot of confidence obviously interested in this small animal shaped like a weird small cat, and very sure of his superiority due to the large difference of size and weight. Logi-

cally Ella should have been wary, she should have jumped on a high place to get some time to observe him, but mind you Asian leopard cats and especially Ella do not think like this. They have inside them an inner fierceness combined with an outstanding intelligence that may in some occasions, take over their natural shyness. This is exactly what happened. If she had attacked Kassai, this would have been an ugly fight that she would have almost certainly lost, so she just yelled at him. The yelling was so loud that I had to cover my ears. It was just incredible that such a small creature could produce such a noise. Kassai was startled and soon Ella walked directly toward him. He began to back off and was soon cornered. Since she went on yelling at him, he hid his head between his front paws. As soon as he did this, Ella stopped and satisfied, walked away. Kassai is not the type of cat to give up quickly so he tried a couple time more times with the same result. They spent the rest of the day three feet apart, fascinated by each other. It was obvious that Ella was completely in charge of the situation. I watched the whole scene in awe, as I would watch her later convince our 160 pound Newfoundland to let her sleep on his tail. Ella was obviously a spe-



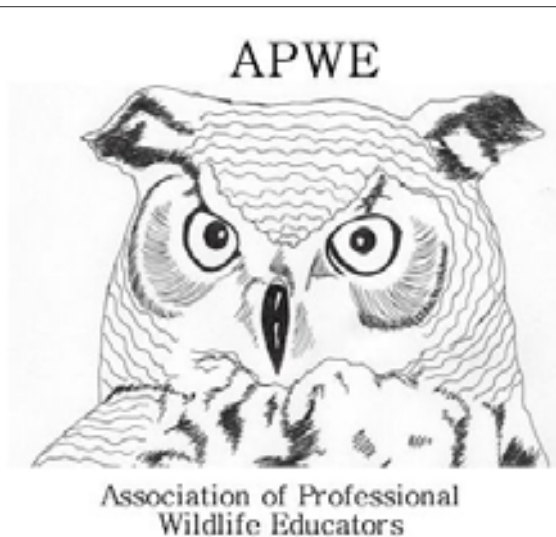
Domestic cat and ALC peacefully share the same space.

cial cat and I knew I had to learn more about this specie. I had some help from FCF member Colette Griffith from Cocoa's Pride and her warning "very few people understand Asian leopard cats" has always stayed in my mind.

About six months later we gave Ella a

little companion named Abou. We got him at the age of 6 months. He was mother raised, far too old, but he was living at that time in a very small space with his sister and I knew that it would be better for him to live with us. Due to his past and despite thousands of hours spent with him, Abou has remained very wary of any human beings and I am the only person who can handle him, though with care. He is also the last one to come and play with me because he will always carefully check the surroundings to make sure no one is around other than me

Sahara and Sensei are interesting cats since I co-raised them with Ella (they were her first litter). Ella had a lot of trouble giving birth to Sensei, her first kitten. He came out butt first and his head remained stuck, so I had to pull him out slowly. He was not breathing, so I tried to gently blow air in his tiny mouth during what felt like an eternity. I was going to give up when he began breathing. During this time, Ella was totally trustful and when I gave her the cub, she ran to the nest box at the other end of the house, licked him, purred, and helped him find her nipples. Eight hours later, Sahara's birth was clean and uneventful. After all those emotions, I felt that Ella had deserved the right to raise them, and this would be an interesting experience since from day one she never had a problem with us handling



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and playing with her cubs. She proved later to be a perfect mother.

We kept that litter and interestingly they have kept their friendliness with me but remain shyer than a bottle fed cat. They helped me a lot in the understanding of ALC behavior and psychology and this is what I shall try to explain below.

As FCF members know, most experiences of releasing captive wild cats have failed due mostly to a lack of hunting skills or attraction to human activity. This is true for all cat species, big and small. Actually all cat species except one which is precisely the Asian leopard cat. Three supporting events have taken place in Thailand and Cambodia. The goal was to release long-time wild captive Asian leopard cats and follow them via telemetry. All releases were successful. The cats reverted to wild quickly.

Another interesting fact is that most wildcats do not deal well with human activity or important changes in their environment. ALCs are also an exception to this. In Malaysia in what is a true environmental catastrophe, most of the rain forests, the original habitat of Asian leopard cats, were destroyed and replaced by huge plantations of palm trees. (Most palm tree oil used in western countries comes from this area.) Surprisingly the cats adapted well to this change. They changed their original diet of small mammals, birds, and reptiles to palm rats almost exclusively. The wild ALC population is doing well! They are, in

fact, the only Asian wildcats who adapted well to this type of sudden change.

After spending some years with them, it does not surprise me that much. Among all 23 species of cats I have worked with, they remain the most surprising and mysterious. They have this unique blend of ferocity, intelligence, curiosity, and shyness rooted deep in their mind that allows them to adapt fairly easily to any new situation without losing the slightest bit of their wild instinct.

They can and will adapt to human beings without losing their instinctive inner fear toward us and will never accept dominance from us. Making them just accept to be lifted off the ground by hands takes hundreds of hours and several months are needed to gain their trust. Even when you gain their trust, if you do not interact for a few days, they will need to observe you a few hours before allowing you to come back at close range.

Another characteristic behavior (common to a lot of nocturnal cats) is that they are far more confident and friendly after sunset, to the point that some of them are really a different cat between day and night.

This little story related to me by Rick Passaro, the manager of the Clouded Leopard Project in Thailand, will help you understand their wildness. Rick was called one morning because some villagers had found a litter of two newborn fishing cats in a nearby Thai forest. The project owns some pairs of this specie and they are trying

to breed them so Rick decided to hand-raise them. Upon arrival, it appeared that the so-called litter of fishing cats was in fact a 1:1 litter of Asian leopard cats. As any cat lover would have done—and since no clouded litter was present at that time—Rick took care of the litter, bottle fed them, and raised them just as he would have with a litter of cloudies with the same amount of love and interaction.

At six months, both cubs decided that this was enough and they flatly refused any contact with their foster father. This never happened with the numerous litters of clouded leopards that Rick raised, even though cloudies do not have the reputation of being especially easy cats to interact with.

So if some of you want to get those cats, you must accept this wild side, which makes the reward even greater when they consider you as a friend.

Sadly, in spite of their beauty, the captive



gene pool is shrinking all over the world. They do not interest zoos (they are stressed by the public and will hide during daytime) and are used mainly in the US for hybrid programs. I am not at all against hybrids but I do agree with a recent article of Fred Boyajian: the FCF is essentially as his name says, a conservation organization, and therefore the emphasis has to be put on wildcats. This does not exclude hybrids which can have a very good educational value on the condition that it does not get to the point that hybrids become more important (and more numerous) than their ancestors.

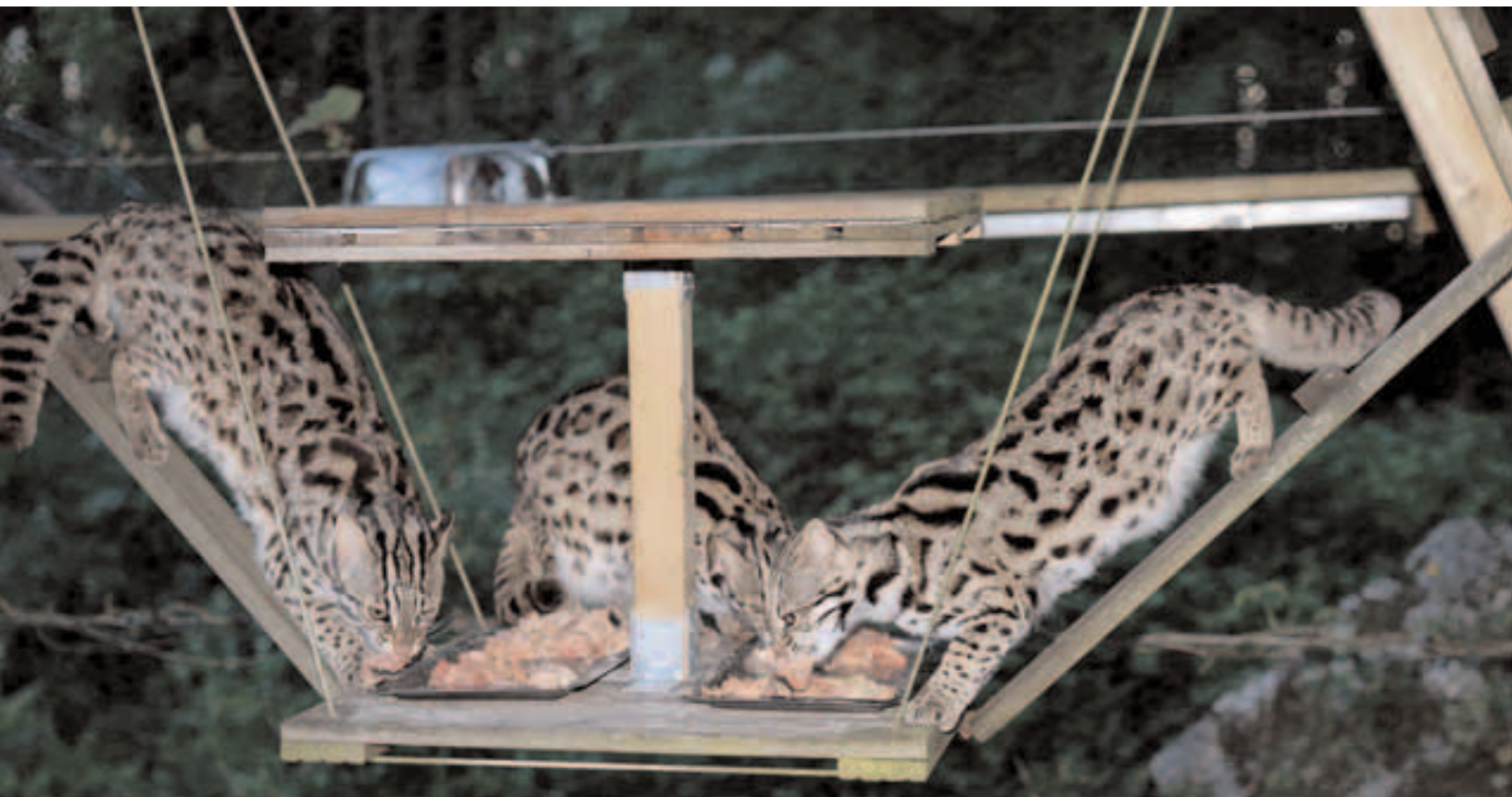
The ALC's day-to-day care is not different than other small cats and they breed well if placed in suitable habitats. Since they are arboreal cats, they tend to feel more comfortable in high places and with dense vegetation. You will need fairly large enclosures for their size with a lot of aerial pathways, platforms, and hiding places. In my experience, it is better to put nest boxes and shelters in high places too.

We also place food on high platforms to facilitate the separation of cats when feeding them and to prevent any contamination of the food by the rodents which are abundant in our area, to the delight of our cats.



Another specificity of this species is that they like to urinate and defecate in the water (a natural behavior aimed at conceal-

ing their presence to potential predators). An open cat litter box with a half inch of water surrounded by a small wooden plat-





The ALC's outdoor enclosure.

form is advisable inside their enclosure.

With any small cats, a balanced diet involves either whole prey or a variety of meats (preferably with an emphasis on poultry and rodents since red meat is rich in fat and phosphorus and poor on taurine. We use Apperon Oasis and Prima-Cal as supplements, plus probiotics every other month. We have never had a cat which did not like them.

For kittens, the standard formulas work well, our formula is 2/3 KMR and 1/3 Ormilak, a kitten milk only found in Europe. (Its composition is similar to Esbilac but with more taurine.) We do add some taurine since when compared to ALC mother milk, all formulas sold are quite poor on that amino acid.

We also train the cubs at a very early age to accept putting pills inside their mouths, usually low dose vitamins pills. This lowers the stress in case your kitten gets sick and has to be put on antibiotics or other medicine. They usually stop accepting it around the age of one year.

We use standard deworming programs alternating different large spectrum deworming drugs in the form of pills. We are lucky to live in an area where heartworms or lungworms are extremely rare.

ALCs, like all neotropical cats, do not do well with cold temperatures below 50°F. If they have to endure the cold for several

days, we put them inside our house. Fortunately, they they defecate in the water and are litter trained; we just have to bring their special water litter box inside. When staying inside, we let them roam the whole house and it is sometimes quite noisy at night when they are playing, chasing each other, or jumping on your bed. We never had any problem with our hybrids, domestic cats, or Newfoundland dog fighting with ALCs. This is perhaps due to the fact that they were introduced to all other animals at a young age and that they have a private mezzanine and upstairs room where the other animals cannot access freely.

I put a huge emphasis on daily interaction with all the species I own. The interaction is done by myself or by the keeper working at our facility when I am gone. I was surprised that all cats adapted fairly well to her after I taught her how to behave with them.

For Asian leopard cats, I have found that the best type of play with them is what I call “simulated predation play.” I use a rodent-shaped toy at the end of a rope and have them chase it all over the enclosure. This is a good opportunity to inspect them, handle them, and observe their social behavior. Quite unusually we have two males and two females in the same enclosure and never have had a fight but I would not recommend this as a standard practice.

This was only possible because one of the males (Abou) is extremely sweet with any other cats and all the cats were introduced to each other at a young age.

If you have adults of the same sex living together in good harmony, it is unwise to separate them for any reason more than two weeks. If you do so, you expose yourself to extreme fights when reuniting them. Those fights may likely cause the death of one of the animals, especially among the males.

I encourage those of you who love small cats to make space in your facilities for your own ALC. They are such a beauty to watch and lovely cats in their own way, but be aware that they will require a lot of your time.

Some of you I visited or interned with, told me that I had an instinctive connection with cats. This connection was likely ingrained in me by the thousands of hours spent with ALCs, trying to remember and understand their slightest communication signals and body language (never evident) until the point that I knew by instinct how far I could go with them, something quite useful with big and small cats.

Thank you to Colette Griffith and Jesse Clark-White, two FCF members who helped me a lot at the beginning of my learning process and taught me lessons still valid today. •



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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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Bobcat: Totemic “Housecat” of the Prehistoric Southwest?

William H. Smith, Ph.D.

The bobcat (*Felis rufus*) also known as bay lynx, wildcat, and cat of the mountains is probably the most widespread and adaptable native cat in the New World. Part of this great adaptive ability lies in its varied diet (primarily consisting of rats, rabbits, mice, reptiles, and birds), relative small size (adult length: 3 feet, weight: 25 pounds), crepuscularism, and secretive habits.

Bobcats are respected for their potential fierceness, stealth, keen eyesight, and adaptability. The teeth, claws, feet, and tail are the principally ritualized physical attributes or body parts. The bobcat is an excellent climber of trees but often prefers to hunt on the ground. Typical hunting and living area is 2-5 square miles, but may be much smaller or larger than this. Even today bobcats seem to thrive near towns and cities. They have at times benefited from the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. Like coyotes, bobcats are very susceptible to traps and poison. Fortunately, bobcat fur is not considered especially valuable, but there are official trapping seasons in most states where this native feline resides. In the United States, the bobcat is currently not on the endangered species list. Some regional subspecies of the bobcat are now extinct, leaving us with less biologic diversity, but the bobcat is rebounding from its endangered status in Midwest states such as Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. The loss of feline diversity in some areas of its range is due to altered ecosystems from human

activity and the urban sprawl associated with population increase.

In the wild it is typical for 2-4 young to be born in the late spring. The young usually stay with their mother until fall at which time they become independent hunters and go their separate ways. Southern bobcats may produce a second litter if the spring litter is lost. Those bobcats living near settlements are known to commonly catch rats, rabbits, and mice, and may feed on food scraps from garbage dumps. Bobcats may also eat vegetables and fruits in the wild and in captivity. The bobcat's diet and range is much more varied than that of its closest relative, the lynx.

Several traditional Hopi and Zuni sodalities or clans, which are based on or symbolized by important faunal species, are still in existence today in the American Southwest. These include the bear, eagle, parrot, and bobcat clans. In prehistory, golden eagles were kept as domesticates by the Zuni. Scarlet macaws (*Ara macau*) and other parrots were kept and bred by the Anasazi of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico and the Sinagua (Hopi ancestors) of Wupakti Pueblo in central Arizona.

Sedentary farmers of the prehistoric southwest, such as the Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo peoples, relied on fields of maize, beans, and squash which were often planted in isolated areas both near and far from their places of residence. The Puebloans are known to have used children, domestic Puebloan dogs, and scarecrows to protect their often meager subsistence crops from a variety of non-insect pests including various rodents, rabbits, and birds. Stored crops and seeds were also susceptible to rodent damage and loss throughout the year. Bobcats may have been naturally drawn to Puebloan crop fields at twilight in summer and fall because of the rodents, rabbits, and birds which were attracted to isolated crop fields. Bobcats are more nocturnal, agile, and secretive than dogs, which may

have given them an advantage over dogs in rabbit, rodent, and bird control. A dog may only temporarily frighten away a crop pest, while the bobcat (either wild or “domestic”) has a greater ability to pursue and eliminate such pests.

People who have hand-raised bobcats and other non-domestic felines consistently report that in the same litter of young, much diversity may be observed in behavior and temperament. Some members of the same litter may be quite docile even as adults, while other litter members may become permanently intractable and defiant as older kittens or adolescents. Docile hand-raised bobcats often become affectionate pets and “housecats,” living for more than 20 years in captivity.

Evidence from one large prehistoric Hopi pueblo, called Awatovi, in north central Arizona suggests that some Hopi peoples of the thirteenth century may have been home-raising bobcats. Selected bobcats may have lived with humans as living totemic symbols, pets, and possibly as an occasional controlling factor in rodent, rabbit, or bird control.

Excavation and zooarchaeologic analysis conducted by Stanley Olson of the University of Arizona showed that both adult and young bobcats had occupied several rooms at the site of Awatovi more than 700 years ago. These bobcat bones were differentiated from young cougar (*Puma concolor*) bones by size, subtle morphology, and differing dental formulae—cougar: 3131/3121, bobcat: 3121/3121. These bobcats represented individuals of several ages and stages of development, and were found without apparent butchery marks. This may suggest that the cats in this instance were not used as food animals themselves. The typical human uses for “domestic” felines include companionship and pest control.

Conclusion

The bobcat had great ritual and shamanic importance to indigenous peoples of the prehistoric southwest and may have had occasional utilitarian use as a controller of crop pests. Some archaeologic and ethnographic evidence suggests that bobcats were kept as domesticates and possibly hand-raised in prehistoric pueblos of the southwest. •



Christian Mikusevich



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Handling Aggression in Small Cats

By Lisa Padula

When I was asked me to write this article, I felt a little hesitant. My experience is limited to the trapping and socializing of feral domestic cats, and my work as a veterinary technician. But a cat is a cat and we just need to make adjustments for size.

As far as the larger cats go, it would be best if one of you “big gun experts” could give some suggestions. Anything over 25 pounds is out of my league.

There are five rules that I go by when dealing with an aggressive felines. I will elaborate more on each.

1. Having the proper energy about you (feelings)
2. Have the necessary safety equipment
3. Secure borders
4. Check health
5. Don not give up...ever!

1. Have the Proper Energy

I cannot stress enough how important this is. Cats are masters at detecting how we feel. If we smell fearful or hesitant it is all over before it even starts with them.

You must get rid of any fear or anxiety, and replace it with a calm positive feeling that you know your stuff.

When dealing with an aggressive feline, she is all that is in your world for that moment. No cell phones, conversations with housemates, and no mind wandering. Figure out the grocery list later, as they are your one and only focus for the moment. Taking your focus away—even for a moment—can be disastrous.

How do you get to a point of no fear? Well, it may be different for all of us, but for me it was a sincere love and a strong desire to help above and beyond the biting, screaming, scratching, and ferocious displays that can send the weaker of heart running for cover.

So gather your courage and start practicing your proper energy on a less aggressive cat until you feel confident.

2. Safety Equipment

You will need it all! We have had many vendors at convention that sell marvelous equipment for protection.

Depending on the level of aggression you are dealing with, it could be sturdy gloves, nets, heavy blankets, and muzzles for them. Full body protection for you

might be needed especially for necks, ankles, knees, and wrists to protect you from a whirling claw or fang.

My personal favorite is my husband Paul’s old motorcycle helmet with built in face shield. I always make sure the “aggressor” sees me suit up so she knows that it is me and not a space alien. It also helps to leave the equipment around for them to sniff and inspect before you start. Rubbing some catnip on it may help, if they respond well to it.

3. Secure Borders

Before you head off to where your patient is, make sure the borders are secure. You want no place where your cat can go that you cannot retrieve her. It is necessary to be doubly protected in case they get by you the first time.

Many years back we had an adult feral domestic brought to our clinic to be spayed, so she could then be released back to her colony.

One of the veterinary technicians all gloved, shielded, and protected went to

retrieve her from the kennel where she was housed. Upon opening the door, she shot straight up defying gravity and into the dropped ceiling some 8ft. high. In a two story clinic of approximately 3,000 square feet per floor, this was Disneyland for cats, and a very sorry situation for us. Three days later with a Havahart trap and a smelly can of sardines, we caught our prize and learned a valuable lesson. So tighten those borders and save yourself a few gray hairs!

4. Check Health

If a cat is dealing with a medical issue and feels badly, that can certainly manifest itself in aggression. For example, if a cat is suffering with diabetes, the high blood sugar is going to have them feeling quite awful. No matter what you are selling, she will want none of it because they feel just horrible.

So rule any health issues out before you start. Once they are on medications and feeling better, your playing field will be a lot more pleasant. Sometimes putting an



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aggressive cat on antidepressants will also help to calm them, making working with them a bit more enjoyable and less dangerous.

Many compounding pharmacies are available to help. They can mix up a tasty chicken or fish flavored treat concealing the medicine. There are transdermal gels and patches available. Use these so medicating your whirling dervish will be more pleasant for you both.

The pharmacy we use is Vet Pharmacy of America in Houston, Texas, 877-838-7979. (You may need to go through your veterinarian.)

Also a spoonful of catnip helps the medicine go down. Some enjoy the fresh green leaves, others prefer them dried. Some cats don't respond to catnip, and others react aggressively like a mean drunk. So check first!

I always bring the catnip jar when I medicating my home or clinic patients. Most are just so excited to have the "nip" that they take their meds without much fuss and everyone ends up happy.

5. Do Not Give Up...Ever!

OK, so kitty is healthy, and now it is time to make friends so future medical treatment and love time will not leave you in shreds.

If you have ever been lucky enough to have a young kitten that you raised to adulthood, then you probably have that ideal relationship. When kittens are too small to fear ear cleaning, nail clipping, anal gland expression, pilling, and medicating, they will accept it later in life. And life is easy. The kitten looks to you as the surrogate parent for life and your bond is close.

Adult cats from unknown backgrounds present a problem. You have no bond with them, they want nothing to do with you, and many are just frightened as their contact with humans was minimal or not at all.

Being predators they see us as a threat, and want nothing better than to put a lot of space between them and us.

Let's say you have a wild aggressive cat in a cage to care for. Health checks turned out OK and she came from a bad situation with little human contact.

First you will need a commitment of time, even if it is 20-30 minutes twice daily. You will need to keep it regular. The cat will learn the routine and soon expect your

arrival. They loathe change, so make sure it is a time you can commit to. Do not wear strong perfumes and hair gels. Most smell nasty to them. You wouldn't want Pigpen snuggling up to you either!

Look at things from a cat point of view, she is frightened and does not know what to expect, and she does not speak your language. For all she knows you may be waiting to make dinner out of her now that she's confined to your lair.

I suggest you become the food source; it will be your first foot in the door. And, make it really good food with tasty snacks in between.

Face it, if someone were caring for you, wouldn't you be more receptive to them if they brought beer and lobster, rather than water and brussels sprouts? Find out their Achilles' heel; it might be food good.

Stay nearby while she eats, and talk softly to her. It can take a while but she will eventually eat in your presence. Endure!

Offer treats by hand through the fence. Hand feeding is very bonding, do this as often as you can.

In time, work your way into the enclosure using food as the lure. (Suit up if necessary.) Sit in a corner and read, eventually include toys. Talk and visualize everything that you do. Bring a little catnip, but first try catnip outside the cage to make sure she responds well to it.

Look at things from a cat point of view...for all she knows you may be waiting to make dinner out of her now that she's confined to your lair.

Eventually she will become curious about you and the gifts you have brought and will venture closer to sniff. This can sometimes take months, so please be patient. Extend you index finger for sniff inspection (wear a glove if your concerned about her body language). This is like a cat handshake, if she sniffs your finger consider this a well earned wow!

The same goes with touch. Let her continue to sniff you, and try lightly touching her to see if she reacts. You may want to wear gloves at first. Let her sniff your index finger, then slowly move your hand along side her body. She may jolt back, but try every day and eventually it will become common to her.

Bring along a brush one day. Let her sniff it, then move it alongside her body. She most likely will shy away from it, but keep trying daily. You may get one brush stroke today, but in one month of daily treatments you will be getting several and she will be enjoying it.

Once the bond of trust has been built, have your vet show you some restraint techniques using gloves, heavy towels, and cat muzzles. Practice on an easy-going friendly cat until you are feeling confident.

Bring the equipment in with you, and leave it with the cat to examine. Make sure there are no strings or attached objects she may accidentally ingest.

After about one week, try wrapping her

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in the towel, and holding her for a few moments. Release her when she wants out. Again, do this daily to build up time and reward her for her good behavior. Make it a positive experience for both of you. You must not be nervous. This is where feelings come on strong, and you should have practiced this well on the friendly cat.

This is all done in baby steps, and may feel quite frustrating to you in the beginning but it does pay off.

Once she is comfortable in the towel, try patting the outside and slowly work your way underneath handling her feet and tail. Pat the top of her head working to each ear, look inside. Within three months of doing this you'll be cleaning them as well. Tilt the head back until her jaw slacks and raise her gum tissue to inspect her teeth.

This will take time, sometimes many months or even years. We must earn their respect and trust, which is why you must be committed. Always reward her for good behavior.

You may find that she soon associates the towel with exams, and may choose a "surrender spot" for you to treat her. This will make things easy for you in the future as all you will have to say is "go get on your spot" or show the towel.

Always let them inspect anything new and tell them what you will be doing. Before you get to thinking I should be wrapped in a net, just try it. It really does pay off!

Cats are always testing you, and on occasion will wack their medicine right out of your hand. Give them a time out for a few moments then continue. They will eventually understand you will not be leaving until the medicating, nail trim, or whatever you are doing is completed. This of

course will stress you far more than it will them! But stay calm!

Depending on your cat, handling might be accomplished in days, weeks, or sometimes years. But if you are committed every day, you will get to where you want to be. There are no shortcuts. The road to success here is paved with love, patience, and time.

Also, the use of flower essences and Tellington TTouch [sic] can be of use if your mind is open to them.

At the clinic I do not usually have the time to make friends, unless it is a boarding or hospitalized feline. It's into the exam room for 15-20 minutes to perform an annual or treatment of an ill animal which may require blood work, X-rays or a wound repair.

If you find yourself in a situation with a time limit, stay calm, talk, visualize and show your patient what needs to be done.

For example, if you need to shave and clean a wound, do not rush at the cat with restraint, clipper, and antiseptic solution. If a doctor came flying at me with all that stuff, I would escape myself.

Let them know what you will be doing. Talk calmly to them, show them the clipper, and let them sniff what you will be using. And if a noisy clipper is involved, turn it on and off a few times so the cat can become familiar with the noise and vibration. "Clipper" is another word for small vacuum cleaner, and the noise scares them. This will save you from having to pick them off the ceiling, while you lick your many wounds.

After every procedure, give them some

type of reward such as food or catnip. This way they know something is in it for them.

If we tame them, we are responsible for them.

At our first FCF convention many years ago, I remember meeting a long-time member who recently lost her cat. She was visibly upset, and we went over to offer our condolences for her loss.

Sadly, her cat had died of a treatable infection. She was unable to handle the cat for medication, and this was a tragedy that should never have happened. This teaches us that we all need to be educated before committing to the guardianship of these wondrous animals.

Never underestimate them. Cats are an extremely intelligent species much like ourselves. I have witnessed them watching something I do, and then repeating it when I am not looking. Some examples of this is unlocking a cage, or amusingly enough using a toilet!

At convention a few years back when Paul and I were taking the husbandry course, the subject of "which is smarter, a cat or dog?" came up.

Of course, the class opinions were mixed and we never resolved our differences. So we soon went on to our next subject. Later,


George Stowers was telling us a funny story about his serval, Max. He had to give her a piece of chicken each night before he would get off the couch and go to his room at bedtime.

George had been making some of the pieces smaller as Max was putting on some pounds. One evening George offered Max a smaller piece, but Max just ignored George until he offered a larger piece. I immediately raised my hand and said a dog would have taken the first piece, the class erupted in laughter...and I figured case closed on that!

So gather up your courage and dig in, a wonderful relationship awaits.

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Wildlife Conservation Network Expo Weekend

By Debi Willoughby

The Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) is dedicated to protecting endangered species and preserving their natural habitats. They support innovative strategies for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive. I have been a member of the WCN for a couple years and had not attended their annual expo until now.

Jim Sanderson asked me if I would like to go this year and I said yes. I stayed at the hotel he and the other WCN speakers were staying. On my first morning at the hotel, I found myself eating breakfast with Jim Thomas of Tenkile Conservation Alliance. He lives with his wife and son in New Guinea and has devoted his life to tree kangaroos. It was a very fascinating breakfast conversation! I could not wait to meet the other speakers and hear what they were working on. But that would all have to wait, because we had a lot to do to get ready for the day. It was early Saturday morning and the WCN Expo was waiting for all of us to show up, set up, and get the ball rolling.

The speakers each had their own booth to set up and I had previously offered to help out the FCF booth, so I found their booth and got to work. The expo was an all-day event with a variety of booths and numerous speakers presenting throughout the day. The speakers were conservationists from around the world whose projects help a wide variety of animals from lions to okapi to orangutans. This was an event where the conservationists could reach out and inform the general public about their conservation projects. Visitors spent the day checking out the booths and listening to the speakers. Our FCF booth had a steady flow of people passing by and inquiring about our organization. To my surprise there were quite a few people who recognized our name and either became a member that day or got more info from us about the FCF. The keynote speaker was Jane Goodall. I had the privilege of hearing her speak last year in NYC and was very excited to hear her speak again. She is such an amazing woman and has done a lot for humanity and wildlife. After her speech there was to be a book signing by her. She selflessly urged people to continue listen-



Photos by Debi Willoughby

FCF member Fred Boyajian visits booth staff Patty Perry, Debi Willoughby, Caroline Alexander, and Jill Galindo.

ing to the wonderful speakers instead of standing in line to get a book signed by her. She said she would stay all day so everyone could get their books signed. I thought that

was very gracious of her; she seemed to understand the value of the speakers and their projects and did not want to take away from that.

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FCF member Rob Dicely from the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund shows the fund's king cheetah.

By the end of the day we were all tired and felt that our presence there was a success. We signed up four new members, sold a couple stuffed Andean cats for Jim Sanderson's Andean project and we sold numerous raffle tickets for the African safari. I want to thank Caroline for being in charge of our booth; she did a great job! I also want to thank everyone who volunteered. We all enjoyed each other's company and represented the FCF in a professional and positive manner.

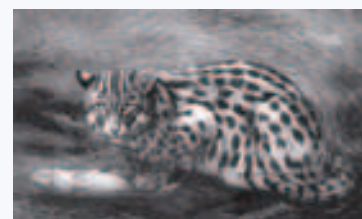
The day after the Expo was the garden party at Charlie Knowles house. Charlie is the WCNs executive director. He hosted the party at his house so conservationists had a relaxed atmosphere to meet and speak with potential funding donors. He has a beautiful house. He and all of the WCN volunteers put on an amazing party! The view was spectacular. His house is situated up high, looking down on the San Francisco area with low-lying mountains in the background. There was food everywhere you looked and everything tasted great. I can't imagine how long it took to plan this event and set it all up. Everything seemed to run seamlessly. There were well over 200 people at the party and everyone was so friendly. I went to the party to be an observer, see what I could learn and to represent the FCF. I respected that the conservationists and donors were busy trying to work together and I did not want to get in their way, so I carefully waited and introduced myself to people when they were not busy networking with

others. With that said, there were so many people there to talk to that I did not spend anytime by myself!

Rob and Barbara Dicely from the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund put on an amazing cat show. They brought their Canada lynx, African caracal, Geoffroy's cat, cougar, and king cheetah to the show to teach us about them. Their cats were beautiful and behaved well with such a large audience watching them. After the show I spent some time speaking with Rob Dicely and Cathryn Hilker—yes, Cathryn was there! I was hoping to get some solid tidbits on training cats. Boy was I surprised! They are both experienced wildcat trainers and train their cats completely differently! Rob trains using meat as a positive reinforcement and Cathryn does not use food to train her cats! My head was spinning after listening to them! Even though their training techniques were completely opposite, they both end up with the same results: well-trained cat ambassadors. This proved to me that if a technique I am trying on my own animals doesn't work, there are other ways to try that may succeed.

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Besides all of the delicious food, beverages, new-found friends, and live music there were animal paintings displayed throughout the house to look at and purchase. These were beautiful paintings of wild animals, both young and old. The artist really had a knack for capturing an animal's expression.

What an exciting day we all had! It was a wonderful party, great cat show, and by the end of the night I think we were all exhausted and looking forward to getting back to the hotel to rest.

The next morning I got on a plane to fly home. As I was looking out the plane window at the scenery below I reflected on the weekend I had just had. I was amazed at what the WCN was all about. They "partner with independent, community-based conservationists around the world and provide them with the capital and tools they need to develop solutions for human-wildlife coexistence." The group is well organized, keeps their valuable volunteers happy, and sets up unique opportunities for conservationists to meet with potential money donors throughout the year. This year's event was a huge success and I think the FCF could benefit from a relationship with the WCN. I believe the FCF board should take some time to think about how the WCN works, why it is successful and what we can do to improve and expand the FCF's goals. I would also recommend this annual expo to anyone who is interested in wildlife conservation. Besides learning about the wildlife projects, you have the opportunity to speak with the conservationists in person.

If you would like to learn more about the WCN, please check out their website at

www.wildnet.org. •

More on the Expo:

By Patty Perry

The eighth annual Wildlife Conservation Expo was held over the weekend of October 3-4. It was as informative and enlightening as it was fun.

On Saturday, the expo was held at the Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco, California. This is a new state of the art complex that delivers an ambiance of comfort and quality second to none. The tranquil courtyard setting offered inviting displays from 40 associate organizations. These individual booths represented conservation messages from around the world. FCF participated in this very important event. Four of our members set up shop and hosted our booth to share information with co-conservationists and the general public. Caroline Alexander, Jill Galindo, Debi Willoughby, and I spent the day conversing, educating visitors, and welcoming new members to FCF. We girls worked in shifts so that they could take turns attending the lectures that were offered throughout the day.

The schedule of presenters was a "who's who" list of global heavyweights in the conservation world. There was something for everyone. Lectures were running concurrently throughout the day in two auditoriums. Topics ranged from issues with elephant (Dr. Ian Douglas Hamilton), camel (John Hare), zebra (Belinda Lowe), cheetah (Rebecca Klein), wolf (Dr. Claudio Sillero), saiga (Elena Bykova), painted dog (Dr. Greg Rasmussen and Peter Blinston), proyecto titi (Rosamira Guillen), okapi

(John Lukas), lion (Keith Begg), Andean cat (Dr. Mauro Lucherini), snow leopard (Dr. Rodney Jackson), orangutan (Dr. Isabel Lackman), tenkile (Jim and Jean Thomas), and small cats (Dr. Jim Sanderson). The keynote speaker was Jane Goodall, who took time for a book signing session after her lecture. In addition, a demonstration with working dogs for conservation and Dr. Megan Parker took place during the lunch break out on the lawn. By the way, the food was delicious!

Sunday followed the expo with an exclusive garden party held in Los Altos at the home of Wildlife Conservation Network executive director, Charlie Knowles. This was an open house theme that lasted all afternoon. It was a fun-filled day of music, wine tasting, conversation, and lots of incredible food that just kept on coming! The five-star culinary presentations were provided by Kennon Dickson-Hudson who impressed everyone with her skill as well as her generosity. Guests from all walks of life, all different backgrounds, and all different levels of conservation interests interacted, socialized, and exchanged contact information.

FCF was well represented at the event, and I was joined by FCF members Debi Willoughby, Fred Boyajian, Jim Sanderson, Cathryn Hilker, and Rob and Barbara Dickey at this Sunday event.

Rob and Barbara Dickey presented their "Wildcat Adventure," a conservation outreach program that features live ambassador felines. King cheetah, Siberian lynx, cougar, and their three youngest additions, adolescent caracal, Canada lynx, and Geoffroy's cat were a big hit at this event and really got things going.

Isn't that what it is all about? Networking. And this was the richest venue for networking imaginable! People from across the globe in a spirited and richly inspired atmosphere making things happen.

In spite of how things may appear sometimes, the truth is there is an abundance of positive and innovative work being done by many dedicated and capable people. These individuals have developed successful solutions to many of the problems we face. Their tireless effort and relentless work is awe-inspiring.

I know that I will be back next year! •



Charlie Knowles speaks with Jane Goodall.

Willow and Adeena

By Kim Barker

I was discussing my volunteer work at the Conservators' Center, Inc (CCI) with a friend of mine when she asked the question, "So, how do you become friends with a lion?" My reply was very matter-of-fact: "You don't really. They become friends with you." I do need to also qualify that by saying there are things you can do to help the relationship along.

On a very warm June day, I made my first visit to CCI for a volunteer orientation. Our orientation leader was very nice, but pulled no punches about the real dangers that working with wild animals can bring if safety precautions are not followed. After spending about an hour or so going through the volunteer handbook, I was on my way to my first tour of the compound.

As we made our way through the compound, I became more and more astounded by the animals I was seeing. Some of them I had never heard of before. After touring the "small" compound, we stopped at a gate, and our orientation leader told us we were heading into an area called "large" compound where the large cats, wolves, and singers (New Guinea singing dogs) were kept. "Don't run, stay five feet from the enclosures, and step to the right or left if someone raises their tail in front of you or you will get wet!" This was the warning given to us by our leader.

As we made our way through the large compound, we went through an area known as quarantine. It is not really a quarantine area, but it is too small to safely take a tour group through. We stopped in front of an enclosure with two lionesses. "This is Willow and Adeena," our leader said. I was mesmerized. I could not take my eyes off of this 3-year-old lioness named Willow. I had never been so close to a grown animal like this in my life. As I was admiring her, she was staring back. She didn't move a muscle, at least not at first. Then, she made a sudden lunge toward the fence. Mind you, she did not hit the fence, just kind of jumped toward it. I must have noticeably responded because my orientation leader and the other "newbie" volunteer were laughing hysterically. I looked back at this lioness and instead of seeing an angry animal that had charged the fence waiting to

make me lunch, Willow actually seemed rather amused and proud of herself for making my heart rate quadruple in speed. Somehow, out of that few seconds, a friendship was born.

I found out that most of the animals here enjoy scents like mints and cinnamon rubbed on pretty much anything. Most weekends, after I finish my work in the compound, I head to Willow and Adeena's

enclosure to visit with these feisty girls and bring them treats. At first I used just any piece of cardboard with any kind of mint type extract I could find. I noticed that cinnamon seems to be the scent of choice for these two. What usually happens is that they lay on top of each other trying to get to the scent, so I started bringing a box for each of them.

One day, I brought a couple of pizza





boxes. I sprinkled cinnamon on the inside and outside of one of the boxes and heaved it over the fence. Willow went nuts. She laid on her back with the box clutched between her two front paws, rubbing it on her face. She clapped on it and hugged it. This was obviously a hit for her and I enjoyed watching her have fun. After two years of this, she still has a blast with pizza boxes loaded with cinnamon oil.

Adeena appreciates the scents, but does not respond quite as dramatically as her sister, with the one exception being a very large box I brought one evening that she could almost climb into. Food is more her thing, and I bring that every now and again for them as well. Of course, being a lion, Willow also responds enthusiastically to food. There are few greater pleasures in the world then being able to feed a lion whipped cream and watch how much they enjoy it.

As I began spending more time with them, I realized that they recognized me as I would come up the path through quarantine. It's quite a sight to see my feline friends literally bouncing as they see me coming. I have always started talking to them before I get to their enclosure, and they know I am specifically coming to see them.

There are "hugs" (which is basically them standing on their hind legs with their

front legs on the fence leaning in), "oofs," and lots of rubbing on the fence. Even if I have nothing to give them, they both will come to the fence to greet me. There is sometimes obvious disappointment that I have no treats for them, but it usually only takes a few seconds for them to forgive me.

Willow has obviously taken possession of me, and if Adeena is a little too close, Willow will give her a reminder with a snarl and a grump that I am hers first. However, they are a pair, and it's impossible to just give one of them attention. Willow eventually relents and lets her sister in on the visit. Once greetings are exchanged and treats are handed out, there is nothing

quite like having one of these awesome creatures just lie at your feet and visit in appreciation.

These two have made quite an impression on me. I cannot visit CCI during the day without making an effort to get to the far end of the compound to see these two. When driving in the gate, I say hello, and when leaving, I tell them good-night. After all, that's what friends do when they visit, right? Except at this point, these two are more like my adopted children, which makes it even more special.

Both of these magnificent creatures have me wrapped around their rather large paws, and more importantly, they know it (Willow especially). •

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Are you interested in winning a trip to Africa?

Or free convention registration and hotel stay for the 2010 FCF convention in Oklahoma City?

This is the last journal before the African safari sweepstakes ends January 1, 2010. The response from the membership has been far less than expected. That is bad news for the FCF, but very good news for you. Your chances of winning this trip are 1 in 174 right now. If you generate just one dozen donations to the FCF you will be in top place for convention registration and hotel stay.

This is supposed to be an FCF fundraiser, a way to pay for the expenses of running this corporation and paying the mounting costs of all the programs and services without raising FCF membership dues.

This is a way for every member to easily generate \$10 donations to the FCF. The African safari prize is valued at \$7,000 and provides international airfare and a one-week safari at a luxury Zulu Nyala Lodge in South Africa for the winner and their guest. The winner and guest enjoy three gourmet meals and two guided game rides daily. The prize can be booked anytime during the next year. If you win but cannot make the trip, you can transfer it by giving it away as a present or selling it outright.

Right now, the top donation getters (including entry tickets made out in their own name) who are contenders for free convention registration and hotel stay, according to the number of entry forms that have these members as the 'referred by' person, are as follows:

Kurt Beckelman (23), Lynn Culver (11), Judith Hoffman (14), Caroline Alexander

(10), Craig Derosa (10), Kelly Lucas (10), Ron Kooienga (11), Tina Thompson (7)

Our treasurer Kurt Beckelman was the gatekeeper at the convention and got many of the attendees to donate to the cause. He has also worked locally to gain FCF donations and sign people up for the sweepstakes. He is ahead, but anyone can catch him and win free convention registration and hotel lodging at next year's convention.

Every zoo owner, every exhibitor, every person who has the public passing through their business, every school student, or store owner can easily be generating \$10 donations to the FCF and at the same time, contribute to their own chance of winning free FCF convention registration and hotel stay. And don't forget, for every ten donations referred by an FCF member, a sweepstakes entry form will be filled out in your name. Go to the Members-Only section of the FCF web site and print out a safari sweepstakes poster and photocopy extra sweepstakes entry forms. Another page of four entry forms is included in this journal. You can also enter this sweepstakes by making a donation online using PayPal right on the FCF web site.

I received a few questions from a member recently and I wish to share the answers with everyone.

Q. Is there a limit on how many a single person can buy/enter? Or is it just one per address?

A. You may enter as many times as you wish and for every 10 entries that you have yourself written in as the 'referred by' name, another entry form will be filled out in your name.

Q. If a person wins, and for some reason cannot take the trip, are they allowed to give it to someone else?

A. The grand prize is completely transferable—you can give it away or you can sell it on eBay. Estimated value is \$7,000. International airfare usually runs around \$1,500 to \$2,000 per person depending upon time of year, and the week long stay at the lodge is valued at \$3,000.

Q. Can a member of FCF buy tickets also, or can they only receive the one entry per ten?

A. Every FCF member can make as many donations to the FCF as they wish,



and for each \$10 donation, a sweepstakes entry form in their name can be filled out and submitted. In other words, every ten tickets that a FCF member buys results in 11 entries.

Q. If I collect cash for entries, am I allowed to send one personal check of mine for the lump sum?

A. If you receive cash, you can certainly write FCF a check and mail it in. That would be better than sending cash through the mail. Just be sure to sign your name on their receipt side of the entry form and give it to the person who gave you the cash donation because that is their proof that they gave you \$10 for their entry.

Q. If a member is not allowed to purchase tickets, can the spouse? Or a family member such as a sister or brother, etc.?

A. Members, spouses, children, anyone can make a donation and for every \$10 donation given to the FCF, the donor will be entered once into the sweepstakes.

I am counting on you FCF members to make this fundraiser a success. I know that FCF members can raise funds for conservation; the success of the Andean Cat Conservation and Monitoring Center project proved that. Now members, it is important that FCF members raise funds for the FCF. Without additional income, this organization will not be able to continue to provide the level of goods and services you have come to expect. If you approve of the work that FCF does for you, and you want FCF to improve, please show your support of the FCF and participate in this African safari sweepstakes event. •



Mike Friese

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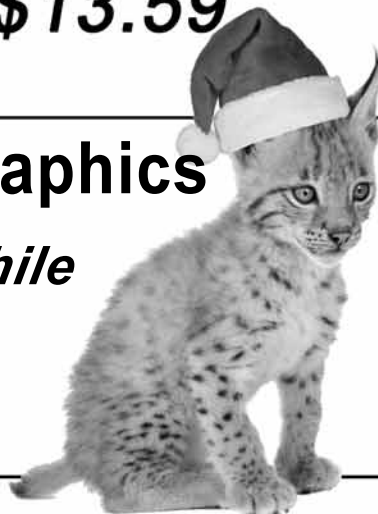


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Why Accreditation?

By Kevin Chambers

You may have thought to yourself before, “Why should I apply for FCF accreditation?” It is a valid question and I will try to give you some of the positive reasons.

Right at the top of the list is preserving our rights to own exotic felines. Every year, more and more states are being bombarded with bills to outlaw or limit ownership. In almost every case, you will see exemptions for AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accredited facilities. When legislation was introduced to Kansas, the ZAA (Zoological Association of America) was able to get an exemption for their accredited facilities, thanks to the determined efforts of Jim Fouts, a ZAA accredited facility owner and Kansas resident.

FCF should also be able to negotiate these exemptions in the future. We have all of the necessary things in place; organizational longevity and stability and an accreditation program, what we lack is a substantial number of accredited facilities. We need to be able to show legislators that the FCF Feline Facility Accreditation is a viable accreditation system that will address both animal welfare and public safety. Currently, we have around ten accredited facilities. That is not even one in every state, and if FCF accredited facilities do not already exist in a state, past experience has shown, that regulatory bodies do not issue exemptions for things that do not exist in their state.

Industries that do a good job of self-regulation have much less government interference. FCF must demonstrate to legislatures that our members are serious about the care of their animals, and FCF accreditation is a legitimate peer review, unlike some other organizations’ accreditation.

I enjoyed serving as one of the original accreditation board members and I have participated in every accreditation application review process. The FCF accreditation board takes its job very seriously so not every applicant has been approved. When a

facility is not passed, the applicant is given the opportunity to correct the issues and resubmit the application at no extra charge. Suggested changes are meant to improve the care of the cats and provide a high level of safety for the cats and public. Applicants need not take offense; the accreditation process is a learning process as much as anything.

The FCF accreditation process is thorough and takes a little effort to complete, but it really is not that complicated of a process. This service is subsidized by the FCF and is offered at a very low cost of \$60 for a two-year accreditation.

Do not think that just because you have a single cat or keep it in your home that you cannot be accredited. The FCF accreditation process makes it possible for everyone from a single cat owner to a facility of

over 100 cats to become accredited. Each facility is judged on its own merits, whether it has a single serval or several Siberian tigers.

Accreditation helps the organization. Accreditation will help you as the owner to protect your rights. Accreditation will help your cats to live safe and healthy lives. With more participation and state recognition, the next step will be additional discounts on insurance to accredited facilities.

I can assure you that with the recent appointment of Ron Young, the present accreditation board possesses over 125 years worth of hands-on experience with almost every species of cat that has ever been kept in captivity. These professionals have handled literally hundreds of cats and truly are experts. Ron Young is looking forward to his first assignment. Isn’t it time you submitted your application for review? For more information about accreditation, visit the FCF’s website or contact me. <http://www.felineconservation.org> •

FCF must demonstrate to legislatures that our members are serious about the care of their animals, and FCF accreditation is a legitimate peer review

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Bucks County Zoo is Accredited

FCF Facility Accreditation has been awarded to Bucks County Zoo in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Accreditation committee member Pat Callahan remarked, "It was a pleasure to review this well documented presentation which enabled me to make a swift approval of Bucks County Zoo for FCF accreditation."

The all-indoor facility encloses 5,000 square feet of climate controlled living environments for tropical plants, raptors, tropical birds, primates, reptiles, and many mammal species from around the world.

Bucks County Zoo is owned and operated by Joe Fortunato, whose life-long husbandry of exotic creatures dates back to the sixth grade when he purchased a boa constrictor from the local pet store. By the 1980s Joe was working at a pet shop and

volunteering at the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences. Joe says, "When everyone else was into sports, I was in the woods looking for reptiles and amphibians."

Bucks County Zoo opened in July 2008 and was accredited by the Zoological Association of America one year later. When I notified Joe that his application had been reviewed by the FCF accreditation committee and judged to meet the high standards of FCF accreditation, Joe said, "Operating this zoo is my life's dream. Being accredited by two nationally respected organizations this year is an extreme honor."

Bucks County Zoo relies upon two full-time paid employees and a dedicated group of volunteers who work to insure that the animals are all properly cared for and that the visiting public has a memorable learning experience at the zoo.

During his career with wildlife, Joe has worked with and provided his wildlife ambassador animals to Jack Hanna, Dave Salmone, Peter Gross, and the Kratt Brothers. Joe and his animals have appeared on the David Letterman Show, Regis and Kelly, CBS Early Show, The Today Show, and Good Morning America. Joe is also a regular on Good Day Philadelphia and the Preston and Steven Show on local WMMR radio.

Bucks County Zoo is home to an adult serval and its latest acquisition, a young caracal. These two felines have already formed a friendship bond.

Feline enclosures are built using half-inch galvanized wire. Choosing such small fabric openings insures that the public can get close to the habitats without any chance of injury. Furniture inside the 8 by 16-foot enclosures includes several corner platforms, a swing platform, and a fabric hammock. Toys include a small hanging tire



toy, balls, and plenty of Fisher Price jungle gym type slides and climbing toys.

Being an indoor facility, keeping the air quality free of foul odors is top priority. Joe has incorporated a rigorous cleaning regime to insure high living standards for the animals and a quality experience for the visiting public. In addition to daily cleaning, all enclosures receive a monthly steam cleaning of the walls, floors, and toys throughout. Each month the flooring material, wood sanichips, are given a complete change-over as well.

Weekly enrichment includes providing novel scents by spraying various body splashes such as key lime, white tea and ginger, or night blooming jasmine onto heavy kraft paper, crumpled into balls. For the serval they have provided water buckets filled with live goldfish swimming around. These moving targets stimulate her to play in the water and fish.

Joe feeds Nebraska feline diet, chicken parts with Oasis vitamins and calcium, and Mazuri dry kibble.

The servals and caracal get additional stimulation when they are leashed up and taken for walks, or are used in "Animal Junction" outreach programs. Both felines have been operant conditioned to be leash-walked and crate-trained. Joe says, "The caracal, being a young adolescent, is thoroughly enjoying her role as African feline ambassador, and is quite relaxed and laid back." •



A1 Savannahs is Accredited

A1 Savannahs is the latest facility to be accredited by the Feline Conservation Federation. A1 Savannahs is owned and operated by Kathrin and Martin Stucki. The Ponca City, Oklahoma breeding facility specializes in producing African serval and the various hybrid crosses that make up the exotic domestic breed known as Savannahs.

A1 Savannahs joins other zoos, feline educators, and feline breeding centers in the FCF's growing list of accredited facilities. "This is a step in the right direction," says accreditation committee member Pat Callahan. "It is important for professional breeders that raise servals and use them to create domestic hybrid cats for the commercial pet market to meet high standards of husbandry. The FCF accreditation committee found A1 Savannahs to be operating with excellence in both facility management and feline husbandry."

Our organization benefits by having this FCF accredited breeding center networking with other serval and hybrid owners and breeders around the world. As an FCF accredited facility, A1 Savannahs will raise awareness of the FCF. A1 Savannahs has the ability to educate hybrid domestic cat owners about the importance of supporting conservation of all the wild felines including the serval, which is the founder of this exotic breed.

Joyce Shroufe, who raised leopard, puma, Eurasian lynx, bobcat, serval, and

caracal, originally founded A1 Savannahs. Joyce also crossbred Asian leopard cats to produce Bengal cats. Joyce was one of the first to pioneer the hybridization of African serval with domestic cats. Joyce eventually sold her farm and business to the Stuckis who added their own collection of servals and Savannahs to the existing gene pool.

Kathrin and Martin operate this highly efficient and well-run breeding facility with the assistance of three full-time employees. Over 100 felines are permanent residents and the number of kittens at the site varies. The facility is a true working farm, with not only serval and Savannah hybrids, but also a variety of traditional farm animals including goats, chickens, sheep, horses, rabbits, and most recently, a small herd of young buffalo.

I visited with Kathrin and Martin and toured A1 Savannahs after the Ponca City husbandry course held Saturday, October 3. The Stuckis are originally from Switzerland, and their home and viewpoints have a definite European influence. Martin's parents were visiting from Switzerland and did not speak English. The Stuckis two children are bilingual. During conversations with Kathrin and Martin, it was apparent that we all shared strong opinions on animal welfare and disapproval of facilities that did not provide adequate space for their animals. Kathrin remarked that they never declaw their felines and strongly discourage this practice to their clients. She stated



that Europeans are amazed that this surgery is still legal in the US.

An adorable trio of 6 week-old serval kittens was roaming the Stucki's living room during my visit. Kathrin informed me that two of them were destined for export out of the country as A1 advertises worldwide and receives much interest from outside the US. Kathrin is quite experienced with the Fish and Wildlife CITES procedures for exporting Savannahs, has even hand-delivered kittens to clients in South America, Europe, and Canada.

The 40 acre facility has a number of new all metal barns and buildings that provide ample space for indoor cat enclosures and give protection from the Oklahoma weather extremes of wind, rain, cold, and heat. Each indoor feline enclosure also connects to an outdoor run. Enclosure sizes vary, with smaller ones for the later generation hybrids about four feet wide and 30 feet long, but most were closer to six or ten feet wide, and ranged from 30 to 40 feet long.

The breeding serval pairs enjoy pens that were originally built by Joyce to hold leopards and puma. These pens are framed up with oil field pipe and welded 4 by 4 galvanized panels and another layer of two-inch chain link fabric is attached.

Other servals co-exist with Savannah hybrids in enclosures averaging about 8 to 12 feet wide and about 40 feet long. These runs had originally been subdivided by Joyce to contain bobcat or similar sized species. When the Stuckis took over they immediately removed the subdivisions to enlarge these habitats to their full length. Contained inside each are wooden resting platforms, igloo houses, cinder block houses, scratching logs, and plenty of natural grass growing throughout.

Enrichments for the servals include rope



Perimeter fence

toys, cardboard boxes for shredding, and pet bottles containing a few stones to make noisy rattles to bat around. Native flowers and peppermint plants surround the enclosures.

While touring the facility, I noticed a total lack of aggression from any of the resident felines. While most enclosures share common walls, there seemed to be no disharmony between neighboring felines. None of the servals even hissed. Kathrin visited with some of the breeder F1 Savannah females to show off their affectionate and friendly personalities.

The facility's other animals are in full view of the servals. They can watch the interactions of rabbits, chickens, goats, and lambs. These animals are also sometimes on the serval dinner menu, enriching their basic diet of canned ZuPreem and dry cat kibble.

While this is not feline related, I wish to share with FCF readers the Stucki's rabbit husbandry as a perfect example of their approach to animal welfare. The New Zealand meat rabbits were purchased along with a battery of wire rabbit enclosures commonly utilized by commercial rabbit breeding operations. The Stuckis placed the

cages upon the ground and protected them from the weather with plywood roofs. A large fenced-in area protects a multitude of rabbits and egg laying chickens. Rabbits are free to hop around and give birth inside the rabbit hutch beds, entering and leaving on their own free will.

The Stuckis are experts at hand-rearing kittens. Their serval kittens are bottle raised from about two weeks of age. After years of experimenting with feeding their kittens KMR, Esbalic, Zoologic, and others and eventually experiencing a problem with each milk replacer product, the Stuckis have now switched to using fresh goat's

milk from their own organically raised herd of LaMancha goats. Martin reports no calcium deficiencies, no intestinal blockages, no diarrhea, no lactose intolerance, impressive growth development, and healthy, trouble-free kitten rearing.

It was a pleasure to visit A1 Savannahs. I look forward to working with A1 Savannahs and their feline clients from around the world to make them all welcome into the FCF and help bring forth a stronger, more unified membership that shares a common goal to insure quality husbandry of servals and other felines in captivity, and the protection of all felines in nature. •



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FCF Exotic Feline Husbandry Course:

Up in the morning and back to school

By Carol Cochran

I thought my school days were over but Lynn Culver called me a couple of weeks ago to remind me that the Feline Husbandry Course was scheduled on October 3 in Ponca City, Oklahoma and I had been wanting and needing to take the class, but it had never been held close enough to where I live in Kansas City, Missouri to be able to attend.

This time I could make it!

My husband, Pat, couldn't leave the cats and didn't want me to drive the distance alone, so I asked my son, Shannon, to take me to Ponca City, and he agreed. We headed out on Friday around noon from Kansas City, and fought strong winds all the way to Oklahoma. We were both worn out when we arrived at our motel. We checked in and I contacted Jeff Willis to see if anyone was in town yet but he had not been able to leave to make the trip yet. We decided to rest a little while and wait for Lynn and the other members to arrive. That evening Lynn called and had Martin Stucki give us directions to Zino's, a great little Italian restaurant in Ponca City. The food was great, the atmosphere was pleasant, and the company was terrific. It was my first time meeting Kathrin and Martin Stucki, Jeff Willis, and Lynn Culver. Everyone made me feel comfortable and right at home. We had a great meal and visited for a while before returning to our motel to rest for the big day.

Have you ever noticed how you cannot get any sleep in a strange place, especially when you need to be rested for something important the next day? That was me! I portrayed an owl all night long with eyes wide open!

The next morning Shannon and I grabbed some breakfast at McDonalds and headed off to class. He had plans to visit museums and tour the town while I studied and learned the information given in the course. My fears all day were that I would not pass the test because the information would go into my head and leak out as quickly as it went in.

There were several wonderful people there. The couple that hosted the course was Martin and Kathrin Stucki with A1



The graduates

Savannahs, and the students were Jeff Willis, who brought his 6 month-old female caracal, Mili and Kasi Womack, Michael Speakman, Nancy and daughter Jadin Siler, who had recently purchased their first serval kitten. Also, in attendance was Kurt Beckelman and Erick Vaughn, who volunteer at Safari Exotic Wildlife Refuge and work with a liger. That afternoon Lea and Bobby Aufill arrived with their 8 week-old bobcat, "Thunder."

I was really in my element with all of these wonderful cat lovers around. Lynn Culver was the instructor. I wish when I was in grade school and high school, we had such terrific teachers as Lynn. She explained everything explicitly and made it so easy to understand.

For lunch, we ordered Subway sandwiches, which really hit the spot. Martin was kind enough to take the orders and get them to us and we enjoyed a quick lunch and, of course, played with Mili! Then back to the books. Finally, class was over and it was time for the big test! The first three or

four questions I looked at were written in some foreign language. It made no sense at all to me, it seemed, but I answered each one. Then they started getting easier and my brain finally made it to Ponca City and started functioning and I passed the test! Yahoo!

After getting our beautiful certificates, Shannon took a group picture and some of us took pictures of other students and, of course, Thunder and Mili. With us having a long trip ahead, we said our goodbyes and got hugs and promises of meeting again. Then we were on our way. No wind going back home, thank goodness.

It was quite an experience and a very dear one. I will cherish each moment of that day and the new friends I made. My certificate is hanging where everyone that comes to our home can see it. I'm very proud of it and proud to be a member of such a wonderful organization.

I want to thank everyone that made that day one to remember and hope we can all benefit from the wonderful information we learned. •



ALL NEW AND READY FOR YOU TO ORDER TODAY!

Thanks to the many FCF members contributing photos for these new note card selections. Photos selected included ones from Joe Fortunato, Melissa Faust, Randy Johnson, Cindy Hornstein, Tammi Medina, Jim Peacock, Thierry Plaud, Deborah Warrick, Laura Walker, Vicki Zimmerman, Teresa Shaffer, Jim Sanderson, Gail Howell, Suzanne Billiar, Lynn Culver, and also included is original artwork by artists Rachael Arnott and Cheryl Hughes.

Note cards group 1

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Note cards group 3

Note cards group 2

Growing Pains

A guest editorial

It has been said that people can be divided into three basic groups; 1) those that make things happen, 2) those that watch things happen and, 3) those that wonder what happened. Those words ring true, particularly, in non-profit volunteer organizations.

Volunteer Demise

Many non-profit volunteer organizations simply fall apart. Not because they are ill conceived or that their goals are not noble; they, basically, just run out of energy. Depending upon volunteers for critical tasks can be a little like trying to nail Jell-O to a wall. When time constraints or conflicts surface with many volunteer individuals, personal concerns often take precedence. When a family emergency arises, or their job demands overtime, or someone gets sick or resigns, somebody else must step in to take their place, often with the disadvantage of playing “catch-up.” Likewise, the activities of volunteers, much like employees, require comprehensive supervision to ensure the timely completion of tasks in adherence to organizational goals. Commonly, those who are the most passionate and dedicated end up doing most everything while their detractors sit idly by. This often leads to “volunteer burn-out,” wherein relentless demands upon the dedicated volunteer become overwhelming. Eventually, these engines of the organization become disillusioned and may grind to a halt.

Thankfully, the FCF has avoided many

of these pitfalls that plague all-volunteer organizations and has evolved into a vibrant force on the battlefield for our rights. Certainly, our past, present, and future volunteers are much appreciated, absolutely indispensable, and contribute immeasurably to the success of the FCF. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have built the FCF to what it is today and what it will be in the future. Volunteers have hung in there year after year through thick and thin never failing to contribute their time and effort. Certainly, nobody is getting rich from the perks of their participation with the FCF, yet they have always been there to protect your cats and your rights. We should all be damn glad that there are people doing so.

Transition

The FCF is on the cusp of a major transition. This transition is necessitated by the growth of the FCF and the sheer magnitude of the challenges presented by our adversaries. We must emerge and respond as a full-fledged professional organization. In making this transition, our board of directors and officers must have your understanding and full support. We have outgrown an all-volunteer approach to getting things done. As part of the transition, we must take measures now to hire additional personnel who have a vested interest in the day-

to-day activities of the FCF. We must have actual employees that put their job at the FCF before personal interests, exactly akin to any other professionally run organization. This will help ensure our ability to assimilate our continued growth and readiness for the challenges ahead, while giving our “engine” volunteers a bit of a break as taskmasters. The leadership will be freed to concentrate upon their primary tasks of strategic planning, funding, and the critical management of the FCF.

Your Turn

The FCF is truly coming of age! Our concerns now are more relevant, more focused, and more important than ever. If there was ever a time for our membership to support the organization, its goals, and

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Take a serval to lunch—Roger Newson and Gypsy

its management, now is that time.

You are an endangered species...fight for your survival! How? If you can provide a donation, do it! If you can help to raise funds, such as selling African Safari Sweepstakes tickets, do it! If you can sign-up a new member, do it! If you can donate some of your time by volunteering to complete tasks, do it! If you can provide us a voice to local, state, or national lawmakers, do it! If you have a great idea or positive suggestion, let's hear it! Last but not least, support the FCF leadership! After all, they are the ones in the trenches. They are the ones that tirelessly deal with the day-to-day tasks and resolve each and every crisis. Their insight encompasses the big picture in representing concerns of the membership, both individually and collectively.

Reality check

One more thing: I observed with some amusement a recent "cat fight" on our Yahoo e-list that involved the relative merits of the FCF focus on natural habitat conservation versus captive habitat conservation. It was kind of like which flavor of ice cream one preferred. I have got news for you folks, conservation is conservation, be

it captive or natural habitat. Most likely, neither one will exist without viable and sustainable populations within both. Fact: habitat is rapidly disappearing. We must do all that we can to curb the losses in both arenas. Please keep in mind that we are the "Feline Conservation Federation." We "preserve, protect, and propagate."

Unfortunately, the public does not understand the issues or know the first thing about conservation. They are sympathetic to the plight of wild animals, but could not care less about your struggle to keep your captive animals if it does not affect them directly. We know unequivocally that our wild cats are doomed to extinction without private ownership; the public does not make that connection.

Part of educating the public and garnering their support for private, captive propagation is derived through the use of a "public face" that they are familiar with and already support, such as "save the tigers." Naturally, the public perceives this cry as an effort to bolster wild populations in a natural habitat. Public perception must be carefully fashioned. One must recognize that there is truth and there is perception, and

that perception almost always prevails. Once recognized as conservationists in the wild, the FCF has opened the door to further discourse with the public, whereby we will have a much more favorable opportunity to educate the public with the truth regarding the necessity of private possession, habitat, and propagation. We must establish the FCF as the definitive authority regarding wild feline issues. "Save my tiger in the backyard," just isn't going to cut it.

Dissenting opinion is great! That is how we get to the truth and the best solutions. Dissension is not.

Let's try to avoid dissent over the little issues and try to look at things globally. Let's avoid detraction toward our leadership and try to understand the issues from their perspective of doing what is right for the entire organization. We have got a tremendous fight on our hands and it is going to take a variety of strategies to prevail. We all like ice cream, and if we do it right, each of us will have our preferred flavor.

*Truly for the cats,
Roger Newson*

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P.S. Searching at iGive is a great way to get people involved helping Feline Conservation Federation. It's free to you and free to them, and it can really add up quickly.

Blast from the Past. . . .

Excerpts from the Convention Executive Breakfast Report

Long Island Ocelot Club

Sep/Oct 1972—Volume 16, Issue 5

This was our organization's first national convention. Although it may seem to be a tedious read, notice the astonishing number and variety of exotic cats which were brought to that first convention.

The first annual convention of the Long Island Ocelot Club was held in Dallas, Texas on August 10-12, 1972. The host branch for the convention was the Southwest Branch, which must be commended for providing an excellent and exciting time for all. There were approximately 60 LIOC members in Dallas, but there were over 600 of you that were missed and thought of frequently.

In attendance were: Dr. Roger Harmon, president of the Southwest Branch; his wife Faye, daughter Kay, and niece Shelly Hall; Catherine Cisin, founder of LIOC and this year's recipient of the Lotty; Dottie Mulford, John and Rebecca Duke; Bill Engler, our club "cat man," past Lotty recipient, and speaker for the banquet; Dr. Mike Balbo, also a past recipient of the Lotty, whose drawings have graced every newsletter; Harry Malcolm, representative of our Greater New York Branch, and Richard Seitz, also of New York accompanied Mike; Audrey Khadikin, a nightclub entertainer, drove 900 miles to meet D'Arcy Bancroft, a criminal lawyer from Northern Canada. They then drove for 25 straight hours to join us; the Brills, Gene being the first Lotty recipient in 1966 for her secretarial duties and John, who spent most of his time in the pool; Ken and Jean Hatfield, president and secretary of the Florida Chapter, who stole the show with a 10 day-old and 2 month-old ocelot kits; Bob Peraner, our director, Dr. Robert Glen with sons Allen and Doug, plus friends; John Jackson, from California, whose *Mores of Exotic Cat Ownership* is a must read; Joe Hughey, a lawyer and his wife Laverne from Marshall, Texas; Ron and Ann Jacobson, who brought Wallace the fishing cat and a tremendous male ocelot who may prove to be something other than that; Chuck and Susie Kindt from the Flori-

da Chapter who have a very friendly jaguarundi who unfortunately was unable to attend; Harriet Leake and Lois Story, Clara LeBlanc and family with their fantastic Frankie the Bobcat; Robert Leeds, wife Peggy and daughter Gail from Illinois; Walter and Lois Marshall, the new co-presidents of Southwest; Bob and Susie Martin, real Texan-type ranchers whose mail box is seven miles from the house; W. C. and Linda Means, plus their cougar Mecha, who also enjoyed some pool time; Rick Murphy, a veterinary student representing the Midwestern Branch; Jerry and Susan Neal and Cheka—a real love of a cougar; Jack and Mary Parish who are very successful in breeding cougars in Oklahoma; Pepper Perry and Kathy Sharp from Mem-

phis, Tennessee, who are trying to get a branch going in that area; Pat Quillen, a leopard cat fancier and representative from Exoticcat of San Diego; Berenice Ricketts from Utah, accompanied Bill Engler; Dave Salisbury and Dave Jr. from Florida. A past Lotty recipient, Dave will always be remembered for Sultan, the black leopard who responded to Dave's soft spoken manner like a big puppy; Gilda Roman with Bravura, a lovely lady margay. Although her stay was short, Bravura did have a chance to meet a boy, Critter Treanor, but not too successfully; Ted and Vivian Shambaugh from California; Farmer Tannahill, from ZuPreem, brought samples, literature, and attended most of our functions; Bob Smith, President of A.C.E.C. and wife Lillian; Donna and Warren Taylor



were able to drop by briefly as his duties at Lion Country Safari kept him occupied elsewhere; Spence and Red Dillon and their exotic poodle, Charlie; Joy and Jay McEntee from Missouri and Choppy their loveable ocelot; Jan Thomas, artist extraordinary and our lady from O.U.C.H. in Canada; Carl and Jean Hamil whose ocelot Serena took full advantage of the patio; and Danny and Shirley Treanor, with three oncillas and a margay. Shirley, our national secretary, was kept quieter than usual by a case of laryngitis. (No folks, she does not usually sound like that.)

Saturday began with the executive breakfast, the original idea being an exchange of thoughts between the various branch representatives and the national staff. However, in order to get a private meeting room, a larger group was required and the breakfast was opened to the general membership. Because of this, the meeting turned out to be quite a bit longer than anticipated. Therefore, quite condensed is the report as follows:

The meeting, attended by 42 members, was called to order by director Bob Peraner after a buffet breakfast. After a lengthy discussion of the lack of rules and regulations governing LIOC, it was decided that the director would appoint a committee to draft a constitution. This constitution to be presented to the general membership via the newsletter within the next year. The motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

It was then moved that the club's motto, "The Long Island Ocelot Club is a non-profit, non-commercial club, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of pet ocelots and other exotic felines," as appears on page two of the newsletter, should remain as is. This was amended by a vote of 30 to 12 to leave it as is after deleting the word "pet."

It was suggested that we needed a statement of policy to unify our purpose. Bill Engler moved that the following be adopted as our policy: "The policy of the Long Island Ocelot Club shall be the propagation and preservation of all species of felidae," the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

After a report from our treasurer, Shirley Treanor, showing our bank balance to be \$1,362.83, general costs were discussed. Since the slick type paper presently being

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The FCF board of directors congratulate the following individuals that have made an application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program the past two months.

Nancy Brown—Advanced
Jason Gooch—Basic

Ivan Brown—Advanced
Kasi Womack—Basic

The FCF recently updated the Registered Handler Program and now offers three levels of registration. The Registration program will now register members with one year of experience as Basic Handlers. Those with five years of experience can register as Intermediate Handlers, and those with ten or more years experience are Advanced Handlers.

FCF members previously registered as Basic can request the secretary to change their registration to Intermediate. The following FCF members have had their Basic registration upgraded to intermediate. If you believe your experience qualifies you for Intermediate registration, please visit the FCF members-only section and update your file and a notice will be sent to the secretary that you are requesting a change in registration status.

The following members have been upgraded to Intermediate Registered Handlers:

Leah Aufill—Intermediate
Julia McKenzie—Intermediate
Kurt Beckelman—Intermediate
Jason McLeod—Intermediate
Bybee Moksha—Intermediate
Phil Parker—Intermediate
John Chuha—Intermediate
Phillis Parks—Intermediate

Terri Chuha—Intermediate
Robin Perri—Intermediate
Deeanna Croasmun—Intermediate
Kenny Stearns—Intermediate
Dolly Guck—Intermediate
Liz Hatton—Intermediate
Laura Wlaker—Intermediate

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 handler registration form can be filled out directly in the members only section of the FCF web site and the \$30 registration fee 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 registration remains active as long as you are an FCF member.

The board further challenges these experienced handlers who maintain facilities to apply for the FCF Facility Accreditation. The overview, basic standards, and accreditation application can also be found on the FCF members-only website.

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

Joe Fortunato
FCF Secretary

used is more expensive, it was put to a vote and carried that the higher quality is worth the increased price. However, in order to continue expanding the services of our club, an increase in dues was asked. It was motioned and carried unanimously that the membership dues will be increased, effective with those due January 1973, to \$10.00

per year.

The motion was made that LIOC National should incorporate. Because of lack of knowledge on the subject, it was decided to leave this in the investigative stage for the president.

This bringing the time near to noon, the motion was made and carried to adjourn. •





Clockwise from upper left:
Michelle Mills and serval,
Apollo • Kathy Stearns and
tiger, Nakita • Doug Kilsig and
bobcat, Imos • Santa's helper,
Boris the Pallas' cat—Nancy
Vandermeij • Reindeer
ocelot—Jill Galindo • Brad
Webster bottle feeds a lapful
of Geoffroy's • Lea and Bobby
Aufill with bobcat, Thunder



Happy Servaldays!



Clockwise from top left: Apollo—Michelle Mills • Sawabu—Dolly Gucks •
Sawabu and Santa—Dolly Gucks • Apollo, get that ball—Michelle Mills



SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



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

New Journal Editor Needed

This is the last journal to be produced by our current editor, Mike Friese. After four years of outstanding service to the FCF, Mike is resigning. FCF is now looking for a new editor to continue and improve upon the high standards that have been set by Mike.

The board is accepting applications for a new FCF Journal editor and will vote upon a replacement in time to produce the January/February 2010 issue. If you are inspired and qualified and would like to be interviewed for this position, please contact Lynn Culver at 479-394-5235, or email at executivedirector@felienconservation.org. All applicants will be considered and the board will appoint a new editor in December so please contact me as soon as possible.

Journal layout editor oversees the layout and design and is ultimately responsible for all pages. Applicants need to be proficient with Adobe InDesign, PageMaker, or QuarkXPress and able to work with the executive director and journal staff to brainstorm ideas and execute the design and content of the journal.

Journal editor duties include:

- Participating in meetings to develop journal content and photo submissions.
- Making article selection decisions based on the submissions and recommendations of the journal staff.
- Forming and shaping articles for space and content, writing headlines, and captions and reviewing page proofs
- Setting and enforcing deadlines
- Acting as official representative of the journal
- Responding to letters to the editor and other journal correspondence
- Maintaining contact with authors about the status of their submission

This position requires a considerable commitment of time and creativity especially during a two-week period of journal production every other month. •

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.

Wildcat Safety Net Fund

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Andean Cat Fund

Terry Basham

African Safari Sweepstakes Fund Raiser

Charles Alexander

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Amber Hanson

Miss C Hardymon

Jessica Harmon

Rebecca Harvey

Liz Hatton

Kathleen Hill

Judith Hoffman

Sandra Hohn

Jan Holstege

Scott Hunt

Scott Hygt

Mark Ingram

Andrea Johnson

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Cheryl Kimmer

Kurt Krebbs

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Caryn Linn

Mike T Loss

Kelly Lucas

Lindy Lucks

Marie Martinez

Kim Mazzoni

Bill Meadows

Melissa Meadows

Scott Miller

Hugo Morales

Sandya Narasimhan

Sara Nawaz

Phyllis Newport

Lee Novak

Nick Pargahi

Cari Penham

Robin Perry

Stephen Pierce

John Pinedo

Ralph Renna

Jean Ringwalt

Pam Rose

Alyson Rouseam

Kathleen Rullo

Maxine Sauer

Teresa Shaffer

Keira Shumway

Wayne Sluder

Gary Steen

Larry Stone

June Sturm

Michelle Swanson

Leilani Taga

Nicole Taggi

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The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Joseph Fortunato

Secretary, FCF

FOCUS ON NATURE®
Insight into the lives of animals
CHINESE MOUNTAIN CAT
(*FELIS BIETI*)



Largely unknown, the elusive CHINESE MOUNTAIN CAT inhabits high-elevation steppe grasslands around 3,200 meters (10,560 feet) in the central Tibetan Plateau in China. Living in a harsh climate, this 4–8 kg (9–17.6 lb) predator hunts pikas, rodents, and birds during the early morning and evening hours.

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: Patty Perry's serval, Sabi, takes a dip • Shelleen Mathew's serval, CleoKATra, knows how to best spend a winter's day. • Teresa Shaffer's serval, Kahlua, plays tug o' war next to a Christmas tree. • Roger Newson's serval, Isis, shows an appreciation for floral arrangements.

Your best Serval





Thierry Plaud's 3 year-old male Asian leopard cat, Sensei. See Thierry's article on the ALC in this issue.

