



Feline Conservation Federation

March/April 2011 • Volume 55, Issue 2



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COVER PHOTO:

Please see the back cover for information about our cover models, Madonna and her cubs.





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

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

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

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

Letters to the editor and guest editorials are also published.

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

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



Feline Conservation Federation

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The FCF board and executive director just returned from two days of meetings in Miami, on February 26th and 27th. Saturday, we joined 19 other students to take the "Wildlife Conservation Educators Course" at Jungle Island, instructed by Ron DeArmond. I highly recommend this class to everyone, whether you intend to become a professional educator or not. At one time or another, it seems every wildcat owner is asked to do a presentation to a group or is asked for an interview by the media. This course gives invaluable insight into preparing for, presenting, and following-up on a presentation. By learning the techniques of properly presenting our information, and ourselves, we can do a much better job of educating the public. By speaking to the general public, we can raise awareness for the plight of wild felines, both in the wild and in captivity. This helps in our battle against bad legislation. The public is inundated with less than truthful information from animal rights groups and certain sanctuary associations. We need to take the offensive and seize opportunities to get our message out. Educating people in small groups, or even individually, will add up and does immense good.

On Sunday, the board spent over nine hours discussing FCF business and devising a plan of action for the upcoming term. Several exciting ideas were presented that should prove to be very beneficial to our members and help cement the FCF as the leading wildlife-related organization. One of these ideas is the formation of a registry/studbook program, presented by our Conservation chair, Pat Callahan. This program will record information on existing cats. Future generations will be able to be pedigreed, which will allow breeders to check genetics and minimize inbreeding. In addition, registering your animals should also increase their value over non-registered animals, as it has for domestic dogs, cats, and other species.

Several committee chair appointments were made: Education - Ron DeAr-

mond; Conservation - Pat Callahan; Legislation - Rob Johnson; Member Services - Caroline Alexander; Youth Education - Debi Willoughby; Development - Erin Patters; Journal Managing Editor - Lynn Culver; and Feline Urgent Response (FUR) Team - Teresa Shaffer. If you would like to serve on any of these committees, please contact the committee chair or a member of the board for more information.

We are still looking for motivated people to head the Marketing and Public Relations committees. These are very important committees. The Public Relations committee duties include writing press releases, handling interview requests from the media, and increasing the public awareness of the FCF. The Marketing committee helps find businesses to provide materials and services that are useful to our members and their cats, and it also markets the FCF to the general public.

The new Feline Urgent Response (FUR) Team, headed by Teresa Shaffer, is intended to be a resource for owners and law enforcement agencies to assist and provide advice in the event of the escape of a wildcat. We will strive to have at least one person in every state as a contact person to act as a coordinator. They will help the capture be a well-coordinated effort that is safe for both the cat and the public. FUR team members will contact

law enforcement agencies, providing them with contact information, much like hazardous material spills have emergency response teams.

The Youth Education Committee that was formed last fall has been hard at work. Under the guidance of Debi Willoughby, they have produced species fact sheets for a soon-to-come Youth section of the FCF website. These will provide good general facts on each species to serve as references for student school reports. The Youth section will also have games and other materials to help the younger generation know and understand wildcats. A bi-monthly email newsletter for youth is in the works, too.

The 40th Annual FCF Convention, in Orlando, continues to build momentum and is shaping up to be one of the best ever. We should have plenty of international flavors, with guests expected to arrive from Asia, Europe, Africa, and Central America. With Orlando being such a great family destination, the Convention committee has made plans to keep our younger members engaged and entertained. Our Friday field trip is child-friendly, and children's activities are scheduled for Saturday, during the speakers' time slots. So, make the trip to Orlando a family affair, because it will be filled with learning and fun. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Bill Meadows is Appointed to the Feline Facility Accreditation Board

Bill Meadows is the founder and director of Tiger Safari Zoological Park in Tuttle, Oklahoma. He was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, and moved to Georgia in the mid-1980s. After living in Georgia for a few years, he moved to Oklahoma and became involved in exotic animals. Bill presently works for the Oklahoma City Fire Department and has been working with exotic animals for over twenty years.

Tiger Safari Zoological Park sits on 45 acres outside of Tuttle, OK. Right now, the park houses over 140 animals, ranging from small reptiles to large lions and tigers, and it employs six people along with more than thirty volunteer participants. The park is actively involved in mentorship programs and college internships during the summer.

After gaining much experience over the years, Bill has designed and built cages for every type of animal, specializing in large and small cats. He has incorporated the best of each zoo and animal facility he has visited throughout the country into his own cages at the park.

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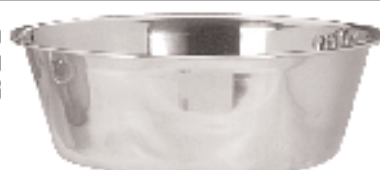


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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Lynn Culver

Many of our members have responded to my inquiries about their recent USDA inspections of large cat habitats. Facilities in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kansas, have had their previously approved facilities written up as non-compliant in the past few months. Since the USDA does not have engineering standards, inspectors do not put in writing what they consider "compliant," only that the existing enclosure is in violation of structural regulations. In interviewing our members, it seems this trend is mainly concentrated in the eastern sector.

One facility written up for its ten-foot tall fences with three-foot kick-ins is Tigers for Tomorrow, an Alabama sanctuary. Sue Stephen, president of the non-profit facility, called the regional office the next day and gained an amended report of the inspection conducted on 10-13-2010, which removed the citation under 3.125(a) for Structural Strength. The USDA inspection report states that the tiger enclosures in question were reviewed by the Regional Office and Field Specialists for Large Felids and determined to be in compliance with currently accepted housing standards.

Other facilities with the same engineering have been cited. Be sure to appeal in writing if you are cited. Every non-compliant item is a potentially fineable offense, and fines can be as high as \$10,000, something that should not be taken lightly. If your experience leads you to believe your large cats are not at risk of escape; if they are contented, elderly, compromised; if your habitat is large; if you utilize electric hot wires for safety; then the athletic ability of a single tiger confined in a modest-sized open top compound, in a high-traffic exhibit, should not be compared to your situation. I am still gathering information and I would appreciate all members cited as non-compliant to contact me.

On February 26th, I took the Wildlife Conservation Educators course led by Ron DeArmond at Jungle Island, in Miami, Florida. This location offered the students a unique opportunity to see wildlife educators in a professional setting with a variety of ambassador animals. Unknown to

the FCF when the amphitheater was reserved for our class, this was one of the busiest weekends of the year, with the Food Festival bringing in guest chefs, cooking demonstrations, and free food. The show schedule was doubled and our available class time was shorter than normal, but Ron managed to cover the entire lesson anyway and students did double-time to complete their examinations.

Beside the stage, I saw the original 12-foot tall fencing, now extended another eight feet since Mahesh, the infamous flying tiger, escaped the confines of his habitat last September. I stared at the compound, trying to imagine that amazing feat, Mahesh jumping high enough to reach the top of the fence, hitting the two-foot kickback, flipping over it, and falling outside. We finished up the day's class nearby at an area of picnic tables, grading exams. This was close to where Mahesh must have wandered. It is truly a testament to the superior genetics of this tabby tiger, the good nature of Mahesh, and the positive effects of hand rearing and affection training, that his temporary foray among the visiting public did not result in any injury of man or beast. With the now 20-foot tall fences in place, it will never happen again. But the after-effects of that fateful day are now impacting the quality of life of many innocent big cats. While Jungle Island can afford to raise its fences another eight feet, other tigers living in larger habitats will have the quality of their lives reduced because not every facility can afford the cost of such an enormous upgrade.

The FCF is working to census not only our members' felines, but also all wild felines in captivity. We know captive breeding is in decline, and available captive habitat is disappearing. The rhetoric about "backyard tigers" by animal rights spokespersons is completely unfounded. By documenting the captive population, the FCF can set the record straight on tigers and all feline species. I will be updating the FCF as this project progresses, but each member can help by updating your feline census in the members-only section. If you have never registered, please do today.

I wish to thank each and every member who contributed to this *Journal* issue. This issue focuses on husbandry, the one area that makes us unique in the world of

wildlife conservation and animal welfare organizations. We not only care about cats, we alone care for cats. Terri Werner relates events surrounding an episode of canine distemper in tigers. Kathy Thomas shares her secret to gaining cooperation at the vet's. Keeping felines happy and stimulated is the goal of every conscientious keeper, and Becky Kunkel has examined and reported on what works and what doesn't for servals. This issue unveils the first installment of a three-part husbandry series by Lea Juanakais. Inspired by a terrible tragedy, Lea is commended for helping others prevent a similar loss. The "Blast from the Past" was chosen after I received a call asking for help with hyperesthesia from a lady in Belgium, Europe. This terrible anxiety/seizure disorder continues to strike servals. Another article came from Russia and is an excellent example of how FCF members, and our captive cats, can directly contribute to the survival of the world's most endangered feline, the Iberian lynx. Shortly after the groundbreaking success in captive breeding of this species, siblicide left one cub dead, and further episodes demanded research and answers. An email for help arrived at the executive director's office. The North American bobcat shares this species' trait of cub aggression, and FCF members experienced with captive rearing of bobcat and Canada lynx are asked to share their knowledge with the authors. Finally, this *Journal* contains the latest on convention events and news of our special guest speaker, Li Quan, founder of Save China's Tigers. It is the actions by determined private citizens like Li, uniting with people worldwide, that give hope that one day the roar of the Chinese tiger will be heard echoing in the wilderness for generations to come.

This *Journal* has been mailed to Florida feline license holders because we want every Florida facility owner, employee, and volunteer to know they are invited to the FCF 40th anniversary convention in Orlando. Whether zoo, education center, private owner, or sanctuary, if you share a desire to learn about captive husbandry and are passionate about feline conservation, we welcome you into our federation. A convention registration and membership form is included in this *Journal* and I hope you will consider attending, so we can meet in June!



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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



Less than						
Size	500	500	1000+	Grams	Oz.	Count
1 Day:	\$0.39	\$0.34	\$0.29	7.50 - 10.00	.25	100
1 Week:	\$0.69	\$0.64	\$0.59	30.00 - 40.00	1.0	25
2 Week:	\$0.89	\$0.84	\$0.79	50.00 - 75.00	2.5	10
3 Week:	\$1.14	\$1.09	\$1.04	100.00 - 125.00	4.0	10
6 Week:	\$1.44	\$1.34	\$1.24	130.00 - 150.00	5.0	5
8 Week:	\$1.54	\$1.44	\$1.34	155.00 - 185.00	6.5	5
10 Week:	\$1.74	\$1.64	\$1.54	190.00 - 225.00	8.0	5

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits

	Size	Our Price	Weight (lbs.)	Count
X-Small:		\$4.00	0.50 - 0.75	1
Small:		\$5.00	1.00 - 1.75	1
Medium:		\$6.00	2.00 - 3.75	1
Large:		\$7.00	4.00 - 5.75	1
X-Large:		\$8.00	6.00 - 7.75	1
XX-Large:		\$9.00	8.00 - 9.75	1
XXX-Large:		\$10.00	10.00 - 11.75+	1



Chicks

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



Guinea Pigs

	Less Than					
Size	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

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CANINE DISTEMPER IN BIG CATS

By Terri Werner, Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge

In 2005, we had a female tiger die from canine distemper. At the time, our veterinarians had not really heard of this and, frankly, we did not know much about it either. It was after we lost our tiger that we learned about vaccinating big cats for canine distemper. When the disease was diagnosed through a necropsy by Texas A & M, many people in the cat community started calling me, asking me what the symptoms were, as they felt like one of their cats had died from it also, but had not been diagnosed. I recently talked to another person who was dealing with canine distemper in some young jaguars,

the fight. I checked her over again to make sure we did not miss any major wounds. At the same time, her litter mate, Gunther, also acted like he did not feel good. For the next couple of days, they both laid around a lot and lost interest in their food. We had them both on penicillin, then switched over to Baytril and took blood. Everything was normal on the blood. By August 26th, Gunther had greatly improved and was almost back to his normal self, so we figured Kiarra would soon be bouncing around again. We continued with antibiotics and fluids. Her only symptoms were increased lethargy and a lack of interest in her food, although she would eat some of it, especially if I hand-fed her. Her temperature

surgery, but found nothing. If I had known what was going on, I would have euthanized her, but since we could not determine what was causing the problem, we kept working on her. We continued with the fluid therapy, antibiotics, tube feeding, and kept her on cooling pads to combat her spiking fevers. By September 15th, she could no longer stand. She started having facial tics, spasms, clenching her front toes, drooling, and her eyes were dilated. We knew there was nothing we could do; she was wasting away.

Since none of the tests had come back with any new information, a necropsy was what finally revealed that she had canine distemper virus. Canine distemper virus (CDV) spreads through aerosol droplets and contact with infected bodily fluids, including nasal and ocular secretions, feces, and urine, usually six to 22 days after exposure. It can also be spread through food and water contaminated with these fluids. The time between infection and disease is 14 to 18 days, although there can be a fever from three to six days post-infection. Clinical signs include: anorexia, gastrointestinal and/or respiratory disease, followed by seizures.

Since we all live in rural settings, we are susceptible to native wildlife or unvaccinated dogs in the area carrying this disease. The domestic dog has largely been responsible for introducing canine distemper to previously unexposed wildlife and now presents a serious conservation threat to many species of carnivore and some species of marsupial. The virus has contributed to the near extinction of the black-footed ferret. It also may have played a considerable role in the extinction of the thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) and recurring mortality among African wild dogs. In 1991, the lion population in Serengeti, Tanzania, experienced a 20% decline as a result of the disease. CDV has also mutated to form phocid distemper virus, which affects seals.

Felines dying from canine distemper is not something that exotic cat owners are usually aware of. I am hoping that this article will inform owners of this previously unknown danger, so that they can take the necessary precautions to protect their animals against this virus.



When canine distemper hits a big cat, it can become a life and death situation. Cool, wet cloths have been put on this tiger in order to relieve the high fevers that the virus can cause in as soon as three days after infecting an animal. Photo courtesy of Terri Werner.

and she had to tell her veterinarians to check for this. So, if you have tests run on a cat, make sure you tell them specifically to test for canine distemper.

Here is our experience with the disease. Our female tiger was four years old and living with her sibling, mother, and two other tigers that she grew up with. On August 22, 2005, Kiarra got into a fight with one of the other females. Nothing bad, just a couple of puncture wounds, so we started her on penicillin. The next day, she acted sore and moved around a bit slowly. She just did not seem to feel good, but we brushed it off as a result of

was normal up until Sept. 6th, when it reached 103°F. We ran more blood work and tests for the normal feline diseases, continuing with antibiotics and fluids. Everything was coming back normal.

By September 8th, Kiarra started to walk a little stiffly in the hindquarters. She acted like her stomach was hurting. We took her to the vet to run some x-rays, and upon examination, her abdomen seemed swollen with gas. We thought there may be a possible blockage since she was off her food, walking like she hurt, and not going to the bathroom. The veterinarian opened her up for exploratory

SAFARI'S TRIP TO THE VET

By Kathy Thomas

This is a short "Serval Goes to the Vet" story. Our serval "Safari," whom you already met in the *FCF Journal July/August 2008*, is actually the second serval to grace our household. Our first beloved animal, "Rafiki," had an all-too-short life of only 10 years. She died of kidney failure, despite all our efforts of fluids and special diet, etc. One thing we learned (too late) which may have damaged her kidneys was her annual vet visit. She was sedated with isoflurane for inspection, injections, etc., and I learned that this can damage the kidneys! Not wanting to make the same mistake twice, we take Safari to the vet with no anesthesia and relatively no problems! No, he really does not like the vet, but we have a secret weapon!

Safari has a "toy" which he literally would do anything to get, but he only gets to interact with it when we are at the vet's. It is actually a lamb's wool duster on a handle, but Safari is crazy for it! We release him from his carrier in the exam room with harness and leash already on. Our wonderful vet, Dr. Vicki Marsh, comes in to discuss any problems and

which vaccinations the cat will receive. With everything in order, I take the toy out of the waiting paper bag and, voila, the serval goes where ever the toy is, which in this case is up on the exam table!

I let him get a good grasp on the duster, then gently tug as if trying to take it away. He grips it all the more firmly, while I put my arm around his body just behind the shoulders. At that point, Dr. Marsh can do almost anything with the remaining two thirds of the animal, including shots, palpations, general health analysis, etc. The vet is very adept and quickly finishes anything she has to do. No anesthesia and no danger to anyone! Our only problem is getting the duster away from Safari long enough to get him back in the carrier! This method has worked beautifully for three years now. I hope this gives others with vet visit

problems an idea of something that might work for them.



Safari shows off his favorite toy. Once he gets ahold of it, the vet can even give him shots without worry. Photo courtesy of Kathy Thomas.

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ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE NEEDED FOR FCF COMMITTEES!

These committees need your involvement to help the FCF move forward. You can get on board by contacting the respective chairs or a member of the board.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES– (aka Welcoming Committee)

Members - chair Caroline Alexander (membershipservices@felineconservation.org), Robert Hohn, Carol Cochran

Makes first contact with new members by phone, encourages participation in FCF programs, including facility accreditation, feline census, handler registration, annual convention, husbandry and educator's classes, yahoo discussion group

Explains access to members only website, how to use archive DVD

Answers questions, or forwards questions to board for answers

Surveys new members about their impressions of the FCF

Explains FCF committees and invites new members to volunteer for committees

Keeps a log of contacts and reports to board monthly on status of welcoming new members

Contacts members who have joined in the past year for the same purpose

Proposes and develops FCF member benefits, such as member discount program for facility admittance, and member store products

Promotes benefits for facility accreditation to members

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members - Chair Ron DeArmond (education@felineconservation.org)

Seeks out and lines up husbandry and educator's courses

Updates info taught in husbandry and educator's course and basic cat care book

Seeks out other organizations that may have educational benefits for the FCF membership

Develops new ideas for improving the education aspect of FCF for the members' section of the website

Encourages participation in registered handler program

Develops mentor lists by species and action based on registered handler program

CAPTIVE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Members – Chair Pat Callahan (conservation@felineconservation.org), Laura Reeder

Develops materials to explain and promote captive conservation to media, public, and members

In charge of feline species registration program and encourages participation

Reports on status of captive populations

Encourages participation in feline facility accreditation

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Members - Chair Robert Johnson (legislation@felineconservation.org), Amy Flory

Updates the information on the FCF website concerning state and federal laws

Searches out introduced legislation and regulations and makes membership aware

Reviews proposed regulatory changes and makes recommendations for member comments

Develops new ideas for improving the legislative aspect of the FCF

Encourages members to volunteer as state representatives

Develops resource materials for field representative program in members-only website

Sends legislative action alerts by website email and by phone when members do not have email access

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Members - Chair OPEN (publicrelations@felineconservation.org), Lynn Culver, Jim Fowler

Individually or collectively writes FCF press releases

When the FCF is contacted for comment, helps locate appropriate contact

Develops a plan for promoting the FCF's programs and services to the media

Develops ideas for keeping the FCF website current and informative

Searches out events and publication which the FCF can be promoted through

Develops new ideas for improving the public relations aspect of the FCF

Develops the FCF Facebook, MySpace, and other internet social networking opportunities

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Members - Chair- Open (marketing@felineconservation.org)

Searches out FCF advertising opportunities

Searches out organizations for reciprocal advertising

Solicits companies and organization to advertise in the FCF *Journal*

Solicits vendors and sponsors for the FCF

convention with the convention chair

Solicits sponsors for other FCF programs

Develops advertising materials for FCF events for distribution in print and Internet

Develops FCF branding

Encourages members to provide links on their websites

Develops member referral incentive program and promotes participation

In charge of new ideas for improving the marketing aspect of the FCF

DEVELOPMENT (aka fund raising) COMMITTEE

Members - Chair Erin Patters (development@felineconservation.org), Lynn Culver

Finds grant writer(s)

Comes up with new fundraising methods

Works with and implements ideas for fund raising for FCF funds, such as conservation, rare species, safety net, speaker fund and any other funds

In charge of researching, choosing, stocking the FCF website store with products for sale and filing and shipping orders

In charge of Internet advertising

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Members - Chair Erin Patters (convention@felineconservation.org), Kevin Chambers, April White, Marc Veseskis

In charge of oversight of convention location, speakers, events

Calculates cost and determines registration fees

Registers members at convention

Provides hospitality services at convention

WILDCAT SAFETY NET COMMITTEE

Members - Chair Carolyn Alexander (wildcatsafetynet@felineconservation.org), John Chuha, Lynn Culver, Kevin Chambers

Promotes Safety Net Fund on the FCF website and *Journal*

Proposes ideas and methods for funding

Reviews grants requests and makes recommendations for funding to board of directors

FELINE URGENT RESPONSE TEAM (aka FUR TEAM)

Members - Chair Teresa Shaffer (director@felineconservation.org), Mindy Stinner

Develops programs to aid in the recapture of wild felines

Produces reference materials and guidance to law enforcement agencies faced with an escaped wild feline.

WILDLIFE EDUCATOR'S COURSE REVIEW

By Alexandra J. Brielmayer

As possibly the newest and youngest member of the FCF, I was asked to write a review of the educator's school held in Miami, from the perspective of a young, female feline handler with exotic vet

school aspirations. I attended the school as a member of the Panama City Bear Creek Feline Center delegation, with Craig De Rosa and Jim and Bertie Broadus. Jim recommended that I join the FCF and urged me to attend this school as I continue to log more hours to satisfy the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's requirement for my Class II Felidae license.

I have not yet attended the FCF Husbandry School, so this was my first exposure to FCF doctrine. Please think of me as a "clean slate." I know nothing of the politics of the FCF and I am quite apolitical, as I do not fancy myself as a people worker or a joiner. I

am proudly a dedicated feline advocate with an eye to the future as I aspire to build a sanctuary with the likes of Jim Fowler and the Broadus staff. With that said, I will apologize in advance if this article is offensive to anyone.

I will start with the positives that I took away as a young handler aspirant. The book that was written by Ron DeArmond, Feline Animal Ambassadors Handbook, and a book on the Introduction to Wildlife Education Programming were extremely helpful, perfect references for the future. I also met a lot of other students, staff, and members of the FCF who are very valuable contacts that I will absolutely make use of in the future. The bird show was the best ever!

Unfortunately, the course was chocked full of facts, as Pella Wildlife Company's Ron DeArmond made his way briskly through his powerpoint lecture, while I feverishly answered over 150 test questions in open book fashion. The outdoor venue was certainly more than adequate from the standpoint of tolerable seating and lighting. But the ambient noise from



Students do their best to focus on the lesson given by the FCF's Ron DeArmond at Miami's Jungle Island last month.

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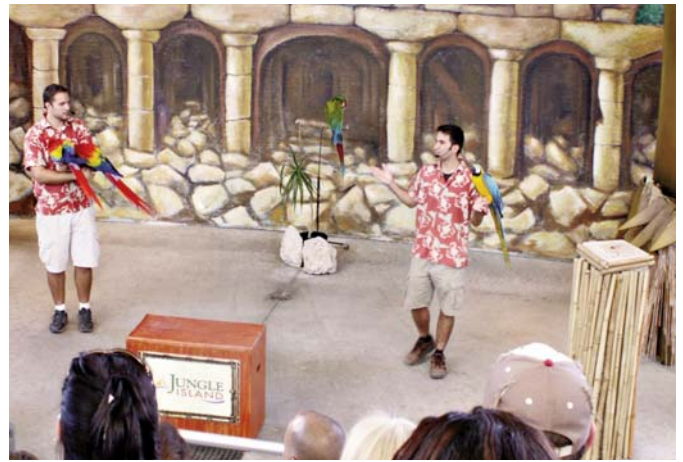
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traffic, overflying aircraft, and other Jungle Adventure tourists did at times win the battle over the EV speaker system. For me, there was a bit too much going on at one time and I just couldn't make adequate notes on the lecture materials. This made me think and feel what the animals there must feel like, which is more important than anything to me! I did make a 100 on the test, however, but at the expense of losing my focus on the speaker's presentation.

I would like to advance this idea for the board's consideration: Why not allow future students the opportunity to take the test with them to be completed at home and returned by mail within, say, 48 hours? The certificate of satisfactory completion could be sent to each student by return mail. Since it's an open book exam... there is really no way to cheat, even if the student opted to be dishonest!

If I were asked for a wish list of things I would have liked to have seen, it would include a tour through the backstage area of the complex. I assume that not many of us have seen how a liger is kept or how show prep for two tiger cubs, a liger cub, and a Siberian lynx cub is kept tight and on cue.

Please keep in mind that my purpose is to learn more about feline conservation and how I might present the Bear Creek cats to tour groups in a modest, but well-functioning, environment. Director Jim Broaddus cautions his staff about wearing too much make-up and that we should wear loose fitting clothing for safety reasons as a BCFC presenter. The cat show that we saw down in Miami was highly produced, with an "Indiana Jones," all-female staff. Certainly okay for tourists, but far different from the way we do it here in Panama City. We want our guests to compare their preconceived notions about cats in captivity with our exhibits of happy cats. I must also say that I was really taken aback by the tiger cub sprawled across the lap of five paying customers as they posed for a \$50 photo. The cub was given a bottle for a few minutes to calm him, but the calming effect



Educator's course participants were treated to the exotic bird show at Jungle Island.

soon disappeared after the bottle was abruptly taken away from him. I could hear his protests as he waited for the next act in the backstage wings.

To conclude, it might not seem like it, but I consider this experience to be invaluable. With just a little "tweaking," this FCF school can become spot on. The FCF has a top-notch staff with a good grasp of the subject material. I display my certificate with honor and look forward to the convention in Orlando!

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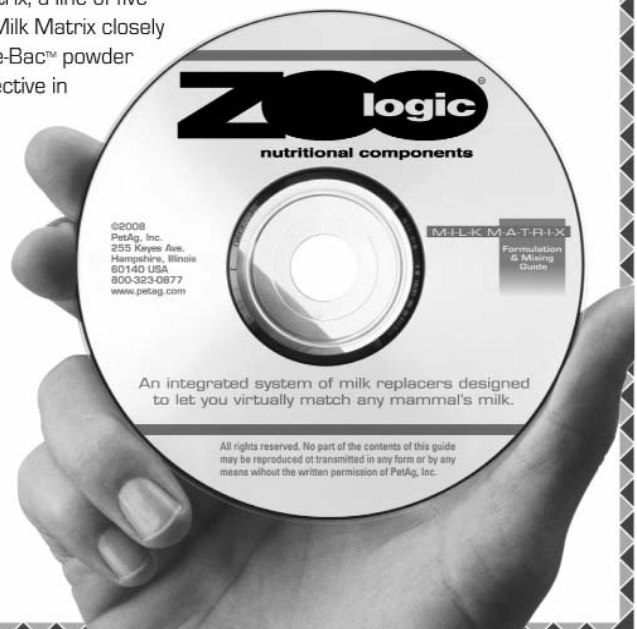
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Eden Tran

How many of us have never slowed down to catch a glimpse at the scene of a car accident? Not many, I would guess. Being the morbidly curious people that we naturally are, we crane our necks looking for that flash of blood or sight of some unfortunate person laid out by the side of the road or placed on a gurney by the EMTs. As I sit down to write this, I'm counting the days, no, the hours, until my own impatient, morbid curiosity can be satisfied. I'm talking about Animal Planet's season premiere of "Fatal Attractions!" And I doubt that I'm the only one. It's gut-wrenching to hear the devastating stories about how other people's beloved animals suddenly turn against them, tearing apart their lives and breaking their hearts. It's so hard to watch, yet it's even harder to look away. "Fatal Attractions" is the ultimate car wreck for animal lovers. And it also, unfortunately, shows exotics owners in just about the worst light possible. Despite how entertaining productions like this can be, they truly run counterproductive to the agendas of organizations like the FCF.

I'm a relative newcomer to the world of exotic animals as pets and large animal husbandry. But I do come from a long line of animal lovers, including an older

brother who's a veterinarian and wildlife biologist with several years of work under his belt with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Everglades, gathering data to better conservation efforts to protect our nation's precious Florida panthers. An obvious role model for me, he provided the expertise and opportunities which eventually led me to a degree in zoology from Auburn University. In the past, I've done research with pond slider turtles, a couple of projects focusing on native bat populations in New Mexico and Alabama, and overseen the husbandry of several colonies of transgenic mice and rats used in medical research for Louisiana State University. I'm fairly well-versed in the concepts of scientific research and wildlife conservation, but the ownership of and advocating for captive big cats is, pardon the expression, a "cat" of a completely different color! I'm still learning about the major players and many of the important issues facing the FCF and our compatriots worldwide. But I'm so pleased to have found work with an organization that I can believe in! As FCF Journal editor, I hope that my passion for animals and their well-being can play a part in furthering the cause and helping to strengthen the impact which our group seeks to have on the adversity the exotic feline community

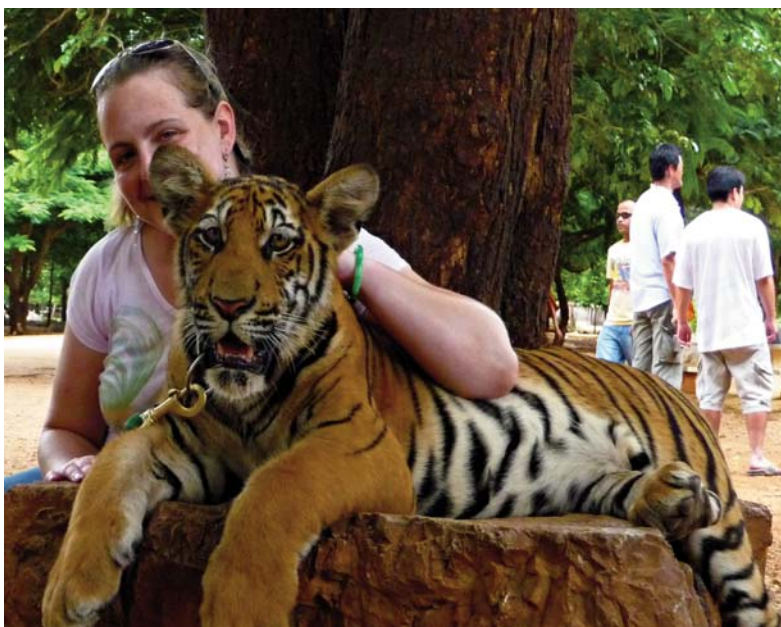
presently faces.

As a recent outsider, I've noticed an obstacle – the media and their misinformation – which has raised its ugly head time and time again. Negative publicity goes a long way toward influencing the general public, whose ignorance facilitates the dissemination



Dr. Emmett Blankenship, DVM, taking biological samples and giving vaccinations to Florida panther #166, the first capture of the winter 2009 population evaluation in Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida.

of false information, including the skewed idea that the tragic and sometimes fatal interactions with exotic cats we all keep hearing about are the norm, instead of the extreme exception that they truly represent. The media love to terrify the average Joes of the world with sensationalized accounts, like the deadly attack on the teen who had supposedly been provoking a tiger at a San Francisco zoo, the unfortunate (and innocuous) accidental escape of Mahesh at Jungle Island in Miami, or the recent fatal incident in China. These events serve to remind those within the realm of exotics of the importance of respecting the power and instincts of our animals, and also ensuring that enclosures are in compliance with USDA standards and are more than adequate to contain and protect our "savage beasts." Unfortunately, such exaggerated accounts are met with a wholly different reaction from the general masses. I can see this in direct comparison to other media narratives that have led to chaotic, false impressions. Remember back when the "deadly" swine flu broke out? In Texas, we were treated to daily tallies of how many people had succumbed to the virus. Television



Communing with one of the tiger cubs being hand-raised by Buddhist monks at the Wat Pa Luangta Bua Yannasampanno Forest Monastery in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, June 2009.

reporters loved horrifying their viewers with statistics that put even the healthiest people on the defense. One report in the Houston Chronicle of October 2009, declared that 11 deaths in the Houston area had been attributed to the H1N1 strain, which they insisted “should awaken people to the threat.” What threat? Did they bother to compare those deaths to other causes of mortality? What about motor vehicle fatalities for the same time period? Of course not. If they did, then those 11 deaths wouldn’t seem quite so sensationalistic, would they? And so it goes with accidents and fatalities related to big cats and other exotic animals in captivity. To the uninformed, average citizen, reports of violence and the inherent danger of exhibiting or owning exotics can lead to an increased call for bans and perpetuate the bad name that captive big cats have been given.

So, how can we defend our cats against this reputation and wage war on such an insidious enemy? Education, education, education! We can combat this widespread, ignorance-born fear with positive accounts that reflect the immense importance of responsible and safe captive ownership and husbandry, less restrictive legislation, and the conservation efforts imperative to the survival of our planet’s priceless feline species that still inhabit the wild. (Not to mention the species already absent in nature that we are working tirelessly to reintroduce back into their indigenous ranges!) With these factors in mind, my spirits have been lifted in light of the extraordinary efforts made by Doc Antle, Robert Johnson, and other FCF members, to share with the public and government officials what a benefit it can be to have our exotic felid friends within our midst. What an impact they’ve had! If we can continue to combine our immense energies and keep working together to make the true state of big (and small) wild cats known, maybe we can eventually turn around the public’s perception of them and gain more voices to advocate for the cause. Regardless of how the media taints even the most innocent of situations, it’s still so important for animal welfare proponents, conserva-

tionists, researchers, and the whole spectrum of exotic feline enthusiasts to stand their ground. But I’m preaching to the choir, right?

I suppose that by being such a novice to the big cat community, it’s easy to get carried away and be overly ardent about wanting to play a part and make a difference. But, really, I’ve been this way my whole life, beginning with wanting to save the West Indian manatee in the fourth grade – an endeavor which I support to this day! Even though I’ve participated in various capacities to improve the lives of many animals, being counted among the FCF membership truly feels like a step up for me. If I were still an outsider and watched “Fatal Attractions,” I don’t know what I’d be thinking! Luckily, I’ve been afforded positive role models and a proper education, which I plan to expand upon every chance I get. With these advantages

in mind, I feel confident in taking on whatever opportunities come my way to educate others, support the FCF in all of its endeavors, and lend my aid to responsible exotic cat owners whenever the need arises. And maybe, just maybe, I can hope that my involvement will somehow increase the possibility that our children and their children in years to come will be able to enjoy the majesty and beauty of all feline species, whether captive or in their natural habitats, enjoying an improved existence, as well as a more positive, respectful estimation in the eyes of the world. So, I’ll continue to be entertained by “Fatal Attractions” and the like, but I’ll always keep in mind these horror stories are few and far between, while the rest of the exotic feline world waits to be redeemed by those of us truly passionate enough to make a difference.



group 1



group 2

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



group 3



YOUNG LYNX PROVE TO BE FIGHTERS

By Anastasia Antonevich and Sergey Naidenko

We described siblicide and early aggression in lynx litters in 1994 (Sokolov et al., 1994). Since that time, we have seen a lot of variation in the fighting, although the general scenario is always the same. When cubs are small, they spend most of their time with the mother or playing with siblings. One day, without any obvious reason, while just sitting together or otherwise innocently passing the time, they switch into a mode of enormous spontaneous aggression against fellow littermates. It starts with a totally sudden (from an observer's point of view) attack on one of the cubs. A cub approaches its sibling, biting it in the neck and belly, while the victim defends itself by biting back and pushing the aggressor with its paws. The first encounter can be resolved by the cubs themselves, but the following ones are more difficult and fighting cubs must be separated by the mother. Cubs grapple at each other in a furry, screaming ball. It is really hard to imagine that these killers are the same pretty, small creatures you had seen before. The mother reacts immediately and grabs the cubs with her paws, bites, growls, and throws the cubs in opposite directions. It looks horrible and sounds even worse.

After the attack, the victim stays in the back, screaming and growling, trying to defend itself from everything, including its mother. Cubs may get specific injuries and traumas, usually bites to the paws or, in the worst cases, in the neck with subcutaneous bleeding. Broken fingers and legs, and sometimes even death, can be the results of such a fight.

These altercations differ from the other types of behavior in cubs. They are based on aggressive interactions without any ritualized elements such as threats. The fight starts from "nothing;" it is not the result of an escalation of any competitive interac-



tions or "hard" play. It has nothing to do with the scrambling competition for nipples and threats related to food. This fight looks totally different from those stemming from a moment of "hard play." An attack is usually short, lasting from just seconds to minutes, and then is diffused by the mother. The whole fighting event becomes focused on the cubs trying to reach each other, and a fight can last up to several days with Eurasian and Iberian lynx.

These fights occur during a short period of lynx ontogenesis, in naturally-raised litters at the age of 36-64 days (6th -10th weeks). Primarily, it was described in Eurasian lynx (Sokolov et al, 1994; Antonevich, Naidenko, 2007). In Eurasian lynx litters, 60 % of fights were observed during the 7th week of life. Naturally, this fighting occurs only once during the life of a litter, but when artificially separated, cubs continue to be aggressive for weeks and even months; this fight may

even be repeated at the time of litter reunion. The age at which cubs are being aggressive varies, so it is hard to predict the exact day of a fight. In Iberian lynx, the rarest feline on Earth, the same type of fights were observed in almost all of the litters, including the hand-raised pairs (Vargas et al., 2005).

We have recently been investigating a phenomenon of sibling aggression in the Eurasian and Iberian lynx (Antonevich et al., 2009). The goals of the research are to pinpoint probable triggers and consequences of these fights, as well as estimating how the fights affect the cubs' development and behavior. This knowledge

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can help to lessen mitigating factors in Iberian lynx recovery. Some distinctions are much clearer now, most importantly knowing that these fights are not escalated by food competition and the aggression appears in situations even with an overwhelming food supply. We have been told that bobcats also exhibit this sibling aggression. What we wish to learn is how

frequent this type of ritualized fighting occurs in bobcats, and might it also happen in Canada lynx? Our experience reveals that these fights are happening with hand-raised animals as well as in the wild, so we would appreciate feedback related to the presence of early sibling aggression in these two North American lynx species. Do you know anything

about these fights? Have you found any cubs with spontaneous traumas at this age?

If you have any information pertinent to our studies, please write to us at anastasia-antonevich@yandex.ru, describing for us what species are involved and at what age. Your knowledge can be very useful, so thank you!

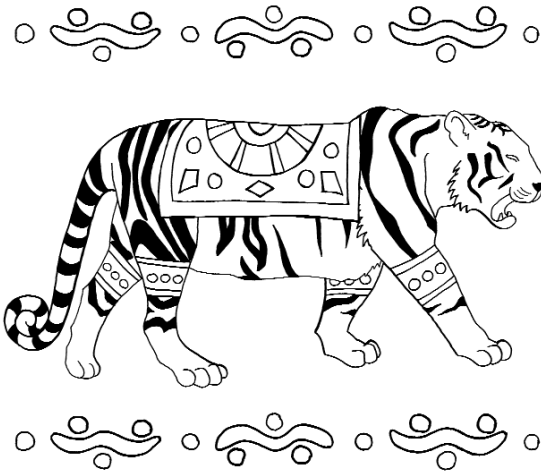
A LETTER TO THE JOURNAL

Hello Lynn, Eden, and the *Journal* staff,

The last issue was really good, as usual. It reminded me of a story to share. In reference to the article about the serval going back home, I had a very similar experience, only it was an ocelot.

We took in Sylvester way back when, probably early 70s. He sired many a kitten. His folks lived in Canada, I can't remember their names :). More than a year later and probably closer to two years, the family came to Florida on "holiday" and visited us. They pulled up in the driveway and were talking as they got out of the car, parents and kids. Sylvester, who could not see them from his cage, called (talked?) over and over in a voice I never heard previously and never did again. Sweet story, but in a way, sad.

Take care,
Jean Hatfield



CALLING ALL MEMBERS: JOIN THE F.U.R. TEAM! (FELINE URGENT RESPONSE)

The FCF is organizing a committee to aid in finding and rescuing lost or escaped exotic felines! The goal is to have members in different parts of the country be trained and able to reach each state's local law enforcement, fish and game, etc., to provide a contact to assist in these situations when needed.

We must be able to present ourselves in a professional and trained manner. Being a registered handler and even being certified in safe capture would be preferred (You can find out more about getting certified by going to www.safe-capture.com). Please contact me for more information.

Teresa Shaffer

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BLAST FROM THE PAST - "HYPERESTHESIA: OVER-SENSITIVITY TO TOUCH AND LIGHT PRESSURE"

FCF Newsletter
Volume 47 Issue 1 January/February 2003

By Lynn Culver

Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome is a relatively rare condition that is also known as rolling-skin syndrome, neurodermatitis, neuritis, psychomotor epilepsy, and pruritic dermatosis. The Oriental breeds of domestic cats, like the Siamese, seem to be more predisposed than other breeds to developing this condition. It has also been reported in exotics, mainly servals.

The typical cat is otherwise healthy. It may be an excessively nervous or excitable animal, or may have a recent history of environmental changes that have led to emotional distress. The onset of Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome starts with the rippling of the skin at the dorsum of the back and biting or licking at the tail, flank, or pelvis. The animal's eyes can become glassy, with widely dilated pupils, and it may seem as if it is having hallucinations, as it exhibits frantic meowing, swishing of the tail, running crazy around the house, and attacking objects, including the owner, without provocation. The cats may even have generalized seizures. Signs may last from only seconds to several minutes, with no apparent pattern as to when they occur.

There is no universally agreed upon answer as to what is, and what causes, Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome. I spent some time interviewing Dr. Nicholas Dodman, author of the book titled *The Cat Who Cried for Help*. Dr. Dodman teaches at Tufts University and specializes in animal behavior. He relates in his book his extensive experience treating this syndrome. He lectures about this mysterious disorder as well, and he spent some time conversing with me by phone, explaining several theories which abound.

Dr. Dodman is of the opinion that this is mainly an obsessive-compulsive disorder, and he has had good results by administering anti-obsession and anti-anxiety drugs, such as Prozac and Valium. Some of his colleagues, however, believe that this is basically a neurological seizure disorder that, if untreated, will progress to frank epileptic seizures. These veterinarians have had their feline patients respond to

the anti-seizure medication Phenobarbital. Still others in the veterinary community feel it is a genetic disorder, passed down from generation to generation. Finally, some feel that there are many different expressions of Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome.

Dr. Dodman told me of a pathology study that reported on the condition of muscle tissue samples taken near the spinal column of six different patients, and each exhibited evidence of viral myositis, such as the very slow-developing prion-type virus or even a type of encephalitis.

What we do know is that it appears to flare up in periodic bouts, with different apparent triggering mechanisms and, in some cases, no obvious reason for the episode can be determined. Many times this syndrome does begin after an injury to the tail or dorsal spine region, or surgery to that region, as if it were possibly tied to the sympathetic nervous system. Dilated eyes also suggest involvement of the sympathetic nervous system. This is not a hard and fast rule, as there are also cases where no previous injury existed and no surgery has been performed.

Dr. Dodman further related that some researchers theorize that the anesthesia is the triggering agent, noting cases where hyperesthesia has surfaced after an operation requiring sedation. Ketamine and Telazol, drugs used for sedation, are known to cause hallucinations, and some believe that the individuals afflicted by this syndrome are reliving "flashbacks" caused by previous administrations of anesthesia.

Dr. Dodman relayed patient histories to me where a bout would be preceded by the feline jerking its head back, eyes dilating, and it begins looking toward the corner of the room, as if seeing something

and reacting to the hallucination. I expressed to Dr. Dodson, upon hearing this description, that it seemed more likely to me that the poor cat was recognizing the unmistakable body cues of an oncoming hyperesthesia episode and was aware it would soon escalate to severe body discomfort. In the feline's mind, the discomfort or pain had to be caused by someone or something, so it may be looking for the cause in an attempt to prevent it from recurring. Imagine the fear and anger you would feel if you knew you were about to experience pain. If this were true, it could help explain why a feline might suddenly act crazy and aggressive, attacking an owner without cause, vocalizing all the while. Perhaps these felines are screaming – "Out, demon, OUT!!!"

With the hereditary theory, the individual is believed to be pre-disposed to acquiring the condition, but the exact timing can be triggered by external stimuli. It is pre-wired to happen though, regardless of injury, viral infection, or drug reaction.

Confusing? Definitely. More study is needed before the veterinary community can agree upon definitive answers. What is known, however, is that Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome does occur in captive servals. Internet lists have posted several accounts of this condition in servals, along with pleas for help.



Witnessing an attack of hyperesthesia in a pet serval can be a truly stressful experience, as this neurologic syndrome causes possible hallucinations and seizures.

Intern Position Now Available

Taking applications for a three-month internship for male/female couple at the NOAH Feline Conservation Center, in Mena, Arkansas. Applicants must be young to middle aged, healthy, hard working, and open-minded.

This is a live onsite, full-time commitment, at a working conservation breeding center that houses seven species of wild cats.

Interns will be trained, so prior experience is not necessary, but a positive attitude and willingness to work hard and learn new skills is required. Both intern duties will include daily care of kittens and adult wild cats.

Male intern duties will also include enclosure construction, maintenance, fencing, and grounds keeping. Carpentry and yard skills required.

Female intern will also be assisting the FCF Executive Director in setting up an office for the FCF. Typing and computer skills, proficiency in Windows, Excel, and MS Word are needed. Experience with Facebook, and other social networks, and bookkeeping, including Quickbooks, are a plus.

This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable feline experience and document hundreds of hours at a USDA licensed facility, that will count towards licensing in a number of states. Interns will work with neonates, and adult cats, learn diet, feeding, health care, breeding, and more.

Position is open immediately. Live-in arrangements will be on-site RV; either yours, or one provided by NOAH. Weekly salary is included, based upon applicants and living arrangements. Time of internship can be extended, but minimum three-month commitment is required.

Send a resume to: Lynnculver@hughes.net
Include your phone number and I will contact you for an interview.



A MARGAY'S STORY

By Jeanie and Phil

A family living in a nearby town in Central America asked my husband and me to release a baby margay whose mother was killed into the jungle near our house. She was about four months old at the time, and we gradually introduced her into the jungle over a six-month period. She has now been living and sleeping in the jungle full-time for a couple of years.

Even though she has been seen hunting frogs, lizards, squirrels, and insects, etc., when she has a bad hunting day, she comes back to our house to get something to eat. She surprised us with a three or four month old kitten in November 2009, which she chased away in June of last year. The kitten was never touched by human hands and was always wary of people.

We believe that she has now found her own territory within the 700 acres of undeveloped land that surrounds our house. The margay mom has recently been spotted with a new kitten, which is about four weeks old.

Even though her natal mother did not raise her, this female has proven herself to be a wonderful mother to her kittens and her instincts have guided her to care for and raise her kittens. I have learned a lot about margays by observing her with her offspring.

I will be showing a DVD of the margay and her kittens in the wild at the upcoming FCF Convention in June, and will share the wonderful experiences we have had with these amazing creatures.



CONVENTION IS ON ITS WAY...

JUNE 9TH



The day is drawing nearer for our 40th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida, June 9th through 11th. Book your hotel room at the lavishly exotic Sheraton Safari now! Cats under 30 pounds are welcome, but you must have a Florida import permit. Please inform the convention chairperson, Erin Patters, if you plan to bring a feline. The FCF special hotel rate of \$90.00 is good until May 17th. You can fill out the registration form in this journal or use the FCF online registration form and pay with PayPal.

The day before convention, the Wildlife Conservation Educators Course and the Wild Feline Husbandry Course will be held simultaneously, on Wednesday, June 8th, at the Sheraton Safari hotel.

In light of the family-friendly atmosphere of the locale, the FCF has added something new to the conven-

tion line-up. . . a Youth Wildcat Camp on Saturday! April White will be collaborating with our new Youth Education Committee and FCF member Lauren Bean to create an exciting event for kids of all ages. Parents may enjoy listening to interesting guest speakers while their kids can have their own fun. A variety of activities will be offered, including special hands-on ambassadors, games, cat-oriented crafts, wildcat species lessons, and an introduction to the FCF's new interactive exotic cat website.

We will have kittens on display and plenty of time to socialize Thursday afternoon and evening. Also, back by popular demand, another Feline Enrichment Workshop will be conducted Thursday afternoon in the hospitality suite during registration. This hands on workshop will teach a variety of easy to make, safe, and enjoyable enrichment toys for cats. Work under the tutelage of the experienced Debi Willoughby and present your creations on Friday to the animals at Joel Slaven's facility to see just how successful these enrichments will be! All materials will be provid-



* with Husbandry & T

* Courses on Wed

ed and Debi will lead us through suggested ideas. Members will get a chance to cooperate in groups to create toys that incorporate taste, mental stimulation, scent, and any other combinations that participants can dream up! Come with previous experiences and ideas, and leave with new ways to elicit that happy purr or chuff from your own exotic companions.

Joel Slaven hosts our Friday event, as we set off to not only learn about, but hands-on interact with, a variety of his facility's trained ambassador species. These include lemur, tamarin, bush baby, marmoset, binturong, kangaroo, giant anteater, and a variety of exotic birds, as well as African caracal, Geoffroy's cat, bobcat, Siberian lynx, and African serval. There will be professional photographing and painting available onsite with the exotic ambassadors.

Joel's top-notch staff will incorporate the most up-to-date techniques and equipment used today for the FCF Registered Handlers-only seminar. If you have not registered, be sure to visit the members-only website and register for your feline handling experience today!

We will have opportunities to fish and ride airboats to view native wildlife and birds on the lake. An evening barbeque supper will top the day's events and finish up with nature's glory – one of Florida's brilliant summer sunsets over this facility's dazzling vista.

This year, our Saturday speaker line-up continues the tradition of international guests. We are especially honored to have Li Quan, founder of Save China's Tigers, joining us and sharing her incredible story to restore the South China tiger to its native habitat. Spearheading a project that



11TH, 2011

...ARE YOU READY?

**Wildlife Educators *
Wednesday, June 8th ***



spans two continents, seven years, and over 25 million dollars, Li Quan has used her contacts in the high-fashion industry and the help of leading cat biologists to gain support for her new and radical

ideas to save this most endangered Chinese icon.

We anxiously look forward to another update from the FCF's own conservation advisor, Dr. Jim Sanderson. Jim is a voting member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Recently, the FCF nominated Dr. Sanderson for the prestigious Indianapolis Prize, awarded annually to an individual who has accomplished a significant achievement in the conservation of an animal species or group of species, resulting in an advance in long-term sustainability. We can think of no better person than Jim for this award!

As another special treat, Jeanie will



present a very special talk and incredibly unique film footage of a re-wilded margay, including details of her successful mating and rearing of a kitten, something you have to see to believe!

Stay tuned for more interesting speakers.

Saturday night concludes with the annual banquet dinner and silent auction. Don't forget to bring your donated items to this annual fundraiser. Do your part to help make it a big success for the FCF!

If you have any questions concerning convention, registration, or would like to help out in any way, please feel free to email me at the address below.

Don't forget to take in the local opportunities as well! Disney is right around the corner, and their newly renovated Animal Kingdom, resplendent with a towering hand-carved Tree of Life you must experience for yourself, will not leave you disappointed.

Universal Studios is a favorite of both children and adults, and there are also renowned golf courses, wineries, local shopping, and nightly entertainment districts. Save time and money by booking your tickets ahead of time online.

Happy Purrs and Chuffs,

~Erin Patters, Chairman of the
Convention Committee,
convention@felineconservation.org



"We look forward to seeing all of you there, as this year has so many exciting and new events in store in honor of our 40th convention anniversary. I look forward to the fun, education, experiences, new friends /colleagues, and, of course, the cats!"

TEN LEOPARDS IN TEN DAYS

By Bhagavan Antle

As I packed my bags for Mala Mala, South Africa, visions of past trips started flowing through my mind. I could almost smell the sweet grass roofs, hear the cape turtledoves sing their songs of "work harder," and my mouth started watering for the taste of rooibos tea. We have been visiting South Africa for over 10 years, and each trip holds its own surprises, out-doing itself and revealing new secrets each time. Following suit, Africa offered up an entirely new adventure this time, giving us 10 leopards in 10 days!

Mala Mala is considered the number one travel destination in the world; a visit there will leave no question in your mind how three of the top travel companies hold their heads high and proclaim this truth. Every aspect of the Main Camp is designed to appreciate and enjoy the view of the surrounding wilds. Pathways wind their way along the perimeter of the camp to reveal individual ocher-colored units tucked into the greenery that flanks the Sand River. Massive trees and rolling green lawns are filled with birdsong and the occasional antelope or elephant that seeks the nourishment of the greenery. The camp is unfenced, "an oasis in the midst of the bushveld." For us cat lovers, this location offers the best sighting for

leopards in the world, along with lions and, if you are lucky, a sighting of cheetah.

It is easy to lose track of time in Africa. Without a guide, I could go hungry and lose sleep riding through the bush, wanting to know what is around the bend. The charming and educated guides will not let that happen; in fact, you will get all the sleep you need and too much of the best food you have ever eaten.

Some sightings are calm. In the crisp, clean, spring air we found a female leopard sleeping in the shade of a thorn tree. We also found a big male sleeping next to a small pond, fat from his dinner the night before. Another led us on a quiet stroll through the bush.

Other sightings are heart-pounding. We followed a male leopard being followed by hyenas (a leopard can lose up to 40% of its kills to scavengers and other predators). He needed to find food and eat it before the hyenas overwhelmed him. His hunt led him under a tree full of barking baboons, giving away his position to all in the bush. As soon as the baboons lost sight of him, he found a wonderful surprise. One of the



Gourie male rests after a big meal.

baboons killed a newborn impala; this would be a quick meal that would satisfy him for days.

Our guide, Bens, is a Shangaan tribesman born into a family of trackers that have worked for Sabi Sands for decades. Over the past ten years, he or a member of his family has been our companion in the bush. Our guide wakes us up in the morning and walks us home to our bungalows at night. One evening, while processing our dinner under the African stars amid being warmed by an ironwood fire, we enjoyed listening to Bens recount his first meeting with Dr. Antle's son, Kody. Being young, both had a wonderful time hanging out for ten days, learning about each other's culture and finding out that they are not so very different. Kody left such an impression on Bens that he named his first-born son after him. There have always been great conversations with guides who are happy and enjoy our company as much as we enjoy theirs.

Bens can spot a chameleon or bush baby in the pitch black with his flashlight as we fly through the bush, so it is no surprise that he spots a leopard and drives to her location before we have any idea what is going on. This leopard proves to be very entertaining. She is in heat and calling for a mate, so we follow, thinking she



Emsakweni male scavenges a newborn impala left by baboons.

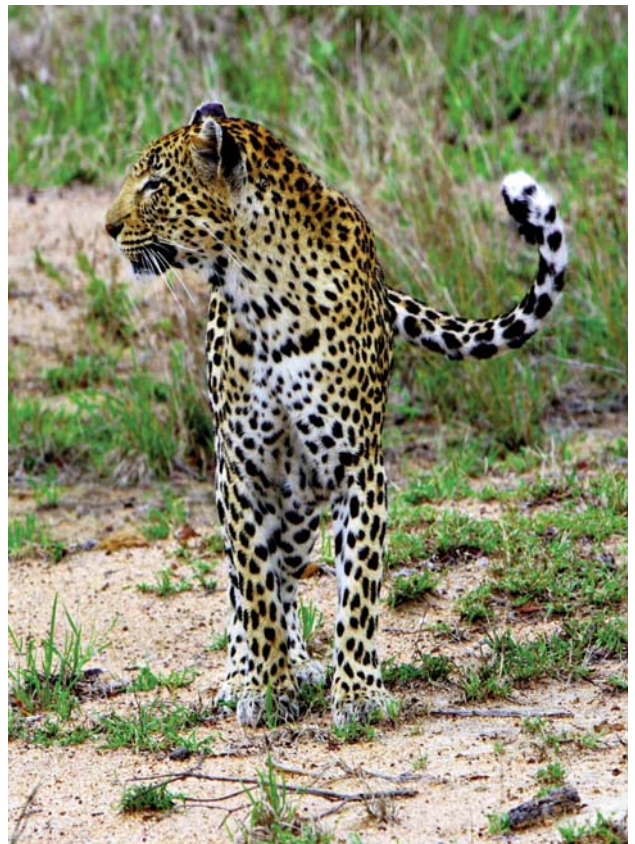


Cambell copies female on the prowl and in full hunting mode after impala and kudu.

has a plan. After she has led us around in her ever-shrinking circles, we find that we are the only ones in the bush listening to her calls and enjoying her silly behavior. We move on, seeking all that Africa has to offer.

In the next few days, we found several

female leopards on the hunt. One female was not only looking for dinner, but also rubbing up against our jeep and scent-marking us as she went along. The animals are so relaxed around us that



Mashabeni female in heat calls for a mate.

another female led us to her sub-adult male cub, letting us watch as she rubbed and played with her son. A third female led us so deep into the bush at night that the jeep could go no further, with a cliff on one side and trees so thick it is surprising she was able to get through it. We found yet another female lying in wait as she hunted the impala and kudu which we could see were in her sights. How exciting. Perhaps we will see a leopard kill today! We follow her with baited breath as she moves ever nearer to the impala. Forty-five minutes into the hunt, she is spotted. Alarms go off, but the antelope will not run, since they have been in the position before. If they run, they will lose sight of her and their families. They form a battle line, continuing with their "alarm," as she emerges from the shadows and, for a moment, stares at them in disbelief. Knowing at this point that to continue is futile, she moves off into the bush to recover and wonder just how their next meeting will end.

These stories are just a taste of what Sabi Sands has to offer. There are many more stories to come about the other amazing cats in Africa.



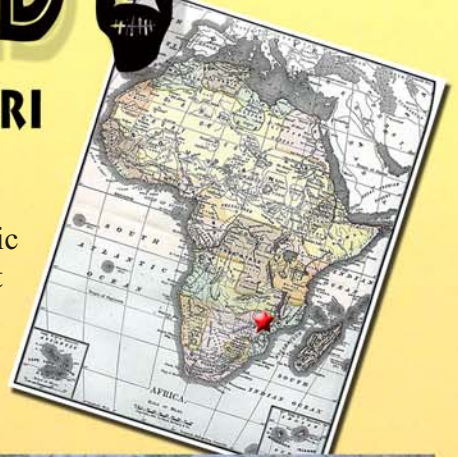
Khekhelezi female and cub were so relaxed they let us watch as mother and son played.

RARE SPECIES FUND



AFRICAN SAFARI

For more than a decade, the Rare Species Fund has taken members of the general public on safari into deepest darkest Africa. Traveling to what is commonly known as the number one rated wildlife viewing destination on the planet, guests get a first-hand look at the way wildlife



existed before the vast expansion of the human population. The Sabi Sands region is particularly special, not only because of its diversity of animals, but also its density. Because of the great abundance of prey, various predators species abound here, including: lions, cheetahs, African wild cats, hyenas and wild dogs. The area is home to the world's greatest concentration of leopards (read "Ten Leopards in Ten Days" to find out more). It also comprises the largest and oldest game reserve in South Africa. The vast tracts of land and uninterrupted flow of wildlife found here have all but vanished from the rest of the world. This jewel is made even more spectacular by the fact that the Sand River winds and twists its way through 22km of the reserve.



The African safaris not only create an unforgettable experience and educate people about the importance of wildlife, they allow the Rare Species Fund to generate much needed funding for in-situ African conservation projects.

A hippo near camp giving a territorial display.



A family of cheetahs lounging in the shade during the mid-day heat.





For those who live or work with exotic animals, seeing their wild cousins will not only give you a greater appreciation and respect for the species, it will give you an understanding of their primal nature you would not otherwise get.

The Rare Species Fund African safaris generate tourism dollars which help encourage the conservation of wild species by the locals. Additional funds generated from the tours go directly to research and conservation initiatives to help save native

African wildlife, including: leopards, cheetahs, black-footed cats, eagles, wild dogs and orphaned elephants.

A pride of lions takes advantage of the Sand River.



Witnessing predations, like this leopard and impala, is a common occurrence during the RSF Safari tours.



A "journey" of giraffes surveys the sunset horizon.

The Rare Species Fund would like to thank the generosity of:

***ISIS Preservation, CA
Fercos Brothers, NV
Big Cat Habitat, FL***

For your once in a lifetime chance to view these top predators in the wild, join the Rare Species Fund as we travel to the wilds of South Africa this fall.

Next Trip Scheduled November, 2011

For more information, contact:
legislation@felineconservation.org

WWW.RARESPECIESFUND.ORG



LAST CHANCE TO



Save China's Tigers

By Li Quan
Founding Director, Save China's Tigers

In a recent media article, I was described as “raising a family of tiger cubs who hold in their paws the hope of survival of their entire species.”

I was born in Beijing, in the Chinese Year of the Tiger, in the wake of a long famine in China. I grew up during the Cultural Revolution, when the country experienced great turmoil at the hands of raging adolescents and political party zealots. China got out of the chaos and started the reforms of Four Modernizations that led to the country's huge economic development, as well as the resulting enormous ecological destruction.

But nothing changed my love for animals, in particular those from the tribe of



Captive South China tigers are fortunate to have Li Quan as a founding conservationist so focused on their fragile future. A timeless symbol of China's culture and arts, these majestic cats now have a chance to repopulate their natural range. Photo courtesy of Save China's Tigers.

the tiger. After graduating from Beijing University, I was assigned a prestigious job as an anchor for CCTV's English news program, but, instead, I chose to head overseas for further education. I attended the University of Pennsylvania, earning a dual MBA/MA from the Wharton School of Business/Lauder Institute. I then pur-

sued a career in the Italian fashion industry and was head of Worldwide Licensing at Gucci before relocating to London.

Always a passionate lover of feline beauty, I realized that the most ancient of all tiger species was on the brink of extinction while little was being done to save it. I felt obliged to do something! After China established the Meihuashan Chinese Tiger Rewilding Center in 1998, I started seeking international support for it at first, albeit in vain. On my safari in Zambia and South Africa, I had been wowed by the wildlife management expertise and conservation skills of African wildlife managers. Inspired by their success, I engineered the Chinese Tiger Conservation Model – a bold initiative that, unknown to me at that time, challenged failed traditional conservation methods. In 2000, I founded “Save China's Tigers” UK charity at a ceremony at China's London Embassy, followed later by chapters in the United States, Hong Kong, and, recently, Australia.

The South China tiger is an important icon of Chinese art and culture, not to mention a flagship species whose conservation helps preserve its entire ecosystem. Fewer than 30 South China tigers may still exist in the wild, and around 100 live in captivity. The Chinese tiger is a direct descendent of the ancestral tiger of all



Li Quan's ad campaign for Save China's Tigers can be seen along the busy streets of Hong Kong, once part of this tiger's indigenous range. This moving billboard is called the TigerTram. Photo from Save China's Tigers.

tigers, which originated in China about two million years ago.

In 2002, Save China's Tigers (SCT) initiated, facilitated, and co-funded a foreign survey team's work in China for the wild South China tiger, but the team unfortunately and unilaterally declared the South China tiger extinct after only a hasty and incomplete survey. All of their data was collected from just a few hundred total trap nights in seven locations, sometimes after just a short day visit of a few hours. Although this dealt a big blow to the conservation drive of local authorities within the South China tiger range, it ironically paved the way for our reintroduction efforts, since IUCN guidelines stipulate that reintroduction should only take place in areas where the species is no longer found. While we donated more infra-cameras to China for the continued monitoring of biodiversity conditions in areas such as the Hupingshan Reserve, I also began our alternative South China tiger rewilding and reintroduction project, in an effort to supplement the wild population.

In a groundbreaking agreement with the Chinese government, Save China's Tigers was given approval to relocate captive-born tigers from Chinese zoos to South Africa, which would serve as a platform to rewild and breed them. Why South Africa? The plight of the tiger required bold and immediate action, and South Africa offered economical and spacious habitat, abundant prey species, and, most importantly, a pool of highly skilled and experienced conservationists and wildlife managers.

We acquired over 300 square kilometers of defunct sheep farms straddling both sides of the Orange River in the Free State and Northern Cape Province. Several hundred kilometers of farm fencing, sheep corrals, and non-native vegetation were removed. Game was restocked, and herds of impala, zebra, blesbok, eland, ostrich, and wildebeest were allowed to once again roam the reserve. Different sized enclosures were constructed to hold the tigers for various purposes (hunting, breeding, vet treatment, etc.) with state-of-the-art solar-powered electric fencing. With the help of Cathay Pacific Airlines, we flew zoo-bred tigers from China to the Laohu Valley Reserve (laohu is Chinese for tiger). With advice from scientists such as Petri Viljoen, Dr. Gary Koehler, and Gus Van Dyk, as well as a solid operation team, we set about to implement an

innovative "rewilding" strategy to help the tigers rediscover their hunting skills.

The tigers have the freedom to roam the streams and woods within the reserve. The first cubs from China were reluctant and cautious when first stepping out of their transportation cages onto the grasslands of Africa. They had lived their entire lives padding up and down concrete-floored cages. Now the tigers are "rewilded" - no longer afraid of the swaying grasses, they have learned to take cover even in short grass to ambush antelope and master hunting skills such as camouflage, stalking, chasing, and tackling. The five tigers transported to the reserve were: Cathay, Hope, Madonna,

seven day old cub being suddenly grabbed by a predatory bird during a storm, and, sadly, the death of Hope, due to heart failure and pneumonia.

Among all of the challenges facing our project, I was surprised that one of the biggest has been resistance and obstruction by some conservation groups. I can handle the derision and personal criticism by some who described me as a "dilettante" and suggested that I leave "conservation to the conservationists" and give our money to them, but I have had a harder time stomaching their attacks on our scientific advisors in an effort to derail our project. The World Wildlife Fund has basically written off the South China tiger,



A tiger at Save China's Tigers' compound in South Africa practices hunting skills imperative for survival in the wild. The readily available prey species make this location a perfect place to prepare for rewilding.

Tiger Woods, and 327, named in recognition of his registry number in the "stud book" of captive South China tigers.

SCT's breeding of the South China Tigers has been the world's most successful, with the birth of nine cubs, six of which have survived. Hulooo, who was named in a nationwide internet contest, Coco, JenB, Princess, King Henry, and the newborn daughter of 327 (the as yet unnamed "Miss X") are all now incredible hunters, with the exception of Miss X. SCT has also been working with the Chinese government to establish vast protected reserves in China for the tigers return, which begins this year.

The project has not been without its challenges; a bite from an errant baboon, visits from porcupines and pythons, a

labeling it "functionally extinct." In a recent article, their director of species conservation said that "SCT's money would be better put to saving Amur tigers," and that she would "sacrifice the South China tiger for now."

I must say that this declaration amounts to condemning a sick patient to death. I cannot imagine anyone saying they would condemn their sick mother or family member to death without fighting to save them. Furthermore, being that the tiger has been the most important cultural symbol in Chinese history for the past 5,000 years, allowing the tiger to perish of itself without any conservation efforts is unimaginable.

In spite of these obstructions, we have steadfastly continued to develop a proac-

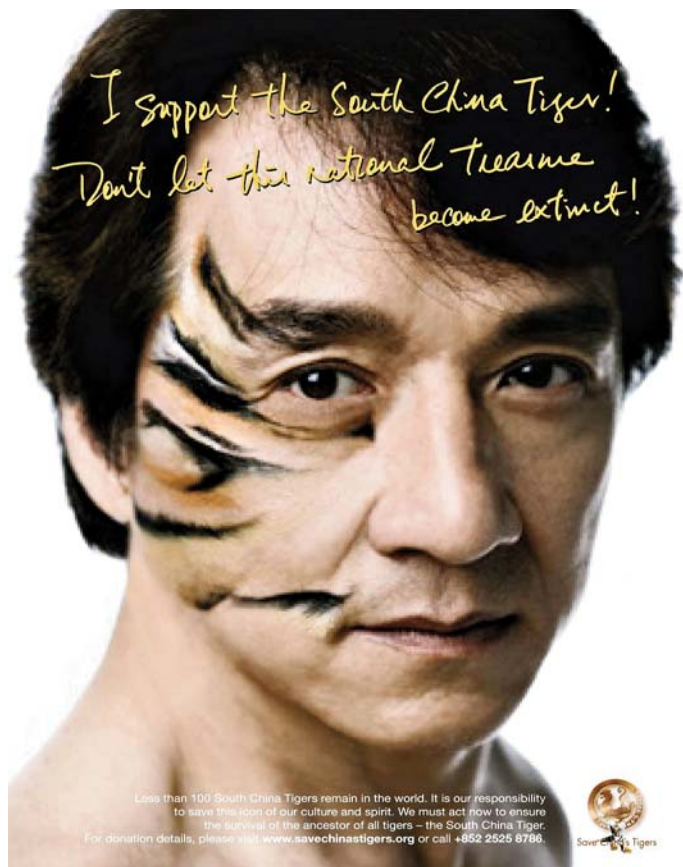
tive and innovative conservation strategy which is now being adopted by even our biggest detractors. Dr. Gary Koehler, wildlife research scientist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, believes some conservationists have been hostile to our experiment because of a reluctance to embrace unfamiliar ideas. "I think that we in the conservation profession, and even us as scientists, are not real comfortable with experiments in a very new and radical way," he says. "And sometimes that is what it takes."

SCT recently hosted a workshop with the world's leading wild cat biologists, who supported the role of rewilding captive populations to save the South China tiger. The project now has ten rare South China tigers (and counting), a whopping 10% of the world's population. And for one thing, the word rewilding, coined by our rewilding strategist Gus Van Dyk in an effort to find an appropriate translation of the Chinese word yehua, is here to stay. Previously, we had experimented with the use of "barbarization" and "rehabilitation," both of which were deemed unsatisfactory.

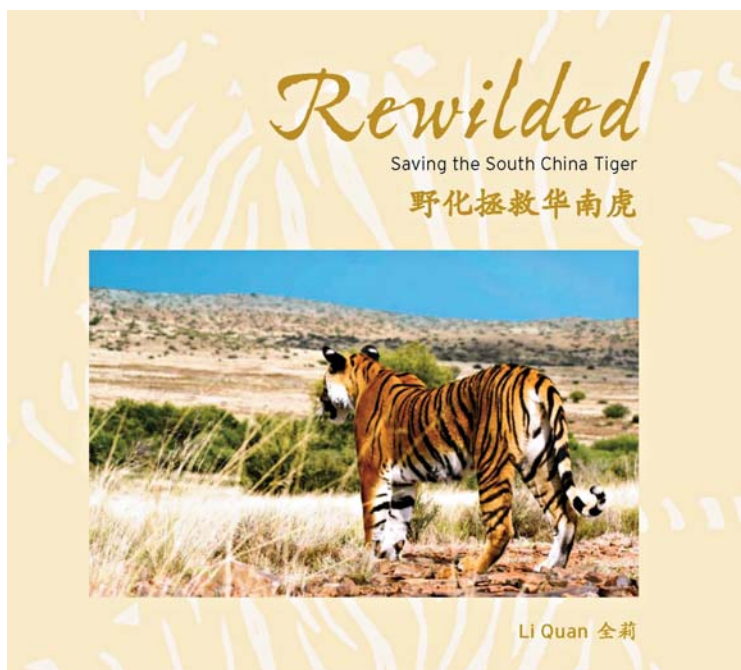
Our project has been the subject of many international media stories, including the CBS Evening News with Lara Logan, the BBC, and Sky, as well as Science magazine, The L.A. Times, and National Geographic News, etc. In China,

we are even more widely covered. However, my charity has always pursued a policy of not paying for PR or marketing, wanting all donations to go directly to the benefit of the tigers. SCT welcomes the support of corporate sponsors like Cathay Pacific, Asian Tigers Group, and Shanghai Tang, who markets tiger-themed clothing on behalf of the charity. We have recruited notable appeal patrons and supporters, the foremost of whom is our charity's ambassador, Jackie Chan, who posed with his face painted in tiger stripes for an SCT poster campaign. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon star Michelle Yeoh has participated in several press conferences. Actress Coco Chiang designed a special line of jewelry to benefit

the charity, while other personalities, including film directors Jiang Wen and Chen Kaige, pianist Lang Lang, acclaimed conductor Maestro Christoph Eschenbach, sports stars Lewis Moody and the West Tigers Rugby team, have participated in various ways to further our cause. Nick Rhodes of Duran Duran is a keen supporter and recently attended the launch of Li Quan's new book, *Rewilded: Saving the South*



Notable patron and charity ambassador, Jackie Chan, posed with his face painted in tiger stripes for a Save China's Tigers poster campaign.



Cover of photo/documentary book *Rewilded*, Li Quan's chronicles the seven-year experiment in rewilding South China tigers.

China Tiger, at a Shanghai Tang soiree at its London flagship store.

We have also recently broadened the charity's efforts to include a Wildcat Fund for other endangered cats, such as cheetahs and jaguars, but primarily for smaller and lesser known imperiled wildcats, which supports proactive conservation efforts around the world with a focus on rewilding and reintroduction. My American husband, Stuart Bray, has spent some \$25 million to date to help me rescue the world's most endangered apex species, preserve biodiversity, and restore ecosystems.

Our recently published photo/documentary book, *Rewilded*, chronicles our seven-year experiment in rewilding South China tigers. I have always been sensitive to beauty, hence my former involvement in the fashion business. In my eyes, the tiger is one of the most beautiful animals nature has given us, and saving the tiger is simply another form of pursuing true beauty - the natural one. I simply cannot bear the idea of losing such a wonderful creature forever.



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IOWA DAIRY FARM EVOLVES INTO CRICKET HOLLOW ZOO



Two contented cougars lounge gracefully in their enclosure at Cricket Hollow Zoo.

By Pam Sellner

If you had asked me 40 years ago what I wanted to be when I grew up, I probably would not have said a zookeeper. I always believed that I would farm here in Iowa.

When our son was born in 1982, our first outing with him was to an exotic animal sale I had seen advertised. I saw all kinds of exotic animals that were new to

me, a sixth-generation dairy farmer. The best thing I saw that day was a beautiful llama. They were fairly new imports at the time, and the price tag on him was \$10,000. I said to myself, "I am going to own a llama someday."

Four years later, an old llama gelding with a pinned knee went through an exotic sale I attended, and he went home with me for \$125!! I am sure he was probably the ugliest llama on the planet, but I was absolutely thrilled. I proudly brought him back to our farm, and as soon as the cows saw this strange beast they immediately ran through three electric fences. Eventually, everything calmed down and the cows decided that llamas were mostly harmless.

The next year, we added our first exotic cat to the menagerie. Freddy Cougar joined us at the age of six

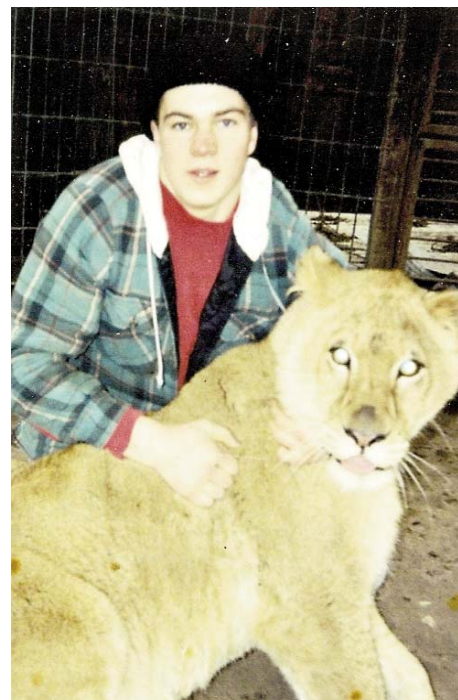
months. He was our first cat-learning experience. We had an outdoor pen for him, but he enjoyed being in the house when we let him. We ended up declawing his front feet and the vet talked me into "tipping" his canines. That was the first lesson I learned, and that is something I would never do again to any carnivore or primate. They have teeth for a reason.

Mr. Neilson, a young squirrel monkey, came along next. My son and foster daughter had a Pippi Longstocking movie that they watched all the time, and they believed that they had Pippi's monkey, Mr. Neilson. Whenever the little monkey came out of his cage, he loved to examine the kitchen cupboards with his little hands on his hips, looking for miniature marshmallows for a treat.

We purchased a six-week-old lion cub named Njarra. She loved going for rides in the truck and slept with my son every night until she was 10 months old. One night after Seth and Njarra went upstairs to go to bed, I heard the door slam. There was a pouty lion sitting on the landing. I yelled upstairs to see what was wrong. I was informed that Njarra had chewed the arm off his good shirt and was no longer allowed in his room. It was time for her



Another feline resident at the Sellner's place is this melanistic leopard, a color variation sometimes found in populations of Asian leopards.



The Sellners' son, Seth, posed here with his favorite lioness, Njarra.



Bagheera the leopard is a silhouette of feline beauty and strength.

to be an "outside only" lion.

Bonnie Jay the bobcat came along and lived in the house with us. She enjoyed sitting on top of the refrigerator and would bat at whoever walked by. She made me see stars more than once. She loved to sleep on my lap and be wherever the action was. When Bonnie Jay died an untimely death, I could not eat, sleep, or work. We buried her under a rose bush by the house. When the scent of roses fills the air in the spring, it reminds me of her.

We added a variety of small exotic mammals, chickens, deer, sheep, goats, and reptiles. We were asked by a neighboring town to do a petting zoo for them. We became USDA-licensed and spent the next 10 years doing traveling petting zoos. In July 2002, we opened a permanent private zoo, Cricket Hollow, on part of our farm. It was nice to have the animals in permanent spaces and not have to load them up anymore.

On July 11, 2009, we lost our son, Seth, in a truck accident. I was crying when I went out to the zoo to see Njarra, Seth's lion. I told her, "I have bad news, my friend. Seth is gone." I know she did not understand my words, but she knew I was sad and cried with me in her sad lion

voice. "ARRH ARRH ARRH." Njarra had always remembered Seth, even after he had gone away to college. When he came home to see her, she was always excited to see him.

Last July, we built an education center at the zoo in memory of our son. It is filled with a small desert and rainforest plant display, tropical animals, a solar system, various science displays, and a lion fountain from Njarra.

During our off-season, I enjoy doing educational presentations for over 1,000 elementary children in the surrounding area. We choose a different continent each year and share five or six animals for the kids to learn about. It has been a big hit and I have received hundreds of letters and pictures from the kids. Natasha the tiger cub was the star of our first program. The kids ask about her every year, and many come to the zoo to see her again. We have two places on our website to watch Dandy Lion's

m a n e
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Miraj, another tiger, grow. Through our presentations, the kids have gotten up close and personal with everything from armadillos to wallabies. We are lucky to have so many great animal ambassadors.

We get our share of flak from animal rights people. Even though they are the small minority of our visitors, they decide we are scum for keeping wild animals in cages instead of them being wild and free.

I have been told that my cats are sick because they are lying about "lethargically" in the afternoon when they are napping! Fortunately, the majority of our guests enjoy and appreciate the beautiful animals we have on display.

We are in a unique position at Cricket Hollow, as we get to teach the public about our dairy and modern agriculture, as well as the exotic animals we house. We currently exhibit over 300 birds and animals at the zoo. We are especially proud of our cat display, which includes seven tigers, a pride of six lions, three leopards, and six native big cats (cougars, a pair of servals, and a pair of bobcats). We also exhibit bears, a variety of hoofstock, primates, small mammals, reptiles, and birds. All of our animals have names and stories which we love to share with our visitors.

We have met so many wonderful people and special friends in this business. Our animals are such a blessing in our lives. I would not trade this way of life for anything.

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CONNECTICUT'S STRICT ANIMAL LAWS ARE CHANGING!

By Debi Willoughby

Although I am a wildlife educator based in Massachusetts, I travel throughout New England with my animals doing my shows at schools, libraries, birthdays, and other events. Each New England state has its own laws and requirements on wild animals. The state of Connecticut has been what I consider a "closed" state for a long time; they did not allow wildlife as pets and were extremely strict with their rules for wildlife professionals. For instance, I needed an import permit for each of my educational animals to enter Connecticut, including something as common as a pet store lizard. Every year, I had to submit a small book of paperwork

to renew my Connecticut license, three times more information than any other state where I hold licenses. The rules I had to follow while in their state were also very strict; the public could not pet 99% of my animals.

In July 2009, I contacted the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Wildlife Division to request my newly received Geoffroy's kitten be added to my license. I have never had any problems adding a new species of animal as long as I provide all of the information required. The DEP gave me the runaround for about three months before I was finally able to get the head person on the phone to find out what was going on. Part of the issue was that he was not

familiar with Geoffroy's cats; he did not know the size, personality, etc.

I described the species and emailed documentation and a picture of me holding mine so he could see the actual size. Then I learned the bigger issue that was the main reason DEP was not adding the cat to my license. They were in the midst of revising their regulations and they didn't want to approve a new species before their regulations were final. Why they kept this a secret from me for the previous three months is a mystery.

They were

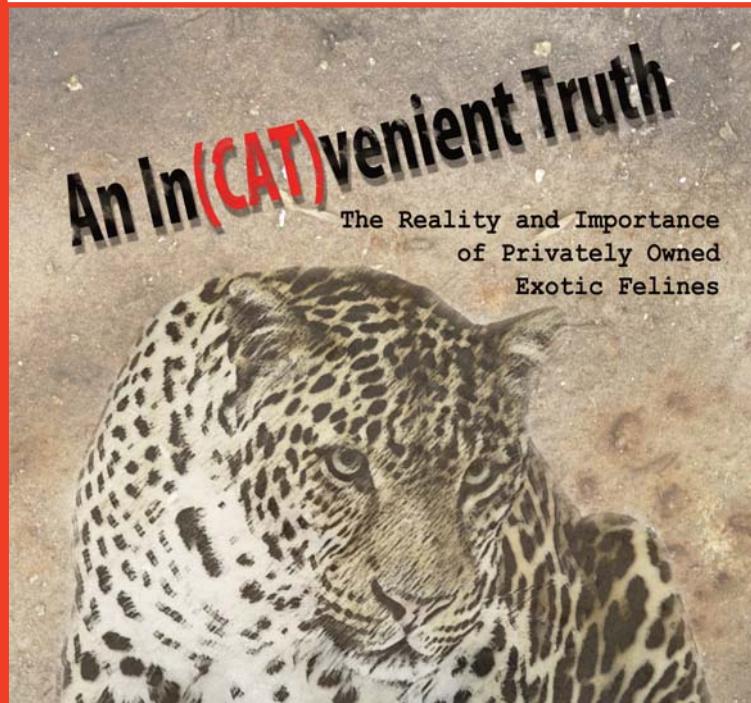
proposing regulation changes because of an unfortunate accident in March 2009, when Travis the chimpanzee attacked his owner's neighbor. For those of you who are not familiar with the story, Travis got out of his home, attacked a friend of his owner, and seriously hurt her. She lost her hands, nose, lips, and an eyelid. When infection set in, the doctors had to remove her eyes. Because of this incident, there were lawsuits (including one filed against the state wildlife department), a lot of finger pointing, and people trying to push new laws through overnight. An employee of the DEP told me that most of the Wildlife Division "took early retirement" and new people were brought in. The man I had been talking to, Rick Jacobson, was brought in as the head of the department after the incident.

The DEP took a stand that, until the new regulations were approved and in place, there was a freeze on approving anything new. I explained to Rick that I use my Geoffroy's cat for small wildcat shows and to raise funds for small cat conservation. He seemed very interested in my conservation efforts and did not want to interfere with them. I stressed my concern about the lengthy timeframe for new regulations to be finalized. It was expected to take about a year, but I knew it would drag out longer. Rick did not want to hinder my educational programs and agreed to look into the existing laws to see what he could do. He got back to me a few weeks later after reviewing the laws with his peers. He told me I could bring my Geoffroy's cat into their state without a license! How could that be?" I wondered. I had to have a 12" lizard on my license, but not a species of wild feline? I had to laugh when he told me this; it did not make sense! He had the same reaction as I did. What had happened was that right after the "Travis incident," some animal rights people pushed a few laws through, and some of the wording in the wildlife division regulations changed so that any species not previously approved or denied could come into the state without a license, and the Geoffroy's cat fell into that loophole! While it made no sense, I was going to enjoy this while it lasted!

During our conversations, Rick explained their regulations revision process. Once the department finished

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their proposed changes, public hearings would be held to get feedback, and possibly more revisions would follow the feedback. Another public hearing would unveil the changes, any final changes would be incorporated, and a final version would be submitted to state legislators to be approved into law.

The first round of hearings was held in different parts of Connecticut back in March of 2010. To prepare, I made a list of my concerns and suggestions on how to adjust the regulations. I also asked for input from the FCF Executive Director, Lynn Culver, and FCF Connecticut state members Jim Sanderson and Jim Fowler. They all wrote letters of concern to the Wildlife Division. I was very grateful for Lynn, Jim, and Jim's support. We all need to stick together to stand up for our rights.

There were approximately 120-150 people attending the informal 2010 hearings. The revised regulations were handed out, and people asked the DEP representatives questions and gave comments throughout the hearing. DEP took notes and then went back to the drawing board to revise their regulations. A year later another hearing was held. There were only about 50 people who attended this hearing. I believe the smaller attendance was because the Division did not send emails to license holders, informing them of the hearing, like they did for the first round. I learned about the meeting from FCF President Kevin Chambers, who forwarded me an email. I contacted Rick Jacobson to get the details, and Rick told me this hearing was to roll out the revised regulations and allow people to give their input if desired, but the Department was pretty well set on the language at this point. Because it did not sound like changes could be easily made, I did not ask anyone else for support letters this time, but I did discuss the proposal regulations with Lynn Culver for her feedback and concerns. I submitted a comment and suggestion letter to the DEP and included Lynn's concerns in my letter.

This hearing was much more structured, and only people who signed up could speak. The moderator explained the rules of the hearing. Rick Jacobson started off by summarizing the proposed changes, which were basically to create a structure that would reduce the number of permits the department would have to process. If you fell into exempt criteria, you no longer needed a license to have

animals in Connecticut. In light of state cutbacks, this made sense. The DEP defined the various animal professions: zoos, exhibitors, etc. Then they listed species of animals and divided them into categories by similarity. This new approach listed which types of animals that professionals could possess without being licensed. It made sense, but I felt their wording and categories still needed tweaking.

The floor opened up, and about 15 people spoke. Comments ranged from concerns about the wording and how it needed to be clarified to input on the definitions and categories. Some folks just complained about certain animals in the categories, while others spoke about their livelihoods and how these changes would hinder their work. People who offered suggestions seemed to be received better by the DEP than those who just complained.

After introducing myself, I said that these new regulations were great for my business, as I would no longer have to apply for any permits for animals to enter the state. But my concerns were for the other exhibitors who did not meet the new definition, and I was especially concerned about future exhibitors. Most of the requirements to be defined as an exhibitor were reasonable, like having liability insurance, USDA licensing, and a plan to deal with animal escape or owner death. But I objected to the requirement that to be an exhibitor, you must conduct 50 public programs each calendar year for a minimum of 1,000 attendees. When first starting out, you are probably not

going to meet that minimum level. The definition would not allow any new exhibiting businesses to get started, and it would deny their state of the next generation of exhibitors.

After everyone had a chance to speak and the hearing closed, most of us hung around to talk. Many of us were on the same level job-wise, but a few high up zoo and business people were there. I was pleasantly surprised at the praise given to me for my input and comments. I believe I was complimented because I made the effort to drive to another state and voice my concerns for fellow exhibitors whom I did not even know. I was very factual, referring to each line item, stating my concerns, and offering solutions. My presentation was highly regarded by my peers, and I could tell they were grateful that I was there to support them.

There is power in numbers! And remember, even if proposed regulatory or legislative changes do not directly affect you now, the next round of changes could, so you'd better get involved sooner rather than later. I personally hate politics and



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want nothing to do with this type of thing, but it is not as bad as you think and, when you do get involved, you are making a difference. If you do not participate in the process, you have no business complaining about the changes being made.

Connecticut is accepting written concerns about their regulations for a couple more weeks. I did revise my letter to include some other items and suggest other re-categorizing. I hope the DEP will listen to everyone who commented and make more revisions to their proposal. I also hope we get to see the final version before it goes to the legislature.

Lynn asked me to write a report so other FCF members can learn how we can make a difference. I urge everyone to keep on top of what is going on in their state and surrounding ones, and voice your opinion in a professional manner. Do not close your eyes and mind to what is happening with wild animal laws, and do not limit your involvement to just the ones that may affect you. Support other animal professionals who are being affected as well. You may need to ask for their support in the future. Besides, I made a few new animal professional friends in the process, and you probably will, too!

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.

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

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IN SEARCH OF MOHINI'S LEGACY

By Mary Ann Howell

I first saw Mohini sometime in the summer of 1970, when I was a young army wife living in Washington, DC. She was regally beautiful, and she and her family lived in cages at the old lion house of the National Zoo, with their names and parentages prominently displayed. After my husband's tour of duty was over, we returned home and raised our children. While I did not think of her often, I never forgot her.

A quarter of a century later, the day after Thanksgiving 1995, my present husband and I were at the Siegfried & Roy show in Las Vegas to see the beautiful white tigers. I mused, "These must be descended from Mohini." I later learned that Siegfried & Roy's founding stock were Mohini's great-grandchildren. Thus began one of the most thrilling quests of my life, the search for Mohini's legacy. Each new discovery is no less thrilling than those that have gone before it, and many times they bring tears to my eyes.

I would be terribly remiss not to mention the many wonderful people we have met during this odyssey, people who have shown so much kindness in so many ways, people who have been eager to show us their white tigers and tell us about them, simply because they sensed that our love for these white tigers was as genuine as their own. If you are one of them and you are reading this, you know who you are, and please know that we will always



According to the Smithsonian Institute Archives, "Mohini of Rewa" was brought to the National Zoological Park on Dec. 4, 1960. The name Mohini means "enchantress." Here, she sits with one of her normal colored offspring.

remember what an honor it was meeting you.

The first trip in this 15-year journey was in the summer of 1996, to the National Zoo to see Pangur Ban, Mohini's great-grandson. He was the son of Ranjit, belonging to Mohini's patrilineal line, and, therefore, the magnificent crown prince of white tigers at that time, reigning over the Mann exhibit.

Unfortunately, he was never bred and his branch of the royal line died with him, leaving no heirs.

The following year brought the discovery of more of Mohini's descendants. In May 1997, we had our first introduction to Akeer and Popsy at the Cincinnati Zoo, whom we continue to see every year to this day, and who are among our favorites. We also saw Erica there for several years until she was moved elsewhere. In May 1997, we visited Mohini's great-great-granddaughters, Kali and Ayla, at Busch Gardens, in the Claw Island exhibit, which no longer exists. Kali was striped white and her sister Ayla was snow white, and they were stunning girls, so we returned the following year for a reprise. In July 1997, the objective was another of Mohini's great-grandsons, Isson. He was a retired Hawthorn circus



A beautiful view of Mohini's great-great granddaughter, Ayla, at Busch Gardens' Claw Island in May 1997.

tiger living at the Columbus Zoo. His former mate, Taj, was also there, although in a different exhibit. We saw Taj in later years, 2001 and 2003, but this was the only time I ever saw Isson. He was actually swimming in his pool, and he was quite a delight to watch. Isson is gone and the exhibit with the pool no longer exists, but the memories and the pictures remain. In August 1997, we were at African Lion



Kanpur has the run of the Indian ruins in this stunning exhibit at the Miami Zoo, May 1998.



Brothers Rex and Zulu, named after Mardi Gras krewes, roamed their lush, tropical paradise in New Orleans, 1999, at the Audubon Zoo.

Safari in Canada, where white and orange tigers would swim in the pond and walk around the cars. Unfortunately, African Lion Safari no longer has tigers, so the opportunity to experience this is no longer available.

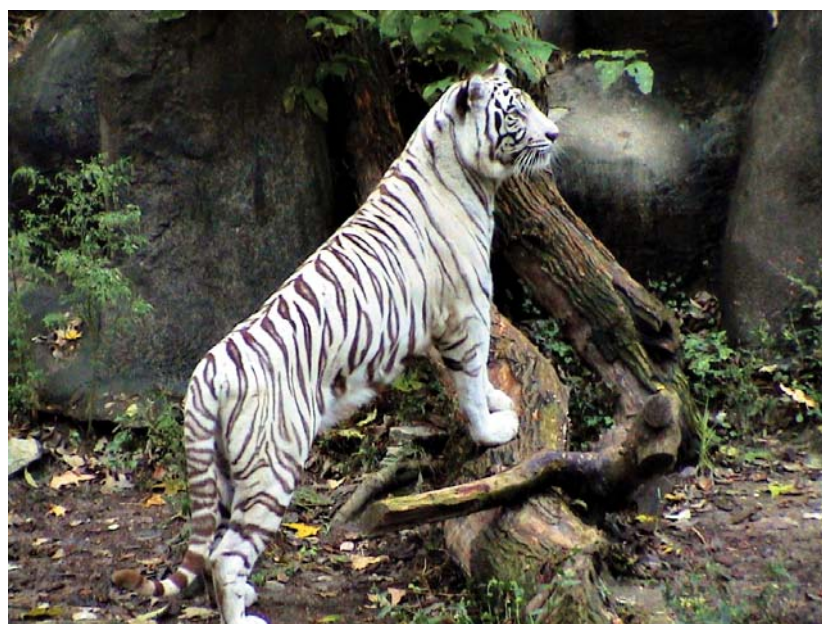
When we revisited Kali and Ayla in May 1998, we also went to the Miami Zoo to see Mohini's snow white great-grand-

daughter, Kanpur. She was exquisite, but, unfortunately, she had cancer and died a few months later. In July 1998, it was off to the Toronto Zoo to see another of Mohini's great-granddaughters, Kivali. We saw her again, in October 1999, and November 1999 found us in New Orleans to see the gorgeous white tiger brothers Rex and Zulu.

After this, we slowed down our visits to these beautiful animals, traveling less often and less far and wide, because my declining health necessitated the use of a wheelchair for zoos, airports, and other large venues. We continued annual visits to Las Vegas to see the Siegfried and Roy show and to visit the Secret Garden until 2003, and went to Cincinnati several times a year. However, there was becoming a sad undercurrent to the joy of white tigers. By the end of 2003, all of the aforementioned white tigers (Isson, Kivali, Kanpur, Pangur Ban,



Sheba relaxes in the summer weather of Maryland's Catocin Mountain Zoo, 2008.



Akeer poses regally as he watches over his domain at the Cincinnati Zoo in October 2009.

Taj, Kali, and Ayla), with the exception of the brothers in New Orleans and the white tigers in Cincinnati, were deceased, and, sadly, almost all of them died without descendants.

The very bright spot in this time

period was Kitra, a matrilineal great-great-granddaughter of Mohini, who was on loan from Omaha to the Potter Park Zoo, only an hour and a half away from home. We visited her numerous times, from 2000 to 2002, and enjoyed every minute with her. She easily became a favorite, and we missed her when she

returned home in the fall of 2002. As far as I know, she is still alive and was 20 years old this past August. Thank you, Omaha.

We also visited a baby white tigress named Dhari, who was on loan from the Nashville Zoo to the Binder Park Zoo, in the summer of 2001. She was adorable, but, sadly, she passed away at the end of the season.

A major breakthrough of joy and hope occurred at Thanksgiving 2006. My daughter had moved to Arizona and we went to the Wildlife World Zoo. I had known that Bubba, a great-great-grandson of Mohini, had been there, but I did not know if he was still there or if he had ever had offspring. I inquired and was shown where his enclosure was, but the best part was that there were two six-month-old white tiger cubs at the front of the zoo. I asked if these were Bubba's grandchildren, and when I was told that they indeed were, I experienced such indescribable joy! Here, right in front of me, was the future, Mohini's legacy! In addition to Bubba and the cubs, Sabul and Sanjay, we also met other descendants of Mohini, and we continue to visit them annually. We

love to watch their progress and we are delighted with each new litter of cubs.

In 2008, we took a trip out east to Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo and to Claws 'n' Paws to see more of Mohini's great-great-great-grandchildren. At Claws 'n' Paws, we were treated to Majie and Raja, two lovely white tigresses, and at Catoctin, I was particularly taken with Sheba, who moved me immensely. Catoctin is located near Camp David, not far from Washington, DC. As I gazed at beautiful Sheba, my thoughts wandered back to her great-great-great-grandmother, whom I used to visit 38 years earlier, and tears welled up in my eyes. I thought of Sheba as a princess in exile, but realized that it is better this way. I am sure that there have been many first ladies who preferred the quiet and solitude of Camp David to the maddening crowds of Washington, and I am certain that, given a choice, Sheba would rather enjoy the quiet sylvan beauty of Catoctin than reign over the noisy throngs at the Mann exhibit.

Last year, in early 2010, a wonderful event occurred. A baby white tigress named Zusha arrived at the Washington Park Zoo, with the announcement that a mate would be acquired for her and she would be bred when she matured. She was bred by the FCF's own Judy and Duane Domaszek at their Wildwood Wildlife Park, and she is absolutely darling! Later in the year, a male white tiger cub and a female heterozygous orange cub arrived at the Washington Park Zoo from the Wildlife World Zoo to be companions for her. I have been told that they have been introduced and are getting along well. We very much look forward to years of watching these babies grow up, and eventually having babies of their own. After all, they are Mohini's legacy!



2010 brought the delivery of Zusha to the Washington Park Zoo, seen here in July. She was born at Wildwood Wildlife Park.

EVALUATING INTERACTION WITH EDIBLE AND INEDIBLE ENRICHMENT ITEMS BY AN AFRICAN SERVAL (*LEPTAILURUS SERVAL*)

By Becky Kunkel, Conservation and Behavior Intern
Fort Worth Zoo, Fort Worth, Texas

Introduction

Environmental enrichment has been shown to reduce stereotypic behavior and increase activity and natural behaviors in captive felids (Skibiell et. al., 2007; Wooster, 1997). Small captive felids, such as African servals, have been known to interact with hanging or moving objects, as well as different types of food items. Bones, hanging pieces of meat, and flying meatballs have all been shown to elicit natural behaviors such as leaping and reaching. Enrichment has also been shown to increase enclosure usage (Shepherdson et. al., 1993) and assist in identifying health problems (Mellen et. al., 1979). The veterinary staff of the Washington Park Zoo, in Portland, diagnosed a congenital diaphragmatic hernia in a male serval by recording his behavior with enrichment and monitoring his levels of activity. Data that deviated from the norm indicated potential medical concerns.

In zoos, enrichment is provided to stimulate the olfactory, auditory, and tactile senses. Edible enrichment has been shown to increase overall activity, reduce

sleeping, reduce pacing, and increase behavioral diversity in captive felids (Shepherdson et. al., 1993). Inedible enrichment items can elicit natural behaviors as well. Nature sounds, different substrates, perfumes, herbs, and animal urine have all been introduced into various felid habitats (Skibiell et. al., 2007; Wooster, 1997). However, little is known about comparisons of edible versus inedible item interaction in captive felids. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the levels of interaction by an African serval among eight different enrichment items, four edible and four inedible. The serval's overall activity within the enclosure was also monitored and recorded.

Materials and Methods

The subject for this experiment was a six-year-old male African serval housed at the Fort Worth Zoo's Animal OutReach and Conservation Center (ARCC) in Fort Worth, Texas. He was housed solitary off exhibit from the public, and had daily training and interaction with his keepers. He had a history of ingesting enrichment items and because of this, any enrichment item introduced into his enclosure had to be closely evaluated for safety. This reduced the number of approved enrichment items he was allowed to have unsu-

pervised. Once he was fully mature however, his keepers wanted to re-introduce items that might elicit more activity within his enclosure.

Data was collected from July 8 through August 4, 2010. An ethogram was created for the experiment and all behaviors were mutually exclusive (Figure 1). Within the ethogram, a sub-category ("Interactive Behaviors") was created to differentiate which behaviors indicated interaction with the experimental enrichment, and which did not. Behavioral sampling (Martin and Bateson, 1993) was the method of data collection used, and data was collected continuously throughout a 30-minute session. Every instance of behavior was recorded. A five-second period of alternative behavior was required to separate two of the same behaviors recorded simultaneously. Observations were made over three days prior to introducing the experimental enrichments in order to establish a baseline activity budget for the serval.

Eight enrichment items were chosen for the experiment. The items used were minnows in a 3x4 ft. (0.9x1.2 m.) tub of water, a frozen block of blood, crickets, stripped beef shank bone, a 3x3 ft. (0.9x0.9 m.) suspended hammock, sand in

a 3x4 ft. (0.9x1.2 m.) tub, a suspended grapevine ball, and bubbles from a battery operated bubble machine. Each item was presented separately during three sessions of 30 minutes each, for a total of 90 minutes per item. The schedule for the presentation of items was chosen at random and introduced daily at approximately 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. No item was presented twice in the same day, and each item was presented at least once in the morning and in the afternoon.

Additionally, the observation period was broken down into three-minute intervals, and data was recorded using the One-Zero method (Martin and Bateson, 1993). This gave a total of 10 intervals for each 30-minute period. If the serval interacted with the item for more than five seconds, a plus mark was recorded for that interval to show that he interacted with the item during that three-minute period. If he did not interact with the enrichment item, a minus sign was recorded.

the serval's activity to an average of 80 behaviors per session, while inedible enrichment increased activity to 40 behaviors per session. There was more interaction exhibited with the edible items than the inedible items (Figure 2). Although the edible enrichment increased activity by twice as much, both categories of items were effective in increasing overall activity within the enclosure. Every enrichment item introduced, regardless of whether it was edible or inedible, was interacted with at least once when it was presented. The average number of interactions per session with the edible enrichment was 35, while the average number of interactions with inedible items



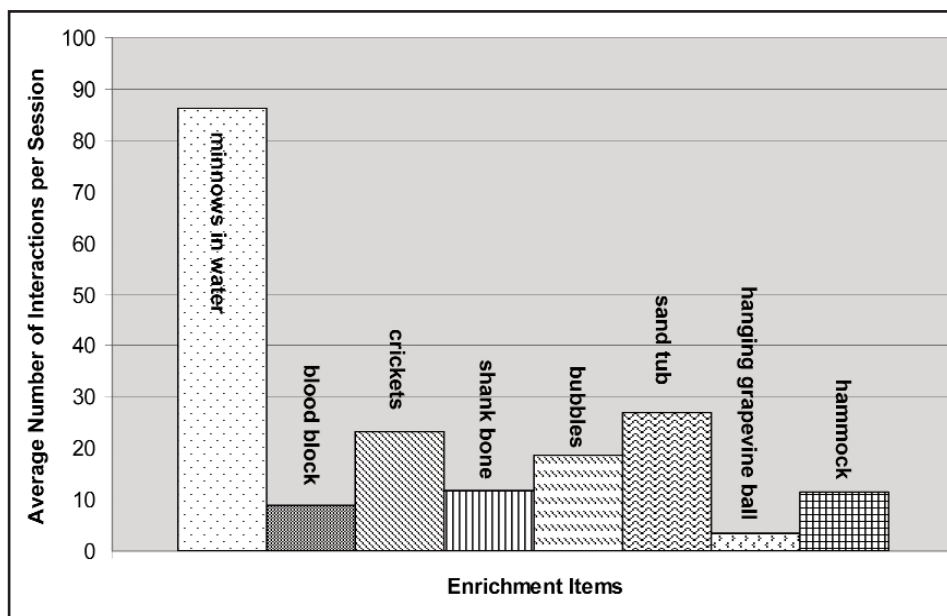
The study's test subject clearly enjoyed getting enrichment with the tub of live minnows, as he was able to paw at the fish darting through the water.

Data also suggests that the minnows in water elicited the longest durational interaction throughout the half hour session (Figure 4). The serval interacted with the minnow enrichment at least once during every interval throughout the sessions. He interacted with the sand tub during 56% of the intervals, resulting in the sand tub as the second longest interacted with item. Grapevine balls elicited the least amount of durational interaction, with interaction occurring during 16% of the intervals.

Discussion

Enrichment items that moved elicited more activity and interaction by the serval than stationary items. Given that minnows in water not only move but are also edible, previous studies have suggested that this enrichment would elicit more interaction than those that are non-moving or non-edible (Wooster, 1997). This data supports the hypothesis. The fish also elicited more hunting behavior (sniffing, pawing, biting, and eating) by the serval than the other items (Figure 3). However, under this hypothesis, the serval should have interacted with the crickets and the bubbles more than the other items that did not move, but he did not. For the most part, he watched the bubbles and pawed at the crickets, but did not pounce or jump on them as predicted. This could be because these items were not naturally appropriate for serval ingestion.

Among the edible items, the shank bone was the second to last most interacted with. However, only two sessions were included, because one bone was quite different from the other two bones. It was not completely stripped of meat as were



Average Number of Interactions with Edible and Inedible Enrichment Items by an African Serval at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Results

When presented with new enrichment items, the serval increased his activity dramatically compared to his baseline activity (Figure 2). When the enrichment items were introduced, the serval's average activity level increased from 11 behaviors per session to 60 behaviors per session, resulting in an 81% increase in overall activity with the experimental enrichment present. The edible enrichment increased

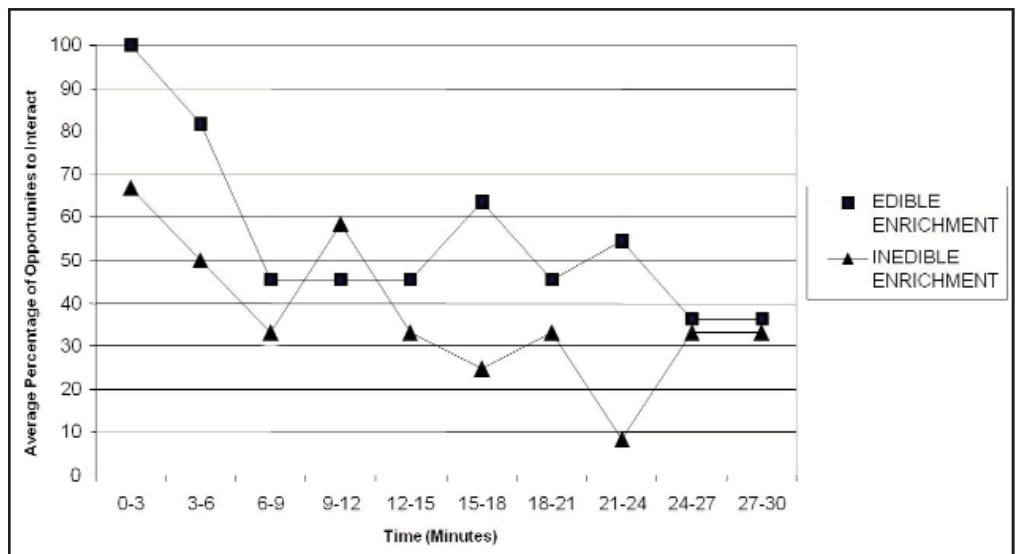
was 13. This resulted in a difference of 62% more interactions with edible items than the inedible items.

The enrichment that elicited the most interactive behaviors (average of 86 interactions per half hour session) was the minnows in water (Figure 3). The item that elicited the least amount of interactive behaviors (average of three interactions per half hour session) was the hanging grapevine ball.

the previous two bones that had been presented. To assure consistency with the other two sessions, this particular session was removed from the study, and the data adjusted accordingly.

Of the inedible enrichment items, the sand tub elicited the most interactive behaviors by the serval (Figure 3). This could be because this substrate was new to him. The enclosure that the serval inhabits has a concrete floor with large logs for climbing and resting. The tactile quality of the sand may have been softer on the serval's paws, so he may have been more inclined to interact with it by pawing and sniffing. There was only one instance recorded of him marking in the sand tub, and this was during the end of the last session. He did not interact with the sand tub again once he urinated in it.

The hammock was the second to last inedible item that the serval interacted with, possibly because it was a large addi-



Interactions with edible vs. inedible enrichment by an African serval during each interval throughout a session.

tion to the habitat that the serval had never seen before, and he avoided it altogether during the first presentation. During the

first session with the hammock, he did not interact with it at all, and then during the second session he interacted with it almost half the time by sniffing, pawing, and resting in it. He interacted with the hammock almost the entire time during the third and final session. Many animals need time to desensitize to large, novel items within their habitat, so his avoidance behavior during the first presentation was not uncommon (Mellen and Ellis, 1996; Ramirez, 1999).

Conclusions

Although all of the enrichment items elicited some interactive behavior, the results of this study suggest that the African serval at the Fort Worth Zoo will interact more with edible enrichment items than inedible items. The study also suggests that he will interact for longer periods of time with edible items. Minnows in water elicited the most interactive and maintained behaviors for the longest periods of time. However, data from this study also show that the serval increased activity when presented with the inedible enrichments. This is important to note because some cats in zoos can be at risk for obesity and keepers may need alternatives to food for enrichment. Perhaps future studies can investigate enrichment preference by providing two items at the same time or by varying the way in which items are presented (e.g., scattered, hanging, buried, tossed, etc.) to determine number and duration of interactions by cats in zoo6.

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The FCF board of directors congratulates the following individuals for being accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program since the past *Journal* issue.

Rebecca Johnson – Basic
Warren Johnson – Basic
Billie Lambert – Basic

Saundra Michael – Basic
Scott Spears – Basic

Christine Comstock – Intermediate
John Kunz – Intermediate
Sandra Spears – Intermediate

Roy Comstock – Intermediate
Diane Kunz – Intermediate

Susan Bradshaw – Advanced

Terri Werner – Advanced

The three levels of FCF Feline Handler registration are: *basic* – at least one year of experience, *intermediate* – at least five years of experience, and *advanced* – more than ten years' experience handling exotic felines.

Be sure to update your registration in the members-only website when you obtain additional handling experience or new species experience. If you believe your experiences qualify you for an upgrade in registration status, make a request with your updates and the secretary will process the registration.

The online registration form can be filled out directly in the members-only section of the FCF website and the \$30.00 registration fee can be made through PayPal.

The board further challenges all FCF facilities to apply for accreditation by the FCF Accreditation Board. The overview, basic standards, and accreditation application are on the FCF members-only website.

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

George DeLong
FCF Secretary



Carl Bovard, founder of Single Vision, took this shot of his ambassador bobcat Rampage taking a ride on the inaptly named tortoise, Flash.



Photographer Jackie Adebahr's son, Jayden, says, "When is it going to be my turn?" as Stewie serval chases the water stream in the pool.



Sampson lynx gives a loving nuzzle to Laura Walker at ?????.

YOUR BEST SHOTS



Bob Felton and Liz and Mercedes Hatton pose next to professional illusionists and animal trainers, Tony and Ferdinand Fercos (holding the lead to their star lion). Bob won the two-day Las Vegas getaway and afternoon at the Fercos compound, which was auctioned off at last year's convention.

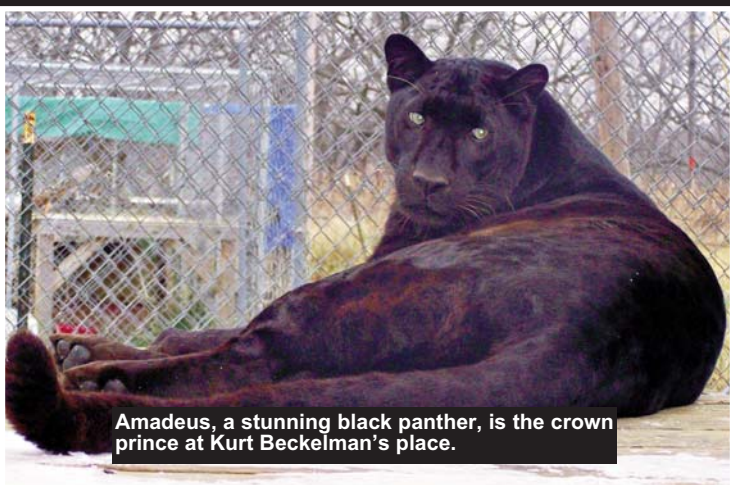


This cutie pair of serval kittens was born at Julie's Jungle. Photo by Julie Reid.

Sami Caracal lives at Cedar Cove Sanctuary, in Kansas. Sandi Spears captures the ecstasy of a chin scratch.



Amadeus, a stunning black panther, is the crown prince at Kurt Beckelman's place.



"Am I cute or what?" this little white tiger seems to be asking. Photo by Deborah Warrick at St. Augustine Wildlife Sanctuary.



Is it hot, or are they in love? Maybe both. Aztec and Tia, ancient jaguars, are the parents of Isabella, who was featured in the January 2010 Journal. Yvonne Veety took this photo while she was volunteering at Panther Ridge Conservation Center.



Precious Siberian lynx resides at Tennessee Nature Center. Photo by Laura Bean.





This is Part One of a very important three-part series by Lea Jaunakais. Look for Part Two, "Outbreak...What now?...Quarantine," and the third installment, "Diagnosis and Treatment of an Outbreak," to be published in upcoming FCF Journals.

PREVENT AN OUTBREAK - VACCINATE!

By Lea Jaunakais, President and Founder of Tiger World (www.tigerworld.us)

Do you have exotic cats and struggle with making the decision to vaccinate them? You are not alone. Whether you are a private owner, a veterinarian, or a USDA-licensed facility, this can be a challenge. Many of us who have exotics utilize veterinarians trained in domestic veterinary medicine who have only been exposed to exotics through their experiences with rarer clients like us, so even the vets seek to know the right vaccinations to use with exotics. Some statements I have heard include:

- My cats are healthy, so they do not need vaccines.
- I want to vaccinate, but I do not know what vaccines to use.
- We have not vaccinated because there is no approved vaccine.
- Are they safe? Do they cause bad reactions in big cats?

I have also struggled with some of these questions. From my own experience, I can tell you that vaccinations are essential for preventing common diseases and boosting your animal's immune system. You may not realize it, but animals that carry diseases are all around us, such as stray dogs and cats, along with wild native animals, like raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and rodents. All are known carriers or vectors for diseases. It is even suggested that wild birds can spread disease. I am sure that many of you have a pest control regiment in place. As secure as we think our facilities and animals are, from time to time we may get intruders. It is not just these animal intruders having contact with our animals that present a risk. The feces of any infected animal can also spread disease.

Our recent outbreak of parvo enteritis stemmed from exposure to our animals by contamination from a zookeeper's shoes. Unknowingly, we stepped in the feces of an infected animal intruder somewhere around our 30-acre park and transferred it

into our habitats. Through DNA profiling by Cornell University, the host of the parvo virus that infected our cats was identified as coming from a raccoon, fox, or stray domestic cat. This recent outbreak proved fatal to our baby jaguar cubs, Dora and Diego, and almost fatal to one of our tiger cubs, M a l i a .

Although the parvo that infected our cats was a mutation, the vaccines available help provide cross-protection and assist in the development of immunities that fight disease. Unfortunately, our little jaguars were too fragile to fight the disease, and, even with 24-hour vet care, we were unable to save their lives.

Even though the vaccines are not officially labeled for big cat use, several of them have been tested and used in exotic cats for many years without issues. At Tiger World, we have been successfully vaccinating all of our cats since 2007. We have over 40 exotic cats, including lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, servals, and lynx, and we have never had an adverse reaction from a vaccination. Nevertheless, as new developments in veterinary immunology have emerged, changes have occurred in vaccination protocols. Previously, it was a common practice to vaccinate yearly with boosters, but studies have shown this to be overkill and unnecessary. Vaccinating too often can lead to the development of sarcomas or tumors. Our attending veterinarian, Dr. Eric Setzer, has come up with a good strategy for vaccination that maximizes our ability to prevent infectious diseases while minimizing the occurrence of adverse reactions associated with vaccination.

The following is the core rabies vaccination regiment at Tiger World:

- 1cc IMRAB-1 Killed Rabies vaccine given at 12 weeks of age.
- 1cc IMRAB-3 Killed Rabies vaccine given at 1 year of age.
- 1cc IMRAB-3 Killed Rabies vaccine given every 3 years thereafter.

Vaccination against rabies is a vital part of public health safety and is required by law in most states for all cats and dogs above the age of four months. This is a safe and easy intramuscular (IM) vaccine given in the hind leg muscle, and most states require that it only be administered by a licensed veterinarian. For all vacci-



Dr. Juston Schmidtke administering a vaccine intramuscularly (IM) at Tiger World. Photo courtesy of Tiger World.

nations, we use a 3ml lure lock syringe, which ensures that the needle is secure and will not come off during the injection. If your cats are trained and comfortable with people, the injection can usually be given by hand or with the use of a syringe pole. Our animals are not sedated for vaccinations. Much of the time, the cats do not even notice they were given an injection. Rabies is a very important vaccine for preventing disease, and it can also save your animal's life. If your animal is not vaccinated against rabies and bites a human, many county and state policies require immediate euthanization of the animal, as the only way to test for rabies is through the brain. Currently within the U.S., there have been several wild animals found to be infected with rabies.

The FVRCP vaccine for feline rhinotracheitis (herpes), calicivirus, panleukopenia viruses (parvo and feline distemper), and chlamydia psittaci, is administered as follows:

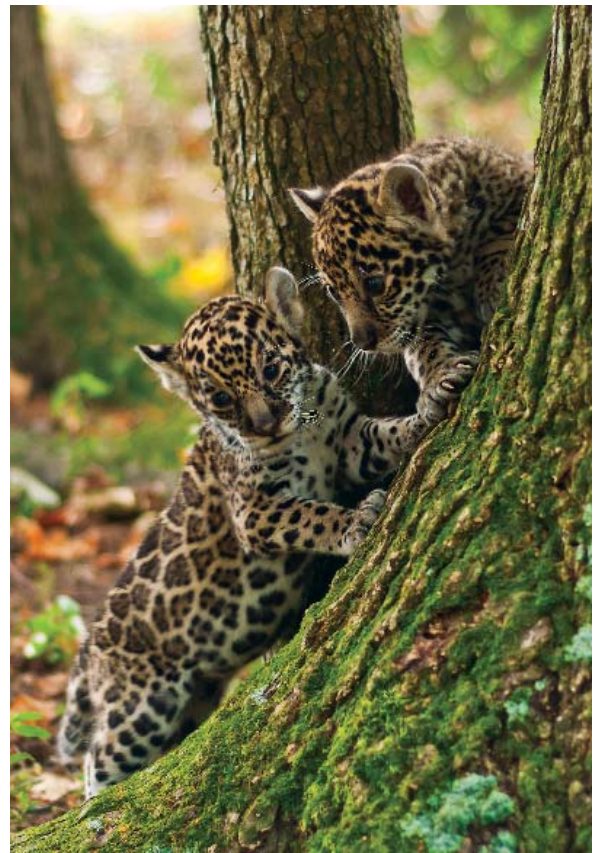
1cc Fel-o-vax IV + Calicivax Killed Vaccine given at 12 weeks.

1cc Fel-o-vax IV + Calicivax Killed Vaccine given as a booster 3-4 weeks later.

1cc Fel-o-vax IV + Calicivax Killed Vaccine given at 1 year.

1cc Fel-o-vax IV + Calicivax Killed Vaccine single dose given every 3 years thereafter.

This combination vaccine given in the hind leg is a great aid in the prevention of diseases in your cats and is recommended as a subcutaneous ("SQ" or under the skin) injection. However, it can also be given IM. Unlike rabies, this vaccine does not require administration by a veterinarian and can be purchased through suppliers such as Revival Animal Health. It must be kept refrigerated. If you are vaccinating your cats for the first time with this vaccine, regardless of the animal's age, you will still need to give a booster shot 3-4 weeks after the primary vaccination. Along with Cornell University, our vet recommends 1 booster every 3 years thereafter.



Diego and Dora, our jaguar cubs, at six weeks old. Photo courtesy of Tiger World.

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

REPORT ON THE 2011 FIRST QUARTER FCF BOARD MEETING

The 2011 First Quarter Board Meeting was held on Sunday, February 27, in Miami, Florida. This was the first meeting of the newly seated 2011-2012 Board, and it was held in conjunction with an offering of the FCF Wildlife Conservation Educators Course on Saturday, February 26. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am, by FCF President Kevin Chambers. All seven Board members were present: President-Kevin Chambers; Vice President-Patty Perry; Secretary-George DeLong; Treasurer-Marilyn Antle; Directors-Pat Callahan, Robert Johnson, and Teresa Shaffer. FCF Executive Director, Lynn Culver, was present. Several FCF members were present as observers at various times during the meeting.

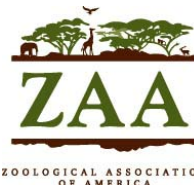
The following FCF Board and General Meeting minutes were presented for ratification as previously approved and printed in the *Journal*: 3rd Qtr. Board Meeting-July 29 at convention; General Membership Meeting- July 29 at convention; Special Called Board Meeting- September 5&6 via internet; and Special Board Executive Session- October 15 thru 18 via internet. Additionally, the secretary provided written minutes of the executive

actions and votes from the October Executive Session for inclusion in the permanent records of the FCF. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes were ratified.

The following committee reports were given:

- Executive Director - Lynn Culver provided reports and updates.
- Accreditation Report - Wildlife and Environmental Conservation and Jungle Encounters were accredited in 2010. TIGERS and Panther Ridge Conservation Center were renewed.
- Conservation committee - Pat Callahan reported that two grants were approved in 2010, for guinea and Geoffrey's research. The committee has approved two new requests, another guinea request and a new Paraguay jaguarundi research request.

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- Education committee - A new Youth Education committee chaired by Debi Willoughby will add two new sections to the FCF website: On the public website will be Student Resources, and in the FCF members-only site will be Educator Resources. Additionally, an e-newsletter targeted for school-age children is also under development.
- Feline Urgent Response Team - Teresa Shaffer will head up a new committee that will make itself available if there is an escape and produce materials to help first responders or community leaders during these episodes.
- Legislation Report - Rob Johnson reported ongoing federal contacts and favorable relationships being formed.
- Member services Report - 178 new members joined in 2010, FCF dropped 187 members in 2010. Teresa Shaffer will take on the project of contacting and re-inviting old members who have been dropped.
- Wildcat Safety Net Report - Caroline Alexander reported that the Wildlife Expo raised funds for Safety Net in 2010, and one grant for \$1,000 was awarded to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.
- Registered Handler Report - George DeLong reported that there are currently 99 registered feline handlers in the FCF database.
- Convention committee report - Erin Patters, chair, updated on convention plans and new committee member April White.
- Managing Editor - Lynn Culver reported the *Journal* committee consists of Eden Tran, layout editor; Judith Hoffman, Deanna Croasmun, and Yvonne Veety as proofreaders; and Kurt Beckelman has volunteered for *Journal* advertising manager.

Appointments:

- Accreditation Committee member - Rob Johnson moved that Bill Meadows be appointed to the Accreditation Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous

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yes vote.

- *Journal* Managing Editor- George DeLong moved that Lynn Culver be appointed managing editor of the *FCF Journal*. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Conservation committee chair - George DeLong moved that Pat Callahan be appointed to chair the Conservation Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Education committee chair - Patty Perry moved that Ron DeArmond be appointed to chair the Education Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Youth Education committee chair - Teresa Shaffer moved that Debi Willoughby be appointed to chair the Youth Education Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Legislation committee chair - Teresa Shaffer moved that Rob Johnson be appointed to chair the Legislation Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Member Services chair - Rob Johnson moved that Caroline Alexander be appointed to chair the Member Services committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Marketing - No nominations.

- Public Relations - No nominations.

- Development chair - George DeLong moved that Erin Patters be appointed to chair the Development Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Safety Net chair - Teresa Shaffer moved that Caroline Alexander be appointed to chair the Wildcat Safety Net committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

Other Business

- Executive Director- Patty Perry moved that \$20,000 be allocated for expenses of the Executive Director. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote. Patty Perry moved to contract with Lynn Culver as the executive director.

- Election review - Discussion of complications and problems encountered by the addition of a mid-election write-in candidate. The board agreed that a by-law to prohibit write-in candidates was needed, but none was proposed and no action was taken.

- A report from the Accreditation Committee proposed several changes to the Accreditation program including:

- *Accreditation base fee being raised, and additional fees added to reflect the number of felines or enclosures at a facility.

- *Length of term of facility accreditation extended from two years to five years.

- *Offer onsite inspections at increased price, and require onsite inspections for larger facilities.

- *Change expected processing time to a maximum of six months.

- *Clarify that facility accreditation is for wild felines and does not cover domestic/wildcat hybrid cats as approved in January 2009.

- Formal changes to the Accreditation Program and Policy will be proposed at

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the next meeting.

- Registered handler policy - George DeLong reported that some registrations were for domestic hybrid experience only. Some members have submitted registration based upon handling of domestic/wild hybrid cats. George DeLong moved that that the Feline Conservation Federation considers wild cat/domestic cat hybrids to be domestic cats. These hybrids do not fall under the FCF wild cat species provisions for mission, experience, or accreditation. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- FCF Brochures - current stock of brochures are gone. Teresa Shaffer volunteered to update the brochure design and the board agreed to reprint more brochures in the future.

- The *InCATvenient Truth* DVD supply has been exhausted. New DVDs will be replicated for mass distribution to legislators and offered to exhibitor members at just above cost to encourage distribution through member gift shops and their public events. Teresa Shaffer moved that the board authorize expenditure for copies of the DVD as follows: 1,000 copies as things stand currently; or 1,500 copies if USZA sends a check for copies for their own use and distribution. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Studbook registry - Pat Callahan will head up a new FCF feline registry and studbook program and the caracal was proposed as the first species.

- Captive Feline Census - An FCF-supported nationwide census of wild cats was discussed.

- Teresa Shaffer volunteered to head up a new Classified Ads service for FCF members on the members-only website.

Feline employment or volunteer opportunities and employment and intern openings at FCF member facilities will be listed.

- Teresa Shaffer moved the board authorize a sum of \$200 for expenses and materials for use by the Youth Education Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous yes vote.

- Lynn Culver discussed the recent number of FCF facilities being cited by the USDA for the fence heights for their tiger habitats in response to the escape of two zoo tigers in the past two years. The board, in conjunction with the executive director, will compose a formal letter addressing this new USDA policy as it is being randomly enforced. The FCF is officially encouraging all members who are cited to formally appeal in writing, and the executive director offers assistance in this process.

- Proposed Constitutional changes: Currently the FCF membership is open to everyone and does not allow for stakeholder, professional, youth, or institutional memberships. Lynn discussed the need for a tiered membership to enable additional forms of membership.

- No formal Budget for 2011 was proposed and the board will revisit this next meeting.

- Status of Articles of Incorporation amendments - Secretary George DeLong reported he has not yet filed the amend-



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ment to the FCF Articles of Incorporation to the Florida Secretary of State to reflect the smaller board size.

- Husbandry Courses and Wildlife Educator Course possible locations were discussed. Teresa Shaffer will look into locations in Missouri. Additional possible locations are California and Ohio.

- The board consensus was to not stock the FCF website store with any new items.

- George DeLong proposed the need for a new FCF Mission Statement and presented his draft ideas for board input. No official action was taken. George will present a formal mission statement at the next board meeting.

- The board discussed possible FCF actions to counter the public relations and poor media coverage of wild cat owners and facilities. It was agreed that increased distribution of the *InCATvenient Truth* DVD was a top priority. Direct confrontation with those against private ownership was discouraged and instead, greater emphasis upon FCF works and accomplishments were felt to be a better focus of FCF energy.

Help the FCF Launch a New Feature in the Members-Only Section of our Website

Coming soon is a Classified Ads service. In this section of the website, you will be able to advertise your intern openings, employment opportunities, or your interest in working or volunteering at feline facilities.

The FCF executive director receives email inquiries from around the US as well as from out of the country, from vet students, biologists, wildlife researchers, and motivated feline enthusiasts wanting an opportunity to gain experience in captive feline husbandry. As these inquiries arrive, they will be posted on the Members-Only website, under Opportunities Wanted.

Additionally, many zoos, exhibitors, sanctuaries, and breeding centers need volunteers, and some facilities offer structured intern programs. Perhaps your facility has an employment opening for an experienced person; you can advertise here also. If your facility has openings, you can now advertise for free under Intern Openings, Volunteers Wanted, or Employment Openings.

FCF Director Teresa Shaffer will be heading up the Classified Ads section, so send your ad directly to her at director@felineconservation.org for posting in the classifieds section.

Inquiries sent to the FCF website will also be listed.





Feline Conservation Federation

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Cover photo: Madonna playing with her cubs, born in August 2008, at Laohu Valley Reserve in South Africa, and raised completely in natural conditions. The kids are now incredible hunters! Photo by Save China's Tigers.

Back photo: Ngala is nine years old and lives with an older male. She came to Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge from Ohio. She is very playful, so we are always trying to find new toys for her. Interns made this fire hose ball she loves and guards from her male companion. Animal keeper Jennifer Reddington used a Sony Cyber Shot DSC-H2 to take this photo.

