



Feline Conservation Federation

May/June 2011 • Volume 55, Issue 3



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Gucci lays in wait for the Easter bunny. Photo by Rebecca Jensen, owner, A Wild Side Cattery.





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

A membership to the 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. The FCF works to improve captive feline husbandry and ensure that habitat is available. The FCF supports the conservation of exotic felines through captive and wild habitat protection, and it provides support for captive husbandry, 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 lynncculver@hughes.net, or send by postal service to 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



Feline Conservation Federation

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kevin Chambers

It is that busy time of year again, preparing for all the summer time activities and having babies being born. Topping that list is the 40th FCF convention in Orlando. Erin Patters and her committee have put in many long hours to make sure this convention will be the best ever. With a visit to Joel Slaven's facility and a top notch line-up of speakers, including Li Quan from China, and Jean Slosburg from Costa Rica, it is definitely going to be a convention that will be talked about for years to come.

Once again, the FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course and Wildlife Educators Course will be taught the day before convention. These courses provide new ideas and insight on becoming a better animal

owner or educator. It is important that every FCF member become a graduate. Future courses in other locations are being arranged now, so if you miss those at convention you will have other opportunities.

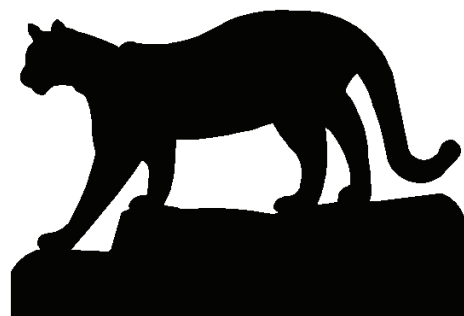
I want to commend Debi Willoughby and her new Youth Education committee. They have been hard at work this year and have added a new Youth Section to the FCF website (www.felineconservation.org). Be sure to check it out, particularly the *Young Feline Ambassador* e-newsletter for kids and youth, future protectors of the world's wild cats. Two issues are online, with the second covering the upcoming Convention in Orlando. If you have school-age kids or know of any with an interest in nature, be sure to pass along the information. By sending an email to youth@felineconservation.org,

anyone can receive the e-newsletter in their email inbox. And, for the educators out there, download your own copy, print it out, and bring it to your presentations. The FCF needs your help to promote *Young Feline Ambassador* to our target audience. This publication provides a much needed counter-balance to the more radical school publications put out by PETA and other animal rights groups.

The Youth committee has also teamed up with Erin to create a "Wildcat Camp" youth class at this year's convention. There is no charge for this class and we hope to have a great turnout. So bring your kids and look for Debi at convention. You can contact Debi at debi@jungleen-counters.org for more information.

I would like to extend hearty congratulations to our old friend from Chile, Fernando Vidal. Fernando recently made history by introducing the first guigna ever conceived and born in captivity. This is a landmark accomplishment and a giant step forward for the conservation of the guigna. The baby is being raised by its mother and is doing fine. Fernando has promised an article for an upcoming FCF *Journal* giving all of the details. I am proud that the FCF has supported Fernando and others, like Jim Sanderson, in conserving this little-known and rare cat. The foundations that we are laying today will hopefully ensure the survival of this wonderful little feline.

Make sure you check out the new classified ads section in the member's-only area of the website. After logging in, you can view ads for available intern or employment opportunities, seeking internship or employment, available animals, and animals wanted. There are several listings in each category, so be sure to take a look. There is no cost for placing an ad. Simply send an email to Teresa Shaffer with the details and your contact information. Teresa can be contacted at director@felineconservation.org.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Lynn Culver

While looking over the FCF website stats, I discovered Julie's Jungle is one of the top three referring websites. People go to Julie Reid's site and then come to the FCF site. Julie's site advises visitors to check out all laws that apply to exotic animal ownership and provides a hyperlink to the FCF legislation information pages. Julie says this not only helps the FCF, but using her link to the state law summaries as a reference for her customers is also convenient for her, as the FCF keeps law summaries up to date for both small breeders and pet owners. And it helps her to cover her rear should any problems arise. Julie also believes a link to the FCF site is a benefit to pet owners with websites, because the laws link helps validate their legal right to own their animals and promote legal ownership to others. To FCF breeders, it shows due diligence towards responsible and legal sales, offering up-to-date information from a respected organization... the FCF.

The FCF just received more InCATvenient Truth DVDs. Exhibitor members and educators can help the FCF distribute these videos to the public at their presentations and in their gift shops. We have an impressive, full color 11"x17" promotional poster with each order of 10 videos, and they can be shipped to US addresses for \$30.00. Just mail a check to our treasurer, use PayPal and send funds to treasurer@felineconservation.org, or call in your credit card to Marilin at 853-283-2826. Want to order more than 10? Give me a call and I'll save you even more!

The Texas legislative season had three bills introduced. SB958 by Senator Wentworth and HB1546 by Representative Larson both amended the Texas Dangerous Animal Act by proposing a new exemption for sanctuaries accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries, a Humane Society-backed organization. The legislative aid for Senator Wentworth explained that his bill was written to help out Primarily

Primates, a sanctuary in their district. The county where Primarily Primates resides has not followed the law and has not created a registration system, so the Senator introduced a bill that exempted Primarily Primates. And since Primarily Primates is generally closed to the public, no consideration was given to sanctuaries that are commercial exhibitors. FCF members testified at hearings, urging inclusion of FCF accreditation. As executive director, I wrote letters and sent information packages to explain why commercial exhibition is a necessary fundraising tool and public education service, and I requested that FCF accreditation be included. HB251, sponsored by Representative Hilderbran, amended the Texas Dangerous Animal Act passed in 2001, by creating a new subcategory of "dangerous carnivores," listing all the big cats, as well as the poor little bobcat. And these "more

dangerous" dangerous animals were singled out for even more draconian regulations, like not being allowed within five miles of a church, school, or daycare center, increasing the registration fee from not more than \$50 per animal to upwards of \$500 per animal, requiring two acres of land ownership for each "dangerous carnivore" possessed, and increasing liability insurance amounts, to be decided after the bill is law. Also, the exemption for "humane societies" and "animal shelters" was removed. Hilderbran introduced his bill because of a big cat owner, operating as an animal shelter, fighting with their county to keep their tigers and cougars. Again, the entire state is dragged into enacting new legislation that addresses a single situation. Is it any wonder this country is broke??? FCF members testified, while I wrote letters and made phone calls asking to remove bobcats from the list and add FCF accreditation.

Worth, the legal aid for Representative Hilderbran, called me to say Representative Hilderbran would not remove bobcats, but would sponsor another amendment to add FCF accreditation when the bill is on the floor. At this point, the bill is out of committee and approved without FCF accreditation. We'll see. . . .

I hope you enjoy reading this *Journal*, and I want to thank all the article contributors and photographers. It is a pleasure to be part of our Journal staff and help shape each issue. So many members responded to my request for photos this time that we ran a double dose with "Your Best Shots" and another collage featuring that special relationship some of us are fortunate enough to share with our feline friends (a.k.a. "dangerous carnivores," to Texas Representative Hilderbran).

Included in this issue is a Constitutional amendment to create a professional membership. Please read over the amendment and the explanation on the following page. I urge everyone to vote in favor of this motion. Use the enclosed envelope to mail your ballot.



**So You Think They
Belong in the Wild . . .**

Saving wildlife habitats is of importance, environmental are forcing vast to extinction. Due to and the expansion the "wild" that many of us

and their native great global but current conditions numbers of species human development of the human population, think of just no longer exists.

Tigers, the iconic symbol of power and grace for many cultures, are ironically on their downward slide towards extinction in the wild. Currently only an estimated 3,200 wild tigers still exist and so far nothing we have done has slowed the pace of this man-made disaster. Our best and most logical option for preventing total extinction, for many species, is through captive breeding and proper management. This task cannot be done by zoos alone. It will require the help of private facilities, organizations and individuals.

Go beyond the sensationalism and take a realistic look at big cats in captivity.

Watch "An In(CAT)venient Truth"

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Mice



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

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

Rats



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

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

Coturnix Quail



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

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits



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

Chicks

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



Guinea Pigs

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

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CONSERVATION OF THE FISHING CAT

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Of the 36 members of Felidae, the IUCN Cat Specialist Group considers one to be “critically endangered” and six to be “endangered.” Human-caused threats are the root cause of the loss of biodiversity. Understanding threats is critical to designing and implementing conservation strate-

tat loss that has caused a crash in flat-headed cat populations from peninsular Malaysia to the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. No amount of community conservation efforts can stop the cancerous spread of palm oil plantations,

because it is a stated goal of Malaysia and Indonesia to dominate the industry. In the face of state goals and federal policy, even indigenous peoples have been forced to accept the replacement of their traditional hunting grounds by the palm oil industry. However, some species such as the fishing cat can benefit from community conservation efforts.

The fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is one of four small wild cats considered “endangered” because of widespread habitat loss and retribution killing. Like most small cats, the fishing cat does not pose a direct threat to humans. Fishing cats are believed to occur in the Indus Valley separating Pakistan and India, and known to occur in the southwestern India, the island nation of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the lowlands



Fishing cats are about twice the size of domestic cats and have webbing in between their toes to help them navigate through muddy wetlands.



Mangrove swamps are highly productive coastal ecosystems. Dense root systems resist tidal surges and can greatly reduce the impact of hurricanes and typhoons.



When drained by channels, much of the land formerly covered by mangroves becomes a barren sand desert.



Fishing cat distribution according to the IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org>).

gies that reduce or mitigate threats. Although there is widespread belief that community conservation efforts are necessary to prevent the loss of all species, this is not always so. For instance, replacement of lowland wetlands by the palm oil industry has resulted in widespread habi-



Mangrove swamps have been cleared by humans and replaced with shrimp and fish farms.



A typical shrimp pond is about one hectare (2.2 acres).

of Nepal, far-east India, Burma, Cambodia, and Thailand. If there was a population of fishing cats in Vietnam, it likely no longer exists. The Taiwan population is also extinct. The last fishing cat documented in Java was killed by a hunter in 1932, and fishing cats might well be extinct in Java. We cannot conclusively declare the existence of a population in northern Malaysia, since the only tangible

proof found there has been a single camera trap picture of what might be a fishing cat. With the exception of Nepal, fishing cats are found mostly along coastlines where humans have caused widespread habitat conversion.

Habitat loss is a general term that lumps together site-specific, or local, habitat changes.

In Thailand, the fishing cat is found in what in the past was nearly continuous coastal mangrove swamps. These swamps were once highly productive ecosystems. Several species of mangrove, all with well-developed, complex root systems,

grow concurrently to form dense stands between the sea and terra firma. These coastal wetlands have been and continue to be replaced by industrial-scale production shrimp and fish farms. Each pond averages about a hectare (2.2 acres) and supports either shrimp or fish, but never both. Landowners possess from one to a



Farm-raised shrimp from Thailand can be found in the frozen foods section of Wal-Mart.



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dozen or more ponds. The shrimp and fish are destined for the frozen foods sec-

tion of Wal-Mart and other outlets in the USA and Europe. Visit the frozen foods section in any Wal-Mart in the USA and you will find packages of shrimp clearly labeled "Product of Thailand." In a few years, the ponds become so polluted that they are abandoned, and more mangrove habitat is destroyed. Wal-Mart does not support habitat restoration despite the fact that abandoned ponds could be bought and planted with mangrove trees for as little as \$1,200 per acre.

The fish ponds are large enough to contain many thousands of fish. As with any intense farming, death of the farmed species occurs. The floating dead fish attract fishing cats that emerge from their forested haunts at dusk, around 6:30pm, to



In a few years ponds become so polluted they no longer support fish or shrimp. These ponds are abandoned and not restored.

hunt the ponds. For fishing cats, navigating a highly altered pond-and-shrub landscape is a hazardous affair. Moreover, there is the occasional hen house that can be easily raided. Not surprisingly, a fishing cat that raids a hen house or fish pond, even for dead fish, is destined in short order to become a dead fishing cat. The cats are either shot shortly after they appear at dusk or they are trapped and



Commercial package of shrimp showing "Product of Thailand" label.



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Passanan (Namfon) Cutter speaks to a local landowner regarding the loss of a few chickens.



From the air the extent of habitat loss is discouraging. Fishing cats use the small forested corridors available to them.

beaten to death.

Given these two threats, i.e., industrial production shrimp and fish farms and direct killing, only the latter can be addressed by community conservation efforts. Passanan Cutter (Namfon to her friends and colleagues), a native Thai who speaks Thai and lives in Thailand, has made it her mission (and her masters degree program at the University of Minnesota) to embrace community conservation on behalf of fishing cats, while at the same time monitoring widespread habitat

loss caused by the shrimp and fish pond industry. Namfon has also called attention to the total lack of restoration efforts that could, and indeed should, replace permanently abandoned polluted ponds with mangrove swamps, to thus help conservation efforts to save the fishing cat from extinction. Namfon's work is generously supported by the Rare Species Fund.

To monitor the extent of habitat loss, one must find a high vantage point and look down. Habitat change is most easily documented with a camera by flying high and slowly, looking directly down. Pilot Mark Silverberg provided the perfect vehicle. From above, the fishing cat's predictable use of specific trails becomes clear. The extent of habitat loss to both active and abandoned shrimp and fish ponds is discouraging.

Namfon's

community conservation program spans the spectrum from classroom presentations, working with local teachers, working with local national park staff, presenting at fairs and community gatherings, visiting local community members at their farms, listening to and addressing their problems with fishing cats, and meeting high-level



Pilot Mark Silverberg and Namfon return from a flight to document habitat loss.

vation effort. Indeed, constant vigilance requires a permanent presence. Namfon's home away from home is a small park service-provided beach house to which she invariably returns well after dark.

Global Conservation of the Fishing Cat

The fishing cat stands equal with the tiger and snow leopard in terms of its conservation needs. Why, then, are tiger and snow leopard conservation efforts rewarded with many millions of dollars while fishing cat conservation efforts receive what amounts to spare change? Why do those zoos that house tigers and snow leopards contribute to in situ conservation programs but are "short of funds" (despite the high payrolls) for fishing cat conservation? Why do zoos place high priorities

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Namfon never misses an opportunity to speak at community fairs and events. Here Namfon teaches young students about the plight of the fishing cat.

on big cats (the individuals they house will never add to the wild gene pool), yet place little or no priority on fishing cats? And why do zoos that place no value whatsoever on fishing cats loathe transferring them to zoos that would be delighted to have them? Apparently, the only thing worse than having fishing cats is placing them in the hands of other facilities which would treasure them.

Fishing cat populations share at least one trait with those of the tiger; they are widespread and highly fragmented. Tiger conservationists have resolved this issue by declaring fragmented populations to be separate subspecies of tigers. In effect, this is a geographic “divide and conquer”

strategy. Because threats are local, this allows conservation actions to be finely tuned. The same strategy should be applied to fishing cats. We suggest the establishment of a “Fishing Cat Working Group,” populated by local in-country teams skilled in implementing community conservation programs and survey efforts to identify critical fishing cat habitat. As a recent event in Bangladesh illustrates, such efforts are vitally needed.

Namfon Cutter’s efforts serve as a role model for community conservation projects worldwide. She was born in Thailand, Thai is her first language, and she appreciates local customs and taboos like

no Westerner could. Moreover, she has no intention of living anywhere else. I do not believe any ex-patriot could do a better job. What the fishing cat needs throughout its geographic range is more people like Namfon. What Namfon needs is our thanks and our support to continue her efforts. And one more thing would help; vote with your dollar and do not eat shrimp that carries the “Product of Thailand” label.



Namfon’s fishing cat conservation station is a beach house provided by the local national park service.



High level meetings with important political figures are an important part of conservation. Here, Namfon greets Pisit Suntreerat, Deputy Governor of Prachuab Khirikhan Province.



A fishing cat killed by villagers for no particular reason is publicly displayed for all to see.

A MOTION TO AMEND THE FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION CONSTITUTION

In accordance with the Constitution of the Feline Conservation Federation, Article VII - Member Participation, the following motion to amend the Constitution is presented to the membership of the FCF for their consideration and vote. This single motion amends Article III, Article IV, Article V, and Article VI of the Constitution. The entire Constitution can be read in the members-only section of the FCF website. A formal ballot and addressed envelope has been included with the May/June Journal. All registered members may vote. There are two ballots on each page, and members may vote and mail them together in the envelope provided, or, if they wish to vote privately, they may cut the ballot sheet in half and mail the second in a separate envelope. In accordance with the Constitution, members have five weeks to vote. Ballots must be received by Esther Stockwell CPA and Tax Accounting Services by June 27, 2011, to be counted.

We move that Article III – Memberships, be amended with the following changes: In Section 1, by striking the word “active” and inserting the word “general,” by striking the phrase “species of felidae” and inserting the phrase “any species of wild feline,” and by adding the sentence “General members must have joined the Feline Conservation Federation at least one year prior to be eligible to vote or make a motion.”

By striking Section 3, “Honorary Member: A. A membership which can be extended to individuals who are not current Active Members or Life Members, yet who significantly benefit the Corporation, its membership, or aid in the furtherance of its object as determined by the Executive Board. B. Honorary memberships will be limited in duration to one (1) year. C. Honorary members shall enjoy all the benefits of the Corporation with the exception of voting privileges and of expressing motions concerning Corporation procedures.”

By inserting a new Section 2, “2. Professional Member: Any person directly involved in wild feline captive management, or wild feline research, or wild

feline education, or wild feline conservation shall be eligible for professional membership. Professional members must have joined the Feline Conservation Federation at least one year prior to be eligible to vote or make a motion.”

By renaming the original Section 2 to Section 3.

So that Article III - Memberships, Section 1, 2 and 3 will read:

1. General Member: Any person with a sincere interest in any species of wild feline shall be eligible for general membership. General members must have joined the Feline Conservation Federation at least one year prior to be eligible to vote or make a motion.

2. Professional Member: Any person directly involved in wild feline captive management, or wild feline research, or wild feline education, or wild feline conservation shall be eligible for professional membership. Professional members must have joined the Feline Conservation Federation at least one year prior to be eligible to vote or make a motion.

3. Life Member: Life memberships shall be extended to active members who have performed extraordinary services for the Corporation as determined by the Executive Board.

And that Article IV – Officers, Section 2 be amended by striking the word “entire” and inserting the word “eligible.”

So that Article IV – Officers, Section 2 will read:

2. The officers shall be elected by preferential ballot of the eligible membership to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected, and their terms of office shall begin January 1st of the year following an election.

And that Article V – Nominations and Elections, be amended with the following changes: By renumbering the current Section 4 to Section 5, and striking the phrase “along with ballots for elections” and adding the following three sentences: “Ballots with instructions shall be sent to each eligible voter. The voting must be complete within five (5) weeks. The

results of these votes shall be announced in the Corporation Newsletter.”

By inserting a new section 4, “4. No votes for write-in candidates will be counted.”

By striking the original section 5, “5. Eligible voters shall return the completed ballots to the address specified on the ballot, within five (5) weeks of the distribution of the September edition of the Corporation Newsletter.”

So that Article V - Nominations and Elections, Section 4 and 5 will read:

4. No votes for write-in candidates will be counted.

5. A list of the nominees shall be published in the September issue of the election year Corporation Newsletter. Ballots with instructions shall be sent to each eligible voter. The voting must be complete within five (5) weeks. The results of these votes shall be announced in the Corporation Newsletter.

And that Article IV – Membership Participation, be amended with the following changes: In Section 2, by striking the first sentence, “During February and March, any Feline Conservation Federation member may introduce motions to amend the Constitution,” and replacing it with “During February and March, eligible members of the Feline Conservation Federation may introduce motions to amend the Constitution.” And in the second sentence of Section 2, by striking the phrase “mailed to the directors,” and inserting the phrase “sent either electronically or by US mail to the Secretary.” And by striking the third and forth sentences, “Upon decision of confirmation that the submitted motion conforms to the properties of a general meeting motion, as prescribed by the accepted authority of parliamentary procedure, the Directors shall authorize that the motion be published in the May issue of the Corporation's Newsletter. For the duration of five (5) weeks after distribution of the May edition of the Corporation Newsletter, members may mail their votes concerning each motion to the Directors,” and inserting “The Directors shall authorize that a properly submitted motion be published in the May issue of

the Corporation's Newsletter."

By inserting a new Section 3, "Ballots with instructions shall be sent to each eligible voter. The voting must be complete within five (5) weeks. The results of these votes shall become effective August 1st in the year of the voting and shall be announced in the September edition of the Corporation Newsletter."

So that Article IV – Membership Participation, Section 2 and 3 will read:

2. During February and March, eligible members of the Feline Conservation Federation may introduce motions to amend the Constitution. These motions must be undersigned by three (3) valid Feline Conservation Federation members and sent either electronically or by US mail to the secretary. The Directors shall authorize that a properly submitted motion be pub-

lished in the May issue of the Corporation's Newsletter.

3. Ballots with instructions shall be sent to each eligible voter. The voting must be complete within five (5) weeks. The results of these votes shall become effective August 1st in the year of the voting and shall be announced in the September edition of the Corporation Newsletter.

WHY DOES THE CONSTITUTION NEED TO BE AMENDED?

FCF members are extremely varied, since this organization is equally open to cat owners and cat lovers. The FCF has a very broad mission to recognize and support captive feline husbandry, as well as the conservation of wild felines and their habitats.

The FCF needs to provide programs and services which benefit members who maintain captive felines. Captive husbandry is the founding reason for this organization. Without privately owned captive gene pools, there would be no reason for the FCF, so this has to be our number one priority.

All members, whether they have cats or not, have a stake in the future of the FCF. They need the FCF to grow, serve, represent, be a strong organization, and live long. But our professional members, directly involved in the care of the cats, public education, or feline research, are stakeholders whose livelihoods and passions depend upon whether the future supports legal captive feline husbandry. To meet these needs, the FCF must evolve. It is time for the FCF to offer more types of membership to acknowledge the professionals and their needs.

Article III has been amended to create a new "professional membership." Professional members are those who have cats, work with cats, or are directly involved in feline conservation, education, or research. This includes pet owners, sanctuary volunteers, zookeepers, USDA breeders, and employees at feline facilities. Specific criteria for professional membership will be defined by meeting standards created through by-laws. The by-laws do not yet exist, but would require professional members to sign onto and abide by the FCF Code of Conduct (already part of every new member package and posted on the members-only website), register their handling experience if

appropriate, and participate in the FCF feline census. The addition of the professional membership category will enable the FCF board to set higher dues for professional memberships and create institutional packages. This will generate funds the FCF needs to provide additional services for our professional members.

With this Constitutional amendment proposal, all members, whether general, professional, or life, are eligible to make motions and vote in their second year of membership. Voting has been delayed because, when newly joined and uninformed members vote on matters concerning the organization, it does not serve the democratic process. Also, the current structure that allows anyone to join today and vote tomorrow has left this organization ungaurded against hostile take-over. By delaying the eligibility to vote for a year, all voters will be better informed, and the FCF election process will reflect the decisions of the dedicated, renewing members. Any member may be nominated to office, but voting is restricted to members of one year or more.

Article IV is amended to reflect that only eligible voters will receive ballots. Eligible means those members who joined at least a year prior. Ballots will likely be mailed separately from the Journal, first class, and this will allow everyone more equal amounts of time for voting.

Article V is amended to address another of the problems experienced during the last election period. A write-in candidate, especially in a preferential ballot counting system, greatly complicates the process of ballot counting. The nomination period is 100 days long. Members have plenty of time to nominate candidates during that period. Adding late submissions after the



Feline Conservation Federation

nomination period was closed and the Journal had already been published definitely led to confusion in the last election, and some members voted twice because they wanted to vote for the write-in candidate.

Article IV has been amended to stipulate that only eligible members may propose Constitutional motions and vote on those motions.

This single motion addresses several sections of the Constitution, but there is only one motion. Had it been broken into several motions, it would be possible for some to pass and some to fail and then have the Constitution in conflict with itself.

There is a ballot enclosed in this Journal and an addressed envelope to the accounting firm hired to receive and count ballots. If you lose your envelope, please mail your ballot to:

Esther Stockwell CPA & Tax Accounting Services, Attn: Esther, 10331 Halton Ter, Lanham, MD 20706.

GREAT ART FOR A GREAT CAUSE

By Jessica Kale

The passing of a loved one can break your heart, but the passing along of a loved one's talent can mend your soul. My mother was an accomplished artist who passed away when I was a young girl. Her loss was tragic, but what helped me through the hard times was that even though she had passed away, she had passed her art talent on to me.

Animals have influenced my artwork from the first time I picked up a pencil. I try to capture the essence of the animal I am drawing. Even though I have not been able to physically help animals due to my health complications, I have been able to use my own talent and my love for animals to help numerous animal charities over the years.

I first started my own business doing fine art pet portraits. I advertised at numerous animal shelters, giving a percentage of my profits to the shelter. As my business grew, I wanted to reach out to wild animals in need. During my online search I found the Feline Conservation Federation. I was immediately in awe of all that the FCF has accomplished. I reached out to the FCF with my offer to help raise awareness and donations through my artwork. I am excited to be a part of the FCF and do what I can to make life for wild cats a little easier.

pair of serval cubs to the FCF Convention auction. The original scratchboard art serval cubs are also for sale. Twenty percent of these proceeds benefit the FCF.

Convention attendees will also have an opportunity to bid on an original pastel ocelot cub portrait and two signed ocelot prints donated by Jessica. The original will be matted and ready for framing, a great gift for anyone.

Jessica has also donated a gift certificate for a custom portrait to be auctioned off at Convention. The winner can have a choice of either scratchboard or pastel.



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INDIA GAINS NEW WILD CAT HAVEN IN PANNA TIGER RESERVE

The proposed tiger reintroduction work at Panna Tiger Reserve is a blessing in disguise for the future of the regions small wildcats and other carnivores.

By Shekhar Kolipaka

Panna National Park, in the Vindhya Mountains of Madhya Pradesh State in India, was declared a tiger reserve in 1991. The dry deciduous park, because of its unique geographical location, is an ecotone of ecotones and supports seven species of wildcat: tiger, leopard, caracal, jungle cat, Asiatic wildcat, leopard cat, and rusty spotted cat. Panna lost all of its tigers to poaching-related incidents and was declared tiger-less by December 2008. While the larger, more popular cat lost out, the relatively uncharismatic smaller cats were lucky enough to escape the fate bestowed on the tigers.

Over the years, the FCF has funded investigations on the small wildcats in the Panna region, and vital information leading to understanding future survival chances of some of the smaller wildcat species was collected. Information was then shared with the local forest department and other stakeholders, which increased interest and awareness of the small cat species among the locals of the region. The investigations of small wildcats were mostly conducted in areas out-



Panna Tiger Reserve, in Madhya Pradesh, was named a Project Tiger Reserve by the Indian government in 1994. Their website (www.panna-tigerreserve.in) helps to spread the word about the importance of tiger conservation in India.

side the Tiger Reserve Area, and the studies revealed that the fringe forests outside the national park are very valuable foraging grounds for the small wildcats. Wildcat species like the jungle cat and the rusty spotted cat were actively exploiting the fringe areas by venturing into human habitation to feed on rodents, small birds, and insects in farmlands.

Fortunately, farmers on the fringes of Panna National Park do not use aggressive pest control measures like rodenticides and insecticides, and this practice seems to have a positive impact on the small cats and other smaller carnivores. They actively venture into the fields and exploit the abundant prey found there. In this way, the cats are helping the farmers control the wildlife species that damage crops.

Studies reveal four main existing threats to the small wildcats that use the forest fringes of Panna Tiger Reserve: 1) Free roaming village dogs, which exert a heavy toll on all wildlife that roam the fringe forest; 2) Loss of vegetative connectivity between the forest and the farm land, such as hedge vege-

tation. Wildcats are vulnerable to predators while moving in the fringes without vegetative cover. In fact, many of the wildcat species avoid using areas that do not have suitable cover within which to move; 3) Low awareness and knowledge among the locals about the presence and the positive impact wildcats have as pest removers; 4) Organized poaching of skins and bones.

The proposed buffer zone around the Panna National Park and its likely positive impact on the small wild cats and other carnivores.

The Panna National Park started a tiger reintroduction program in 2009, and serious efforts are being put forth to secure the survival of the big cats. One of the strategies for tiger conservation in Panna is to focus on landscape level conservation with people as an integrated component of the tiger landscape. The need to secure a larger landscape for the tiger, and the willingness of the top authorities to address the human issues realistically, struck an irresistible lure for me to get involved in the project at Panna. Initiatives to secure areas outside the national park for tigers would also address the threats posed to the small wildcats and thus have a direct impact on the conservation of the small



The highlighted areas show the expanse of forested areas that can potentially be brought under management for use as a wildlife-safe corridor.



The jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), the largest species of *Felis*, is a common inhabitant of the forests India. A buffer zone in Panna would aid in the conservation of these wild cat populations.

cats and small carnivores in the region. Between 2009 and April 2011, four tigers have been introduced into Panna National Park:

- * T1, brought in from Bandhavgadh National Park, now mother of two cubs
- * T2, brought in from Kanha National Park, mother of four five-month-old cubs
- * T3, brought in from Pench National Park
- * T4, brought in from Kanha

Work in progress at Panna

The national park director and I met and decided to work together to find solutions to Panna's wildlife problems. He brings with him passion, human resource management skills, wildlife management experience, and knowledge on government-run forest department systems. I pitch in by introducing my local contacts, my experience with wildcats, and Dr. Mark Dent, my mentor at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

In the beginning, we had some serious resistance from powerful local landlords, within the forest department system, and unwilling locals, but today we are more streamlined and have formed a core team to address multiple issues. I would not say we are anywhere near our goal, but we are constantly learning and moving ahead in our pursuit to ensure a positive future for wildlife of the region.

Initiatives started for realization of the goal of securing a future for Panna Tiger Reserve and the wildlife in it

1. Bring a larger area under the jurisdictional control of the Panna Tiger Reserve management by creating a

buffer zone.

I have been commissioned by the National Park Authority to develop a Panna Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone and Corridor Management Plan. To realize this, I initiated a series of social and wildlife surveys and I use the information gathered for the planning process of the management project.

There was an initial resistance to formation of the buffer, and, while trying to understand the root causes for the resistance, we identified all the stakeholder groups and their interests vis a vis the Panna Tiger Reserve. Today four out of the ten stakeholder groups identified have agreed to work together to secure the future of the tiger reserve. The core group of people set to address issues at Panna comes from these groups. Parallel to this endeavor are efforts addressing other stakeholder groups.

The biggest question is: While it was difficult to manage a 500 Km² reserve void of people, how will it be possible to manage a 2,000 km² reserve with approximately 100 villages in it? Securing a landscape for large carnivores like tigers in a populated country like India is going to be very challenging, and it is very clear that unless the society as a whole sees the value in securing the landscape, tigers in the Panna region do not have a future. I systematically questioned local stakeholders on their perceptions, interests, and attitudes toward the Panna Tiger Reserve and, to my encouragement, found that the natural resource-dependent villagers living on the fringes (the largest stakeholder groups) see their well-being and future secure

only if the reserve is secure.

The mining groups who see a threat to their interests if the tiger reserve is extended, however, do not share this feeling. Likewise, the powerful feudalistic landlords of the region see a direct challenge to their authority and actions in an extended wildlife reserve. Certainly the existing style of government-managed PA system will not work in the new buffer zone of the Panna Tiger Reserve. Local people express the need for involvement in decision-making, planning, and management. As part of my research, with the help of Dr. Mark Dent, I am trying to understand the extent to which local stakeholders can be involved in the tiger reserve management processes and their capacity to do so, as well as stakeholder groups and their selection for involvement in management and other processes.

Parallel to this, the park director and I started addressing the field managers of the tiger reserve and introduced them to the vision of a larger tiger landscape. Our interactions with them reveal that, in spite of low morale and lack of incentive to work in a stressful situation, the field managers have some very interesting opinions. Our intention with these interactions with the field managers is to inculcate a habit of thinking and taking initiatives, rather than waiting for instructions. Making staff work only by instruction is a common style of management in the forest department system in India.

2. Identify and find ways to establish



With the inclusion of a buffer zone around Panna National Park, photos of beautiful tigers like this one can become less of a rarity. From www.mponline.gov.in.



Indian officials like this one play a positive role in tiger conservation by keeping an eye out for poaching activities. Photo courtesy of prashantatrips.blogspot.com.

travel corridors for animals to move between three national parks in the area.

The Panna and its adjoining areas have two tiger reserves and five other protected areas and vast forestlands outside of the PA's. Unfortunately, the two tiger reserves and the forests in between do not support dispersal and/or movement of animals across the areas. A potential landscape that can be connected with travel corridors has been identified for the region. Securing some of the lands outside the forest areas will need active private involvement and participation. Likewise, extending the movement of animals into areas outside the reserves will involve obvious and unforeseeable consequences for people and wildlife. Currently, we are in the process of finding suitable ways to procure, reforest, manage, and address issues related to people and livestock in the corridor areas around Panna.

3. Curb all forms of poaching in the area.

Hunting wildlife is banned in India, yet people around Panna actively resist inefficient forest staff and continue to hunt deer and pigs. Traditional hunting tribes are now actively involved in poaching big cats and other wildlife whose body parts have a high demand on national and international black markets. Unchecked hunting and poaching has decimated wildlife outside the national parks, so now people actively target national parks.

There is a willingness by top authorities, corrupt officials, and national park staff to work on decreasing poaching inci-

dents. But the ill-equipped and poorly trained staff who must conduct operations are hampered by a lack of working relationships with the locals and failure in information-sharing, which is obstructing attempts to repress poaching in Panna.

We see a total crackdown on illegal hunting and poaching as the only way to safeguard wildlife around Panna. Decreased prey has

a known impact on tiger abundance, and direct tiger mortality can severely shift the balance for the few tigers left in Panna. In the last few years, all attempts to make the top leadership understand the true devastation caused by poaching and to show a willingness to eliminate those involved has failed. However, at the national park end, with increased surveillance, small incentives to the staff, and leadership by example have had a huge impact on small and petty poachers.

Five years ago, all road kills, irrespective of the species, were systematically picked up by organized groups of people and supplied into the trade. Small groups of hunting tribes camped and poached secretive and lesser-known species, like mongoose for their hair and otters and monitor lizards for their skins. They would camp right on the fringe of the national park and conduct their operations. This type of poaching is not prevalent around Panna now, and this is largely due to increased patrolling by park authorities.

Hunting of large prey animals and organized poaching of skins, bones, and body parts of large carnivores is still prevalent and is a serious threat to the reintroduction program at Panna Tiger Reserve.

The Madhya Pradesh state government is encouraged by the minor, yet important, progress made at Panna in the last two years, and has offered a "company" of special police to join the park staff. The park staff has also been approved for firearms and trained to use them effectively. We see that unless there is a political willingness to tackle the issue of poach-

ing, then poaching will remain a threat to the wildlife in Panna.

4. Stakeholder management.

The future of wildlife is intricately intertwined with the lives of people around Panna Tiger Reserve. Managing the 100 odd villages around the tiger reserve, involving the locals in conservation, finding alternatives and/or managing their natural resource needs, and creating incentives to protect and conserve wildlife will be a Herculean task. It is clearly understood that such work is simply beyond the scope of the national park authority alone and will need active participation of many like-minded organizations and people. Friends of Panna (FOP) was created to play an important role as a liaison and implementation organization to work on issues at Panna Tiger Reserve. An active and efficient FOP is an asset for tackling issues around Panna Tiger Reserve. Currently, other like-minded people and organizations are being approached to join the efforts being made at Panna.

Trust building activities

Initial studies on the stakeholders around Panna Tiger Reserve revealed that "trust" is a vital element in building working relationships between locals and park authorities, an element which is all but non-existent there. Low trust stems from the way in which national parks are managed in India, in isolation and without the involvement of people. Years of management in isolation without local support have severely disconnected the populace from the park authorities, so that trust between them is very low. In the last two years, attempts were made to contact local people and have interactions prove that trust could be re-established. However, the park staff and management must be trained in management and people skills to do this. There has to be a gradual shift in attitude and behavior of the government authorities in regards to the people for mutual respect to evolve.

An attempt is being made to slightly change the management strategy in the proposed buffer zone of the Panna Tiger Reserve and introduce a practice of participatory management instead of the government-managed system currently in practice in the Panna National Park. The challenge is to involve the stakeholders in managing some of the aspects of natural resource management, as well as livelihood and conflict management, in the

buffer zone area. It is understood that they do not have prior experience with managing common property resources and will need capacity building and training in many areas. The help and involvement of Dr. Harini Nagendra and Dr. Rucha Gathe, who are experienced scientists in this area and are currently working on similar issues at the Tadoba Tiger Reserve, in Maharashtra, is encouraging.

Capacity building and training in both park staff and stakeholder institutions to effectively manage the buffer zone, corridor areas, and areas outside the national parks have been earmarked as priority number one areas in the first phase of the buffer zone work. Building base level institutional structures and manpower capacity to address 21st century challenges at tiger reserves like Panna Tiger Reserve are key to ensuring the future of the natural landscapes in India. Manpower requirements, organizational changes, and financial commitment for undertaking these changes have been identified and are part of the Panna Buffer Zone Management Plan.

The few attempts to educate and increase awareness about various wildlife issues around Panna reinforce that the local people are very receptive. Unfortunately, emphasis on these issues has never

been a priority. In fact, education and awareness-creating activities are essential for all the stakeholders' groups and at various levels. Undertaking this work is a mammoth task and we have yet to identify proper channels for this area.

Will Panna Tiger Reserve and its reintroduction program succeed? Can the ambitious plans to create a larger area for tigers be realized? Will the small wildcats and other carnivores that use the fringes benefit from work at Panna? Will local people cooperate and support conservation? Can poaching be halted?

My realistic answer to the above questions is that the people of India and locals living around Panna have a lot to lose if they lost the tiger. The presence of tigers in a forest indicates the integrity of the area, the presence of prey, the survival of the forest, and a functioning ecosystem providing all the ecosystem services to the people who live in the area. Challenges in creating a landscape for tigers around Panna are many, but dedicated efforts are being made in the right direction. The task at hand is multifaceted and requires the participation of people and organizations with varying levels of expertise. We are currently building partnerships and teaming up with different people and organizations, and I find the situation very encouraging. At Panna Tiger Reserve, daily situation are very dynamic and constantly evolving. To illustrate the complex environment, here is an example of a typical day's events while I was at the Panna Tiger Reserve between February and March 2011:

February 22, 2011

5:30 AM - Awakened by Mr. Murthy (park director) at the Gahri Ghat Rest House in PTR.

6:15 AM - Having inspected a construction in the gorge, we leave to Pipartola Grasslands to inspect weed removal.

7:40 AM - On the back of an elephant out to see T1 the tigress and her two male cubs. They are resting in the shade under thick grass beside a spotted deer kill.

8:30 AM - I make contact with Susheel, my field help, who has been interviewing local villagers and collecting information on the wood they use.

10:00 AM - Meet Mr. Shyamender Singh at Ken River Lodge. He announces that a film crew interested in capturing the work being done at Panna contacted him. They want to donate the film to the park and use

it to create awareness in urban Indians. A meeting had to be scheduled.

12:20 PM - Sushil calls to tell me he has to take his wife to a hospital in Panna Town and will not be able to collect villager data in the afternoon. I have to complete the remainder of the day's quota of 20 interviews.

12:22 PM - Park director calls and wants Mr. Shyamender Singh (hotel owner and local supporter) and me to join him at a forest check post by 3:30 PM. He has to sort out a situation in a forest village. The villagers beat up some forest guards and locked them in the guards' own room. He wants us around while he addresses the situation.

1:00-3:00 PM - I conduct two group interviews in Nahari Village.

3:10 PM - Leave along with Mr. Singh to meet the director.

3:40 PM - The three of us and a few guards enter the village.

11:30 PM - Have dinner at village three. We visited three villages and the director sorted out over 15 pending issues with the villagers. The villagers told us that it was the first time in over two years that any official visited them. An agreement of understanding was made between the villagers and us, and we agreed to support each other and together work towards securing the future of the park.

1:20 AM - Arrive at my campsite at Ken River Lodge.

February 23, 2011

5:30 AM - Leave for Umaria station to collect four volunteers coming to work on field surveys at Panna.

I thank the FCF and its members for continued support of small cat projects in India. Without your continued, help it would have been very difficult to highlight the areas that most threaten the survival of the smaller cats and secure a future for them.

About the author: Shekhar Kolipaka works as a nature and wildlife management consultant. He works mostly in India, and currently he is involved in long-term conservation and research work at the Panna Tiger Reserve. He is also a research student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and is researching to find suitable ways to implement a successful co-managed buffer zone around Panna Tiger Reserve, as well as multi-use wildlife corridors.



Scrub habitat like this is a great hiding place for tigers. Can you see the one in this photo?



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THE INITIAL STEPS TOWARD BIGGER AND GREATER DREAMS

By Craig DeRosa

I have always been a lover of animals. Their instincts are pure and understandable. They act in the way they need to in order to survive and thrive, and I respect that. About four years ago, I decided to further pursue my passion for exotic felines.

Having no specific direction on how to get involved with exotic felines, I searched the Internet and was lucky to come across the FCF site. I took my first basic husbandry course in 2009, in Panama City, Florida, under the direction of Lynn Culver.

With that initial knowledge and network, my interest in working with exotic felines grew. Since 2009, I have been working as much as possible at Bear Creek Feline Center (BCFC) with all classes of wild feline species (cougars being my favorite). This has not been easy, as I travel from New York. But my drive to learn about felines through education and experience has no price. Since working for over two years with wild felines, I have realized that I would like to build my own open range habitat. To realize my dream, I need to learn the tools that will allow me to work with, care for, and exhibit wildlife. Now you might ask: "Working with and caring for, ok, but why exhibiting?" In New York, we do not have an exotic wildcat license such as what is available in some other states like Florida. One must either exhibit for the purpose of education or breed. I have decided that I would like to educate those in my area about the amazing world of wild felines and how our treatment of them in the wild can and will directly affect our human world. Currently, my experiences have been through my Bear Creek internship and the husbandry course. Therefore, I needed to delve into the world of exhibiting. This led me to the Wildlife Educators course in Miami.

While attending the course, we worked through our handbook, soaking up as much knowledge as we could from our advisor, Ron DeArmond. While listening to what he was teaching, I could tell the experience and passion he had for working with felines and with people to educate them through exotic feline exhibits. The course touched on the finer points of



Author Craig DeRosa works with servals, preparing for his future pursuit of conservation education. In this photo, he brings new meaning to the phrase, "taking a serval for a walk."

starting your own education program:

- How to select ambassador cats.
- How to set up locations on and off your premises.
- How to keep the spectators, staff, and felines safe.
- How to keep the audience engaged in your exhibit, as well as how to get your greater points across.

During this class, Jungle Island treated us to a few exhibitions. We took in the "Winged Expo" and the "Tale of the Tiger." It was so exciting to see the top-level exhibitors at work. Some who see these expos may think they are too theatrical. But when you are exhibiting on such a grand stage with such a broad range of spectators, I understand that you must capture their attention. If they leave the exhibit disinterested, then your message will not be passed along. When the audience is entertained and attentive, they will remember the real gem – your message of conservation and preservation.

Throughout the day, there were so many events going on and so many people coming and going through the park that, even while we were being tested, I could



Allowing the public to have their photo taken with the young animal ambassadors connects them to nature and creates a permanent record of the event. Pictured with a baby tiger at Miami's Jungle Island are Baron Oldrich Fercos Tabas Hantig and Dagny Kent Tabas Tepper. Profits from the sale of photos like this one, at the "Tale of the Tiger" show, go to benefit the Rare Species Fund.

not stop myself from wondering what it was like to be backstage with the felines and how the exhibitors prepare for the shows.

I watched how the tiger staff interacted with the crowd. They exuded confidence and made sure they always kept our attention. I noticed that their show included many of the recommendations in our exhibitor's handbook. They also were able to highlight their message of education, conservation and preservation.

Overall, the whole day was a success. Being a part of the wildlife conservation

world, which I am passionate about, and being around those who live and feel the same way was a great experience. This is a basic course for people just getting into the world of wildlife education. Reading through the handbook, listening to the presentations, and seeing the experts in action gave me some great ideas on how to set up my own exhibits in the future. I only wish that, as part of the course, we could have toured "behind the scenes," where the cats were kept and prepared before the shows. Seeing the protocols for safe and successful interaction, for both the han-

dlers and the cats, would have been a very good learning experience for me.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who took part in this wonderful course. Ron DeArmond, course instructor; Lynn Culver, FCF Executive Director; Mr. Levine of Jungle Island for supplying a beautiful atmosphere for our education; Doc Antle and his staff (maybe one day I, too, can work at that expert level); and Jim Broaddus of BCFC for his continued mentoring and guidance.

MAKE FCF FUNDRAISING MUSIC!

J.W. Everitt has graciously offered to do fundraising events for FCF member facilities and the FCF organization, beginning this November. J.W. is an accomplished studio musician and performer. Visit his website at www.jweveritt.com.

J.W.'s music is a blend of jazz, rock, blues, country, and soft tones. His distinguished career extends over 35 years, as a sideman, engineer, and session player. J.W. has now returned to his roots as a singer/songwriter and guitarist extraordinaire. He is booking tours for fall and next year. J.W. has played to rave reviews at locations as diverse as Metropolitan Performing Arts Center, Austin College, Upstage Center Theater, and San Jose State University, and now he will come to your home town, too!

Make your next fundraising event a concert. J.W. will provide posters, CDs, and promotional materials for local radio, TV, and newspapers. He will also make himself available by phone for interviews prior to concert dates.

J.W. has had a few opportunities to preview his new show and has received nothing but positive reviews. Performances can be tailored to the fundraising goals of the FCF members. If J.W. travels to a remote part of the country to do a show, other FCF facilities in the region may coordinate their dates to make the commute as easy as possible while spreading out expenses among them.

J.W. will donate his time and effort to help raise money for FCF and members'



facilities, only requiring that facilities cover his out-of-pocket expenses for travel to, plus food and lodging while at, their location.

FCF facilities wanting to arrange a fundraiser can start small, perhaps a house concert. Or have a sponsor donate a location for the event and invite your prospective contributors. Allow J.W. to be the "arm twister" for gaining donations and sponsorships.

J.W.'s silver tongue and musical abilities will get people on board and convince them to participate. Proceeds after expenses are shared between the FCF and member facility.

J.W. travels completely self-contained with sound and lights, and he will bring CDs and DVDs to sell at the events. Proceeds from these items will benefit him and his cats. Please feel free to phone J.W. at 541-542-2020 or email him at bearcatlodge@centurytel.net with any questions about logistics and scheduling.



FELINE JUST FINE

(Clockwise from top left)

Mosbey bobcat and his tree climbing partner, Jessica Lisdell. You may remember Mosbey was one of the kittens at last year's convention.

Jeremy Hinkle makes the rounds at Wild Animal Safari, with his 5-month-old companion Leo. Jeremy and Leo have been together on a 24/7 basis.

Rob Charmicheal bumps heads with Boris the bobcat in a typical bobcat affectionate greeting. The pair work at Wildlife Discovery Center, educating the public about nature. Photo by Jeff Miller.

Nancy Barter demonstrates the best way to wear a Siberian lynx cape. This one is named Razz.

Della Jacot holds her serval friend, Oscar, resident of Cedar Cover Conservation park.

A bittersweet photo of Chubacca sitting beside Laurie Marker. This photo was taken by Allison Navarro shortly before this great spotted ambassador passed away.



Stewie shows off his leggy profile while begging for a tasty morsel from Mom.

has long legs and acts like a misbehaved child. Since servals have long legs, but are not the most coordinated kitties or the best behaved, we thought this would suit him. We shortened it to "Stewie" soon after, when he turned out to be more like a devil child, another character we know from a popular TV show. That name change happened when he got into our baby bearded dragons' (pet lizards) tank and ate his way through them like they were potato chips.

Stewie is now two years old, and I still cannot keep any dish cloths around, or rubber or foam items, or anything that resembles a stuffed animal. My house has become very sparse. After having him for a few months, Stewie graduated from sleeping on my bedroom floor to the foot of my bed. He bonded with me right away as his owner and would only listen to me, or anyone with chicken!

Stewie will do ANYTHING for chicken! I have trained him to do some basic tricks like SIT, COME, SPEAK, SHAKE A PAW, or KISS. We are always working on new tricks, but sometimes he gets overexcited about seeing chicken and will just start doing all his tricks in a row because he knows ONE of them will get

him a treat. So he will quickly and repeatedly speak, kiss, shake a paw, and sit, just waiting for that treat.

Stewie has a dog friend called Cyrus. Cyrus is a gentle lab cross that joins us for walks, overnights, and summer play times. When Cyrus comes over to play in the pool, he hardly has a chance to touch the water with Stewie guarding his garden hose and pool with his life. They are very funny together and truly an odd couple. The only way to get Stewie to leave the pool is to offer him a car ride! Like a dog, he runs and jumps right in our van and into his very own car seat. He is very proud of his seat and likes to see what is going on outside as we drive. He is rather nosey.

What is a typical day like living with Stewie?

We are a very active family, so things have been working out well with him in our life. I work at a rock climbing gym, Vertical Reality, in Surrey B.C., and Stewie has become the mascot there, accompanying me on my shifts. He is a big hit when there are children's birthday parties, but we really have to watch him around the pizza and cake!

I also work at Thunderbird Equestrian Show Park in Langley. I am the medic for the international horse competitions held there. It is a very large facility, and I ride around in a golf cart from one location to another with Stewie at my side. Many people bring their dogs to the horse shows, but I think I am the only one with an African serval! The horses are not afraid of him, and Stewie is not interested in the horses. He just likes to be with me and be nosey about what everyone is doing. Sometimes he sits in the announc-

er's post and helps out.

Twice a month, we bring Stewie, with some of my mom's cats, to visit seniors and long-term care facilities. My mom brings her Savannahs and Abyssinians, but Stewie is always the big hit at the visits! We have been doing this since he was a kitten, so he is not nervous about wheelchairs or any of the equipment in the homes. He likes to jump into bed and snuggle with patients who are bed-bound, and he will perform tricks and play with those who are able to get out of their rooms and join us in the lounge. I have to keep a close eye on him, as he is always so interested in the recreational equipment. Large rubber balls, balloons, or anything made of rubber he can sniff out and will grab in seconds.

Stewie goes to cat shows and pet expos in the B.C. area. He has become quite famous for his unique personality, gentle disposition, and very big heart. He even has his own Facebook page, "Stewie the Serval." Stewie will always prefer women over men, because he has been raised around women only. But he will tolerate most men petting him when he is



How many kids do you know with a private purr-powered lap-warmer to keep them toasty during those chilly car outings all winter?!

on display. He knows that he is safe and enjoys his cat show outings. He can get bored doing tricks for everyone, so we try to give him lots of breaks and take him for walks and play times. Sometimes there are thousands of people in a weekend that meet Stewie and pet him.

So many spectators will say they want a serval as a pet after meeting Stewie, but we always try to clarify that not all servals are alike and that it takes a lot of commitment and work to get a serval to behave the way Stewie does.

My lifestyle is unique. Not everyone has employers that let you bring your serval to work! Not everyone has the time to walk a serval every day. Not everyone wants to have things in their home chewed, knocked over, or eaten. Not everyone has a mom who will “babysit” a serval. Not everyone is prepared for the special diet and care, including regular baths, which a serval requires.

Stewie prefers to use the outdoors rather than a litter box, so three times a day I have to be prepared to leash him up and take him outside. In the evenings, we enjoy our family time and Stewie enjoys a good movie or some music as much as any of us. He is not as active as one might think. Although on the savannahs of Africa his ancestors may have spent their days hunting and running, Stewie actually prefers lying on the couch with a cuddly blanket, rather than leaping or running around our home.

If I am doing household chores, he will leave the couch and come “help” me. If I am doing laundry, he will try to run away

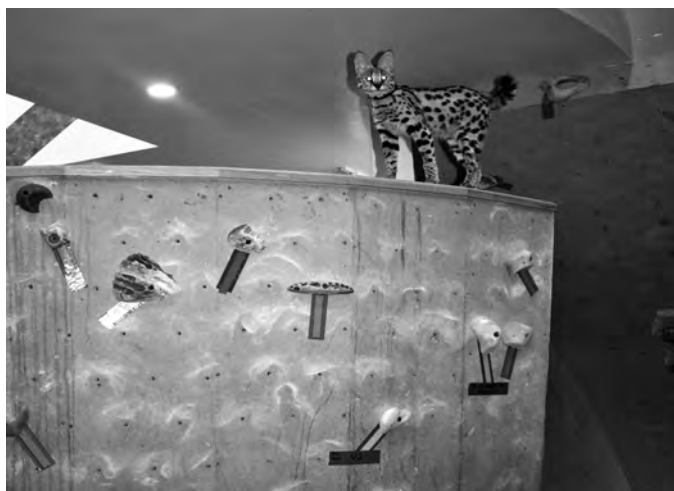


Sleepy Stewie catches a few zzzzzzz's while modeling the unparalleled comfort of his high-rise serval kitty tree/neo-rustic, modern, feline-friendly architectural work of art.

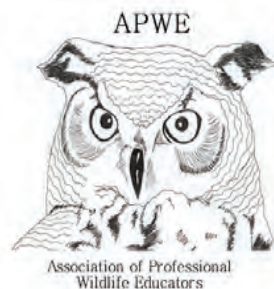
with bits of clothing and put holes in them. If I am cleaning the bathroom, he likes to splash in the toilet or sit in the sink. He is always a great help (sarcasm added here)!

I have learned that loving a serval requires so much patience and kindness. Even when “someone” has an accident in my laundry basket or chews my most

expensive and favorite clothing, I have to forgive him and learn from my mistakes. They say you cannot pick your family, but I did pick Stewie and, although there are ups and downs, he is still family. And we will love him forever.



Sometimes Stewie just can't resist the feeling of power he gets from making it all the way to the top of his domain!



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Dr. Mosbey Bobcat, wearing his stethoscope, sorts through his patient files. Photo by his mom, Leslie Lisdell.



Astyria the tiger cub looks like she is wearing a leaf hat. You can visit her at Natural Bridge Zoo. Photo by Gretchen Mogensen.



ion, Temba the
Melissa Faust.



Daniel the caracal plays it cool when caught hugging canine friend, Nelly. Photo by John Babb.



This is the second installment of a very important three-part series by Lea Jaunakais. Look for Part Three, "Diagnosis and Treatment of an Outbreak," to be published in an upcoming FCF Journal.

OUTBREAK... WHAT NOW? QUARANTINE!

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

In "Part One" of this series, Prevent an Outbreak, we identified the vaccination regimen that Tiger World provides their animals to help prevent disease and protect the population of exotic cats. Although nothing is foolproof, especially with rapidly mutating diseases like distemper and parvo, a good vaccination program can help keep your animals safe. But if one of your animals gets sick with a disease that is contagious like parvo, do you know what to do? Here are the first steps you should consider:

- Identify the disease. This may take some research and testing. Is it contagious? What is the incubation period? Discuss possible outbreaks with the local Health Department and Animal Control.
- Determine how it can be transmitted and which animals may have been exposed.
- Isolate your population.
- Identify quarantine protocols that may be necessary and implement.
- In the face of an outbreak, don't wait... Vaccinate!

Once we learned through appropriate testing and lab analysis that Tiger World had an outbreak of parvo enteritis, we immediately identified and implemented quarantine protocols. Quarantine means to separate and isolate to prevent the spread of disease. Parvo is highly contagious and is spread to animals through feces from an infected animal. Both Dora and Diego, our jaguars, had the active illness and we had three tiger cubs, Meka, Mohan, and Malia, that had potential exposure through contact with them. Tiger World has a large population of cats and we had to attempt to eliminate any further development of this super infection. During quarantine, no animals should leave or come into your facility. The typical quarantine period is based on your disease. Parvo, for example, has a

typical incubation period of three to seven days, but can develop in healthy animals up to 14 days after exposure. We delayed relocating one of our animals to another zoo and rescuing two animals in need until after our quarantine period was over. We continued to enforce the quarantine protocols until all of our cats had been vaccinated twice with the killed FVRCP vaccine Fel-O-Vax IV (one vaccination, then a booster three weeks later). We then continued quarantine for 14 more days to allow for all immunities to be developed in our population. Our entire quarantine period was six weeks.

Our first step of quarantine was to immediately isolate our population. Mohan, our white tiger who lived with Dora and Diego, was placed in an isolated habitat by himself. Next, we isolated Meka and Malia, two other tiger cubs that lived together and may have been exposed. We isolated them not only from the general population, but also from each other, in case either one had contracted it, even though symptoms had not surfaced. This was a critical step, as we learned later

that Malia did have the disease, while Meka never became sick with parvo.

Other than your exposed animals, keep the remaining animal population in their respective habitats to minimize any potential exposures. Do not move your animals around during quarantine.

Next we implemented these protocols:

1. *Designate equipment such as feed pans, bottles, and cleaning utensils, including rakes, scoops, and buckets, for each animal that may be infected.* We color coded and labeled all cleaning and feeding equipment to eliminate the chance of cross contamination. We also designated scrub brushes for cleaning and used spray bottles with disinfecting bleach solution to ensure sanitization of the equipment. This step is vital since these types of equipment are directly exposed to the animals.
2. *Designate keepers to care for specific animals.* Only allow keepers to attend to sick or exposed animals after caring for non-exposed animals. Do not allow the keepers that interact with infected animals, or potentially infected animals, to



Lea takes the precaution of vaccinating all her tigers at the first opportunity. This lucky cat gets a shot to prevent an outbreak, which would lead to quarantine procedures.

touch or interact with other animals or clean other habitats. Also enforce the cleanliness of your staff with hand washing and arriving to work in non-exposed clothing. This will help avoid cross contamination.

3. *Use bleach for disinfecting!* Bleach will kill many types of microorganisms in only ten minutes of exposure at the proper level. Bleach is the most universally used killer of bacteria, viruses, molds, and fungi, and it is cost effective. We used bleach foot baths at each habitat of infected or exposed animals and also had several foot baths available that we used when

ciently effective!

Don't be deceived that stronger is better. To make one gallon of disinfecting solution, measure $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of standard bleach (5-6%), then fill the one gallon container with water. Also, after washing with soap and water, we used the bleach solution to disinfect toys, cages, perches, etc. It worked great!

4. *Test exposed animals frequently.* In some cases, we were running blood and fecal tests a couple of times per week to try to identify the disease prior to the symptoms showing up. This proved to be beneficial and helped us identify illness in

Malia, a snow tiger who was asymptomatic but tested positive on her fecal SNAP test (parvo test). This allowed us to begin treatment prior to her condition being severely compromised. Malia is now fully recovered and, through our diligence and quarantine protocols, no other animals became infected. Interestingly enough, although Mohan and Meka were exposed to the disease, their immunities kept them healthy.

5. *Wear protective gear.* Minimize contact with all animals. Use only rubber boots that can easily be washed, scrubbed, and bleached, and wear protective clothing like shoe coverings and Tyvek gowns to cover your shoes/boots and clothing. Our keepers used full gowns for any exposure with our sick and potentially exposed animals, including when we were going into the habitat to clean. Upon exiting the habitat we would remove the gown and shoe covers, and dispose. We also

wore disposable latex gloves to prevent any contact. Remember if you must touch an animal, immediately change your gloves before touching another animal.

6. *Do not wait to vaccinate!* I initially debated and discussed with multiple veterinarians, waiting the two-week incubation period prior to vaccinating our population; a potential issue may be vaccinating an animal that already has the disease. Tiger



Testing disinfecting solution with Free Chlorine Ultra High II test strips 480124.

World has over 40 cats and the potential for losing some of our population was prevalent. Once Cornell University identified the strain of the virus through DNA analysis (which only took a few days), we were able to ensure that we were vaccinating our population with the most up-to-date and proper vaccine. We did wait the full 14-day incubation period prior to vaccinating the exposed cubs, Meka and Mohan. Malia, our only cub who contracted and survived the illness, was not able to be vaccinated until the disease ran its course. After one month, she was confirmed negative, and we were able to vaccinate her as well, although she had developed her own immunities against parvo through surviving the disease.

Quarantine was vital in preventing the spread of the disease at Tiger World. It was a blessing knowing that our actions helped save the rest of our population. We hope this will guide you in keeping your animals protected and safe.



Malia the snow tiger, photographed by Todd Stein at Tiger World.

cleaning our other habitats. This helps to reduce the potential for spreading the disease. In order for bleach to be effective against microorganisms, you must use the proper level of disinfectant, which is 500-1000ppm, with 800ppm being optimal. This can be achieved by making and testing your bleach solution daily. Free Chlorine Ultra High II test strips provide an excellent way to ensure your levels are correct to achieve 100% kill. The quick and reliable test strips (part#480124) can be ordered for \$13.99 at www.sensafe.com. The use of concentrated bleach is not appropriate, as not only are the fumes and direct exposure harmful, but also concentrated bleach requires the addition of water for the active ingredient, sodium hypochlorite, to be suffi-

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BLAST FROM THE PAST - "TENZING (1959-1976)"

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter
Volume 20 Number 3
May/June 1976

By David and Frances Tweet

Tenzing was a very small jaguarundi when he came to live with Frances and David Tweet. He was a tame baby - despite the fact that one book on mammals contains the statement that jaguarundis are untamable. Frances thought highly of him and declared she would not exchange him for a pink diamond.

He settled easily into his new home. A nine-year-old Siamese cat by the name of Robert readily accepted him and the two were soon great buddies. Even when the small kit from the wilds ran circles around a tolerant, older housecat, there was not the slightest disruption.

Nature, however, in the form of a spring ice storm presented a serious threat to the health of the young jaguarundi only a few months after his arrival. Trees coat-

ed with ice and snow fell across power lines, transformers blew up, and their warm house quickly became a frigid one. A miniature kerosene stove was sent in by the passable main road and was the only means of warming food.

Robert, wearing his woolen sweater, retired under bed covers for the duration. When he heard an electric come on ten days later, he crawled out, shed his sweater, and resumed normal life.

The jaguarundi youngster had been installed in a cat carrier that was insulated by coverings of coats, blankets, and the like. His body heat in this small area kept him snug during the ten days. When the power came back on, he emerged as fit as could be, without even a sneeze.

Adapting to the life of his family proved to be no problem for the small cat. He lived in several different localities and states. One time there was a transcontinental jet flight that he accepted easily.

Tenzing was handled with great care and gentleness so as to never destroy or betray the trust he had had in the begin-

ning. As he grew older, he became sweeter, if anything. He had an affectionate way with his best friend, sometime catching the hem of her dress or her slip with his teeth as if to keep her with him as long as he could. He gave as much love as he received.

He was a happy fellow; enthusiasm was one of his endearing qualities. He enjoyed a wide variety of foods - different kinds of meat spiced with a bit of vegetable or fruit, plus whatever else was considered beneficial to him. When a dish of food was set before him he



would give a little cry of delight. Floral scents appealed to him. A few drops of perfume (such as Borghese's Fiamma) would cause him to luxuriate, rolling on his back as if to transfer the fragrance to his ticked brown fur. It became a weekly event to provide him with a perfume treat.

Except for a grave illness (feline infectious enteritis) at the age of 18 months, Tenzing was a healthy cat, practically never sick. There came a time however, when it was unmistakable that his health was failing. He was taken to a veterinary clinic for examination. Diagnosis was severe kidney impairment. There would be no heroic measures, no strange medical procedures to try to prolong his life. The kindest thing would be to bring him back to his quiet, familiar home.

In the week that followed, he slept more and more. Often when awake, he wanted to be held. Though he was now silent, his eyes were expressive as he looked up into the face of his old friend.

On the final night, once when he awoke he wanted to be held. He lay on David's lap and watched Frances as she worked in the kitchen. Some hours later at 5 o'clock the next morning, both of his friends with him, he died peacefully in his bed.



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SMALL WILD CAT AWARENESS IN MASSACHUSETTS

By Mona Headen

On St. Patrick's Day, I visited the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, in Massachusetts, to see Jim Sanderson, of Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, and Debi Willoughby, of Jungle Encounters, do a show together to raise awareness about small wild cats. The show was in a large auditorium with Jim and Debi in front of us on the stage. Jim spoke about the three endangered small wild cats, the fishing cat, the flat-headed cat and the Andean cat. He taught us about each species of cat, where they live, how they survive in the wild, and the obstacles these cats face to survive. He explained that these cats are up against many hurdles, and some of them cannot easily be fixed by concerned cat conservationists here in America. But there are a few things we can do in our own homes that will make a positive impact on their lives in the wild.

I had previously heard Jim speak at the FCF conference about palm plantations and how they are affecting wildlife. He spoke about them again today. He showed us pictures he took of what humans are doing to the environment. He also took pictures in a Wal-Mart store to show us a variety of products that we all buy every day that have palm oil or some part of the palm tree in them. The audience was shocked at how many items have some sort of palm in them. It really opened our eyes to the fact that we affect how these cats are forced to live due to the bad choices we make when we buy everyday

items at the store. What disturbed me the most was hearing about how palm plantations are now going to be grown in Brazil. Jim used the word "cancer" to describe the environmental destruction going on in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. This cancer is now entering our biggest rainforest, the Amazon. My heart sank when I heard this. Jim's message was clear, that we are directly influencing wildlife and the cat species we love so much every day when we buy things at the store. He made me realize I need to take responsibility and try to stop buying these types of products. Palm oil is in everything from cookies to nutrition bars to soap. If we decrease the demand for some of these products, the supply will decline and, hopefully, the land will stop being destroyed.

After Jim spoke about the palm plantations and the fishing cat, he took a break and let Spirit, Debi's Geoffroy's cat, come out on stage to woo the audience. And woo he did!

Before Debi brought him out, she told people if they wanted to gather closer to the front row to get a better look at him, they could. Everyone moved forward so they could see this cat come out! Debi put him on a table with two scratching posts and shelves on it. Spirit spent his time climbing the posts, sharpening his claws, and sitting on the shelves like a vulture, peering down at the audience. The audience was amazed at how small some wild cats really are, and they loved watching Spirit interact with Debi and his toys. Debi told us he is the only traveling Geoffroy's cat in New England, and this may be the only time most of us would ever see this species. She taught us about Spirit's personality, what he eats, and how he acts. Both Debi and Jim explained how Debi needs government and state permits to possess him and how this type of show



Mona Headen and the rest of the audience were amazed at how small Debi Willoughby's Geoffroy's cat, Spirit, really is! She brought out some scratching posts with shelves to show off his climbing skills.

is not even allowed in some states. How awful is that? How can people learn about these beautiful species and want to help them if they do not even know they exist?

When Spirit was done playing with his toys, he went back in his crate and Jim resumed his talk to tell us about the flat-headed cat and Andean cat. He then gave us suggestions on how we can make a difference by changing small things in our own lives. Both Jim and Debi were open to questions at the end of the show and invited all of us down to the stage to talk on a more personal level with them. That is when I realized Robert and Sandra Lee Hohn (fellow FCF members) were in the audience. They drove from New York to see the show! It is nice to see "cat people" supporting other cat people.

Jim and Debi did a great show together, taught us a lot, and gave us advice on how to make simple, smarter decisions when we go shopping. Spirit was the hit of the show and behaved well. We learned a lot about him by watching him move around and interact with his toys. I want to thank Jim, Debi, and Spirit for providing this educational experience to the general public and helping us realize we need to change our ways if we want to continue to see small cats in the wild. I hope they continue to spread the word about small wild cats and I hope you can, too!



For a small cat, Spirit sure has a big personality!

VICTORY COMES AT A COST

By Lynn Culver

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance and a whole lot of cash. And if we wish to enjoy our rights in this society, sometimes we have to go to war – with our own government. Every time elected officials pass a law or ordinance, they are taking away a freedom. Hopefully, the trade-off benefits society. Zoning prevents chaos. Permits enable government to monitor growth and stop unsuitable activities. But sometimes the government writes vague and unconstitutional laws and enforces them arbitrarily. Where does that leave the victims of this injustice? Either being stomped on by the government or buying justice in the courtroom.

For one FCF member, Fred Boyajian, the option of giving up his license and losing his cats or putting his house up for sale and moving elsewhere in Georgia to keep them was unacceptable. Instead, Fred stood up to the corruption in the Atlanta city government and took his case to the courts.

The FCF covered Fred's civil action in the September/October 2009 FCF Journal. Fred's attorneys had gained a preliminary injunction to protect his cats from seizure by the Georgia Department of Wildlife. The wildlife department had refused to renew his wildlife breeder license because the City of Atlanta had cited Fred for operating a "commercial business" without having the proper business license, and the Atlanta Zoning Inspector issued him a citation for using an accessory for "commercial use," a violation of city zoning ordinances.

Following Atlanta's citation and change in position on the need for Fred to hold a business license, Fred applied for one on August 10, 2007. The application was denied, because the city found his business was "not permitted use in a residential district."

What makes this case important to the feline community is that nothing has changed over the past three decades since Fred purchased his home and built his feline habitats, all with the full knowledge and approval of the city of Atlanta. He has always been exempted from these ordinances because the requirement for a business license exempts the "casual or isolated" commercial activity involving

personal assets and he is allowed to have accessory use of his property.

But, in 2007, the vague wording that exempted Fred from the requirement to have a business license to sell his feline offspring was being reinterpreted to cite him. And his accessory use of his property was cited because it was considered a "commercial use." Even more upsetting was that these citations for conducting commercial activity without a license were issued at the City Council's direction, even though the licensing inspector issuing the citation had no first-hand knowledge that any cats were being sold, and the zoning inspector found no evidence that this commercial activity was his principal occupation. The judge was careful to note this in their decision, because it shows the City's intent to "get Fred" by any means.

Fred's attorneys filed for a summary judgment for violation of his constitutional rights and due process on the grounds that the statutes were vague and were being arbitrarily and discriminatorily enforced against him. Non-criminal statutes that are vague extract obedience to a rule or standard... so vague and indefinite as really to be no rule or standard at all.

On March 31, 2011, the Court found that the phrase "casual or isolated" commerce was unconstitutionally vague as applied to Fred. The potential for arbitrary enforcement was great. The city had "unbridled discretion" to determine what exceeds the "casual or isolated" threshold without objective criteria. This was seen through the City's unilateral change in its interpretation of the ordinance after 32 years. Fred had originally met the exception, but after complaints were made about his cats, a City Council member directed the City to make sure that "proper permits were had."

The zoning citation against Fred was for "commercial use" of an accessory on the property. The city of Atlanta allows commercial use of an accessory, so long as it is "customary and incidental." A garage sale once or twice a year was an example of allowable "incidental commerce." But when the Chief of Zoning was asked about whether more than two sales annually would be considered "commercial," the issue became murky and the

answer given was, "that it would be investigated on a case by case basis." When asked about the breeding and sale of cats, which was the activity that gave rise to Fred's citation, the Zoning Officer testified that the sale of five kittens from a litter of cats would be allowable under the "incidental and customary and accessory" provision. Fred's exotic cats only produce, and he subsequently sells, two to three kittens a year. The court noted that the city was holding one set of standards for one set of cats and another set of standards for Fred's wild cats. Clearly, arbitrary enforcement of the ordinance was occurring because of the Zoning Officer's interpretation of the term "commercial nature." The court found that the phrase allowing "customary and incidental commerce" vested too much discretion in the City. There were no objective standards, or even examples on a continuum, which an ordinary resident could review and know whether his conduct would be permitted. The court ruled it was unconstitutionally vague as applied.

The Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, granted Fred's motion for permanent injunction on March 31, 2011. Fred's attorneys had proven that Fred had suffered an irreparable injury; that remedies available at law, such as monetary damages, are inadequate to compensate for that injury; that, considering the balance of hardships between Fred and the City of Atlanta, a remedy in equity is warranted; and that the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. The City of Atlanta and its officers, agents, employees, successors, and assigns are permanently enjoined from taking any adverse action against Fred based upon the provisions that the Court declared void for vagueness.

This victory is due to the efforts of a number of attorneys, including Cameron M. McCord, of the legal firm Jones & Walden, LLC, Atlanta, GA, and Gerald R. Weber, of the law firm Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta. These law firms have now filed on behalf of Fred for the recovery of more than \$270,000 in fees and court costs incurred during litigation in municipal, state, and federal courts. Fred is now awaiting ruling by the Northern District Court of Georgia, Atlanta Division.



FELINE

JUST

FINE

Rare Species Fund

Black-Footed Cat Conservation



As the sun sets over the low grassveld of South Africa, the Black Footed Cat Working Group researchers and Rare Species Fund staff prepare to track the smallest and most elusive of Africa's wild feline species, the black-footed cat.



Robert Johnson of the Rare Species Fund discusses logistics of trapping specimens for tracking with Black-Footed Cat Working Group research manager Beryl Wilson.

The Rare Species Fund has worked to conserve various feline species on the African continent, but none are as endangered or as elusive as the black-footed cat. This mini-predator averages from 2-4 lbs in size and is, pound for pound, one of the most successful hunters in the world.

The secretive nature of this feline means that it is seldom seen by the resident humans. In fact, most people who live within the home range of the black-footed cat have no idea the animal even exists. It is a small wonder that area governments are doing little if anything to save this vanishing species. In fact the majority of the work is being done by an incredibly dedicated handful of local researchers, wild-life professionals and educators who are supported, to a great extent, by organizations from Europe and America. A regular supporter of these efforts is the Rare Species Fund.



The black-footed cat (BFC) is a skilled nocturnal hunter.

www.RareSpeciesFund.org

This trailer was provided by RSF, while in Africa, to enable local researchers to haul more equipment into the field.



Currently, the black-footed cat population is estimated to be only a few thousand animals. Research seeks to find not only the current home range of the species, but also individual animals. These small felines can travel as much as 30km

in a single evening. This widespread movement puts them into potential conflict other predators, as well as the threat of highways, poachers and other human dangers.

"A black-footed cat is 2.5 pounds of fury!"

In addition to helping to research and conserve the wild population of black-footed cats, the Rare Species Fund is working with the Cat Conservation Trust to both maintain a captive breeding population of this endangered feline, and to educate the local population about the backyard neighbor many never new they had.

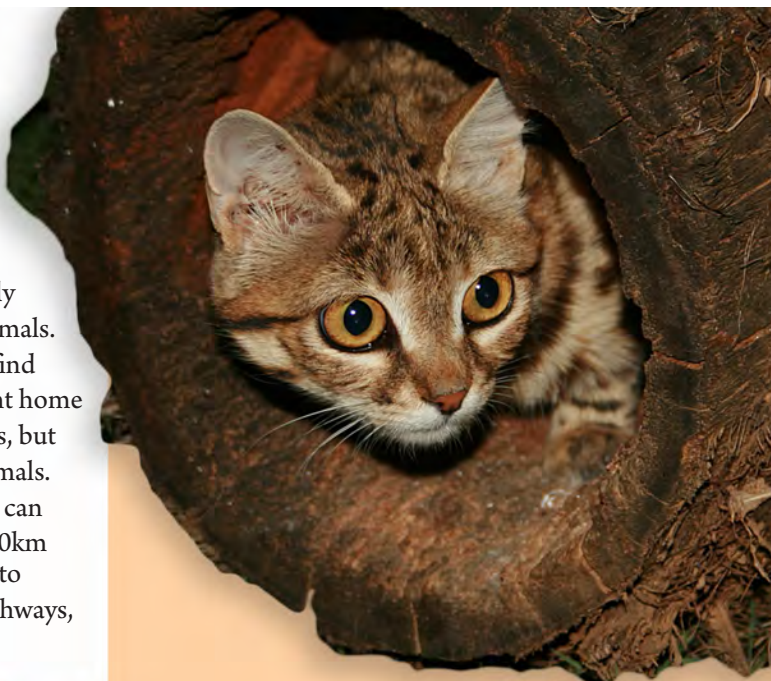
As a cultural way of life, the most common response to a predator in these rural farm lands is to eliminate it. Marion Holmes of the CCT is working with schools to change the minds and hearts of the next generation.



Children at the Nxuba SP School learn about wildlife.



A local film crew joins the BFCWG and RSF for a night time off-road drive, tracking two radio collared black-footed cats.



RSF funds help to:

Educate local school groups about the importance of predators and the existence of the Black-Footed Cat.



Transport and relocate displaced wild BFCs, including performing necessary veterinary procedures.



Reconnect local people with the natural world and help reinforce the necessity of preserving local biodiversity.



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STEWIE THE SERVAL: SUPERCAT!

By Jackie Adebahr
Delta B.C., Canada

I hate cats.

The year I was born, my mom became a cat breeder and I spent my childhood at cat shows, helping with litter boxes and living in a home that accommodated our Abyssinian show cats. Everything in my life was about "THE CATS."

I was so glad to get my own place and move out of the crazy cat lady house. I never wanted to see another cat, much less own one, and then I met Stewie.

My mom spent a year researching and preparing to import a serval kitten into Canada.

When he arrived in Vancouver, he was a huge set of ears with an equally large purr.

I was in love.

I had to be discreet in my theft. I started taking Stewie for "play dates" at my home for an afternoon, then an overnight, then a weekend, and, well, eventually he was mine and my mom imported another serval kitten for herself a few months later.



Enjoying a nice drink during happy hour is one of the numerous ways that Stewie likes to wind down after an especially busy day.

Initially, I was nervous because of some of the stories about servals.

I was a young single mom with two toddlers who had no exotic cat experience. Many people would have considered me a poor candidate for an African serval. I made many adjustments and sacrifices to make Stewie a member of the family. He became like one of my children. We were going to make this work!

Stewie was expected to behave, take part in family outings, and be a great family pet.

For the first month or so, Stewie was a typical kitten, playing with cat toys, eating cat food, and chewing everything in sight. He jumped in the bath when you least expected it. That is what all kittens do, right? He ate my jackets, pants, hose, kids' toys, balloons, mattresses, etc. Ok, maybe not your TYPICAL kitten. But a seven pound, 11-week-old, adorable, and fun kitten to say the least!

Stewie loves to play with my kids and they play tag and run around the house, but he is always gentle. The bond is mutual and sometimes makes for amusing situations. I have seen Stewie wearing unicorn pajamas or bounding around with a green



Here, Stewie hams it up for the adoring cameras at one of the many cat shows he has attended with the Adebahr family.

colored foot from getting in the way when the kids are painting. Everything they draw or paint has to have a serval in it... and, sometimes, that is literal!

Stewie was originally named after "Stuart" from a Mad TV skit with a man who



Stewie's family spends some quality time together in their personal, multi-species resort pool under the warm Canadian sunshine.



Stewie shows off his leggy profile while begging for a tasty morsel from Mom.

has long legs and acts like a misbehaved child. Since servals have long legs, but are not the most coordinated kitties or the best behaved, we thought this would suit him. We shortened it to "Stewie" soon after, when he turned out to be more like a devil child, another character we know from a popular TV show. That name change happened when he got into our baby bearded dragons' (pet lizards) tank and ate his way through them like they were potato chips.

Stewie is now two years old, and I still cannot keep any dish cloths around, or rubber or foam items, or anything that resembles a stuffed animal. My house has become very sparse. After having him for a few months, Stewie graduated from sleeping on my bedroom floor to the foot of my bed. He bonded with me right away as his owner and would only listen to me, or anyone with chicken!

Stewie will do ANYTHING for chicken! I have trained him to do some basic tricks like SIT, COME, SPEAK, SHAKE A PAW, or KISS. We are always working on new tricks, but sometimes he gets overexcited about seeing chicken and will just start doing all his tricks in a row because he knows ONE of them will get

him a treat. So he will quickly and repeatedly speak, kiss, shake a paw, and sit, just waiting for that treat.

Stewie has a dog friend called Cyrus. Cyrus is a gentle lab cross that joins us for walks, overnights, and summer play times. When Cyrus comes over to play in the pool, he hardly has a chance to touch the water with Stewie guarding his garden hose and pool with his life. They are very funny together and truly an odd couple. The only way to get Stewie to leave the pool is to offer him a car ride! Like a dog, he runs and jumps right in our van and into his very own car seat. He is very proud of his seat and likes to see what is going on outside as we drive. He is rather nosey.

What is a typical day like living with Stewie?

We are a very active family, so things have been working out well with him in our life. I work at a rock climbing gym, Vertical Reality, in Surrey B.C., and Stewie has become the mascot there, accompanying me on my shifts. He is a big hit when there are children's birthday parties, but we really have to watch him around the pizza and cake!

I also work at Thunderbird Equestrian Show Park in Langley. I am the medic for the international horse competitions held there. It is a very large facility, and I ride around in a golf cart from one location to another with Stewie at my side. Many people bring their dogs to the horse shows, but I think I am the only one with an African serval! The horses are not afraid of him, and Stewie is not interested in the horses. He just likes to be with me and be nosey about what everyone is doing. Sometimes he sits in the announc-

er's post and helps out.

Twice a month, we bring Stewie, with some of my mom's cats, to visit seniors and long-term care facilities. My mom brings her Savannahs and Abyssinians, but Stewie is always the big hit at the visits! We have been doing this since he was a kitten, so he is not nervous about wheelchairs or any of the equipment in the homes. He likes to jump into bed and snuggle with patients who are bed-bound, and he will perform tricks and play with those who are able to get out of their rooms and join us in the lounge. I have to keep a close eye on him, as he is always so interested in the recreational equipment. Large rubber balls, balloons, or anything made of rubber he can sniff out and will grab in seconds.

Stewie goes to cat shows and pet expos in the B.C. area. He has become quite famous for his unique personality, gentle disposition, and very big heart. He even has his own Facebook page, "Stewie the Serval." Stewie will always prefer women over men, because he has been raised around women only. But he will tolerate most men petting him when he is



How many kids do you know with a private purr-powered lap-warmer to keep them toasty during those chilly car outings all winter?!

on display. He knows that he is safe and enjoys his cat show outings. He can get bored doing tricks for everyone, so we try to give him lots of breaks and take him for walks and play times. Sometimes there are thousands of people in a weekend that meet Stewie and pet him.

So many spectators will say they want a serval as a pet after meeting Stewie, but we always try to clarify that not all servals are alike and that it takes a lot of commitment and work to get a serval to behave the way Stewie does.

My lifestyle is unique. Not everyone has employers that let you bring your serval to work! Not everyone has the time to walk a serval every day. Not everyone wants to have things in their home chewed, knocked over, or eaten. Not everyone has a mom who will “babysit” a serval. Not everyone is prepared for the special diet and care, including regular baths, which a serval requires.

Stewie prefers to use the outdoors rather than a litter box, so three times a day I have to be prepared to leash him up and take him outside. In the evenings, we enjoy our family time and Stewie enjoys a good movie or some music as much as any of us. He is not as active as one might think. Although on the savannahs of Africa his ancestors may have spent their days hunting and running, Stewie actually prefers lying on the couch with a cuddly blanket, rather than leaping or running around our home.

If I am doing household chores, he will leave the couch and come “help” me. If I am doing laundry, he will try to run away

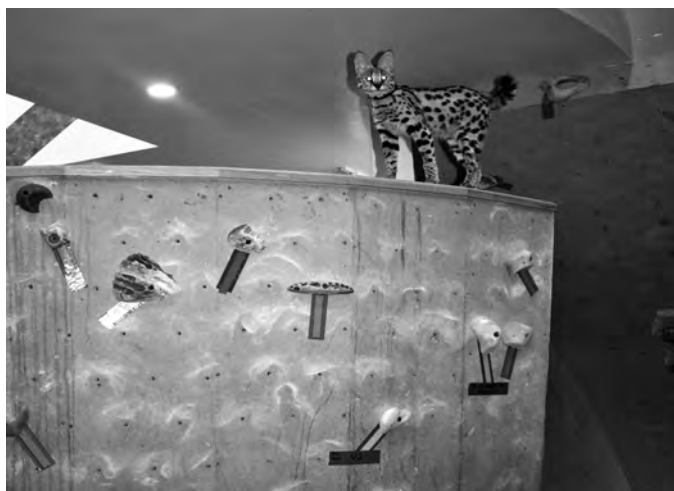


Sleepy Stewie catches a few zzzzzzz's while modeling the unparalleled comfort of his high-rise serval kitty tree/neo-rustic, modern, feline-friendly architectural work of art.

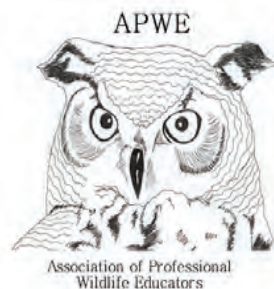
with bits of clothing and put holes in them. If I am cleaning the bathroom, he likes to splash in the toilet or sit in the sink. He is always a great help (sarcasm added here)!

I have learned that loving a serval requires so much patience and kindness. Even when “someone” has an accident in my laundry basket or chews my most

expensive and favorite clothing, I have to forgive him and learn from my mistakes. They say you cannot pick your family, but I did pick Stewie and, although there are ups and downs, he is still family. And we will love him forever.



Sometimes Stewie just can't resist the feeling of power he gets from making it all the way to the top of his domain!



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*It is now a year since the FCF generously supported the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program's (CPCP) field survey for Marbled Cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*) and Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) in the Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands of Central Vietnam. The survey has now finished and the results are in. Sadly, the results of this survey paint a damning picture of the failings of yet another "Protected Area" in Vietnam.*

SMALL CAT POPULATIONS DECIMATED IN THE KÊ GỒ-KHÊ NÉT LOWLANDS, CENTRAL VIETNAM

By Daniel Wilcox

The Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands are in Central Vietnam, which is an area that contains a range of highly diverse and uniquely endemic mammalian taxa, including the Hà Tĩnh langur (*Trachypithecus laotum hatinhensis*), the gaur (*Bos gaurus*), and the giant muntjac (*Megamuntiacus vuquangensis*). The Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands is one of the largest (48,401 ha) patches of lowland broadleaf-evergreen forests in the Annamese Lowlands and is made up of two protected areas, Kê Gồ Nature Reserve and Khê Nét Nature Reserve. The central area has a range of low hills (not reaching over 500 meters) and a network of permanent rivers and streams dissecting the landscape. The Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands form the perfect habitat for some of Southeast Asia's rarest small to medium-sized cats, includ-

ing the marbled cat and clouded leopard. The Asiatic golden cat (*Pardofelis temminckii*) and leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) have also been previously recorded in the landscape, the former through interview data and the latter through direct observation back in 1996. Despite the rarity of this habitat type and its obvious importance to conservation, the only survey work of any note was done in the late 1990s, and this was focused on birds. The CPCP therefore designed this field survey to establish the conservation status of small cats and other carnivores in the Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands, as these taxa have been neglected up until now.

The field survey was split into two main periods. The first, carried out in 2006, focused on the lower elevation areas, often near some of the major streams and rivers. The 2010 survey, which was supported by the FCF, focused on the hill range that stretches through the middle of the landscape. This hill range supports some of the least disturbed primary forest in the landscape. Survey methods included diurnal searches for scats and tracks, nocturnal spotlighting walks, and camera-trapping. Nocturnal spotlighting focused on trails and pathways that



This pygmy loris spotted during the CPCP field study would make a filling snack for a marbled cat, clouded leopard, or leopard cat.

went through primary forest. Camera-traps were placed in a variety of locations, including on man-made pathways and logging roads, near streams, and on animal trails.

In total, there were 101 hours of nocturnal spotlighting, 81 hours of diurnal searches for scats and tracks, and 1,482 camera trap nights. Despite this high survey effort, not a single cat species was recorded. Nothing. Not even the "common" leopard cat. Several other species of small to medium-sized mammal were recorded during the survey, including the small-toothed palm civet, the large Indian civet, the common palm civet, the stump-tailed macaque, the pygmy loris, and the Malayan porcupine, although most of these species only produced single records.

"Why were there no wild cats recorded?" is a question that needs answering,



Many of the forested areas so critical to carnivore conservation in Vietnam have been disturbed and destroyed like this one. Civilization continues to encroach upon the few remaining undisturbed landscapes that still dot the maps of Southeast Asia.



A team member in the field checks his data while resting at one of the numerous illegal logging camps which Vietnamese officials conveniently overlook when offered bribes.

and it became rapidly apparent during the surveys who the likely culprits were - people.

Over the two surveys, the CPCP's field team observed and recorded over 1,200 cable-snare traps, drift fence for funneling the animals into snare traps (totaling nearly two kilometers in length), and 17 illegal camps (two of which were clearly hunting camps containing around 110 cable-snare traps between them). In addition to this, people (88 in total) were recorded illegally encroaching into the protected areas on a regular, often daily, basis. Approximately 121 domestic buffalo were also recorded inside the Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands. While most buffaloes were involved in dragging illegally-harvested timber out of the forest, some appeared feral and may even be breeding inside the nature reserves (several young calves and juveniles were observed). Most of the large (diameter-breast-height of over 40cm) trees have now disappeared from both the core and edge areas, and there is almost no undisturbed forest remaining within the landscape, even at the top of some of the more inaccessible hills which were the focus for the 2010 survey.

The whole Kê Gồ-Khê Nét landscape is being completely ransacked and destroyed. The Forest Protection Department (FPD) rangers that we worked with are entirely complicit in this, often turning a blind eye to illegal activity. The reason

would sell the confiscated wood back to the illegal logger at a cut price, so that the illegal logger gets his timber back while making a profit and the FPD make some extra income (everyone's a winner).

Given the level of survey effort, it is very likely that populations of small cats in this region are nearing local extinction (although it is impossible to state this with 100% certainty), with even the supposedly disturbance-resistant leopard cat going unrecorded! There was widespread and intensive timber extraction and hunting throughout the landscape, and these are certainly the main reasons behind the demise of the area's small cat populations.

Unfortunately, the findings of this survey are not unique to the Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands, and the current protected area network in Vietnam is failing. Illegal hunting is widespread and the continued

behind this quickly became apparent, with the FPD rangers either getting money through bribes or seemingly "arranged" confiscations; the FPD maintained the façade that they were doing their job and then

apathy of provincial and central level government is destroying what little wildlife is left in protected areas. Hunting and the illegal wildlife trade has almost completely destroyed Vietnam's wildlife; the last rhino in Vietnam was shot last February, Asian elephants number less than 20, and less than 300 Delacour's langurs (an endemic species of primate) survive there.

There is a biodiversity crisis facing Vietnam that is daunting in scale.

It would be easy for me to give up and work in another country. A country where there is more wildlife, less bureaucracy, and a government that supports what I do. Often my friends, peers, and even colleagues suggest that I should escape to the beaches of Costa Rica to count turtle eggs and have a less stressful life! However, the illegal wildlife trade is now a global problem and the demand emanating from Vietnam and China is now affecting wildlife as far away as Africa. It is only a matter of time before wildlife traders reach the beaches of Costa Rica (if they have not done so already). Because of Vietnam's position as a source, destination, and transit point in the illegal wildlife trade dynamic, it remains such an important country for conservation, and that is why I am sticking with it. If conservation fails in Vietnam, then it will fail in the region, and I ardently believe that this will happen within the next 10 years unless more is done for conservation in Vietnam.

The illegal wildlife trade has developed from local trade, mainly for subsistence, to one that is global and has grown to meet an increasing demand for traditional medicine, wild meat, pets, and pelts from middle-class urbanites and wealthy businessmen who live in the main cities and towns of Vietnam and China. Vietnam's wildlife is so depleted that hunters and traders are now sourcing from the embattled bastions of Southeast Asian wildlife: Laos, Burma, and the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. If the situation is not resolved in Vietnam, then the populations of clouded leopard, marbled cat and Asiatic golden cat in these other countries will face the same problems and will soon be gone forever.

Clearly, more needs to be done, and quickly, as we are



A dusty tangle of confiscated wire traps collected by rangers in the forests of Kê Gồ-Khê Nét. These are commonly used to gather animals destined for the black market and restaurants catering to adventurous diners.

simply running out of time to save Southeast Asia's biodiversity. The CPCP remains the only organization in Vietnam and the region with a focused program for small carnivores (this includes all cats up to the size of a clouded leopard). The CPCP now plans to use the results of this survey to lobby the Vietnamese Central Authorities to begin enforcing laws that are already in place, rather than just increasing legislation. The CPCP will also be distributing summaries of the survey to journalists in Vietnam to raise awareness of the destruction of the Kê Gồ-Khê Nét Lowlands and try to hold the management boards of the two protected areas accountable.

The CPCP is part of a burgeoning

"green" movement in Vietnam, and there is an increasing proportion of the public becoming more involved in conservation and environmentally aware. This is cause for optimism, but there needs to be a huge effort in Vietnam if we are to save Southeast Asia's dwindling biodiversity. We have less than 10 years to save Vietnam and Southeast Asia's wildlife. We must act now.

As part of the CPCP's ongoing carnivore breeding program, two Owston's civets, like this one, were recently born at the facility. Photo courtesy of the CPCP website.



PAWS FOR MORE OUTSTANDING ART AT CONVENTION

Canadian Wildlife and Nature Artist Cindy Weitzel Donates her Work to the FCF

Artist Cindy Weitzel has generously donated this stunning, original tiger portrait to the annual FCF Convention fundraiser auction. Titled *Sending a Prayer*, this 24"x18" work done in acrylic and oil has a true story behind it. The tigress's life was in danger and she needed to be moved to be saved.

Born in Calgary, Alberta, Cindy has become an amazing artist over the years. She has won numerous awards and has been published in magazines such as *Birds and Blooms*, *B.C. Hunters Magazine*, and *Wildlife Artist Magazine*. She was named Artist of the Year 2007 for Ducks Unlimited, as well as for Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, Canada.

Cindy lives in Spirit River, Alberta, where there is an abundance of the wildlife and scenery which she enjoys portraying in her paintings. She is a loving and caring person who donates some of her work to great charities and organizations to help kids, families, and wildlife.

Cindy is currently on a big adventure, reconstructing a dinosaur in Alberta that was just found, using all of the fossil parts and painting it in natural surroundings as it would have looked during its lifetime. The painting will be going up for auction in July, at the big Gala in Grande Prairie, Alberta, for the new museum planned for Pipestone, Alberta.

If you would like a quote for a custom feline portrait, Cindy can be contacted by phone at 780-864-2855 or email (wildechoes_7@hotmail.com).



DONATIONS

The FCF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals who have made donations to FCF projects since the last published Journal. These generous donations provide additional funding for special projects such as creating educational materials for members and legislators, helping support feline conservation, and improving captive feline welfare.

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

Wildcat Safety Net Fund:

Kamala Strohmeyer

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

COUGAR COMEBACK

By Ron DeArmond,
CEO, Pella Wildlife Company

The cougar at one time ranged coast-to-coast in North and South America. Unfortunately when land was tamed to suit our needs, much of nature's habitat was lost. People did not value wildlife. The 1800s were a time of exploration and conquest and that included wildlife. In the 1800s as settlers pushed westward, wildlife, and especially predators like wolf and cougar, were either systematically hunted and killed, or driven west, north and south to escape human persecution. By 1900, the cougar had been almost completely eliminated east of the



Cougars occupy habitats as diverse as mountain, swamp, forest, canyon, and increasingly, are venturing to the edges of farm and civilization in America's heartland.



Cougar confirmations: 1990 to present outside of established range in North America
Courtesy of www.cougarnet.org.

Mississippi, with the exception of a small population in southern Florida. A dozen western states were the last stand for America's great cat; California, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Montana.

The USDA and state governments paid bounties as incentives to eliminate these predators. From 1913 to 1959, the state of Utah paid bounties on 3,985 mountain lions, and between 1918 and 1961, the state of Oregon paid bounties on 6,762 mountain lions. From 1936 to 1962, the state of Washington paid bounties on 3,143 mountain lions. From 1901 to 1963, the state of Montana paid bounties on 1,987 mountain lions. California holds

farming, ranching and mining industries. The result of all this intense human activity is that the once wild-open spaces, are now hemmed-in and crowded.

To escape the human pressures, western cats are making the trek east and cougars are also dispersing south from Canada. These two migrations are reaching central states, and it was just a matter of time before these wandering individuals settled in, found each other, and

began breeding and producing offspring to fill the vacuum.

Cougars are basically looking for abundant prey species, which for this big cat is deer, and suitable territory where there are no cougars. Migrants from Canada are moving to Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Also, confirmed cougar populations are now in the prairie states. Breeding populations of cougars are now established in North Dakota, and their adolescent offspring have dispersed south, populating South Dakota to the point where this state has opened an annual lion hunting season, and, so far in 2011, a total of 43 of these cats have been killed.

The long distances these cats can travel was documented in May 2004, when a radio-collared cougar in the Black Hills of South Dakota made a 700-mile trek further south through Kansas, reached Red Rock, Oklahoma, and was struck by a train and killed. Migrating cougars from Colorado and Wyoming are establishing themselves in Nebraska. One radio-collared cougar from Colorado traveled more than a 1,000 miles, visiting all over Kansas, traveling back to Colorado, and then through Oklahoma and Texas, before heading to New Mexico.

The popularity of the motion detection game cameras for deer hunters and the curious landowner has provided indisputable evidence of the presence of cougars in the central Midwest states of



In 2006, this photo of a cougar was taken in southwestern Arkansas by a landowner's deer camera and given to the local Game and Fish officer.

Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana. In this century, wild cougars have been shot in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana and Georgia. Most cougars killed are young dispersing males.

Prime male cougar territory will include multiple females and this is where study and research to create management plans will be needed to understand how people and cougars can live peacefully together.



Two game cameras, placed on different properties in the same Arkansas county, captured two cougar images a month apart. This photo was taken in August 2010, the other photo is shown on page 47.

Some encouraging events continue to take place as the cougars move east. Recently the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office organized a meeting that featured Sam Wilson, the Game and Parks top cougar expert. The forum was used to educate the public about cougars and cougar attacks. Discussions covered the myths and misinformation about cougars, and the future of the cougar in Nebraska, as this big cat is now reproducing in that state.

Education will continue to be the key to public acceptance as cougars continue to disperse into former habitats throughout the central, south and eastern US. It will be up to the public and its attitude to ultimately determine where the cougar lives, as part of the natural ecosystem, and in what numbers.

Wildlife living in wild places is a theme everyone can grasp and we must work to get the message out and increase public acceptance.

There is good news regarding reports of people living with cougars where cougars are not shot on sight. In Colorado a female cougar was hiding her 4-month-old kittens under a residents' porch while she went off to hunt. The Department of Wildlife had been tracking her until her transmitter stopped working. Knowing of her and her territory, officers decided to tranquilize her and her kittens and move them away from residential areas and deeper into her territory. It was a successful move and residents gained a better understanding of cougars, and the cougars were allowed to live their lives in wild places.

It has only been the last 30 to 40 years that we have begun to understand and appreciate the importance all species play in an ecosystem. Cougars and conflicts will never go away, but understanding is the new frontier that will allow North America's Great Cat to reclaim its former range and once again call all North America home.

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CAN I REALLY BUY A CHEETAH ON THE INTERNET?!

By Dolly Guck

I think we have all read quotes in various news articles declaring there is a national crisis because anyone can buy a tiger cub on the Internet for as little as \$300. But did you know you could also find ads for cheetah cubs for only \$500?

My name is Dolly Guck and I am a member of the FCF and volunteer with WOWEE, World of Wildlife Educational Encounters. I use my serval, Sawabu, and a short-tailed opossum for educational programs. The short-tailed died a few months ago, and I thought it was time to get another one. I was on Craigslist when I found an ad for short-tailed opossums. The ad encouraged me to go to www.Hoobly.com. On the Hoobly website, I found a lot of ads by honest people, but of all things, I found an ad for cheetah cubs for \$500.00 each! The ad title was "Cheetah Cubs for Sale," and the seller's address was San Bernardino, California. The ad read:

We are a professional, distinguished and well established breeder of exotic big cats. We have cheetahs, bobcat, caracals,

servals and tigers. 22 years experience, CFA cattery of excellence and proud member of the BBB. We presently have Cheetah cubs available for sale. We recommend serious buyers only. No time wasters. You must know about this before you attempt to buy from us. We deal only with potential buyers. Four Cheetah cubs available now.

WOW, imagine that, I thought! I emailed the ad to Lynn Culver to ask her if this could be real, but she assured me this was a scam, the kind of Internet scam that she felt has contributed to the often repeated urban legend that, "Anyone can buy a baby tiger on the Internet."

Lynn coached me to respond and inquire about purchasing one male cheetah and one female tiger to see what kind of scam this was. So off went the email to bandestreet@yahoo.com. Low and behold, an email came back with this answer:

Hello Dan,

Nice reading from you, well as for my cubs they were brought up together, i have been breeding tiger and cheetahs for the past 28 years and all my kids and grand kids have grown to love and play with them. You request for a male Cheetah and female tiger have been solved as you got the right combination who are so fun of each other. The Tiger is 17 weeks old while the cheetah is 15 weeks old. They are very popular in our neighborhood and noted for their playful and calm temperament. They adore kids and other pets at home as well. Like i told you in my first mail, they cost \$500 each and shipping to your doorstep is \$190 for both or one being that they will be transported in the same cage or crate. But before we proceed with this i will like to know a few details about you and your family, have you raised exotic pets before, do you love tiger or cheetah cubs? What is your



Dolly Guck, undercover Internet scam investigator, oversees the introduction of her serval, Sawabu, to her horse, Apollo. Dolly says the meeting went well. Photo by 14-year-old Brad Spencer.



Internet scammers routinely steal photos off of websites to create the false impression that they possess the items they are selling. In this case, the photo of Mookie and Melody, the scammers' snow tiger cubs, had a file name of "Gloria and Hill."

address and how soon do you want them? I have attached some few pics.

Waiting to read from you soonest.

WELL, this kind of scared me. I had used my regular email to do this and I did not want to give them my home address. I know that I cannot have cheetahs or tigers where I live and I thought they might really send them right to my doorstep. I also worried might this might be authorities trying to catch people trying to buy illegal animals. Then what do I do, my imagination ran WILD!!!!!!

I emailed Lynn again and told her I was scared and needed her advice. I sent Lynn my phone number. She called me and after a long talk, she put my fears to rest. She assured me that nobody in California is selling baby cheetahs for \$500, since this species is worth over \$15,000. The photos they sent me of the baby tigers were of white and snow tigers. Lynn assured me that these rare colors are worth thousands of dollars, not \$500. And she pointed out that it is illegal to ship these baby endangered cats across state lines to my doorstep without Fish and Wildlife permits, and she believed this ad was too outrageous to be a government set-up. And if this was the authorities, Lynn said she would verify that I was researching Internet scams for a Journal article. Feeling reassured, I wrote back to find out more. And the answers got even stranger. The cubs, it seems, were now in Africa,

but these people would still handle all the USDA papers, and the international flight cost to my doorstep was still only \$190 (even though I had never given them my address)! The really strange thing was they did not even require prepayment. The email read:

Happy to read from you and for the fact that you are interested in my Tiger and cheetahs cubs. i still have two tigers male and a female left called Mookie and Melody, and two cheetahs as well. they are all 15 and 17 weeks old and are registered with the AKC registration papers.

we formerly had these cubs back there, but we just moved to Silver Springs Cameroon since my daughter had a motor accident and dislocated her spinal cord, for that reason we were referred to the Silver Spring Rehabilitation Center in Cameroun for proper treatment which will last for about six months or more. it is quite difficult giving the pair the love and attention that they really deserve due to time constraint. so we really wanna see if we can get them just the best new home and most especially here in the US so that we can visit them from time to time. we really wished we could have them a little longer but we can't now. distance won't matter as we have all usda papers and vet ref. to fly them where ever, the cubs are \$500 each and shipping quotes were very moderate at \$190 to your location . This money will only be paid as soon as you receive the cubs. You just need a vet document, ownership and others which i will do from here and send the cubs with all



Maybe this is a photo of the daughter holding one of their cheetah cubs, taken shortly before she had "the motor accident that dislocated her spinal cord."

the papers.

Lynn and I talked for quite awhile again and she wanted me to go along with them and see how far it would go. She said send them a picture of a room that I would keep them in until I could build an outside enclosure. "Tell them anything," she said, "just see how far it will go."

Lynn assured me they did not have the cubs and this is just a scam to get me to send them money, even though they were saying they would wait to be paid until after the cubs arrived. Lynn explained that probably what would happen is they would email me with a story that the cubs have been sent, but are stuck someplace overseas, and they will need me to send money to get them out of wherever they are. Lynn said they will probably want you to send the money by Western Union. She told me "Do not send them any money, just see how far it will go, and what they want you to do."

So I emailed them pictures and told them about the state of the art facility my husband and I were going to build. I said I had told a bunch of my friends about the cubs, and everyone was very excited. I ended with please send the cubs soon. They never got back to me. I don't know what happened.

But Lynn was right. I was talking



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to a friend, and she had found an ad for a capuchin monkey. The story was that it belonged to a girl, and she and the monkey had moved to Cameroon where the girl was attending school and could not keep the monkey in her apartment. The monkey was sent to my friend. But, it got stuck in an airport in England and they needed \$400 to get it back on its way. My friend never did wire the money. And, yes, I did find a short-tailed opossum.



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The Feline Conservation Federation Conservation Grants committee has approved \$800 funding for Marianela Velilla. Her non-invasive methods will DNA test collected fecal samples to determine the number of individuals and species present in the Chaco of central Paraguay.

CONSERVATION OF FELIDS IN PARAGUAY: OBTAINING THE FIRST ESTIMATES OF CAT ABUNDANCE

By Marianela Velilla

Paraguay is a 406,752 km² country situated in the heart of South America, with diverse habitats like the Atlantic Forest, the Chaco, Pantanal, Cerrado, and Grasslands. This translates into a rich biodiversity. The Paraguay River divides the country into eastern and western regions, each with their unique plant and animal species. Unfortunately, Paraguay lags well behind other South American countries in terms of biodiversity research and conservation. This lack of knowledge hinders the development of conservation programs in the country, and one of the most affected groups is the felines, for which no baseline data on populations or ecology currently exists. The country nevertheless hosts eight species of felid: ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), oncilla or little spotted cat (*Leopardus tigrinus*), Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*), margay (*Leopardus wiedii*), pampas cat (*Leopardus colocolo*), jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*), puma (*Puma concolor*), and jaguar (*Panthera onca*). In addition to this paucity of information, most of the research to date has been carried out by non-Paraguayans. These studies have not involved the training of Paraguayans, which is unfortunate, since ultimately it will be the responsibility of Paraguayans to develop a conservation program for felids in the country.

The major threat to Paraguay's rich biodiversity is deforestation. The country has experienced a massive change in forest cover over the last few decades, even in western Paraguay (also known as the Chaco). However, it is this region, the dry forests of the Chaco, which holds a high potential for cat conservation and was identified as a site of highest conservation priority for jaguars. Even though the Chaco still retains large portions of forest and has low human populations (only 2% of the population lives in this area, which contains 60% of the country's total area), the region is under great pressure to be converted into grazing lands. These practices have increased dramatically during the last three years and, from 2008 to



Hang in there, baby! Paraguay must act now to protect habitats for native wild cats like this Geoffroy's cat.

2009, about 5,000 km² of forest were converted into pastureland at a rate of approximately 700 hectares per day. As a result of this deforestation, important habitat vital for biodiversity has been lost, which, in the case of felines, increases the chance of wildlife-human conflicts, mainly through livestock predation.

Conservation of cats in this environment is a complex issue and actions must be taken while there is still time and habitat left for the species. Eventually, the future of cats in the Paraguayan Chaco will depend on our ability to protect the species in human-dominated areas. One of the first steps toward planning conservation actions is to determine how many individuals of each species live in an area and how much habitat is necessary to protect them. Currently, cat conservation in increasingly human-dominated and fragmented landscapes poses a big challenge. Nonetheless, it can be accomplished with basic information on species population and those habitats that are needed for their recovery, as well as the creation of landscape linkages that would allow species to move through corridors. Corridors are habitat patches connected with each other and can be extremely useful in cat conser-

vation because they link protected areas across human landscapes. Thus, ranches could serve as corridors and facilitate cat dispersion, increasing their chance of survival.

Therefore, I have chosen to conduct my study on a private ranch in the Chaco, the Faro Moro Ecoresearch Ranch, a 500 km² area located in the central Chaco. Private ranches and indigenous communities surround this area and it is about 110 km south of Paraguay's biggest protected area, the Defensores del Chaco National Park. The study site hosts a high diversity of medium to large mammals, including threatened, rare, and elusive species, as well as five species of felids (jaguar, puma, ocelot, Geoffroy's cat, and jaguarundi). Faro Moro is one of the few areas remaining in the region with a high amount of natural dry forest. Thus, Faro Moro may well serve as a corridor that connects felines in south and central Chaco to populations in north Chaco, where there are six protected areas.

Consequently, the main objectives of



Ms. Velilla collects a scat specimen for her DNA testing, which will help form a better idea of what felid species are living in Paraguay.

this study are to estimate the abundance or number of individuals of five felid species: jaguar, puma, ocelot, Geoffroy's cat, and jaguarundi; and to determine the food habits of the cats, paying particular attention to the frequency of livestock in their diets, a situation which could create problems with the ranchers. This information will be the first census for felids in Paraguay, which is seen as the primary step toward developing and understanding the status and ecology of felids, which will help to establish a countrywide conservation program for felids in Paraguay.

To determine how many individuals of each species are present in Faro Moro, I used a new genetic technique that is not invasive (there is no need to capture or handle, which reduces stress for the animal), which allows for the identification of individuals of a certain species from the DNA that is found in the intestinal cells of the species, found in their feces. I collected the feces from May to August, over an extensive network of roads and trails. These samples will be identified to the species and individual levels at the American Museum of Natural History, which will provide the information to determine how many animals there are. In addition, I will analyze the hair content of the feces of each species to determine which animals are most important in each cat's diet.

How will my study contribute to the conservation of felids in Paraguay?

- * It will provide the first estimates of felid abundance in Paraguay.

- * It will help to identify the importance of specific sites as possible stepping-stones in corridor delineation.

- * It will determine the extent of livestock in felid diets, which may work to reduce rancher-felid conflicts.

After my project, I expect to provide basic, but important, information about the abundance of the studied species in the area, which would serve as a baseline to be used by the government and local NGOs as part of their action plans to develop conservation strategies for felids in the country. Specifically, I will work with the NGO Guyra Paraguay, one of the key stakeholders in the Chaco. The data that results from this project will be made available through publications in journals, newsletters, workshops, and materials directed to the general public.

A very important aspect of my project would be the technology transfer to local biologists and biology major students

actively involved in field research. I will train two to four local students from the National University of Asuncion in terms of data collection and research methods.

Additionally, this project will be used to inform the general public about the current situation of felids and explain how fragile the Chaco ecosystem is and about its biodiversity. I feel it is my responsibility as a cat conservationist to educate the public and create awareness. Hopefully, this project will be the initial step toward a long-term conservation program for felines in Paraguay.



The Chaco holds a high potential for cat conservation and is a site of highest conservation priority for jaguars.

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.

Frank Pyne – Basic Kimberly Pyne – Basic
Daniel Blinder – Basic
Shelly Turner – Intermediate
Sue Cranston – Advanced Sophia Kryszek – Advanced
Irena Hauser - Advanced Kimberly Kyle - 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

EXOTIC CAT DENTAL HEALTH: THE TOOTHBRUSH MAY KEEP THE DOCTOR AWAY

By Kim Kyle

For the past 15 years, I have been a volunteer/handler at the Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jacksonville, Florida, a non-profit big cat sanctuary. I am a registered dental hygienist in “real life.” Curt LoGiudice, our Executive Director, and I started working with the sanctuary’s big cats years ago, getting them used to having their teeth cleaned so that they do not have to be anesthetized.

Sedating a big cat carries risks. We have conditioned many of the cats to accept dental or medical procedures without sedation, which is much better for them.

One of the members of Catty Shack Ranch is Dr. Fred Stuart, D.D.S., from California. He visits quarterly and performs dental procedures when necessary. Dr. Stuart has developed and made his own instruments to perform root canals and other procedures on large animals at the Los Angeles Zoo and other facilities. We are also fortunate to have a local dentist, Dr. Ryan McAlpin, D.M.D., work on our animals.



“Look, Mom, no cavities!”

Early detection of oral disease and medical problems in exotic animals is an important part of good health care. Most wild animals conceal signs of illness, because predators prefer to single out weaker animals for an easier kill. Captive born cats are also adept at hiding these signs, which can lead to an illness not being detected until the disease is already in the late stages of progression. Regular dental care is part of our comprehensive health care program and helps us to keep our cats fit.



Kim Kyle examines Lex's pearly whites.

We are lucky to have our own medical facility on the property, equipped with all the dental and medical supplies we need. Anytime we have to sedate an animal for a procedure, we take advantage of the situation and make sure they get a dental cleaning at the same time.

We currently care for 43 animals: 15 Siberian tigers, three lions, nine cougars, six leopards, one serval, one European wildcat, two coati mundis, two arctic foxes, and four horses. We give them a loving and forever home. We feel it is our responsibility to provide them with the best dental and medical care possible, and we treat our animals with the utmost respect and dignity that they deserve. We regard safety as our number one priority. Please visit our website at www.cattyshack.org

and visit us on our Facebook page, “Catty Shack Ranch.”



Kim Kyle leans down to give Freddy some love. Freddy was born May 31, 2005, at Catty Shack to what was believed to be non-producing parents that arrived as part of a federal confiscation. Kim helped raise Freddy and they share a special bond. The day of the photo, she was cleaning his enclosure in preparation for his birthday party. Kim made him a special heart-shaped meat cake, one layer of ground beef, condensed milk, and blood, the other layer of ground turkey, condensed milk, and blood. He loved it! Photo by Jennifer Campbell.

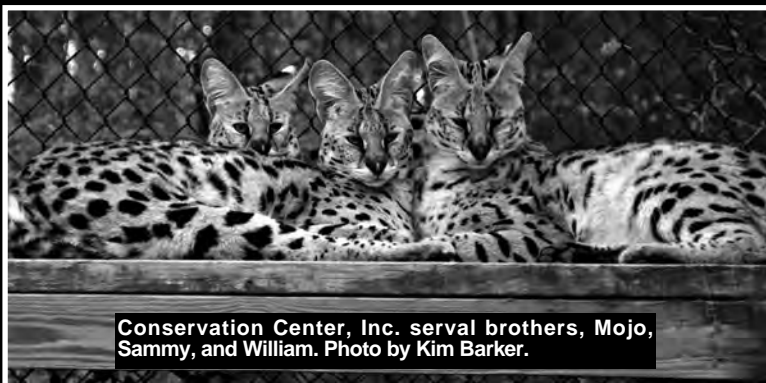
Zooville USDA's slumbering black panther, Jordan, looks up at photographer Susan Bradshaw.



Timea Flak



Patti Champion's serval Teco believes life is too short not to stop and smell the geraniums.



Conservation Center, Inc. serval brothers, Mojo, Sammy, and William. Photo by Kim Barker.

YOUR BEST SHOTS



Triple D Game Farm offers professional photographic opportunities such as these two snow leopard cubs. Photo by Jay Deist.



Patty Perry's serval Sabi gives companion Siberian lynx a nice head bath. Photo by L.



Dr. Mosbey Bobcat, wearing his stethoscope, sorts through his patient files. Photo by his mom, Leslie Lisdell.



Astyria the tiger cub looks like she is wearing a leaf hat. You can visit her at Natural Bridge Zoo. Photo by Gretchen Mogensen.



ion, Temba the
Melissa Faust.



Daniel the caracal plays it cool when caught hugging canine friend, Nelly. Photo by John Babb.



This is the second installment of a very important three-part series by Lea Jaunakais. Look for Part Three, "Diagnosis and Treatment of an Outbreak," to be published in an upcoming FCF Journal.

OUTBREAK... WHAT NOW? QUARANTINE!

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

In "Part One" of this series, Prevent an Outbreak, we identified the vaccination regimen that Tiger World provides their animals to help prevent disease and protect the population of exotic cats. Although nothing is foolproof, especially with rapidly mutating diseases like distemper and parvo, a good vaccination program can help keep your animals safe. But if one of your animals gets sick with a disease that is contagious like parvo, do you know what to do? Here are the first steps you should consider:

- Identify the disease. This may take some research and testing. Is it contagious? What is the incubation period? Discuss possible outbreaks with the local Health Department and Animal Control.
- Determine how it can be transmitted and which animals may have been exposed.
- Isolate your population.
- Identify quarantine protocols that may be necessary and implement.
- In the face of an outbreak, don't wait... Vaccinate!

Once we learned through appropriate testing and lab analysis that Tiger World had an outbreak of parvo enteritis, we immediately identified and implemented quarantine protocols. Quarantine means to separate and isolate to prevent the spread of disease. Parvo is highly contagious and is spread to animals through feces from an infected animal. Both Dora and Diego, our jaguars, had the active illness and we had three tiger cubs, Meka, Mohan, and Malia, that had potential exposure through contact with them. Tiger World has a large population of cats and we had to attempt to eliminate any further development of this super infection. During quarantine, no animals should leave or come into your facility. The typical quarantine period is based on your disease. Parvo, for example, has a

typical incubation period of three to seven days, but can develop in healthy animals up to 14 days after exposure. We delayed relocating one of our animals to another zoo and rescuing two animals in need until after our quarantine period was over. We continued to enforce the quarantine protocols until all of our cats had been vaccinated twice with the killed FVRCP vaccine Fel-O-Vax IV (one vaccination, then a booster three weeks later). We then continued quarantine for 14 more days to allow for all immunities to be developed in our population. Our entire quarantine period was six weeks.

Our first step of quarantine was to immediately isolate our population. Mohan, our white tiger who lived with Dora and Diego, was placed in an isolated habitat by himself. Next, we isolated Meka and Malia, two other tiger cubs that lived together and may have been exposed. We isolated them not only from the general population, but also from each other, in case either one had contracted it, even though symptoms had not surfaced. This was a critical step, as we learned later

that Malia did have the disease, while Meka never became sick with parvo.

Other than your exposed animals, keep the remaining animal population in their respective habitats to minimize any potential exposures. Do not move your animals around during quarantine.

Next we implemented these protocols:

1. *Designate equipment such as feed pans, bottles, and cleaning utensils, including rakes, scoops, and buckets, for each animal that may be infected.* We color coded and labeled all cleaning and feeding equipment to eliminate the chance of cross contamination. We also designated scrub brushes for cleaning and used spray bottles with disinfecting bleach solution to ensure sanitization of the equipment. This step is vital since these types of equipment are directly exposed to the animals.
2. *Designate keepers to care for specific animals.* Only allow keepers to attend to sick or exposed animals after caring for non-exposed animals. Do not allow the keepers that interact with infected animals, or potentially infected animals, to



Lea takes the precaution of vaccinating all her tigers at the first opportunity. This lucky cat gets a shot to prevent an outbreak, which would lead to quarantine procedures.

touch or interact with other animals or clean other habitats. Also enforce the cleanliness of your staff with hand washing and arriving to work in non-exposed clothing. This will help avoid cross contamination.

3. *Use bleach for disinfecting!* Bleach will kill many types of microorganisms in only ten minutes of exposure at the proper level. Bleach is the most universally used killer of bacteria, viruses, molds, and fungi, and it is cost effective. We used bleach foot baths at each habitat of infected or exposed animals and also had several foot baths available that we used when

ciently effective!

Don't be deceived that stronger is better. To make one gallon of disinfecting solution, measure $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of standard bleach (5-6%), then fill the one gallon container with water. Also, after washing with soap and water, we used the bleach solution to disinfect toys, cages, perches, etc. It worked great!

4. *Test exposed animals frequently.* In some cases, we were running blood and fecal tests a couple of times per week to try to identify the disease prior to the symptoms showing up. This proved to be beneficial and helped us identify illness in

Malia, a snow tiger who was asymptomatic but tested positive on her fecal SNAP test (parvo test). This allowed us to begin treatment prior to her condition being severely compromised. Malia is now fully recovered and, through our diligence and quarantine protocols, no other animals became infected. Interestingly enough, although Mohan and Meka were exposed to the disease, their immunities kept them healthy.

5. *Wear protective gear.* Minimize contact with all animals. Use only rubber boots that can easily be washed, scrubbed, and bleached, and wear protective clothing like shoe coverings and Tyvek gowns to cover your shoes/boots and clothing. Our keepers used full gowns for any exposure with our sick and potentially exposed animals, including when we were going into the habitat to clean. Upon exiting the habitat we would remove the gown and shoe covers, and dispose. We also

wore disposable latex gloves to prevent any contact. Remember if you must touch an animal, immediately change your gloves before touching another animal.

6. *Do not wait to vaccinate!* I initially debated and discussed with multiple veterinarians, waiting the two-week incubation period prior to vaccinating our population; a potential issue may be vaccinating an animal that already has the disease. Tiger



Testing disinfecting solution with Free Chlorine Ultra High II test strips 480124.

World has over 40 cats and the potential for losing some of our population was prevalent. Once Cornell University identified the strain of the virus through DNA analysis (which only took a few days), we were able to ensure that we were vaccinating our population with the most up-to-date and proper vaccine. We did wait the full 14-day incubation period prior to vaccinating the exposed cubs, Meka and Mohan. Malia, our only cub who contracted and survived the illness, was not able to be vaccinated until the disease ran its course. After one month, she was confirmed negative, and we were able to vaccinate her as well, although she had developed her own immunities against parvo through surviving the disease.

Quarantine was vital in preventing the spread of the disease at Tiger World. It was a blessing knowing that our actions helped save the rest of our population. We hope this will guide you in keeping your animals protected and safe.



Malia the snow tiger, photographed by Todd Stein at Tiger World.

cleaning our other habitats. This helps to reduce the potential for spreading the disease. In order for bleach to be effective against microorganisms, you must use the proper level of disinfectant, which is 500-1000ppm, with 800ppm being optimal. This can be achieved by making and testing your bleach solution daily. Free Chlorine Ultra High II test strips provide an excellent way to ensure your levels are correct to achieve 100% kill. The quick and reliable test strips (part#480124) can be ordered for \$13.99 at www.sensafe.com. The use of concentrated bleach is not appropriate, as not only are the fumes and direct exposure harmful, but also concentrated bleach requires the addition of water for the active ingredient, sodium hypochlorite, to be suffi-

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BLAST FROM THE PAST - "TENZING (1959-1976)"

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter
Volume 20 Number 3
May/June 1976

By David and Frances Tweet

Tenzing was a very small jaguarundi when he came to live with Frances and David Tweet. He was a tame baby - despite the fact that one book on mammals contains the statement that jaguarundis are untamable. Frances thought highly of him and declared she would not exchange him for a pink diamond.

He settled easily into his new home. A nine-year-old Siamese cat by the name of Robert readily accepted him and the two were soon great buddies. Even when the small kit from the wilds ran circles around a tolerant, older housecat, there was not the slightest disruption.

Nature, however, in the form of a spring ice storm presented a serious threat to the health of the young jaguarundi only a few months after his arrival. Trees coat-

ed with ice and snow fell across power lines, transformers blew up, and their warm house quickly became a frigid one. A miniature kerosene stove was sent in by the passable main road and was the only means of warming food.

Robert, wearing his woolen sweater, retired under bed covers for the duration. When he heard an electric come on ten days later, he crawled out, shed his sweater, and resumed normal life.

The jaguarundi youngster had been installed in a cat carrier that was insulated by coverings of coats, blankets, and the like. His body heat in this small area kept him snug during the ten days. When the power came back on, he emerged as fit as could be, without even a sneeze.

Adapting to the life of his family proved to be no problem for the small cat. He lived in several different localities and states. One time there was a transcontinental jet flight that he accepted easily.

Tenzing was handled with great care and gentleness so as to never destroy or betray the trust he had had in the begin-

ning. As he grew older, he became sweeter, if anything. He had an affectionate way with his best friend, sometime catching the hem of her dress or her slip with his teeth as if to keep her with him as long as he could. He gave as much love as he received.

He was a happy fellow; enthusiasm was one of his endearing qualities. He enjoyed a wide variety of foods - different kinds of meat spiced with a bit of vegetable or fruit, plus whatever else was considered beneficial to him. When a dish of food was set before him he



would give a little cry of delight. Floral scents appealed to him. A few drops of perfume (such as Borghese's Fiamma) would cause him to luxuriate, rolling on his back as if to transfer the fragrance to his ticked brown fur. It became a weekly event to provide him with a perfume treat.

Except for a grave illness (feline infectious enteritis) at the age of 18 months, Tenzing was a healthy cat, practically never sick. There came a time however, when it was unmistakable that his health was failing. He was taken to a veterinary clinic for examination. Diagnosis was severe kidney impairment. There would be no heroic measures, no strange medical procedures to try to prolong his life. The kindest thing would be to bring him back to his quiet, familiar home.

In the week that followed, he slept more and more. Often when awake, he wanted to be held. Though he was now silent, his eyes were expressive as he looked up into the face of his old friend.

On the final night, once when he awoke he wanted to be held. He lay on David's lap and watched Frances as she worked in the kitchen. Some hours later at 5 o'clock the next morning, both of his friends with him, he died peacefully in his bed.



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SMALL WILD CAT AWARENESS IN MASSACHUSETTS

By Mona Headen

On St. Patrick's Day, I visited the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, in Massachusetts, to see Jim Sanderson, of Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, and Debi Willoughby, of Jungle Encounters, do a show together to raise awareness about small wild cats. The show was in a large auditorium with Jim and Debi in front of us on the stage. Jim spoke about the three endangered small wild cats, the fishing cat, the flat-headed cat and the Andean cat. He taught us about each species of cat, where they live, how they survive in the wild, and the obstacles these cats face to survive. He explained that these cats are up against many hurdles, and some of them cannot easily be fixed by concerned cat conservationists here in America. But there are a few things we can do in our own homes that will make a positive impact on their lives in the wild.

I had previously heard Jim speak at the FCF conference about palm plantations and how they are affecting wildlife. He spoke about them again today. He showed us pictures he took of what humans are doing to the environment. He also took pictures in a Wal-Mart store to show us a variety of products that we all buy every day that have palm oil or some part of the palm tree in them. The audience was shocked at how many items have some sort of palm in them. It really opened our eyes to the fact that we affect how these cats are forced to live due to the bad choices we make when we buy everyday

items at the store. What disturbed me the most was hearing about how palm plantations are now going to be grown in Brazil. Jim used the word "cancer" to describe the environmental destruction going on in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. This cancer is now entering our biggest rainforest, the Amazon. My heart sank when I heard this. Jim's message was clear, that we are directly influencing wildlife and the cat species we love so much every day when we buy things at the store. He made me realize I need to take responsibility and try to stop buying these types of products. Palm oil is in everything from cookies to nutrition bars to soap. If we decrease the demand for some of these products, the supply will decline and, hopefully, the land will stop being destroyed.

After Jim spoke about the palm plantations and the fishing cat, he took a break and let Spirit, Debi's Geoffroy's cat, come out on stage to woo the audience. And woo he did!

Before Debi brought him out, she told people if they wanted to gather closer to the front row to get a better look at him, they could. Everyone moved forward so they could see this cat come out! Debi put him on a table with two scratching posts and shelves on it. Spirit spent his time climbing the posts, sharpening his claws, and sitting on the shelves like a vulture, peering down at the audience. The audience was amazed at how small some wild cats really are, and they loved watching Spirit interact with Debi and his toys. Debi told us he is the only traveling Geoffroy's cat in New England, and this may be the only time most of us would ever see this species. She taught us about Spirit's personality, what he eats, and how he acts. Both Debi and Jim explained how Debi needs government and state permits to possess him and how this type of show



Mona Headen and the rest of the audience were amazed at how small Debi Willoughby's Geoffroy's cat, Spirit, really is! She brought out some scratching posts with shelves to show off his climbing skills.

is not even allowed in some states. How awful is that? How can people learn about these beautiful species and want to help them if they do not even know they exist?

When Spirit was done playing with his toys, he went back in his crate and Jim resumed his talk to tell us about the flat-headed cat and Andean cat. He then gave us suggestions on how we can make a difference by changing small things in our own lives. Both Jim and Debi were open to questions at the end of the show and invited all of us down to the stage to talk on a more personal level with them. That is when I realized Robert and Sandra Lee Hohn (fellow FCF members) were in the audience. They drove from New York to see the show! It is nice to see "cat people" supporting other cat people.

Jim and Debi did a great show together, taught us a lot, and gave us advice on how to make simple, smarter decisions when we go shopping. Spirit was the hit of the show and behaved well. We learned a lot about him by watching him move around and interact with his toys. I want to thank Jim, Debi, and Spirit for providing this educational experience to the general public and helping us realize we need to change our ways if we want to continue to see small cats in the wild. I hope they continue to spread the word about small wild cats and I hope you can, too!



For a small cat, Spirit sure has a big personality!

VICTORY COMES AT A COST

By Lynn Culver

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance and a whole lot of cash. And if we wish to enjoy our rights in this society, sometimes we have to go to war – with our own government. Every time elected officials pass a law or ordinance, they are taking away a freedom. Hopefully, the trade-off benefits society. Zoning prevents chaos. Permits enable government to monitor growth and stop unsuitable activities. But sometimes the government writes vague and unconstitutional laws and enforces them arbitrarily. Where does that leave the victims of this injustice? Either being stomped on by the government or buying justice in the courtroom.

For one FCF member, Fred Boyajian, the option of giving up his license and losing his cats or putting his house up for sale and moving elsewhere in Georgia to keep them was unacceptable. Instead, Fred stood up to the corruption in the Atlanta city government and took his case to the courts.

The FCF covered Fred's civil action in the September/October 2009 FCF Journal. Fred's attorneys had gained a preliminary injunction to protect his cats from seizure by the Georgia Department of Wildlife. The wildlife department had refused to renew his wildlife breeder license because the City of Atlanta had cited Fred for operating a "commercial business" without having the proper business license, and the Atlanta Zoning Inspector issued him a citation for using an accessory for "commercial use," a violation of city zoning ordinances.

Following Atlanta's citation and change in position on the need for Fred to hold a business license, Fred applied for one on August 10, 2007. The application was denied, because the city found his business was "not permitted use in a residential district."

What makes this case important to the feline community is that nothing has changed over the past three decades since Fred purchased his home and built his feline habitats, all with the full knowledge and approval of the city of Atlanta. He has always been exempted from these ordinances because the requirement for a business license exempts the "casual or isolated" commercial activity involving

personal assets and he is allowed to have accessory use of his property.

But, in 2007, the vague wording that exempted Fred from the requirement to have a business license to sell his feline offspring was being reinterpreted to cite him. And his accessory use of his property was cited because it was considered a "commercial use." Even more upsetting was that these citations for conducting commercial activity without a license were issued at the City Council's direction, even though the licensing inspector issuing the citation had no first-hand knowledge that any cats were being sold, and the zoning inspector found no evidence that this commercial activity was his principal occupation. The judge was careful to note this in their decision, because it shows the City's intent to "get Fred" by any means.

Fred's attorneys filed for a summary judgment for violation of his constitutional rights and due process on the grounds that the statutes were vague and were being arbitrarily and discriminatorily enforced against him. Non-criminal statutes that are vague extract obedience to a rule or standard... so vague and indefinite as really to be no rule or standard at all.

On March 31, 2011, the Court found that the phrase "casual or isolated" commerce was unconstitutionally vague as applied to Fred. The potential for arbitrary enforcement was great. The city had "unbridled discretion" to determine what exceeds the "casual or isolated" threshold without objective criteria. This was seen through the City's unilateral change in its interpretation of the ordinance after 32 years. Fred had originally met the exception, but after complaints were made about his cats, a City Council member directed the City to make sure that "proper permits were had."

The zoning citation against Fred was for "commercial use" of an accessory on the property. The city of Atlanta allows commercial use of an accessory, so long as it is "customary and incidental." A garage sale once or twice a year was an example of allowable "incidental commerce." But when the Chief of Zoning was asked about whether more than two sales annually would be considered "commercial," the issue became murky and the

answer given was, "that it would be investigated on a case by case basis." When asked about the breeding and sale of cats, which was the activity that gave rise to Fred's citation, the Zoning Officer testified that the sale of five kittens from a litter of cats would be allowable under the "incidental and customary and accessory" provision. Fred's exotic cats only produce, and he subsequently sells, two to three kittens a year. The court noted that the city was holding one set of standards for one set of cats and another set of standards for Fred's wild cats. Clearly, arbitrary enforcement of the ordinance was occurring because of the Zoning Officer's interpretation of the term "commercial nature." The court found that the phrase allowing "customary and incidental commerce" vested too much discretion in the City. There were no objective standards, or even examples on a continuum, which an ordinary resident could review and know whether his conduct would be permitted. The court ruled it was unconstitutionally vague as applied.

The Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, granted Fred's motion for permanent injunction on March 31, 2011. Fred's attorneys had proven that Fred had suffered an irreparable injury; that remedies available at law, such as monetary damages, are inadequate to compensate for that injury; that, considering the balance of hardships between Fred and the City of Atlanta, a remedy in equity is warranted; and that the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. The City of Atlanta and its officers, agents, employees, successors, and assigns are permanently enjoined from taking any adverse action against Fred based upon the provisions that the Court declared void for vagueness.

This victory is due to the efforts of a number of attorneys, including Cameron M. McCord, of the legal firm Jones & Walden, LLC, Atlanta, GA, and Gerald R. Weber, of the law firm Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta. These law firms have now filed on behalf of Fred for the recovery of more than \$270,000 in fees and court costs incurred during litigation in municipal, state, and federal courts. Fred is now awaiting ruling by the Northern District Court of Georgia, Atlanta Division.



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Feline Conservation Federation

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Cover kitten "Gucci," pictured at approximately 11 weeks, is today an intense and loving, polite, and well-mannered two-year-old serval who slimes his owner everyday with his affection. Rebecca Jensen is a professional artist and designer and has also discovered a talent working in domestic and wild animal welfare in Boulder, Colorado.

Sita, a four-year-old Asian black leopard enjoys some leash time at Single Vision, Inc., a non-profit feline rescue and education center. She arrived at Single Vision at the age of 3 weeks and is truly a well-rounded feline ambassador. She was raised with a white German shepherd dog and now cohabitates with Fury, the mountain lion, and Rampage, the bobcat, and also plays with four tigers and a lion everyday. Photo by Carl Bovard, using a Canon Powershot SX130, 12-mega pixel, 12x optical zoom and shot HD video.

