



Feline Conservation Federation

November/December 2012 ~ Volume 56, Issue 6





# TABLE OF

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012 | VOLUME 56, ISSUE 6

# contents

## Features

- 7** Two FCF Facilities that Shine  
*Lynn Culver spent time at TigerWorld and Conservators' Center.*
- 18** Nala Bobcat  
*Courtney Cortina-Pined adds a bobcat to Wild Things Zoofari's educational outreach program.*
- 21** Fast and Famous Felines Finally Filmed  
*Linda Castaneda describes how NatGeo's high speed cameras caught the cheetahs in slow motion detail.*
- 26** Observations on Emotionally Repairing a Serval  
*Kim Barker works with newly arrived Carson to bring him out of his shell.*
- 29** "A Crate Adventure" with ZAA in Tennessee  
*Katy Massey reports on the fall meeting of the "other" zoo association.*
- 31** Completing the Circle  
*Della Jacot introduces us to Cedar Cove and its latest feline arrivals from Riverglen Tigers.*
- 34** You Cannot Spank a Cat: Life With a Caracal  
*Kerry Ferguson adopts a caracal into the family.*
- 35** Bobcats on the Mountain  
*Krystal Haney works at Bays Mountain Park, where bobcats live like kings.*
- 36** Belize Tropical Safari  
*Debi Willoughby offers us a specially tailored tour of wildlife on land and water.*
- 43** Chillin' for Cheetahs  
*Barry Silver loves these spotted cats and shares what he knows about them.*
- 44** A What of What?  
*Harold Maxwell lists terms of venery, those imaginative collective nouns.*
- 46** Do You ZooChat?  
*Fred Hood invites us to join his addiction to the ZooChat Forum.*





## 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 conservation. The FCF supports captive and wild habitat protection, and provides support for captive husbandry, breeding programs, and public education. Send \$35 annual dues (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, P.O. Box 31210, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588.

[WWW.FELINECONSERVATION.ORG](http://WWW.FELINECONSERVATION.ORG)

## Husbandry

- 14** Interspecies Blood Transfusion Saves Neonate  
*Kelly Watson shares story of emergency life saving care.*
- 37** Stressors for Captive Exotic Felines  
*Chris Tromborg continues in part two of this series, covering scents, substrates, and society.*
- 41** Love Affair with a Cougar  
*Kane Molavi reviews this 1970s' account of living with cougars.*
- 42** Blast from the Past: Wild Feline Training  
*Jessi Clark-White gives us basic training in operant conditioning.*

## Education

- 9** Husbandry Course Review  
*Calley Jones, veterinary student, took advantage of our exotic cat course.*
- 10** Wildlife Educator's Course Review  
*Nikki Frazier found lots to like about the Educator's Course.*

## Conservation

- 11** Andean Cat Monitoring Program  
*Dr. Jim Sanderson has contracted with the Universidad de Chile for the official Conservation Center.*
- 20** 2012 WCN Expo Review  
*Chris Tromborg reports on the FCF educational table at the Wildlife Conservation Network annual expo.*

## Legislation

- 13** Fish and Wildlife Takes Comments on Whether to List Lions as Endangered Species  
*Lynn Culver explains what it means for captive conservation.*
- 16** Ohio Exotic Animal Owners Have Their Day in Court  
*Norma Bennett Woolf and Polly Britton update the FCF on the lawsuit for permanent injunction.*

## Pictorials

- 24** Your Best Shots  
*Photos by David Crockett, Mindy Stinner, Tanya Baker, Fellicia Serpico, Lynn Sabel, Lynn Culver, and Neville Buck.*

## Contact Us

**FOUNDER:**  
Catherine Cisin

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
Lynn Culver  
141 Polk 664  
Mena, AR 71953  
479-394-5235  
[executivedirector@felineconservation.org](mailto:executivedirector@felineconservation.org)

**OFFICERS:**  
*President:*  
Kevin Chambers  
7816 N CR 75 W  
Shelburn, IN 47879  
812-397-2302  
[president@felineconservation.org](mailto:president@felineconservation.org)

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

*Secretary:*  
David Lewis  
1301 3rd Ave  
Conway, SC 29526  
843-222-4391  
[secretary@felineconservation.org](mailto:secretary@felineconservation.org)

*Treasurer:*  
Marilyn Antle  
P.O. Box 31210  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
843-283-2826  
[treasurer@felineconservation.org](mailto:treasurer@felineconservation.org)

**DIRECTORS:**  
*Conservation:*  
Pat Callahan  
3400 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45220  
513-304-7155  
[conservation@felineconservation.org](mailto:conservation@felineconservation.org)

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

Teresa Shaffer  
12811 Outerbelt Road  
Lone Jack, MO 64070  
816-739-3999  
[director@felineconservation.org](mailto:director@felineconservation.org)

**DEPARTMENTS:**  
*Conservation Advisor:*  
Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.  
356 Freeman Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
505-720-1204  
[gato\\_andino@yahoo.com](mailto:gato_andino@yahoo.com)

**JOURNAL STAFF:**  
*Managing Editor:*  
Lynn Culver

*Layout/Copy Editor:*  
Eden Tran  
[edentranfcf@gmail.com](mailto:edentranfcf@gmail.com)

*Associate Editors:*  
Judith Hoffman

## Organization

- 4** Letter from the President
- 6** From the Executive Director
- 16** Donations
- 17** Looking for Volunteers  
*Debi Willoughby calls on FCF members to serve on committees in 2013.*
- 19** Members Answer Survey Questions  
*Lynn Culver compiles your responses and input.*
- 42** Professional Members
- 44** Registered Handlers

The Feline Conservation Federation publishes the *Journal* bimonthly. The FCF is non-profit, (Federal ID#59-2048618) noncommercial, 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 high resolution photos and articles to the *Journal* Managing Editor. Photos and articles may be emailed to

[lynnculver@hughes.net](mailto:lynnculver@hughes.net), or send by postal service to: 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.





## Letter from the President

I'd like to congratulate and welcome the incoming Board of Directors members: President Kevin Chambers, Vice President Mindy Stinner, Secretary Debi Willoughby, Treasurer Lynn Culver, and Directors Pat Callahan and Chris Tromborg. I am sure that these people will do a great job in restoring harmony to the FCF and making all members feel welcome. We do have an open position on the Board for another Director since only two members ran for the three Director seats. The incoming Board will fill this position by appointment, so anyone interested in being considered for Director of the Feline Conservation Federation, please send me an email indicating this interest. The present Board of Directors passed a new by-law in January of 2012, which requires board members to also be Professional level members, but I invite any interested and devoted person who is willing to serve the entire membership, whether you are a professional member or not, to contact me with your desire to serve on the board. This requirement may be changed.

When the New Year arrives, the new board will make many appointments to various committees that make up the backbone of the FCF and what we do. I ask that you please take some time now to consider how you can be more involved in the FCF organization next year. Below is a listing of appointments the new board will be making. More detailed information can be found in the Member's Only section of the website, [http://www.felineconservation.org/members/organizational.php?page=committee\\_descriptions](http://www.felineconservation.org/members/organizational.php?page=committee_descriptions). If you are interested in serving on one or more committees, or just want more information, contact me at [president@felineconservation.org](mailto:president@felineconservation.org) and I will be happy to answer questions, explain duties, or take your input. By making this announcement now, hopefully the new board will have a number of candidates to consider as it appoints another director to the board and fills committee seats.

Journal Committee - Oversees production of the bi-monthly *FCF Journal*.

Conservation Committee - Awards grants from the FCF's conservation grants fund, oversees the FCF feline registration program, and works to promote conservation both in captivity and in the wild.

Education Committee - See article in this *Journal* by Debi Willoughby.

Public Relations Committee - Writes press releases and works with the media for interviews, etc. Works on ways to improve the FCF's public relations aspect. Marketing Committee - Seeks out opportunities to advertise FCF and for other organizations and companies to advertise with the FCF and in our *Journal*.

Legislation Committee - Keeps members abreast of introduced legislation and spearheads lobbying efforts.

Development Committee - Applies for grants and explores other venues of fundraising to finance FCF projects.

Wildcat Safety Net Committee - Promotes the Wildcat Safety Net Program, fundraises for relocation projects, and awards grants from the Safety Net Fund.

Professional Membership Review Committee - reviews online applications and approves professional members. This committee is restricted to professional

members.

Accreditation Committee - Reviews applications and awards FCF accreditation to deserving facilities. This committee is currently restricted to professional members, but we are asking any member with a very good knowledge base of husbandry and facility construction to apply.

Convention Committee - Plans the convention from finding the hotel, transportation, food, speakers, etc.

Feline Urgent Response Committee (aka the FUR Team) - Develops materials and a website to aid owners and law enforcement agencies in dealing with the escape of an exotic feline.

Please consider helping the FCF stay strong in the battle to educate people and preserve the wildcat species by volunteering to be part of the work force.

Kevin Chambers

*Specializing In Manufacturing Exotic Carnivore Diets*

*Since 1960*

**BRAVO**  
**PACKING, INC.**  
Carney's Point, NJ 08069

**Using Fresh Meat & Only Prime Cuts of Meat in All Meat Eater Diet Products.**

CHOICES OF MEAT EATER DIETS  
\*SUPREME 100% HORSEMEAT  
\*PREMIUM 50% BEEF & 50% HORSEMEAT  
\*REGULAR 100% BEEF  
\*Bird of Prey 50% BEEF & 50% HORSEMEAT

CHOICES OF FORMULATIONS OF MEAT  
PORTION WITH TRIPE, VITAMINS & MINERALS  
\*90% HORSE 10% TRIPE & 5% FAT  
\*40% BEEF & 40% HORSE 10% TRIPE & 10% FAT  
\*80% BEEF 10% TRIPE & 10% FAT

- \* SPECIAL ORDERS CHUCK BEEF & HORSEMEAT
- \* RAW BONES BEEF & HORSE WITH & WITHOUT MEAT
- \* ALL BEEF PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM U.S.D.A. INSPECTED PLANTS
- \* ALL MEAT IS SAMPLED & TESTED FOR B.S.E. BY U.S.D.A. VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Bravo Packing, Inc. MAINTAINS FULL PRODUCT LIABILITY

Contact Us at: Toll free (888) Bravo40  
Visit Us at: [www.bravopacking.com](http://www.bravopacking.com)

# Jeffers

Premium Products for the  
Health & Care of Your Pet



Shop On-Line at  
**JEFFERSPET.COM**

Full Line of Supplies for Cats - Large and Small



**Standard Stainless Steel Bowls**  
G3-F4, 5 qt \$3.45  
G3-F5, 10 qt \$10.95



**Safe-Guard Paste with Fenbendazole**  
I6-S2, 1DS \$5.99



**Heavy Weight Stainless Steel**  
G3-HG, 3 qt \$6.45  
G3-HJ, 5 qt \$8.70



**Jolly Ball Critters™**  
H7-J2, chipmunk 3" \$5.25  
H7-J3, squirrel 4.5" \$7.99  
H7-J4, raccoon 5" \$11.49



**Chase'n Pull Toy**  
BE-V2, \$14.95

**The Best Ball™**  
HU-B1, 4 1/2"D \$4.95  
HU-B2, 6"D \$6.85  
HU-B3, 10"D \$9.95



**Performer® Ear Mite Killer with Aloe**  
A2-H2, 6 oz \$3.95

**Egge® Cat Toy**  
BD-D1, 13"L \$18.95



Call for your **FREE** catalog today.

# 1.800.JEFFERS

**\$10 off your next order of \$50 or more.**

When ordering online or by telephone, enter code ZZ-F3.  
Limit 1 per customer. Excludes Zupreme products.

## From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

As 2012 draws to a close, I wish to thank all the FCF members who have helped make this organization the success it is. Everyone has plenty on their plates, from family to felines, and the FCF is fortunate that the spirit of giving is so strong among our members, benefiting this feline society.

We face so many legislative assaults. As I speak with the many members who house the great cats, it appears that most have somehow managed to raise the finances to meet the USDA's new policy of higher fence height requirements. Now, the Animal Rights fanatics are petitioning the USDA to **prohibit all public contact with the young of big cats**. This is not a Congressional bill with hearings and testimony; it is an outside interest trying to pressure the USDA to create another "policy" (like the fence height "policy") to forever prohibit our wildlife ambassadors from doing their important work of touching people's hearts and making life changing impressions. And, we have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service deliberating over the 8,000 public comments submitted on their proposal to rescind the Generic Tiger Exemption, which eliminates the government restrictions on commerce with captive-born subspecies-mixed tigers. Perhaps F&W will issue a final decision on this matter next year. **If the exemption is removed, then F&W will have to decide what kind of rules to impose on generic tigers.** And, most recently, the Animal Rights organizations have petitioned the Service to list African lions as an "endangered" species. While their main intent is to end the practice of American trophy hunters shooting and stuffing these great cats for sport, **a listing of endangered will also add a burdensome layer of regulations to the interstate sales of captive born lions.** And then there are the bills in both the Senate and House of Congress that **prohibit the breeding of seven big cat species by all but AZA member zoos.** Though these bills did not pass this year, they will no doubt be reintroduced again next session, because these are great propaganda and fund raising vehicles for the animal rights community. Taken all together, this legislative onslaught is a recipe for extinction – no breeding, no

interactive exhibiting, more expensive habitats, and less commerce to pay for it.

In this *Journal* are the latest reports on the highly successful Wildcat Weekend in North Carolina, where FCF Husbandry and Educator courses were taught and two FCF facilities, Conservator's Center and TigerWorld, gave students a first-hand look at captive conservation and the challenging business of running a publicly-supported wildlife facility in a downturn economy. These two establishments have managed to meet the needs of their animals and the visiting public. They both are valuable members of their communities, giving folks opportunities to visit and learn about nature's most amazing creatures.

Ohio was the latest state to pass legislation to end private ownership of wildlife. The Ohio animal owners wasted no time in hiring legal council to file with the District Court for a permanent injunction. Polly Britton reports in this *Journal* that the three-day court case has concluded, and everyone is waiting for the judges ruling on the case. Fighting state laws is expensive and a lot of work, which is why so few state laws get challenged. I applaud the OAAO for their efforts to fight this injustice and I encourage FCF members to help them with their attorney fees by making a donation. It is most upsetting that the Ohio Department of Agriculture has taken the position that bobcats, a species that was noticeably absent from the legislature's list of "dangerous animals," has been included for regulation. The Governor signed the emergency caging regulations into law, and now permanent rules must be approved. A public hearing on January 3 will give citizens an opportunity to voice their concerns. Right now, servals, bobcats, caracals, and lynx require 9-gauge cage wire, the same as tigers and lions.

I am happy to report that Dr. Jim Sanderson has some good news concerning the Andean Cat Conservation and Monitoring Center and his ongoing efforts to find a suitable location that can house visiting researchers doing work in the Andean ecosystem. Read all about it in this *Journal* issue.

The feline community is truly the survival of the fittest, as many fall by the wayside, unable to keep up with regulations and higher costs of doing business.

One such facility that is closing its doors is Riverglens Tigers. FCF members may remember the story of Betty Young and her move from West Fork to Mountainburg, covered in the November/December 2000 LIOC newsletter. My husband Bart spent three months caring for her tigers on a wind-swept and ice-coated mountaintop during one of the most frigid Arkansas winters on record. Other members of the cat community joined him to help her make the move. A dozen years later, due to failing health, she has decided that she must find placement for her remaining 28 tigers, and she called upon Turpentine Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Arkansas, and Cedar Cove Sanctuary in Kansas, to give them a new home. FCF member Della Jacot, board member of Cedar Cove, shares with us in this *Journal* how it was tigers from Betty that began the sanctuary she works for. She was happy to finally meet Betty and be able to give more of her cats a home. Re-homing twenty-eight tigers will require a lot of construction and transportation expenses. The FCF Wildcat Safety Net was created for just this kind of purpose, and during this time of giving, I hope you will consider giving to this FCF Wildcat Safety Net Fund so that this feline community can provide support to those facilities that are willing to give cats in need the care they deserve.

A new year begins and, with it, a new beginning for the FCF, starting with a new Board of Directors. I look forward to meaningful discussions on the future direction of this society and how to address our differences, goals, challenges, and opportunities. In this *Journal* are results of a survey sent to members with their renewal notices, giving members the opportunity to express opinions on the FCF. Thank you for that input, as it will help the new board as they take the reins and begin to lead the FCF forward.





## Two FCF Facilities that Shine

By Lynn Culver

November 9th through 11th, the FCF held its first ever Wildcat Weekend, offering both the Husbandry Course and the Educators' Course and a day of touring facilities. Mindy Stinner and Doug Evans and their efficient staff at the Conservators Center hosted the Friday and Sunday classes in their 3,000 square foot education building. Opened just last October, the donated modular building was transported in pieces and assembled onsite, enabling the Center to have meeting rooms, office space, a large kitchen, dining room, restrooms and storage space. And this kind of space is definitely needed; the Conservators' Center has 12 staff members and about another dozen core volunteers, and annually, nearly 150 people participating in special projects, work groups, and events.

On Saturday, we toured the many animals on display at the forty-acre Center. Small cat species included serval, caracal, ocelot, bobcat, Siberian lynx, Canada lynx, jungle cat, and Geoffroy's cat. In the twilight, Kim Barker invited Educator's Course instructor Debi Willoughby and I for a close up visit with her "Barker Boys", a trio of hand-raised servals born at the Center. The roomy enclosure had a cluster of cedar trees inside, and benches,

platforms and hammocks for the felines. We sat down and rested as the boys each investigated us and "anointed" a few with their special serval scent. The Center also houses leopard, lion and tiger, but there are no cougar at the Conservators' Center due to the state wildlife regulation that requires the once-native big cat to be housed

in fenced habitats measuring no less than one acre in size, with mandatory cave, in-ground water feature, bushes and trees. (To my knowledge only FCF member Steve Sidden has met these lavish requirements.) Conservators' Center was founded to provide homes for animals in need, and meeting these minimum requirements for puma would put too great a burden upon a young, growing facility's finances. But that's not to say that habitats at the Center are lacking. No, the opposite is true. Each enclosure represents the largest and most enriched environment possible for each resident. Ledges, ramps, swings, fire hose hammocks, bushes, trees, and plenty of human attention guarantee that animals are mentally stimulated and physically motivated and challenged.

The large cat habitats are big, fenced-in spaces with compatible groups of lions or tigers. Conservators Center is one of the few sanctuaries that house more lions than



**A pride of lazy lions lounge around during our afternoon tour of the Conservator's Center.**

tigers. And although I went on safari in South Africa last fall and saw family groups of lions, it was nothing like Conservators Center when evening rolls around. The nighttime roaring sessions are something that is felt as well as heard, and when 21 lions begin roaring and "ooofing," joined by a pack of wolves howling and New Guinea dogs singing, it is a memorable experience indeed.

Conservators Center is impressive on many fronts; its wide assortment of animals including genets, binturongs, foxes, lemurs and kinkajous, its many enclosure designs nestled into a natural wooded setting, and its impressive array of dedicated staff and volunteers.

Another facility toured that weekend was TigerWorld. Unlike the Conservators' Center that was built from scratch, TigerWorld is a second-generation facility purchased by Lea Jaunakais in 2007. Formerly known as the Charlotte Metro Zoo, it had a history of escapes, attacks, and USDA write-ups that eventually led to the former owner's license to exhibit being revoked.

Lea and her staff went to work for the next six months rebuilding enclosures needing repair, building lockouts, raising fences for the big cat habitats, and constructing new enclosures as well.

TigerWorld opened its doors to the public in the summer of 2008 and has steadily



**TigerWorld staff fed the big cats during our visit.**

grown over the past four years. Right now the facility houses 28 tigers, 11 lions, a pair of ligers, a pair of bobcats, a pair of servals, a pair of Siberian lynx, a jaguar, and four leopards. We arrived mid morning to a beautiful blue sky, and towering shade trees in fall color glory. Lea met us in the brand new gift shop, which is still got plenty of room to stock items. The natural wood building has a very large plexiglas panel facing a lion and tiger cubs' habitat that surrounds one side of the building, giving visitors a close up and unobstructed view of the six to eight month old cubs.

We were treated to the keeper talks at the lemur and bobcat enclosures. Katy Massey, operations manager, demonstrated how she is shaping some behaviors in the lemurs using positive reinforcement. She explained her actions as she worked with the primates one at a time. Then she moved over to the bobcats, a pair that happened to have been born at my facility, so of course, I was especially interested in seeing them again. The yearlings were dressed in their pre-winter coat, with bushy little tails and bright, contrasting markings. What really amazed me was how the female had her mother's face and her father's coat pattern. It was the first time I had seen this pair's offspring as an adult, and just like human kids, animals reflect a combination of their parents genes. Katy sprinkled onto a log some Old Bay seasoning, normally used to spice up shrimp boils, but also a bobcat favorite. The pair rolled and rubbed and drooled all over the log, clearly stimulated by the combination of spices that include paprika, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, mace, cardamom, allspice, pepper, and bay leaves.

Most of the big cats were housed in large open-topped habitats, which were recently raised to 14.5 feet tall to meet the



**Lea Jaunakais and Lynn Culver at the new TigerWorld Gift Shop. Lynn and Debi Willoughby and Adam and Craig Garst toured TigerWorld as part of the Wildcat Weekend.**

new USDA standards. We attended the Carnivore Feeding Tour where keepers gave the big cats their rations of whole chickens and beef. The public is forever fascinated with the sounds of big cats crunching bones. Keepers answered questions and asked folks a few as well to get them involved in the learning process.

There was an area that had been cleared and dozed flat, with rolls of chain link and posts, building materials for TigerWorld's most ambitious project yet, lay stacked up. Lea explained that this is the future location of the Big Cat Blast Theater, an educational presentation where cats will demonstrate natural behaviors. Bleachers will give spectators an opportunity to sit down and watch the cats swimming in a pool, leaping over logs, leaping from log to log, climbing logs, and lounging on platforms and playing with toys.

TigerWorld staff consists of four full time employees including the operations manager Katy Massey, and facility manager Nick Rich. There are also four part time employees and four volunteer interns and many other volunteers that contribute to TigerWorld.


Unlike many big cat facility founders, Lea possesses a strong

business background, which she has used to the success of TigerWorld, building a first rate facility with high standards of care, enriched environments for the animals, well-trained, dedicated staff and constantly growing corporate and public support. Lea told me that her philosophy for success is "have a succession plan, a good track record, abide by the rules and be smart on advertising."

Lea says this year TigerWorld attendance and fund raising is up more than 100%. She credits the success to smart advertising. She says her advertising budget is down drastically, and instead she is using free resources – social media, like Facebook and Twitter and taking advantage of Living Social, which does all the advertising for free in exchange for the participating attraction offering a discount on ticket price and a percent of the income. Lea says, "These kinds of deals cost TigerWorld nothing and bring new visitors to the park, and while each visitor pays less to get in, they usually spend the money they saved in the gift shop."

TigerWorld has built a loyal following and strong community support. TigerWorld receives matching corporate donations, from businesses such as the Bank of America, where the bank doubles employee donations. She has applied for two grants and been awarded them both.

The FCF is proud to have both these facilities as shining examples of FCF professional members. It takes more than a charismatic and visionary leader to build and run a successful wildlife facility. Animal selection, enclosure design and maintenance, educational messages, and public support are all critical components, but meeting all these needs will still end in failure if the staff and volunteers are not fully engaged and do not take ownership and personal responsibility for their duties. And that is what I saw during the Wildcat Weekend, two facilities with bright futures because they are both community efforts, and they have both instilled devotion in their valued partners. In these challenging economic and social times, both Conservators' Center and TigerWorld have managed to win community support for the existence of "private sector" big cat exhibits. It can be done right, and for anyone considering this path in life; I highly recommend you visit these facilities.



300 Stichter Rd.  
Pleasant Hill, OH 45359  
Phone: 937-676-2058  
Email: [oaao@windstream.net](mailto:oaao@windstream.net)  
Web: [www.oaao.us](http://www.oaao.us)

*Protecting Your rights  
To own Animals  
since 1990*

**Polly Britton**  
Legislative Agent



## Husbandry Course Review

By Calley Jones  
NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Class of 2014

Though I am not a member of the Feline Conservation Federation, I recently had the privilege of attending an FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course. I am a third year veterinary student at NC State and my interests lie in zoological and wildlife medicine. My rather limited experience with wildcats has been in the form of managing the healthcare of a Pallas' cat through the Carnivore Team at NCSU. He was an adorably grumpy old man. We have recently acquired several wolves and through them, I had the great luck to meet Mindy Stinner. She invited several other vet students and me to the course that took place at the Conservator's Center that she runs in Mebane, NC, and we eagerly jumped at the chance to learn about a class of animals rarely mentioned in our vet school lectures.

I have never owned a wild feline, nor do I particularly care to (although after meeting a Geoffrey's kitten brought to the meeting, I can definitely see the appeal), but after I graduate, I would like to be able to open my doors to not just cats and dogs, but beloved pets that come in other forms as well. I have found that many times when people bring in a sick exotic pet, the issues are due more to a lack of good husbandry than to primary disease. These people love their animals and want to do right by them, but do not necessarily have the knowledge and experience. I attended this course so that I might have a better idea of how to advise new wild cat owners and how to problem solve when sick animals come in. The course definitely delivered all of this and more!

The course was held in a comfortably sized lecture room at the Conservator's Center with Mama Dog to oversee that everything went according to plan. Mindy was an excellent speaker, interspersing sound advice with fun anecdotes. The only distraction was the occasional chuff-

ing of lions from beyond the fence. And during lunch, we got the amazing opportunity to take a tour and go meet some of those lions as well as the several other species of wild cat housed at the center. We saw shy ocelots, sunning caracals, a rather rotund lynx, and my personal favorite, the jungle cats. The tour also pointed out the good and bad things about the enclosure designs at the center, but I must admit to being a bit distracted by what was in the enclosures. During the tour, the staff also got all 21 lions roaring for us. Even



**Mindy Stinner taught the Basic Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course at the Wildcat Weekend.**

infectious diseases. She was able to lend a unique perspective and an excellent source of information to the disease portion of the course, especially for the veter-

inary students in attendance, but hopefully for others as well. I really liked that the course was not just a series of lectures, but was flexible enough for time to discuss particular topics or further questions the attendees had an interest in. Due to final exams coming up in a week, I was only able to attend the husbandry course. Other attendees stayed the entire weekend for visits to other big cat facilities in the area as well as a Pumpkin Prowl at the Conservator's

Center. All in all, it was a fun, informative day with lots of cool cats and I expect that you will see me at other FCF events in the future!



**Twenty students and course instructors pose with their certificates after a long day of instruction and testing.**

behind fences, the sound was both fantastic and an eerie reminder that take away our technology and we are not exactly at the top of the food chain.

After the chance to stretch our legs and see firsthand some of the animals we had heard about in the morning, it was back to the classroom. We were lucky enough to have been joined by our faculty advisor from school, Dr. Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, one of the premier veterinarians in zoological medicine and wildlife

### ANIMAL FINDERS GUIDE

18 issues for only \$30.00



Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry. Exotic animals, products, services, auctions and shows advertised.

PO Box 99, Prairie Creek, IN 47869

812-898-2678 or Fax 812-898-2013

visit our website at [www.animalfindersguide.com](http://www.animalfindersguide.com)

## Wildlife Educator's Course Review

By Nikki Frazier

On Sunday, November 11, 2012, the Feline Conservation Federation hosted another year of the Wildlife Conservation Educator's Course. The Conservators' Center in Mebane, NC hosted the event this year. Debi Willoughby, owner of the educational operation, Jungle Encounters, instructed the course. The format included instruction on the importance of conservation education and a background of



**Adding to the Wildlife Conservation Educators Course instruction was a demonstration of Zoofari's professional wildlife show by Michelle McKay. One of the animals she brought was this young spotted Geoffroy's kitten balancing on her shoulders.**

the business as well as topics pertaining to the minute details of managing your own operation.

With the experience of people such as Executive Director of the Feline Conservation Federation, Lynn Culver, and other exotic cat owners, the course was an eye opening discussion of how to better the feline conservation field through education. A highlight of this year's course was a presentation by Michelle McKay's Zoofari Educational Encounters. Michelle shared with us a California corn snake, a red handed tamarin and a kinkajou. She also brought to the class a pair of young spotted and melanistic Geoffroy's kittens who displayed well in a stand-up enclosure in the front of the room. Her presentation offered a real life example of how to present wildlife and she answered many questions about the various things

encountered every day by conservation educators.

The Wildlife Conservation Educators course is something that any exotic feline advocate or owner should experience! Paired with The Basic Exotic Feline Husbandry course, this "wildcat weekend" offered a wonderful opportunity to learn new technologies and old tricks to help us promote and improve the conservation of the furry friends we adore.

Private exotic owners had the opportunity to pick the brains of animal caretakers with over 50 cat years of experience, and some animal lovers took the course to better prepare them for the pursuit of their careers. As a college student at North Carolina State University, I was able to learn hands-on from well experienced people, more about the type of industry I was preparing to enter as well as what job opportunities might await me. For those who aspire to enter the exotic feline field, finding the skills and conservations to help is not always an easy task. This course allowed me to not only obtain specific training in the field, but also provided an introduction to many new feline loving friends. Being able to come together as one and share ideas and tricks of the trade can only serve to benefit the feline conservation industry and allow us to expand our aid to even more species of these special animals!

The Feline Conservation Federation has made it fun and easy to unite together and enjoy some "catting" around! As a very satisfied new member of the Feline Conservation Federation, I strongly encourage all who can to participate in next year's Wildlife Conservation Educator's Course as well as all other courses offered by the FCF. This weekend was a wonderful learning experience for me! The lessons to be learned from those already experienced in this field truly



**Michelle shares a California corn snake with students as part of her demonstration of wildlife presentations.**

brought to life and enriched the lessons learned in my textbooks and classroom studies. It is an experience that I will treasure and one that has helped give direction to my future and deepened my desire to help make a difference in the exciting world of Feline Conservation! My thanks go out to all the instructors and special friends I met. I look forward to working with you all in the years to come!



**This tiny tamarin monkey was too cute.**

### Join the Zoological Association of America



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA

*promoting the  
responsible ownership,  
management, and propagation  
of animals in both  
private and public domains*

Several levels of membership  
include commercial, educational,  
facility, and individual.  
Facility Accreditation is also  
available.

P.O. Box 511275  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951  
941-621-2021  
info@zaaorg  
www.zaa.org



# Andean Cat Monitoring Program in Chile

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

The Andean cat monitoring program in Chile, run by Rodrigo Villalobos and I, that is supported in part the members of the Feline Conservation Federation, is the only Andean cat conservation program in Chile. No other programs exist. In 2013, our monitoring program will again be the only active conservation program on behalf of the Andean cat in Chile. This is because the Andean Cat Alliance (AGA) did not receive any proposals from Chile.

Before I tell the story of our most recent trip, let me begin by explaining just how expensive Chile has become. My flight from JFK to Santiago and return cost about \$900. Rodrigo and I must fly from Santiago to Iquique in northern Chile. Our flight on LAN Chile, by far the most reliable airline in Chile, costs about \$500 for the two of us. The cost of a 20-minute taxi ride from the airport to a reasonable hotel in Iquique is \$30. A reasonable hotel is \$80 per night in Iquique and in most others villages, towns, and cities in Chile. This year we passed on renting a 4WD truck from Hertz at \$180/day and instead, rented from the only other rental car company for \$110/day. Most 4WD trucks run on diesel because the cost of diesel fuel is only \$6.25/gal as compared to \$7.50/gal for unleaded fuel. Note that no Chileans are complaining about the cost of fuel, yet everyone has a vehicle. Rodrigo and I then drove to Arica, the northern-most city in Chile, and stopped at the Jumbo grocery store.

Grocery store food in Chile is about twice as expensive as in the USA. Most of the vegetables are grown locally but are more than twice as expensive as in the USA. A typical dinner at any restaurant is \$30 without drinks. Pizzas are \$12 per person. Duracell AA batteries are \$2.00 each. Extra 5gal plastic fuel tanks are \$20 each but are vital because there are no gas stations to buy fuel in the Andes. Each trip I buy two plastic tanks and each trip I leave them with park

guards.

We have always had our sights on having our own Andean Cat Conservation and Research Center in the Andes. Some years ago I signed an agreement with the park service, CONAF, to build a building at their park headquarters in Salar de Surire. Because the land on which the headquarters sits belongs to Native Americans, issues were raised concerning a new building. CONAF decided it would be ok to build a new building if it attached to the existing headquarters building. This was fine but required moving an existing transportable used to house tourists visiting the Salar. After 4 years, the trailer was never moved the necessary 20ft to make room for a new building and I gave up asking. Other options were available.

Prior to our trip to northern Chile, Rodrigo and I visited the Universidad de



**An FCF magnetic truck sign advertises the Andean Cat Conservation Center research and project in Chile.**

Chile in Santiago. It turns out that the Universidad has a research center in Putre, our point of entry into the Andes. Why not use this building? We met with the director of the center who suggested we simply rent the building as we would a hotel room. The center has a large kitchen, dining room, large living room, and two bedrooms with double beds. It can house four people easily and five or six if some are willing to camp in the living room. The center sits on about an acre. Renting by the night turned out to be quite a bargain at \$6 a night per person. Rodrigo and I stayed two nights, had breakfast at the center, lunch while checking our cameras, and had dinner a ten minute walk from the center to the middle of Putre at the local pizza place. The only catch was that, while the center has electricity, it does not have Internet and requires us to bring our own propane tank for the stove and hot water for showers. Next time we will know.

Our stay in Putre lasted two nights. The first full day we drove toward Bolivia and up in elevation from Putre at 9800 ft to



Bushnell

01-20-2012 02:08:25

**Andean mountain cat photographed at night by one of Jim Sanderson's camera traps.**

Lagunas Cotacotani near 15,000 ft (higher than any mountain in the continental USA) where we checked two cameras. Our cameras are set in locations where only we venture to go. We drive as far as we can and is prudent given local conditions, then we must walk more than an hour to reach each camera. It's cold, sometimes windy, and most often without cloud cover although we experienced some snowfall, cloudy skies, and a very chilling wind.

The second day we again drove toward Bolivia but this time turned north toward Peru where we have a very remove camera at the top of a hill occupied by a large mountain viscacha colony.

These little friends of mine make up fully 85% of the diet of Andean cats. Pat Callahan, FCF member and veteran of two trips to Chile with me, knows these little viscachas quite well because one sat on his lap at Salar de Surire. We had to walk across a bofedal, an area of green grass fed by mountain springs. Unfortunately, this particular bofedal has standing pools of water, some quite deep, and swampy areas dotting the landscape that we had to cross. I know personally how deep some of the pools are because I stepped into one that looked like solid ground. My right boot never touched earth, but my left knee landed on the precipice of solid ground and I was thus spared a complete and very cold soaking.

None of our cameras are locked in any way because no one goes where we go. We see very few people during our trip in the Andes. This particular camera is extremely productive. In six months, the camera had recorded Andean cat and Puma though 90% of the pictures are of mountain viscachas. We then drove a few hours to Salar de Surire where we stayed in the park headquarters. Though extremely remote, there is electricity from solar PV panels, and propane to fuel the stove and hot water for a much welcomed-shower.

The next day we checked the last two of our five active cameras. Both are located in viscacha colonies and both needed to be relocated. One camera had just one



**Universidad de Chile in Santiago research center in Putre, our point of entry into the Andes. This building will be our new Andean Cat Conservation and Research Center.**

picture of an Andean cat. Both cameras had run for six months, and we had just one picture. No pumas were recorded; however, one of the cameras had many pictures of culpeo fox (that looks a lot like our red fox). At dinner than night at the headquarters Alejandro, the park guard and a Native American, told us that he has seen an Andean cat female with three kittens. He tried to catch the female but she became aggressive when he approached, likely because she was with the kittens. Naturally we wanted more details –like exactly, precisely where did he observe the female?

The next day we had to add two cameras that I brought to Chile for our monitoring program. These would boost our total to seven cameras. Such a vast area and just seven cameras! Having stayed at the Salar for two nights we filled truck fuel tank with the two five gallon plastic fuel tanks and departed early because our destination was Iquique via the hard way. Instead of returning via the route we came, we decided to add two cameras in places we have never looked explored. We drove for about two hours over rough, rocky, roads southwest from the Salar. We stopped at a few places to look for possible locations to survey.

We parked the truck and decided to put a camera at the mouth of a huge canyon in whose bottom water flowed throughout the year. We started walking down the mouth of the canyon when suddenly we

heard loud snorts. What could this noise be from? We looked around, saw nothing, and kept walking. This time the snorts were much louder and we paused again. Ahead of us in the pinch-point of the canyon we saw a bull, his right front hoof pawing the ground. From where this bull came from we have no idea but Rodrigo suggested we look elsewhere for a place to put the camera. I concurred.

It took us about three hours to set our last two cameras. While Rodrigo slept I drove us back to Iquique where we arrived in the early evening. We stayed at the same \$80 hotel, returned the rental

truck the next morning, and took the \$30 taxicab to the airport that afternoon. Our flight to Santiago arrived at 11:30pm. Rodrigo drove home while I stayed at the airport all night since my flight was at 9:30am. Having spent a total of about \$3,600 on this trip, the hotel cost near the airport of US \$200+ a night was more than I cared to charge.

Rodrigo intends to begin his PhD program at a university in the fall of 2013. He wants to study the Andean cat for his PhD. While we will return to the Andes in May 2013 and rent yet again, it's clear that we need our own truck since Rodrigo will be staying months at a time. I'm hoping we can place the magnetic FCF logo on our own truck in the future.

A natural question to ask is, why bother with a monitoring program? The answer is that monitoring is the least expensive bill-of-health option. Monitoring is analogous to a physical health exam or bi-annual visit to the dentist. Most dental health insurance programs pay for two visits per year. This is monitoring your dental health and it is by far the most cost effective option because problems are caught early and the chance of having a major problem is reduced. Without monitoring we might well end up with a serious problem and wonder what the cause was. We simply would not have any information on which to hypothesize a reason. Monitoring with cameras is constant vigilance.



# Fish and Wildlife Takes Comments on Whether to List Lions as Endangered Species

By Lynn Culver

On March 1, 2011, the F&W Service was petitioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International, the Born Free Foundation/Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Fund for Animals, requesting that the African lion subspecies be listed as endangered under the Act. For a petition to be considered by the F&W Service, these animal rights groups raised several points such as:

1) In 1980, African lion estimates were 75,800 animals. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has estimated the population declined 30 percent over the past 20 years, and experts estimate the current African lion population is between 23,000 and 39,000 individuals. 2) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, classified the African lion as "Vulnerable" with a declining population trend, which means it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. 3) The African lion is listed in Appendix II of CITES. This international designation allows lions to be taken for trophy hunting. The petition asserts that between 1999 and 2008, 3,102 lion specimens, equivalent to at least 1,328 lions (which includes trophies, skins, live animals, and bodies), were traded internationally via CITES permits for commercial purposes.

F&W has opened a formal Comment Period in the Federal Register until January 28, 2013, asking the public and scientific community for information on the species' biology, range, and population trends, including habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering. It wants information on African lion genetics and taxonomy. And it wants historical and current range information, including distribution patterns; historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends; and past and

ongoing conservation measures for the species and its habitat.

So far, 541 comments have been received, almost all identical comments beginning with the sentence, "As a supporter of Born Free USA and lover of wildlife. I implore you to list the African lion as "endangered" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act."

Does the African lion need to be listed as "endangered" and what affect will a listing have on captive conservation in the U.S.? Lions are an Appendix II species, so international commercial import and export will continue, however, if the F&W Service designates lions as endangered species, the American sportsman will no longer be allowed to import their taxidermy lions back home. This will have some impact on African conservation income, but could be negated by other countries replacing the American appetite for trophy hunting.

Fish and Wildlife could decide to list African lions as either Threatened or Endangered, based upon analysis of the information provided. Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act requires species

to be listed as endangered or threatened, the FWS considers five factors:

1) damage to, or destruction of, a species' habitat; 2) over utilization of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; 3) disease or predation; 4) inadequacy of existing protection; and 5) other natural or manmade factors that affect the continued existence of the species. When one or more of these factors imperils the survival of a species, the FWS takes action to protect it. The Fish and Wildlife Service is required to base its listing decisions on the best scientific information available.

It is quite possible that the future survival of the African lion meets the definition of threatened or endangered. And if so, it will be protected in the U.S. under the Act and facilities engaged in interstate commerce will need to obtain permits for otherwise prohibited activities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may issue permits to take endangered species for: (1) scientific purposes, (2) enhancing its propagation or survival, or (3) incidental taking, when done under the provisions of a Service-approved habitat conservation plan. For threatened species, permits can also be issued to take individuals for: (4) zoological exhibition, (5) educational purposes, or (6) special purposes consistent with the purposes of the Act.

Considering that all other non-native large felids are listed as Endangered Species, it is not unexpected that the African lion might also be heading this direction. Africa is a continent overcrowded with humans struggling to improve their diet and standard of living.

The F&W Service will eventually rule on this petition. One possibility is that African lions will be upgraded from no listing to "threatened." One could hope that if this does happen, the captive U.S. population will have same special exception given the Canada lynx on March 24, 2000, when their upgraded status did not affect captive born lynx.



**If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant the petition to list the African lion as an endangered species, American sportsmen could not return home with their African lion trophies.**

## Interspecies Blood Transfusion Saves Neonate Servals

By Kelly Watson

We are accidental exotic cat owners. Our story began when we offered to baby sit some servals for a friend who had a job change. That was six years ago, and the owner never did take back his servals so they are now part of our family. We joined the FCF and have gotten great advice from many exotic cat owners.

This fall we had a surprise. Our female, Sunny, delivered a litter of kittens. She was a very good mother only leaving her kittens long enough to eat. On day four, while bringing her food, I noticed a couple fleas on her, but did not think it was a problem. The next day, I noticed Sunny was missing some hair on her neck and realized she had an infestation of fleas. We pulled the kittens and let Sunny return to her enclosure. The fleas were crawling all over the mom and her newborn kittens. Fleas were something new to us. We determined that these blood-sucking parasites had arrived inside a bale of hay we brought in for bedding. We gave each of our adult servals a dose of Capstar, which is a pill that kills fleas within 30 minutes of being consumed, but does not kill eggs or the new fleas that can jump back onto an animal after the Capstar wears off. We moved all adults into

their outdoor enclosure and sprayed their indoor room with pyrethrums. It took a while until it was flea free. Then we moved them into their room and treated the outdoor enclosure and the area around the enclosure. We worried about the chemicals in the enclosure and room so we washed everything with Dawn once we were done. There is a period we had to wait for the eggs to hatch and re-spray. Fleas love me, so I would put on white socks and go in the room to check. If any new fleas had hatched out, they would jump on my ankles and be very visible on the white socks. Luckily it



**Three serval kittens have domestic blood running through their veins.**

started getting colder and there is much less to worry about in winter.

We washed all the baby servals with

Dawn dish soap and had to keep them away from their mom and start them on the bottle. The next morning however, one of the serval kittens passed away. We had a serious problem and were running out of time!

We contacted our exotic animal veterinarian, Dr. Jill Hobbs. We got the baby servals to her office right away. Dr. Hobbs tested their blood and the results were not good; the white cell count was high and was up to 42,000, suggesting their little bodies were mounting an immune response to either bacteria, virus or fungus infection. Even more alarming was their Hematocrit (percentage of red cells in whole blood, often called the packed cell volume PCV) level was 6.7, extremely low, in fact, anything below a 10



**Outdoor serval enclosure has plenty of room for running and protection from rain and summer sun.**



is considered incompatible with life. The kittens' hemoglobin level was at 2.0, and normal is between 8 and 15. Hemoglobin is the oxygen carrying protein pigment in the red blood cells. Because they were so anemic our veterinarian recommended blood transfusions for the six-day-old neonate kittens. I had no idea blood transfusions were possible with kittens this young and I was even more surprised when the vet told me that the large domestic tabby cat, "Kitty," who lived at the veterinary office, was going to be the blood donor.

The serval kittens had to be lightly sedated with isoflurane gas to stop them from wiggling around so the vet could find their tiny veins and inject the blood transfusion manually. She gave each kit-

ten between 12 and 15 ccs of blood in timed batches, alternating with saline solution. Dr. Hobbs succeeded with the cross species blood transfusion, but the



**Our vet, Dr. Hobbs, has other exotic clients. Here she is operating on a tiger from Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge.**

kittens were in critical condition and so she took them home with her that evening to continue their care and watch over them.

The next day we returned to check on the serval kittens. They were active, hungry and even climbing up the door of the carrier. We were so happy to be able to take them home and care for them ourselves. Eventually, we found good homes for the kittens through people we have met in the FCF.

We are fortunate to have a talented exotic animal veterinarian so close to us in Hawkins, Texas. We wanted to let the exotic cat community know about our Dr. Hobbs and all she has done for our family.



**Dr. Hobbs' tabby cat donated blood to save our litter of serval kittens.**



**In addition to their outdoor enclosures, the adult servals also have a 150 square-foot, air-conditioned indoor room.**

## Ohio Exotic Animal Owners Have Their Day in Court

By Norma Bennett Woolf, Trustee  
Polly Britton, Legislative Agent  
Ohio Association of Animal Owners

Ohio intends to force exotic animal owners out of the business (both commercial and pets) and in order to do so, they passed a "Frankenstein" law so strict that virtually no one can meet the requirements; then they passed "emergency" rules setting caging sizes that far exceed the industry standard.

Seven exotic animal owners went to court the week of December 10, to testify in their lawsuit against Ohio's new exotic animal regulations. The trial took place in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio in Columbus. The plaintiffs want a permanent injunction against enforcement of the law as an unconstitutional taking of private property and due process rights.

This judge certainly gave us a fair trial. He listened patiently and attentively to all our testimony, and overruled many of the State's objections to our attorney's direct examination of our plaintiffs and witnesses, and our attorney's cross-examination of the state's witnesses. Plaintiffs were Terry Wilkins, Captive Born Reptiles; Cyndi Huntsman, Stump Hill Farm; Sean Trimbach, Best Exotics LLC; Mike Stapleton, Paws & Claws Sanctuary; Bob Sawmiller, Jaws, Paws & Claws; Cy Vierstra, Bethsaida Farms; and Steve Frantz, private reptile owner. Our expert witness was Dr. Joann Green, Wynnewood, OK. Our fact witnesses were Bill Coburn, Safari Adventures, and Polly Britton, OAAO; and our rebuttal witness was John Moore, caretaker at the Thompson farm in Zanesville.

The lawsuit states: Defendants threaten to unconstitutionally (1) force Plaintiffs, if they wish to retain the rights to their private property, to join certain politically-motivated private organizations; (2) force Plaintiffs, if they do not join a

private organization, to transfer their private property without compensation or in the alternative seize Plaintiffs private property without compensation; (3) deprive Plaintiffs, if they do not join a private organization, of their Procedural Due Process rights to contest the order to perform certain surgical procedures on their animals as a prerequisite to registering them with the state; and (4) deprive Plaintiffs, if they do not join a private organization, of their rights to Equal Protection and Due Process. The law requires exotic animal owners to either sterilize their male animals and join an animal-rights oriented sanctuary organization that opposes private ownership of exotics or, if they wish to breed or exhibit their animals, to join one of two zoo organizations that may or may not accept their membership. The alternative is to surrender their animals and pay any fees to transport them to accredited sanctuaries or zoos. The only other alternative is to meet the State's new "emergency" rules, which far exceed the zoo organizations' standards. (An example, ZAA requires one to two servals to have a 72 square foot, 6 ft high enclosure built of 11-gauge wire. Private/non-ZAA owners have to have 200 square feet, 8 ft high enclosure built of 9-gauge wire.) Plus, private owners would have to abide

by additional requirements that have yet to be written — all of which are designed to force owners to surrender their animals to the State, since they can no longer sell or even give the animals away.


HSUS was granted intervenor status in the lawsuit because of the financial harm a decision to overturn the law has already had on its treasury and could have on its fundraising ability. [No kidding; the request to intervene includes (as restated in the decision to grant status): "The Humane Society asserts that it has a substantial legal interest in this case because it was a vital participant in the political process that resulted in legislative adoption, it has spent substantial time, funds, and other resources to promote its efforts of the humane treatment of animals and conservation of endangered wildlife, and it must protect its members' legal interests. Further, the Humane Society asserts, and Plaintiffs do not dispute, that it has a financial interest in this case. The Humane Society, as a non-profit organization, depends on donations to continue its advocacy and educational efforts. The Humane Society asserts that donor support depends heavily on the success of its efforts to further the humane treatment of animals, conservation of endangered wildlife, and protection of public safety, consistent with its

members' and constituents' interests."]

HSUS had two attorneys present; and, until closing arguments, they never said a word other than some private conversations with the State's attorneys. The State had three attorneys who "tag-teamed" the defense.

There were two witnesses that the State had planned to call, that being Tim Harrison (Outreach for Animals) and Deirdra Herbert (mother of Brent Kandra, who was killed by Sam Mazzola's black bear two years ago). Neither one was called. Harrison was dropped from the witness list early on, and Herbert

Books - Feeding Supplies - Gifts



[www.wxicof.com](http://www.wxicof.com)

We Carry New In-Print & Hard-to-Find Out-Of-Print Books

✓ <i>Raising In Captivity</i>	✓ <i>In The Wild</i>
✓ <i>Husbandry</i>	✓ <i>Management</i>
✓ <i>Identification Guides</i>	✓ <i>Reference Books</i>
✓ <i>Encyclopedias</i>	✓ <i>Veterinary Manuals</i>

**914 Riske Lane**  
**Wentzville, MO 63385**

**Coreen Eaton**  
**636-828-5100**



was dropped soon after our attorney deposed her. Witnesses for the State were Dr. Randall Junge from the Columbus Zoo, Dr. Paul Stull and Dr. Tony Forshey from ODA, and Sheriff Matt Lutz.

To recap, this new Ohio law lists an assortment of reptiles, primates, large mammals, canines, and felines for regulations. The list of felines to be “regulated” in Ohio includes:

(3) Lions;

(4) Tigers;

(5) Jaguars;

(6) Leopards, including clouded leopards, Sunda clouded leopards, and snow leopards;

(7) All of the following, including hybrids with domestic cats unless otherwise specified:

(a) Cheetahs;

(b) Lynxes, including Canadian lynxes, Eurasian lynxes, and Iberian lynxes;

Note: Although bobcats were not listed, the Dept of Agriculture declared they were included by virtue of them being a member of the Lynx family. Bobcat owners already regulated and permitted by the Department of Natural Resources were

required to register their felines with the ODA as well as comply with the new state law.)

(c) Cougars, also known as pumas or mountain lions;

(d) Caracals;

(e) Servals, excluding hybrids with domestic cats commonly known as savannah cats.

It is now up to the judge to decide whether to grant the permanent injunction requested. All our Plaintiffs and witnesses did an outstanding job. They were well prepared, knowledgeable, and well spoken. We could not have chosen better representatives of our industry. Our attorney was able to discredit the State’s witnesses on several key points.

Not surprisingly, John Moore’s testimony was somewhat different than the account given by Sheriff Lutz. The Sheriff, I am sure, had a certain amount of credibility due to his status with law enforcement; but John put a face to what really happened at Zanesville last October, and I am sure it was not lost on the judge. More than once during the trial, the judge expressed concern over what will happen

to these animals if their owners are forced to surrender them.

One area of concern we have is that there is precedent for public safety to “trump” private property rights. We believe we presented sufficient evidence to show that this is not a public safety issue; but ultimately, it will be up to the judge to decide whether we, or the State, were more convincing on that particular issue.

The entire exotic animal industry is holding its collective breath to see what the judge’s decision will be. A fundraising site was set up on Facebook several months ago and to date has collected over \$23,000 to cover legal fees. That fund is rapidly diminishing as the attorney bills come in. We invite you to join the site, which is located at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/158408034294987>. And as always, OAAO welcomes new members to join us. You don’t have to live in Ohio to be a member; you only need to support our common goal of protecting our rights to own animals, whether they’re exotic or domestic.

## Looking For Volunteers

By Debi Willoughby  
Education Committee Chair

The FCF Education Committee is a group of FCF members who volunteer their time (2-5 hours a month on average) to do the following:

1 – Market to the general public to recruit new volunteers. This includes things like our bi-monthly newsletters, recruiting posters that are displayed at public facilities (zoos, sanctuaries, etc.) and outreach at public expos.

2 – Provide our members with useful informative resources, which include anything from Wild Feline Species Fact Sheets to our accredited Husbandry and Educators’ Courses.

This team of volunteers started as the Youth Committee and has grown over the past couple years to encompass all ages of people, both future-cat-enthusiasts and seasoned-cat-enthusiasts. Due to this growth, we are restructuring the Committee into the two areas noted above.

We are pleased to announce that Lauren Bean will head up the Marketing Department! Lauren Bean is currently in college and her minor is marketing, so she will be

able to develop some effective marketing strategies for us! We are currently looking for volunteers to help Lauren with FCF marketing projects. This could include anything from researching/contacting potential facilities where we can display our marketing materials to recruit new members and spread awareness about our organization, to looking into/signing up for public expos that the FCF could have a presence, and anything in-between! Marketing can be a very fascinating and a fun area to work in! If you are interested in joining our Marketing staff, please email Lauren at [laumbean@ut.utm.edu](mailto:laumbean@ut.utm.edu).

Another part of the Marketing Dept is our bi-monthly email newsletter. Debi Willoughby sends out the Adult newsletter and Amy Flory is in charge of the Youth newsletter. Amy has done an amazing job with every newsletter she has created! She is looking to expand and offer a newsletter geared toward teens and needs help creating content for both the youth and teen newsletters. This work could include interviewing FCF members for articles, gathering articles and facts, creating games and anything in-between. Newsletter volunteers would report to

Amy and would work on the newsletters that go out every other month in making sure they are done and out in a timely fashion. If you are interested in volunteering on our Newsletter staff, please contact Amy Flory directly at [tiger\\_grl\\_82@yahoo.com](mailto:tiger_grl_82@yahoo.com) for more details.

We are also currently looking for someone to head up our Resources Department and people to help work on projects in this department. If you enjoy researching facts, researching online websites, creating resource material, and all other resource-related projects please email Debi at [Debi@JungleEncounters.org](mailto:Debi@JungleEncounters.org). By providing our members with valuable resources, we are not only increasing our credibility across the nation, we are providing our members an educational service.

All of these volunteer positions are about 2-5 hours worth of work a month, depending on the project. That roughly equates from ½ hour to 1 hour a week. That is not a lot of time to give, but you will be making a world of difference for our members and our organization! We look forward to hearing from you!

## Nala Bobcat

By Courtney Cortina-Pined

Wild Things Zoofari is an educational outreach program that is based out of Austin, TX. We travel all over the state, servicing schools, libraries, and private events. Our goal is to reach children and young adults to educate them about native and non-native wildlife that is vanishing right before our eyes. I want them to meet the animals up close and gain a personal respect for them that they may never have had before.

I have been in the animal industry on the medical side off and on for ten years. In 2007, I met the most wonderful person and mentor ever in the exotic field. We bought a baby lemur, coatimundi, and, later, a red kangaroo from her. I have researched many animals over the years and met many well-respected people in the exotic industry to further my knowledge and experiences with the animals. In 2010, I decided I wanted to share what I had learned about my animals and let other kids have a chance to enjoy them as well, so I started the licensing processes. I opened for business in 2011, and this has been the best decision I have ever made. We have several different species of exotics, from lemurs, foxes, and porcupines down to Brazilian short-tailed opossums.

Nala, our four month old bobcat, was born in Louisiana this past May, and

arrived here at eight weeks of age. We purchased her to be a wildlife ambassador. She traveled with us over the summer to perform educational programs at libraries all over Texas. Our first session of summer camp kids this year spoiled her rotten and they got to learn how to care for and respect a wild cat in captivity. They were very fortunate kids, because next year they will not be able to be hands-on with her like this year due to her size and maturity by then. Nala educated the kids in the library programs to respect a wild animal and that no matter how cute and cuddly she looks now, she will grow to be a 25-pound exotic cat and require a diet of raw meat daily, which can average out to \$200 dollars a month. She also taught the kids what a powerful hunter she is with demonstrations they got to participate in, and then they could pet her soft, silky coat at the end. I also shared personal joys and growing pains with her since she came to us. I had a gentleman at one of our presentations tell me that a ranch where he hunts wanted people to shoot the bobcats, but after meeting Nala he made the decision that he did not want to be a part of that and had no desire to ever kill one. That day I had accomplished my goal.

Currently, Nala shares an outdoor enclosure with our lemur on a rotating schedule. Oliver, the lemur, is loose dur-



**Nala, three month old bobcat. Courtesy of Rocket Queen Photo.**

ing the day around our property and Nala lounges in his enclosure. At night, Oliver retreats to his enclosure and we bring Nala back into the house. We are in the process of building her a permanent, outdoor enclosure a minimum of 20 by 30 feet. Her diet consists of Mazuri Exotic Feline fed free choice, chicken breast with Wild Trax supplements, or chicken with the bone in. We have a regular vet who keeps her up-to-date on vaccines and deworming.

Nala has never met a stranger and gets along with our dogs, cats, and genet. My only complaint of her thus far is when she wakes me up at night and decides she wants to sleep on my head, or when she hides my shoes and other animal blankets under the fold-out couch where she usually sleeps.

Photos are courtesy of Rocket Queen Photo. In these photos, she had decided to join our family photo shoot in the house one afternoon. She was so curious about what was going on that I had to crate her until we were finished. When we let her explore afterward, she was anything but camera shy.



**Nala obviously has natural talent when it comes to looking cute in front of the camera!**



# Members Answer Survey Questions

By Lynn Culver

In October, 431 members who had not responded to monthly email renewal notices, were mailed a renewal letter along with a FCF survey. So far, 63 renewing members filled out surveys and mailed them back. The survey asked for opinions on facility accreditation and board representation, to rate the Journal topics, what they value most out of the organization, ideas on legislation, convention, and fund raising, and to identify whether they were owners, or educators, or workers at zoos, exhibits, or sanctuaries.

Most responders believed FCF facility accreditation was very important (34) or somewhat important (24). The answer to how likely a member was to apply for accreditation in the future, most were not likely (34) but (23) said they were likely. The most common reason for not yet applying for facility accreditation was not having cats (28). The second most common reason was that they were just a private owner (13), and another answer was did not know how to apply for accreditation (10).

Another section wanted feedback on the new by-law that restricts the nomination for board of director seats to FCF professional members only. Members were asked to rate statements as true or false. Limiting the board to professionals only made FCF a professional organization was True for 14 responders. But 32 members wanted the board seats to be open to all members, and 38 members felt that cat owners who meet high standards of care and professionals should be eligible as candidates.

The survey asked whether the respondent owned or worked with cats, and because many facilities have multi-missions, several chose several descriptions. Just 7 people are breeders or work at breeding facilities, 15 work as exhibitors, 14 are educators, 15 work at sanctuaries, and 7 work

at zoos. Twenty-five people are private owners and another 18 responders do not own cats or work with them.

The *Journal* contents generally gained high marks. When asked to rate eight categories of articles from 8 being the favorite to 1 being least interested in, some responders expressed equal interest in many topics, others rated from most favorite to least favorite. Tallying these votes gives the *Journal* managing editor a better idea of what interests FCF members and captive husbandry was the first choice (410), followed by feline species info (379) and USDA and state regulation information (375) nearly tied for second choice, then conservation of wild felines in nature (357), followed by a sharp decline in interest to member spotlight, (297) organization news (279), photos of people with cats (253 - which has always been controversial - some readers love it, some hate it), and another drop down to historical news reprints (217). Renewing members expect and want FCF to publish articles about raising cats in captivity.

The FCF also engages in legislative

efforts to educate elected officials, media, the public and our membership about the need to regulate, and not prohibit, the cat populations not held by the AZA zoos. This past year FCF used the Internet email program called CAPWIZ, which enables a template letter to be signed and emailed to the appropriate representative for each sender. It is easy way for people to voice a unified opinion that costs the FCF nearly \$5,000 annually, (a 25% share of total cost). Just under half the responders (28) wanted to continue allocating legislation funds for this program. Another method of fighting ban legislation is the state representative program. Members are appointed to speak on behalf of the organization before elected officials, and be a person who can be contacted by other members in their state. A total of 16 responders stated they would volunteer to serve as a FCF representative for their state.

Members were also asked what they valued most about their FCF membership and to rate it on a scale of one to five. Tallying the results found that the *Journal*

was most valued (220), followed by legislative information (213), ability to network with others in the cat community (195), FCF continuing educational classes (178) and finally, the annual convention (139).

Under suggestions on Convention were the following: more hands-on-training, how to set up sanctuary, one more day of speakers, no cats and more professionalism, move dates to June 15 to July, schedule when kids are out of school, more mixers, nice events, see more animals, different types of cats, meet Siegfried & Roy and their trainers. Suggested locations were: New England, west coast or out west, specifically Las Vegas, NV; San Diego Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Living Desert Zoo, or Wild Things in CA; Cincinnati Zoo or Columbus Zoo in OH; Dallas Zoo, Fossil Rim, Tiger Creek, or InSync Exotics, TX; Out of Africa, AZ; Tampa Zoo or West Palm Beach, FL; Exotic Feline Res-

## Own Your Pet's Food: Take Control by Feeding Fresh!



### **"FRESH + OASIS is the 'Missing Link' to a Healthy Complete Diet & Optimal Performance"**

**Add Oasis premix to fresh meat & the result is a scientifically balanced and complete real food diet – no guess work. Oasis is professionally formulated by Dr. Gary Pusillo, and for over 20 years, has been the #1 selling vitamin & mineral premix for exotic cats, trusted by the world's top breeders, private zoos and sanctuaries. Now Oasis is available under the Complete Natural Nutrition brand along with other exceptional nutritional tools like Primal Cal, Rapid Rehab & Crisis Care.**

**[www.CompleteNaturalNutrition.com](http://www.CompleteNaturalNutrition.com) / 866-807-7335**



cue Center, IN; Nashville Zoo, TN; Atlanta, GA; or South Carolina.

A couple of good fund raising ideas were submitted including colorful and graphic T-shirts, yard sales, farmable glossy photos of cats, and online auctions.

Ideas on fighting ban laws included: acting professional in print, FCF leaders be professionals, evolve, not fight among ourselves, inform public of HSUS, make TV & radio appearances, lobby local and state representatives, have guidelines more inline with AZA, ZAA and CAZA, better participation, issue email alerts, generate more awareness, make fighting

ban laws the number one priority, meet politicians personally, gain FCF more recognition like ZAA has done with exemptions to state laws, work together, use petitions, educate public and private cat owner, unite with domestic rescue groups and partner with similar organizations, generate e-blasts and press releases to key newspapers, work with local legislators, provide more information, and appoint knowledge and reputable members to be FCF representatives. One member believes the war is over, writing, "That ship has already sailed."

What more can the FCF give its mem-

bers? One member wants the FCF to stop the bickering and power plays, other requests included more educational materials and legislation handouts, winning the animal rights war and stopping the nanny state folks, providing members with more opportunities for contact with cats and more information on species, developing better cohesiveness, FCF professionalism needs to be more than lip service, more learning, provide hands on for younger generation, provide more USDA information, have equality for all members, develop some safe capture procedures or courses.

## 2012 WCN Expo Review

By Chris Tromborg

The FCF has been present at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo for the past four years. Dr. Chris Tromborg, a 15-year veteran of the FCF, stepped up to monitor the FCF table, as well as the Mountain Lion Foundation table, adjacent to one another at the 2012 WCN Expo in San Francisco. The October 13th Expo featured a number of informational booths and world-renowned conservationists that lectured throughout the day, including the FCF's own Conservation Advisor, Dr. Jim Sanderson. The event gave the FCF exposure to thousands of mainstream wildlife enthusiasts who might not otherwise know

about our organization. Chris gave out *FCF Journals* and copies of the "InCATvenient Truth" DVD to interested visitors.

Chris reports that this year's attendance was higher than that of the last two years, which kept him busy. People were universally interested in the mission of the MLF and the FCF. Chris reported that there was not a single critical comment of the FCF

approach to conservation. Chris said,

"Most questions revolved around safety issues at both tables." Chris simply explained that annually, lawnmowers, vending machines, even simple household items like toothbrushes, kill more people than cougars. And, like many of us who wonder, he pointed out, "Where is the national legislation to stop these dangerous items from killing so many of our citizens?"

Chris was joined by award winning children's book author Brigitte Benchimol, who teamed up with Chris and the FCF to help bring visitors to the booth. Together, Chris could talk about pumas and cats, while Brigitte could offer her award winning series featuring "Jadyn and the Magic Bubble" ([www.JadynAndTheMagicBubble.com](http://www.JadynAndTheMagicBubble.com)), books



**Chris Tromborg did double duty this year, representing both the California Mountain Lion Foundation and the Feline Conservation Federation at the Wildlife Conservation Expo.**



**Author Brigitte Benchimol helped add interest to the FCF booth with her award-winning children's books. FCF members can purchase these books at the FCF store on our website.**

that educate children and help save animals. This environmentally inspiring set teaches young readers core values for life, helping them explore their character traits, learn respect, tolerance, generosity, nonviolence, social responsibility, and learn about multicultural friendships.

The enlightening three-book series (*Kenya! Kenya!*, *I Met Gandhi*, and *Discovering India*) can now be purchased online at the FCF Store. Each book can be purchased through PayPal for only \$23 (shipping included) mailed to US addresses. Author Benchimol will personally autograph each book ordered. Buy the set of three and Brigitte will donate a copy of *Kenya! Kenya!* to the FCF.



# Fast and Famous Felines Finally Filmed

By Linda Castaneda

June 2012, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Cat Ambassador Program had the amazing privilege of collaborating with National Geographic Magazine (NGM) for a photo shoot to record high speed cheetah runs. One of the Cincinnati Zoo's cheetahs, Tommy T, appeared on the cover of the November issue of the magazine and was featured in a fold-out spread inside. During the shoot, National Geographic Magazine was able to capture cheetahs like never before; in high definition, slow motion footage while the cheetahs were running full speed. The product was phenomenal - something that will be used for generations to come, showing how amazing these delicate and endangered animals really are. The process? Well, that is a whole different story.

When we first heard that National Geographic Magazine wanted to work with us, we were very excited about the possibility. What animal lover doesn't dream of being a National Geographic photographer, scientist, or writer? It was the opportunity of a lifetime for not just us as individuals but also for the Cincinnati Zoo and the cheetah species as a whole. National Geographic Magazine is an international institution, read by millions of people around the globe. What better way to invite adults and children to get to know and hopefully conserve a species? But the idea and the reality are two very different things. NGM is known for their top of the line work, spending hours, days or months, if needed, to get the perfect shot. Could we give them what they wanted in Cincinnati? As the details started to become solidified, the skepticism started to set in. The plans for the shoot changed frequently but it was clear that it would be a complex process. Talks of lights flashing as the cheetah passed, high speed cameras on a track speeding next to the running cat, a black backdrop that the cheetahs would run next to, dozens of Hollywood trained equipment guys... the list kept going.

Cheetahs are by nature very shy and, though our cats are socialized from very early in their life, instinct sometimes prevails over training. Additionally, the window of opportunity was very short. The summer months are busy at the Cincinnati

Zoo and the Cat Ambassador Program puts on a running show twice a day, five days a week with only two days off for staff and animals. The NGM staff had to come together from around the country to make this photo shoot happen, some coming directly from a current project and going straight to their next project, with a very short window of time.

Instead of the days or months that

tah, broke the land speed record in 2009. Sara ran 100 meters in 6.13 seconds.

Fortunately, NGM needed 100 meters to lay down track for the cameras to run on, so the Mast Farm was the perfect location, and we were thankful that the shoot was in a familiar place for the cheetahs. The film crew from NGM came in May to scope out the location, take measurements, make contacts, and get the project



**NatGeo camera crews needed to capture the speeding cheetahs from every angle, including above, so movable platforms on the end of giant cranes were brought to Mast Farm. Photo by Linda Castaneda.**

might be needed to get a great photo of a cheetah running in the wild, we had four short days planned; two for set up and two for filming. But we are confident in our training and our cheetah running program and we had various factors working in our favor. We have five adult cheetahs in top running shape, a supportive zoo that allows us to manage the cats to maintain optimum health and a facility to run the cheetahs both on grounds and off. Our staff jumped into the planning process with optimism and assurance.

The site for the shoot was the Cincinnati Zoo's Mast Farm, a cheetah breeding facility owned and managed by the zoo that is about 30 miles from the zoo grounds. The cheetahs in the Cat Ambassador Program are taken to the Mast Farm once a week in the summer and 2-3 times a week throughout the rest of the year, strictly to run. This is where we regularly see cheetahs hit top speeds of 60mph+ and where Sara, our oldest female chee-

moving. They watched the cats run and discussed details of the plan. Over the next month we kept in communication with them to make sure everyone was on the same page for the big shoot.

Once the details were worked out we thought about how we could prepare the cats for the sights and scenes they would see during the shoot. This was a tough challenge; how do we replicate a one of a kind photo set, a project that had never been successful before? We brainstormed and concluded that the cats would probably react the most to the moving camera, so we decided to try to make a mock camera and pull it next to them while they ran. The mock camera was a cardboard box on a board and we moved it next to the cats while they ran, about 30 feet away from them. The box did not affect most of the cheetahs at all, until they stopped running, then they were interested in investigating it. One male cheetah, Chance, did not like the box at all, but we predicted he would



**Pushing off one back foot, the cheetah gains maximum distance between strides. Photo by Mark Frolick.**

have the most issue with it. We all agreed, we were ready to give the shoot our best shot.

By June, the NGM team was ready to make it all happen. They arrived in Cincinnati on a Monday and began to set up the track. By that evening, the track was functional and we took the cheetahs out to the Mast Farm to see it in motion. The cheetahs were kept in the safety of their crate in our traveling van and the NGM camera crew operated the track. Both of our females and our youngest male Tommy T were very interested in watching the track zip by but our cheetah brothers, Chance and Bravo, were not as amused. Chance gave the track a few hisses, while Bravo was cautious, but not as concerned as his brother. The next afternoon we went back again, and again we had the same results. It was clear that the females and Tommy T might not care at all about the camera, Chance would not like it and Bravo was still on the fence about the whole thing.

Shooting started early Wednesday morning. The track was only one obstacle. There were also two large lights above the running area, a photographer in the field taking still shots, trailers that powered the whole set, tents for people, catering, camera equipment and a growing number of spectators from the crew and zoo staff. Not to mention, volunteers from the fire department who would show up to hose down the field. It really was like being on a movie set! Despite all the distractions, the cats ran like pros. The speed of the cats was so impressive that the cheetahs out ran the high-speed cam-

era a few times. But after some trials and adjustments, the cameras started to catch amazing footage. Our staff brought 2-3 cats in the morning to run from about 6-10 am, and returned to the zoo to care for the rest of the collection and give the running cats a break. Then, staff returned to the Farm to run from 6-9 pm, bringing the cats that had not run in the morning. As predicted, the females and Tommy T did not care about the camera, but Chance was afraid of it. To our surprise, Bravo did not mind it. Each cat could only run twice, so during each session, there were between 4-6 chances of getting footage. After two days of running, the crew had good stuff but not "THE" shot they came for. They extended their project and asked us to come back Friday morning to try one more time, and while that morning was another success, they still did not get the perfect shot. The NGM crew got together and decided it was worth one more try, so they asked us to come back Friday night for one last chance. There would be no more opportunities beyond this, as the equipment and crew could not stay Saturday. Friday night was truly the last shot.

As the sun started to set Friday evening we knew we were running out of time. The field was starting to get dark between the lights and cheetahs are daytime hunters, they do not run in darkness. The last run of the shoot belonged to Tommy T, a cheetah born at the Mast Farm and named after our head cheetah keeper/breeder Tom Tenhundfeld, to honor his dedication to the species. Tommy T flew down the field, into the lighted space and then into the shadows of the darkness. The NGM staff knew right away, they had it, the shot that NGM Editor in Chief Chris Johns had been seeking for about 20 years, had finally come to life! They caught a cheetah in high definition and slow motion running at approximately 60mph.

There are no words to describe how

incredible that moment truly was. The video footage was unlike anything we had ever seen before. At the Cincinnati Zoo, we see cheetahs run daily, but the entire staff agreed - we saw things in the footage that we had never seen before. The scope of their flexibility, the extension of their toes, their head never moving the entire run; the footage is amazing. In addition to the success of the footage, we also had another milestone during the shoot. We had a professional timing team on site to time each run and Sara, our 12-year-old female, broke her 2009 record. During the NGM shoot, she ran 100 meters in 5.95 seconds! Sadly, she was too fast for the NGM cameras, but our zoo videographer caught her run on camera and posted the video on the Cincinnati Zoo youtube page. Sara's success added to the excitement of that magical week.

What lessons did we learn from this phenomenal experience? The week was filled with highs, lows, wins and losses, but three lessons stood out the most.

Trust your training. Know that the hours, days, months and years that you have spent working with your ambassadors will pay off when you need it. We cannot express how proud we were that our cats performed so well for three days straight, even in the midst of our busiest season. It is a testament to the hours we spend with each cat throughout its life and also to the support given by the Cincinnati Zoo to allow us to manage our program to maximize the animals' success.

As our zoo Executive Director Thane Maynard always says, "The right person for the right job." Know who the expert is and let them shine. Each member of the team took to what they did best and stuck with it through the entire shoot. Our seasonal hires and intern did not handle the animals, but they each had a job they took on. One was the driver and cheetah releaser, one assisted the lure puller with any issues with the cheetah running equipment and one floated around solving problems and moving supplies as needed. Cat Trainer, Alicia, took on the most challenging task of all, the lure puller. The lure puller is the one who controls the speed of the lure (the toy) that the cheetahs are chasing. If the lure is too far ahead of the cheetahs, they won't chase it, figuring their prey is out of catching range. If it is too close, they will catch it and your run is over. Alicia is the best puller on our crew, so even though she handles the cheetahs



well, her expertise was needed to be the puller. You can see in the high speed vimeo footage just how close she was able to keep that lure to the cat. Close enough to motivate them to think they almost had it and in one run the cheetah even opens his mouth in anticipation of catching the lure! The other trainers and I all took on the task of catching the cats after the run, trading out the lure for their diet and returning them to their crate in the vans. By the second day, we had it down to a science and we kept it that way through the whole shoot so that we collectively had our best foot forward.

“Visualize yourself doing it and it will become a reality”, words of wisdom from the Cat Ambassador Program Founder, Cathryn Hilker. I could see the spread in NGM in my head, I visualized myself taking one off the shelf at the bookstore and looking at our cheetahs in the pages. I visualized them running seamlessly with the camera moving next to them and recording the footage. During the exhausting tough times, I reminded everyone to do the same. Keeping the atmosphere positive is critical to keeping productive and professional energy. The Cat Ambassador staff worked long and



**The high speed cameras capture fine details, such as the claws extended during the race. Photo by Mark Frolick.**



**Back legs extend all the way forward, much like another animal, the Australian kangaroo. Photo by Mark Frolick.**



**Head-on shot shows the intense focus and determination to capture the moving lure. Photo by Mark Frolick.**

exhausting hours that week, and the vision of success helped drive us.

All in all, the National Geographic Magazine shoot was a tremendous privilege. To be chosen by NGM, supported by the Cincinnati Zoo and given the chance to show off years of hard work, training and dedication was such an honor. The photo in the magazine and the footage released is a true homage to the grace

and beauty of the cheetah species. We hope that we have created some cheetah fans, supporters and lovers and that we have contributed to the conservation of the species we now see in a whole new light.

View the amazing footage for yourself:

The Cincinnati Zoo video of the shoot:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTQt6uLKuBQ&feature=youtu.be>

The directors cut of the best of the best footage:

<http://vimeo.com/53914149>

Information about Sara's record breaking run:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/08/120802-cheetah-sarah-cincinnati-zoo-fastest-record-science-usain-bolt-olympics/>



Nancy Crockett with Winnie the bobcat. Photo by David Crockett.



The family dog makes a good best friend for a bobcat kitten. Photo by Tonya Baker.

Leopard  
game p  
Lynn S



# Your Best Shots



Jungle cats courting in the grass at the Conservators' Center. Photo by Mindy Stinner.



These two bobcats, Blade and Willow, n... ends on this shelf. Photo by Fellicia S...



ed at Ivory Sands safari lodge and  
preserve in South Africa. Photo by  
abel.



Seven Geoffroy's kittens and a cougar cub share breakfast in the Culver kitchen. Photo by Lynn Culver.



make perfect book-  
erpico.



African golden cat at Port Lympe Zoo. Photo by Neville Buck.

## Observations on Emotionally Repairing a Serval

By Kim Barker

Earlier this year, I was getting ready to have dinner with a couple of friends when they showed me a picture of a young serval that was in Virginia. He was standing in an empty room and had the most expressive, but sad, eyes. The report was that the little guy had been caught in a live trap by a homeowner who thought there were raccoons raiding his garbage can. The gentleman who found him had contacted the Conservators' Center to see if we could provide a home for him, since servals are not permissible as pets in that state and he was unsure of what to do. He had noticed the cat was very polite and liked being indoors. It was very important to him that the cat be placed in a caring, permanent home.

Being the "serval girl" at the center, my immediate response was, "I want to work with him!" My friends responded, grinning, with, "Mindy was hoping you'd say that." Doug and Mindy had already packed up the truck and headed north to get him.

The next day, I was scheduled to work at the center. I could not wait to meet the new resident. All I was initially told was that he seemed relatively young (18 months to two years), had gigantic ears, and was completely adorable. Mindy had explained to me that he seemed to have

been someone's pet and appeared to be declawed and neutered. I was welcome to go in and visit with him at the end of the day, as he responded as though he were comfortable with people and probably needed company after the trauma of being moved into a new home. Later that day, my first visit was with Doug, and we brought a blanket in with us. We sat quietly in the enclosure for about an hour listening to the new resident hiss at us every now and then from his den box. He was as cute and adorable as he had been described, but was a big, healthy boy. And his ears were awesome! Having a soft spot for servals, I was immediately drawn to him and confirmed to Mindy that I would be willing to take the time, patience, and energy it was going to take to build a relationship with the new resident, who we named Carson.

I began making sure I visited with him at least two days a week. Often, I would spend time with him in a couple of sessions a day, adding up to between five to seven hours a week, and more if possible.

He was obviously used to being an indoor cat, so I purchased a blanket and placed it on the ground in his enclosure, making sure I changed it out for another when it was too soiled from dirt or wetness. We were also careful to watch for signs of him wanting to consume the



**Cute Carson's face. Big ears, striped nose, soft eyes, and what a smile! It was love at first sight for me.**

blanket, since that can be a favorite pastime of some servals, leading to serious health concerns and often becoming a reason for some owners to give up their pet. The blanket was an instant bridge builder, as every time I put a clean blanket down, I would see him come out shortly after I walked away and sit in the middle of it. He had no interest in eating it... he just wanted something soft to walk and sit on. In addition to the blanket, I began to experiment with what his favorite food might be. The little guy obviously was a huge fan of shrimp and beef bites, but would grab them with his paws and pull them toward his den box instead of coming near anyone to get them. This was looking like it was going to be a long process with a very cautious serval, but I knew that and was ready for however long it was going to take for this little guy to trust us.

Sometimes we get the pleasant surprise of seeing progress a little quicker than we expect. Late one afternoon, I was standing in his enclosure when Peggy Sue, one of the Center's domestic dogs, came trotting through. Carson bounded out of his den box, determined to get her, but he forgot that I was standing there. All of a sudden, I had a large adolescent/early adult



**Carson playing an enrichment-based game for cats on an iPad. Photo by Kim Pernicka.**



serval at my feet staring up at me. He was as shocked as I was. His ears were forward, he gave me a few sniffs, a hiss, and then calmly went back to his den box after a couple of minutes. First contact had been made and it seemed promising.

After this encounter, I noticed that things start to change. It had now been a couple of weeks since he came to live at the Center, and Carson was starting to venture out of his den box more. I know it wasn't just me influencing this change. Janine Tokarczyk, our Director of Animal Care, was showing Carson some extra attention, as was Jesse, one of our volunteer staff who seemed to make an instant connection with him. Other staff and volunteers were making a point to spend time with him also. Carson seemed to want friends. The serval boys were living close by at the time and had become a source of entertainment for him. As many of you have read in the FCF Journals in recent years, the serval boys (also known as the "Barker Boys") are four serval brothers that I helped raise shortly after their births in 2008. Sammy and Obi were just as curious about Carson as he was of them and were attentive to the new guy. Granted, some of Obi's curiosity seemed to stem from me being in an enclosure and visiting another serval that wasn't him.

As many of you may know, Obi is my first born "serval child" and the apple of his "mom's" eye. However, I always make time to visit with him and his brothers when I visit Carson and am forgiven quickly for bringing a new smell with me. In the beginning, William and Mojo were very clear that they were not happy about the new resident, but eventually settled down and realized he was here to stay.

About a month after his arrival, he was adopted by one of our dedicated volunteers, Jeremy Gillow. Jeremy is great with cats in general and has a perfectly calm temperament for interacting with animals that prefer more quiet surroundings. It was an honor to help Jeremy and Carson begin building their friendship. Jeremy now visits with his "serval son" every chance he gets.

Then came a moment I had waited weeks for. On a cloudy afternoon, I sat in Carson's enclosure for about an hour. He had decided to take a nap and ignore me for the most part. I had some other things to do and some serval boys to visit, so I decided to leave for a while and come back later. A couple of hours passed and I decided to give it another try. He was awake and walking around. He gave me a sniff as I stood outside the enclosure and decided I could come in. I received the

obligatory hiss, but again, his posture was friendly. I picked a corner of the blanket and sat down. I gave him some beef bites from my hand, which I had been doing for a while. He had been taking them very gently and this had become a routine for occasional visits with him, so I could work on building a relationship with him instead of always being the "primate with treats." About an hour or so after this, he began to do "drive-bys," passing in front of me or behind me, giving me a sniff every now and then. There was a tease of a spray, which was a little surprising, and then he stopped just behind my left shoulder, raised his tail a little, and leaned in. This looked an awful lot like an invitation to give him a pat. That's exactly what it was! I gave him a rub near the end of his back and his tail went up in approval. I did this every few times he went by. I even started getting some very quiet, but happy, chirps from him. And then he sprayed me...I was thrilled! After walking around a little more, he plopped down on the blanket not more than a foot away from me and very leisurely took a bath. This was a great three hours for both of us and a defining moment in working with him.

While his new enclosure was being built, Carson had to stay in Doug and



## MEAT COMPLETE WITH TAURINE

### RAW MEAT SUPPLEMENT FOR ALL CARNIVORES

**Based on whole prey composition, this supplement balances the nutrients lacking in skeletal muscle meat-based diets for carnivores: vitamins A & D (normally supplied by the liver), B vitamins (from gut contents of whole prey), and of course calcium (found in bones). This supplement also contains added taurine – an essential amino acid for felids – and the antioxidant vitamin E.**

**CENTRAL NEBRASKA PACKING, INC.**

**PO BOX 550 ~ NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69103-0550**

**1-877-900-3003 ~ 1-800-445-2881 ~ FAX:1-308-532-2744**

Mindy's house in their animal room for a few days. Visits were a little cramped, but he seemed to enjoy being indoors and having the company. We saw him play a little more and he interacted with people a little more. Every now and then, he would come right up to my face, give my hairline a sniff and give me a little nudge with his head. He would chase toys and, much to our amusement, play excitedly in a crinkly tunnel made for cats which are a good bit smaller than he. His stay at the house ended after a couple of weeks and he moved back into the compound with lots of "friends" nearby to keep him entertained.

Carson has now been at the center for about ten months and is in a nice, new enclosure with another serval named Akai. I visit every chance I get and have had the opportunity to introduce him to more human friends. He is a gentle soul who loves visits and giving head butts. If I am near him where he can see or hear me, I occasionally catch him following me as I move around, looking as though he is waiting for me to stop by and visit. I always oblige as soon as I can. I continue to spend as much time with him as possi-



**We don't know of Carson's former life, but it seems likely that he was very well loved and well socialized before he got here.**



**Carson a week after arriving at the Center. He's still getting used to the changes.**

ble, so our friendship continues to grow. It is obvious that he has become more comfortable and knows that good things happen when one of his friends comes in for a visit. It is now part of our regular routine that he comes to me, sometimes standing in my lap, gives me a few head butts and some grooming, and leans in, waiting for a pat down his back. We are very pleased that he has decided to be friends with some of us. He doesn't seem to be as outgoing as some of our other servals, and we understand that we still have some work to do to earn more of his trust and help him feel as comfortable as possible in his new home. He also hisses a bit more than most of our other servals, but it seems to be his preferred way of communicating. But he's a happy serval who has gotten more social and enjoys playing and all forms of enrichment. He's even gotten to play with an iPad!

With guidance from Doug and Mindy, and a willingness to listen to what Carson was telling me he needed, I learned some very valuable lessons and had some lessons reinforced. The relationships we have with our wild friends are on their terms. It is to their detriment to force it, and we lose an opportunity that an animal may only give us once when we do. We have no true idea what Carson's life was like before that trip back to the Center from Virginia. It seems likely that he was very well loved and well socialized before he

got here. We took in an animal that was getting close to being mature and was traumatized at the least by the move he just encountered. He told us how close we could get and how soon he would come closer to us, how he felt most comfortable, what his favorite treats were, and what we had to do (and continue to do) is pay attention and listen to him. Sometimes that task is easier said than done, but as I see him now come and greet tours, watch how he greets new visitors, and get the thrill of being greeted with a chirp and head butt from him almost as soon as I step in his enclosure, it was worth every moment of sitting in his enclosure for hours, even in the rain and the cold, putting blankets down so the transition to being outdoors was easier, and placing small treats near him in the hopes he knew it was an offering of friendship and that he would know he would be cared for and loved for the rest of his life.

One of the realities of life is that all worthwhile relationships take time, and this experience has been no different. I'm thrilled that I could be a part of showing a frightened and timid serval that he could have fun and be well cared for and loved. He's a good boy and I'm elated when I just watch how happy he has become! The serval boys have an adopted brother, as once again, I have been introduced to a creature that has captured my heart. Once again, I have found that there is always room in there for one more serval... there always will be.



## "A Crate Adventure" with the ZAA in Tennessee

By Katy Massey  
Operations Manager at Tiger World

As a new member of the Zoological Association of America (ZAA), this was my first conference, and as I anxiously drove through the beautiful Smoky Mountains, I was unsure what the weekend had in store for me. I was nervous and excited as I pulled into the River Stone Resort, ready to make new friends. The River Stone Resort was perfect; friendly staff, views of the river from the balcony complete with toasty fireplaces. Before we got too settled in to our rooms, we were off to where else? The zoo, of course! The tour of the Knoxville Zoo was great; it gave everyone a chance to stretch their legs after flights and long drives and start mingling.

The next morning's speed seminars really helped break the ice, spur conversation, and spark new ideas. We all learned about the recent development of how the APWE (Association of Professional Wildlife Educators) was absorbed by ZAA, making the organizations unified as one. As all the attendees started loosening up, we headed out to spend the afternoon at the Rainforest Adventures Discovery Zoo. One of my personal favorites from this visit was the unique rockwork, which gave me ideas to implement back at Tiger World. The energy from the young staff members giving the tour was refreshing; it's good to see people of all ages so passionate about wildlife. The first full day ended with the newcomer mixer, which was unforgettable. It's safe to say the ice was broken. I've been to several other conferences around the U.S., and this one evening provided some of the best networking opportunities I have had the privilege of attending. As I stood back for a moment and watched the room filled with strangers, I found it odd that these people were sharing stories and giving advice. I realized that it seemed more like a room filled with friends

and family rather than strangers. It seemed the mood never changed throughout the conference.

The next day just got better! Topics ranged from avian care, carnivore enrichment, zoo media, conservation, and more. This was my favorite day of the conference and I was blown away with Dennis Thomas's presentation on applying green technologies, making a "green zoo." What a great vision for the future of zoos, starting with the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.

As we look to the future for inspiration, what better way than to look at our past with Jim Fowler's words of wisdom. Keynote speaker Jim Fowler mesmerized the entire room with his witty humor, stories of harpy eagles, wild television moments, and sticky situations. Jim's energy and passion for wildlife shows through the years he has invested in this industry and he reminded us of how important our mission is.

After a day full of mental stimulation, we had some free time which we took advantage of to visit other local attractions, like the Ripley's Aquarium, and we brought some new friends we met along with us. The aquarium was beautiful and



**Keynote Speaker Jim Fowler mesmerizing the crowd.**

gave everyone another opportunity to mingle, learn, and absorb new ideas. The evening ended with the expert panel dinner, where we got another chance to interact with everyone at the conference and pick the brains of experts. The entire dinner felt very festive, filled with storytelling, good humor, and words of wisdom.

The last full day seemed to fly by with more great presentations. Topics covered included breeding hornbills, outreach programs, and better planning for your zoo. Betsey Brewer covered mobile education programs and how much they can really impact your bottom line. With all the great ideas, we plan on trying some of her advice next winter. Everyone who attended the conference already knows the highlight of the day was the fundraising drive. The exciting news was announced that the ZAA is now recognized in many states, including Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Nebraska, and Connecticut, plus there are several more states currently in



**Katy Massey enjoying the penguin habitat at Ripley's Aquarium.**



**Lea Jaunakais, Jim Fowler, Katy Massey, and Dennis Thomas enjoying lunch and each other's company at the convention.**

the process. We talked about new proposed legislature and laws that focus on banning private ownership of exotic animals. The conference itself had great attendance, with people from all different

sectors of the industry and even from outside the U.S., but this was the moment when it truly felt like we were one. We were all part of the ZAA and we came together and raised money to help pay for

people to lobby on OUR behalf and to help save our rights. Pledges raised over \$75,000 combined for the legislative and conservation funds. As I watched my new friends come together for a common goal, I was reminded of a quote from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

The final day was spent at the IGES souvenir gift show. This was a wonderful opportunity to freshen up gift shop merchandise, and the deals offered at the show made it really easy to get everything you wanted. As I finished saying goodbye and exchanging business cards, I was so glad that I didn't miss out on this conference. For those of you reading this, if you are not yet apart of the ZAA, I strongly recommend joining. You have absolutely nothing to lose! The unique blend of people and the openness in sharing and helping us all better our zoos was truly remarkable. I have never before seen such togetherness. It truly was "A Crate Adventure," and I can't wait to see what they put together for next year's conference in Phoenix, AZ.



**UAPPEAL**

[www.uappeal.org](http://www.uappeal.org)

Uniting A Politically Proactive Exotic Animal League (U.A.P.P.E.A.L.) is the only non-profit 501 (c) 4 lobbying organization representing current and future owners, handlers and enthusiasts of all species of native and exotic animals and hybrids at both the federal and state levels.

### **Why Join?**

**Lobbying Training Guide** with in depth information and training of legislation and laws

**Circle of Unity Newsletter** with detailed bill info, lobbying training guide, legislative Q&A, etc

**Affiliation with FAIR4** so our members can work with other residents on state legislation

**Federal Lobbyist Bill Hanka**, who is our valuable inside connection in DC

**Government 101 Guide** that explains the basics of lobbying

**Weekly Legislative Reports** with bill & session status, hearing dates, progress reports & more

**Upcoming Lobbying Course** with self taught or hands on training on how to lobby

**Local Law Summaries and Full State Laws** available to you with more continually added



## Completing the Circle

By Della Jacot

Cedar Cove Feline Conservatory and Education Center is a USDA licensed non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization devoted to the care of exotic cats, while also educating the public on their physiology, habitat, and threats of extinction. Cedar Cove was founded in August 2000, by William "Billy" D. Pottorff (July 5, 1951 – April 18, 2012). Billy was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army who



**Young African lion Tonka enjoys a large fenced-in habitat at Cedar Cove.**

deployed voluntarily to Vietnam twice. He earned several medals, one of which was the Purple Heart, after being severely burned in a helicopter accident.

While in Vietnam, Billy observed tiger parts being sold for medicinal purposes in street markets. Being an animal lover, Billy wanted to do his part to let the world see how beautiful, majestic, and valuable these animals are to the planet. Cedar Cove is the culmination of Billy's dream.

Upon his return to the United States and eventually leaving the Army, Billy began reading to learn all that he could about big cat physiology, behavior, and habitat requirements. During his reading, he stumbled upon Betty Young's name.

Upon meeting Billy,

Betty Young noticed his intense love of animals and took him under her wing to impart her knowledge of the care of big cats. Betty Young was instrumental in the start of Cedar Cove by donating to Billy his first cats and assisting with creating the articles of incorporation. Some of the cats from Betty Young are still alive and residing at Cedar Cove today.

Priceless knowledge given to Billy from Betty was passed on to Shelly R. Tooley (January 12, 1959 – November 28, 2008), the co-founder of Cedar Cove, and subsequently, to the current volunteer staff.

Although Billy and Shelly have passed on, their spirits still live at Cedar Cove. The all-volunteer staff carries on their legacy by sharing the knowledge and love of these impressive creatures. The passage of this vital knowledge was no easy feat. Much planning, training, and hard work went into shaping volunteers to carry on the work at Cedar Cove. The importance of a contingency plan can never be overstated. Cedar Cove currently has eight species of exotic felines (tiger, lion, leopard, cougar, leopard cat, bobcat, serval, and caracal), along with a couple of other species of animals.

We start by holding all volunteers responsible for the safety, health, and



**Cedar Cove is home to many cats, including this beautiful spotted leopard.**

wellbeing of all the animals. Each volunteer understands that without their individual efforts the park will not flourish. We instill a sense of ownership into the hearts and minds of every perspective "core" volunteer.

The board of directors consists of a group of individuals who understand that there are life sacrifices required for the success of the organization. The board of directors and the rest of the volunteer staff are so dedicated that when the founder (Billy) past away, business operations were able to continue with no detriment to the animals or other business processes.

On November 22, 2012, Cedar Cove embarked on a mission to help our long-time friend Betty Young transfer her cats due to her health issues. Betty asked if we would adopt two of her tigers, Sissy and Ariel. This was not the first time park volunteers have had to travel a long distance to retrieve an animal, but

the trip to Arkansas was more than another animal transfer; it was a chance to meet Betty face-to-face and help with some of the day-to-day chores involved in caring for big cats. In preparation for the trip, some of our volunteers spent the beginning of the week ensuring rolling enclosures and trailers were in top condition. A group of Cedar Cove volunteers, Bettie "BJ" Auch, Steve Klein, Della Jacot, Donald Jacot, and Jim Sanderson (not to be confused with Dr. Jim Sanderson), set off for Mountainburg, Arkansas, with



**To move the tigers, a rolling transport cage is attached to the existing enclosure.**



a welder, roll cages, and several other tools to aid Betty Young with anything from daily chores to chopping firewood; and, of course, to prepare transport for Sissy and Ariel.

The team left for Arkansas from Louisburg, Kansas, at 7:30 a.m. and arrived at 12:30 p.m. Although the roads up the mountain were not paved, two trucks were able to reach Betty's property with no problems.

The team immediately went to work felling a tree and stacking the logs for firewood. We then went to work on various other tasks. Some of the team began welding, while others helped clean a few pens, water, and meet with some of the big cat residents. Watching Betty interact with the cats was amazing. Her voice was very calm and soothing. The animals looked very healthy and content in their environments.

One very pleasant aspect of our visit, as we approached the animals, was that we saw they were indeed lovingly cared for. Although not used to strangers, many of the cats chuffed and greeted us as we walked passed their enclosures. Betty Young is 72, and, yes, her physical health is not what it used to be, but she makes sure the animals get food, water, and a great deal of attention. With day one coming to a close, the team stopped to have Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant before resting in preparation for the next day.

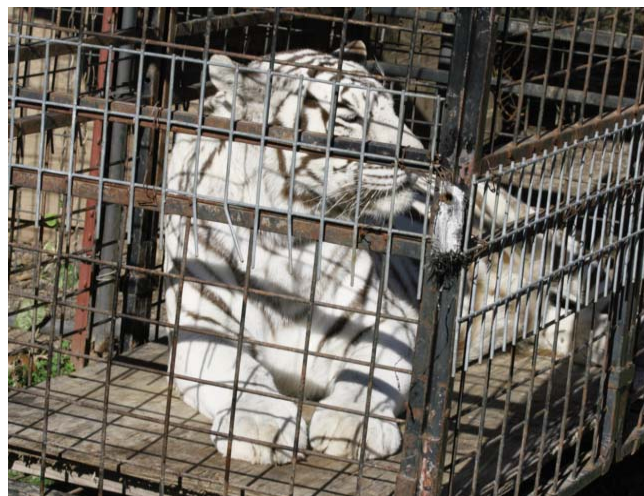
Day two began with planning how we would get the two big cats into the rolling

enclosures. Loading a big cat that has not been moved for a while was quite challenging. Sissy (the older of the two tigers, at 16 years of age) was first to be "kindly" asked to step into the unknown. After multiple attempts with soft voices and meat bribes, we decided to give Sissy a break, closing her door but leaving the rolling enclosure tightly attached to the outside. We left Sissy alone to get acquainted with the strange object at her door in hopes that she would grow accustomed and feel comfortable enough to climb in when we returned.

We moved on to Ariel, the younger of the two tigers at age 14. Fortune smiled down on the team at this point, because there was already a rolling enclosure attached to the exterior of Ariel's enclosure. Although it was not easy to coax Ariel into the rolling box, she climbed in with a little soft talk from Betty and a few delicious pieces of beef. The next step was to attach the two rolling enclosures together and entice Ariel into the travel enclosure. With Ariel safe and secure in the rolling enclosure, it was time to start the trek up the hill. Luckily, Betty had her tractor ready to go. With Betty at the wheel and four volunteers keeping the

enclosure steady, the team marched up the hill, stopping periodically to give Ariel time to relax. Understandably, she was not pleased with being moved away from all the sights and smells she has grown accustomed to all her life.

After getting Ariel securely fastened into the travel trailer, the team went back down the hill to persuade Sissy to cooperate. After several attempts and pleading and, at one point, begging with sing-song voic-



**Ariel cooperated with the plan and climbed in with a little coaxing from Betty.**

es, everyone agreed that Sissy was not going to succumb to anyone's charms and step into the rolling enclosure. The team, along with Betty, decided that sedation was the only way Sissy would make it into the enclosure. So, once the medication took effect, we gently lifted Sissy into the rolling enclosure and again headed up the hill. The sun was setting as we said our goodbyes to Betty and headed on the road for the five-hour drive to Louisburg.

We stopped several times along the way to check on both tigers, and they did well. Sissy slept most of the journey but, to our surprise, woke up to chuff when she heard our voices. Ariel, on the other hand, was not pleased with her accommodations and informed us that she did not like us opening her trailer door while she was trying to sleep.

We arrived at Cedar Cove at approximately 10:30 that evening to bright lights and happy faces. Cammy Colton and several other volunteers stayed behind to care for the animals at the park. Many stayed late into the evening to greet the new tigers.

Both tigers are doing well and have begun to explore their new environments. Both Sissy and Ariel are exceptionally sweet, chuffing and allowing us to pet them. We are amazed at their ability to adapt to new situations.

Volunteers from Cedar Cove Feline Conservatory and Education Center returned on December 6, to transfer two additional cats. The two leopards are named Dennis (21 years) and Crab Grass (17 years).

The team arrived in Mountainburg at



**This is not Ariel, but another resident of Cedar Cove named Kimar.**





**Dennis, the 21 year old black panther, receives a health check-up and is declared in great shape.**

Betty Young's sanctuary at 1:30 p.m. The second trip was not like the first in that the two cats were located outside of Betty's living quarters. As with our first visit, we spent Thursday helping Betty with chores around the facility.

Friday morning we began the plans to transfer the leopards. We only needed to push the roll cage up to Dennis' enclosure and he climbed right in. Crab Grass (now called Pandora) was not as easy. It took a little sweet-talking and treats from Betty Young to coax the lady leopard into the travel enclosure.

Because Dennis is 21 years old, Dr. Kelly Hoyt came to Cedar Cove to perform a routine checkup. Dr. Hoyt was very pleased with Dennis' muscle mass and quality of his fur. According to Dr. Hoyt, Dennis was in great shape considering his age. Each cat's fecal culture was clean. Both Dennis and Pandora are doing great. They are very loving and enjoy a good petting and scratches under their necks.

I'm sure you've all seen on television, read online, or heard about the Animal Intervention show and Betty Young of Mountainburg, Arkansas.

Funds are required to care for the tigers and leopards. We've had to shift our current population to make room for these four beautiful felines. What we need now is to build additional enclosures and separate a one-acre fenced in area to allow the big cats to roam in a more suitable habitat because their current enclosures are temporary.

The cost of this undertaking will be an

estimated \$20,000 (steel posts, panels, concrete, substrate, dens etc.). I invite FCF members to join us in our mission to help these deserving felines. A contribution to the FCF Wildcat Safety Net Fund in the name of the "Riverglen cats relocation to Cedar Cove Sanctuary" can show the world how we exotic cat caretakers rally to save those felines in need no matter what their ages.

We are not as large as other facilities, and have not received as much media attention

as we need to raise all the funding it will take to provide for these deserving felines.

I understand there are many other programs vying for your time and money, but this is an immediate need that should not be ignored. I believe that the FCF is an organization that bands together in a moment of crisis. Let's show how powerful we can be when we pool our resources together by helping to give these animals a new home where they can thrive until their last days.

Please see us on Facebook and when you are in town, visit Cedar Cove Feline Conservatory and Education Center at 3783 K68 Highway, Louisburg, Kansas 66053. Website: [saveoursiberians.org](http://saveoursiberians.org). Phone: (913) 837-5515. We are open on weekends all year around. Call ahead as our business hours change according to season and weather. Show your FCF ID and get in free.

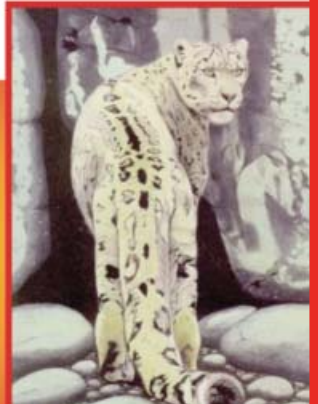


FCF NEEDS YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE  
WILDCAT SAFETY NET FUND  
RESCUE-READY!

For a \$30 donation, choose one of three thank you prints by artist Teri Zucksworth. These 18" by 24" colored-pencil drawings are ready for matting and framing. Pick the black leopard "Hanging Around," the lounging white tiger "Paying a Visit," or the snow leopard "Standing Guard."

**Go to the FCF Website to donate today!**

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



## You Cannot Spank a Cat: Life With a Caracal

By Kerry Ferguson

Since I was a little girl, my life revolved around animals; mainly cats. I had black cats, white cats, orange tabbies, three-legged cats, Siamese, and Persians, but what I really wanted was a wild cat. So, when I enrolled in college, I knew my major would be zoology. In fact, I went on to receive a Master's of Science in zoology, and work for almost a decade as Director of Animal Control Services for National City Police Department in San Diego, California, as well as worked at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

My husband started his company in Henderson, and so we moved to Nevada, where I have been employed as a teacher for the last 12 years. My life with exotic cats first began with Savannah, Cheetah, and Bengal cats. These exotic feline hybrids slowly introduced me to cat sports such as jumping on kitchen counters, clawing up my sofa, stealing chicken defrosting on top of the microwave, as well as pulling down the entire Christmas tree, glass ornaments and all. I eagerly began researching servals and caracals during this time. Before long, I had my first serval and then another. Just like potato chips, you cannot have just one. I now had to seriously "baby proof" my house, remove all breakable objects and remind everyone in my family to close the doors.

Before long, I had to have a caracal. I did all my research and checked with my

state laws, built a cattery and convinced my cousin, Dr. Brooke Ashley, to become my exotic cat vet. I contacted Lynn Culver from Feline Conservation Federation (FCF) and put my deposit on a female caracal kitten. I arranged shipping into my local airport and counted down the days until my caracal would arrive.

Finally the day arrived to pick up my eight-week-old caracal. I already had a name picked out, but after getting to know this adorable, sweet and loving kitten, my family and I decided to name her Chiemeka, meaning God's Chosen One in Swahili. Chiemeka was very social from day one. She let all of us carry her around. In fact, we bought a baby backpack and put her in it and brought her everywhere we went. The backpack was really a front pack knapsack and Chiemeka loved it because she could cuddle up to us any time she wanted. There were many days that she would fall asleep in her pack. One time we brought her to a children's birthday party where they had snow and sledding. My daughter Daasha put Chiemeka on a sled and pulled her through the snow. Before long, every child at the party was sledding with my caracal kitten. The kitten was so exhausted that she slept all the way home in her knapsack.

Eventually, Chiemeka decided no more playing baby and clawed and jumped her way out of the knapsack. This is when we began harness training. It was a challenge finding a harness that would fit my cat that also was secure, safe and easy to get on a squirmy 12-week-old kitten. I tried several harnesses. Even the ones that worked on my servals did not work on the caracal. The caracal has a more stocky body type and not as long a neck frame. I ended up finding the perfect harness at a street fair. Because my cat was still growing, I purchased three different sizes of harnesses.

On the very first walk I spent most of the time carrying the caracal or dragging

her across the grass. I knew there had to be a better way. So, I went to my overpriced pet store and bought a "fishing rod toy" with the feather on the end. I used the toy to lead my cat on walks with her leash. The first couple of times it went great and Chiemeka followed and tried to chase down the feather. It was not until

about the fourth or fifth walk that everything went wrong. I put on her harness as usual and attached her to the leash. I grabbed the fishing pole toy and my cat started following the feather. My husband came outside and began complimenting me on how well the walking training was progressing, until he looked down at Chiemeka and said, "Well, you cannot spank a cat!" We were both in awe as Chiemeka was eating the entire feather, plastic attachment and gnawing her way up the pole with her sharp baby teeth. I reached down and pulled out the pole and plastic attachment but the feather was history. She swallowed the entire feather toy. I turned to my husband and replied, "You are right, you cannot spank a cat."

Today, Chiemeka is 11-months old. She sleeps in our bed with my husband and me all night long, or until she feels like playing attack kitty at 2:00 a.m. She hisses at our Doberman Pincher dogs and bullies them around our home. She plays chase with all our other cats, domestic and exotic, biting their necks and jumping on them. She loves going on her daily walks every evening with me. She is one of the most spoiled and cherished caracals in the world. Every night my husband, a respected and talented chef, makes her a gourmet dinner of raw chicken, tiger shrimp, raw egg and sliced raw beef or pork cutlets with a side of ZuPreem and a sprinkle of Wild Trax vitamins. She will pace back and forth on our kitchen floor and hiss at us until we feed her dinner. Occasionally we still get a swat of her razor sharp claws on our legs if we do not put her food down fast enough, in which we all reply, "You cannot spank a cat!"



**Chiemeka as a three month old kitten.**



**Chiemeka as a young adult. Her left ear tuft has remained bent down.**



## Bobcats on the Mountain

By Krystal Haney  
Naturalist, Bays Mountain Park

Nestled in the mountains of northeastern Tennessee is Bays Mountain Park. Seven hundred feet above the city of Kingsport, lays a 3,550-acre nature preserve. The park was opened in 1971, after it sat dormant for 27 years. The land had once been a thriving community of farmers, and then, in 1907, the city bought the property to create a reservoir as the city's water source. It started serving water in 1916, and sustained the city until 1944. With the opening of the park we began our focus on education. We provide educational opportunities for area students and visiting public regarding the natural world.

Part of that education is based on the native animal exhibits at the park. We currently house raptors, reptiles and amphibians, whitetail deer, river otters, grey wolves, raccoons, and, the focus of this article, bobcats. The mammals are all housed in larger outdoor enclosures that mimic their



**Park Naturalist Krystal Haney kneels down next to nine year old Kirby.**

natural environment. This type of exhibit helps reduce stress on the animals, and displays them in a more natural manner.

The park's first bobcat came in 1987,

and was housed in a small chain-link enclosure on concrete. In 1991, we constructed the current exhibit, which covers approximately a quarter of an acre. This enclosure is built with an eight-foot high chain-link fence, surrounding a wooded setting. The exhibit contains a small pond for drinking water, two artificial caves, and two holding pens with wooden houses for shelter. After the construction of the new pen, we acquired one bobcat in 1991 and three in 1992, bringing us to a total of four. Since that time the population has varied due to death and an escape, which occurred as a result of a storm that downed a tree over the fence giving the bobcat a bridge to walk over the fencing. We currently have two, a nine-year-old male and a one-year-old male.

One of our more popular programs for school children is habitat tours. We take classes around the exhibits and talk to them about the animals, their behavior, their diet, and their status in the wild, etc. Another program we offer is "Bobcat Tails." This program is used more in the winter months as



**The bobcat habitat is a wooded area. Visitors can walk up the elevated bridge to gain another perspective of the inhabitants.**



it allows people to get a more up close encounter. The winter months are a better time because we do not have large groups of people and the cats seem to be more visible.

Having these live animals is a pleasure for the visitors; it enhances their visit to the park. It also helps people connect with nature in a more visceral way. Housing these animals also benefits them, as almost all of them are non-releasable. It gives them a permanent home where they can live out their lives as educational ambassadors.

For more information about the park, check out our website [www.baysmountain.com](http://www.baysmountain.com).



**The bobcat habitat is enclosed with vinyl coated chain link eight foot tall with a two-foot turn in and two strands of electrified wire.**

## Go Wild With Us in Belize!

Join us for a 6-day tour in northern Belize at the Lamanai Outpost Lodge, situated on the banks of a spring-fed lagoon amid the remnant of a major Maya city. Enjoy guided tours to experience a variety of Belizean wildlife, both on land and in the water, and assist with the Lamanai jaguar cat conservation project! This amazing trip is a chance to be immersed in the sights and sounds of the Belizean rainforest and involved in jaguar, puma, jaguarundi, ocelot, and margay conservation!

### Tour Cost and Details

Almost everything is included in the cost of this tour: lodging, most meals, guided tours, and transportation. At \$1,670/person (this does NOT include airfare), this cost is a \$625/person savings over its value of \$2,295.

### Itinerary

Day 1: Brought to the Lodge by the guides, attend orientation and receive the sounds of the rainforest.

Day 2: Explore ancient Mayan Ruins, Museum and Nature Reserve.

Day 3: Learn about the Lodge's wild cat conservation project, track cats in the jungle and check cameras. Board an airboat to learn about crocodile conservation.

Day 4: Travel to Ambergris Caye for swimming/snorkeling at the world's 2nd largest barrier reef.

Day 5: Snorkel at Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley, - for fishing, swimming, and fresh caught beach BBQ. Scuba for additional cost.

Day 6: Back to reality flight home.

Join us for an ever memorable tropical Belize safari 11/11/13 to 11/16/13!



## Stressors for Captive Exotic Felines - *Part Two of a Two-Part Series*

By Dr. Chris Tromborg

Cats, as with most mammals, are considered macrosomic, that is, olfaction is their predominant sensory modality. With felines, the predominant sense is vision, though olfaction is critically important as well. Chemical communication is critical to maintain social relationships, especially those behaviors associated with reproduction. The influence of conspecific odor on the development and maintenance of sexual behavior, and on communication during sexual encounters, is well documented.

For many felines living in captivity, the odors to which they are exposed can be important sources of arousal. With smaller cats, historically subjected to predation by larger ones, the presence of the odors of larger felines can function as chronic stressors. In response to these odors, small cats can exhibit elevated levels of cortisol, elevated blood pressure, increased wariness, increased vigilance behavior, increased defensive behavior, and increased cryptic behavior. With larger felines, the presence of the odors of smaller felines or other animals can provoke arousal. This is sometimes indicated by increases in pacing or investigatory behavior. Olfactory investigations are associated with the "flehmen response," where the cat slightly opens its jaws to allow chemical molecules to enter the vomeronasal organ.

The odors of conspecifics might be stressful under some conditions. In general, cats exhibit prolonged, relaxed investigatory behavior when encountering substrates anointed by themselves or by a familiar cat. However, they demonstrate arousal and sometimes even actively avoid substrates that have been anointed by unfamiliar cats. Interestingly, the scent marks of physiologically aroused animals, or those that are frightened or angry are investigated more intensely

than the scent marks of non-aroused animals. This suggests that the emotional state of one cat can be assessed by the other on the basis of odor.

Felines, as any cat owner knows, spend a disproportionate amount of time marking things, either with various scent glands located on their bodies, or with urine or feces. Ever vigilant humans spend a disproportionate amount of time eliminating these scent marks. Since felines use scent marks to delineate territory and to communicate with other cats, the constant removal of these scent cues might be stressful. Continual cleaning, accomplished by substrate removal or by hosing, can result in more scent marking, higher rates of aggressive interactions, decreased latencies to defecate or urinate, and increased investigatory behavior. In response to cleaning, felines usually attempt to re anoint their surroundings, increasing scent-marking behavior. Some felines increase rates of scent marking when distressed. Perhaps increased scent-marking indicates stress-related arousal.

In the wild, many felines have the opportunity to migrate when ambient temperatures deviate from their optimal ranges; in captivity, the opportunity for felines to move when temperatures are less than optimal is greatly curtailed or absent altogether. Captive felines are routinely exposed to temperatures for which

they are not adapted. Felines that evolved in warmer climates (such as servals and caracals), are sometimes maintained in temperate regions of North America that experience very low temperatures during the fall and winter. Conversely, felines that evolved in colder climates (such as the Canadian lynx and snow leopard) are maintained in regions of North America that regularly experience high temperatures during the spring and summer. Heat-adapted species are in danger of hypothermia in colder climates while cold-adapted species are in danger of heat stress in warmer climates. The symptoms of temperature stress in warm-adapted cats attempting to adapt to colder climates include shivering, pacing and reclusive behavior. In cold-adapted species attempting to adapt to warmer climates, symptoms of temperature stress include increases in panting, drooling, reclusive behavior and locomotor behavior. In many instances, institutions usually provide shelters that allow cats to escape from the direct impact of the sun or snow. Unfortunately, cats used for purposes of exhibit that regularly occupy their shelters are less visible to visitors and thus less effective on display.

For felines that reside near ground level, ambient temperature is not merely a function of downward directed infrared radiation from the sun and upper atmosphere, but also of the upward infrared radiation emitted by ground surfaces. In nature, these two sources of infrared radiation tend to balance out. However, in artificial settings, the temperature of the substrate frequently exceeds that of the overlying atmosphere. This is particularly true with artificial surfaces. Many of the materials used in artificial environments, such as concrete, gunite, tile, soil, grass, wood, rock, plastic, rubber, stainless steel, and other metals vary in their tactile and thermal qualities.

Materials differ in the rates at which they absorb or release thermal energy, a



**A female tiger displaying the flehmen response. Photo by CC Photography.**

quality called thermal inertia. In addition to composition, the color of enclosure flooring or other surfaces can influence their thermal properties. Darker surfaces tend to absorb heat, while lighter surfaces reflect it. Cats demonstrate their temperature preferences by moving toward the desirable and away from the undesirable. Stress results when there are insufficient options.

All cats come equipped with soft pads on their feet and either fully or partially retractable claws. The pads are equipped with tactile receptors that make them exquisitely sensitive to a variety of tactile and temperature stimuli. These are usually in direct contact with the substrate. Different surface materials vary in their hardness and resistance to compression, and thus in the stress that they put on pads, claws, legs, and joints. Surface materials also vary in how much friction they offer, and thus how much resistance to slipping they afford. Such factors are critical contributors to lesions and lameness, and as such, play a major role in maintaining the well being of captive felines.

When felines are given a choice, they appear to select substrates that offer variation in their degree of softness and purchase that they afford. Surface qualities appear to influence some physiological measures of stress. For instance, when small cats are given a choice between metal grid or plastic floors versus natural substrates, they select the natural substrate. If forced to select the grid or plastic floor option, they exhibit significant elevations in blood pressure, heart rate, and body temperature. These are reliable indicators of physiological stress. Substrates that are solid and noncompliant, and which do not allow cats to build bedding areas or nests sometimes provoke aberrant behavior that is indicative of elevated stress. More compliant substrates, such as soil, straw, chips, and the like, provide manipulable materials that seem to reduce boredom by providing an avenue for the expression of exploratory behavior. Virtually all increases in behavioral opportunities are correlated with reductions in measure of physiological stress.

It seems a matter of common sense that one of the greatest potential stressors in captivity is the restriction of movement due to small enclosure size. Current cage size standards in the United States and

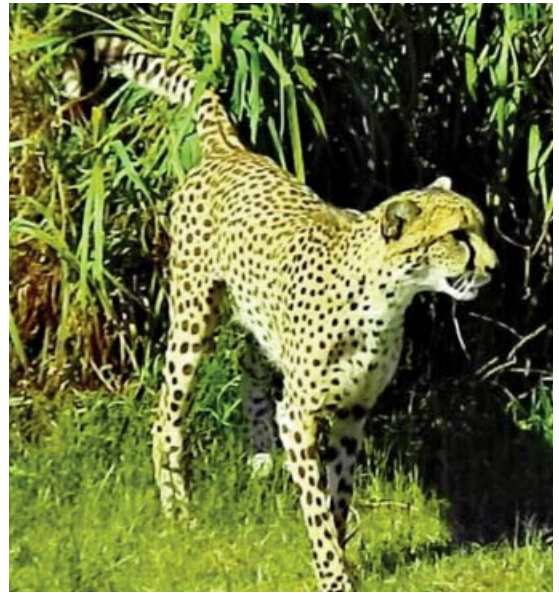
elsewhere are based primarily on arbitrary professional judgments, and not on empirical analyses. The empirical studies that do exist have produced mixed results. In a variety of captive felines, the most obvious confinement-related stress response is an increase in pacing. Free-living felines also pace. Felines with large home ranges pace more in confinement than felines with smaller home ranges. In species that are regularly housed in pens or small cages, such as bobcats, small cage size has been associated with decreased growth and other indices of elevated stress levels. Conversely, some cats appear to find large, open habitats more stress provoking than smaller enclosures. The lack of sufficient retreat space or opportunity for concealment is a significant stressor for captive felines. In leopard cats, the absence of retreat or concealment opportunities as afforded by dense vegetation has been shown to result in elevated levels of circulating cortisol.

Many felids display stress-related arousal by pacing. Of course, some pacing is simply anticipatory, often observed in cats just prior to some regular activity, such as feeding. However, some scientists now view pacing as a useful mechanism for using limited space and over-abundant time in captive felines.

In the wild, many felines occupy much of their time avoiding interactions with ecological adversaries, including human beings. However, cats confined on exhibit, especially those devoid of opportunities for retreat or concealment, have little means for escaping from these interactions. They have discovered the enemy, and they are us!

In a few instances, captive cats never interact with the public. In other instances, cats are on forced exhibit and denied access to off-exhibit holding areas during visiting hours. In still other instances, cats are brought out in front of audiences to perform in educational exhibitions. Finally, in rare instances, cats are actually allowed to be physically interacted with. To be fair, some of these activities are meant to provide visitors with a sense of connectedness with the cats, to improve empathy, which enhances the effectiveness of the conservation message.

Cats, however, vary in their responses



**Captive felines may react to cleaning by continuing to scent-mark areas in their enclosures.**

to people. Some are more reactive than others. Individual cats vary in their flight distances from humans, but this is rarely taken into consideration when a new exhibit is constructed. As a result, visitor impact on many captive felines is enormous. On a day-to-day basis, visitors to a zoo are one of the few unpredictable variables that felines experience. Feeding times, cage cleaning, and other keeper-related activities might be relatively consistent, but the number of visitors and visitor behavior varies from moment to moment. To the extent that this variability breaks up an otherwise monotonous existence, it might have a positive effect on feline wellbeing. With many captive felines, it is clear that visitor behavior influences their arousal levels. The visitor effect has been well documented in cats. The presence of humans decreases play in some, positive social behaviors in others, feeding in a few, and auto grooming and allow grooming in many. In one study on leopards, in response to large numbers of visitors, overall activity was suppressed while agitated pacing was increased.

Cats on exhibit, confronted by visitors have relatively high levels of circulating cortisol-steroid levels. Cats maintained in larger, off-exhibit areas, such as those in breeding programs, show a somewhat lower level of circulating cortisol-steroids. Cats used in educational outreach programs, or which are offered behavioral opportunities, exhibit the lowest levels of



circulating stress hormone, as predicted, by Hal Markowitz, who passed on the day of this writing, September 13, 2012. In fact, cats with responsive environments are the least stressed of captive felines.

In addition to forcing proximity to humans, however, the maintenance of felines in captivity typically demands their direct handling. Evaluating the effects of handling by humans on nonhuman felines can be challenging, since the word "handling" is used to refer to a wide variety of procedures. This includes lifting cats out of their home cages or carriers, holding or restraining it, performing cage maintenance with the cat present, or moving the cat from one place to another. Nonetheless, it is clear that direct handling is stressful to felines.

With some individual cats, repeated handling can result in taming, reducing their reactivity and its associated stress responses. Individual history plays an important role in reactivity. Cats with adverse experiences with humans are more fearful of them and more distressed by their presence than cats that have not had negative experiences. In one instance, increase positive human interactions were associated with decreases in abnormal behavior, increased maintenance grooming and reduced aggression. The degree and frequency of interaction is important. For example, reproductive success in small exotic felids is positively correlated with more interactive husbandry styles. A more interactive husbandry style produces reduced reactivity in extremely reactive small cats. Domestic kittens that are regularly held and handled become socialized sooner and are more tractable as adults. They also grow more quickly and grow larger than non-handled kittens. Post-mortem studies of their brains reveals that kittens that have been handled have larger, more complex brains.

Cats respond better if they are allowed to approach a caretaker than if the caretaker approaches them. With very small cats, the interaction is facilitated if the caretaker squats down to assume a height closer to that of the cat; in a sense, meeting the cat on its own terms. Cats also

readily discriminate between familiar and unfamiliar humans. Many cats will approach familiar humans while avoiding unfamiliar humans. Being handled by unfamiliar individuals is highly stressful for small cats (remember the pleasure of getting them to the veterinarian?). Perhaps one of the primary reasons for distress in captive felines' is the presence of humans, who are frequently associated with aversive routine husbandry procedures. These include cage cleaning and the disruption of routine procedures and the noise associated with these. All of these are associated with elevations in the physiological measures of stress.

Perhaps the greatest stressor in the lives of captive felines is their perceived inability to control most aspects of their surroundings. Further, many provocative aspects of the environment are the very ones from which they cannot escape. Even more problematic is the unreliability of many of the behavioral measures that have traditionally been employed as indices of stress. For example, pacing in felids has long been viewed as an index of either boredom or stress. Yet, it is also now thought to represent an adaptive use of time and space for felines with limited options in restricted habitats. Perhaps these felines are adapting to unresponsive

environments by altering their patterns of behavior to fill the time void.

Not only does this provide them with goal directed behavior, but can also function to reduce stress. Cats provided with behavioral enrichment opportunities exhibit less circulating cortisol than cats on exhibit or even off exhibit in holding areas for breeding programs. This perspective is supported by a novel view of stereotypical locomotor behavior. Traditionally, because of their repetitive performance, morphological invariance, and absence of function, stereotypic behaviors have been considered maladaptive responses to invariant environments. However, since unresponsive environments offer no extrinsic means of modulating or redirecting behavior, confined felines might counteract this deficit internally by emitting self-reinforcing patterned behavior. Thus, stereotypical behavior may actually constitute an adaptive response to invariant surroundings in an attempt to moderate stress. For the human caretaker or observer, it can also provide a means for monitoring arousal levels and assessing environmental adequacy.

In several species of captive felines, indices of elevated stress include not only increases in locomotor stereotypies, but also increases in cryptic behavior, startle responses, eliminative behavior, and aggression; they also include decreases in foraging, feeding, exploratory, and even parental behavior. Research on leopard cats reveals that stereotypical pacing is correlated with increased levels of urinary cortisol, offering a visible index of physiological arousal. In domestic cats, arousal can be assessed on the basis of piloerection (involuntary erection or bristling of hairs due to a sympathetic reflex usually triggered by cold, shock, or fright or due to a sympathomimetic agent) and tail flagging. As with pacing, both behaviors are widely regarded as indicators of sympathetic nervous system activity. Unfortunately, many of these measures also occur in other contexts. Piloerection and tail flagging are reliable indices of arousal, they usually



**Socializing with cats in captivity can help to reduce their reactivity and stress responses.**

occur in response to short-term (acute) provocation. However, the indices of long-term (chronic) stressors are less reliable. Chronically elevated stress can compromise the health of captive felines, diminishing their value as subjects in behavioral studies, appropriateness as models for biomedical research, or effectiveness in educational exhibits.

Paradoxically, many felines respond to short and long-term stressors by exhibiting diametrically opposite suites of behaviors. For example, felines can respond to noise with increased locomotor activity or paralysis. They can exhibit increased cryptic or increased investigatory behavior. They can become secretive or conspicuous. They can become silent or exhibit increased vocal activity. Prolonged changes in the behavioral profile of individuals can range from an increase in agitation to an increase in cryptic behavior, not very consistent trends. Unfortunately, there are no reliable measures of long-term physiological stress responses.

Just as problematic, many stress responses result from a combination of factors, making the identification of any single source of stress difficult. Since so

many measures of stress are unreliable, more robust behavioral measures of stress need to be developed. Ideally, these measures can be employed without the trauma of direct handling of the felines in question.

Ultimately, stress can be partially ameliorated by increasing the affordances available to captive felines—ones that provide them with the same behavioral and psychological opportunities, as would similar situations in nature irrespective of how they appear to humans. In those instances where extensive modification are limited by finances or space availability, some enclosures can only be superficially modified. These modifications can include the introduction of interactive, manipulable objects that provide felines in deficient enclosures with opportunities to perform certain types of behaviors common in the wild but not usually available to captive felids. Thus, once again, the concept of behavioral enrichment emerges. The concept of behavioral enrichment through environmental engineering has gained acceptance by most individuals possessing or managing captive felines. The primary goal of behavioral enrichment is to offer captive felines

some degree of control over their surroundings. The ability of captive cats to affect their surroundings seems to result in fewer stereotypic behaviors, better long-term survivability, and the reduction of stress. Enrichment really does reduce most of the accepted indices of physiological stress and psychological suffering.

When felines behave less stereotypically, they are more interesting to the public and are better ambassadors for their wild counterparts. To the extent that felines in captivity excite the public, visitors will remember a positive experience at zoos, theme parks, rescue facilities, and even our FCF homes. Those meeting these cats might become more aware of the plight of felines in the wild.

The sources of stress for captive felines are many and the strategies that reduce stress are not always clear. Those of us who have taken cats into our homes or who have chosen to work with them already realize this. What has not always been discussed is the amount of stress that felicitous folks experience as they attempt to navigate through the complex life of living with our enigmatic feline friends.



**Fox Valley**  
ANIMAL NUTRITION, INC.

**Day One** formulas are species-specific formulations having the required protein and fat for neonatal growth. Recommended for those neonates who are orphaned, cannot suckle, or are being bottle-raised.



All-milk protein from premium food grade milk ingredients



Complete complement of vitamins and minerals



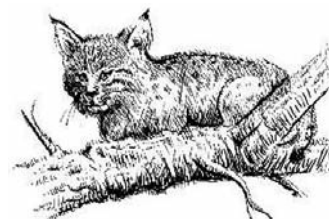
Balanced fatty acids including medium chain fatty acids for easy digestion

We specialize in serving the wildlife, domestic, and exotic animal communities. For information on our “Sponsorship of Goods” program (a donation of products to your local center, group, or wildlife organization on your behalf), please contact us at:



**FOX VALLEY ANIMAL NUTRITION INC.**  
(800) 679-4666 or email: [nklc@aol.com](mailto:nklc@aol.com)

[www.foxvalleynutrition.com](http://www.foxvalleynutrition.com)





## "Love Affair with a Cougar" by Lyn Hancock

By Kane Molavi

For any inexperienced, possible future owners, looking for books about raising cats in captivity (particularly cougars), I would strongly recommend reading an oldie but goodie, "Love Affair with a Cougar" written by Lyn Hancock. The book focuses on the author's experiences with raising her own cougars Tom, Oola, Lara, and Tammy, as her pets, or rather as her children. While the book includes all four of Hancock's cats, it focuses on Tom.

Hancock did quite a decent job of recording various events and presenting them to the reader concerning essentially everything involved with private ownership. Indeed, there are several positive, as well as negative aspects that one must be aware of, when owning one or more exotic felines. It is absolutely crucial for the potential owner to be fully aware of everything, so that they may avoid several

horrifying incidences.

The book also contains the usual methods of discipline and how to address and change unacceptable behaviors displayed by kittens. Bottle feeding and weaning were briefly covered, as well as bonding with your cat. The author also explained the significance of various types of behaviors. In addition to sharing her own experiences, she consulted with other private owners of cougars, as well as a "cougar behaviorist" and illustrated their knowledge for the reader as well.

One of the issues involved with owning an exotic pet is the fact that it most definitely can and often does draw an overwhelming amount of attention, especially when relocating to a new neighborhood. According to the

author's descriptions, some of this attention is positive, while some of it can be extremely dangerous. There will be animal lovers in your community who will be excited to see your exotic cat and view it as a mere cuddly "oversized house cat." The scary side to this situation is that there will also be people who will show an interest in your cat, behave kindly in your presence, and seemingly welcome you with open arms to the neighborhood, but after these particular people leave

# LOVE AFFAIR WITH A COUGAR



by the author of  
"There's a Raccoon in My Parka"  
**Lyn Hancock**

your house, they will immediately complain and report you to your local government/law enforcement agencies. As with the author's experience with this kind of a situation, depending on the circumstances with licensing and legislation, you may or may not be able to continue ownership of your cat.

The downside of the story is that it has a tragic ending for Tom's human parents as they end up losing their child. As upsetting as the outcome was, it is extremely beneficial for this reader, that the author included this information. As rookies, it is imperative for us to be aware of the very strong possibilities of these kinds of situations so that they can be prevented from ever happening. As for my personal opinion of this book, I found it to be both informative and entertaining. If you are an exotic cat lover with any level of knowledge or experience, be sure to obtain a copy of this book if you do not currently have one, although again, it is the beginners (such as me) who would ultimately benefit from reading this book. Look around on Amazon for good deals on used copies starting at a few dollars, but be careful, I found one used paperback copy advertised for \$105!

## Donations

The FCF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals and corporations who have made donations to FCF projects since the last published *Journal*, providing additional funding for educational materials for members and legislators, supporting 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.

### General Fund:

Christopher George  
Kane Molavi

### Conserv. Grants Fund:

Abraham Basmajian  
Gayle Bilsland  
Susan Goodman  
Johnathan Long  
Mark McCarthy  
Kimberly Weiss  
Jennifer Willoughby

### Legislation Fund:

Chris Tromborg

### Wildcat Safety Net:

Bobby and Lea Aufill  
Abraham Basmajian

Gayle Bilsland  
Jim Brockett  
John Chuha  
Lynn Halpin  
Johnathan Long  
Mark McCarthy  
Mary Roberts  
Diane Sanders  
Kimberly Weiss  
Jennifer Willoughby

The FCF appreciates your generosity  
and continued support.

## Blast from the Past: Wild Feline Training

Feline Conservation Federation, Inc.  
Volume 47, Issue 4—July/August 2003

By Jessi Clark-White

### *AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CONDITIONING*

Classical conditioning is the science of associations. Perhaps the most famous examples of classical conditioning were Pavlov's dogs, which learned that dinner was always preceded by the ringing of a bell, and thus began to salivate any time that noise was heard. But classical conditioning affects the behavior of our cats in ways much more significant than drooling over odd noises! A simple way to distinguish classical conditioning from operant conditioning is this: If the animal's behavior or actions influence what happens to him, operant conditioning is at work. If the animal's actions do not influence the outcome of events, classical conditioning is taking place. Pavlov's dogs did not have to salivate when the bell rang in order to get their dinner. Dinner always followed the bell's ring, which induced such a state of anticipation that the dogs would salivate unconsciously. This is classical conditioning. If you refuse to put your dog's dinner bowl down for her until she sits quietly, you are taking advantage of operant conditioning. And now for a bit of training trivia; studies have found that if a classically conditioned response is placed in conflict with an operant conditioned behavior, the classically conditioned response will prevail. You might ask how classical conditioning could be of use to you since it cannot be used to teach an actual behavior such as "sit" or "come." Classical conditioning is beneficial because it can be used to make profound changes in how your cat feels about the situations he's placed in.

### *CONDITIONED EMOTIONAL RESPONSES*

Classical conditioning can explain how we develop emotional responses to certain objects, events and places. In an infamous 1920 experiment, researcher John Watson put a rat in the playpen of a baby named Albert, who had no innate fear of the rodent. Then, in

a fine display of scientific compassion, Watson made a loud noise to frighten Albert. After pairing the presentation of the rat and the sound several times, Watson placed the rat in the playpen but did not make the noise. Even without the noise, Albert feared the rat. He had developed a conditioned emotional response to the rodent. Conditioned emotional responses can be developed either deliberately or (more often) accidentally and are very resistant to change. Does your cat get excited when he sees his food dish? That is a conditioned emotional response.

Some fears are conditioned emotional responses; others are innate or instinctive. Fears develop as a result of traumatic experiences (an abused cat cowers at a raised hand), lack of exposure/socialization (fear of the unknown), or in some cases they simply exist (how many of us can explain why we are afraid of spiders?). Undesirable conditioned emotional responses can often be overcome through two classical conditioning concepts: Counterconditioning and desensitization.

### *COUNTERCONDITIONING*

Counterconditioning involves exposing the animal to a low level of whatever bothers it, and simultaneously presenting something positive. When done correctly, this causes the animal to like whatever nasty thing you started out with, such as a loud noise. You are conditioning a response that counters the cat's current

reaction. You might not like getting rained on, but if \$20 bills started piling up in your hand whenever it started raining, I will bet you would be hunting down cloudbursts in short order! Negative counterconditioning is also possible, although rarely useful. Conditioned taste aversion has been used to keep coyotes from attacking sheep. Farmers have begun lacing the wool with a substance that nauseates the coyotes. After a couple of tastes, the coyotes learn to avoid sheep.

### *DESENSITIZATION*

Desensitization involves doing that same nasty thing over and over again until the animal gets used to it. Desensitization and counterconditioning work together; if you are counterconditioning a cat to something, he is automatically being desensitized to it in the process.

### *TRAINING WITH CLASSICAL CONDITIONING*

Let us say you want to be able to trim your serval's claws, but he hates having his paws handled. If you touch his paw briefly, then immediately give him one of his very favorite treats, the positive aspect of that experience will outweigh any negative feelings he had about the fact that you touched his paw. After this sequence has been repeated over and over again, that brief touch on the paw will come to signify "Oh, goody, I'm getting a treat!" Then you can make the touch longer, gradually progress to picking up the paw, and finally ease into actually clipping the nail. Through classical conditioning, you have transformed him from an intractable beast to a cat that actually enjoys nail-trimming time. This is an oversimplification of the training process, but it should also be mentioned that classical and operant conditioning are not always distinct from each other. Revisiting the nail-clipping scenario, we can see that classical conditioning is changing the cat's associations from negative to positive: Having my paw touched is fun; it means I'm getting a treat. But at the same time, the cat is actively learning something: If I hold still while my paw is handled, I get a treat. That is operant conditioning at work.

### **FCF Professional Membership**

The Professional Membership Review Committee has approved the following members who have applied for FCF Professional Membership since publication of the last *FCF Journal*.

**Dean Harrison**  
**Prayeri Harrison**

**Robert Beebe**

Professional members have registered their handling experience, entered their felines in the census, agreed to abide by the code of conduct, and meet the policy definition of an FCF Professional. The FCF encourages all of its licensed facility members to participate in the FCF Professional membership program. By recognizing the professional component in the FCF, the organization increases its standing and ability to represent the interests of its members who work with wild felines. The Professional membership online application can be found on the members-only website.





7



11



31



35





Feline Conservation Federation

November/December 2012 Volume 56, Issue 6

The Feline Conservation Federation is a non-profit organization that conserves wild felines through preservation, education, and research.

Front Cover: Photographer Connie Lamperle photographed this close up shot of Olga, the Cincinnati Zoo's female snow leopard.

Back Cover: Professional photographer Hal Looney ([www.hallooney.com](http://www.hallooney.com)) took pictures of Dot, an adult male snow leopard, at the Triple D Game Farm in Kalispell, Montana. Triple D Game Farm ([www.tripledgamefarm.com](http://www.tripledgamefarm.com)) specializes in providing hand-raised, behavior-conditioned wildlife for photography and cinematography needs. Animals are released into a variety of natural habitats, featuring ponds, woods, and this stunning rock back drop, to give photographers the opportunity to capture award-winning images of nature's wonderful wildlife.



[www.FelineConservation.org](http://www.FelineConservation.org)