



**Feline Conservation Federation**

July/August 2010 Volume 54, Issue 4



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photo credit Prayeri Harrison



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photo credit Robert Hohn



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photo credit John Lynch



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photo credit Dr. Suzanne Billiar



TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FCF JOURNAL AND JOIN FCF IN ITS CONSERVATION EFFORTS  
A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of the Journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to FCF husbandry and wildlife education courses and annual convention, and participation in our online discussion group. FCF works to improve captive feline husbandry and ensure that habitat is available. FCF supports the conservation of exotic felines through captive and wild habitat protection, and provides support for captive husbandry and breeding programs and public education.

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The Feline Conservation Federation publishes the Journal bimonthly. The FCF is non-profit, (Federal ID#59-2048618) non-commercial, and international in membership, devoted to the welfare and conservation of exotic felines.

The Journal publishes articles on exotic feline conservation and husbandry, management, and regulatory and legislative issues affecting ownership for our members. The author's point of view does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. Reproduction of any material in the Journal may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF.

Letters to the editor and guest editorials are also published.

Display advertisement space is available at the following prices: \$10 business card, \$25.00 quarter page, \$50.00 half page, and \$100 full-page ad.

Submission deadline for articles and advertisements is the 10th of even numbered months. Please submit all photos and articles to the Journal Managing Editor. High Resolution photos and articles may be emailed to [lynnkulver@hughes.net](mailto:lynnkulver@hughes.net), or send by postal service to 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is doing well and surviving the summer heat.

I am happy to welcome Erin Patters as FCF's Director of Development. Erin has already proven her worth in development of this year's Convention. I hope that this is the last time we have to appoint a replacement for a board member that steps down before their term is up.

In 2009, the FCF went to an October 1st universal renewal date for all of our members. If you have email, you should have received a 90-day renewal notification. The dues for everyone who was an FCF member before January 1, 2010, is \$35 for US members, US\$40 for Canadian members, and US\$50 for international members. You may renew online on the members-only website. While you're there, be sure to update any of your information that has changed and update your cat census data. If you prefer sending a check or paying by credit card, you may fill out the renewal form enclosed in this issue of the FCF Journal and mail it to our treasurer, Kurt Beckelman.

New FCF members joining since January 1, 2010, will also need to renew, even if you just joined. See the information that follows my letter with details on how

much to remit.

We are still looking for volunteers for several committees. Please contact me (info on page three of the Journal) if you are interested in serving on any of these committees. A full description of these committees was given in the last Journal. Let me know if you have any questions about these committees.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE-** contacts new members, explains how to use different aspects of FCF's website, answers questions, and generally welcomes them to the organization.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE-** arranges for husbandry and educator's courses, updates curriculum and website information, and improves the education aspect of FCF.

**CAPTIVE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE -** will develop materials to explain and promote captive conservation, improve the feline census participation, and develop a studbook registration program.

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE-** keeps members updated on legislative issues, develops resources on understanding and responding to regulatory and legislative

issues, and mentors FCF members.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE-** writes press releases and announcements and develops ideas for improving FCF's public relations aspect.

**MARKETING COMMITTEE-** finds opportunities where FCF can advertise or be promoted, seeks advertisers for the journal, seeks sponsors for FCF programs or activities, and improves the marketing aspect of FCF in general.

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE-** develops methods of fundraising for FCF such as grants and other means.

**MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE-** develops ideas for benefits for FCF members.

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE-** plans the annual convention.

**WILDCAT SAFETY NET COMMITTEE-** promotes the program, reviews applications, and makes recommendations for funding to the board of directors.

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE-** reviews applications for FCF Feline Facility Accreditation.

I would like everyone to think about the organization for a second. Recently, a member said FCF needs to find something that makes it unique and stand out from other organizations. I do not think that some sort of gimmick is needed, as was suggested. We are quite a unique organization just by our make-up. All of our members share a common bond in our love and admiration for wild felines, but beyond that is where our uniqueness stands out. Our membership is a wide array of feline lovers, breeders, researchers, veterinarians, private owners, former owners, aspiring owners, zookeepers, circus people, educators, veterinarians, sanctuaries, feline diet and equipment suppliers, and people with just an avid interest in wild cats. I know of no other organization that has such a wide aspect of active members. There are organizations that cater to some of these areas individually, such as zookeeper and sanctuary groups, but none attempt to embrace all aspects of feline lovers. It is quite a feat to try to keep everyone happy. Unfortunately, the different genres sometimes blame each other for the problems and legislation being propagated these days. Sanctuaries blame breeders and pet owners, private owners blame sanctuaries, breeders blame AZA, and it goes on and



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**Go to [www.apwe.org](http://www.apwe.org) for details**

on. The simple fact is, folks, we are all in this together. If one segment goes down, we all go down. The FCF is doing its best to provide programs that support the different areas, conservation grants for researchers, Rare Species Fund for conservation, Wildcat Safety Net for sanctuaries, husbandry courses for private owners, an educator's course for educators, etc.

I have heard some members comment that FCF is straying away from protecting private ownership and is supposedly wanting to become WWF or AZA. These comments have no basis in fact and could not be further from the truth. I suppose that the reason for this feeling is something akin to sibling rivalry, where one feels neglected if they see a sibling receiving attention. Regardless of how much attention they are receiving, they want more if someone else gets the attention. Instead of these different areas contradicting each other, the FCF sees them as complementing each other. Each one of us can learn from people in other areas. By working together under the umbrella of FCF, we can make a difference. Jealousy and infighting can bring no positive effects. If you have positive ideas on how to improve FCF's ability to reach any segment of members, by all means, let a board member know.

Another area that has received criticism is FCF's work on legislation. The organi-

zation is limited as to how much it can do by federal laws covering 501(c)3 non-profits and by our size and manpower. Our legislative director, Robert Johnson, is keeping abreast of federal legislation. He, along with a lobbyist firm, is making sure that FCF's voice is heard in Washington.

When it comes to state and local legislative issues, these are best served by those constituents living in that area. Rob and his committee are glad to give advice and counsel members on what to do, but the main thrust needs to come from members living there.

Do not expect someone from FCF to come riding in on a white horse and make all of the bad things go away. FCF, as an organization, can give support, but you as an individual have to be willing to pick up the reins and lead the charge. Bills are proposed, and the public is given opportunities to voice their opinions to legislators. Many bills are passed based on emotion and public opinions, not on facts. Each FCF member and facility has ample opportunities throughout the year to create positive press coverage and generate support in their community. When you are interviewed, mention your membership in the FCF. It will never become a household word unless each member sets a positive example and gives credit to the FCF. If each FCF member did this, the combined result would be more positive opin-

ions about private ownership that dispute the radical views of the extremist animal rights movement, and a less effective AR agenda.

Members in Oklahoma are a prime example of using advice given by the FCF to forge their own coalition to preserve their rights. They are working right now on legislation that will be coming up in the 2011 legislature. It has been said before, but is well worth repeating -- summertime is the best time for you to get to know your legislators. Visit them or invite them out to your place for a visit. Get to know them now so that when you need them as some bad legislation is introduced, they will already know you. Nothing, and I mean nothing, can help you more than having a friend in the legislature who recognizes your name and is willing to listen to your concerns about legislation. Being one of those anonymous thousands that send the legislator emails during legislative session just will not get you the results you seek. You have to be just as aggressive as those wishing to do away with our cats. FCF is here to help you, but you have to be the soldier on the battlefield. Do not rely on someone else to do your fighting for you.

Kevin Chambers

## A SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE NEW MEMBERS JOINING THE FCF SINCE JANUARY 2010

In 2009, the FCF adopted October as the universal renewal date for all members. For members that joined prior to 2010, your renewal dues are \$35 US, \$40 Canada, and \$50 international.

All new members are given an October 1, 2010, expiration date. Everyone receives renewal notices by email and by regular mail before October 1st, but new members have a credit for the pro-rated portion of dues that extends beyond October 1, 2010. The amount new members need to pay is determined by the month in which they joined. Here is the breakdown:

<i>Join Date in 2010</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>Canadian</i>	<i>International</i>
January and February	\$ 25.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 37.00
March and April	\$ 19.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 28.00
May and June	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 19.00
July and August	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 10.00

\*\*\*\*\*All amounts listed are in US dollars\*\*\*\*\*

To see in which month your membership was recorded as becoming active, you can email [memberservices@felineconservation.org](mailto:memberservices@felineconservation.org) to ask. You can also go to the FCF website, [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org), log in to the "members only" section, and click on the "My Profile" link on the left-hand side of the page. Your membership information will appear, and right above your name you'll see "Member since..." That is your activation date. While you are there, be sure to check all of the information listed and update it if it is incorrect.

If we do not receive a renewal payment from you by sixty days after October 1st, your name will be automatically dropped from the active members list.

For everyone's convenience, we have included a renewal form in this envelope. We appreciate your patronage and hope that you will renew.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lynn Culver

We are halfway through the nomination period, and this is the critical time when members need to step up to the plate and consider donating to FCF their brainpower and time for the next two years. The nomination period ends August 10th. There is a constitutional amendment to change the size of the board from four officers and seven directors, to four officers and three directors. The vote results will be known after this issue goes to press, and if the members approve this amendment it becomes effective August 1st of this year. A new board structure will give all director nominees the opportunity to run for the three director positions.

The last Journal published a call for committee volunteers. This board is preparing the FCF for a new structure aimed at involving more members in FCF projects and services. All FCF members are encouraged to get involved in FCF projects.

We must adapt, or face extinction. Much of the available captive habitat (pet and breeder homes) has been outlawed by community and state governments, leaving only selected entities (usually zoos and exhibitors) exempted.

In the final day of the 2010 legislative session, Missouri legislators cut a deal with the animal rights lobbyist to roll the "presumed dead" dangerous carnivore bill into an Omnibus bill. Since every legislator has some stake in one of the bills in the package, they all vote yes. FCF efforts through JB Anderson to work with the committee and get the carnivore bill amended, paid off, and without his input the result would have been much worse.

Now, a new day has dawned in Ohio. Both Missouri and Ohio have a strong animal presence, and farmers, dog breeders, exotic animal auctions, and agri-businesses all unite together to form a power block against the animal rights extremists in those states. Ohio resistance has prevented

passage of passing exotic animal legislation, but in late June, the governor of that state brokered an historic deal between the HSUS and the Farm Bureau. The lobbyists of both organizations have agreed to work cooperatively to support legislation and regulation affecting poultry, pork and beef, dogs, and dangerous exotics.

The Farm Bureau logic for their cooperation is to remove the uncertainty and expense of continuing to wage a media and legislation battle. Funds and energy can now be spent on the animals, instead of on fighting legislation.

The Farm Bureau does not represent the exotic animal breeders or owners, and is not the paid lobbyist for us, nor is it the organization that speaks for us. The Ohio agreement stipulates that a bill to outlaw the breeding and ownership of dangerous animals such as lion and tiger must be passed by the legislature by the end of 2010, or the whole deal is void.

So our necks are on the chopping block first, and the Farm Bureau must deliver us to the slaughter or face losing their certainty on farm practices. What can FCF do about this slap in the face of democracy? We are witnessing two giants, confident that each owns the legislators, delivering the vote, no matter what the people want?

FCF members have no choice but to hope for the best, and prepare for the worst. The experience in Missouri is a lesson to us all. FCF must influence the wording of the upcoming Ohio bill. A ban on ownership and breeding of all wild cats will be a terrible detriment to conservation. The FCF organization must find legislators to introduce and push through amendments to the bill, and pare down the definition of dangerous animals to only cats larger than us. Whether we like it or not, we need to find legislators to turn this bill into something tolerable.

A very important tool that will be available to members is the FCF's new DVD, titled An In(CAT)venient Truth, the reality

and importance of privately owned felines. Get this documentary into the hands of your legislators and community leaders to educate them about captive conservation and the animal rights agenda. The DVD is available now and you can order as many as you wish by mail.

I would like to introduce and thank our new Journal copy/layout editor, FCF member, Eden Tran. This issue is a great mix and Eden has produced a beautiful layout. For those interested in legislative issues, we have Florida member Dr. Suzanne Billiar's county zoning battle, and also guest editorial, "The Lives of exotic animal owners in a 'free' country" by Amy Flory. We have part two of Dr. Ron Hines' formula series just in time for kitten season, and we continue Mindy Stinner's five part series with "Incident Management," sound advice to better deal with a crisis. For pet owners, we introduce the two serval stories, the love of Carol Cochran's life, Phaedra, and an update on four brothers by Kim Barker. For our educators and wildlife rehabbers, are two contributions. Robert Hohn explains the "ins and outs" of his wildlife education programs, and Patty Perry writes a feel good success story that saved a family of wild bobcats by educating the landowner. Also inside is a report from Dr. Sepulveda, the latest recipient of an FCF conservation grant for his research to help kodkod (guigna) conservation. Jim Broaddus puts a smile on our face as we learn how his Panama City facility is surviving without tourist traffic, post BP oil spill. And for sheer excitement, we have Dean Harrison's description of "Tiger Splash" at Out of Africa Park in Arizona.

This is the Chinese Year of the Tiger, and as I wrote in the previous Journal, tiger conservation is not doing well. A mystery virus is driving the Siberian tiger to the edge of extinction, and the last animal tagged by conservationists was shot dead in the far east of Russia because of the danger it posed to people. Wildlife

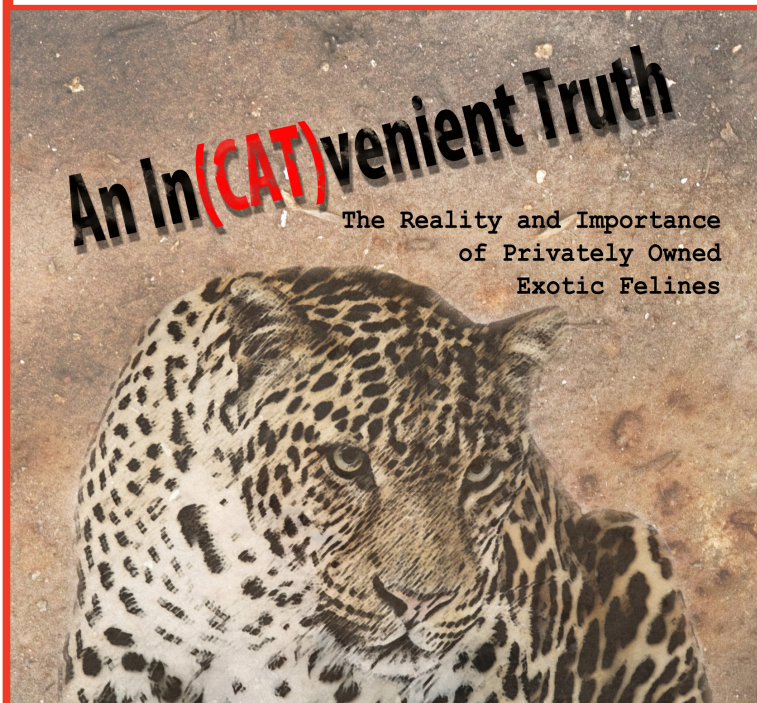
Conservation Society Russia reported in October 2009 that there had been a 40% decline in tigers since the last full survey in 2005, from 428 to as little as 252 adult tigers. Populations this low put the Amur tiger population at a tipping point for extinction.

In 1968, only three felines were considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and/or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Florida cougar, the Sumatran tiger, and Siberian (Amur) tiger. This Journal's "Blast from the Past" is a 1970 Long Island Ocelot Club newsletter reprint titled "Siberian Tiger," by Robert Baudy. Reading this account, we learn that the 1960 the census of wild Russian Siberian tigers numbered only 68 individuals. In 1970 Mr. Baudy's facility, Savage Kingdom, had successfully bred and raised 44 cubs, even exporting several to European zoos.

It was a private facility that helped breed up the captive population of Siberian tigers. Laws that are crafted to prohibit the propagation of threatened or endangered species are a death sentence. It is morally wrong to put forth the politically correct idea that "wildlife only belongs in the wild," where it is being exterminated. That belief is a global death sentence. It is immoral to use the power of legislation to forbid private sector efforts to hold captive populations and prevent total extinction. If we have learned nothing else from the BP oil spill, it should prove definitively that "what can go wrong, eventually will go wrong," and nothing is safe from extinction. Mankind's domination and technology is destroying our food sources, the planet we call home, and its innocent animal inhabitants.

## **Premiering at the Convention...** **during the membership meeting** **Thursday evening, July 29, 2010**

This eye-opening 18 minute FCF documentary DVD is now available! Get your copy by making a \$10 donation to the FCF Rare Species Fund at Convention or making a \$15 donation, and we will mail it to you. Please add a shipping fee of \$2.00 US, \$3.00 Canada or \$5.00 international for home delivery. Mail your donation check to: FCF Treasurer 3304 S. 334th E. Ave., Broken Arrow, OK 74014; call in your credit card to Kurt at 918-407-0341; or use PayPal online.



- What is the truth?*
- With all of the media and hype, sometimes it's hard to tell.*
- Take a rational and in depth look into the world of exotic cats in America and learn what the news never told you.*
- Learn about the misleading claims that are shaping government policy and negatively affecting viable conservation efforts.*
- Learn about "animal rights" and their desire to rid the U.S. of all captive animals.*
- Also learn about the role and importance of captive felines in the United States.*
- If you don't know anything about exotic cats, your eyes will be opened by this video.*
- If you know everything about exotic cats, you may find you still have a bit left to learn...*

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION - WE LOVE IT, AND SO SHOULD YOU!

Robert and Sandra Lee Hohn

We are Robert and Sandra Lee Hohn from upstate New York. We have been members of the FCF since 2007. We took the basic husbandry course in 2007 and I took the first FCF Wildlife Conservation Educator's course conducted at the 2009 Convention in Monterey, California. We are both registered handlers, documenting seven years of feline experience.

In 2008 we opened Paradise Conservation Center located at our home. We are licensed by the USDA and New York Department of Environment and Conservation as exhibitors.

These are some of the things we have

learned over the years. We are still learning and are continuing our education at each year's convention.

- Safety is #1. Before we leave to do a show we have a checklist for everything we need.
- Be prepared, each show is structured for the size of the group and its ages.
- Make sure we know our animals. There is only one way to do this, spend lots of time with each animal.
- There are no short cuts when it comes to this. We find that people are not impressed with what they can read in a book, but are impressed that we know every detail, likes, and dislikes, about our animals.



photo credit Sandra Lee Hohn

Robert demonstrates the proper way to wear fur. Sebastian is 18 months old and Robert Hohn brings him into their bedroom for daily one-on-one contact. Robert says the photos on the wall are no longer hanging, thanks to Sebastian's jumping ability.

job is to safely control the animal, and we rotate after each animal.

- When the group arrives we set the guidelines and rules; everyone uses hand sanitizer before and after the show. We will demonstrate on some poor unsuspecting person that if I yelled at you and went after your head, what would you do (fight or flight). So when we bring the animals to you, please keep your voices low and do not touch them on the head.
  - Introduce our safety equipment. This is our first aid kit. Notice it is sealed and unopened and we do not expect to use it today. This is our capture net, our blankets, and leather gloves, etc. *Notice all of this is before we even take out one animal.*
  - Pick a fan. (I learned this from an AZA course in West Virginia.) Look for the most interested person, the one who is nodding and making eye contact. This is your cheerleader. If you get stuck, fumble your words, or just draw a blank or get nervous, look for your cheerleader and it will be okay.
  - Ask the audience to hold all questions about the animal until it is safely back in its cage.
  - Answer all questions honestly; no B.S.
  - If you don't know the answer, it's okay to say, "That is a very good question and I will make sure to find out the answer." Do not lie. Trust is hard to earn.
  - Bring treats that interested people can give to the animals after the show for a job well done.
  - Have fans leave before bringing the animals to the vehicle. This is a very easy time to be distracted.
  - Clean up your mess. You always want it cleaner than when you got there.
  - Police your area before leaving. I have been embarrassed more than once for leaving something behind. It is usually sanitizer or paper towels. It is costly and embarrassing.
- What really impresses them is the bond that we have with each of the animals. The audiences can tell the animals are well cared for.
- Arrive early every time we go to a show. The animals go to the bathroom in their travel crates (does this happen to anyone else?).
- We arrive and set everything up, clean out the cages and clean off the animals and let them get accustomed to their new surroundings.
- Make sure everyone knows his or her role. When I am holding the animal, someone else is speaking; my only





The big brown lump climbing down Sandra Lee is Conner, the coatimundi. This is a very nosy animal and he is demonstrating how well his big nose works at the Broad Albin - Perph Summer Recreation program.

#### Now To The Fun Stuff

People ask us what possesses us to own exotic animals. They sometimes try to bait us into an animal rights argument. We enjoy this challenge. We explain that we are educators and have spent thousands of dollars and years of training so we can help educate people of the importance of conserving all of our resources; air, water, land, and animals.

We chose not to train our animals, nothing against trainers; we chose a different approach. A great book to read is from FCF member Dean Harrison of out of Africa in Arizona, called Return to Eden.

When we do shows the children always ask, "Are these animals your pets?" We answer that we have an excellent relationship with our animals, and it comes from spending many hours with them. We make sure our animals are imprinted on us. They know we are the ones that care for them, feed them, play with them, and,

most of all, love them, but we tell the children that they are not pets.

We take the time to explain that in order to legally own wildlife, we have to follow all the laws, and in New York, you can only possess a bobcat or similar animal for two reasons. One is for breeding. In case something happened to make them endangered, captive offspring could be used to reintroduce them back into the wild. The other reason is to exhibit them in educational shows. We explain how we came to be exhibitors, that we spent five years volunteering at a zoo, became licensed by the federal USDA and New York state Department of Conservation,

and that we continue our education by attending the FCF learning programs and conventions.

People ask us about rod and gun clubs. I am not a hunter and do not own any guns, but my experience is that they donate more resources to conservation by stocking streams, lakes, and fields so future generations of hunters can enjoy them, rather than any type of conservation important to animal rights groups.

And to sum it all up, the best experience we have had was the privilege of bringing animals up to the Hole in the Woods Ranch in upstate New York. There were hundreds of disabled kids from all walks of life that lit up with huge smiles when we brought the animals to see them. You could not have paid me a million dollars to do that show - that was our honor and privilege.

We are happy to be a part of the FCF.

I would like to thank anyone who does any kind of service for our organization. We want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

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## FABULOUS PHAEDRA

By Carol Cochran

I have been an avid animal lover for over 55 years. As a child, I lugged home every creature that looked like it needed a home, whether it did or not, every chance I got. Of course, I never got to keep them, but I kept on lugging. My love of animals grew with me and I knew I had to be as involved as I could with them so when the opportunity came, at the age of 18, I joined up with a carnival that let me go out into the world and enjoy life. I worked on several different shows throughout the country and met some beautiful people. I was fortunate enough to be able to take over a wildlife show for some people whose health was failing but who wanted to keep the animals and show together. That was the start of my dream come true.

The show consisted of a diversity of animals that we had set up on display for people to come into the tent and trailer to see and hear some little talks about the different animals that one would normally never see. These animals were all well socialized and able to be handled by me and the people that worked for me. They included Bobcats, Canada Lynx, Servals, Caracals, Cougars, Red Fox, Coati mundi and many others. I could go on and on about the animals but this is about one particular animal. A Serval named Phaedra!

Phaedra was born April 27, 2009, to Kulua and Dash, servals belonging to Teresa and Scot Shaeffer. These people were almost mirror images of myself when it comes to their love and devotion to animals. I purchased the one kitten they had in this litter; a little female that just took my breath away when I looked at her. We finally brought her home the first part of June.

She was just a little over five weeks of age and already had shown she was independent and could demonstrate an attitude. I named her Phaedra, after a girl's name in a song by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood, called "Some Velvet Morning"! Phaedra immediately became the spoiled child of the house. My husband, Pat, and I also have Bengal Cats, American Tundra Shepherd dogs, a mixed breed dog, and at that time, a Pekinese pup. Phaedra intimidated them all, with her spits, hisses, growls and stares. They learned to give

her a wide berth when passing.

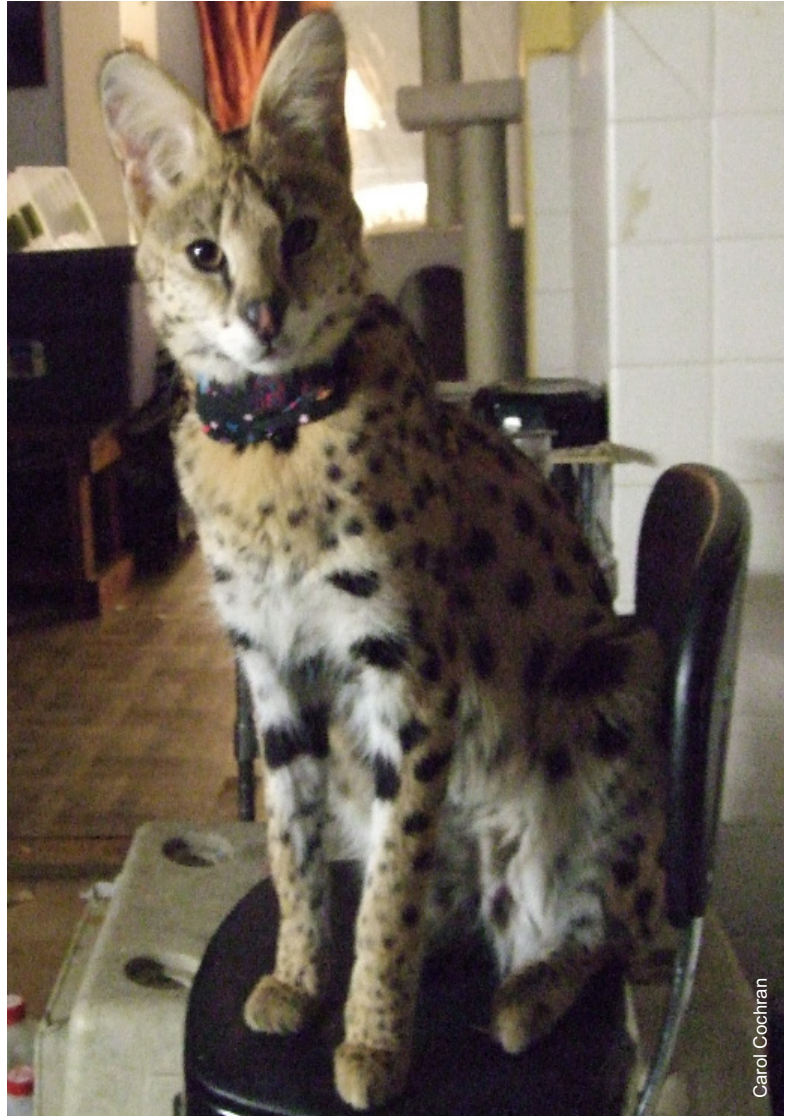
The only one not miffed by her was me! I had been around lions, tigers, cougars, wolves, etc., during my life and I was not going to let this little spotted ball of fluff get over on me. She did not want to cuddle, she didn't want to be held, she did not want to be bothered so we just took it at her pace.

She was very easy to housebreak, learned to come when called, learned to walk on her leash and was a perfect lady when going to the vet. Her veterinarian, Dr. Bud Hertzog, is a genius when it comes to any animal, exotic or otherwise, so she had a good start with veterinary care. She even learned to sit on command as sometimes she did not want to eat, so I would feed her out of my hand and made her sit to do it.

Phaedra loved to play but didn't seem to demonstrate love the way our Bengals do. She sometimes rubbed up against my legs, or purred, but not extensively. Not until I had to be in the hospital for about four days!

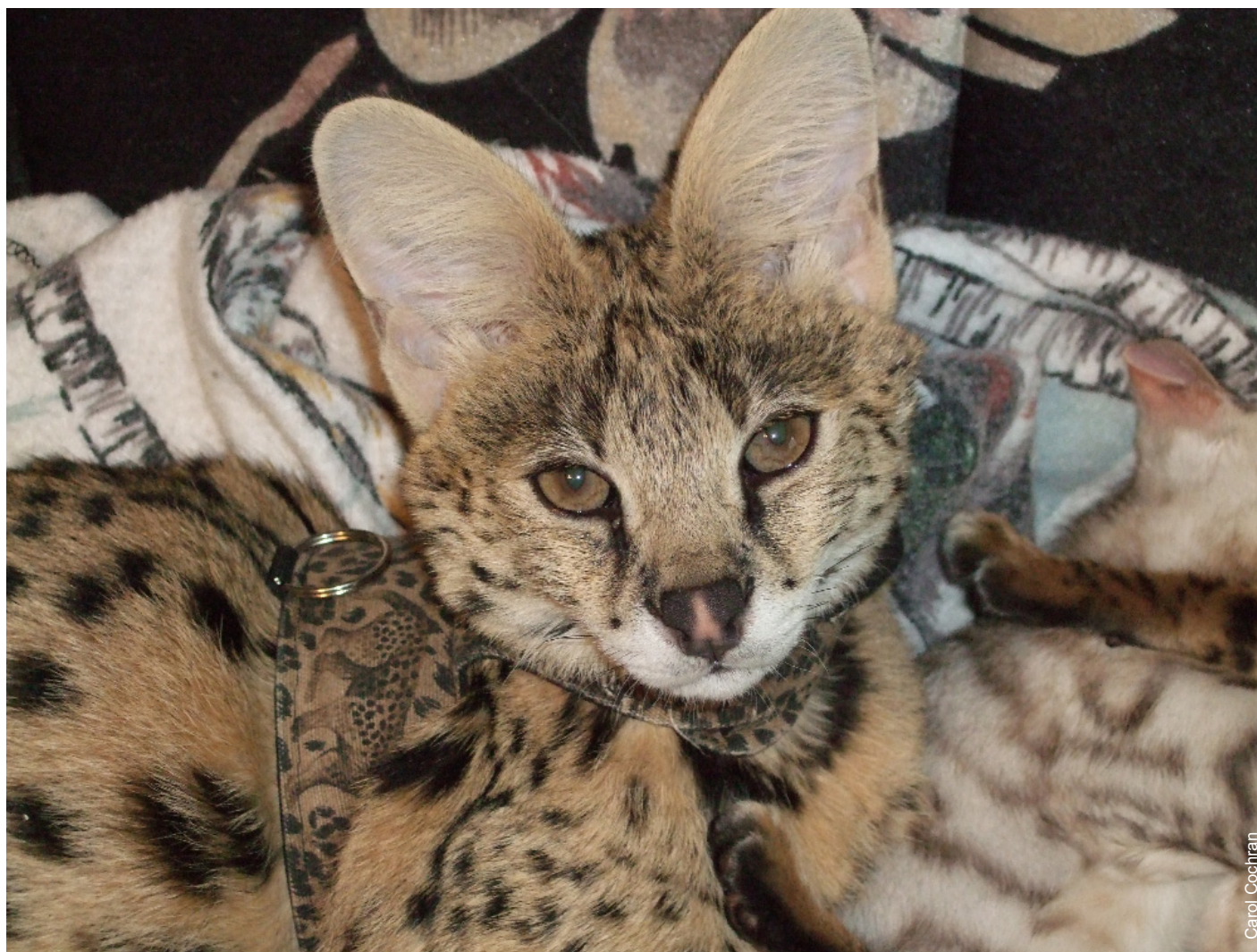
Servals, especially the females, tend to be one person cats, and that was proven while I was gone. She has never been loving with Pat, always growling, spitting and slapping at him, but when she nips his

hand it is always very gentle and ends with her licking his fingers, but still growling. So, while I was in the hospital, he rarely saw her throughout the house. He put her food and water in the bedroom as she hid under the bed continuously. The



Phaedra has the best seat in the house as she waits for her mommy to warm up her dinner in the microwave.

day I came home from the hospital I did remember to kiss Pat and say hi, but my most urgent objective was my cats! Phaedra, in particular, as the Bengals all loved Pat and were not even aware I had been gone. Previously, whenever Phaedra went under the bed, I would lie across the bed and say, "Where's my Phaedra?" She would stick her head out and start kissing



Phaedra models her walking jacket as she lies on the bed next to her Bengal buddy.

my hands then come out and lick my cheek. This time it took two tries of calling her and she peeked out like she did not believe it was me. She confirmed that it really was "Mommy," and here she came. Talk about rubbing, purrs, kisses, love nudges - she was full of them. She really missed me! She still gets anxious if we leave the house for more than an hour. If I go out to the yard without her, she will get in the window to watch me.

Even though she is an exotic or wild animal, as some may call her, she still knows love, companionship and gentleness. Any animal that is shown love and kindness by a human can become very devoted and loyal to that person. I have seen that in all kinds of the animals I have had the pleasure of being around. But when they live in your home with you, they are one of the family and can be just as loving and sweet as any domestic animal. Granted, you have to be aware that


they are different and teach and handle them accordingly, but they can have so much love to give in return.

Phaedra is 14 months old now, still spoiled rotten and still does not like Pat much. She will play with the Bengal kittens, sometimes a little rough, until I tell her, "No," which she also learned early in life. She loves to shred newspaper, suck on a fuzzy blanket and sleep next to "Mommy!" Her very favorite toy is "Ducky!" When we brought Phaedra home, Teresa gave her a little yellow stuffed duck. She slept with the duck, played with it and I cannot count the times she drowned Ducky, but never,

ever tore it or chewed it up. I cannot say that for any of her other toys. She has ripped up almost every toy we have bought her. But not Ducky!

She is a jewel of the animal world and a joy to behold. I love my Phaedra and my Phaedra loves me, and that, my friends, is what life is about!

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The FCF Conservation Grants committee awarded \$1500 support to Maximiliano A. Sepulveda. These funds provide the final funding needed for this \$1440 project to study habitat use and movements using trap cameras, and examine human attitudes and differences before and after implementation of an educational program and mitigating conservation activities to diminish cat-human conflict in the Valdivian Coastal Reserve in Chile. The ultimate goal being to establish a long-term conservation program for the Kodkod based in applied research.

## IMPLEMENTING A LONG-TERM CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN KODKOD (*LEOPARDUS GUIGNA*) IN THE VALDIVIAN TEMPERATE FOREST

Maximiliano A. Sepulveda, A. Eguren & E.A. Silva-Rodriguez

The kodkod (*Leopardus guigna*) is the smallest cat in South America and has the narrowest geographic distribution among living cats. It can only be found in the Temperate Rainforests of Chile and Argentina. Although the kodkod was considered fairly common as late as the early 1960's, it is currently regarded as vulnerable by IUCN, endangered in Chile and vulnerable in Argentina and is listed on Appendix II of CITES.

The kodkod is highly associated with the Valdivian Temperate Forest (Fig.1). This forest is characterized by its extraordinary endemism. Unfortunately, this ecosystem is being rapidly replaced by agricultural lands as well as exotic planta-

tions of pine and eucalyptus. These changes in land cover are a major threat for several endemic species, including among them the kodkod. In addition, this small cat faces high pressure from local farmers that to prevent poultry losses kill them whenever it is possible.

The future scenario for the kodkod is complex.

Considering the alarming rate at which the forest is being lost, the future of the kodkod lies in the ability to preserve this species in areas that are by definition dominated by people. In consequence, it is fundamental to understand the interactions of kodkods with people as well as with the human-made ecosystems.



Fig. 2: Kodkod photo captured in a camera trap in VCR.

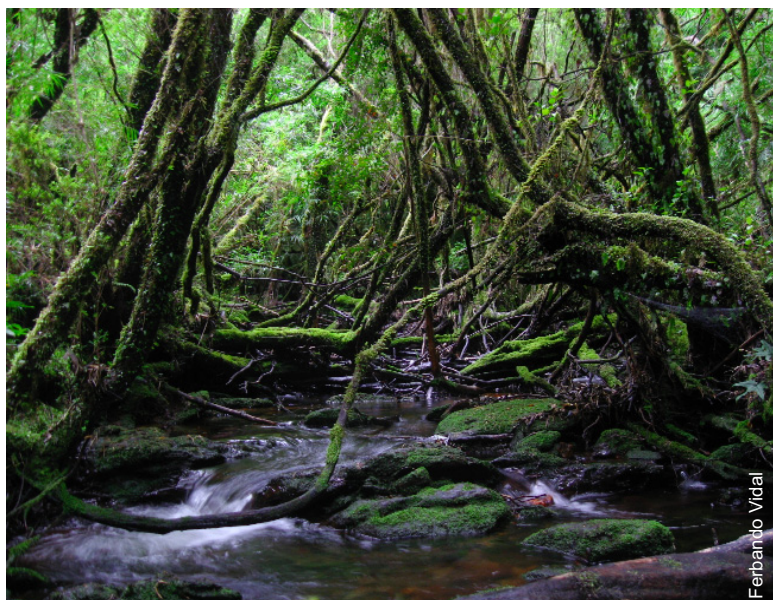


Fig. 1: Valdivian temperate forest.

Such information is absolutely necessary to help conservation organizations decide on adequate targets.

Our study site is located in the Valdivian Coastal Reserve (VCR), the largest protected area located in the coastal range of Chile. This area, administered by The Nature Conservancy, has been protected since 2003 and encompasses almost 13% of the remaining primary forest in the Chilean coastal range. The coastal range of Chile represents the more critical area for the conservation of biodiversity in temperate South America, and for this reason is an international biodiversity hotspot.

In our project we will implement a study on kodkod ecology that will last for 3 years. For this purpose we will use camera traps and radiotelemetry. Camera trapping allows researchers to obtain informa-



Fig. 3: Kodkod released with radiocollar at the VCR.

tion on the presence and even identity of animals based on pictures obtained by cameras that are triggered by movement (Figure 2). In addition, we will capture kodkods and fit them with radio-collars (Fig.3). The radiotelemetry technology allows us to know the exact position of the collared kodkod, enabling us to study their habitat preferences (Fig.4). The combination of telemetry and camera trapping will allow us to determine the effects of forest plantations and human presence on the kodkod's use of space.

In addition we will study the human-kodkod conflict by interviewing local people. From interviews we will obtain information regarding the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors toward the guigna. In addition, we will estimate the magnitude of the kodkod-related losses and its influence on human perceptions about the guigna.

Based on the results obtained during the first year of study, we will generate a list of activities to mitigate the human-cat conflict. All conservation actions will be discussed in conjunction with local organizations supporting the project. These

actions will be implemented during the second year and may include construction of henhouses or building modifications and stimulating improvements in the management of dogs (poor management is associated to high impact on wildlife). If we are able to decrease the intensity of the

conflict, the study will serve as a conservation model to mitigate one of the main carnivore-human conflicts in the Valdivian temperate forest. Finally, through environmental education, we expect to improve the reputation of the kodkod.



Fig. 4: Maximiliano Sepulveda interviews a local farmer.

## OIL AIN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S SLICK

Jim Broaddus

Be careful when you talk to Lynn Culver on the phone, lest you find yourself committed to writing something artful for this Journal. When Lynn and I spoke last week, I shared the state of the state of the Gulf States...post the BP blow-out. Before I hung up with Lynn, she had wrangled me into a commitment to write this story about the reinvention of Bear Creek Feline Center, now that we have seen the negative effects of the worst possible ecological tragedy that the world has experienced in modern times. The night after night, in your face press, driven by ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX and CNN, caused our phones to stop ringing, resulting in slim to no tour bookings. Mind you that the oil patties hadn't been spotted on Panama City Beach at the time of this writing, but, none the less, you could roll a bowling ball down the "Front Beach Strip" without fear of hitting a tourist. Our young 501(c)3 had been enjoying year by year growth up 100%. We are not like a museum where the curator turns the lights off as he leaves at night. Our 24 cats continue to eat while our volunteer staff was asked to turn their



Young Saint loves water, and here he's enjoying a summer swim while he still can. Never can tell when those tar balls are going to arrive!

pockets inside out to pay the bills. Seventy days ago, the bottom fell out; our tour count went south and we encountered the worst let-down that one might expect to experience in this lifetime, or the next.

Please keep in mind that Bear Creek zoomed from "zero to 60" in just over ten years. Our early beginning as "Bear Creek Cattery" grew to "Bear Creek Sanctuary," and now has become a small, yet effective, state-of-the-art center whose mission is one of conservation, education and preservation. I give credit to my friend Thierry Plaud for showing us the



Bear Creek interns work on the Center's latest project, a tall observation tower (made from a converted grain bin) that will overlook the new serval habitat, future home to a mixed group of these spotted African cats.

staffed, and in big trouble. Our meat purveyors, and even our trusted vet, put us on a "cash basis only" credit status. What did we do? Satisfied that they could "kill us but not eat us," we opted to go for it. Reinvention was the only solution.

As I explored grants, local sponsorships and the like, I realized that I was sinking into BP's mire. I needed something quick, so I brainstormed, using my outdated Dell in an effort to learn of programs offered by the state of Florida. I saw a small light at the end of the tunnel as I reviewed [www.MyFlorida.com](http://www.MyFlorida.com) and discovered that BCFC might benefit from having

"vendor" status. Soon enough, I realized that the application to become a vendor was a gimmick. I completed the online application and we were issued Vendor #VF60727897001. Of course, this certification and a dime are worth about one tenth of a dollar. I was stuck. Since we don't sell cats and Florida doesn't buy them, what to do with another certificate on the wall became the question that led me to explore one of the Obama administration's new back-to-work programs. I looked at Bear Creek's human assets, and there was the answer... right under my nose. One of our trusted interns, 18-years-old, was already qualified for "state vocational rehabilitation." Stephen Swift's mother, April, introduced me to a young, creative thinker, Pamela Cramer, who works with the Florida Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation program here in Bay County. Ms. Cramer was favorably impressed with the center after her first visit. She walked me through the process of filing the state's application to become a certified vocational rehabilitation vendor. After two weeks and several rejections, Bear Creek's status was finally approved on June 1, 2010.

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I figured that the state's entitlements could be of tremendous value, and my hunch was correct. Before you could say, "don't," we were interviewing several





Bertie Broadius

Every construction site need a supervisor, and here Saint rests on a mound of sand as he watches the workers get the job done.”

worthy young lads that the state had qualified for “VR.” Here’s how it works: we pay the interns up to \$10 per hour for up to 40 hours a week. Florida reimburses us for 100% of our cash expenditures. Now, I ask you, when have you had a budget like this for your intern program? Although I have not explored this program in other states, I would think that it might exist in all 50!

Paid help is something we could never before afford. Now, we have it, but what to do with it was the next challenge. More enclosures, landscaping, catching up on deferred maintenance projects... just a start. These much needed accomplishments were great, but not enough to solve our cash flow issue. With BP’s crude still bubbling under the Gulf’s waters, I rang them up to file a claim for “loss of income.” After quick meetings at their claims office down on Panama City Beach, I was essentially told that I had not bled enough. I showed them Performa projected losses, only to learn that they

would only pay real historical losses supported by bank deposit receipts. Furthermore, the nice man at the claims desk asked for documentation from our CPA, substantiating that none of the BCFC staff would be enriched by a BP disbursement. It’s always nice when telling the truth makes a good story. Chas Tipton, CPA, wrote his declaration on official CPA letterhead to put BP’s mind at ease on this one. The following roadblock made me a little more than despondent. BP accepted the CPA’s letter, only

to inform me that they could only make reimbursements to people who suffered losses... not for animals. This is hilarious, but it is not a joke.

I retreated to the safety of the Bear Creek compound. I have often said that I feel safer in the cage with my 170-pound mountain lion than with “suits.” Going for broke was about all that was left for me and the cats... so several of us went for it. Less than 24 hours after BP blew us off, we again made our assault on their claims office. But this time, it was with a cadre consisting of an intern with Asperger’s syndrome, a 4-month-old panther cub, and my loving wife, Bertie. As we entered the room that was not much more than a defunct grocery store within a worn out strip mall, the claims officials and their clients rose to meet us in the waiting area. With cell phone cameras blazing, and with Saint, the panther cub, leading the way, we headed to the desk of BP’s Larry Price. To say that he was stunned would not be appropriate... more like

amazed that we would bring a real, little “big cat” being led by an Asperger’s syndrome student, with me in my sun-bleached FCF ball cap and Bertie in her worst jeans, into his sancta sanctorum! Cat and pony show, you say? Maybe, but it just may have worked. Our good friend Larry approved us for an emergency disbursement that is supposed to arrive before this article goes to press. If not, next time we will ride into his office on Doc Antle’s elephant!

In case you are wondering how a financially strapped “Good Will Cat Center” came by a 4-month-old panther, thanks should be given to Chris Oldham at Cata-mountain Creek. He purchased this cub for us as part of a breeder’s agreement. There are many good people out there within the FCF membership... Chris is at the top of my list.

Lynn is pressing me for this article, so I must conclude. We plan follow-up Bear Creek solutions as we develop “Bear Creek After Dark,” a project centered around our elaborate night tour to stimulate locals to revisit us now that the tourists are sufficiently coated with oil!



Sandy King

Full of life and love of nature, Saint is a real “tree hugger.”

## BOUNDARIES BESTOWED ON BACKYARD BOBCATS

Patty Perry

Wildlife and Environmental Conservation

One never knows just where and how we will need to convince the public that this planet needs everyone's help, and why. I have a good one for you... Read and enjoy.

I received a phone call from the California Department of Fish and Game last weekend regarding a bobcat drama in someone's backyard. They requested my help on the matter, as they had reached the end of their patience. An elderly couple living in a remote desert area of

them.

In California, the law states that wildlife may only be transported and released within a three-mile distance from where it has been trapped. In this case that would probably not have worked. Other than just a few attractive spots in the area, there was nothing but miles and miles of desert. Because these folks had created a perfect situation for the bobcat family, they most likely would have returned. There was heavy vegetation, a water source (for birds, but the bobcats were using it) and absolutely no human presence. The bobcat family was so comfort-

wildlife conservation and education...

I began my quest by telephoning the couple. I spoke to the wife, who seemed to be in charge. I assured her that I was going to help her and she should calm down and know that this would be resolved. She made it clear that nothing else would be acceptable other than to kill them or otherwise remove them permanently. The next thing I knew, I was loading up the truck with traps and an assortment of capture and restraint equipment. I drove for over two hours and God knows how I even found the place. When I got there, sure enough, there were two babies and mom hanging around the yard as if it were their own. I won't go into all the details, but I spent the next several hours trying to explain the "wildlife facts of life," only to have it fall on deaf ears... or so I thought.

I proceeded to set six traps baited with scents and lures. I tied feathers to a string and soaked strips of cloth in lynx urine (I didn't have any bobcat urine). Both these lures were hung from the top, at the back of the trap. Any air movement caused the dangling feathers to gently rotate, and the lynx urine to waft on the breeze. I explained that these attractants could take a little time to work, and they needed to be patient. They expected to trap all three of them immediately, seemingly disappointed by the truth of the matter.

The lady of the house made spaghetti and meatballs and told me ALL about her children while the both of them bickered continuously. It was now ten o'clock at night and I just wanted to go home. They expected me to spend the night and stay until the job was done!!!! No freaking way!!! I did not even care about the grueling drive home at this point.

I finally arrived home at about two in the morning and, sure enough, she called me three hours later to tell me that there was a baby in one of the traps. She could not understand why it would take me so long to get there. These people have been



Patty Perry

This is the property. The house is surrounded by trees and vegetation, as well as numerous piles of building materials and junk, all making great bobcat habitat in an area that is mostly desert, missing shade, water, and cover. Is it any wonder the bobcats took up residency?

Southern California apparently had a bobcat family invading their property. It was a mother and two kittens. The couple had gone all the way to Sacramento with the problem. They further stated that this situation was causing damage to the yard since the lawn could not be watered or mowed. D.F.G. spent all day on Sunday trying to work with them. The outcome was that if they did not get rid of them immediately, the husband would shoot

able that the mother would lie on the lawn and nurse her kittens. If I were a bobcat mom, I would go back there too! Oh, by the way, the yard was loaded with quail and cottontails!!! HELLO???

The couple refused any reasonable solution or compromise. These animals should be dead. They were ruining their lives!

Now I come into the picture. Another adventure in the wonderful world of

living out there for far too long.

As the saying goes, "curiosity killed the cat," or, in this case, "caught the cat." There was a perfect little baby in the trap. One down, two to go. After observing the mom pacing, panting, and calling to her trapped baby, I began to lose patience with these people. Don't forget that I was also seriously sleep-deprived. I explained that there was no chance of trapping the mom at this point. My only remaining option would be trying to dart her, and there would probably only be one chance. I had not seen the other baby for several hours. Gee, I wonder why????? In the meantime, I consumed several waffles and listened to endless stories. This was HIS specialty.

I decided to "go big;" there was no other choice. I could no longer endure. I pleaded to the woman's maternal side and begged for mercy on these babies. I had no right to take these babies from their mom. They were one hundred percent healthy and one hundred percent wild. It was not their fault that they chose this spot for themselves. After all, the perfect habitat had been created for them. These folks would have to change things if they wanted to eliminate the problem for good.

Up to this point they had refused to capitulate. The husband explained to me that there was no longer a purpose for these animals in the world, since the need for balancing the ecosystem had been taken over by humans. I spent the next twenty minutes enlightening him. He actually seemed to be listening. FINALLY. I now had their attention, so I came in for the kill... I made an offer they could not refuse! I would come back the next day with a work party and all the necessary equipment to clear out the yard and remove the water sources. This exercise would chase away the bobcats and guarantee that they would not return. AND IT WOULD ALL BE FREE! I gave my personal guarantee. The second she agreed to it, I hauled a\*\* out to the trap and cut the baby loose. There was no turning back now!

I drove another two-plus hours home to



Big Momma bobcat and her kitten in the back yard. Another kitten was just out of camera view. They were romping in full daylight as the homeowners remained indoors, afraid to come out.

catch a small amount of sleep and came back the next day with a work party. We gathered up a roll-off dumpster full of debris, and the yard has never looked so good. As a thank you, we graciously sat down and ate more of that good "home cook'n."

I let D.F.G. know the outcome. They were both thrilled and astonished. After lots of hugging and kind words, the couple asked if I could come back soon for a visit and a meal. I broke all speeding laws getting home.

This potential disaster resulted in a very happy and satisfying ending. The bobcats won. D.F.G. was happy. The elderly couple had their day, and I felt a sense of accomplishment and

relief.

There were many hours spent on education and it made everyone feel good. We are fortunate to have the support of the California Department of Fish and Game. They feel that private educators play a significant role in this type of public incidence. Supporting each other gives our message a greater force and our precious wildlife a better chance.



Mother bobcat drinks for the last time from the water pan set out for wild birds. Having a handy water source in the yard is too attractive, and the birds have had to drink elsewhere.

## BACK WITH THE BARKER BOYS

*This article is a continuation of the story Ms. Barker presented in her piece called "Bringing Up Babies," which can be found in the Journal of Jan./Feb. 2008.*

Kim Barker

About a year and a half ago, I introduced many of you to Sammy, Obi, William, and Mojo, four young servals born at the Conservators' Center to a rescued serval that had arrived pregnant. This past May, the "boys," as we call them, turned two years old.

I first wrote about them when they were six months old. As these youngsters approached their first birthday, they began

to grow increasingly aggressive. Obi, in particular, became the enforcer of the group, basically dictating which of us would be allowed to visit with them and then letting us know when it was time to leave. Usually he would give us plenty of warning with some grumping and posturing that lasted a few minutes. By the time he began this behavior, his brothers had mostly distanced themselves from us as well, letting us know we had been "dismissed." We heeded the warning.

Every now and then, though, the warning would be a little quicker than was feasible for a timely departure, and his brothers were sometimes still interested in visiting with us. This would result in some hissing and, on occasion, a swat from him, but, because we were consistently teaching them that it was inappropriate to bite or scratch, he rarely used his claws and thankfully never bit any of us. During this time, visits were limited to people who had been trained to watch for the "dismissal" and was limited to small groups and windows of time to minimize agitation from Obi.

With all of their health issues due to metabolic bone disease (which we believe was caused by a calcium-deficient batch of formula) and the increasing aggression, the decision was made to neuter them since they would not be bred, and the hope was that the procedure would also calm some of their angst. As usual, the day of the procedures was filled

with anxiety for the humans in attendance. There is always concern when an animal goes under anesthesia, and that day was focused on four of our beloved young residents with a history of ailments. They had responded well to a new diet which helped them replace lost calcium, but who knew what remaining issues they might have that we couldn't detect?

That day held a little extra excitement for me. Because they had become very aggressive when we had given them shots previously, we decided to net and restrain them for their anesthetic shots in preparation for surgery. This was my first experience with netting and restraining an animal. Doug and Mindy allowed me to help as I have a close relationship with these four, and the goal was to have people they trusted around them during the stressful situation. Our sweet, fragile servals had grown into freakishly strong acrobats determined not to be held down, regardless of whether or not it was for their own good. Obi went first. I will never forget with what effortlessness he completely scaled Doug, while still in the net!

Each of them tolerated the procedure well, and we carefully observed them for hours, watching for any signs of negative response to their ordeal. They all recovered beautifully, but Sammy woke up more slowly than we expected, with some lingering nerve issues in his left rear leg. The vet indicated that one of the shots must have hit a nerve. She couldn't guarantee her diagnosis, so we had his leg and back x-rayed to rule out an injury from being netted and restrained. It took some time and a lot of exercise, but I am happy to say that he has recovered nicely and is very much back to feeling like himself.

After the procedures, we anxiously awaited any behavior changes. We saw a return to the gentler behavior we had seen in them when they were younger. After a number of weeks, we saw them welcome and, in many cases, initiate affection toward us, with fewer and fewer dismissals. Sammy and Mojo's sweet and agreeable behavior was amplified by the neutering. William, previously a bit aloof,



Mojo, the most affectionate of the serval brothers.



The smallest serval of the Barker clan, Obi, gazes intently at a spot out of camera range, maybe a toy or bug he is thinking of pouncing upon.

began to welcome, and sometimes even initiate, affection with humans he was familiar with. Possibly the biggest change was seen in Obi.

Obi has a neurological issue similar to his mother, Misha, which causes his back to twitch when he is agitated or nervous. Previous to his procedure, he exhibited the behavior, one of the signs that it was time for us to leave, frequently. We still see it occasionally, but it is much more rare. He has grown into a confident serval who knows that he is loved and in charge. He adores being outside, but he comes to me when I call him from the cats' room.

My visits with him include some head butts, a quiet and short-lived purr, and a hug. He then usually snaps into "I'm a big boy" mode and darts outside. Eventually returning, he decides that I and most of the other folks in the room belong to him and claims us by spraying. At first, I would do whatever I could to avoid the unpleasant shower, but he is my clever boy, so I accept his compliment with a smile and grin, as it often takes a lot of effort to avoid it... I am fortunate that this little guy has chosen me for his own.

After two years, the servals have mostly maintained their youthful characteristics. They no longer snuggle like they used to, but still show their genuine affection to us

as best they know how.

Sammy remains the largest. Though I am biased, I think most people would agree that he has become a very handsome serval. His personality continues to be one of a cat who has never met a stranger, and he loves going along for educational visits at school programs and conferences. He is also quite the hunter and skilled fisher.

Mojo has relinquished the title of clown, but he continues to be a sweetheart of a creature. He has grown more quiet and reserved with age, but he is as much the handsome fellow as Sammy. Mojo definitely has the loudest purr and is very gentle and affectionate with his human friends. Of the four brothers, he definitely snuggles the most.

William can still be a bit moody, but he has become increasingly affectionate with those who helped raise him. With a striking profile and solid black nose with a hint of a pink stripe, he is still very easy to pick out of the group. He and Obi love to play in water. It is amusing to watch them splash and play in any available water.

Obi has stayed the smallest serval. His features are very similar to that of his

Aunt Harriet, who lives in the compound. He is sweet, but still very quirky. Obi loves his people, showing them wild affection until he realizes he's a big boy and needs to be independent. It doesn't last too long, though, and he always has to come back. He shares the title of clown with his brother William.

I would be remiss not to mention Murphy, the fifth brother of the litter, whom we lost while battling the health issues that come from metabolic bone disease. Many of us still miss him and wonder what kind of adult serval he would have become. There is no doubt that this group of guys would be even more rowdy and entertaining had he survived alongside his brothers. He would most certainly have been the clown of the group.

I thought I was attached to them when writing my first article on these guys a year and a half ago. Since then, I have grown much closer to them and think they have grown closer to me. Often, as I am entering or leaving the compound, I will hear a very familiar "MEH!" coming from their enclosure. It is my boys, usually Sammy and Obi, calling me to visit with them. It is one of the sweetest sounds I've ever heard. Everyone should be so lucky.



Three kitties cooling off in a kitty pool!

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## TIGER SPLASH® -- WET AND WILD

Dean Harrison

“Are you ready for this?” the emcee blurted. The crowd roared back, “Yessss...!” Two men and a woman sprinted toward the pool. Akasha, a Bengal tigress, spontaneously bolted after the closest one. As the man dove headlong into the clear water, Akasha leapt into the air after him, mouth open. They both disappeared under the surface. A few long, tense moments passed, then the water broke. The man’s arms, head, and shoulders appeared first, but then came the tiger, who emerged in front of him. The tiger’s forelegs wrapped around the man, who had just enough time to catch his breath.

The other man and woman had also splashed into the pool, and were surrounding the tiger, who began nuzzling her “victim” about the head and neck. The audience was silent – stunned - breathless.

“Akasha let him go. Good tiger, Good tiger,” the man on the right uttered quietly. Akasha released Shawn gently, who smiled at the audience and was completely unharmed. The crowd breathed. Tiger Splash® had begun as it does everyday at 1:15 pm at Out of Africa Wildlife Park in Camp Verde, Arizona.

Within a minute, Nick began running

across the grass in front of the two thousand seat arena, filled with anticipating park guests. Liberty, another four hundred pound Bengal tigress, predatorily rocketed after him in determined pursuit. She overtook Nick, who had turned to receive her attack from behind. The two collided, angling to the turf, both sliding like football players, the tiger on top. Again the onlookers gasped in stunned suspense. Rusty, the “Professor of Tiger Economics,” hurled a small piece of meat to Natalie, who had arrived



This is “oneness” - the unity between man and animal at play. Dean Harrison says, “If we are playing together, we are staying together. Stop playing and we separate.” This kind of friendship is a daily occurrence during the Tiger Splash show.



An attack in play, as if the handlers were prey, does not turn into real aggression. Dean explains, “There is an instinct in the tiger, just as in ourselves; the tigers do not want to be alone, they do not want to hurt their friends, so they take care of us, as we take care of them.”

near the collision site. She dropped a morsel of meat in front of Liberty. When the tiger saw it, she sprung off her prey, who scampered to his feet unharmed. The crowd now relieved, some even believing that we may know what we are doing, relaxed, applauded and cheered.

“Is this exciting?” the emcee asked. “Yesss!,” screamed the amazed spectators.

Prayeri, my wife, and I, and some staff members began doing the Tiger Splash® program in 1993 because of a young tiger named Genesis. That was the commencement of what would become the principle attraction at Out of Africa. Genesis was born with a disease called hypertrophic astiodystrophy, normally a termi-

nal illness, which causes the bones to form incorrectly. After three surgeries by an unusual veterinary surgeon, and by almost alchemic work by a holistic veterinarian, who cured him of the disease, the surgeon suggested that we provide the young tiger with a physical therapy pool so he could work his legs, which now had repositioned kneecaps, thanks to the good doctor. Instead of building a small pool, I decided to build a 50x30 foot swimming pool with sloping ends to a depth of four and a half feet, which allowed us to stand, but the animals had to swim.

The other tigers loved it. Even the wolves, bears, and hyenas have frolicked in it, but Genesis never used it. However, he did lay in a small version of it that was built just for him.

For Tiger Splash® to be a “show,” we constructed an arena for public viewing around the swimming pool, and developed a natural behavior show that triggers instincts, intellect, and feelings. We began

using colorful toys, especially animated commercial pool toys, stuffed animals with balloons inside which replaced the stuffing, basket balls, shoes, even clothes and trash bags filled with balloons, that explode when a tiger hits it in mid-air. The program is spontaneous; no two shows are alike. We do no training of any animal. Instead we develop a relationship with each one. We apply “principles of survival,” which correspond to natural instincts. There are four primal instincts, which are behavioral motivators – self-preservation, food, territory, and being part of something greater than one’s self, which is, marriage and family relations. These are the four fundamental objectives in a life – theirs and ours.

The instinct of marriage and family relations is how we begin. It directs us automatically not to be alone, to be part of something greater than ourselves. A corollary instinct lets us know not to hurt our friends, or we will be alone, and we cannot stand to be alone. These instinctual feelings are in us and in them. This is our area of common ground; the points at which we can choose to come together.

We then combine these first source motivators with supportive instincts, which are the procedures to obtain the four objectives. The ones we use in Tiger Splash® are seasonal change, possession, protection, play (the most important), chase, to take advantage, holding and biting, and exploration and adventure.

These are the major instinctual programs found in predator and prey animals, less one – courtship, which does not provoke itself in the show. All four primal instincts and nine supportive instincts are found in endothermic (heat producing) animals, including us. In exothermic animals, the play instinct does not exist. Snakes, lizards, turtles, crocodilian and amphibians do not play. Meat eaters of these groups have a hunting instinct. In large cats, the foundation for hunting is actually the play instinct, which combines with several secondary instincts to achieve food satisfaction.

In order to achieve successful capture of prey or toys, large cats must think. They must conceive, judge, expect, resolve, conclude, and recall, all of which are demonstrated naturally during Tiger Splash®. These six actions are choices, decisions that need to be made with

regards to another’s response or decision, which varies according to circumstances. Without the use of these concepts, these thoughtful capacities to modify instinctual behavior, many lives would be shortened or lost. They progress from recognition to habit, thus working hand-in-hand with instincts toward a more successful outcome.

We also evoke feelings or emotions in the animals during the show. Feelings are subjective, pleasant or unpleasant, physical or mental. In other words, they manifest personal likes and dislikes both physical and psychological. They have their roots in the four primal instincts. Feelings are the glue between all living beings. Good feelings make good relationships. Good relationships with animals (or people) are cemented and enhanced through the instinct of play. Play is the way to our hearts. Those who play together, stay together. To do this well, we must know and practice the natural “principles of survival,” so we demonstrate respect for each other and ourselves. Survival principles are observable, and speak of



Amazing leaping tiger goes for a pool toy on a pole. Most of the Tiger Splash show toys are attached to the end of a pole because it is not safe to hold onto the toys directly. Dean says, “You don’t want to be there when the toy is destroyed.”

lessons found in important occurrences. For example, it would be wise to emulate those who are successful in the hunt for life. (It is easier to follow than to lead.) When youngsters imitate their parents, they are learning by example, the parent squirrel teaches the youngster how to forage for food. If the neonate watches because it is naturally motivated by hunger, then it quickly learns strategies for satisfying its need.

Another example would be if a lioness becomes encircled by a clan of hyenas, but narrowly escapes, she will do well to adjust her behavior, so when she sees the signs of entrapment again, she can decide



to exit sooner. Sometimes the worst circumstances provide the best lessons. I have outlined many of these principles in the book *Return to Eden*, available at the park. This book also gives the history of how the park began.

It all started in 1983 with Saja, a leopard that Prayeri, my wife, and I brought into our home. We have never been the same. The animals have taught us their ways, and we have taught many people, who have experienced relationships they never expected. We have learned to flow with the animal's nature, to "see" from the subconscious mind, not just the conscious. You know the one, the one that says, "I knew it!" It is the one that presents us with a feeling about something that has not happened; it is the woman's intuition or a guy's gut feeling; it is knowing without external proof. It is the real, original us deep inside that quietly suggests to us who we

really are, and why we are here. Through attentive observation, the animals have taught us to be adult children, to live in the moment, not to hold grudges or worry or imagine about what may or may not come. Through them we have learned about God and our natural unifying design of oneness with each other. They have taught us about our conscious morality, which they do not possess. Because of that, they are never guilty, since they have no knowledge of what we call criminal or moral -- that is to say, the knowledge of good and evil. They are innocent and they are wild -- and they are free. They are one with their Maker. That is why we love them. We are all one.

Through the years we have recorded our many, sometimes dangerous, experiences. The philo-



Natalie holds a long PVC pole with three balloons attached at the end. Liberty the tiger launches off the chain link to liberate those balloons. Dean says Liberty is a real jumper; she lives on pogo sticks. This spectacular demonstration of her power always causes the audiences to be awe-struck.

sophy that we now exercise is a composite of natural behaviors that we have acquired in four stages: learning, understanding, knowing, and finally becoming. It is useful not only in dealing with felines, but with other animals, including, but not limited to, bears, wolves, giraffes, antelopes, zebras, birds, and reptiles, even cobras and rattlesnakes. As we have discovered, animals are very much like us in



An emotional moment caught on film by an audience member.

their reactions to what they encounter in their lives. They are also different from us because they rely more heavily on the contents of the subconscious mind, where instinctual programs wait quietly to be triggered for a natural bodily survival response, and then repose again until they are retrieved by the six senses for the next event. They do not think as much or as deeply as we do, but their

bottom line is peace, while ours has become turmoil.

Through the consideration of behavioral categories, and principles that govern natural respect, we can view the possibility of living life together with the animals of our planet, even each other. To this end, we see our challenge, our hope for peace in mind and body, and our reunion with animals, God, and ourselves.

To learn more about Out of Africa visit our website, [www.outofafricapark.com](http://www.outofafricapark.com). You will see we have many species of animals roaming the 104 mountainous acre preserve. If you visit, you'll experience a realistic safari game drive, narrated by expert guides. By the way, the Grizzly Show in the Tiger Splash® arena is only done at 3:00 pm on Saturday. Come early because it takes all day to see the park. We are open year round, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are located 100 miles north of Phoenix on I-17, 3 miles west toward Cottonwood. Just follow the signs. See you here. For more information, call 928-567-2840.

# Rare Species Fund



## Jaguar Conservation: Past and Present

Jaguar conservation throughout South America has been part of the Rare Species Fund agenda for more than two decades. During the mid 1980's, the Smithsonian Institution put plans together to bring this message of preserving the jaguar to the isolated tribes of the Amazon region. The plan was to transport battery powered televisions into the



jungle and bring the first images of a live jaguar that most of the inhabitants had ever seen. Education of indigenous and local people has always played a significant role in conservation. The Smithsonian Institution had the equipment and the expedition crew ready to go, but lacked the requisite footage for the project. The Rare Species Fund stepped in and provided trained jaguars and a full film crew, supplying the footage they would never have been able to obtain in the wild

▲ Conservation of a wild species must begin in the areas where that species naturally exists.

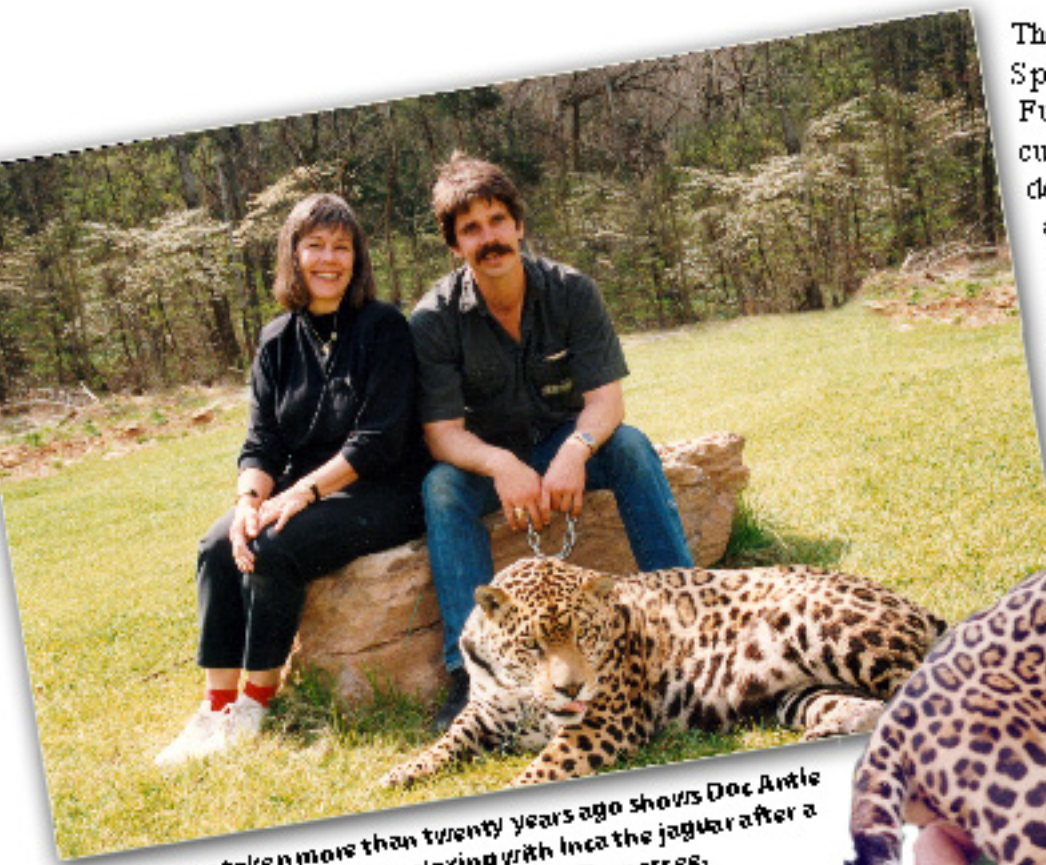
▼ Inca the Jaguar during the filming for the Smithsonian Institution Jaguar Conservation Project.



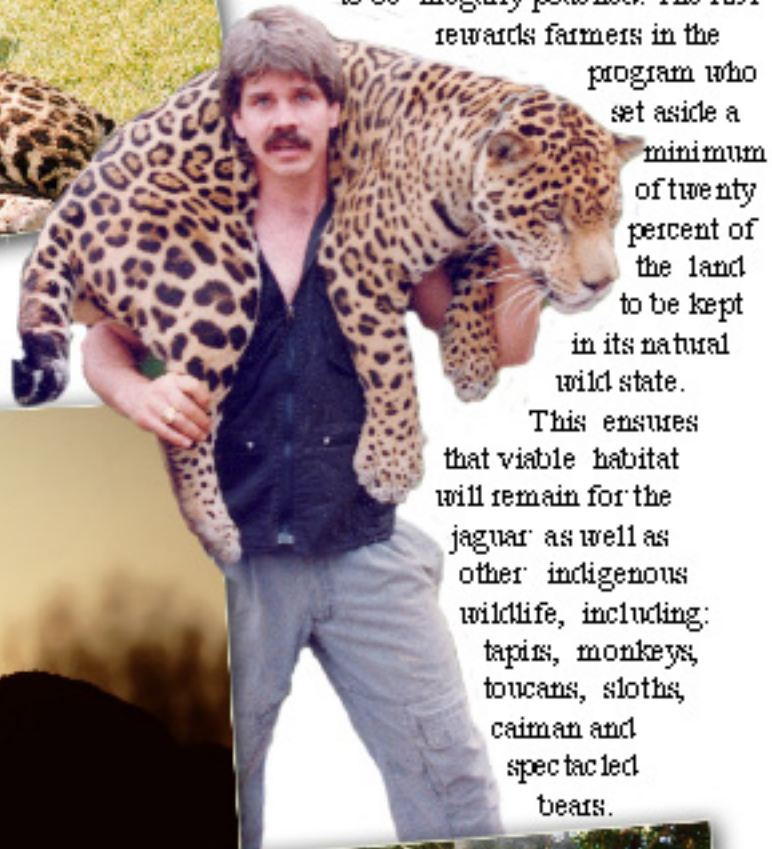


The Rare Species Fund is currently developing a program to reimburse farmers for livestock lost to wild predators, including jaguars. This initiative ensures that the predators do not become a financial liability for the farmers and are therefore less likely to be illegally poached. The RSF rewards farmers in the program who set aside a minimum of twenty percent of the land to be kept in its natural wild state.

This ensures that viable habitat will remain for the jaguar as well as other indigenous wildlife, including: tapirs, monkeys, toucans, sloths, caiman and spectacled bears.



▲ A photo taken more than twenty years ago shows Doc Antle and mother Mari Lin relaxing with Inca the jaguar after a morning walk in Tennessee.



A progressive movement in South and Central America is occurring as farmers and ranchers are learning to co-exist with nature instead of working against it



▲ RSF supplied jaguars for the filming of "Lo Jaguar" starring Jean Reno, Danny Trejo and Patricia Velasquez. This movie brought the difficulties wild jaguars are facing to light for international audiences around the world.





Courtesy Horace Langford Jr.  
Photographer - Pahrump Valley Times

## It's Like Herding Cat People: Managing Confrontation With Diplomacy

*This is the third installment of a five part series by Mindy Stinner, co-founder Conservator's Center, Inc. Mebane, North Carolina*

### PART 3 - INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

When any kind of incident or situation occurs at your site, remain calm. People will take a cue on how to behave from your reaction. Always manage human injuries and animal risks first, and make sure you have someone else available to handle the public and press right away. If you do not have the right person on hand to handle making a statement, have someone who will not bend tell them that

“Everything is under control. All animals are contained, and there is no danger to the public. We are managing the situation and someone will be out to make a statement after we are certain we have a full understanding of what had transpired, and have had an opportunity to speak to everyone involved.”

After the initial crisis has been managed, the next step is containment. It is

basically impossible to prevent information about the situation from getting out, but you can limit some of it, control who makes it public, and have an idea about who else will be talking about it by knowing who was there. This is where documentation comes in.

From the first moment after the crisis is under control, document who was there, what their roles were, and what exactly



Mixed pride preys on helpless discarded Christmas trees. This kind of scent stimulation enriches the lives of the center's resident cats and gives a positive image of life in captivity.



We are happy to say that we no longer have to apologize for our deteriorating jungle cat enclosure. Now we have this 16-foot tall corn crib construction habitat, complete with shelves, corrugated plastic tunnels, houses, and all kinds of neat enrichment for our jungle cats.

they experienced. There are standard incident report forms you can find on line and modify. Whenever possible, have people write it up at that time, in their own writing. This can help later if the issue finds its way to court. It will also help you figure out who is talking or posting information inappropriately if it shows up later. Find out if anyone took photos or video and ask to see it. Pull that person aside and explain to them that while it may seem exciting to them to have this footage, it could be very harmful to your organization and to the animals they love. Usually people are just so excited about being there and having something to show off to others, they give no thought to long-term consequences. If you let them know that you have seen what they have (anonymity is gone) and you ask them personally to keep it to themselves and share it with you to help you prevent further problems of the same kind (bring

them into the inner circle), they will hopefully respond well and choose not to release the images.

In general, if any member of the public had a cell phone or camera near any incident, you can bet it will show up somewhere. Be proactive. Release videos or photos of your place in its best light, hopefully already available in your press kit. Release a well written statement very quickly, even if it is simply general information and a very brief description of the situation, assuring the public they are safe.

Review the incident reports with all of your staff and responsible volunteers, or anyone who assists you regularly. Make an assessment about whether this was a true accident, or if there were contributing factors. Identify them and determine how to repair or prevent them. If someone was remiss, address that with them directly, in a way that helps them understand what went wrong and why. If they broke a policy or

did not follow an established procedure, deal with that behavior. Does your staff need retraining? If they were being foolish or careless, addressing that directly is just as important. Make sure they understand that they have put an animal and a facility at risk, plus created a possible lawsuit. Make sure that this will not happen again by whatever means are necessary.

After an incident has occurred at your place, you have become a target. The difficult people who will take aim at you may be former employees or volunteers, former partners, competing businesses, neighbors who want to cause a stir, or people who just want attention. All the above steps will help you head them off. The incidence of people crying wolf to the local law enforcement may rise, but if you handled this incident well, they will know they can deal with you and trust what you say. When our neighbors have a "lion sighting," the sheriff no longer drives out here in the middle of the night while we do a head count, he calls us. We go count, and call him back. Not only does that work better for the law and for us, but it prevents the appearance of the sheriff's department having to come to our place several times a year.

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In your own literature:

- Be careful not to undermine yourself with woeful claims.
- Promote your expertise without bragging.
- Saying private/pet owners are all bad reflects on you as a private owner.
- Saying that if you do not get money, the animals will die backfires in the long term (Boston area zoos this month) and is highly unprofessional.

Being reasonable in your literature may be harder than it seems at first. We took in a tiger who was a mess. She had been living in horrible circumstances, mostly due to poor planning on her owner's part. The photos of her before she came here were appalling. The "after" photos of her are lovely, with her munching on daisies in the sunshine in a field. We had to very carefully craft the story so people who saw those images did not assume "bad pet owner." The public has been so indoctrinated to believe that all problem rescue animals are from pet homes that we have to really be specific and explain to them that we have 35 big cats, and only one was from a pet home. She came to us at age 10, when her owner's situation changed. She was not abused or neglected, though the standards of care for her were not what I might have liked to see. She was better cared for than most domestic and farm animals in my community. When we wrote the story of the rescue tiger with before and after photos, we specifically said she was in another facility that was overwhelmed and needed help. It was an extreme situation. It was unique. We were lucky to be able to help.

As long as there are businesses, there will be businesses that fail, shut down or are closed by licensing agencies when the facilities fail to meet minimum standards. This is a very moderate viewpoint. It does not move people to action in outrage, and it does not inspire people to give money.

If you advertise to the world that you need money or all your animals may starve, you instantly go from being the solution to the problem. Anyone can have a bad season and get desperate. However,

if you resort to cries of desperation, while people may give once, they rarely want to continue long-term support that way. Instead, other facilities may turn on you and begin to ask why you do not downsize. They will also note the next time you bring an animal in that perhaps you are not leaving yourself much of a financial safety margin. Lose your credibility within the animal community, and it will echo long-term. And if you are foolish enough to try that ploy online, it will haunt you forever. Heaven forbid you ever criticize how someone else manages their money,

what animals they accept as rescues, or how they provide care for their cats, because your plea from the past will resurface immediately to discredit you.

Moderation and reasonableness makes for boring public relations and leaves room for gossips to try to create interesting things to talk about. Anticipate that. Make something interesting and exciting to talk about happen at your place to feed those folks before they make up something even more fun and potentially harmful to you. You can give your cat a Christmas present to open and take photos to



Vic the tiger pole vaults over a Christmas tree because he is fixated on nailing the photographer.

send to the local paper. Create a video of your cat playing in a tub of toys or chasing a cat toy and put it up on your website. Invite those reporters you need to make friends out to visit for a fun event, like sharing unsold Christmas trees or piñatas stuffed with meat for the cats.

In your messages to the world, be it through printed advertising, a website, or even written documentation in a photo album, always be positive. You don't need to bash anyone else to look good yourself. Focus on your successes and achievements. Keep records to support your claims. Saying you gave programs to 1,000 school kids when you talked to one classroom of children can backfire, so be honest when you toot your own horn. Be comfortable listing your successes and enumerating your accomplishments, because they are what make you the expert you are (or are becoming). However, be honest about what those are in your own mind, so you do not get a distended sense of self-importance. No matter what you are good at, someone else is likely to know just as much, and maybe more. I can list close to a hundred workshops and classes on my resume, but I know that

only a dozen or so were really useful and educational. I consider my performance in those important to me, and I promote them to others.

Each of us will always have flaws. It is how we manage them that shape how people perceive them, and us. We have two jungle cat cages that are in appalling shape on site. There is no hiding that they are a mess and that jungle cat pee is dooming them to eventual collapse. We have new cages under construction, and we are close to finishing them. The very existence of the old cages is an embarrassment to me. When we give tours and we get to them, I sigh. I explain that the jungle cats have very acidic urine, and point out the giant patches (people cannot miss) we have on the cage corners. I explain that since we are relying on volunteer labor on workday, which happens one to two times per month, that is only 12-24 workdays per year. It can take real



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**Polly Britton**  
Legislative Agent

time to get new construction completed. Then we walk on a bit and we look at the new cages in their incomplete stages. I talk about what remains to be done, and about how excited we are that the new space will have these additional benefits. I try to get them excited about our progress, and we occasionally get new volunteers out of it. I cannot hide our flaws, but I can explain them, put it in terms people can understand, and show them what we are doing to remedy the problem. This is the same approach we use with injured or chronically ill animals, just applied to other aspects of the facility.

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## FEEDING INFANT EXOTIC CATS

Ron Hines, DVM PhD  
All Creature Care

*Part two of a two-part series, continued from May/June Journal*

“Zoos tell us as much about humans as they do about animals,” Richard Mabey.

### At What Age Should I Pull The Cubs?

When you intend to hand-raise exotic cats, 14 days is a good time to take on the responsibility. Those first two weeks are the most critical and most mother cats do a better job than you will.

There are exceptions, some cats consistently lose their litters for one reason or another and those cubs need to be removed at birth. It's tough to make those decisions because you can never be certain. If the cubs are not in immediate danger of dying, allow them at least 48 hours to nurse on their mothers milk so that they will receive her colostrum, or split up the litter so at least some of the offspring will survive.

If this is a pet, commercial exotic wild cat breeders often encourage purchasers to take their cubs too young. Avoid the urge to do that. It is less work for the breeder, but it can be more heartache for you. Cats pulled at two weeks develop just as mellow and docile as those removed earlier. What the cubs first see is important (imprinting). An ideal time to take over parenting responsibility is as their eyes are just opening but before they have the ability to focus. As long as they still purr when you stroke them, you should be OK.

If you have the mother, remember that removing her cubs or losing her litter will usually cause her to come back into heat. You are putting a lot of unnecessary stress on her health and subsequent litters if you allow her to become pregnant again so soon.

Once the cub(s) is in your care, integrate it completely into your life. The more time you spend with it, the more you stroke and cuddle it and the more you talk to it, the better. You cannot have it both ways – big cats, bottle-fed in zoo nurseries with multiple caregivers, minimal contact and indifferent staff often turn out to be unhappy creatures. They grow up to not be happy in groups of their own kind, and



Bobcat mother Mariah, still in labor, grooms herself in preparation to deliver her second kitten, while the first newborn finds a nipple to nurse. Leaving kittens with a good mother for 10 to 14 days gives them a strong start in life.

distrustful of humans as well.

### General Sanitation

Your cubs will not thrive when sanitation levels are low. This goes for the conditions that mother cats reside in as well as the nursery where cubs are raised – unhealthy mothers have unhealthy offspring.

Stale formula is an invitation for digestive problems for the cub(s). Milk formula is an excellent medium for bacterial growth and it will rapidly sour when it stands at room temperature or when it is taken in and out of the refrigerator. The same thing goes for powdered milk formulas. I do not suggest you use any one purchased container for more than a month or so. Remember, the powder in the original container was never sterile.

Wash your hands frequently before and after feeding or handling each cub.

Dip or soak all washable supplies in a mixture of one part bleach and twenty parts water after you have cleaned them thoroughly with soap, water and a scrub brush. Let them dry overnight or rinse them with water to remove any residual

bleach. Boiling is also a very effective way to keep items sanitary.

Do not use disinfectants like Lysol, Pine-Sol, Nolvasan, etc, around the cubs. Anything that kills bacteria is toxic enough to keep away from infants.

Boil all your feeding bottles between uses.

Flies, cockroaches, rats and mice spread bacteria – control them with kitten safe/baby safe products like boric acid, pyrethrins or products approved for use in dairies.

### What Are Some Common Health

#### Problems This Cub Might Encounter?

Exotic cats are born with limited body reserves and stamina. When they go down hill - they do so fast. So when you see even the smallest hint of a problem, you need to nip it in the bud.

Very few veterinarians work with exotic cats and fewer still understand the husbandry errors that underlie most infant exotic cat health problems. So your best sources of information are experienced breeders. Take time to locate and introduce yourself to these people before you need their advice. Visit their compounds and learn as much as you can. Join groups like the Feline Conservation Federation.

### Aspiration Pneumonia

The most serious problem that can occur for an inexperienced caregiver (or a distracted or rushed experienced caregiver) is allowing the milk formula to enter the cub's lungs rather than its stomach - the formula “goes down the wrong way.” The most common cause of this is feeding infant cubs in the wrong position. Never cradle and feed these exotic cats on their





photo credit Teresa Shaffer

The bigger the cub, the bigger the bottle. For a species like the tiger, an 8-ounce bottle is appropriate. Scott Shaffer pauses to let Travis burp before polishing off the rest of his formula.

back as you would a human infant. These animals must have their stomach side down (belly down) when they suckle. Later, when the cub is more developed and able to walk, it can sit back on its haunches or stand and take the bottle in its front paws like the one in the photograph at the top of this article.

The younger a cub is, the more likely this problem is to occur. That is why inexperienced caregivers are much safer if they take over the chore when cubs are already 4-6 weeks old. Let an experienced person get you started right. Here are some other tips to help you prevent this problem:

- Feed the baby in the proper position.
- Use nipples that are the right size and that do not leak or flow too easily. (Pull on the nipple to be sure it is well seated. Enthusiastic cubs will pull nipples right off the bottle and can swallow them.)
- Never squeeze the bottle when the cub is nursing.
- Be sure you stop feeding the cub as soon as it no longer sucks vigorously and greedily. Do not punch too many holes or too large a hole in the rubber nipple. Milk should not drip or accumulate on the bottle when it is held nipple-down.
- Milk should never come out a cub's

nose.

- Keep your cubs adequately warm at all times. Use hot water bottles wrapped in towels or microwavable heat sinks (like SnuggleSafe).
- Feeding electrolytes the first few feedings - until both you and the cub are comfortable with the feeding process also



photo credit Teresa Shaffer

Scott Shaffer has bottled many serval kittens. here a two week old kitten is positioned with its head level so that the formula is swallowed down the throat and this reduces the chance of aspiration into the lungs.

guards against the effects of aspiration pneumonia. Electrolytes when aspirated do not cause the severe lung reactions that milk products do.

Once a cub has aspirated, there is very little a veterinarian like me can do to improve its chances of surviving, - it all depends on how much milk entered the lungs. If the cub is a cliffhanger, a high-oxygen, high humidity environment like a preemie incubator (Air-Shield) and antibiotics may tip the balance in favor of its survival.

Symptoms of aspiration pneumonia are labored breathing, irregular breathing, and gasping, and pale or bluish gums. Later, tremors, listlessness, and death follow.

### Diarrhea And What To Do When It Occurs

Diarrhea is a common and serious problem in bottle fed animals of all kinds. Exotic cats are no exception. Many things can cause it. But in my experience, feeding techniques and feeding schedules are a more common cause than minor mistakes in dietary ingredients. When diarrhea occurs, cubs can become dehydrated rapidly.

The first thing to do when diarrhea occurs is to supply more fluid and less solids in the cub's formula and to supply them more frequently but in small amounts that do not stress their digestive system. Electrolytes (pedialyte, ringers solution, etc.) are the best way to supply

these fluids. If the cub becomes weak or severely dehydrated, it is best that the missing fluid be supplied by subcutaneous injection of electrolyte solutions intended for that use. This usually corrects the problem in 24-36 hours. When the stool has returned to its normal toothpaste consistency, gradually return the concentration of the formula to full strength.

Treating the formula with lactase (Lactaid) before feeding it and adding probiotic bacteria or yogurt seem to lessen diarrhea problems in infant exotic cats. If the stool shows any traces of blood, something more serious is going on. The stool of those kittens needs to be sent for a fecal culture to determine if dangerous bacteria or parasites are the root of the problem. Cubs with bacterial diarrhea need antibiotics and, perhaps, intestinal coating agents; those with parasites need other appropriate medications and the sanitation and husbandry procedures at the facility need to be changed. Never give these kittens Imodium.

#### **Bloat/Colic**

Bloat and colic are two signs that you need to change your feeding technique. The most usual causes are feeding too

large an amount of formula at one time, feeding too infrequently, feeding too fast, feeding from an improper bottle or feeding in the wrong position.

Pre-treating the cub's formula with lactase (Lactaid) and/or adding probiotic bacteria or plain yogurt to their formula once it reaches feeding temperature often help solve this problem.

Some folks have found adding sucralose (Carafate®) helpful. It does have the effect of coating and protecting the cub's stomach and intestine from over-acidity. But it only masks underlying formula or feeding problems and can cause a number of side effects such as constipation or aluminum overload.

Sometimes burping cubs with strokes or pats on the back is all that is required.

#### **Constipation**

Never give cubs phosphate enemas such as Fleet.

Cubs can become constipated if they are not stimulated to defecate sufficiently after they are fed. Constipation can also occur when formulas are too thick or when a cub becomes dehydrated due to previous diarrhea or too hot an environment. The stools of infant cats should be soft and mushy,

not clumped and segmented as in mature exotic cats.

When constipation occurs, try diluting the formula a bit and feed smaller amounts more frequently. Also be sure the cub is being kept at a warm enough temperature. If the constipation is severe, your veterinarian needs to deal with it. I have had several weanling mountain lions block when fed chicken necks and backs. High enemas and abdominal massages were required to move this material down and out. When an animal is completely blocked by constipation, it usually also vomits. In partial cases, the stool that is passed can be a combination of hard lumps and diarrhea.

Constipation and GI obstruction problems have also been associated with bad batches of commercial formula – particularly Esbilac. In these cases the cream (butterfat) portion forms large unabsorbable clumps in the cub's stomach and intestine. PetAg, the supplier of Esbilac has suggested that forceful blending can cause this to occur.

Often, a few drops of Karo syrup added to the formula solve minor constipation problems. If that is not sufficient, consult with a veterinarian about using a small



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amount of flavored mineral oil or petrolatum-based cat laxative. Never give unflavored oils or petrolatum that have not been mixed with food because cubs will inhale them. Remember that straining can be as much a sign of diarrhea as of constipation.

### Rectal Prolapse

Prolonged diarrhea and colonic irritation or constipation can cause older cubs to strain so much that a short portion of their intestine sticks out through their anus like a red/bluish hotdog or small donut. Coccidia parasites, and intestinal worms are another common cause of this. When it occurs, a veterinarian needs to tend to the problem. The protruding portion of the rectum will soon die due to a lack of circulation. It needs to be lubricated, replaced and, in some cases, a purse string suture needs to be placed to prevent the problem from reoccurring. Coat the protruding portion with non-dairy margarine or KY jelly until you can get it to a veterinarian.

### Discolored Teeth or Rings of Discoloration on Teeth

Stress during the period teeth are forming may cause them to erupt discolored, with brownish rings or be pitted. This stress is often nutritional. But it can also be caused by infectious diseases as well as by antibiotics that are in the tetracycline class. The cub's set of permanent teeth should be unaffected.

### Dehydration

The most common causes of dehydration are the starvation of parental neglect and diarrhea. But a very low humidity environment, vomiting or too thick a formula can also cause the problem. Signs of



photo credit Lynn Culver

Caring for kittens can be a full time job. Three litters of baby bobcats of various ages need around the clock bottle feeding and butt wiping to keep them clean and well fed.

a dehydrated cub are a decrease in skin elasticity, dry or sticky gums and weakness. Skin over the shoulder blades should spring back to normal position after being pinched and plucked. It should not "tent" or behave like clay or dough.

Mild dehydration can be corrected with oral electrolytes. More severe dehydration or dehydration in a weak cub is best treated with subcutaneous fluids (sterile, balanced electrolytes). (If you are isolated out in the bush, ringers can be given by enema.) Dehydrated cubs are prone to constipation. They produce little or no urine.

### Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD, Rickets)

The cubs and kittens of exotic wild cats, particularly the larger species, need large amounts of calcium to support their rapid growth rate. They also need their calcium intake to exceed their phosphorus intake - ideally by a factor of 2 to 1. Cow's milk is borderline in its calcium to phosphorus ratio (1.3 to 1). Domestic mother cats produce milk that is 1.6 to 1 during the period the kittens are growing fastest (ref).

Most people run into trouble with rickets/ MBD when they wean their exotic

large cats over to meat. A pure meat diet - be it beef, poultry or other - is deficient in calcium. Most of a food animal's calcium is in its bones, not its muscle. A diet of meat not only supplies too little calcium, it supplies too much phosphorus. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus in meat is the reversed of what it needs to be (red meat contains approximately 1 part calcium to 12-20 parts phosphorus). Also, red meat is deficient in vitamin D-3, which is essential for the cat's body to absorb whatever calcium is present in its diet.

Signs of MBD in growing exotic cats are lameness or limping, reluctance to move about and play, enlarged knobby joints, painful joints and bowleggedness. Healthy teeth should be china-white, not translucent as they often are in MBD. Bone fractures in immature animals, other than those hit by cars, are also often due to MBD.

One can halt the progression of MBD, but the damage that has already been done cannot be reversed. Tension splints can slowly straighten bowed legs that are still growing. But they have to be watched very carefully or they will cause more damage than good. Exotic cats that have

suffered even mild cases of rickets as juveniles are more prone to arthritis in later years. To prevent this problem, either feed with whole carcasses or use a supplement designed for use in conjunction with a diet of slab meats.

#### Naval/Joint ill and Septicemia

Infant big cats rely on the antibodies in their mother's colostrum to protect them from bacterial infections. The most common infection we see when they did not receive these antibodies is an infected umbilicus (navel). Cubs that have this problem usually also have some degree of septicemia. That is, you see an infected navel but the same bacteria are moving unseen through the cub's blood stream as well. That is why applying topical antibiotics to their navel is not sufficient. They need injectable antibiotics as well. These blood born infections often localize in the joints, causing joint swelling, pain and a hot joint. They must be treated promptly with antibiotics to prevent permanent joint damage. Other common places for these blood born infections to localize are the heart valves, liver and kidneys.

When cubs are maintained at too low a

temperature, their immune system does not function well. This can mimic the effect of a lack of colostrum antibody.

#### Cataracts

Commercial pet milk replacements that perform well with puppies and kittens sometime cause cataracts to form in the lenses of the eyes when they are fed to infant wild animals. We think this is due to a higher need for certain amino acids in infant wildlife. The amino acids that have been suggested as being deficient are arginine, methionine, phenylalanine, and taurine (which is similar to an amino acid). This problem does not seem to occur as frequently when homemade formulas are fed or when commercial formulas are supplemented with pureed meats. When caught early, these cataracts sometimes go away when an amino acid supplement is added to their diet.

#### Parasites

The most common serious parasite I see in infant exotic big cats is hookworms. These intestinal worms can cause a severe anemia as well as diarrhea, malnutrition and poor weight gain. They are present in

all wild bobcats in Texas and I commonly find them in exotic cats from cat compounds where wild cats are maintained on dirt. Dirt allows hookworm numbers to build up in the soil. Over time, adult cats built up a natural immunity to hookworms that protect them to some extent. Their offspring do not have this protection. So the fact that the parent animals are said to be "parasite free" is no guarantee their offspring will be.

Roundworms can also be a problem. Since roundworms do not suck blood, they are more prone to cause colic or intestinal obstruction than anemia.

These parasites can be passed from the mother to the infant through the mother's milk and probably to the baby even before birth. They should be suspected in weak or anemic cubs even when a fecal examination reveals no parasite eggs. That is because it can take up to three weeks for the parasites to begin producing eggs. When in doubt, the cubs need to be wormed with pyrantel pamoate (Nemex, Strongid, etc.).

Coccidiosis also occurs occasionally in infant exotic cats. Many adult animals carry small numbers of these parasites but

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are immune to the disease they cause. They are passed through soil and fecal contamination. They can cause a severe diarrhea that can be fatal if the cub is not given injectable fluids to counteract dehydration. Sulfa drugs lessen the severity of the disease.

Giardia is another cause of diarrhea. When veterinarians detect this parasite in the cub's stool, they treat it with metronidazole. Many normal-appearing adult animals (and humans) carry this parasite. It is another reason to frequently wash your hands.

Large numbers of fleas can also cause severe anemia. They should be picked off with tweezers individually and dropped into a cup of vodka or rubbing alcohol. Do not apply the alcohol or anything else to the cub itself. Simultaneously, bedding needs to go through a hot dryer cycle and caging needs to be steam cleaned or replaced. Fleas and ticks can also spread Ehrlichia, Bartonella and similar blood parasites to exotic cats – about a quarter of wild bobcats are seropositive for this organism.

Mange is also seen occasionally in wild exotic cats. When a young exotic cat has mange, there is much more skin irritation and thickening than in the transient hair loss problem that growing exotic cats also experience. But any exotic cat with hair loss needs to have a skin scraping performed.

All parasite problems are more common when loose house cats are allowed to roam around large cat compounds. Large exotic cats are susceptible to all the diseases and parasites that affect domestic cats. They do not fight them off as well as domestic cats do. These problems tend to bounce around the mixed populations of petting zoos, home menageries, carnivals and wildlife sanctuaries, popping up most frequently in youngsters or stressed adults.

### Poor/Sparse Hair Coat And Hair Loss

It is not uncommon for tigers and lion cubs to develop hair loss at 6-9 weeks of age. These animals are growing extremely fast at this time. The problem resolves as soon as the cubs shift to solid, meat-based diets. Begin adding blended or homogenized meats to these cats' diets as early as 5-8 weeks. If the hair loss is patchy, if the animal is itchy, if the skin is scabby or thickened, if its lymph nodes are enlarged, if the hair loss is accompanied by scabby

or crusty eyes or ears, or if you start itching, the cub needs to be examined for mange or a bacterial or fungal skin infection.

### Suggestions On Nursing Bottles

When a cub is learning to feed from a bottle, fill it with electrolyte solution the first time – not milk – until it has learned to use the bottle well. Gradually, in the next feedings, increase the amount of milk formula in the mix. It takes time for cubs to adjust from their mother's nipple to a rubber one. You can place a drop of milk on the cub's tongue and dampen the nipple with the same mixture to help it get the idea. Have patience and just keep trying. For large cats, use 4 or 8 oz. glass infant bottles, such as Evenflo, with standard or preemie nipples. Smaller cats do well with 2 oz. kitten nursing bottles. I prefer not to use syringes or eyedroppers. It is just too easy to depress the plunger too fast and get formula into the cub's lungs. Cubs can be choosy about nipples and bottles. If one brand or style does not work well, try another.

Buy many nipples. Burn a small hole through the nipple end with a heated pin. Start with one or two small holes; add more if you need to until the cub nurses comfortably without a lot of dripping. Many small holes are safer than one or two big holes. No milk should drip from the nipple when the bottle is full and held upside down. Shaking the bottle should produce a drop or two.

Use a bottlebrush and dish detergent to clean bottles and nipples between uses and boil the clean, rinsed items.

Do not warm bottles of milk in the microwave. Microwave a container of water, stir it with a spoon, check its temperature with your finger, and place the bottle of formula in that to warm it. Shake the bottle on your wrist. The milk should be pleasantly warm, not scalding.

Never squeeze the bottle when feeding.

Rubber nipples do not last forever with large cats. Throw them away when they begin to flow on their own.

### Proper Temperature

It is easy to over-warm infant exotic cats. They should feel slightly warm to the touch – not hot – and their ears and paws should be pink – not red. Placing them in an environment that is 86-88F is usually sufficient. A hot water bottle wrapped in a bath towel, placed in a draft free box with fake sheepskin is usually sufficient. Human isolates work well. Do not put infant animals in them until you have firm control of the temperature. For me, that can take a day or two. Heating pads, on low setting can be used. Place it under the pet carrier or box – not inside it. Again, let your system run a day or two while you get the temperature just right before you place cubs in it.

Several cubs, kept together, chill less than individual cubs. Just be sure they do not suck on each other.

Claws get snagged in towels – clip them.



photo credit: Teresa Shaffer

At just two weeks a serval kitten must be stimulated to pee and poop. The mother would use her rough tongue to get the job done, but Scott Shaffer has his own method, he prefers to use toilet tissue.

### Stimulating Cubs To Urinate And Defecate

You will need to stimulate young cubs to defecate and urinate for their first few weeks. Do this with a ball of cotton or gauze wetted with warm water. Massage their anal/genital area gently after each feeding. You will not always get a response. Do not worry when you do not and do not massage too harshly or too long.

## JUDGING YOUR SUCCESS

### Monitoring Weight And Growth Rate

Purchase a digital scale. One designed for food or postage is sufficient. Weigh the cub(s) daily just before their first feeding of the morning and enter the weight(s) in a notebook. Fingernail polish on a claw will tell multiple cubs apart. Steady weight gain is the best indicator that everything is going well. A weight gain of 4-6% per day while on formula is sufficient. Once the cubs begin solid food, their daily weight gain should have about doubled. After the initial two days, no weight gain over a 24-hour period may occur. But if it continues for two days,

and service and accept an under-the-bottom heating pad better. They also stack one-within-the-other when not in use. Wooden containers are impossible to clean well. They stay damp and can harbor bacteria and parasites. If you must use wood, do not use treated lumber. It is also quite acceptable to use a stout cardboard box that you discard from time to time.

As soon as the cubs are moving about, the container needs to be secure and well constructed. Synthetic sheepskin blankets are good liners. If you use old towels, be sure they do not have long stringy frayed areas that can tangle the cubs or catch in their claws.

Once small wild felines are weaned,

not willing to duplicate (on a smaller scale) the pen construction quality of a well-run zoo should not keep these animals.

### Neonatal Vaccinations

Wild exotic cats are susceptible to all the diseases of ordinary domestic cats. I vaccinate them with Ft. Dodge, Fel-O-Vax PCT, which protects them against panleukopenia (cat distemper, cat parvo) rhinotracheitis virus (feline herpes-1) and calicivirus. All cats receive the same standard 1ml dose regardless of species.

There is no sense giving these vaccines when cubs are less than 12-14 weeks old, unless you are in the middle of a virus

outbreak in your nursery. Do not assume that multiple vaccinations before four months of age are effective. They are not a substitute for sanitation, good husbandry and common sense. The cats need to receive a booster vaccination at six months of age. After that, their immunity titer (level) can be checked yearly to decide if further vaccinations are required.

Be sure that your veterinarian is using an all-killed vaccine. Most public health authorities do not recognize the effectiveness of rabies vaccines in exotic

pets or wildlife and, in some US localities, it may be illegal for your veterinarian to administer rabies shots to exotic wild cats. So there is little benefit in giving them. When I do vaccinate wild felines for rabies, I use Merial's Imrab-3. – but this is not a government-sanctioned use of the vaccine.

Certain exotic cats are also susceptible to canine distemper. Outbreaks of canine distemper occasionally occur in zoos and wild lion populations in Africa. If you vaccinate felines for canine distemper, a sub-unit vaccine similar to Merial's Purvax is probably safest.



photo credit Deeanna Croasmun

What is cuter than a baby bobcat? How about four of these furry felines?

occurs more than once or there is a weight loss, you have a problem.

### Housing & Space Requirements

Snug containers help keep infant cubs warm and draft-free. But as soon as the cubs gain curiosity and begin to move about, they need more exercise space. Without it, their bones and muscles will not develop properly.

Plastic pet carriers are often used. But I prefer using a plastic storage container with its snap-on the lid modified with a large, ½ inch hardware cloth, cut-out. These are less drafty and easier to clean

they can be moved outdoors into a natural-like enclosure. I construct mine of vinyl-coated 18 gauge welded wire or chain-link fence. I prefer concrete floors for sanitation.

A well-built secondary fence is a really a must. It prevents feral cats, raccoons and opossums from transmitting diseases to your cats. Large cats intimidate ordinary folks and are likely to be shot when they escape and smaller human-raised species will not survive long on their own. Large cats attract inquisitive children and gawking adults who love to poke fingers through anything they can. Anyone who is

Although exotic cats can acquire FLV and FLV and FIP, better to rely on good husbandry and non-exposure. The AZA does not currently recommend that zoo cats receive those vaccinations. FIP occurs occasionally in exotic cats that are foster nursed on domestic house cats. However, the existing intra-nasal FIP vaccine is of questionable value. Some zoos vaccinate their large exotic cats for leptospirosis as well. Lepto vaccines can cause a severe reaction at the site of injection and shock-like reactions when given repeatedly so I do not use them. Leptospirosis can be prevented through good sanitation.

If not specifically labeled as "killed product," try to only use vaccines called "sub-unit" vaccines.

There is very little we actually know about the effectiveness of vaccines in wild exotic cats. We assume they work because wild exotic cats and domestic cats are very similar. Bengal tigers and servals produce antibody against feline leukemia when they are given three doses of sub-unit feline leukemia vaccine. But no one is about to challenge them with a virus. If exotic cats mingle with unvaccinated domestic cats, or uninvited wildlife, or if you run a wildlife rehabilitation center, you can consider administering these other vaccinations.

### Weaning & Beginning Adult Diets

I suggest you begin to supplement your

cub's milk-formula diet with meat products as soon as you feel its teeth erupting, and supplement its diet with small bits of raw meat as soon as it shows interest in consuming them. The beginning of a meat diet means it is also time to add calcium supplements if you are not already doing so. Initially, canned meat products can be blended and added to the formula. Do not use human baby foods that contain ingredients, spices, onion, or flavorings other than meat. Do not try to feed lumpy or chunky foods through a nipple.

Raw meat, especially raw poultry, can be a source of Salmonella. To avoid this threat, some professionals begin feeding their smaller species of exotic cats with canned all-meat baby foods, Iams canned kitten formula, or canned Zupreem or Mazuri exotic feline diet. Large cat compounds and zoos in the US tend to favor Central Nebraska Packers. All of these are already fortified with calcium and vitamins. This allows the babies to become larger and stronger before encountering these hostile bacteria. Others go directly to ground supermarket turkey or chicken with no problems.

If the cubs are hesitant, sprinkle powdered milk formula over the solid foods. If the food is not eaten within 30 minutes, remove it. If they develop loose stools or diarrhea, cut back on the meat ingredients.

I suggest you feed human quality products to your exotic cats – particularly young ones. If you feed them 4-D meats,

pet store rats, road kill etc., you will eventually get into trouble. Frozen rodent carcasses from national suppliers are more reliable as are whole healthy rabbits, poultry and barnyard animals depending on the species of cat you are raising. Large, mature exotic cats have more stamina and body reserves to get through the bouts of indigestion caused by contaminated foods.

Any diet changes need to be made gradually. Juvenile cats do better when fed many times during the day. They are also less likely to bite you when they are not ravenously hungry. The number of feedings can be gradually reduced as the cubs mature.

Begin keeping a bowl of fresh water in the cub's pen as soon as it begins to eat meats from a dish.

Once cubs are eating entirely on their own, they should consume 15-25% percent of their body weight each day. This is only a general rule of thumb. Feed the cubs only what they would consume avidly. But do so in several feedings throughout the day so they do not over-eat at any one time.

Cubs need to chew on bone and consume whole prey. Chicken and turkey backs and necks are more bone than flesh and will block the cub's intestine if too many are given. Always combine meat diets with a calcium/vitamin supplement.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - THE SIBERIAN TIGER

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter  
Volume 14, Number 2  
March/April 1970

Robert E. Baudy

Each of the five men held in his weather-wrinkled right hand two small, dry beans, one white and one black. Squatted in a circle on the fur-covered earth floor of the Siberian *fanzal* (log cabin), their inscrutable Oriental features barely discernible through the smoke filled atmosphere, they threw, in turn, a single bean into the round wicker basket placed in front of them. . . silence was complete. A white-bearded elder emerged from the surrounding darkness, picked up the bas-



ket, and slowly, in a very solemn manner, counted openly the kernels: three white and two black.

Outside the snow-covered log hut there was a little group of men sitting patiently around a campfire. The cumbersome, heavy fur clothing they were wearing made inconspicuous the rawhide which bound, behind his back, the elbows of one of them. The *fanzal's* rough-hewn door opened slowly and the elder stepped out. The prisoner, a confessed trapline thief, suddenly rose. The old man uttered a single word: the verdict was death.

A few hours later, after the condemned man was ironically dressed in a new fur garment, provided with a good meal, and given a generous amount of opium, a small escort led him, single file, through knee-deep snow to the huge centenarian tree towering in the middle of a small



clearing in the nearby forest. After being left there alone, but securely bound to the ritual cedar, the man began a low, monotonous and tragically humble song of despair.

In the absolute stillness of the glacial Siberian twilight, the sudden, crystalline sounds of broken icicles shattered the ethereal silence of the Taiga (immense Siberian primary forest). The man froze. One-hundred feet away, absolutely motionless between two trees, its cruel mouth half open, a frosty halo framing its tremendous head, and on time for the task like its ancestors were for centuries before it, stood the awesome High Executioner: The Great *Van* (as the Siberian tiger is called by the local Udehei tribes in eastern Russia).

The use of the largest cat on earth, *Panthera tigris altaica*, as an instrument of primitive human justice as late as the early 1900s in the Soviet Far East, has been minutely described by the reliable Russian writer and zoologist, Nicolas Baikov, who spent 35 years of his life studying the fauna of this region. This fact alone could make the Siberian tiger outstanding among the Felidae. Its credentials in uniqueness are, however, more numerous. Its gigantic size, its aspect (a combination of enormous power and beauty), its present rarity in the wilds, and the surprising environment in which it lives put it in a class by itself.

#### The Survival of the Giant of Tigers

Basically, the Siberian tiger is almost a living anachronism which has amazingly survived to present time since the Quaternary period, when herds of long-tusked

wooly mammoths roamed the then tropical area of Northeast Asia. There is no doubt that the super giant preyed on such herds then, as it is "managing," in our time, the still existing large herds of great European wild boars.

Adapting itself marvelously well to the extreme weather conditions of today's Siberia (a region which, by the way, features some of the coldest spots on earth, such as Verkhoyansk, which has a record low of 93 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, and Oymyakon, with negative 98 degrees), *Panthera tigris altaica*, though now in very small numbers, still rules limited sections of the majestic Russian forests.

The size of the colossal cat has been a heated subject of discussion for many years. Baikov and Sisoyev, both specialists, claim weight records of 880 pounds for large adult males. The authoritative *Mammals of the USSR*, by Professor Ognev, states 705 pounds. Our own experience is based on a dead, 676-pound male, which died of cancer of the jaw in France.

In our own collection at this time, our largest 4-year-old male stands three feet, eight inches at the shoulder in normal position and nine and a half feet tall standing on its hind legs against the wall of its pen. We would estimate his present weight at 600 pounds. Since *Panthera tigris altaica* continues developing until five years of age, and considering that this specimen is in lean condition, we may well have a potential 700-pounder on hand in the future. At any rate, the species is certainly, and by far, the super giant of the family (considering that the African lion, the next contender in size, averages only 450 pounds).

Based on examination of several skeletons of *Smilodon*, the famed and now extinct saber-toothed cat, there seems to be good evidence that the present day Siberian tiger may, in fact, have always been the biggest of the cats. Besides size alone, *Panthera*

*tigris altaica* differs by several points from the other six generally recognized races of tigers. Most conspicuous is the bear-like fleece exhibited during the cold season that enables the animal to successfully winter the incredible Siberian cold.

The enormous head, neck, and fore-quarters, light background coloration, fewer black markings, and a characteristic rigid pacing action are obvious tell-tales to the expert. Until recently, several zoos exhibited very large specimens of tigers under the appellation of Siberian, not knowing that crossbred tigers (such as Bengal x Siberian) reached dimensions even exceeding *Panthera tigris altaica*. This situation is now being corrected by an international stud book of the species under the management of a leading authority in the matter, Mr. Vratislav Mazak, of the Prague Zoo in Czechoslovakia. In this fashion, in-breedings of the captive rare animals (numbering approximately 100 specimens) can be prevented.

#### The Rehearsal

As every American motorist knows, the word "tiger" has recently found a place in the English language as a synonym for outstanding power. I doubt, however, if much more than a handful of living





human beings can really testify from personal experience about it. As a member of the "Small Club Who Survived From It," I feel that perhaps I should now tell about the never-to-be-forgotten April 16, 1961.

On that day I was rehearsing two young adult tigers that were to be broken in for a circus act in the 40-foot circular cage. Catapulting itself through the air from a distance of 16 feet, one of the cats carried out a swift and unexpected attack on me. This picture of a huge tiger head with mouth wide open and coming directly at me remains vivid in my memory.

My next recollection is of something warm and of enormous weight lying on top of me, lacerating and crushing my right arm. Surprisingly enough -- though I was fully conscious and could actually *hear* the tearing of my own muscles and ligaments -- no immediate sensation of pain affected me. It came in an excruciating way half an hour later.

In three separate main bites, given in split-second succession, the tiger reduced my right arm and left hand into useless, dislocated, bloody appendages (which, fortunately, were admirably well mended later on in a Leesburg hospital by a team of surgeons).

By something much akin to a miracle, and without any outside interference (my burly, 200-pound assistant having left without as much as a backward glance!), my attacker turned me loose. In a dazzled state of mind, somehow I reached safety behind my entrance door only seconds before both tigers bounced savagely against it in a last futile attempt to do me in.

The significant conclusion of this accident (besides the obvious message to everyone to stay clear of tiger training!) is that merciful Mother Nature in her amazing ways has endowed the huge predator with such stunning swiftness and dexterity in action that its prey must very seldom, if at all, experience any pain or even realize that they are being destroyed.

Another confirmation of this appears in a recent newspaper, *Stem*, which relates how an adult Siamese tiger attacked a U.

S. marine in Viet Nam on December 21, 1968, and was subsequently shot while carrying a soldier away. The lucky survivor "staggered back towards his companions, looked dazed and asked what happened."

These anecdotes, while being of little comfort to bird and deer lovers or students of Christian martyrdom in Roman times, may help in seeing cats in general in a better light. Not as cruel, sadistic, blood-thirsty beasts, but natural, necessary culling instruments, superbly designed to function painlessly.

#### The Diminishing Species

The actual range of the giant cat is now extremely reduced in size. Although still occurring in three separate but adjacent countries (North Korea, Red China, and the USSR), its population everywhere is scattered in small, isolated pockets. The subspecies from Korea (*Panthera tigris coreensis*) is certainly depleted beyond possible recovery. The last evidence of a poisoned specimen goes back to 1966. Red China may well boast the largest number of wild specimens, but the fact that the animal is still considered as the most valuable source of life-prolonging and aphrodisiac medicines, plus the enormous number of armed troops currently stationed in the heart of the tiger's last stronghold, ominously spell the handwriting on the wall.

As far as the current situation in the Soviet Union goes, Professor Abramov estimated in 1960, the number of *P. tigris altaica* on Russian territory as approximately 58 specimens. Since then, the rapid exploitation of the region, creation of new airfields, roads, railways, and industrial centers, coupled also with a massive influx of military, could only further endanger the survival of the unique cat.

Reliable reports reached us in July of 1969, of two females (each of them accompanied by two cubs) being shot, despite government protection. This is not to throw a stone at anyone, since we are doing exactly the same thing in this country with our own magnificent puma!



Fortunately, under proper management, the species is reproducing in captivity. Leading producers in Europe are the Prague, Leipzig, and Rotterdam zoos. In this country since 1965, our own raising of 44 cubs has allowed us to reverse for the first time a set one-way trend. In 1968 and 1969, we shipped seven Florida-born giant striped cats to European institutions.

The odds are that the magnificent predator is earmarked for extinction in our lifetime. Some people will say that in our world of Viet Nam, Black Panthers, My Lai, and presidential assassinations, who needs a tiger? We say: WE ALL DO!

From eons past, the great ancient cat has stood among us as a steadfast and impervious reminder of primitive, earth-bound, raw power, while a newly emerging, small and naked primate, *Homo sapiens*, was his to terrorize.

Go to your zoo... Look closely at the incarcerated-for-life emperor who bears so majestically the vicissitude of captivity ... Isolate yourself from the noisy crowd... Mentally remove the bars which screen you from him, both intellectually and physically... And you will at once feel your own true size! And, for this alone, we need him badly.

*Author Robert Baudy was a regular contributor to the Long Island Ocelot Club newsletter with his Stars of the Cat World. The illustrations were drawn by Dr. Michael Balbo, who served the organization as the official newsletter illustrator, and the staff artist and conservationist, and was elected to the board as one of the original LIOC Life Directors. Dr. Balbo was also a Lotty recipient, as was Robert Baudy.*

## FIGHTING LEVY COUNTY HOME RULE

Suzanne T. Billiar, DVM

This is a call to arms for Florida exotic animal owners, enthusiasts, breeders, exhibitors, educational facilities, zoos, aviaries, reptile farms, sanctuaries, rehabilitation facilities, exotic animal veterinarians, trainers, pet stores, feed companies, companies that manufacture and sell products for exotics, anyone or any business that involves exotic animals, even personal pet exotic animal owners.

Florida counties are enforcing ordinances, creating ordinances, or interpreting ordinances, as the counties desire, that are in direct conflict with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Florida is different from many states, in that complete control of wildlife was given to the FWC by the state legislature in the 1970's when the regulation of captive wildlife was first established. This allows the entire state to be uniformly regulated, instead of a messy, confusing, patchwork of local regulations and county oversight, as has happened in so many other states.

To obtain and maintain a Class I & II FWC permit requires that the permit holder not violate building codes that apply to the entire county. To single out exotic animals (captive wildlife) and apply county restrictions concerning the ability to possess them is against the Florida constitution.

Due to the misconceptions fueled by the sensationalism by the media of exotic animal incidents, the citizens, and elected politicians are reacting without putting these rare incidents in perspective. Exotic animal incidents are insignificant relative to other causes of injury or death that



One of the tigers rescued from another Florida facility that was closing its doors. Unfortunately, because of the Levy County pressure, the big cats, lion, and tiger lost their home and had to be moved to another facility.

result from traffic accidents, murder, lightning strike, food born illnesses, falling off ladders, or down stairs, equestrian mishaps, or even dog attacks. Free roaming native wild animals cause injury or death at a statistically much higher rate than our captive wildlife. We must stop this fear mongering aimed at exotic animals and those who care for them.

My husband and I have had the misfortune of being attacked by Levy County, the county where we reside in Florida. For the past four years we have had Class II & III animals on our rural seven acres zoned residential/agricultural. Once I brought rescued Class I animals to our facility, with the required FWC permits, the nightmare began.

Even though I reluctantly relocated the Class I animals, the county is determined to now force me to remove harmless exotic animals, even those not requiring a permit! These creatures include two spur-thigh tortoises, two African crown cranes, a pygmy marmoset, and even a black & white ruffed lemur that is paralyzed and diapered, and has been living in my house for eight years.

Levy County has an ordinance that states:

*If a citizen lives in a rural residential/agricultural zoned area and wants to possess a zoo, a reptile farm, exotic animals or dangerous native animals, a special exception permit must be applied for and approved.*

Without going into details of the costly horrific ordeal my husband and I have been subjected to over the entire last year, I can assure you this ordinance was selectively enforced upon us. This ordinance violates FWC rules, it violates our rights, and it is unconstitutional. The Levy County planning director, his commissioners, code enforcement, the Levy County Attorney, and the Levy County Commissioners have persistently and unfairly harassed us. Game preserves, hunt clubs, large animal boarding, farming, veterinary offices, aquaculture, and archery ranges are all permitted in our zoning! I should

have called our facility a game preserve, with hunting, only with cameras!

Levy County has actively and persistently lobbied the FWC Commissioners and staff for control of the zoning of cap-



Sign announcing that Suzanne Billiar wants a public hearing to grant a special exception allowing her to keep her exotic animal sanctuary.

tive wildlife to be at the county level. Levy County states their "Home Rule" authority supersedes the FWC's authority on zoning. Due to the persistent requests from Levy County and the Florida Association of Counties, FWC has submitted several proposed administrative rule changes on 68A-6.003. Now due to legal challenges, these proposed rule changes have been withdrawn so FWC can better understand the true impact county ordinances have on all exotic animal owners and related businesses. FWC is holding public workshops around the state until at least September 2010. The Levy County exotic animal ordinance needs to be challenged immediately.

Levy County is attacking all exotic animal ownership with their persistent demands on zoning issues. Our case will be litigated to the fullest extent of the law to set precedence on who has the authority to regulate exotic animals. If the ordinance that Levy County is violating prevails concerning the regulation of exotic animals by a county, rather than FWC, this case will set precedence for other counties



We built enclosures in excess of Florida regulations and had chain link perimeter fences enclosing the facility insuring public safety. But none of this mattered, and we had to find another home for all our class I animals.

to follow suit, and it may also cause future county ordinances to become more restrictive.

The outcome of this case will not only affect individuals' rights, but it also could affect all the businesses in Florida that derive pleasure and/or income from the ownership of exotic animals. At jeopardy will be the future of exotic animal businesses, which could represent a loss in revenues to the state in millions, or even billions of dollars, and in particular, cost individuals that own those businesses their livelihoods. It is an indirect way of taking citizen's businesses away and creating more unemployment and despair. Where will the forsaken exotic animals go? Sanctuaries are over-burdened already. Giving authority to the counties has the potential to affect even established facilities. As people move closer to them and begin complaining due to fear, new ordinances, or a change in the interpretation of existing ordinances, could force these exotic animals to go . . . where?

The fact is the state of Florida passed the constitution granting explicit jurisdiction to FWC, not the county governments. The intended purpose of giving the jurisdiction to a state agency, FWC, has always been to create uniform rules and

regulations and the administrative procedures that apply to captive wildlife and licensed permit holders throughout the state. Changing this system to county rule would be a detriment to captive wildlife, and to those individuals that have already applied for the appropriate licensing.

Allowing a county or municipality to pass procedures or conditions on captive wildlife, over which it has no expertise, is irresponsible. Counties do not have the required expertise or knowledge to make and enforce rules and regulations that are fair, equitable, in the best interest of the community, and the best interest of the captive wildlife, and the license holders.



This was the bear enclosure we constructed, with overhead shade, built-in pool, heavy gauge chain link and perimeter fence.

This is the reason that FWC, a state agency, whose personnel are not politically motivated elected officials, and who are educated in all aspects of captive wildlife, are given full jurisdiction over captive wildlife, those who are licensed, and folks who want to own them.

My attorneys need to subpoena a number of people, including FWC officers to testify, as well as take depositions. If you have testimony that you believe would be valuable to this case, please e-mail the information to my attorneys, Moises Kaba, III, at [Moiseskaba3@aol.com](mailto:Moiseskaba3@aol.com), or Abbie Cuellar, at [AbbieCuellaresq@gmail.com](mailto:AbbieCuellaresq@gmail.com), or call them at (305) 398-4390.

This is an expensive fight, but I am dedicated to resolving the prejudice that county government in Florida has shown in regard to the ownership of captive wildlife and exotic animals. We may have to go through several appeals. I have already spent well over \$40,000 in legal fees, and if we have to go to the Supreme Court it may well take another \$100,000.

I did not choose this fight; it chose me for a reason. I will be of service as an advocate for resolving the dispute between county government and the FWC. If you have already had the misfortune of dealing with county ordinances, please e-mail my attorneys or me a brief description of your ordeal, as it will help build our case for court.

A non-profit corporation, Trust Account, in the name of "Legal Fund for Florida's Exotic Animals, Inc.," has been established. If you would like to help in this battle to protect captive wildlife, please make your donation check out to Legal Fund for Florida's Exotic Animals, Inc. and mail to the following address:

Legal Fund for Florida's Exotic Animals, Inc.

% Suzanne T. Billiar, DVM  
P.O. Box 69  
Ocala, FL 34478

Although your donation is not tax-deductible, any donations received will be used to pay legal fees. Please put your e-mail address with your check. I also need to know which county you reside in and what ordinances your county and/or municipality has concerning exotic animals. All donors will receive a receipt and be kept up to date on the progress.

## Guest Editorial

# THE LIVES OF EXOTIC ANIMAL OWNERS IN A “FREE” COUNTRY

By Amy Flory

In a country founded on freedom and equality, there is a group of people who must constantly fight for their basic rights. These are the owners of exotics; the people who dare to share their lives with and be owned by an unusual animal. These people are continuously attacked, not from their animals, but from others who just do not understand. These attacks come in the form of government, neighbors, animal rights groups, and even former owners.

Exotic animal owners are slowly getting banned and regulated into extinction by government groups brainwashed by lies and exaggerations told to them about how all owners are irresponsible. One ironic thing is that when potential owners try to be responsible by contacting their state and local governments to find out the laws, they're rewarded by the passing of a new ban. Another is that owners are forced to spend so much time and money fighting unfair legislation that it depletes their resources to properly care for their

animals, the reason given for passing the laws in the first place.

Those lucky exotic animal owners who get to keep their animals are usually required by law to tell the public that their own animals are dangerous and should not be kept as pets. They have lost their freedom of speech and right to express honest opinions on the subject. Furthermore, they must turn against their fellow owners so they don't lose their own animals.

Even if the laws don't prohibit or severely restrict exotic animals, neighbors can still complain and have the animals of law-abiding citizens taken away. Many owners have experienced this after neighbors spot their exotic cat in a window and use the unfounded claim of danger to their children or themselves. The animals are taken away from a loving home just because nearby residents don't like them. Neighbors prejudice these exotic pets as dangerous based on rumors and refuse to believe otherwise.

However, the main opponents exotic animal owners must deal with are animal

rights groups, people responsible for misinformation on exotic pet ownership and unnecessary bans. They use the guise of protecting animals to take beloved pets away from owners and place them in sanctuaries where they no longer receive individualized attention like before.

When exotic animal owners lose their animals due to the above reasons, they tend to change their perspective on keeping exotic animals. Current owners have to worry about former owners turning



Amy gets a nuzzle from Bob, the ambassador bobcat at Butternut Farm Wildcat Sanctuary.

rights groups, people responsible for misinformation on exotic pet ownership and unnecessary bans. They use the guise of protecting animals to take beloved pets away from owners and place them in sanctuaries where they no longer receive individualized attention like before.

When exotic animal owners fight back, Animal Control is called with false

reports of abuse or neglect. If the owners pass inspection, these groups retaliate by pushing local government to pass a ban. Owners become stuck between a rock and a hard place. Either way, they risk losing their animals. Many have chosen not to get involved for fear of their animals' safety.

When exotic animal owners lose their animals due to the above reasons, they tend to change their perspective on keeping exotic animals. Current owners have to worry about former owners turning against them out of spite because of the belief that if they cannot have an animal, then no one should. Many laws are being pushed by people that once had an exotic pet themselves. Aside from the animal rights groups, most of the proponents of the ban bills are sanctuary owners that started out as pet owners.

With so many states and localities passing bans or strict regulations, exotic animal owners have no choice but to come out and fight. Many have started groups specifically created to fight these laws. These groups have successfully stopped many ban bills from passing. However, the damage is already done. Over half the country has a ban on wild and exotic animals as pets. Unless something is done to reverse this trend, the last of these exotic pets will be extinct within the next couple decades, along with their owners' freedom to have any pet they want.

## DONATIONS

The FCF board of directors wishes to offer a special thanks to the following individuals who have made donations to various projects since the last published Journal.

Your generous donations enable the FCF to provide additional funding for special projects, develop and deliver educational materials to our members and legislators, and help FCF support feline conservation, and improve captive feline welfare.

We appreciate each donation, no matter the amount, recognizing that it is the many small gifts that when combined, add up and make a difference in the effectiveness of the FCF. We encourage everyone to follow their example by donating funds for those projects that are of special interest to you.

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The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.



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*Thanks to the many FCF members contributing photos for these new note card sets. Photos selected include ones from Joe Fortunato, Melissa Faust, Randy Johnson, Andy Hornstein, Tammi Medina, Jim Peacock, Thierry Plaud, Deborah Warrick, Laura Walker, Vicki Zimmerman, Teresa Shaffer, Jim Sanderson, Gail Howell, Susanna Billian, Lynn Cielvo, and also included is original artwork by artists Rachael Arnott and Cheryl Higgins.*



Note cards  
group 2



Note cards  
group 3



Photographer Shalleen Mathews says Snicklefritz, the Gordon's cat, calls The Wildcat Advocacy Center in Washington state home.



Hunter the caracal is thinking, "Why did I have to go and eat that *whole* chicken by myself? I'm stuffed!" Photo by Shalleen Mathews.

# YOUR BEST SHOT



Bill Meadows' beautiful bobcat, Quigley, is looking forward to meeting everyone at convention. Photographer Lynn Culver got an early introduction back in February.



Leroy the serval. Photo credit unknown.



It's nap time and Dad's shoe makes a nice pillow. Another great shot of Faith by Teresa Shaffer.



Hunter the Geoffroy's cat does his best Halloween cat imitation. Hunter lives with Kurt Beckelman and has a domestic buddy named Lilly that he shares his room with. Photo by Kurt Beckelman.



Tom Harvey's sibling sister "tiger pups" are growing up. Tom took this photo of these 'purrfect' girls at his Safari Park Zoo in Caney, Kansas.

S



Long, lounging lynx grooming in the Florida summer sun at Julie's Jungle. Photo by Julie Reid.

# RODENTPRO.COM® Wholesale Feeder Price List

RodentPro.com® is proud to offer you premium quality feeder animals for sale at wholesale prices. Our company specializes in the production and distribution of mice, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chicks, and quail. RodentPro.com® has been providing premium quality feeder animals to the reptile and birds of prey community since 1999. Since then, our company has set industry standards for quality, value and convenience. These standards have been set by offering unsurpassed quality, breeder direct pricing and year round availability. RodentPro.com® is committed to serving your feeder animal needs. Quality is of the utmost importance to us, whether it be through the value of a product or the integrity of a relationship. We understand that our success depends, not only on the quality of our products, but more importantly, on the strength of relationships established with our customers. We look forward to being a part of your success and hope you will give us the opportunity to serve you.



## Mice



	Size	Less than 500	500	1000	2500	5000+	Length (inches)	Weight (grams)	Count
X-Small Pinkies:		\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.90 - 1.00	1.30 - 1.60	100
Small Pinkies:		\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.90 - 1.00	1.90 - 2.40	100
Large Pinkies:		\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.90 - 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
Wendigos:		\$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.

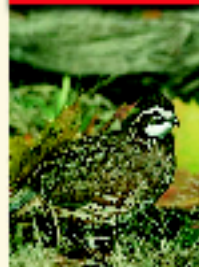
## Rats



	Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Length (inches)	Weight (grams)	Count
Pinkies:		\$0.30	\$0.34	\$0.29	1.50 - 2.00	3.00 - 8.00	100
Fuzzies:		\$0.40	\$0.44	\$0.39	2.00 - 2.50	9.00 - 19.00	100
Pups:		\$0.70	\$0.74	\$0.69	2.50 - 3.50	20.00 - 29.00	25
Wendos:		\$0.80	\$0.84	\$0.79	3.50 - 4.50	30.00 - 44.00	25
Small:		\$0.90	\$0.94	\$0.89	4.50 - 6.00	45.00 - 84.00	20
Medium:		\$1.30	\$1.34	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:		\$1.40	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:		\$1.50	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:		\$1.70	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:		\$1.90	\$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



	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	150.00 - 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:	\$4.00	0.50 - 0.75	1
Small:	\$5.00	1.00 - 1.75	1
Medium:	\$6.00	2.00 - 3.75	1
Large:	\$7.00	4.00 - 5.75	1
X-Large:	\$8.00	6.00 - 7.75	1
XX-Large:	\$9.00	8.00 - 9.75	1
XXX-Large:	\$10.00	10.00 - 11.75+	1

## Chicks

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



## Guinea Pigs

	Less than 500	500	1000+	Inches	Grams	Count
Medium:	\$1.90	\$1.94	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:	\$1.40	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:	\$1.50	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:	\$1.70	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:	\$1.90	\$1.94	\$1.89	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00	2
XXXX-Large:	\$2.20	\$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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## MINUTES: 2010 SECOND QUARTER BOARD MEETING FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION

The 2010 Second Quarter Board Meeting was held online via the FCF Website Forums. The online duration was May 15, 2010, through May 24, 2010. Board members participating were Kevin Chambers, Patty Perry, Kurt Beckelman, Pat Callahan, Sylvia Gerber, Ron DeArmond, Elizabeth Whitlock, Robert Johnson, and George DeLong. FCF Executive Director Lynn Culver participated in discussions and progress updates. FCF members may formally log in on the FCF internal website and view any online board meeting on a real time basis, or they may view the entire, detailed record of these proceedings at any time after they close. Participation and posting online is necessarily limited to board members and the Executive Director, but members are encouraged to contact board members individually at any time with input or concerns.

### **FORMAL BUSINESS, MOTIONS, AND VOTING**

#### *RATIFICATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:*

The executive director posted the minutes of the First Quarter 2010 Board Meeting, held online from March 2, 2010, thru March 14, 2010, via the FCF website forums. The minutes were ratified as posted.

#### *NOMINATION TO FILL THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT POSITION:*

Chambers reported that member Erin Patters had contacted him with interest in this position. Whitlock responded with an observation that there had been some confusion and returned mail resulting from uncertainty over Erin's address. Chambers clarified by responding that Erin and her husband had just been re-stationed in Texas. They are living in a remote area near Austin with friends and have to drive to a hilltop for cell phone reception, and all the way into Austin for viable internet service. He stated that, despite these limi-

tations, she had stayed in contact with both Lynn Culver and him regarding her convention committee duties. He added that she will be getting satellite internet service soon and has taken her responsibilities seriously and put forth the required extra effort despite the current handicaps. Chambers moved for appointment of Erin Patters to the vacant Director of Development position. DeLong seconded the nomination/appointment. VOTING: Yes = 4 (Chambers, DeLong, Callahan, Beckelman). No = 1 (Perry). Abstaining = 0. DeArmond suggested that, since we are looking at reducing the size of the board, we hold on filling board positions and focus on administrative positions. Erin Patters was appointed to the Director of Development position.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Kurt Beckelman reported the following balances on May 18th:  
OCCU – Checking = \$32,441.41  
Harris – Checking = \$1,107.56  
ING – Savings = \$63,636.23  
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS = \$97,185.20  
Fund Balances:  
Safety Net Fund = \$2,689.99  
Rare Species Fund = \$23,290.33  
Conservation Grant Fund = \$3,881.99

### **OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

#### *2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION:*

Chambers reported that the convention chair, Kate Conner, has some personal issues that do not allow her to work on the convention right now. He is stepping back in to oversee the organization of the convention. He stated that Erin Patters is still active on the committee, but that they could use some additional help, including volunteers for check-in, etc. There was a discussion of needs and duties following this update, with several of the participants accepting task responsibilities at the

convention.

#### *CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE:*

Chambers stated that the committee would review current bylaws and recommend changes for consideration at the convention board meeting. The focus is adjustment of bylaws should any or all of the proposed amendments to the constitution pass. He asked for volunteers. Culver stated that she would work on this project and be a part of the committee, though no other board members volunteered.

#### *DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:*

Chambers stated that he had held off on action items pending the appointment of a new Director of Development to fill the vacant position.

#### *CAPTIVE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:*

Callahan and Culver reported that a proposed committee outline and a call for volunteers would be published in the next Journal issue.

#### *PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:*

A committee function outline and call for volunteer help will appear in the next Journal issue.

#### *ADVERTISING AND MARKETING COMMITTEE:*

DeArmond reported that previous attempts have not gained any volunteer response from the membership. A committee function outline and a call for volunteers will appear in the next Journal issue.

#### *EDUCATION COMMITTEE:*

Gerber reported that she was working on her committee's structure and actively pursuing some names and other volunteer interest.

#### *LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:*

Johnson posted a complete and comprehensive overview of his Legislative Committee goals, the current positions and responsibilities, and whom he has to fill those positions. He stated that there were

still a couple of positions open, but that he felt the work could be accomplished by the individuals who are in place. There was discussion of individual state problems, whether or not there was a need for individual state representatives, etc. Johnson responded that he had the four regional committee members and a fifth person as overall coordinator, and that all states were thusly accounted for. He observed that getting 50 people to actively work together would be all but impossible. He emphasized the importance of understanding that the responsibility of these regionally assigned committee members was just

to help keep track of the laws and proposed bills. The responsibility for taking action ultimately falls to the residents of the state.

*EDUCATOR'S COURSE PROGRAM AND POLICY:*

Gerber posted a complete outline of policy and procedure for the Educator's Course. There was considerable discussion of cost and return for this new course in comparison with what has become standard for the Husbandry Course. Culver stated her feeling that the organization should focus on developing instructors, then take other steps to ensure that the

course could be offered at reasonable intervals with no net loss to the organization. The importance and value of the course was agreed upon. Treasurer Beckelman ran breakdown numbers from his records and posted that the Educator's Course offered at last year's convention did break even and generate a small net profit.

Respectfully Submitted:  
George DeLong  
FCF Secretary

## NOMINATION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN

May 1st through August 10th is the official period of time where members may be nominated to serve on the board of directors. To be properly nominated requires two members to submit a signed nomination in writing to the secretary of the FCF board. You may send a scanned copy of your signed nomination letter attached to an email to: [secretary@felineconservation.org](mailto:secretary@felineconservation.org). If you send it by email, request an email confirmation, and if you do not get one, follow up to make sure it is received. You may also send a nomination letter by US mail.

There are eleven positions open for nomination; president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, director of public relations, director of development, director of education, director of legislation, director of conservation, director of member services, and director of marketing.

All candidates nominated will submit a candidate statement to be published in the September/October Journal. Ballots will be included in that issue as well. Ballots are counted in November and the elected board will serve for two years, beginning January 1, 2011.

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*REGULAR	100% BEEF	*80% BEEF	10% TRIPE & 10% FAT
*Bird of Prey	50% BEEF & 50% HORSEMEAT		

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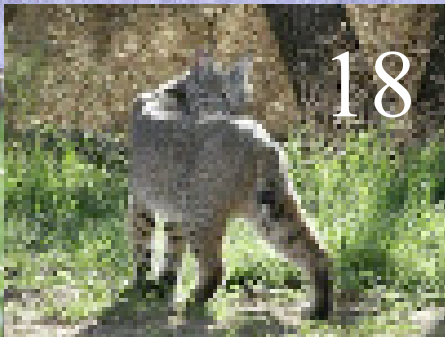
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## Feline Conservation Federation

July/August 2010 Volume 54, Issue 4

Cover photo: This photograph was shot by Karen Pennington of Karenleighstudios.com using a Nikon D5000 and a Nikkor AF-S DX 18-200 mm ED VR lens. Karen has been a photographer for the past several years and works out of her studio in Maryland. She enjoys photographing nature and wildlife in addition to portraits and landscapes. This 4-month-old male Geoffroy kitten was born at Sheryl Koontz's facility, Marechal Cattery. Ryot (pronounced riot) is the first Geoffroy kitten born there. Sheryl says he was the realization of a long time dream to produce this species and she gives credit and thanks to the help of Collette Griffiths of CoCoas Pride, for making her dream a reality. Sheryl says, "Ryot is just amazing, full of life and curiosity - I just can't get enough of him!"

Back photo: My name is Kim Barker and I am staff volunteer at Conservator's Center, Inc. (CCI). During the Annual Christmas Tree Toss, I photographed this incredible male lion Enoch with a Nikon D80 DSLR using an 80 mm lens. Enoch had chosen a branch to play with, and as others approached, he quickly began to possess the branch, and I caught his incredible emotion on camera.

