



**Feline Conservation Federation**

September/October 2010 Volume 54, Issue 5





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## 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.

Send \$35 annual dues (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 4403 S. 334th E Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74014

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## CONTACT US

**FOUNDER:**  
Catherine Cisin

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Lynn Culver  
141 Polk 664  
Mena, AR 71953  
479-394-5235  
executivedirector@  
felineconservation.org

### OFFICERS:

**President:**  
Kevin Chambers  
7816 N CR 75 W  
Shelburn, IN 47879  
812-397-2302  
president@  
felineconservation.org

**Vice President:**  
Patty Perry  
P.O. Box 2359  
Moorpark, CA 93020  
805-517-1005  
vicepresident@  
felineconservation.org

**Secretary:**  
George DeLong  
197 East View Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-4553  
secretary@  
felineconservation.org

**Treasurer:**  
Kurt Beckelman  
4403 S. 334th E. Avenue  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014  
918-407-0341  
safarikurbe@aol.com

### DIRECTORS:

**Conservation:**  
Pat Callahan  
3400 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45220  
513-304-7155  
conservation@  
felineconservation.org

**Education:**  
Sylvia Gerber  
1679 NW 114th Loop  
Ocala, FL 34475  
352-875-7699  
education@  
felineconservation.org

**Marketing:**  
Ron DeArmond  
1203 Columbus St.  
Pella, IA 50219  
312-213-7975  
marketing@  
felineconservation.org

### Membership Services:

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

**Legislation:**  
Robert Johnson  
PO Box 31210  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
786-390-8553  
legislation@  
felineconservation.org

### Development:

Erin Patters  
2622 Stagecoach Ranch Rd.  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
832-816-4028  
development@  
felineconservation.org

### DEPARTMENTS:

#### Accreditation Chairman:

Doc Antle  
P.O. Box 31210  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
843-271-2299  
Gemojungle@aol.com  
**Conservation Advisor:**  
Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.  
356 Freeman Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
505-720-1204  
gato\_andino@yahoo.com

### JOURNAL STAFF:

#### Managing Editor:

Lynn Culver  
**Layout/Copy Editor:**  
Eden Tran  
sonandedentran@yahoo.com

#### Associate Editors:

Judith Hoffman  
Deeanna Croasmun  
Yvonne Veety  
Wayne Sluder

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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 lynneculver@hughes.net, or send by postal service to 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The FCF convention in Oklahoma was another grand success. I hope that everyone who attended had a good time and was able to take something home from the experience, too. A big thanks goes out to Bill Meadows and his staff at Tiger Safari. They really went all out to make our day at the Safari a memorable one. The convention could not happen without the help of volunteers to plan and make things happen. Even though Kate Conner was not able to attend, she did a fine job with getting the ball rolling. Erin Patters was a huge help in making things go off without a hitch. Others that deserve a thank you are Robert Johnson, Kurt Beckelman, Lynn Culver, George DeLong, and everyone that helped with check-in and the auction. Erin Patters will be the Convention Chairman for 2011. If you would like to help plan for next year's convention, contact Erin to become a member of her committee.

An independent CPA tabulated the results of the Constitutional balloting on July 8, 2010. The results were:

1. Change the number of people on the Board of Directors from 11 to 7. The vote was 107-30. The 78% "yes" vote exceeded the 66% required to pass.

2. Reduce the number of years of membership required for a member to be nominated for president from 10 years to 2 years. The vote was 102-35. The 74% "yes" vote exceeded the 66% required to pass.

3. Change the January-to-March period for proposing constitutional changes from every two years to every year. The vote was 117-20. The 85% "yes" vote exceeded the 66% required to pass.

All three amendments passed and took effect on August 1st, 2010. The Board also addressed the bylaws at the conven-

tion meeting to reflect these changes. The constitution and bylaws on the members-only website has been updated and you can login there to see the exact wording of these changes.

It is election time again! You'll find a ballot enclosed with your journal. All ballots should be sent to Candy Ogden, CPA, c/o 6913 E. 13th Street, Tulsa, OK 74112. A pre-addressed envelope has also been enclosed.

The election is done using the preferential voting system. This means that instead of marking just your top choice for each race, you mark candidates in order of the preference you like them. Please fill in the oval in the "1st choice" column for the candidate you most prefer. Then do the same in the "2nd choice" column for your second choice. Continue marking your next choice in the correct column until you have ranked all candidates in each race.

Each voter must sign the ballot so that the independent CPA may match your name against the eligible voters' list. Both people listed under an FCF membership are eligible to vote. Each must use a separate ballot and only one ballot per person is allowed.

The CPA will use the Borda count method in order to tally the votes. Under the Borda count, the voter ranks the list of candidates in order of preference. So, for example, the voter gives a "1" to their first preference, a "2" to their second preference, and so on. These rankings are used to assign points for the candidates.

The number of points given to candidates for each ranking is determined by the number of candidates standing in the election. Thus, if there are five candidates in an election, then a candidate will receive five points each time they are

ranked first, four for being ranked second, and so on, with a candidate receiving one point for being ranked last (or left unranked).

Ranking	Candidate	Formula	Points
1st	Andrew	(n)	5
2nd	Brian	(n - 1)	4
3rd	Catherine	(n - 2)	3
4th	David	(n - 3)	2
5th	Elizabeth	(n - 4)	1

When all votes have been counted and the points added up, the candidate with the most points will be declared the winner. In the Director's race, where three candidates will be elected, the three candidates with the most points will be the winners.

The CPA will hold the ballots after counting has been completed and then destroy them. No FCF member will see the ballots.

Roger Newson has resigned his position of Director of Public Relations on the FCF Board of Directors. Roger suffered a heart attack and stroke earlier this year. He is going to be concentrating his efforts on recovering and felt that, in the meanwhile, he would not be able to do justice to the position. I would like to thank Roger for his service and wish him the best in his recovery.

Please find a membership renewal form in your *Journal*. In 2009, the FCF instituted a universal renewal date for all members. You can fill out the form and send it, along with a check or credit card information, to Kurt Beckelman's address. You may also go to the "members-only" section of the FCF Website and renew there using PayPal. Please renew now, as your membership will expire on October 1st, 2010. For new members joining since January of 2010 who have already paid a full year's membership fees (\$35 USA, \$40 Canada, and \$50 International), you will have a credit coming on your renewal based on the month you joined. Use this following chart to determine the amount you need to remit to renew your membership for the upcoming year (valid until October 2011).

Join Date	USA	Canada	Int'l
Jan./Feb.	\$25.00	\$29.00	\$37.00
Mar./Apr.	\$19.00	\$22.00	\$28.00
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Kevin Chambers

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ranked first, four for being ranked second, and so on, with a candidate receiving one point for being ranked last (or left unranked). In other words, where there are "n" candidates, a candidate will receive "n" points for a first preference, "n - 1" points for a second





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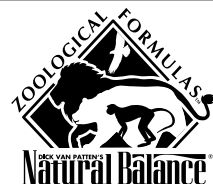
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Lynn Culver

It is election time for the FCF. In this issue of the Journal are the platforms from the candidates nominated for the board of directors. It is very important that you examine the candidates and exercise your right to vote. The next board will be just seven people, and they must be dedicated to the job of managing FCF finances and the oversight of policies to steer the FCF into the future.

As this organization's first Executive Director, I have found that while I have much enthusiasm for the FCF, I cannot fulfill the obligation of this position without a board fully engaged. I have been disappointed at the inactivity by some on this board. It has forced me to spend a lot of my time filling in for marketing, public relations, education, and membership services.

Several board members have experienced serious health issues, either for themselves or their family. A couple board members recognized they were not fulfilling their commitments and have stepped down. This year Roger Newson, appointed as Public Relations director, suffered both a heat attack and a stroke and has stepped down. I wish Roger a full recovery.

But all is not disappointing. There have been some great accomplishments during 2009 and 2010.

Pat Callahan's conservation committee oversaw more grants awarded this past year than any other year.

Ron DeArmond developed the FCF Wildlife Conservation Educators course, which empowers graduates to develop real educational programs. It will protect outreach ambassador habitat from future losses. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently audited the USDA, focusing on exhibitors who are not actually exhibiting. Exotic owners are getting licensed as exhibitors to comply with state requirements. OIG recommended that USDA require proof of exhibiting, and drop those not exhibiting. The day of the "phony exhibitor" is over.

Robert Johnson has created the most important tool for legislation and public relations and education in the history of the FCF. His 18-minute DVD titled An

In(CAT)venient Truth is powerful and tight, packed full of information about our cats, and the various forces that are attacking them. Watch it on the FCF web site. It is available for sale on the FCF website store. It represents hundreds of hours of work, and I urge ALL members to watch it online and purchase at least one DVD (and hopefully more), and give them away to community leaders and legislators. If you have a local community college TV station, talk to the program manager. Small town TV and cable channels are open to presenting such a DVD as part of their local programming. Robert did the work, now FCF members need to spread it around. When we work together, we can make a huge difference!

Jill Galindo, Caroline Alexander and Patty Perry will host an FCF booth at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo. The



expo will be held at the Mission Bay Conference Center, in San Francisco, California on October 3. I urge members in the area to attend. The Expo features great speakers, including FCF's conservation advisor, Jim Sanderson.

Mindy Stinner has done all the planning and arranged for the next Basic Feline Husbandry Course to be held at the Elon Community College in Elon, North Carolina on Saturday, November 6. The course will be followed by a tour of the Conservator's Center in Mebane, North Carolina the next day. Read more on page 36.

I want to thank the following FCF members who have volunteered. Caroline Alexander is the chairman of the Member Services committee. Robert Hohn and Carole Cochran are our new welcomers

for the committee. Laura Reeder is on the Captive Conservation Committee. Jim Fowler has volunteered for the Public Relations committee. All the new committees were listed in the May/June Journal on page 47, and committees are permanently posted to the "Members Only" Website. Please take some time and review the committees and call or email me with questions or to volunteer.

There have been a couple of major events that can affect future legislation.

A bear killed the friend of its Ohio owner. A few months ago, the governor of Ohio signed an agreement with the HSUS and the Farm Bureau to ban ownership of exotics by the end of 2010. The actual legislation still needs to be drafted and passed, and this terrible tragedy is being used by HSUS to place additional pressure on the legislators to prohibit private ownership. Ohio members need to be in touch with their legislators with their concerns. The time is ripe for An In(CAT)venient Truth to be told! DVDs are available for sale; see page 7 for details.

At Jungle Island in Miami, Florida, an escaped gibbon swinging overhead teased Mahesh, a three-year-old male Bengal tiger, into jumping so high that the tiger fell out of his habitat! This happened on a Saturday afternoon while the park was full of visitors. Fortunately, trainers quickly recovered Mahesh. During the brief time that he was loose, he did no harm to anyone. There is even one report that Mahesh came face to face with a small child. I think this is all of our worst nightmares come true.

What contributed to this positive outcome is the fact that Mahesh was hand-reared. Mahesh was raised with love and so he liked people. Mahesh responded positively to his trainers and walked into a transport cage. This kind of husbandry and training saved his life. Chalk one up for hand-rearing and affection training! Congratulations to sisters China and Amy York, and all the others at Jungle Island, who took control of this emergency and were successful in returning Mahesh to safety.

While Mahesh did no harm, I am sure that his incredible athletic ability has generated a lot of concern. Post-incident



investigations revealed that a nearly two-foot layer of mulch inside the tiger habitat had lowered the effective height of the fence by nearly two feet.

All of us need to look over our own facilities. Is your facility in good repair? Can any of your cats possibly get out? And if they did, what would you do?

Electric wires are a relatively inexpensive and quick upgrade for any open-topped enclosure. Place them a few feet below the top of the fence.

What are your contingency plans for this worst-case scenario? Do you have a trap or a crate, and is your cat trained to the crate? Mahesh is alive today, in part because he was transport crate-trained. Let this experience be a lesson to us all.

## CAN YOU MEET MY CHALLENGE?

By Teresa Shaffer

I am calling on all exotic cat owners, breeders, sanctuaries, zoos and educational workers. I have decided to challenge myself over the next year and have set a personal goal of signing up 100 new members to the FCF. I will personally pay the FCF enrollment fee for each person who buys one of our kittens in the next year. I plan to not only hand out flyers, but try to explain the FCF's mission to every person who receives a flyer.

I was appalled when I found out we do not have even close to 1,000 members in the FCF. We have been around for over 50 years and we're not growing. Each one of us should be working to educate people about why they should not let our rights to own these animals be taken away. People believe what they want to believe when they hear all the bad press regarding big cats. We all know what some larger anti-ownership organizations are telling people. We have to get out there and tell them differently. Roberts's *In(CAT)venient Truth* DVD is a great tool to pass along. It is simple and straightforward. It does not bash the anti-ownership organizations, but gives people the other side of the story. Recently, Missouri passed a new big cat law. They had been trying to push this law through for many years, and this year they attached it to a farm bill and passed it through on the last day of legislature. We are losing, people! We have to ban together and try to boost our membership. We not only need to add members, but we need to focus on keeping members! Even if you do not have time for a committee or office in the FCF, you can still help! I was thinking that if each member would just sign up one new member in the next year, we would obviously double our membership. If we did this for five consecutive years, we could have over 20,000 members! I just know that this IS DOABLE! Let's join together and grow!

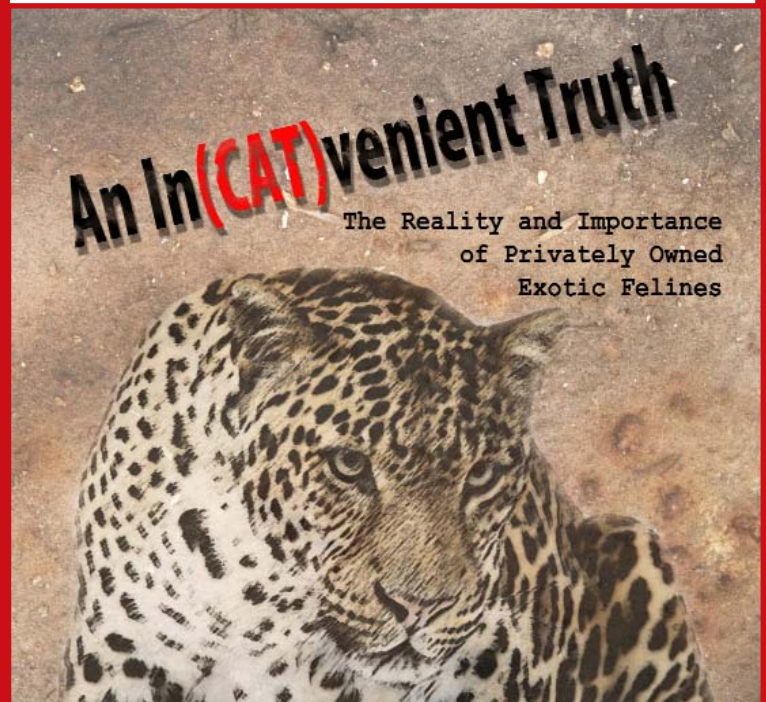
## Just Premiered at the 2010 FCF Convention...

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## 2010 FCF CONVENTION REVIEW: TIM STOFFEL

I have been writing the annual convention review article for the FCF Journal for a number of years now. And each year, I start the article by proclaiming that year's convention "the best ever." And indeed, I am going to do it again this year as well. Every year, the convention committee has somehow managed to outdo itself. But this year stands out from all the others. It was not the "best ever" because there was some unforgettable feline experience or the chance to meet a special new friend. That is not to say something special didn't happen this year, because special things did happen. But what really set this convention apart from all previous conventions (and I have attended all conventions, except one, since 2002) was how this convention was organized. It is my sincere hope that the 2010 FCF convention will serve as the model for all future conventions!

Travel this year was different for me than any other year. Instead of coming from my home in Reno, Nevada, I came directly from another event--the Colorado Renaissance Fair. This is the second year I have attended this fun (and expensive) event, and I had a great time there. The day after attending the fair, I visited the Denver Zoo. Their feline collection is not the best I have seen, but they have a very nice lion exhibit. They also had a rarity in their lion exhibit, a bachelor pride of male lions. It is my understanding that they have three male lions in their "brotherhood," and I saw two of them. Unfortunately, I do not have very good pictures of anything this year, as the complex itinerary left no room for a decent camera in my luggage.

One special thing about the 2010 convention was the chance to meet a friend I have known for years on the phone and over the Internet, but not yet in person. She lives in Norman, OK, and she invited me to stay at her house for the convention. This saved me enough money to make the difference between attending and not attending. The "tough" part of this was sharing the house with two savannah cats. I decided that I could live with having to be around exotic cats in return for a free room! Taking up this invitation also meant that, for the first time, I had to rent a car for the FCF convention. I ended up

putting that car to good use.

I flew from Denver to Oklahoma City on Tuesday, July 27th. Since I was planning to audit the Feline Husbandry Course as part of the process of becoming a teacher, I needed to be there for Wednesday. Predictably, I experienced a delay getting checked into the airport, and my luggage got lost. I know now that the recommendation to carry-on CPAP equipment is a good recommendation, even though that meant no camera this time. It also meant I spent my first night and day in Oklahoma City wearing the same clothes!

The savannah cats did not quite know what to make of me, and I botched my best attempt at "friendship" by moving when I was being stealthily "checked out." But I "survived" the night and drove to the hotel the next morning.

The Feline Husbandry Course is one of the best things that FCF does. I attended it many years ago, in December of 2001. The teachers this year were Mindy Stinner and Kathrin Stucki. Although the basic organization of the course has not changed much in all those years, the material has been constantly updated. There have been many changes in regulatory areas, as well as in areas of nutrition, vet care, etc. It

was also a chance to get to know some new people who were just getting familiar with the FCF. Many of the folks attending already had extensive experience as cat keepers. A couple of people were taking the course to see if they would be able to properly take care of an exotic cat. Just like the first time I took the course, it took all day and then a little. In the end, everyone passed the examination.

Running parallel to the Husbandry Course was the Wildlife Conservation Educator's Course. Ron DeArmond was the instructor for this one. I have not yet attended this course, but hope to at some future date. There were plenty of attendees, and that course ran nearly as long as the husbandry course.

When the courses were over, a sizable group of us had a very nice dinner together at a nearby steakhouse. After that, we were able to get into the ballroom that would serve as our meeting space and hospitality suite throughout the convention. Lynn Culver had Geoffroy's cat and bobcat kittens for people to interact with. Fred Boyajian brought a Siberian lynx kitten named Salty, who seemed to be everywhere any of us were for the rest of the convention. Getting into the meeting room this early was very helpful, as I was able



FCF Treasurer Kurt Beckelman figures the auction tab for Mike Friese, as Richard Nabetta, Cindy Young, and Judith Hoffman wait their turn. Photo by Tony Richards.





Standing in front of the Tiger Safari Treehouse staircase is a TV station cameraman. Pictured are: Erin Patters, Kevin Chambers, Jarod Miller, and behind Jarod is Bill Meadows and Mike Friese. Photo by Liz Hatton.

to begin the auction organization earlier than during the previous year.

Convention Thursday began as it usually does, with the Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting. I was a bit disappointed this year by the poor turnout of general members who usually show up to observe the BOD meeting. In previous years, there were more observers attending than BOD members. What the BOD of the FCF does is very important to the membership, and it is important that they know what is going on. Let's hope more folks show up next year. Much of this meeting was spent implementing the bylaw changes that had been voted into effect earlier in the month.

I sneaked away for a quick lunch at a nearby Waffle House restaurant, one of my favorite places to eat. (Good places to eat were not in short supply near this convention location!) Afterward, it was back to the hospitality suite, where activities were in full swing. And this is where the superior planning of this convention began to become evident.

I cannot remember a year when there were more cats around. We had Geoffroy's cats, bobcats, servals, and Salty the Siberian lynx (all kittens, of course). No cougars, cheetahs, or other large cats this year, but there sure were kittens everywhere! This must have been what the "old days" were like before exotic cat ownership became so heavily regulated. I have read stories about people showing up with lions, etc., in the days of yore!

While I was busy organizing and checking in auction items, a workshop started in the back of the room, where people had a chance to build enrichment toys for various sized cats. These toys were to be tested the next day at Tiger Safari. They would use techniques later presented by Debi Willoughby on measuring the effectiveness of

enrichment items. To my knowledge, there have never been organized Thursday afternoon activities before, and this sort of thing is what made this convention great.

The general membership meeting was moved to Thursday night several years ago, and this was a very good decision. This is the opportunity for members to have questions answered by the Board of Directors, as well as present their own ideas and opinions. One thing I really noticed this year is that people are finally waking up and realizing how desperate the regulatory environment has become. And this is happening none too soon.

To address this very problem, Robert Johnson, FCF Director of Legislation and full-time team member of T.I.G.E.R.S., presented his video, entitled *An In(CAT)venient Truth*. This video examines the issues facing exotic feline owners today and debunks many of the mistruths that are spreading in legislative and regulatory circles. This video is a tribute to what can be done with inexpensive, but high-quality, "prosumer" camcorders and desktop nonlinear video editing software. For a fraction of what it would have cost just 10 years ago, Robert turned out a broad-

cast-quality, first-rate presentation that is just about perfect in every way it can be measured. (I am a professional broadcast/video engineer, and I am very hard to impress!) This video has been placed on YouTube, as well as provided in professionally packaged DVDs to distribute to lawmakers, etc. I urge everyone to get a supply of these and have them on hand for your next legislative season. (I did.) To me, this was the most "special moment" of this year's convention!

I also learned that evening that I had been kicked out of my convention housing. It seems that the savannah cats had disapproved of my presence and protested by not eating. So, I checked into the hotel late that evening. The next day, though, Lynn Culver handed me an envelope containing some cash that had been collected to help defray the added expenses I had incurred by moving into the hotel. This was a really nice thing to do and it helped



This serval kitten takes a minute to pose for adoring fans out in the sunshine at the Tiger Safari Zoological Park in Tuttle, OK. Photo by Tony Richards.





Jarod Miller speaks to FCF conventioners in the Tiger Safari banquet hall. Photo by Lynn Culver.

tremendously. Thank you to all who contributed to this! I hope that next time I might be able to help someone else.

Friday of the convention was different than any other Friday I can remember. After breakfast, we all boarded a bus for Bill Meadows' Tiger Safari. It's in a park-like setting, featuring a number of big and small cats, as well as a variety of other animals. The morning was spent on a guided tour of the facility. After that, we were free to wander around. Many of us took advantage of the opportunity to have our picture taken with a tiger cub, even though, for many, being around tigers is an everyday experience. A news crew from a local TV station was there covering what was going on and interviewing people. They later ran a nice story about the FCF convention on the evening news.

After a morning with cats, the lecture presentations began. Although these have usually been done on Saturday, they were moved to Friday this year, another brilliant move on the part of the convention planners.

The first presentation was by Dr. Jim Sanderson, entitled "Progress with the Andean Cat Conservation and Monitoring Center We are Building in the Chilean Andes." The program largely concerned the Andean mountain cat. Dr. Sanderson spoke about ongoing work to conserve the Argentinean guinea cat, one of the world's rarest cats. Dr. Sanderson updated us on the conservation status of many other

small cat species. As usual, Dr. Sanderson's presentation was a highlight of the FCF convention.

The next presentation was given by Robert Johnson of T.I.G.E.R.S., called "The Perception of Private Ownership: Societal, Political and Legislative Implications." It was a follow-up to the previous evening's debut of An In(CAT)venient Truth.

After lunch, we heard from our guest host, Jarod Miller. He presented a lecture entitled "Life and Times with Animals." This program addressed some of his experiences with animals as a TV show host.

"Operant Conditioning for Exotic Cats (and all Animals of the Enchanted Forest)" was presented by David Sol of the Exotic Feline Foundation of America. This basic tutorial explained different conditioning techniques, with an emphasis on operant conditioning (clicker training).

Patti Maness, DVM, who works at Tiger Safari, did a program entitled "Health Updates, What are Those Diseases?" She focused on some common feline diseases and what can be done to prevent them. Some unusual cases were presented as well, including one about a lion that made a heroic recovery from necrotic gastritis after eating a heavily infected calf carcass.

The next presentation was given through SKYPE, as the presenter could not physically join us at the convention. Jim Fowler, host

of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, introduced us to "Power and Impact of Wildlife Ambassadors." The two-way nature of SKYPE allowed Mr. Fowler and those of us enjoying his presentation to see and hear one another. Based on audience participation, this seemed to be the best presentation of the day.

The final general presentation, called "FCF Moving Forward," was given by FCF's Executive Director, Lynn Culver. This delivery was kind of a "State of the FCF" presentation. Lynn spoke about what we all are expecting, that most populations of captive exotic cats are decreasing, while some that are less regulated (like hybrids) are increasing. The strengths, weaknesses, triumphs, and challenges facing the FCF were also presented.

After a short break, a talk was given just for those who had enrolled as "FCF Registered Cat Handlers," of which, unfortunately, there are only about 100. It was presented by Jarod Miller and was entitled "Conditioning Wildlife for Public Situations: From the Classroom to the Big Media". The presentation differed greatly from what the title suggested, but was interesting nonetheless.

Once the bus took us back to the hotel, various groups went out to dinner. I ended up joining some people who returned to the same steakhouse we had eaten at on Wednesday evening. It was an enjoyable time. Later that evening, many



Rajhi, the golden tabby tiger, surveys his domain at the Tiger Safari Zoological Park. Photo by Erin Patters.



of us came back to the hospitality suite. Again, there were many cats to enjoy and play with and good friends to catch up with. *An In(CAT)venient Truth* was again screened that evening. In previous years, the hospitality suite was often not available on Friday evenings. Since last year, it has been open Friday evening, another nice touch for the convention.

With much of the convention business already behind us, Saturday was an extra special day! After breakfast, we boarded a bus for the Oklahoma City Zoo. This was a big place with surprisingly large paddocks for various hoof stock. They had a sizeable lion enclosure, with big viewing windows that let one get really close to the cats. Unlike the Sedgewick Zoo, though, I was unable to get any of the lions to interact with me. The rest of their cats were located along a circular trail called the "Cat Forest." Along this trail were three rondavel huts centered where many of the cats were located. They had some of the more unusual cats, such as fishing cats, black-footed cats, and clouded leopards. Many of the cats were not showing themselves to us that day.

We were all instructed to meet at the jaguar exhibit at a certain time. At first we thought that this was for a behind-the-scenes tour, but, instead, it was for an open discussion with the zoo's cat keepers about their various cats. It was an interesting and lively discussion. And unlike many of the other cats, the jaguars remained out for all of us to see.

We had much of the rest of the day to explore the zoo. Finally, we rode the bus back to the hotel to prepare for the banquet.

As has become usual for me, I wore my kilt for the banquet. I was able to enhance the outfit with some accessories I had picked up at the Renaissance Fair. I am slowly but surely beginning to look like a proper Highlander!

Much of my evening was spent managing the silent auction. After last year's problems, I was more proactive in keeping things under control, which helped a lot. (I also made sure no one walked off with my stuff this year!)

Various awards and certificates were presented after dinner. All of those who had participated in the Wednesday courses received their certificates. Everyone who



Liz Hatton displays an item up for auction at Convention this year. Photo by Tony Richards.

participated in the Registered Handler's Program also got a nice certificate.

Eventually, it was time for the FCF's highest award, the "Lotty." This award is special enough to not even be awarded every year. But, this year, we had a recipient who really deserved it--Mindy Stinner of the Conservator's Center. Mindy has been a steady contributor to the FCF for many years.

After the awards were concluded, the live auction began. Jarod Miller acted as auctioneer, and he did a good job. Like last year, only the more valuable items were auctioned off. This year's top item was a very special, exclusive visit to the Las Vegas compound of the famed magicians, the Fercos Brothers. This was a really neat package, with many extra perks such as dinner and a show. It also included two tickets to see the Fercos Brothers perform anywhere in the world. It sold for \$1,200.

After the auction, there was an evening of karaoke. A number of people were brave enough to sing onstage for a donation. I, fortunately, was not among them, as that would only have resulted in "noise pollution!" A new song about joining the FCF was introduced, set to the tune of the

Village People's "YMCA." I did not get to see much of this activity, as I was too busy resolving the silent action items.

I can happily report that only one item got lost during this year's silent auction--a black candle with (I think) a zebra on it. If you have this item, please contact me so I can get it to the rightful highest bidder.

The evening wound down with more conversations among friends. For many, this was good-bye until next year. But, for a few of us, the FCF convention was not yet over!

On Sunday, I joined Joanne Ellerbrock and her friend Martin Vasquez to visit a cat facility about an hour's drive south of Oklahoma City. We even ran into a couple of other FCF folks who had gone there on their own. It was a fun day and we got to see many of their off-exhibit cats. (They also had ligers and ti-ligers.) We finished the day with ribs at another restaurant close to the hotel. After dinner, Joanne shared photos of her recent trip to Africa and I helped with some maintenance issues on their motor home. They left that evening for Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

On Monday, I made the 100-mile drive to Broken Arrow myself to meet back up with Joanne and Martin. From there, we drove to Safari's Sanctuary, FCF Treasurer Kurt Beckelman's facility. While there, we met many of his fine cats, including Rocky, the liger. One can never know enough ligers! We had a chance to interact with a bobcat, as well as some lemurs and coatimundis. It was a visit well worth the long drive in very hot weather. Robert Hohn and his wife, Sandra Lee, were already there when we arrived. I ended up taking Robert and his wife to a hotel in Tulsa where they were staying before driving back to Oklahoma City.

I flew home later that evening, and normal life quickly came rushing back! (I was called into work within the hour.) But what a convention this was! It will be remembered for a long time. And although there are some very exciting location possibilities for next year's convention (including one with lots of lions), the convention committee will have to "pull out all the stops" to beat this one!

## ELECTION TIME FOR THE FCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following candidates for office have accepted their nominations and their platforms and candidate biographies follow. The candidates are listed according to office, and each candidate is listed in alphabetical order. The constitutional amendment passed to change the size of the board to four officers and three directors. This change makes it more important than ever that quality people be elected to serve the members of the FCF.

Please read over these platforms and vote for the candidates of your choice using the enclosed ballot. Members have five weeks from the date the Journal is mailed for voting. Ballots must be received by the accountant, Candy Ogden, by November 5th.

Two people can share each membership, so there are two ballots enclosed. If two persons are registered with the FCF, then fill out two ballots; if one person is registered, then only use one ballot. Be sure to read the instructions and vote for each candidate according to your preference. Be sure to sign the ballot legibly at the bottom of the page, so the accountant can verify eligibility. The ballots are not seen by any FCF members.

### RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT:

#### KEVIN CHAMBERS

I have served as the FCF President for the last year and a half. Before that, I served as both Vice-President and Treasurer on the FCF Board. I have also served on several FCF committees, including the accreditation committee, convention committee, and bylaws review committee. In addition, I have served on various other boards for over 20 years, including Sullivan 4-H Council, 4-H Fair Board, Purdue Cooperative Extension Board, Tiger Creek Foundation, and the Indiana Shetland Sheep Breeders Association. I am well versed in the operation of boards in general, Roberts' Rules of Order, and the FCF in particular.

As a private facility owner, I make my living by breeding, importing, exporting, and exhibiting wildlife. I have done so for 28 years, working with several hundred cats of over 20 species and over 130 species of wildlife in all. Over the years, I have become quite experienced dealing with federal and state regulatory agencies, such as the USDA and USF&W, and have participated many times in legislative

hearings and public comment periods. I maintain close relationships with my state and local legislators, and I know what is effective in working with them. I have a broad base of experience in the different aspects that constitute FCF members. I have done business with circuses, pet owners, AZA and independent zoos, breeders, and exhibitors. I have served on the board of a sanctuary and worked with field researchers. All of these experiences give me a good understanding of the needs of each segment of our membership.

My vision and goals for FCF are to continue the path we are on, better serving all aspects of wildcat owners and enthusiasts. Improving the programs we have and developing new programs can help accomplish this. I believe the new format of committees to steer the conservation, legislation, education, development, marketing, public relations, and member services of FCF will greatly improve each of those areas. We have come a long way in the last few years, and I hope to continue on this path in order to give the FCF more credibility and standing when it comes to legislation, the media, and regulatory



agencies. Boardmembers and members alike require long-term commitment to achieve this. I believe I have proven my commitment to the FCF. For me, working with captive wildlife is a way of life, not merely an interest. Strengthening FCF's exposure and credibility benefits every member and will enhance our ability to avoid extinction for both the cats in the wild and us as private owners.



#### TIM STOFFEL

My name is Tim Stoffel, and I am running for President of the Feline Conservation Federation.

My qualifications: I have been interested in big cats for 25 years and have regularly worked with big and small cats for the past eight years. Although my experience is mainly in a zoo setting, I work regularly with other private exotic cat owners in a variety of settings. I took the FCF husbandry course in December 2001, and

am working toward becoming a course instructor.

I have served on the boards of a number of organizations over the years. Currently, I am president of the Reno chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers. I am also a board member of KRNG Radio.

In addition to practical work with exotic cats, I am also involved with groups that work to protect the rights of people to responsibly own and use animals. Most notably, I am heavily involved with REX-ANO. In 2009, I was a non-paid lobbyist

to the Nevada Legislature and organized a "legislative day" for animal owners. I plan to do it again during the 2011 session. I am also involved with a new organization within the Nevada Farm Bureau to represent all Nevada animal owners. This group will lobby in the legislature to help prevent situations like the recent HSUS agreement in Ohio.

The exotic cat world is at a crossroads. Human encroachment, poaching, and other factors are wiping out our wild cats. Protecting these wild populations is both



noble and necessary, but, for some species, it will not succeed. The tiger, for instance, will probably be extinct in the wild within 20 years.

One of the few long-term solutions is captive husbandry of these cats. It's been known for centuries that many cat species thrive in captivity. Current work being done with more difficult species (like the Pallas's and black-footed cats) shows that they, too, can be successfully captive-bred.

This is where the FCF really helps. To keep any species of animal genetically healthy in captivity, you need a minimum of 500 individuals (2,000 ideally) to maintain sufficient genetic diversity. Big zoos have cage capacity for maybe 200 of the larger cat species and less for small cats. Among smaller zoos, sanctuaries, educational facilities, and performers, etc., there is much more cage space available, and many people are eager to work with cats. But the current regulatory environment is quickly destroying this group of potential cat keepers. Almost all legislation can be traced to the animal rights' movement. Three groups are responsible for much of this legislation-- HSUS, PETA, and API.

A crisis situation exists now. If the FCF does not make it their top priority to deal with this legislative onslaught, soon no one but a few big zoos will be able to have exotic cats at all. This will quickly bring about extinction for some cat species. As President, my first priority will be to realign the FCF to deal with this problem. Although we do not have deep pockets, we do have considerable expertise-- and we have the truth. Individual members of the FCF need to understand how important it is to actively participate in the legislative process. I plan to provide training for those who wish to be active in lobbying. I plan to bolster the state liaison network so they can better help their constituencies. I also plan to continue supporting lobbying at the Federal level through programs like the Rare Species Fund.

To help empower our membership "for the fight," an emphasis will be made to get member facilities accredited. Accreditation looks very good when lobbying. The registered handler program needs to develop standards that can demonstrate proven handling knowledge/skill among its participants.

The FCF needs to develop a code of ethics as well as a protocol to deal with



member facilities that do not properly house or care for their animals.

The FCF needs to work with other groups who own and work with animals. We need to be ready to help each other out if another group comes under attack.

The FCF must continue to support unique in situ conservation projects, such as those spearheaded by Dr. Jim Sanderson.

The FCF needs to embrace all exotic cat owners, such as zoos, pet owners, sanctuaries, performers, and even places like fur farms. This also includes hybrid exotic cat owners. Although owning purebred species of cats is best, many qualified owners can only have hybrids by law. These groups can all practice conservation. The current legal situation affects all animal owners. We all need to agree on fighting the fight, even if our opinions differ somewhat.

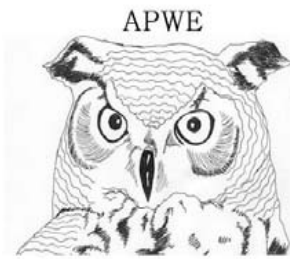
The FCF needs to work to keep its membership engaged. We all know that cat people are often like the cats-- independent, outspoken,

and loners. We need not suppress this individuality, but learn how to use it, even if that means some occasional "clawing and biting." The old approach of "quiet unity" simply does not work anymore.

The FCF Board of Directors needs to be fully accountable to the membership. This may mean things like encouraging more participation at the board of director meetings, or rewriting the bylaws. We have long been hidebound by our needlessly complex bylaws.

Most of these initiatives will cost little to implement, while some will absorb every cent we can give to them. We need to take a broad look at our funding mechanisms to see how they can be improved. New funding sources need to be found, and we need to ensure that no funding mechanism ever conflicts with the FCF's message.

Finally, I believe in returning the FCF to its roots--a group of dedicated folks who work with exotic felines in all settings, but especially non-institutional settings. We need to avoid showing ourselves as meek "politically correct conservationists," but instead act as serious, dedicated, concerned keepers of our wild cat species. We need to show the world that the FCF truly means "cat business!"



Association of Professional  
Wildlife Educators

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

The APWE has organized educators at all levels  
so those looking for professionals only need to  
look at one web site – [www.apwe.org](http://www.apwe.org)

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

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

## **RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT:**

**PATTY PERRY**

I have served as Vice President for approximately the past 18 months for the FCF. During that period of time, I have become increasingly more active in the organization's different activities and purposes. I have come to know the dedicated people who make it run, as well as many of its members. The journey, so far, has been an education that has served to enlighten me about a world of issues that bring both serious concern and challenge to all of us. I have become particularly interested in the current threats that face our future as conservationists, educators, and breeders. As many of you know, the regulations that we all must abide by are getting stricter every day. This is not necessarily a bad thing. However, the legislation that has recently been introduced



would insure that we are the last generation of private owners, educators, and breeders of wildcats. Furthermore, if passed, this legislation will insure the extinction of several species of cats which we have dedicated our lives to preserve. One of my goals as a board member of the FCF is to methodically fight this battle on every possible front, until results are seen that will benefit our goals and us, rather than destroy them.

Only by establishing a positive and cohesive group of well-organized and educated people who work as one will give us the strength we need to become a moving force as an organization to contend with. I will participate in establishing that support system, along with all of those who share the same motivation.

## **RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY:**

**GEORGE DeLONG**

Hello, fellow members and cat fanciers. As the result of a vacancy, your board of directors appointed me to serve as Secretary to our organization. I was honored to accept that appointment and hope to have contributed in a positive way to the organization. I now have accepted a nomination to appear on the ballot for regular election to serve for the next two-calendar-year term. I appreciate your confidence in me and will strive to work hard and be fair and objective in my service to



the organization.

I include my wife, Marilyn, in this, as we share a common love for animals, nature, the environment, and the objectives of the FCF. We have worked together on several volunteer tasks and have always attended meetings, educational programs, etc., together. Without her help and support, I would certainly be "toast" and of no significant value to the organization!

I retired to consulting after many years as a plant engineer, project manager, and then researcher in applied environmental technology. I am experienced in contracting, environmental law and regulation, ecological issues, public relations, negotiation, and education/outreach. My experience includes dealing with many state and federal regulatory agencies, and a body of laws and regulations that ranges from Superfund Cleanups to Historical Preservation and Endangered Species. I am now officially retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratories, but am participating in a senior resource program that maintains my Top Secret Clearance and allows me to consult for a maximum of seven days per month, if needed.

We have owned, loved, and been active with our animals since the first year of our marriage. We bred, raised, and exhibited Siamese in the 1970s, and bull terriers in

the 1980s. We were very active participants in the "fancy," and were even involved in some judging of both cats and dogs. Recent years have consisted of ownership and enjoyment only, as my work with the Lab has involved lots of travel and time away from home. We presently share our home with an Egyptian mau, two Oriental shorthairs, and a ragdoll. It is most likely that we will not be exotic owners. There are two factors influencing the exotic ownership situation. One is the stage of our lives, and the other is a physical space consideration. We just would not consider exotic ownership without a proper and reasonably spacious facility. Our retirement home is on the side of a North Carolina mountain, and we barely have space for a house and garage there. We do border national forest land, though, and quite a lot of it. I guess we can just pray for a cougar comeback in Western North Carolina.

### **POSITION AND BELIEFS:**

- We are long time cat lovers and believe that the diverse feline family is the most interesting of God's animal creations.
- We believe that the FCF goal of preserving each and every cat species is critically important, and that it represents the most important function of our organization.



- We believe in the right and need for responsible ownership of exotics, and particularly in the value of legitimate sanctuaries and well-planned, genetically diverse breeding programs. We are also well aware of the negatives and risks associated with the “irresponsible” side of exotic ownership.
- We are strong believers in the power of education and outreach, and see the likes of PETA, HSUS, etc., as a great danger. It is critically important to expose their true nature and objectives!

- We believe in the idea that we “hang together or hang separately.” Anyone who loves cats and believes in the objectives of the FCF can be an important and valuable contributor. There should be no “elite,” nor should there be any members who are considered to be “second class citizens” in an organization such as ours. Internal struggles and disagreements over lesser issues often seem to detract from the overall effectiveness of any organization.
- PET PEEVES AND HOT BUTTONS: Big government that thinks it knows

what’s best for all of us; government interference; bureaucrats and their ignorance and inertia; PETA, HSUS and their true beliefs and objectives.

Marilyn and I both are looking forward to continued service to the FCF. We will strive to contribute to the advancement of its goals and objectives. We are also looking forward to really getting to know more of the membership and learning of your experience and contributions to the organization!

## RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF TREASURER:

MARILYN ANTLE

My name is Mari Lin Antle. I recently attended the convention in Oklahoma, and I had the pleasure to meet and talk with many FCF members. After meeting many of the members and gaining a greater insight as to the goals and purpose of the organization, I find that I have a genuine interest in participating on the Board of Directors. I am running for the position of Treasurer and feel that my knowledge and substantial expertise will be beneficial for the organization.

I was raised in California and Arizona. I hold a degree in neuropsychology from Antioch University in Seattle. Most of my personal and professional life has revolved around large animals, both exotic and domestic. As a young woman, I owned and operated a commercial cow/calf operation. Much of my work was the management of husbandry, breeding, and record-keeping of cattle herds. I was responsible for and maintained 2,500 head of cattle at any given time. During this period, I worked closely with the University of Arizona, to provide statistical information about non-indigenous species in the area and to develop better husbandry techniques for hoof stock.

I founded and established Creative

Beginnings, a private school for talented and gifted children, and I created the curriculum for the school based on hands-on experience and interconnected learning, the end result being advanced and accelerated education. I ran this school for 14 years before I sold it in order to pursue other interests.

I also founded and managed Green Rock, Incorporated, a breeding facility for registered quarter horses. During the 20 years that I ran the business, we birthed more than 240 foals on property, and at least as many through stud services. For all of this business, I meticulously maintained breeding records, as well as books of business.

In addition to the vast experience with large domestic animals, I have also been involved with T.I.G.E.R.S., since my son, Bhagavan Antle, started the organization in 1982. During these past 28 years, I have been greatly immersed in all the various aspects of the organization. I have cared for and maintained countless animals over this period and have spent endless time, over nearly three decades, talking to and educating the public about the importance of exotic felines. I have met with politicians and lobbyists to discuss the importance of private ownership and have been involved in writing segments and revising the numerous books and vari-



ous publications we have produced over the years. Most importantly, pertaining to the position of Treasurer, I am in charge of doing all of the accounting/books of business for the organization.

I will have to admit that it does get a little boring at times, but I have a wealth of experience and knowledge (40 years) in keeping books in a professional capacity. I believe that this experience will greatly benefit the FCF and make us a stronger organization as we continue to grow.



KURT BECKELMAN

Currently the Treasurer of the Feline Conservation Federation, I have been involved this year with getting an exotic-ban bill killed in committee in the Oklahoma Senate. I am currently working with other owners in Oklahoma to intro-

duce a proactive exotic bill to counter any attempts by the animal rights’ groups.

I would like to see the new Board work cohesively with each other, as well as with the members. We, as the Board, need to remember that we work for the members. I would like to see the FCF in a more proactive arena in the media, and I would

like to see more members. If one member gets at least one other person to join, we can double our membership.

I have enjoyed my time as Treasurer, and, if not re-elected, I will continue to

work for the FCF wherever the Board feels I can best contribute. I will continue to stand up for our rights as owners. We need to work together no matter our differences. When we work against our-

selves, it gives more power to the animal rights' groups.

## RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR:

PAT CALLAHAN

If re-elected to the Board of the FCF, I will continue the important work the members of FCF have supported in the areas of U.S. and international conservation efforts. I will help guide and implement those efforts and monitor, to the best of my ability, the use of any funds raised and designated for those projects. I will also continue to represent the FCF and report to other groups of conservationists, such as the AZA, and to appropriate legislative bodies. I hope to explore creating studbook-like histories of cats not covered by the AZA and similar groups, such as "generic" tigers and small cats held by private breeders but not of AZA interest. I will continue to badger people to join or renew memberships in the FCF and seek fund-raising ideas. I will seek out authors for the *Journal* and contribute to it myself. I will endeavor to represent the entire membership in helping govern the FCF.

Being on the Board has been much harder work than I expected, but it has been a privilege to represent the committed mem-

bership in areas of conservation and accreditation. Thank you!



RON DeARMOND

My main focus will be on the continued development of FCF members becoming professional wildlife educators. The success of the course we teach at Convention is only the beginning of a network of members who would be qualified to teach and represent wild feline conservation issues. I would like to see the development of an interactive page about wildlife educators on the FCF Website, where interested people could locate a professional wildlife educator in their state to speak on behalf of the FCF, and we, as an organization, have the confidence in them because they have complet-

ed the handler and educator courses. I would also focus on domestic wild feline conservation issues, specifically the expanding range of cougars into their former territory. I would like to see the FCF develop a management plan for this species in the wild and be able to support state agencies, by providing GPS collars for cougars that can be tranquilized and developing a database for the continued monitoring and research of this species. Our group of professional educators would be a great contact point where state agencies could receive up-to-date information and equipment to help manage this species.



AMY FLORY

I have an Associate of Science degree. I also have a Bachelor's of Arts in Accounting. I have knowledge and experience in a wide variety of areas, from

accounting to marketing and managing.

As far as volunteer positions, I was the President for the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society (MEFES) for 2009 and Secretary for 2010. I am also currently the Vice President of UAPPEAL. I also

am in charge of the MEFES newsletter. I help out with legislation and entertainment for both organizations, and I'm the Legislative Coordinator for the FCF Legislative Committee, where I oversee the four regional members.



I am interested in this position because I want to use my wide range of skills and knowledge. I am very creative and enjoy coming up with and developing new ideas. That is why I was originally running for the Director of Development position. As a general director, I will use those same skills.

Position:

I support the responsible keeping of exotic cats in all sectors, including zoos, exhibitions, private ownership, and conservation, as each one contributes to the others. However, due to the size of some of these cats, I strongly recommend that future owners and handlers receive some type of education and gain experience. This education and experience should come from organizations within the exotic animal industry, including the FCF and other groups that are knowledgeable about exotic cats, and not from the government.

If elected, I would provide guidance to all the committees to help achieve the following goals:

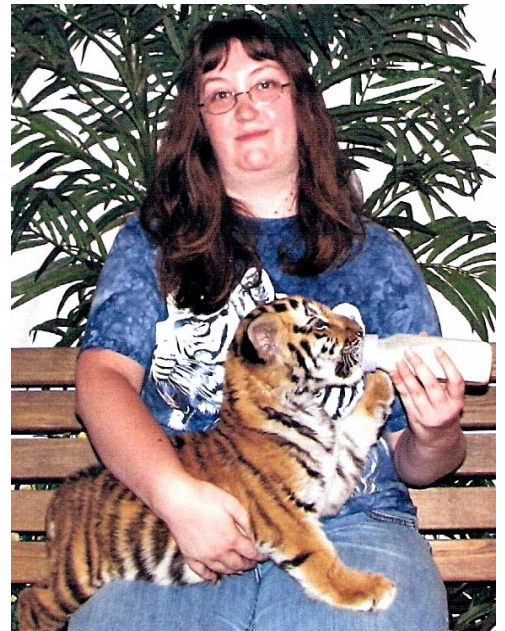
- Expanded advertising of the FCF and the programs and services it offers each group and work with members to find new ways to reach these groups by collaboration with the Marketing Committee.

- Development of a three-part children's educational program through the Educational Committee: 1) A wild cat unit for teachers to use, complete with comprehensive worksheets on all cats, special projects for all cats, and learning tools; 2) Age appropriate educational courses; and 3) A children's club where kids get monthly newsletters with kid's submission pages, cat articles, games and cat projects.

- Improvement of the system used to provide legislative information by posting all new legislation directly to the affected members in addition to the list and in the "member's only" legislative section of the FCF website. Any new updates would be sent directly to those members.

- Creation of more detailed job descriptions and responsibilities to help volunteers understand what is expected of them through a newly formed bylaw committee.

- Formation of an outreach program with a list of resources for all the different needs of exotic cat keepers, through the new Captive Conservation Committee and others. Examples include: creating lists of rehabilitators for those who need help



with a cat in the wild, lists of supply companies for those looking for food and other items for cats, lists of rescuers, along with sanctuaries that have room, for those needing to place a cat, etc.

Together we can ensure that the FCF and both the captive husbandry of cats and conservation of wild cats will continue.



## ROBERT JOHNSON

I was fortunate enough to meet many of you during the FCF convention in Oklahoma, this summer. For those of you whom I do not yet know, let me introduce myself.

My name is Robert Johnson. I have been your Legislative Director for the past two years. During this period of time, I have accomplished a great many projects



furthering the goals of the FCF. As Legislative Director, I have spent much of my time working on wildlife legislation at the federal level. I have had the opportunity to meet with and speak to various members of Congress, representatives of the different regulatory agencies, legal consultants, and prominent political figureheads, both on Capital Hill and across the country. As your Director, I attended the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. I have been able to discuss the importance of captively-maintained wildlife and have helped draft testimony for congressional subcommittee hearings on environmental affairs. Recently, I have developed and formed the FCF Legislative Committee, to help keep track of and inform our members about the mass emergence of state and local bills pertaining to captive wildlife husbandry.

In addition to the direct legislative work on behalf of the FCF, I wrote, filmed, and produced An In(Cat)venient Truth. This 18-minute educational video shows the importance and necessity of maintaining captive felines in the public sector. This

video premiered at the recent FCF convention in Oklahoma, to great enthusiasm, and, to date, this is the only such proactive video resource we have. (If you have not seen An In(Cat)venient Truth, yet, it can be found in the "Video-Media" section of the FCF Website.)

And now, a little bit about my background. I am a college-educated psychologist currently finishing up a doctorate in animal behavior. For nearly 17 years, I have worked for The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species (T.I.G.E.R.S.). I have worked hands-on with hundreds of exotic cats ranging from servals to ligers, and everything in between. The extensive exposure and interaction that I share with these felines transcends a mere occupational experience and has truly become a passion and a way of life for me. Currently there are more than 65 big cats that I live and work with on a daily basis.

My career has involved everything from husbandry to educating the public about wildlife. I have scrubbed cages, delivered newborn tiger cubs, and per-

formed for audiences of more than 10,000 people. I have also spent quite a bit of time helping to train animals for film and television, and I've worked directly with National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet.

One of the most educationally-rewarding aspects of my life is conducting and participating in wildlife research. I created and conducted a study, in association with Coastal Carolina University, to determine spatial and proximity preferences of big cats. The results of this study are currently helping to design better captive environments for big cats, based on the needs of the specific species. This spring, I also worked on a leopard DNA mapping project in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

My big cat experience is not limited to a captive environment, however. I have spent a significant amount of time observing and studying these magnificent animals in the wild. I have tracked breeding pairs of leopards deep in the African bush veldt and I have followed the elusive jaguarundi through the dense steamy rainforests of Central America. I traveled to Africa last fall to deliver research and educational equipment (supplied by FCF and the Rare Species Fund) in the field to the Black-Footed Cat Working Group. I spent a significant amount of time in Thailand working on tiger conservation efforts for Southeast Asia, and actually brought (per-

sonally transported) a collection of the four different colors of tiger to a wildlife preserve near Bangkok. This zoologically significant collection represents the first such group anywhere in Asia.

In addition to my experience with felines, I personally hold state and federal falconry permits. The extensive bureaucracy involved in possessing captive raptors, along with my many years at T.I.G.E.R.S., has given me direct interaction with lawmakers, government officials, lobbyists, and ruling governmental bodies at both the state and federal levels. I believe that with the impending onslaught of exotic animal regulations, my experience in such matters will be beneficial to FCF's goals.

I am very happy to see that over the years FCF has evolved from a social club to a more professionally-minded organization with specific plans and goals. This progress has been most evident over the past couple of years.

I also see, with such a diverse cross section of members, from individual pet owners to career wildlife educators, zoological caregivers, animal trainers, and hobby and conservation breeders, FCF has had some internal conflicts that we must, as a group, overcome. While a free exchange of ideas is a vital aspect of this organization, I believe that it is in all of our interests to step back for a moment and take a look at the larger picture. If we do not put our dif-

ferences aside and band together, there will no longer be a need for FCF as an organization, because no one will own exotic cats.

We are going to need to help and cooperate with each other in the very near future if we are to collectively defend and preserve our ability to own and maintain these animals. Our best chance to do this is by following FCF's recent progress toward becoming a professional organization. Our ability to self-govern, accredit and inspect our own members, whether private or commercial, and hold those members to the highest possible standards, will help to establish FCF to the rest of the world as a legitimate and responsible organization which serves an important purpose and is providing a significant contribution to wildlife conservation.

As a director of FCF, it is imperative to me that personal agendas be put aside. If we focus on making FCF a professional organization of responsible members and top-notch facilities, we will be one step closer to assuring that all retain the right to responsibly keep exotic felines. I have no doubt that my experience and abilities will be beneficial to this organization and will help FCF to reach its potential.

I am honored to have been your Director of Legislation for the past term and a half, and, with your support and votes, I can continue the important work that is a benefit to us all. Thank you.



#### TERESA SHAFFER

I am 44 years old, and my husband Scott and I have two children. Dustin is 26 and Kelsee is 22. Besides raising animals, I have been working as a nurse for a naturopathic physician for the past 8 years. Many of our patients are Amish who come in from all over the country by bus or train. Before that, I worked as a nurse at a cancer center. Although I dearly love my job as a nurse and find it very rewarding, caring for exotic animals is my true love.

Scott left his job at General Motors last year to work with our animals full-time. We are doing educational programs and events. For our programs, we have several other animals besides our cats. We have a kangaroo, spider monkey, fennec fox, lemur, and several others. Cats are still our favorites, though.

We have been breeding small exotic cats for over 10 years. Our breeding program includes 11 servals, 6 caracals and 4 jungle cats. I am very dedicated to conservation and protecting our rights to own exotics responsibly. My mission this year is to try and build FCF membership and get our name out there! Numbers talk, and we need many more members and quick!

The FCF has such a diverse group of members that I feel every member has something to offer and everyone should contribute to making the FCF a much greater force. We definitely have the experi-

ence and, most importantly, the love for our animals. We need to use these things to help the FCF grow.





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## FCF CONVENTION'S HUSBANDRY COURSE CHANGES A LIFE

By Laura Reeder

Hi, my name is Laura Reeder, and it is my hope that as you read this article you will see the transformation going on within me. For that is perhaps the most important thing gained from my recent experience with FCF at the Oklahoma convention.

I wasn't exactly sure what I expected to get out of the husbandry course, but I signed up for it and was looking forward to it because it all sounded so interesting. You see, if I had to describe my life at this point, it would be a big "disconnect." I had majored in zoology, with dreams of conducting field research on some wild canid or felid that needed to be studied (Jane Goodall's articles in National Geographic magazine had been a terrific inspiration to me), but life ended up taking a different course.

While in graduate school, I married and never finished my degree. We had nine lovely children instead. My hours were taken over with running the house-

hold and homeschooling our kids. As they grew older, I took a part-time job to help pay for extracurricular activities. During this time, I was suppressing any personal desires for wildlife, while encouraging my children to pursue their own God-given passions. This, I came to realize, was untenable, even unethical.

So, as I opened up to the idea that I, also, needed to pursue my God-given passions, I searched the Web for wild cat organizations and found that the goals of FCF mimicked my own. Enter the FCF Husbandry Course.

I remember that we had to introduce ourselves, and I wasn't even sure what to say. I was so eager to learn, and yet didn't have the foggiest notion of how any of this could fit into my life. It seemed that everyone was already involved in various aspects of wild cat conservation. The people in my class shared very interesting experiences, and as I asked questions and had them patiently answered, I began to feel accepted at my own level. So my life could now be characterized as "accepted."

I loved the information taught in the course. We were given an overview of all the large and small wild cat species; discussed threats to their survival; and learned about regulatory agencies and permits, nutrition and healthcare, facilities and equipment, contingency planning, handling, behavior conditioning, and enrichments. The professionalism of this class really impressed me. My brain cells had not had to work that hard in literally years! I was the recipient of so much wonderful new knowledge and didn't want to miss any of it. The idea of the exam at the end gave me some anxiety, but Mindy, our instructor,



Laura Reeder with her certificate. Photo by Hanelle Reeder.

encouraged us by emphasizing certain points and reviewing with us. After the exam, I found out that I had passed, along with all the others in my class! This was a huge personal goal realized, and, with the acknowledgement of my having assimilated quite a bit of this information, I found myself gaining confidence. So my life could now be characterized as "confident."

That night I could barely sleep. My mind was racing, putting so many pieces together, formulating ideas. By being connected with others of similar interests, I found that I was really growing.

The conference continued. I was able to talk with many wonderful people. We heard some wonderful speakers. I got to play with some of the kittens. And in the end, I discovered my life's passion! For me, the preservation of the small species (and subspecies) of wild cats around the world is my newfound passion, and I have kept up the frenzied pace everyday since the conference has ended. I know that as we each pursue our particular avocation, we make a great team, and together we will make a positive difference in this world. Thank you all!

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## EUROPEAN WILDCAT: ICE AGE PROGENITOR OF THE MODERN DOMESTIC CAT

By William H. Smith, Ph.D.

The European wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) is commonly known as the forest wildcat, catamountain, and, on the Greek island of Crete, *yourgogattos*, meaning “furious cat.” Referred to as EWC in this monograph, this small feline currently inhabits the forests of Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, as well as Scotland and Turkey. The estimated world population is about 500,000. There are three main subspecies of the European wildcat: *Felis s. grampia*, *Felis s. caucasica*, and *Felis s. silvestris*. The European wildcat evolved around 650,000 years ago during the Pleistocene Epoch, also known as the Ice Age. Regional variations of EWC (*Felis*) in the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean are in the direct ancestral line of



*Homo heidelbergensis* is thought to be an early hominid who influenced the eventual domestication of the European wildcat. Photo courtesy of Yale University Press.

the domestic cat, *Felis catus*. In Pleistocene Europe, North Africa and the Near East, the EWC may have been influenced over time by the culture and activities of early humans such as *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, *Homo neanderthalensis*, and our own species, *Homo*

*sapiens*. Humans have more in common genetically with cats than with dogs. Felines have 19 pairs of chromosomes in each somatic cell, while humans have 23, and dogs have 39. Recent research into feline diseases and immunity has also produced a better understanding of human immunity, diseases, and genetics.

My first contact with the EWC took place in Athens, Greece, in the summer of 1969. At the time, I was living in a village south of Athens. I would visit the Acropolis and downtown Athens several times a week. The areas around the Acropolis in Athens are covered with bushes and trees. There are many rocky areas with small shallow caves and rock overhangs. I used to walk from various small restaurants or friends' houses in the Plaka district around the western and southern sides of the Acropolis base rock on several “trails” before catching a local bus to my house in the hills south of Athens. Several times, both day and night, I was warned and threatened (with hisses and snarls) by what I thought at the time to be extremely large, brown “tabby cats” with bushy, raccoon-like banded tails. Although it was 40 years ago, I still remember having to run as fast as I could on at least one occasion because the large “tabby cats” were so aggressive.

The European wildcat is one-third larger and more bulky in appearance than its close relatives - the African wildcat (*Felis libica*) and the domestic cat (*Felis catus*), including feral specimens. The closest genetic relative of the EWC is the North African sand cat (*Felis margarita*). The average adult EWC male weighs around five kilograms (11 pounds), while an adult female weighs about four kilograms (8.8 pounds), but both sexes may exceed these typical weights. Head/body length is typi-



The European wildcat can be found throughout European forests, including those in Scotland and Turkey. Its thick coat has helped it adapt to the colder climates within its range. Photo by Stefan Reicheneder.

cally 22-28 inches. The most common EWC coloration is comprised of brown striped tabby markings with a basic undercolor of brown or gray. Striping becomes more distinctive in adulthood. The tail may be about 12 inches long and is commonly ringed in dark brown or black. The gestation period is typically 68 days. A litter of three kittens is most common, but litters of up to eight kittens have been reported. Kittens are usually colored golden yellow until about five months of age. Males may bring shared family food and help with raising young. In the wild, an 11-year lifespan is considered typical. As with some other felines, a female EWC



*Felis silvestris* is known for its ferocious temperament, as seen by the author during his trip to Greece. Photo by Keith Burtonwood.



uses her long, bushy tail for early lessons in hunting/stalking for the kittens. The EWC often hunts by twilight and is basically terrestrial. Prey species include rats, squirrels, birds, small deer, domestic cats, small dogs, poultry, carrion, and lamb afterbirths and stillbirths. The EWC may be completely diurnal or nocturnal for many of its activities.

In areas undisturbed by humans, the EWC may be most active during the day. The diurnal nature of the EWC may have been an advantageous adaptation to a Pleistocene climate that was very cold at night in both winter and summer. Rodents (always important as an EWC prey species) may have followed this diurnal tendency for similar reasons. Although very capable of daytime or crepuscular hunting, virtually all members of the family Felidae are specifically adapted to nocturnalism, with night vision capabilities that are about six times more sensitive than our own.

The EWC traditionally lived, and presently lives, on the outskirts of many European cities, where it sometimes scavenges at garbage dumps and trashcans. The EWC has a reputation of not being particularly afraid of humans. This trait may be primarily due to the long relationship the EWC and its close relatives have had with hominids of one species or another over many millennia. Spain and Portugal currently have the highest numbers of EWC in Western Europe. The largest subspecies of living EWC, *Felis*



The Skara Brae settlement ruins in Scotland contained seed grains, lending further proof that the Neolithic villagers cultivated barley. This UNESCO World Heritage Site also holds the oldest archaeological record of *Pulex irritans*, the human flea, in all of Europe. Photo by Wknight94.

*silvestris tartessia*, presently exists in Spain. The subspecies *tartessia* most closely resembles the earliest EWC, which originated in Pleistocene Europe. Compared to other populations of EWC in Europe, there are relatively low levels of hybridization with domestic cats in the eastern population of EWC in the Ukraine, Moldova, and the Caucasus due to highly uninterrupted isolation. Hybridization with domestic and feral cats is a major threat to the EWC because of feline diseases, such as feline immunodeficiency virus (similar to AIDS) and genetic dilution.

The familiar housecat (*Felis catus*) is a beloved and sometimes standoffish companion to millions of humans throughout the modern world. There are an estimated 66 million housecats in the U.S. alone. *Felis catus* developed in the Old

World rather late (10,000-6,000 BP – before present) in the total span of feline evolution (34 million years). About 18 million years ago the feline progenitor *Proailurus* spent half its time in trees. Small wildcats of some type are indigenous to all continents except Australia and Antarctica. Australia now has three to four million feral cats (variations of *Felis catus*), which pose a serious threat to many indigenous Australian species. In 1981, Peter Churcher, a biology teacher, monitored 77 housecats living in his village in England. He asked owners to collect any cat kills found over the course of a year. The total 1,100 retrieved kills were comprised of birds, mice, voles, and other small mammals. This research confirms the domestic cat's remarkable ability as an effective controller of house and field pests, even when maintained on a prepared cat diet.

The commonly accepted origin of most of the world's contemporary domestic housecats (*Felis catus*) can be traced as far back as 10,000 years, to a group of



Grinding stones found at Neolithic settlements in Europe suggest that the inhabitants probably harvested and stored grain, which attracted rodents, easy prey for the European wildcat. Photo by Jose-Manuel Benito Alvarez.



“self-domesticating” wildcats of the Near East. The domestic cat lineage is actually comprised of several distinct species of the genus *Felis*, including the EWC. The time of their modern domestication coincides with the Neolithic Revolution and its attendant necessity for storing great quantities of cultivated grain. Stored grain seems to have attracted grain-eating rodents, as well as the cats which feed on them. Since the earliest humans occupying Europe (*Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and *Homo neanderthalensis*) did not leave evidence of cultivation or seed storage, they would seem not to have had any practical use for small felines to control rodents from attacking stored grain. This monograph suggests that other forms of interaction and symbiosis may have developed between early hominid species and the EWC during the Pleistocene epoch in Europe, the Near East, and Northern Africa. Neanderthals and later or subsequent modern humans tended to diminish the number of predators in their vicinity enough to be a threat to society or food resources. By decreasing EWC predators and competition for food, *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and subsequent Neanderthals may have inadvertent-



This young wildcat could easily be mistaken for a domestic kitten. Photo by Joachim Muller.



The European wildcat can be identified by its brown and black pelage, long legs, and bushy tail with distinctive black rings. Photo: dpa.

ly increased the population of EWC during the Pleistocene. This proposed trend of EWC population increase probably continued and accelerated due to increased cultural elaboration after the first arrival of our own species (*Homo sapiens*) in Europe, about 40,000 years ago. Caves in the rigorous cold of Pleistocene Europe, were crucial to the survival of early humans, cave bears, and other animals, including felines. Because of its relatively small size, the EWC may not have had to compete with humans or large carnivores for the ownership of smaller caves, or caves with smaller entrances, located in central and southern Ice Age Europe. Not being a serious threat or competition for food, the EWC may not have been significantly victimized or eliminated by early humans. The EWC may have benefited from human hunting and habitation practices, by scavenging large game kills, and from the elimination or suppression of large, dangerous Ice Age carnivores, such as cave bears, and large felines, such as lions and saber tooth cats. The beginnings of the EWC’s “domestication” into such forms as the modern housecat (*Felis catus*) may have begun in Pleistocene Europe and the Near East long before the Neolithic Revolution and its threatened stores of grain. After the onset of the Neolithic era, grain would be protected primarily by *Felis catus* throughout the

ancient Old World.

The Greek subspecies *Felis silvestris morea*, the EWC of mainland Greece, is a variation of *Felis s. caucasica*. The larger Mediterranean islands, such as Crete, had a known population of EWC (*Felis silvestris cretensis*) until just recently. The relative isolation of these islands, located far from any mainland, would have the tendency to preserve specific EWC characteristics and subspecies adaptations. The Cretan EWC (called *yourgogattos*, “furious cat”) has been known for centuries to shepherds in the mountainous area of Psiloritis, in central Crete. In 1905, two EWC skins were bought by collectors in Chania, a coastal city in western Crete. In 1996, Italian researchers on Crete trap-captured a 12-pound EWC. One possible EWC sighting was made by this author while bicycling through the mountains of eastern Crete in 1970. How did the early EWC arrive on Crete without human assistance? Crete is surrounded by deep submarine trenches with depths of up to 10,000 feet. The first humans to settle on Crete arrived by boat around 10,000 BP, and are sometimes referred to as sea-faring farmers. These late Mesolithic or Neolithic village-living settlers raised sheep and goats and cultivated plants such as wheat, barley, rye and lentils. After domestication was under way and grain storage became necessary, small cats, such





Many European wildcats live in close proximity to human populations today, where they may come into contact with domestic and feral cats. This interaction threatens the stability of the wildcat population, as they sometimes interbreed and can contract diseases carried by *Felis catus*. Photo courtesy of TigerQuoll.

as variations of EWC, proved very valuable in controlling rodents and birds throughout the Mediterranean, Southwest Asia, and Northern Africa. Did these early agriculturalists eventually bring small felines, such as forms of EWC, along with domestic animals and cultigens from Southwest Asia to isolated islands in the Mediterranean?

Pleistocene Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* living in Europe were hunter-gatherers, with an emphasis on large megafauna, such as mammoths, horses and deer, as prey species. The EWC may have been attracted to food detritus around human habitations. The EWC was probably tolerated or ignored by Ice Age humans because of its relatively small size, which made it less of a threat or competition for food resources. Because of climatic warming, Europe would become more inviting to most species after the end of the Pleistocene, around 10,000 BP. In addition to warmer temperatures, there was considerable loss of coastal plain and estuary habitats due to rising sea levels (400 feet). The EWC seems to have readily adapted to these dramatic changes. The EWC can adapt to savanna, open forest and steppe. The

Scottish EWC has been observed stockpiling food, especially in the winter months. This habit may also be a vestigial trait of adaptation motivated by the variable conditions and extremes of the Pleistocene and Upper Paleolithic periods.

The European wildcat is presently legally protected in Europe, and was rather common in Britain until the 15th century. The EWC has now been extirpated from England and Wales. Currently, the greatest threat to the EWC comes from hybridization and the spread of diseases, such as feline leukemia, which has been detected in the Scottish population. Additionally, habitat loss and persecution as vermin by gamekeepers continue to diminish the EWC gene pool in Europe. In Britain, it is currently legal to control feral cats. Throughout present-day Europe, the EWC is no doubt victimized because of the confusion in differentiating between feral cats, the EWC, and hybrids. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 in Great Britain, it is illegal to kill or take an EWC, or to damage or destroy their dens. As many as 400 genetically “pure” European wildcats (*Felis s. grampia*) are thought to exist in western and northern Scotland, where they are

considered “vulnerable” in reference to species survival.

The European wildcat is an Ice Age survivor, which, though now diminished in numbers, still exists in a variety of habitats throughout its original range. The EWC is a very significant feline species because it is the only surviving indigenous European feline and a principal progenitor of the domestic cat, *Felis catus*. The beginnings of EWC domestication and adaptation to human society occurred during the middle Pleistocene epoch. Early humans (*Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, *Homo neanderthalensis* and archaic or Upper Paleolithic *Homo sapiens*) were all involved in the initial process of hominid/small feline symbiosis and adaptation. This occurred long before the Neolithic Revolution brought about the need to protect stores of grain from rodent pests. Many Pleistocene animals could not adapt to the extreme climatic changes brought about at the end of the Ice Age and the beginning of the present interglacial, or Holocene, epoch. The EWC did adapt and survive the end of the Pleistocene, possibly due to its developing symbiotic relationship with Pleistocene humans and their cultural innovations.



The origins of our domestic cat began as many as 10,000 years ago, during the Neolithic Revolution and the need for agriculture in human settlements. Photo by Tilo Hauke.





The Wildcat Safety Net Fund began by saving of a pair of tigers owned by a recently widowed and soon-to-be homeless Ohio woman. The Exotic Feline Rescue Center gave this deserving pair a home and the FCF paid for their transport. Since then, it has paid to transport 11 tigers from the defunct Wesa-A-Geh-Ya sanctuary in Missouri, to Serenity Springs Wildlife Center in Colorado. Most recently, the Safety Net Fund covered transport expenses to move two tigers, two leopards, and a cougar from an unlicensed facility in Texas, up to Big Cat Rescue and Educational Center in Wisconsin.

FCF is committed to improving the welfare of felines in captivity, and the Safety Net is just another example of how FCF members make a difference in the lives of our captive felines.

The Safety Net committee is proud to announce that artist Teri Zucksworth ([www.artbytaz.com](http://www.artbytaz.com)) has teamed up with the FCF to help generate funds to make the Safety Net rescue-ready.

For donations of \$50 or more, you may choose a beautiful thank you gift of an original artwork print by artist Teri Zucksworth. These 24" by 36" colored pencil drawings are reproduced on heavy cardstock and are ready for matting and framing on your wall. You may choose one of the following: the black leopard "Hanging Around," the lounging white tiger "Paying a Visit," or the snow leopard "Standing Guard."

For donations of \$30, the Safety Net will send you a set of photo notecards and envelopes as a thank you gift. These beautiful 10-card sets are 4.25" X 5.25" and blank on the inside, ready for your personal message. All photos and artwork are contributions from FCF members. Choose from three different sets: Group one features bobcat, jaguarundi, liger, Canada lynx, lion, tiger, serval, caracal, cougar and artwork leopard. Group two has serval, Andean cat, cougar, leopard cat, black leopard, clouded leopard, jaguar, and spotted leopard, tiger and lynx artwork. Group three has tiger, lion, cougar, jungle cat, liger, serval, clouded leopard, white and golden tigers, bobcat, and snow leopard artwork. Your donation helps FCF help cats in need.

When we all work together, FCF makes a difference. Make your donation with PayPal on the FCF Website or send in the enclosed renewal/donation form with a check or credit card information.

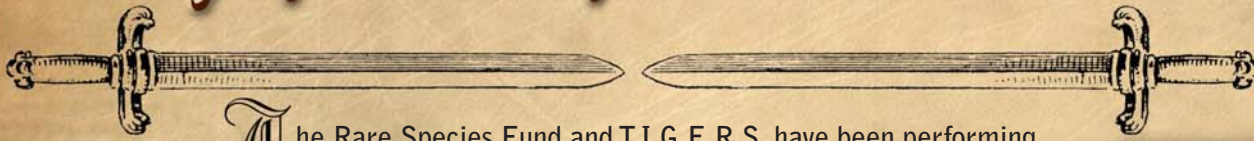
**Do your part to help transport captive felines out of harm's way -- support the FCF Wildcat Safety Net with a donation today.**





# Rare Species Fund

## King Richard's Renaissance Faire



The Rare Species Fund and T.I.G.E.R.S. have been performing "The Tale of the Tiger", a live educational and conservation based wildlife show, at the King Richard's Renaissance Faire near Boston, MA for the past twenty seven years. This "up-close, un-caged" performance has brought the message about the importance of global biodiversity to literally millions of people. The unique interactive style between animals and handlers engages the audience's attention and allows them to remember and take home those important conservation messages. "The Tale of the Tiger" has not only been establishing a personal connection between it's audiences and wildlife for nearly three decades, funding generated by the show goes directly to help various in-situ conservation projects around the globe.



✿ *Raksha the royal white tiger grew up performing on the "Tigers Stage." She was so comfortable around live audiences that during live performances in 1995 she nursed her new born cubs on stage in front of thousands of onlookers.*

*Moksha Bybee and China York pose with Amar the snow white tiger during a publicity photo shoot for this year's fair. King Richard's Faire is located in Carver, MA and starts Labor Day each year, running for eight*

✿ *consecutive weekends.*







Doc Antle and China York present "Bhajan and Mantra," a spotted and a melanistic leopard. These animals ambassadors help to demonstrate the color variations that historically occurred in the tiger, particularly the black tigers which existed in the not too distant past.

Robert Johnson feeds Bhuva the standard bengal tiger cub while hosting "The Tale of the Tiger."



"The Tale of the Tiger" has been able to introduce wildlife and the concepts of conservation to tens of thousands of people who do not visit zoos and who have minimal, if any, personal connection to the natural world.

The Rare Species Fund wildlife menagerie follows the long held tradition of bringing exotic animals from around the world to the masses. Menageries have been around starting in the eighth century, when emperor Charlemagne housed big cats, elephants, exotic birds and monkeys. There is also a long list of exotic animals kept by United States presidents in the White House, from bears to otters, even a pigmy hippopotamus. Today in the U.S. more people visit menageries than all professional sporting events combined. One thing that really leaves an impression on people is an animal outside of its cage, interacting with its trainers in a loving way.



Chris Heiden, one of the senior trainers, gives Brahman the golden tabby tiger a "shot" of milk during a performance. This demonstrates not only the tigers continued affinity for milk, but also shows that a baby bottle is a useful tool in providing a reward.

Fact: The first exotic animal on display in the U.S. was an African lion in Boston, circa 1716.



Hercules the Liger stretches up to nearly 12 ft tall during the grand finale. Weighing in at more than 900 lbs, the enormous gentle giant was featured in the Guinness Book of World Records.



Dr. Antle shares a moment on stage with Shiva the royal white tiger, one of the regular stars of the show. The RSF has been performing "The Tale of the Tiger" for two months every fall since 1983.





## REMINISCENCES OF DUTCHIE: A LEOPARD CAT

By Laura Reeder

As a youngster I loved animals and was privileged to raise various orphans, from three 13-striped ground squirrels (eyes not opened yet) whose mother was killed on the road, to an emaciated fox squirrel (again, eyes not yet opened) whom my dog picked up at the base of a tree, to a litter of white-footed mice I had been given to raise. I am happy to report that they all made it to adulthood and were released to the wild. I also had a plethora of “normal” pets, such as gerbils, hamsters, mice, tadpoles, baby painted turtles [which, to my horror, was how I learned that baby turtles EAT tadpoles!], and several birds. I even had, for a short while, a young sandhill crane that was stolen by a neighbor from a state wildlife refuge but somehow in the wee morning hours made its way to our yard. My brothers and I spent tremendous amounts of energy carrying a plastic washbasin to the river, scooping up minnows, and lugging them back, only to have this prehistoric-looking youngster gulp them down in what seemed like only seconds, where we would have to begin the whole process

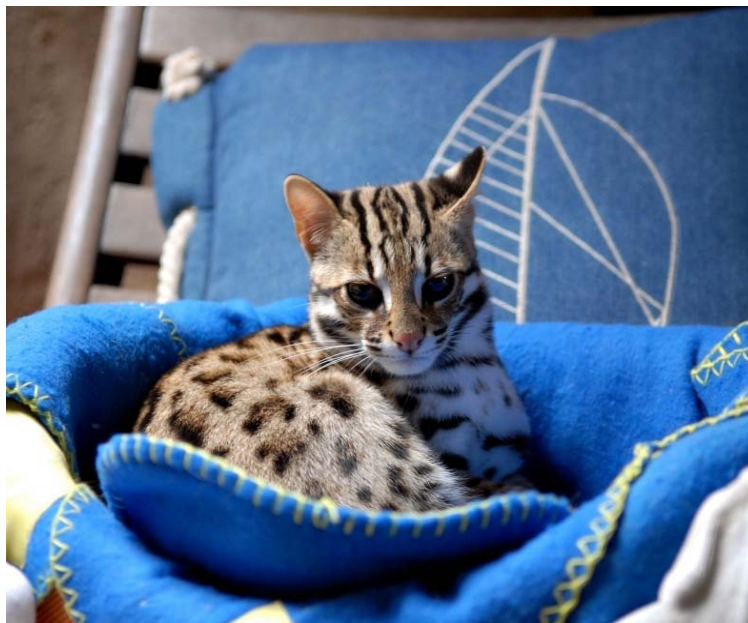
over again.

One might think that all this would have been enough, but my zeal for animals increasingly focused around small wildcats. I became a member of the Long Island Ocelot Club, begging my folks for an opportunity to get an ocelot. At age 13, I read in the LIOC newsletter that someone wanted to find a home for an adult male Asian leopard cat and was willing to drive all the way across four states to bring him to my house! My parents relented and I became the happy caretaker of a mild-natured, but totally feline. Dutchie was his

I think my parents



The leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) originates from Southeast Asia and India. It is about the same size as a domestic cat, but has webbed feet for easier swimming. Photo from [www.absolutelybengals.com](http://www.absolutelybengals.com).



In the late 1960s, when Laura Reeder acquired Dutchie, the Asian leopard cat was more common. This species is now rare in captivity, but its beautiful markings live on through hybridization with domestic cats, which creates the popular exotic breed known as the Bengal cat. No photo available of Dutchie, so this photo is courtesy of Thierry Plaud.

undomesticated, name.

were a little apprehensive having me go to bed that first evening with Dutchie patrolling the premises. I climbed into bed and could hear him padding around. Soon, he had jumped onto the bed and I felt him making his way along my body toward my face. I lay stock-still so as not to frighten him. His whiskers brushed against my face, accompanied by a light bite to my cheek. This caused me to flinch and Dutchie fled away. His bite did not break the

skin, and I always suspected this as being more of an exploratory nip than an actual “attack” of any kind.

Dutchie loved to sit up on the windowsill of my room overlooking the woods, emitting a soft chirping sound. Amazingly, his presence there did not disturb the Eastern phoebes that had a nest on the ledge my dad had made for them on the other side of the screen. By day, Dutchie slept curled up in a ball at the foot of my bed under the comforter, and woe to anyone who tried to peek under the cover, for he would let out a hiss and a loud “POP!” that would send the uninitiated scurrying for safety.

Once, I saw him padding by when I noticed out of the corner of my eye that he had something in his mouth. This “something” had a tail with a tuft of fur at the end. This “something” was my pet gerbil that I kept in an aquarium with a fitted wire cover. I ran after Dutchie and somehow retrieved Gretel, who was unharmed save for a small scratch on her nose, and returned her to Hansel.

Although I was never able to actually pet Dutchie, I sometimes sat next to him and “accidentally” touched him. He tolerated this but let it be known that, if I persisted, he would move elsewhere. A favorite game of ours was to leave the bed



cover draping to about an inch off the floor. This made a nice hidey-hole under the bed for Dutchie. Then, I would lie down on the bed and drag a leather shoelace toy I had made for him. Even though I was expecting it, I was often surprised at how quickly a clawed paw juttied out and nailed the toy. Then we would begin a kind of tug-of-war, with Dutchie holding onto one end of the toy from under the bed and me yanking on the other. This could go on for a long time in the evenings, as neither Dutchie nor I seemed to tire of it.

Shots were a different matter altogether. I had to hoodwink him into entering his dome-wired carrying case. Then, at the vet's, I had to wrap my arm in thick layers of towel and push him against the wire side of the cage, through which the vet would deftly administer the shot (with Dutchie growling and hissing his displeasure all the while!). Once after one of these episodes, the needle stayed attached to Dutchie's rump. "No problem," says the vet. All I need to do when I get Dutchie home is pet him and, while I am petting him, I can pull the stubborn needle out! I was amazed that, even after all that hissing and spitting behavior, the vet did not discern that Dutchie would never allow me to pet him.

And about giving Dutchie pills... Well, I once cleverly poked his medicine into the valve of a chicken heart, which I then mixed in with some other raw chicken hearts in Dutchie's

dish. Dutchie sniffed and then sat next to the food, cutting the chicken hearts with his carnassials and swallowing them. Just when I was congratulating myself on having dosed him successfully, he spit the pill out onto the floor!

There came a time when my family had to move. Cardboard boxes were lined up, but we decided to leave Dutchie loose in my room for as long as possible. We placed a large empty box near the window so he could jump up to the windowsill and look out. Two hulky moving men arrived and carried our boxes out to the van. Then, to make sure they did not miss any-



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Legislative Agent

thing, they checked each room. When they opened the door to my room, they saw a tiny cat on the windowsill with a large box underneath so they went in to check out the box. Dutchie completely surprised them when he let out his loud hiss- POP! Tremblingly, the men ran to my mother and exclaimed, "Lady, what kind of cat do you have in there!?"

It has been many years since I last offered Dutchie a grape leaf (I think he ate these to rid his system of hairballs) or watched his slinky gait moving from room to room. But his larger-than-life personality lives on with me always.

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Courtesy Horace Langford Jr.  
Photographer - Pahrump Valley Times

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

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

### PART 4 - MANAGING YOUR OWN PEOPLE

It is easy to remember to be “politically correct” when speaking with a legislator or making a presentation at a community event. It can be much harder to keep that focus when we are having a volunteer cookout with many people I consider my good friends. But it never stops being important. Once you say or do something, it is done. Someone will remember it, and, in this day and age, they may well have recorded it. The Internet is forever.

Sometimes difficult people come from inside your own organization. Generally these are people who either want to move up in importance within the organization at the expense of others, or they have their own agenda or needs to be filled. It is important to try to understand their motivation. Sometimes we can meet their needs, and sometimes we just have to firmly establish that this need will not be met at our expense.

We have learned some things about preventing these problems in our own facility. Because we live on-site, our house is Grand Central Station seven days a week. Staff, volunteers, and visitors all come through daily. People forget that this is our home, and they are close enough to us that they sometimes forget we run this place. So, we have drawn some lines. First, we set limits about when people can be in our house. We require that they remove their shoes to reduce the mud and dirt in the house. This also reduces the casual in and out behaviors that let in flies and let out air-conditioning and heat.

My office is right in the middle of everything, which means that everyone wants to stop in and say hi. I don't want

to be rude to the volunteers and donors who make our organization work, but I also have to get some things done without too many interruptions. I have set some rules about visiting... if the door is open, feel free to stop by. If it is closed, think twice and have a good reason for knocking. If you need my undivided attention, set up an appointment. I limit the time I spend at each appointment, because otherwise I have no time to finish the other things I need to do. We enforce the chain of command for people working with us. Volunteers see their group leaders or a keeper of they have a problem, and keepers see the lead keeper. If a problem reaches me, it is usually a genuine issue.

I make time to circulate outside on occasion, not only to check on our animals, but also to touch base with the people working to help us. I go out of my way to make sure that, if there is a difficult person on site who needs extra attention, I can give it to them before they do something that requires my time in a more negative way. This is not always possible, but I make a real effort to do it. I find that more of them are happy to see me and share something positive rather than coming to me later with some complaint to get attention.

Of course, there will always be people who you simply can't head off.

Some of my personal favorites are people-with-good-intentions, “you should” people, and distracters. I cannot even guess how many times each year someone says to me, “You should do this” or “You should try that.” I got to the point where I cringed whenever I heard anyone begin a sentence with the words “you know what

you should do...” We are a small facility with a very small staff. Our volunteers are wonderful people with real lives and jobs outside of this facility. We do not have endless human resources. We also have been at this a while and have generally thought of and either tried or chosen to disregard whatever it is this person is about to come up with. I dreaded having to explain to them why their idea is not feasible in the real world yet again. I realized one day that there was an easier solution than arguing and explaining my way through all these idea people. I could put the burden on them. Now, unless the idea is potentially damaging or just plain stupid, I turn it back on them by saying, “What a great idea. Are you willing to lead a team to get that done?” If we have tried it and didn't like it, I tell them that and then ask them how they might do it differently so we don't encounter the same issues. Most don't make random suggestions like that again; they consider them seriously before I volunteer them to help me.

Distracters are also serious impediments to getting work done and keeping up morale on-site. They flit from project to project, wanting their interests to get attention first, and having to discuss everything. Their emergencies belong to everyone, because they force them on you, and they always have some sort of crisis underway. They may be people who see something that “must be fixed right away” on a cage, or they may have heard gossip that they believe should be dealt with this very moment. Once you identify someone as a distracter, it is easier to assess their interpretation of what they report, then



make your own determinations. However, if you do not handle them well, these distracters can become nasty and manipulative in order to bully you into taking them seriously.

Many difficult people like to be so in an indirect way, through gossiping, quiet manipulation, and passive-aggressive behaviors. We have dealt with a large number of volunteers since we started, and a small percentage seem to forget why they are here, deciding to focus only on meeting their own needs. Some create drama for attention, some spread gossip to make themselves appear persecuted, and some just really like to complain. The same thing cures all of these behaviors... Confrontation. It doesn't have to be ugly, just honest and direct. Sometimes it unfortunately has to be in front of a few well chosen other people to have a real effect.

When "Brian," one of our regulars, began telling staff members that I had taken privileges from him or that I had told him I didn't like him, which was completely fabricated, I was flummoxed. I took Brian aside to deal with it privately, thinking that maybe he had misinterpreted something I said. But no. Later that same week, more people reported Brian saying that we would not allow him to do certain activities, basically creating the impression that he was being unfairly treated. Doug and I pondered the best way to manage this, since, if we confronted Brian, he could say that he never said such things unless we dragged other people into the issue. The situation resolved itself when one of the staff members confronted Brian herself, saying she didn't believe what Brian was claiming that Doug had told him. Brian got upset and started yelling... and Doug happened to be nearby. He walked over and asked what was going on. When confronted mid-situation with the lie he had been telling, Brian was embarrassed and really had no way out of it. Since he lost credibility, and the sympathy he sought, with the other people here, he hasn't been back many times.

We had a volunteer, "Mary," who was zealously committed to our cause and

spent so many hours on-site that she became very involved with office work, donations, and fund-raising, as well as animal care. Over time, Mary became frustrated by some of the challenges we face as a non-profit. It was hard for her to understand why we would accept some animals and not others. She didn't understand why some tasks took so long to complete using only volunteer labor. Mary also believed that whatever animal had been waiting longest for a new space should get the next available enclosure, while missing the bigger picture that it may make more sense to move two animals in together, or separate a group that becomes incompatible. Mary lacked a "big picture" view. She began to grumble to those around her, and then more loudly to some of our newer volunteers who, of course, came to us. Since I was part of the source of her aggravation, I was not the right person to speak with Mary about her behavior. One of our board members took her aside. He asked Mary why she was here. She was confused by the question. He told Mary that her behavior indicated that the reason she was here was to meet her own goals and needs, not to ensure that the animals were given

the best of care. That brought her up short. He suggested that Mary might want to think about what she was looking for in this volunteer position and to decide if this was the right place for her at this point in her life. After serious consideration, she decided she may have lost perspective and began doing a variety of other activities and hobbies to balance her time at our facility.

What can you do to prevent these people from being a problem? Stopping them all ahead of time isn't possible, but we can anticipate and head off some of the most dangerous ones. Remember to always look beyond the behavior to the cause; try to identify what need they are trying to fill for themselves. If you can satisfy their need in an alternate way or make it clear, without enmity, that you cannot meet it, you may be able to head off further conflict and damage.



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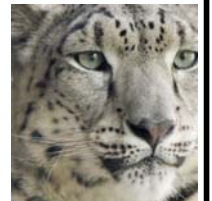
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## 2010 FCF CONVENTION REVIEW: JIM AND NORA BATTISTA

HOT! HOT! HOT! What else can I say? With temperatures in the low 100s, we were challenged to be active, much like the animals at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Many of us were looking for a comfortable place to get out of the sun.

Arriving at the Holiday Inn Norman, we were greeted by a very personable desk clerk who recognized us as “Northerners” who were not used to this kind of heat on a regular basis. After check-in and a dose of cool air, ice water and Gatorade, things returned pretty much to normal.

The ice breaker on Thursday evening gave us a chance to greet some members

assembly area. It was an unforgettable experience. We loved being greeted by the talking parrots with a friendly “hello” or “pretty bird.” I tried to get the African Grey to say something, but I guess it was just too HOT.

We spent a good part of the day listening to some interesting speakers. Dr. Jim Sanderson talked about the progress of his Andean cat project, as well as his project in Scotland.

Rob Johnson, from T.I.G.E.R.S., followed up his dvd, *An In(CAT)venient Truth*, that we had viewed the previous day with a great talk about the public’s

negative perception of private ownership of wild animals. He talked about what we can do to change those perceptions, both with the public and with the government officials who make the laws. I think his dvd is great. It sends a clear message about the benefits of responsible private wild cat ownership.

We learned about the advantages of using positive reinforcement techniques while training a wild cat from David Sol.

Dr. Patti Maness enlightened us with her

extensive knowledge of the many diseases our cats can get, and she also talked about what vaccinations they may need.

Although Jim Fowler was unable to attend the convention in person, we were pleasantly surprised when he joined us via SKYPE. He is a great speaker and a true voice for wildlife and conservation education. I am glad we all got the opportunity to learn from his numerous experiences with wildlife and about his mission to educate the public about these issues so they will have more knowledge and empathy for wildlife, wildlife habitats, and the conservation of both.

Jarod Miller shared his many experiences with handling wildlife, and he spoke of the importance of using animals as

ambassadors for public education. His talk continued with what seemed to be the theme of this convention, that, as owners of wild cats, we must all do what we can to be responsible spokespeople. We need to positively inform the public about private ownership of wildlife. We also need to influence our local and state governmental policies. Mr. Miller was an interesting and animated speaker whom I enjoyed very much.

Lynn Culver ended the day with a reminder to FCF members about taking a more active part in the organization. Sharing our different talents, expressing our opinions and ideas, and volunteering for different committees and activities will all make the FCF a stronger and more productive organization.

Later that evening, my wife and I, along with Tony Richards and Tina Thompson, were invited to Bobby and Leah Aufill’s place to see their gorgeous cougars. What sweethearts they were, greeting us with chirps and rubbing on us through the enclosure fences. They were absolutely beautiful. Their facility is coming along very nicely and should be completed shortly. Special thanks go to Leah and Bobby for this excursion.

Saturday at the zoo was a very challenging experience in that it was certainly way too hot for the animals and their human spectators. We did, however, get to see some interesting and beautiful animals in their enclosures. I personally enjoyed the adult orangutan that gave me a high-five followed by a kiss through the glass. He was a real showman.

Dinner included tasty chicken, beef and veggies, not to mention desserts, followed by a lesson from J.B. Anderson on how to decant a bottle of wine. There were great auction items and lots of baby animals to see and interact with. Congratulations to Mindy Stinner on receiving this year’s “LOTTY” award. Well done!

With karaoke to conclude the evening, what else is there to say? It takes a lot of lubrication to get me up and destroy some artists’ great songs.

All in all, we had a great time at the convention and are looking forward to next year’s, wherever it may be.



Peanut the bobcat snuggles with Jim Battista at Convention. Photo by Tony Richards.

we met at last year’s convention in Salinas, CA, and meet some new ones from around the country, as well as our own home state of Michigan. It was nice to visit with all the baby cats and to observe the differences in their personalities, from sweet to feisty. I cannot say enough about the diversity of people that belong to the FCF who attended the convention, bringing us together with one common goal. It takes me back to the 60s when there was another issue that brought our country together (opinion).

The trip to Bill and Melissa Meadow’s Tiger Safari Zoological Park on Friday was very interesting, from the collection of parrots and the animals in their enclosures, to the great lunch in their new



## 2010 FCF CONVENTION REVIEW: ROBERT AND SANDRA LEE HOHN

First, thanks to Kurt Beckleman, our Treasurer, for picking us up at the airport and giving us a lesson in Oklahoma history. Kurt, you are a true friend. Erin Patters did a great job picking up the ball for the convention. Our prayers and support go out to Kate Connors and her family. You guys were missed.

Going to the Oklahoma City National Memorial was a special experience. My brother, Allen Boyle, died at the Pentagon, so I had to represent my family to the people of Oklahoma, and I was honored to do that.

Tiger Safari did an awesome job hosting us. The tour was fantastic.

Fred Boyajian was picking on me all week and I still do not know why.

Thanks to Kathy Thomas for teaching us tips that we have already used with great success. Jarod Miller was very approachable and helpful, a great asset to our organization.

It was great to see old friends, but also to meet new ones. I met Jeremy Hinkle from Missouri, and found a man who shares the same passions as me. My wife really liked meeting Angela Anderson and Mike Friese.

It was most fun celebrating our 11th wedding anniversary with everyone at Saturday's banquet and making my wife cry. I love you, honey.

But what touched us most were Bobby and Lea Aufill. They drove hours to pick us up from the Tulsa area, where we stayed after convention, so we could visit with Kurt and Patty Beckelman. They also took us to their home, fed us great food, then drove hours to return us to our hotel. We feel very honored that they would do this for us, and we will never forget that.

The Oklahoma City Zoo was not the experience that I expected it to be. As FCF members, I thought that we might be treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the zoo's feline exhibit, but was definitely dissap-



Jana the Geoffroys cat kitten tickles the ivories at Techler Elementary School. Photo by Robert Hohn.

pointed to find out that we only got to see the animals from the standard visitor's point of view. Here is where the FCF shines; from Tiger Safari to Kurt, Bobby and Lea, our organization's members will take you around their facilities cage-to-cage, interacting with the animals and highlighting the relationships we have with them. This is something for which our organization should be proud.

Our USDA inspector came to do his inspection only hours after we got home. No violations, yea! He is very happy that we get yearly education at the FCF convention. I explained that we are upgrading our facility and working toward FCF accreditation. He stated that we already meet USDA standards, and he was very impressed that the FCF standards are higher than what the government requires. Our inspector is looking at the FCF in a whole new light.

Friday, we did three educational shows at the Teckler Elementary B.O.C.E.S. (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services) summer program and gave out the rest of our FCF brochures. Check out the photo of Jana, our new baby Geoffroy's cat, playing the piano.

We learned a lot at this convention and are excited to be part of the FCF.



The Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum is dedicated to the victims of the Oklahoma City Bombing of 1995. Photo courtesy of [www.diandy.com](http://www.diandy.com).

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN REVIEW

By Pam Sperry

I was very pleased with the course "Introduction to Wildlife Conservation Education Programming," presented by Ron DeArmond. I found it very interesting and extremely educational. The course touched upon many areas of concern when presenting the public with wildlife education. Using live animals is vital to this type of educational program, and the course addressed important, specific legal issues, such as crossing state lines with exotics, liability protection, and safety. Also discussed was what to do if the exotic you are intending to address is not available or not in the "mood" to go with you. Another section dealt with "non-living" educational displays and how

they can be used in lieu of live animals, an especially interesting idea. It's a challenge when the excitement of the exotic animal is missing, but Ron gave plenty of examples of how you can actually create that excitement in other ways.

The course was very in-depth and touched on many issues, including considerations when using live animals, building your education program, approaches used for programs (specific to your audience), set-up, and presentation tips. Talking about post-presentation evaluations and the role they play helped to round out the course. If you don't have a program, this course will put you on the right track to developing your own educational program. If you already have a program in place, this course can assist in making

improvements and enhancements to your current curriculum.

I would recommend this course to anyone who participates in wildlife conservation education or any situation where animals are displayed to the public. The course provides many useful tips for a successful presentation and many ideas to make the presentation fun for all ages. The textbooks provided to the students are another valuable resource. They are definitely worth reading. The presentation of this course was very professionally delivered and is tailored for success.

I also enjoyed the young felines running throughout the room that day. The room may have been a bit on the "chilly" side, but the felines warmed all our hearts!

## ENRICHMENT AT THE 2010 CONVENTION

By Debi Willoughby

This year's convention was a great time as always. I want to thank everyone who was involved in the planning of it; they did a great job! We introduced a new workshop at this year's convention to teach members about the concept of enrichment and how to evaluate it and improve it. I have been asked by people to summarize what we did in the workshop, so everyone can have it in writing for their own use.

To start, I want to state that I am NOT an enrichment expert; I am just sharing what I learned at an ABMA conference. The ABMA is an organization that focuses on training and enrichment for all types of animals. Their website is [www.ABMA.org](http://www.ABMA.org), if you'd like to learn more about them.

Enrichment can be so many things, from a simple toy for your cat to play with to something sophisticated to modify an unwanted behavior. For example, if you have a cat who likes to pace, you can introduce an enrichment that occupies its time, which in turn will reduce the amount of time the cat spends pacing. If you are open to the public and you want your cat to spend more time closer to the people, you would put an enrichment toy in an area where the visitors can see the cat.

How do you decide on what to do for enrichment? Observe your cat and see if

you want to minimize an unwanted behavior, maximize time doing a good behavior, increase interaction between your cats, or just give your cats something new to play with. Once you figure out your motive, you can make an enrichment that will help you achieve your goal.

How do you measure the effectiveness of your enrichment? There are a variety of ways you can track an enrichment device. Simply watch your cat with the enrichment and see what happens. You can rate your cat's behavior on an ethogram and keep it on record to use as a reference. Or, you can do something in between these two areas. The choice is yours. Please keep in mind that if you only keep these things in your head, no one else can access them. It is beneficial to your animals to have things in writing, so that when you are not there, someone else can continue to enjoy your cat and improve their quality of life.

I mentioned the word ethogram in the above paragraph. An ethogram is a chart to make tracking the success of your enrichment easy. You can find many ethogram templates online. I found one that I was able to modify and use to track the animals that I work with.

So now what? You have decided on a goal, you have made an enrichment toy, and you have your ethogram. Now comes the fun part! The top section of an ethogram should have an area called a

baseline. This is where you track your animal's behavior over a period of time. For example, every minute on the minute, you look at your cat and see what it is doing, then mark the behavior on the form. A good baseline should last for at least 20 minutes. Then, introduce the enrichment to your cat and fill out the second section of the form. Again, you will be writing down what your cat does every minute on the minute for another 20 minutes. Once this section is done, take the enrichment away from the cat and fill out the last section, tracking what it does for the next 20 minutes. After this is completed, the form can be analyzed as to how successful the enrichment was. If it was not as successful as you would like, modify the enrichment and try again. Keep in mind that you do not have to spend a whole hour on one enrichment; you can decide how much time is right for you to spend on this exercise. Ten minutes of each section may be adequate for your animal. It all depends on your animal's personality.

Also remember that many enrichment ideas can be modified for many species of animals. I read an article on an enrichment toy for pigs and realized it would be a great enrichment toy for many of my animals. Just keep an open mind and don't assume that you know what your cat may like or dislike. They may surprise you!

Here are some enrichment ideas I gathered from FCF members, the Internet and



the ABMA journals. These are simple, inexpensive ideas. You can either try them as is or improve on them to make them a more permanent fixture in your cat's enclosure. A safe rule of thumb is to try an inexpensive toy first. If your cat loves it, you can then make a more expensive, permanent one.

- box with shredded paper/hay and crickets inside
- watermelon or cantaloupe
- vanilla or star anise in water to scent-mark areas
- apples floating in a bucket
- natural vines to hang food from different sized paper tubes with treats inside
- frozen fish inside a box, tube, or ice block
- bloodsicles in the summertime
- a potato cored out and filled with liver wurst, basil, or pumpkin spice burlap sacks with hay inside
- horse whip
- peppermint drops smeared in different locations in their enclosure
- Kong filled with catnip or treats
- hang kid's plastic bowling pins and balls from trees for your cat to bat around
- dog rope toys/Frisbees to bat around
- PVC pipe with holes in it filled with treats
- make a pinwheel out of PVC pipe with holes and hang it on a stand, watch your cat spin the wheel around to catch treats that fall out (I have a write-up on this one if anyone is interested on how to make it)

The most important thing you should be

aware of whenever introducing anything to your cat is to make sure it is SAFE. Never put anything in their enclosure that they could choke on, get their neck or paws tangled in, or hurt themselves in any way, unless the toy will only be in there when you are supervising it and taken out when you leave.

Now that you understand the concept of Enrichment Evaluation, I will share with you what we did at the workshop. On Thursday evening of the convention, the enrichment workshop was set up in a corner of the hospitality suite. We had different sized cardboard tubes, hay, spices and scents, twine, coconut hanging baskets, paper, and burlap. Members gathered around the tables to make enrichment toys out of these supplies. Everyone had a good time being creative with what they had to work with. I believe everyone left the workshop with some ideas of their own to try with their cats! The plan was to bring these toys to Tiger Safari, have one of their staff members give the toys to four different species of cats, and we could fill out an ethogram form to track and evaluate the success of these toys. Unfortunately, the day was jam-packed with so many things going on at

the park that we ran out of time, and the toys were not given to the cats. So we left the toys at Tiger Safari, and Bill Meadows, the owner, said he would either take pictures of the toys in the cat enclosures or make a video of it to share with everyone. Even though we were not able to follow through with our plans, the workshop was still beneficial in that many of the members learned new ideas on toy-making for their own cats.

Enrichment is a great way to improve the quality of life for our animals. We all love our animals very much and should introduce new things to them on a regular basis to stimulate their minds. If anyone has any questions about the workshop or enrichment ideas listed above, please email me at [Debi@JungleEncounters.org](mailto:Debi@JungleEncounters.org).



FCF members prepare supplies to use for making enrichment toys for the big cats of Tiger Safari Zoo. Photo by Debi Willoughby.

## CATS WENT HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THEIR NEW TOYS!

By Brandon Null

All cat owners know how much fun cats have chasing and playing with just about anything they can get their paws on. However, when it comes to getting toys for exotic cats, especially with the big cats, you have to get a bit creative.

At the conference this year, members were given a chance to participate in the making of enrichment toys for some of the cats at Tiger Safari. They made toys for small cats to the big cats. The ideas they came up with were very simple and easy to recreate. Materials used included things such as burlap, cardboard, Spanish moss

plant liners and PVC pipes. Some of the toys were scented with various perfumes to enhance its attraction to the cat.

Unfortunately, the toys could not be given to the cats during the conference due to lack of time. Sadly, I also was unable to witness the introduction of the toys at Tiger Safari Park when they were presented. However, I did talk to Bill Meadows about how the toys went over and how the cats reacted. Meadows stated that "all the cats went head over heels for their new toys." I asked him what toy went over the best and he thought the "toy made out of the Spanish moss with another toy hidden inside was a big hit."

Lastly, I asked what his favorite reaction to the toys was and he replied that his yearling bobcat had him rolling. He said, "Our youngest bobcat would stalk the toy, pounce on it, grab it and run off with it, roll over it and kick it with his back legs." So, it sounds like the cats had just as much fun ripping the toys apart as the members did making them.

We would like to thank Debi Willoughby for heading up this workshop. It was very kind of her to share what she has learned about enrichment with all the members involved. We would also like to thank all the members who participated in the workshop.

## THE LATEST ADDITION TO A LONG LOTTOMY TRADITION

By Mindy Stinner

I was happily enjoying the great company and fun festivities at the end of this year's convention. The silent auction had ended, the graduates of the two classes got their certificates, and now someone was getting the Lottomy. I glanced around the room wondering which of the interesting people there would be getting it this year. I was stunned to hear Lynn call my name.

I remember watching people receive this award over the years, from my first convention in 2001 onward. I was always so impressed with how much those people had done to support wild cats, including conservation, fieldwork, rescue, behavioral studies, breeding, and outreach and education work. I was always a little in awe of the folks who won, feeling like they were some of the most effective and respected faces of our organization. To think that they felt I deserved this honor was overwhelming.

I walked forward thinking, "What



Mindy Stinner, the 2010 FCF Lottomy Award winner, poses with Jim Sanderson after being presented with her award at Convention. Photo by Tony Richards.

did I do this year that was better than previous years? Do I actually deserve this?" Lynn laughed at my confusion, and Jim Sanderson, who was handing me my very heavy Lottomy statuette on a plate, tried to make sure I didn't drop it.

I am very grateful to the previous Lottomy winners, and to the many people from the FCF and Conservators' Center who have provided the support and encouragement to keep me going when I thought maybe I couldn't anymore. Without your enthusiasm and dedication, few of the many things I have done for the cats would mean anything in the long term.

I believe we have a very difficult road ahead of us as wild cat owners. We must work with conservationists and educators so our value as stewards is clear and undeniable. Thank you again for this amazing honor.



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Attending the Sunday tour of Conservators' Center ( )yes ( )no

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You had to be there! Singing "FCF," a variation of the Village People's "YMCA," are Robert Hohn as cowboy, Jarod Miller as Indian, Kevin Chambers as construction worker, Doc Antle as biker, and Bill Meadows as fireman. Photo by Lynn Culver.



Tony Richards poses with new best feline friend, Ricco, Kurt Beckelman's bobcat kitten. Photo by Tina Thompson.

# CONVENTION MEMO



To celebrate their wedding anniversary Robert Hohn karaoked a love song for wife Sandra and presented her with roses. Photo by Robert Felton.



The sign says it all. Ladies Tina Thompson and Dr. Patty Maness pose as cougars. Photo by Tony Richards.





# RIES





See July/August 2009 Journal for Javier Pereira's previous article, "Review of the First Ten Years of Geoffroy's Cat Research", which uncovered these causes of mortality. In 2009, the FCF Conservation Grants committee approved \$1,400 funding to Javier Pereira for laboratory supplies for his current study, titled "Effects of Landscape Pattern and Human Activities on the Gene Flow and Genetic Structure of Geoffroy's Cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*)."

## A LONG-TERM SURVEY OF CAUSES OF MORTALITY OF GEOFFROY'S CATS IN ARGENTINA

By Javier Pereira, Natalia Fracassi, Virginia Rago, Hebe Ferreyra, Carolina Marull, Denise McAloose and Marcela Uhart

For over 10 years, we have been studying the ecology and demography of a Geoffroy's cat population inhabiting a protected area (Lihué Calel National Park) and adjacent cattle ranches in La Pampa Province, Central Argentina. As a result, we have collected long-term data on causes of mortality for this species. This information has been recently published in the European Journal of Wildlife Research (DOI 10.1007/s10344-010-0423-8). Here, we summarize the main findings of this research.

We used three methods to collect data on causes of mortality for Geoffroy's cats: (1) obtaining information from 35 radio-

collared Geoffroy's cats monitored from 1 to 19 months; (2) systematic surveying of the park and ranches to find non-collared dead animals; and (3) interviewing qualified informants. Nineteen out of 35 felines fitted with radio-collars died during the course of the study, and a cause of death was determined in 17 of those cases. Mortality was due to starvation ( $n = 7$ ), poaching ( $n = 5$ ), predation by puma ( $n = 3$ ), predation by domestic dogs ( $n = 1$ ), and vehicle collision ( $n = 1$ ). On the other hand, the causes of death established for 32 non-collared Geoffroy's cats were mainly due to predation by domestic dogs ( $n = 12$ ), poaching ( $n = 10$ ), vehicle collision ( $n = 7$ ), and predation by puma ( $n = 3$ ). Since poaching and predation by dogs were the most common causes of mortality recorded, enforcement of anti-poaching laws and a broader educational program outlining the correct management of domestic animals need to be addressed in order to conserve Geoffroy's cats in this region.

We have presented these results to the authorities of La Pampa Province, alerting them of the necessity of improving the control of



The Geoffroy's cat here was found along a roadway, killed by a passing vehicle. Photo by Natalia Fracassi.

poaching. In addition, we are now designing a brochure about the carnivores of La Pampa Province and their main threats. Since domestic dogs are a severe problem, we are including in this brochure some practical suggestions on how to improve the management of domestic cats and dogs (e.g., vaccination, birth control). As a long-term objective, we intend to motivate a change in attitude of local people toward wild cats, improving both the conservation status of the Geoffroy's cat and the "health" of the cattle ranches they inhabit.



This Geoffroy's specimen was killed by dogs, a common cause of mortality in Argentina. Photo by Natalia Fracassi.

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## LIMESTONE CLOUDS: SEEKING THE SUNDA CLOUDED LEOPARD

By Anthony J. Giordano

The cold, restless whitewater filled my head, and in a singular, dramatic moment, everything slowed. I opened my eyes to remarkable clarity, able to see the mosaic of slick, moss-laden boulders stretching out infinitely before me. I held my breath, letting the river's sounds wash through me: the hurried gurgling of riffles; the clanking of polished stones tumbling over the jumble of rocks; the mad froth as it



This new clouded leopard species was just recognized as distinct in 2006. Photo by Alain Compost.

tore over those same rocks, undeterred by their presence and insistent on wearing them down even if it took the river part of a geological epoch to do so. I was probably submerged for only half a minute or so, but when I finally came up, our Penan guides were laughing and pointing at me. I was caught slightly off guard. Why were they laughing? Had I forgotten? It seemed an eternity ago that, upon hearing the turbulent stretch of our final impending stream crossing, I had with near reckless abandon made a mad and clumsy dash for the bank and plunged right into the water, field clothes and all. Yes, my memory came flooding back to me. It was clear that is why they were laughing. "Bwahng," as they called me (the spoken Penan word for "sun bear"), a name explicitly referring to my rather ungraceful style of navigating through the rainforest, had finally gone mad. As I sat down among the boulders along the bank, I pushed my hands through my hair in a feeble attempt to dry it, and began to laugh.

In reality, I was still very much sane. But I had been thoroughly soaked before jumping into the stream. Soaked just from our long descent down the summit

trail. At four degrees north of the equator in a tropical dipterocarp forest, just standing around for a few minutes is often enough to get the average person sweating. And so I figured, if I am going to be soaked during the rest of my walk back to headquarters, it might as well be with the cold, clear stream water that continues to carve through the shale and sandstone of the mountain. I mean, it just made more sense, right?

Gunung Mulu National Park is without hyperbole one of the most spectacular wild places on earth. A World Heritage Site of international renown on the tropical island of Borneo, the park is perhaps best known for its extensive karst cave system, one of the largest such networks in the world. In fact, this network extends beyond Mulu across a larger portion of northern Sarawak. Besides caves, the unique topography manifests itself in a variety of other ways, including sheer massifs, and the famous Mulu "Pinnacles," all of which added to the unbelievable backdrop of being in the park. But the truth is, I was not there for the caves. And despite my long slog down the summit trail, I was not there for the hiking, or the underwater meditation for that matter. I'm a tropical vertebrate ecologist by training, you see. And I was there to learn something about Mulu's clouds. Well, sort of.

My colleague, Dr. Jedediah Brodie, and I were visiting Gunung Mulu to determine if the park's largest felid species, the Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*), still occurred there or not. And, if the answer was yes, in what numbers were they present? In actuality, Mulu is only one of 12 locations across the entire island of Borneo in which we are interested in these and other questions relating to clouded leopard ecology. Comparatively little-studied, the clouded leopard is one of tropical Asia's best-kept secrets. The fact is, no one seems to know much about them. With a weight of only 40 to 50 pounds for a large male, these cats just never seem to conjure either the same scientific attention, or the public's imagination, as the tiger, undisputed king of the jungle, ruling from the shadows; or the precipice-dwelling snow leopard, the ethereal glimpse of which remains the holy grail for most Himalayan travelers.

Frankly, however, I am at a loss as to explain precisely why this. And if you ever saw a clouded leopard in person, you would know exactly what I mean. In case you have not, though, let me explain.

Not only is the clouded leopard among the most enigmatic of felids with respect to their ecology and evolutionary origins, they are arguably the most beautiful of all cat species. And, while all felids are by nature terrestrial, with some spending a considerable amount of time in trees, clouded leopards are potentially the most arboreal. In fact, rumors of their climbing abilities almost border on legendary. Hanging by the hind feet from a high branch to reach prey beneath is but one of the near-impossible feats attributed to the clouded leopard. Perhaps most exciting of all, however, is that science has recently given us a second species of clouded leopard! Genetic testing has demonstrated that the clouded leopards living on Borneo and Sumatra (*N. diardi*) are very different from those that live throughout the rest of South Asia (*N. nebulosa*); as different from each other, actually, as tigers are from lions. Though they may at first appear identical, a more critical examination shows that there exist some basic but consistent differences in their

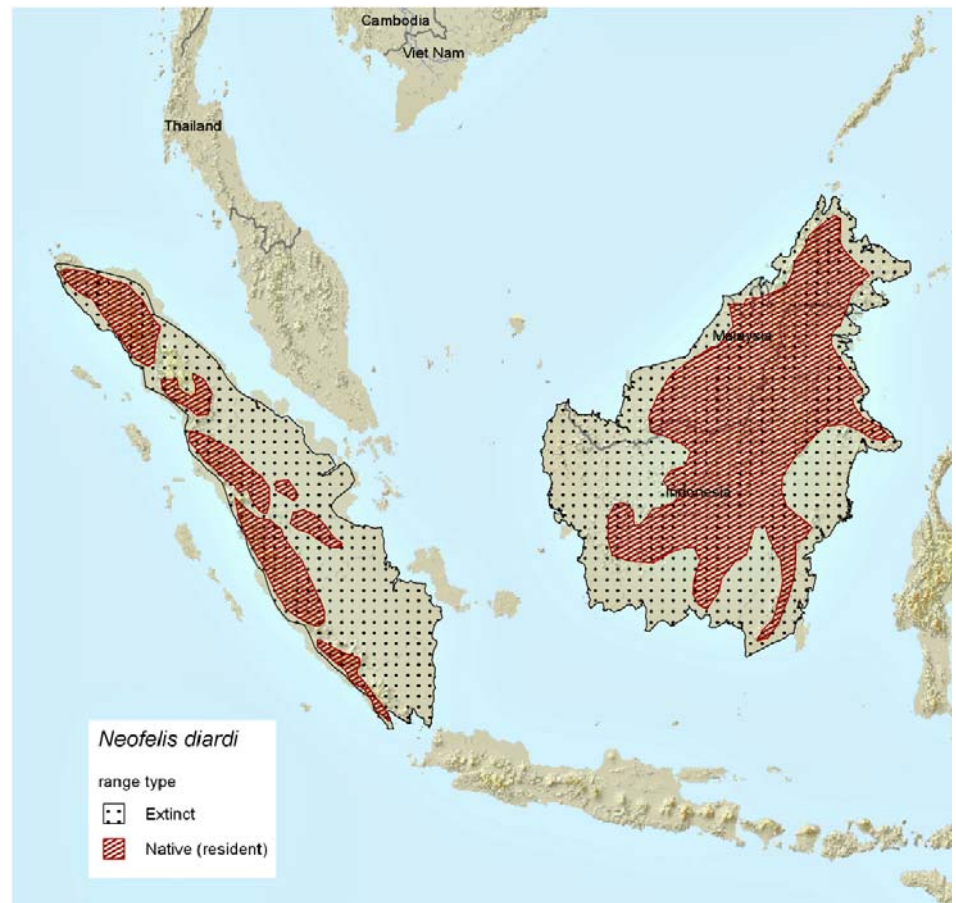


As seen on the bottom specimen here, the Sunda clouded leopard has darker markings than its mainland relative. Sketch from [panthera-world.kazeo.com](http://panthera-world.kazeo.com).

pelage patterns. Furthermore, since sea level changes first caused the isolation of much of the Southeast Asian Archipelago, both clouded leopard species evolved under different evolutionary pressures and may well even be ecologically distinct. Add to this the potential impacts of human-caused habitat conversion and their effects on the species, and there are suddenly enough questions to take the entire careers of several ecologists to begin addressing! Still, the strategy for addressing these larger questions begins by first asking the most basic ones. Using remote motion-sensing trail cameras, we want to answer things like: Where are they? How many are there? What are the potential prey species and their relative abundance? And what could influence among-site patterns of presence and absence, high and low density? I include absence because where clouded leopards are not is just as important as where they are. In Borneo, we are only just beginning to ask these questions.

To be clear, it is not as if the Sunda clouded leopard has not received any attention up to this point. In a few locations in the Malaysian state of Sabah, for example, several effective and pioneering multi-year projects are beginning to shed some light on the ecology and natural history of the species. Places like Danum Valley and Tabin Wildlife Refuges are no doubt key pieces to the puzzle that is the Sunda clouded leopard. However, the status, distribution, and ecology of the species across much of Borneo still remain largely unknown. Our ultimate goal? To learn enough about clouded leopard distribution and density to be able to suggest a means to connect, or maintain connectivity among, the island's populations. A clouded leopard "conservation corridor," if you will; one that would involve the island's three nations – Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei – cooperating together to maintain sufficient habitat in the face of advancing logging and commercial palm oil interests. Perhaps I am naïve, but I am optimistic. I think these nations, while wanting to diversify their future economic interests, also want to find a way to safeguard their rich biological heritage. And, common to this heritage, sitting atop the ecological food web, is the Sunda clouded leopard.

Upon first arriving at the park, we learned of a park guide who had supposedly observed a clouded leopard near the



As opposed to the genetically-distinct mainland clouded leopard, *Neofelis diardi* populations are isolated to only the large islands of Indonesia and Malaysia, on which their ranges have been drastically reduced. Map courtesy of [www.iucn-redlist.org](http://www.iucn-redlist.org).

bridge at the trailhead of Headhunters Trail. Further adding to this anticipation, the day before while heading up there ourselves, we heard about a guide who had supposedly seen a fresh clouded leopard track right in the same place. Was this going to be the area where the first-ever clouded leopard photo from Mulu would be taken? Quite possibly. Not surprisingly, we are the first attempting to learn about clouded leopards here. Before we arrived, no one could tell us for sure whether or not they still occurred in the park. With all of the local faunal extirpations the area had suffered in recent years due to legal and illegal overhunting alike, I guess the jury, technically, is still out. Hearsay, you see, accounts for nothing. But whether they are still here or not is itself only one essential piece of the much larger puzzle. When framed in the context of our multi-site study, information like this will tell us much about what either influences the disappearance of the clouded leopard from the landscape, or con-

tributes to their persistence.

The day before we left the park, I was descending from the limestone ridge of the Melinau Gorge after Dr. Brodie, our three Penan guides, and I had deployed the very last of our trail cameras. In the short time I had been visiting Mulu, I had seen and learned so much, I was still trying to make sense of it all. Although banteng, rhinoceros, and crocodiles no longer occur in or around Mulu, there was still evidence of many wildlife species, this despite the region's hunting legacy. I had seen a mouse deer, a tiny but most ancient of deer species, cross a shadow-strewn trail in the forest; watched a white-bellied sea eagle cruise low and silently along the Melinau River, far from the South China Sea where it belonged; heard the calls and wing beats of three different hornbill species, those most iconic and legendary of Borneo's birds; and watched a large, but nonchalant, water monitor basking on the river's bank, motionless and indifferent to our approach by long boat. I had



stumbled over a downed Tapang tree, its bark plundered by a tantrum-throwing sun bear in a never-ending quest for honey, and caught myself squarely on a rattan, bent over by the relentless push of a sambar deer's antlers. I was pondering all of this, trying to make sense of everything, and optimistic about the clouded leopard's presence here, when a blurry blonde streak caught my eye on the forest floor in front of us. A Malay weasel had broken cover in advance of our footsteps. It zigzagged effortlessly among the saplings as if not even touching the ground, its grizzled orange and cream-colored cylinder of a body, large bushy tail in tow, seemingly on fire. Within seconds, it had vanished far ahead, merging with the undergrowth. As my excitement abated, I found myself standing and pointing in the direction where the animal had disappeared, wide-eyed at the secret the forest had just revealed, and privileged that I was the one to whom it was shown. It was then that I knew. I knew the clouded leopard was still here. I knew that in several months' time, we would have the photos to prove it. I knew that, despite Mulu's history of overhunting, many of the animals appeared to be coming back



A Bornean clouded leopard caught on camera at night, courtesy of Paulo Philippidis. Classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, these cats pose no threat in direct relation to humans.

or had never left. And, as we departed Mulu, already discussing the logistics of our visit to the next field site only days away, I knew that the clouded leopard's secrets on Borneo, the answers to the

questions that could secure its long-term survival, would reveal themselves to us in due time.

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST: GET YOUR GREENS

*This article was originally published as "Greens Today," in Jan/Feb 1996 Volume 40 Issue 1 of the LIOC ESCF Newsletter.*

By Dr. Michael Lemmon, DVM

Greens are extremely beneficial foods that are often lacking in the human as well as animal diet on a daily basis. Humans will often get their greens from fresh raw or steamed vegetables such as broccoli or leafy lettuce.

Animals that spend most or all of their lives indoors or in cement-floored pens must rely on their owners to supply them with fresh greens. Many will not only accept fresh greens, but will often crave them. We should eat more of this good food ourselves and share it with our animal friends.

Green foods, especially green food concentrates, have always been an important consideration for our animal friends' health problems. In the natural state, canines and felines have always sought out grasses and herbs to help them maintain a healthy state or to help bring them back to a healthy balance if they were ailing. Domesticated dogs and cats will often

do the same if they are given the opportunity.

For housebound animals, there are several ways to solve this problem. One good solution is to provide greens for them by growing fresh wheat grass. Obtaining organically grown wheat seed and planting it in pots of high-quality composted soil can grow wheat grass. Allow dogs and cats to have access to this grass. Many will eat it free choice, or you can harvest it when the grass grows to about two or three inches, and this can be used like a vegetable by cutting it up and mixing it with their feed. Also, you can place a sprig of wheat grass in their water to help give the water more vitality. After one or two harvests, the grass should then be composted and replaced with a fresh pot of wheat grass. Another way to provide greens for cats is to grow the spider plant, which is edible, and allow them to nibble freely.

In their natural state, canines and felines also get their greens from the intestinal contents of their herbivorous prey. People can help their animal companions achieve a higher level of nutrition by supplementing their diets with a wide

variety of powdered greens and herbs. Many of these powdered green concentrates are very high in nutrients, and therefore only a small amount is needed. For example, with some concentrates like edible algae, powdered wheat grass, or barley grass, only a small pinch - 1/16 of a teaspoon for a small domestic cat or one to two teaspoons for a large dog - is needed.

These supplements contain many nutrients such as B vitamins, vitamin C, and vitamin E, and many vital minerals, like zinc, magnesium and many trace minerals. They also contain nutrients that are rarely found in commercial foods, such as chlorophyll and nucleic acids.

Chlorophyll has many beneficial qualities. It is a helpful detoxifier for the body. It aids in ridding the body both of external toxins derived from our polluted world and internal toxins that are a byproduct of our pet's metabolism. It acts as a natural deodorizer and can help sweeten the breath. Chlorophyll helps maintain a strong immune system and healthy red blood cells. It can also help normalize the digestive system and prevent constipation by stimulating the beneficial bacteria (*Lactobacillus*) of the intestines.



By Marsha Hague

In 2010, World Rabies Day is on Tuesday, September 28th. Now in its fourth year of recognition, this event's mission is "to raise awareness about the impact of human and animal rabies, how easy it is to prevent, and how to eliminate the main global sources."

Annually, about 55,000 people around the world die from rabies - still an almost universally fatal disease - but only two or three cases occur in the United States. Of the 44 human rabies cases in the U.S.,

## SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT RABIES?

between 1995 and 2009, there have only been two survivors. None of the cases were attributed to captive exotic felines. Most stemmed from bat or dog bites (the dog bites usually occurring during foreign travel), with one raccoon, mongoose, and fox case each. Four transplant recipients died in 2004 after receiving organs from a donor who died of a bat-variant rabies which remained undiagnosed at the time of the donor's death. So why should you, as an exotic feline owner, care? Because rabies is a zoonotic disease that can potentially be transmitted to any mammal, including humans. In the event of a bite incident, you could be required by law to put your cat down for rabies testing, even if it shows no symptoms of the disease. Furthermore, one of the arguments used by anti-private-ownership groups to push for bans against exotic animals is their potential for transmitting zoonotic diseases, including the dreaded rabies. What measures can you take to protect your felines?

- Familiarize yourself with your state

and local laws regarding rabies protocol. Check with your state and county public health departments. Most will follow guidelines set down by the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians.

- Establish adequate barriers to keep humans from sticking their hands (or other body parts) where they do not belong.
- Train your employees and volunteers to use safe handling techniques.
- Any newly caught wild felines introduced into your facility should be quarantined for six months (as recommended by NAPHV and AVMA).
- Consider whether or not your cat could possibly be in contact with any rabies-vector species, and take measures to reduce exposure when possible. Bats are the most common vector species and can get into just about any outdoor enclosure. Raccoons, skunks, and foxes are common vectors. Rodents and lagomorphs (i.e. rabbits) are rare vectors, with groundhogs (woodchucks) being the most common rodent vector. Deer and livestock some-



times get rabies and can transmit the virus via their meat if eaten within the last few hours of dying. Know your sources.

- Vaccinate your cats only with dead (inactivated) virus vaccines. Modified live virus vaccines used for domestic animals can actually cause clinical rabies in exotic animals. Keep in mind that the use of rabies vaccines in exotic animals is off-label. There are no vaccines that are approved specifically for any species of exotic cat. The vaccine may protect your cat from rabies, but legal authorities may not accept their vaccination status as proof that they do not have rabies. Help the FCF build a database of rabies titer data to show the efficacy of vaccinations by sending a blood sample to the Kansas State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. For further details on this endeavor, see the Rabies Titer Testing page at the FCF website: [http://felineconservation.org/legislative\\_information/rabies\\_titer\\_testing.htm](http://felineconservation.org/legislative_information/rabies_titer_testing.htm).

- In spite of everything you do, remember that accidents happen. Consider getting a pre-exposure vaccination for yourself and requiring that anyone who comes

in contact with your cats be vaccinated. A person who is known to have allergic reactions to any vaccine should not be allowed into a situation where there is even a remote potential for contact, such as behind-the-scenes tours. A rabies pre-exposure vaccination for humans consists of a series of three shots in the upper arm. It is just like getting a flu shot. Shots are expensive (several hundred dollars), but some insurance plans will cover them. It could mean the difference between authorities allowing a quarantine period to determine the results of exposure and euthanasia required for traditional laboratory testing.

Research is being done on methods of testing for the rabies virus in live animals, rather than requiring an animal to be killed so that its brain tissue can be examined. Live testing is still experimental and not yet accepted by most jurisdictions.

News from the CDC website: "At the June 24, 2009, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting, the rabies working group presented evidence in support of a recommendation to reduce the number of vaccine doses in the

human rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) series from five to four doses." This is still only a recommendation, not officially-published policy.

For more information, and to keep up with rabies news and slowly changing protocols, visit these websites:

<http://www.worldrabiesday.org>  
(World Rabies Day website)

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies>  
(CDC Rabies website)

<http://www.nasphv.org>  
(National Association of Public Health Veterinarians)

<http://www.jwildlifedis.org>  
(Journal of Wildlife Diseases)

<http://www.avma.org/avmacollections/rabies>  
(AVMA rabies page)

<http://www.vet.k-state.edu/rabies>  
(KSU College of Veterinary Medicine rabies page)

## MINUTES AND SUMMARY: 2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION

The 2010 FCF Annual Convention was held in the Oklahoma City area at the Holiday Inn, Norman, Oklahoma. The Annual General Membership Meeting was held in the host hotel's ballroom on Thursday evening, July 29th. The meeting was held after a welcome reception and buffet dinner in the same venue. The Annual Meeting was called to order shortly after 8pm by FCF President Kevin Chambers.

### FORMAL BUSINESS, MOTIONS, AND VOTING

There were no formal motions, business items, or votes taken at this year's general meeting. The Annual FCF Board of Director's Meeting was held earlier in the day in one of the hotel's meeting rooms, and minutes for that meeting are published separately. Thus, the rest of this summary will follow an abbreviated and looser, descriptive format, as opposed to that which is common for formal business meetings. FCF Officer updates, reports, and discussion topics will be given in summary form along with a brief chronology of events during the general meeting. More details on specific updates and reports may be found in the President's

and the Executive Director's columns published in the post convention / pre-election issue of the FCF Journal.

### REPORTS, UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS

FCF PRESIDENT- President Kevin Chambers (presiding) welcomed the more than 90 convention registrants present, plus several special guests and exotic kitten attendees. He gave an update on the state of the organization, plus comments on the upcoming close of nominations and the election process that will follow. He provided an update on the details and execution of the newly approved constitutional amendments that will go into effect August 1st.

FCF TREASURER- Treasurer Kurt Beckelman reported the following balances:

OCCU – Checking = \$28,366

Harris – Checking = \$298

ING – Savings = \$63,736

Paypal = \$2,520

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS = \$94,920

FCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- Executive Director Lynn Culver provided updates on several FCF initiatives and

core objectives. She also addressed the issue of renewing members joining at times between the standard October 1st renewal dates. There is a sliding scale of first year renewal fee amounts that is based upon the actual month in which the new member joined. The new member gets a credit toward first yearly renewal (full renewal is \$35 for US members) for the unused part of their first membership year. A full explanation and scale of credits is found on the website, and also on page #5 of the July/August Journal.

FCF SECRETARY- Secretary George DeLong answered questions and provided information on the nomination process for the upcoming elections. Nominations close August 10th, and nominations must be in writing and signed by a member in good standing.

FCF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT- Erin Patters (recently appointed by the board) was introduced to the membership. She also received a round of applause in appreciation of the fact that she is a military wife whose husband is serving to protect and ensure our freedoms.

**MEMBER SUBMITTED QUESTIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS-** The following items were formally submitted by members for explanation and discussion at the Annual General Membership Meeting. A very brief summary of what was said follows each agenda item. Input was provided by President Kevin Chambers, Executive Director Lynn Culver, and other board members present.

1. Member – Scott Shoemaker: “It seems that the FCF Board is taking actions that fall outside those allowed by the By-Laws and “Roberts’ Rules of Order”. Either follow these guidelines, or simply change the Bylaws to reflect the way that the Board is conducting business.”  
**RESPONSES:** Roberts’ Rules allows considerable flexibility in a small meeting environment, and the FCF Bylaws spell out the procedure for all but the Annual Convention Board Meeting to be conducted on the FCF Internet Forum in the “members only” section of the FCF Website. These Internet-facilitated board meetings are open to real time viewing by any FCF member. Non-board members cannot post to these meetings, but are free to individually email any or all FCF officers with comments or concerns.

2. Member – Tim Stoffel: “How is editorial policy determined for the FCF Journal? What checks and balances are in place to ensure that fair and equal treatment is given to all of the major goals and objectives of the FCF? I am concerned that recent issues seem heavily biased toward conservation, and that there seems to be an underlying tone of resignation that all is lost with respect to any private ownership of big cats!” (Tim Stoffel asked for the floor and spoke to the membership, elaborating on his rationale and concerns.)  
**RESPONSES:** The FCF Board, editors, etc., make every effort to ensure that the Journal gives fair, unbiased, and equal treatment to all

causes and interests. The Journal publishes news of the accomplishments of the organization and its members, and it was noted that FCF stewardship of the Rare Species Fund generates considerable conservation news that is published. Several conservation grants have already been approved this year, and these generate news articles, and then published articles detailing facts and progress from the recipients. An important point was made that the editors can only print what is written and submitted, and this has the ultimate effect of causing a perceived bias if the proponents of one cause submit more news and articles than others. Another point was made that the Journal is the public face of the FCF, and is sent to a significant number of outside recipients (legislators, USDA officials, etc.). As such, it needs to be free of highly controversial content and put our organization’s best foot forward.

3. Member – DeeAnna Croasmun: “What paid positions now exist in FCF? How can members see a description of, and duties for, any paid position? How are individuals selected to fill any paid position? How much are these positions

paid?”  
**RESPONSES:** The FCF has one paid position, that of Executive Director. The Executive Director was appointed by Board vote at a salary of \$20,000 per year.

4. Member – Elizabeth Whitlock: “Only votes on issues qualifying to be placed under the shield of “Executive Session” should be private and kept from the members. Can we be sure that all votes and actions by the board appear in minutes and are available to all the membership?”  
**RESPONSES:** Board motions and votes are posted in the official minutes. Quarterly Board Meetings are held on the FCF Internet forum (members only area) and are viewable “real-time” by the membership. The Annual (Convention) Board Meeting is open for attendance by the membership.

**MEMBER AGENDA/QUESTION ITEM FROM THE FLOOR:** President Chambers recognized one member with an agenda item from the floor.

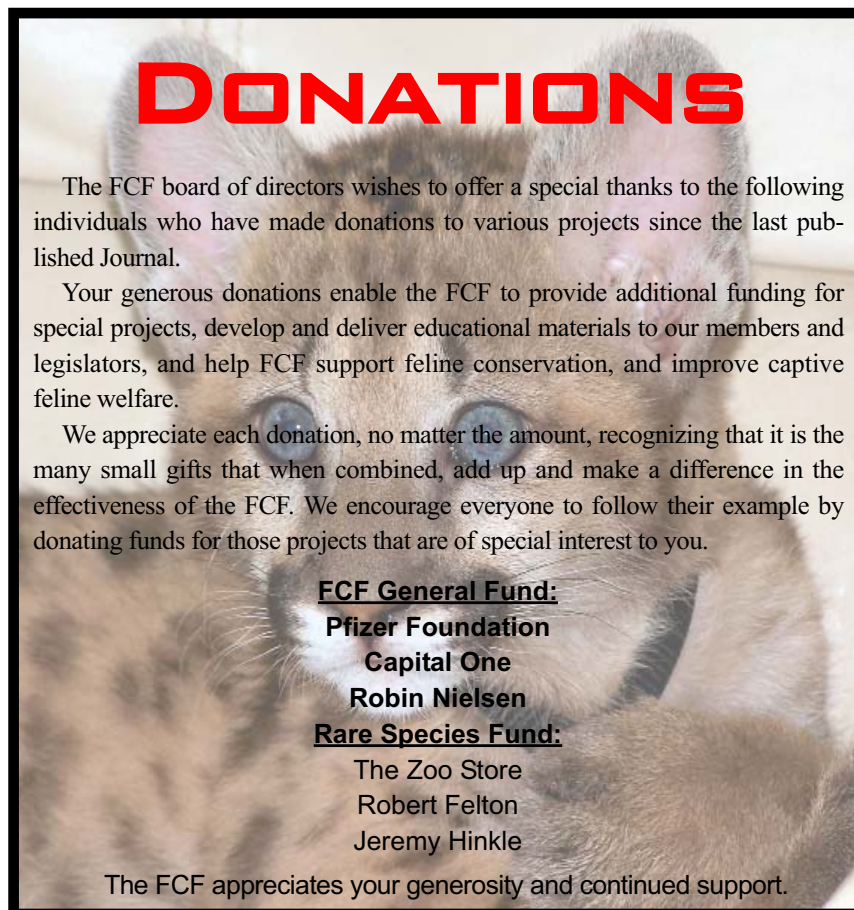
Member – J.B. Anderson: Member Anderson expressed concern about the current voting process and the secrecy of ballots and votes that are cast. He also suggested that the “Annual Convention” should be renamed “Annual Conference.”

**RESPONSES:** The FCF employs an independent accountant who receives the ballots, tallies the votes, reports only the results, and retains possession of the ballots.

**FCF DOCUMENTARY DVD**

The meeting closed with the premier presentation of An In(CAT)venient Truth : The Reality and Importance of Privately Owned Exotic Felines. This eye opening 18-minute documentary DVD was produced and narrated by FCF Director of Legislation, Robert Johnson. The presentation concluded with acclaim and standing applause. It is an absolute “must see/must use” for all of us!

George DeLong  
FCF Secretary



# 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.

**FCF General Fund:**  
**Pfizer Foundation**  
**Capital One**  
**Robin Nielsen**

**Rare Species Fund:**  
**The Zoo Store**  
**Robert Felton**  
**Jeremy Hinkle**

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.





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## Mice



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

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

## Rats



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

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

## Coturnix Quail



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

\* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

## Rabbits




Size	Our Price	Weight (lbs.)	Count
X-Small:	\$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

Size	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



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

\* We offer combined quantity discount guinea pig pricing.



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## MINUTES: 2010 THIRD QUARTER BOARD MEETING FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION

The 2010 Third Quarter Board Meeting was held Thursday, July 29th, as part of the 2010 FCF Annual Convention. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by FCF President Kevin Chambers. Board members present were: Kevin Chambers, Patty Perry, Kurt Beckelman, Robert Johnson, Erin Patters, and George DeLong. A quorum was established, with six of the eleven current board members present. FCF Executive Director Lynn Culver participated in discussions and progress updates. Several FCF members were observers at various times during the meeting.

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

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

The Second Quarter 2010 FCF Board Meeting was held online from May 15, 2010, through May 24, 2010, via the FCF Website forums. The Secretary provided draft minutes to all board members for corrections or comments after the online meeting. There were no corrections and these minutes were printed in the July/August edition of the FCF Journal. Johnson moved to formally ratify the second quarter minutes as printed, and DeLong seconded the motion. Beckelman, Chambers, DeLong, Johnson, Patters, and Perry voted "yes." Motion carried, and the second quarter minutes were ratified as printed in the *Journal*.

***CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND ELECTIONS:*** The board discussed the recently approved amendments to the Constitution that will become effective August 1st, and discussed modifications to the Bylaws that will clarify the changes and facilitate future elections. Draft changes were reviewed, wording was discussed, and a consensus was reached which is summarized below:

(A) Three Directors will be elected,

but they will not be elected to serve in a specific job or committee.

(B) The primary function of the three Directors will be to facilitate the setup and functioning of the seven standing FCF committees that are specified in the Bylaws.

(C) A Director may be appointed to any position on any committee by the FCF Board. A director may hold an appointed position on more than one of the standing committees.

(D) A member may be a candidate for election to one office only.

(E) A properly nominated and eligible member must declare their intent to stand for election and serve if elected, and declare the specific office if nominated for more than one, to the Secretary no later than seven days after the close of the nomination period.

(F) A quorum for a Board meeting is five or more.

(G) As specified in the Constitution, election will be by preferential ballot. Accounting firms and preferential count methods will be evaluated. Those familiar with the Borda count method feel it to be the most representative, and it will be given preference if not overly expensive. After discussion and agreement, Perry moved to incorporate the changes and requirements into the FCF Bylaws. Johnson seconded. Beckelman, Chambers, DeLong, Johnson, Patters, and Perry voted "yes." The changes will be written into the FCF Bylaws and posted on the FCF Website.

***MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:*** Perry moved to appoint Caroline Alexander to serve on the Member Services Committee. Patters seconded. Beckelman, Chambers, DeLong, Johnson, Patters, and Perry voted "yes." Caroline Alexander is appointed to serve on the Member Services Committee.

***FCF ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2011:***

Potential sites were discussed and it was decided to solicit member input, volunteer sites, etc. Chambers pointed out that statistics would show member density in the area of the convention as a significant influence on convention attendance numbers. Chambers moved to appoint Erin Patters as Convention Chair. DeLong seconded. Beckelman, Chambers, DeLong, Johnson, Patters, and Perry voted "yes." Erin Patters is appointed FCF Convention Chair.

***BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION – BYLAW ARTICLE 7.3:*** Current Directors Sylvia Gerber and Elizabeth Whitlock were absent from their second consecutive annual convention meeting. By-Law article 7.3 states "After two (2) years' absence, the Board may disallow any nomination of that person to office." A vote was taken on whether to impose this provision of article 7.3 on the two absent members. Beckelman, Chambers, Johnson, Patters, and Perry voted "yes." DeLong voted "no." Current Directors Gerber and Whitlock will be ineligible for nomination to any office in the upcoming election.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Kurt Beckelman reported the following balances:

OCCU – Checking = \$28,366

Harris – Checking = \$298

ING – Savings = \$63,736

Paypal – \$2,520

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS = \$94,920

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

***LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:*** Robert Johnson reported that the new video, *An In(CAT)venient Truth*, would premier later that evening as a highlight of the general membership meeting. He expressed appreciation for the help, support, and encouragement that he received during the

production of this video.

**EDUCATOR'S COURSE:** The Educator's Course was offered on Wednesday, and several attendees made positive comments about the value and content of the course, as well as the quality of instruction provided by Ron DeArmond. The course received universally high marks as a follow-up and supplement to the Basic Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course.

**RESIGNATIONS – BYLAW ARTICLE 7.7:** The Board was asked to consider this article as it applies to a member who has resigned an office or appointment and is thusly prohibited from running for any office for the next elected term. There was discussion of circumstances, philosophy, etc., but a consensus was that clear and standing bylaws should be evenly applied and enforced.

**MODERATION POLICY – YAHOO CHAT LIST:** The Board went into executive session to discuss problems with the Yahoo chat list, the current moderation policy, and certain individual chat list participants. No final decisions were made, but a board member committee will review history, complaints, list rules and operation, etc., and present recommendations for improving and streamlining the policy to the entire board.

**OFFICER AND DIRECTOR DUTIES AND JOB DESCRIPTION:** Board members agreed to work on drafting a summary of their duties and job descriptions. These would be used as a starting point for transitions, new officers, etc.

Respectfully Submitted:  
George DeLong  
FCF Secretary



**CONVENTION PHOTO CREDITS FOR FACING PAGE:**

(Clockwise from top-left) Jarod Miller and Ishi Stackpole with tiger cub at Tiger Safari Zoo waterfall; Liz Hatton with Geoffroys kitten by Robert Felton; Della Jacot, Debi Willoughby and Jennifer Guertin with lion statues at Oklahoma City Zoo; Jessica Ervin with Peanut the bobcat by Tony Richards

(Center) Black and spotted Geoffroys kittens by Erin Patters

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## Feline Conservation Federation

September/October 2010 Volume 54, Issue 5

Front Cover photo - Photographer Tony Richards used his Nikon D300 with 18-200mm (f 3.5-5.6) DX VR lens to shoot the cover and other convention photos reprinted in this *Journal*. Salty arrived in the company of Fred Boyajian. The well socialized lynx was a big hit with everyone. He left in the company of Lynn Culver and has a new name, Loki, the Norse god of mischief. His future bride is JayLo, a female Siberian lynx imported from Sweden, who anxiously awaits for Loki to grow up.

This page - John Howell uses a Sony Digital Hand-Cam DCR-TRV740 with the digital photo feature to take videos and not have to change cameras when he wants a still shot. Popsy and Akeer were born at the Nashville Zoo in 1996, to two different mothers, and have resided at the Cincinnati Zoo since they were cubs. The beautiful pair are Mohini's great-great-great-grandchildren. They had been sleeping together just before this picture was taken. Pat Callahan is the head cat keeper at the Cincinnati Zoo, and he and his very capable and dedicated staff take excellent care of a very large number of cats, both big and small.

