

Feline Conservation Federation

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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, 141 Polk Road 664, Mena, AR 71953.

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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, or send by postal service to: 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

In every copy of this FCF *Journal* is a Renewal/Order form. You may have already renewed, and in that case, please pass the form on to a friend so they can fill it out to join the FCF, or use it to order some of the new items for sale in the FCF Store. The membership fees are supposed to be paid by October 1, and normally we send out reminders monthly but got a late start, so if you have not paid yet, you will receive bi-weekly email reminders until you do. The best way to stop all these emails is to hurry up and pay your dues. If you wish to pay by check or credit card, please use the form provided, and if you live in the U.S., mail off \$35 General Member dues or \$60 professional member dues. Canada members need to remit \$40 and international members send \$60. Some members joined this year during the months of March through August, and they have a credit on their dues; the amount they need to pay is listed on this renewal form. We grant a 60-day grace period, but when that period passes, you are dropped from the membership roster, so please renew today. Many members have responded to the email notices and we appreciate this. By renewing in a timely manner, you eliminate much of the work involved in sending email notices and written reminders. We mail out annual membership/registered handler cards in November, so if you renew late, you miss out on these laminated cards.

We returned from a great convention in Nashville, which included some very special hands-on time with three clouded leopard cubs. This species is especially difficult to breed in captivity and, as Karen Rice reported in the last *Journal* issue, fecal hormone studies reveal this feline is highly stressed in captivity. Nashville Zoo, one of the most successful breeders of this species in America, has found that the answer to the husbandry challenge is to remove the cubs from the mother, hand-rear them, and expose them to normal human activities at a young age to de-sensitize them to stimuli that cause stress and better prepare them for a life in captivity. How ironic that just a month after we return, animal rights fanatics propose that leopards (including cloudeds and snows, I am sure) be only mother-raised, in a proposal they wish USDA to impose on all the big cat species. The FCF will

be speaking up against this proposal as all of our members should. Don't delay; the deadline for comments is October 4, 2013. Read more about this in the Executive Director letter and Vera Chaples' editorial.

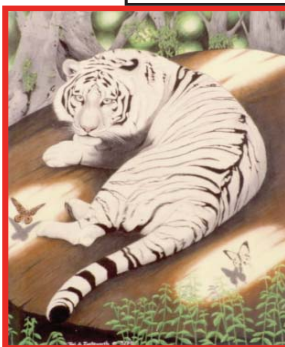
In addition to the potential changes to the USDA regulations, we still need to be mindful of the bill before Congress, H.R.1998, titled the "Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act." This bill makes it illegal to breed the big cats in captivity except as part of the AZA zoo system's Species Survival Plan. At this time it is referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. Please write the committee chairman, Republican John Fleming of Louisiana's 4th district, who determines if the bill moves in his committee. According to bill tracker (www.govtrack.us/congress), this bill has a 27% chance of getting past

committee and an 11% chance of being enacted. Considering that only 11% of bills made it past committee and only about 3% were enacted in 2011–2013, it is actually twice as likely as most bills to be acted on, so we need to stay involved. Right now there are 74 cosponsors signed up.

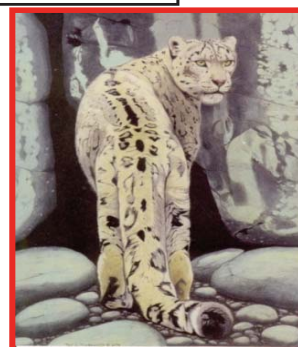
I would like to close by congratulating Pat Callahan for his recent retirement after 30 years at the Cincinnati Zoo. "Pat the Cat" was the head keeper of the feline collection and his retirement will be a huge loss to all the felines at the zoo. We wish him well in retirement and hope he can spend more time with family and on conservation projects.

Kevin Chambers

FCF NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Meet the Wildcat Safety Net Challenge!



FCF granted funds to transport 28 tigers to Turpentine Creek

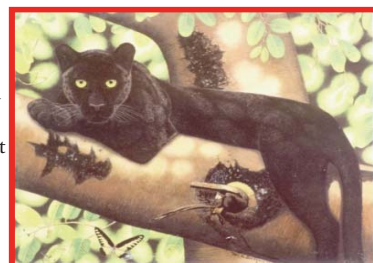
Wildlife Refuge where these big cats have a secure retirement home to live out their golden years.

Now we need to refresh our funding so FCF can help transport more cats when emergencies arise.

For each donation of \$30 or more, choose one of three thank you prints by artist Teri Zucksworth. These 18" x 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 make a donation with PayPal today. Or call the treasurer at 479-394-5235 to use your credit card and support this worthy cause.

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



From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

The comment period on the proposed regulations for the Animal Welfare Act ends on October 4th. By the time you read this *Journal*, you will have only a few days left to act. But as long as you visit the website before October 5th, or get your letter postmarked on the 4th, your comments will count. So, please, read this Executive Director letter and Vera Chaples' well written editorial on page 12 of this *Journal*, and take the time to write your comments and then visit <http://www.regulations.gov/#!document-Detail;D=APHIS-2012-0107-0002> to post your comment, or mail written comments to: Docket No. APHIS-2012-0107, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

It is hard to believe animal rights fanatics have found yet another way to divert our attention from our animals, and once again force us to justify ourselves to the government and the public. It is so true that those who do nothing have plenty of time to complain. And those who are angry complain the loudest. Animal people are happy people and we do not want to have our consciousness rubbed in this ugliness. We do not want to justify our animals; we want to be left alone. But this time we do not have a choice in the matter. I guess what is the most aggravating about all this is that the petitioners are such losers. Condemning and judging us are: the Humane Society of the United States, which has no actual husbandry experience with wildlife and is actually nothing more than a fundraising machine that uses its money to buy political power; the World Wildlife Fund, which has raised billions of dollars and spent millions on tigers only to have the population actually fall after thirty years of "saving tigers," and now they have the gall to attack our private sector breeding success and try to infer that our tigers fuel the global black market, a smokescreen to divert attention away from their own failed international efforts; the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the latest sanctuary association to be formed around the notion that captive wildlife needs to be managed to extinction, commercial use is always commercial exploitation, that wild animals should not be seen in public, and certainly never touched; the International Fund for

Animal Welfare, which has actually granted money to failed sanctuaries that buy into the no-contact dictate, including the mismanaged Wild Animal Orphanage, once run by Carole Asvestos; Born Free USA, a true powerhouse when it comes to fundraising and spreading lies about captive husbandry and the people who devote their lives to the animals in their care; Big Cat Rescue, run by Carole Baskin, a failed breeder/broker turned "born again" sanctuary, after she realized that the true path to riches was to abandon the hard work of rearing hand-raised offspring and instead joined with the HSUS and worked her way to the front of their parade; and, the latest to join the petition, animal rights-run Detroit Zoological Society, owned by the city of Detroit, which is in Chapter 9 bankruptcy, with no answer as to what affect it might have on the Detroit Zoo. The city owns the land and assets, and its animals cost a fortune to feed and care for. Certainly it is not a secure situation for these animals, and the zoo ought to concentrate on its own animals, not ours.

The petitioners propose amendments that would eliminate all human contact



Cinnabar cougar was bottle fed and reintroduced to his cougar mother at the age of eight weeks. He and his two brothers were co-raised by their cougar mother Tara, and Bart and I. The love and trust created by being his surrogate mother carried on into his adulthood and enabled us to learn one of life's most precious lessons: what the true meaning of being a cougar is all about.

with big cats, bears, and nonhuman primates of any age. The petition does not recognize the well managed animal facilities that serve functions vital to the preservation of rare and endangered species. We need to remind everyone that the petition is based upon misleading reports compiled by organizations known for their agendas to eliminate captive wildlife entirely. I think that these fanatic people have separated themselves so far away from nature that they have literally, not figuratively, lost touch with nature. They may call themselves animal champions, but they do not share our connection to wild cats and nature. They have no problem shutting down hundreds of well-managed private facilities, and eliminating the very models of proper wildlife conservation needed to educate the public and generate support for conservation efforts.

As our Conservation Advisor, Dr. Jim Sanderson, said, "There is a connection between touch, stimulation of the frontal cortex of the brain, feeling good, and feeling a strong connection to whatever it is you are touching - like a wild cat." Prohibiting human interaction with the young of big cats removes this proven way to stimulate the public to care about wildlife preservation. The amendments would effectively eliminate appearance of our beautiful felines on television and movies, forbid the hands-on experience of animal friendships, and create a 15-foot barrier of distance between humans and nature's creatures.

In the private sector's smaller, more intimate facilities, there is the possibility for more one-on-one interaction with animals and for the development of important relationships based on genuine trust and affection. In these situations, interactions with humans almost certainly reduce stress responses.

Many private facilities, which rely upon outreach to the public to generate operating funds, would be severely impacted. These amendments would eliminate millions of dollars in revenue currently financing conservation and preservation efforts. Private sector facilities preserve rare species not found in municipal zoos, and much of our success is owed to hands-on husbandry and public outreach. If there are problems with some licensees not meeting the present USDA regulations, then address them. Do not eliminate our hands-on husbandry.

The Scoop on Poop

By Tina Bayer

My first day of work as a vet tech was a gag, literally! The other techs had a little initiation prank: make the new girl (me) set up all the fecal flotations and see how long it would take her to toss her cookies. I personally did not have much experience with dogs, so I was not quite prepared for the olfactory surprise I got when I opened the first brown bag full of Rottweiler logs. My stomach was doing more flips than an Olympic gymnast. I would choose to clean 50 litter boxes over one dog kennel any day. At that time, I had no idea how valuable feces were. I have always believed it was important to keep an eye on the feces; observing your cat's feces and elimination habits is a great, easy way to monitor the internal health of your cat. Keeping aware of any changes in those habits can alert you to illness, stress, dietary problems, and many more issues. Early detection and proactive awareness is key to maintaining your cat's physical and emotional welfare.

Diarrhea is a non-specific symptom to be aware of that can turn dangerous very quickly. The cause can be obvious or not

so obvious. Overfeeding is a common cause, especially in kittens or cubs. Antibiotics can alter the gut flora and result in diarrhea. A food allergy or intolerance can upset the gut, along with drinking unfamiliar water or changing diets too quickly. Parasites, like coccidia or strongyloides, can produce diarrhea with mucus or blood present. Dehydration is a cause and result of diarrhea. It is especially important to be aware of the fecal habits of cat species that do not drink extraneous water, like sand cats or black-footed cats. Cats in general seem to have an emotionally sensitive gastrointestinal tract, because diarrhea can be triggered by stress or excitement.

Cats have a relatively short intestinal tract to begin with, but transit time can be sped up even more by irritating substances. One specific substance is some dead animals. They can cause rapid transit, producing yellow or greenish, sour-smelling stool. This is a good reason to be cautious regarding donated 4D meat (dead, down, diseased, dying).

Many illnesses and diseases can produce diarrhea as a symptom. Greasy, frequent stools are brought on by malabsorption. Foamy stools suggest a bacterial infection like salmonella or campylobacteriosis. Feline panleukopenia (aka feline infectious enteritis) is a deadly disease that can produce yellow or blood-streaked stool. Colitis and the inflammatory bowel diseases can produce a difficult to control diarrhea.



Tina Bayer and young assistant pick up poop as part of her research for this article.

Diarrhea is a symptom with many possible causes, and determining that cause can be easy or tricky. Time is of the essence, so staying proactively aware is the best way to benefit your cat. Close monitoring is critical when diarrhea is presented, so if it lasts for more than 24 hours, veterinary intervention is recommended.

Constipation is another fecal condition to pay close attention to. The underlying cause can be tricky to identify, because the urge to defecate can be voluntarily overridden. This can be a reaction to stress, like a small cat not wanting to alert a larger predator to his presence. Geriatric cats can experience constipation more frequently because "older, less active cats experience reduced bowel activity and the muscles of the abdominal wall may weaken, which increases prolonged retention and hardness of stools." Fecal impaction is similar, as it is a large mass of dry, hard stool that can develop in the rectum due to chronic constipation. If impaction is not remedied with enemas or laxatives, the mass will have to be manually extracted with forceps under anesthesia. (This is not a pleasant situation; I actually had to do this while working at the vet office.) Megacolon is another bowel condition that causes constipation by stretching of the large intestine wall or colon caused by large amounts of fecal material building up inside. Hairballs, grass, and other for-



A close examination of the contents of the litter box can tell you a lot about the health and wellbeing of your feline. Well-formed stools indicate good digestion and absorption, while loose stools can indicate parasite load, protozoan infestation, stress, malabsorption syndrome, or bacteria or viral infection.

eign objects, known as bezoars, can cause difficult passage or even complete blockage. The mass continues to increase in size if left untreated. When it becomes too large to pass, complete blockage can result in a dangerous situation requiring surgical intervention. Another interesting observation is that “constipation and fecal incontinence can occur in tailless cats, possibly due to incomplete enervation of the colon.” Regardless of the cause, any change in the elimination frequency of the cat warrants further attention. Disregarding the change and waiting too long for a vet examination can be dangerous and uncomfortable for the cat.

When fecal changes occur, diagnostic tests will be performed by a veterinarian. The most common fecal tests used are fecal flotations, smears, cultures, and stains, but fecal endocrine testing is the most fascinatingly valuable test available. This type of hormone testing is usually not of interest to private owners, but to facilities and institutions, this testing is worth its weight in gold. It allows hormone metabolite (products of metabolism) concentrations to be measured. The specific hormones tested for are: cortisol, estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone. Two basic extraction methods are used with an assay (term used to describe a test that determines the proportional amount of a substance). The first method is wet feces with methanol: “suspension in wet feces (0.5g) in 5 mL of 80% methanol.” The other method involves dried feces with ethanol. “It is based on 0.2g of fully lyophilized (freeze-dried) powdered feces boiled with 90% or 100% ethanol.”

Fecal hormone testing offers many advantages compared to other methods and samples. The biggest advantage is the safety of both the cat and the keeper. Fecal samples require no invasive collection technique. In dogs, the most common venipuncture site is the cephalic vein, located on the front legs. In domestic cats, the preferred veins are the jugular in the neck, and the femoral, inside the back leg by the groin. It is highly unlikely any conscious cat is going to sit perfectly still while being stuck with a needle, and cats tend to be more averse to more restraint. Less tends to be best when restraining cats. The methods of restraining a seven-pound domestic cat may work on some of the smaller species (I still would not recommend trying this with a black-footed cat), but they cannot be used to safely

restrain a fully conscious 150-pound leopard or other big cat. A non-familiar person involved adds to the danger risk. Safety of the cat, personnel, and responsibility come first, which puts fecal collection on the safest side. Fecal collection also can be done more frequently than blood without any detrimental effect to the cat. A seven-pound cat typically has about eight ounces of blood in the circulatory system. Feline blood donors can usually only donate 60 milliliters of blood at a time, but fluids need to be administered to compensate for volume loss. There is no such issue regarding fecal collection quantity. Fecal collection involves no direct handling of the cat (ideal for more aggressive animals), so much of the stress is taken out of the equation. This is important when testing for cortisol (the stress hormone) levels, because handling the cat can inflict stress on it, which can

contaminate the result of what is being tested for in the first place. Urine is another sample commonly used for diagnostic testing, but this can be difficult and time consuming unless your cat will automatically use a litter box with aquarium pebbles, so as not to absorb the urine. And last I checked, Van Ness and Rubbermaid have not made litter boxes for lions, yet. Cystocentesis is the procedure for urine collection directly from the bladder. A long needle is inserted into the

bladder to aspirate urine. This can provide the clean catch, but again is problematic due to the safety issues while working on a conscious large cat. The one time I performed a cysto, while working at the vet office on an anesthetized animal, it required an ultrasound for exact bladder location and was very expensive for the client. Milk is another fluid option, but is limiting, since not all females are lactating all the time and males are completely excluded (unless your male cat starts to miraculously produce milk). Based on all these examples, feces seem to be the most universally

available, safest, least stress inducing, self-sustaining testing sample available.

The *Brazilian Journal of Medical and Biological Research* defines stress as a change in homeostasis balance, usually resulting from environmental fluctuations. The animal’s response to a stress stimulus may be divided into three phases: behavioral alteration, stimulation of the sympathetic system, and activation of the HPA axis which results in a cortisol increase that can be measured to evaluate the stress response. “The measurement of cortisol secretion is a reliable method to evaluate the response of the animal to a stress stimulus.” The newer field of fecal hormone stress testing has influenced a positive, dramatic shift towards caring for and improving the captive feline’s emotional welfare. Cortisol is a “glucocorticoid that the adrenal cortex secretes that helps regulate overall metabolism and the concentra-



Fecal hormone monitoring can help determine the optimum time to introduce potential mates, especially when dealing with felines that have not been reared together and must be introduced as adults.

tion of blood sugar.” Cortisol production is induced by stress in order to prepare the body for a stressful situation. Cortisol metabolites are the chemical components left after glucocorticoids are digested. The metabolites are the particles that are actually measured. Not all stress is dangerous or bad; cortisol production can increase during hunting, feeding, and mating behaviors. In order to differentiate between good and bad stress, it is important to monitor cortisol levels on a regular basis to determine the fluctuation pattern specific to each individual. Without knowing the basal cortisol rhythms, nor-

mal and abnormal fluctuations cannot be evaluated. Chronic high stress can dangerously compromise the cat's physical health. So, once the cat's specific pattern is established, elevated cortisol metabolite levels can be used to modify the cat's environment to restore homeostasis to the cat's internal system. Knowing the levels is completely useless unless environmental changes are willing to be made. For example, it was determined that "cats should have access to at least 75% of the enclosure's vertical space." There is a direct relationship between 75% access and lowered cortisol concentrations, "the greater the access to the height of the enclosure, the lower levels of fecal corticoids." Another example, provided by Dr. Chris Tromborg, says that "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." Because of the detrimental effect of chronic stress on the cat's physical system, especially on the reproductive function, monitoring the cortisol levels and applying that knowledge is an admirable conscious effort to improve the emotional welfare and optimize the physical health of felines in captivity.

Reproductive success in non-domestic felids has been greatly advanced through fecal hormone testing. This testing has proved beneficial in every stage of reproductive planning, whether natural breeding or assisted reproduction.

The first place to start is to establish the estrus cycle rhythm and testosterone patterns, which can be done through fecal hormone monitoring. This is important for determining optimum time for introducing potential mates.

Fecal hormone testing can provide valuable information to help in pairing individual cats and improve compatibility, especially in compatibility-challenged species like the clouded leopard. This species is notoriously difficult to breed in captivity due to male aggression. Fecal hormone testing has provided some promising insight that may help solve some of that aggression. In "Characterization and Control of Aggression and Reproduction in the Male Clouded Leopard" by Diane Koester, some priceless research was revealed. A number of cap-



Fecal monitoring is a great technique that can help identify females who are not cycling regularly, females who are not ovulating, and females who are ovulating, like this serval rolling in the grass, but not getting pregnant.

tive clouded leopards were characterized as calm or anxious based on keeper questionnaires and fecal cortisol levels. The cats were subjected to behavioral reaction tests, like mirror image stimulation and unfamiliar people, to elicit a noted behavioral response. The clouded leopards were administered clomipramine, deslorelin, or nothing, and tests were repeated to compare and record hormone levels. Clomipramine did not suppress sexual hormone concentrations and had no negative effect on male reproductive function. This research hints that clomipramine may be an effective option to aid in the formation of genetically valuable breeding pairs. This testing and research was possible due to help from fecal hormone test-

ing.

Once mating has occurred, pregnancy can be difficult to visually confirm, especially in species that typically deliver only one kitten or cub, like the ocelot. A perfect example is Sala the ocelot at the Cincinnati Zoo. Her story is completely detailed and documented in the *Felid TAG Times* February 2013 newsletter. Sala was artificially inseminated with semen from ocelot Monsieur. Sala's pregnancy was confirmed 60 days after AI by fecal progesterone analysis and she gave birth to healthy Genoveve on December 31, 2012.

If mating has occurred repeatedly with no resulting pregnancy, fecal monitoring is a great place to start in identifying fertility issues. Jason Herrick, of the University of Illinois, stated that "assessment of fecal hormones is probably the most powerful tool available, since this technique can help identify females who are not cycling regularly, females who are not ovulating, and females who are ovulating but not getting pregnant."

Cheetahs are another species difficult to breed in captivity. In "Human Factors Affecting the Reproductive Potential of Ex Situ Male Cheetahs" by SCBI, some valuable information was discovered with the help of fecal hormone monitoring. Increased glucocorticoids in cheetahs housed on exhibit versus off exhibit have been documented, but this relationship to

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Tranquilizing large feline species like a tiger is always risky, and since hormones are excreted almost exclusively in feces, fecal hormone monitoring is a valuable research tool.

increased importance.” Since hormones are excreted almost exclusively in feces of felines and tranquilizing is always risky, fecal hormone monitoring is a valuable research tool. As Janine Brown stated, “the ability to track gonadal and adrenal activity via hormones is key to optimizing health and reproduction. Comparative endocrine studies have greatly expanded our knowledge base of non-domestic felids. It has been possible through the development of non-invasive fecal steroid metabolite analysis techniques, which currently is the method of choice for monitoring endocrine function in wildlife species.”

Who knew that scooping the poop was so valuable to in situ and ex situ conservation? I am absolutely fascinated with the information fecal hormone testing provides and the ways it can improve the welfare and future for wild cats.

Acknowledgements: Information for this article was compiled from 2010, 2011, 2012 Felid TAG Annual Reports, *The Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook*, *Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians*, C. Krelekamp and Ing. L. Versteeg of the Netherlands, E. Mostl and R. Palme of Vienna, Austria, Dr. Chris Tromborg, Pat Callahan, SCBI Reports, *Animal Physiology Textbook*, and other internet sources.

reproductive function had not been studied in depth, yet. Hormone concentrations were determined non-invasively using Enzyme Immuno Assays on fecal extracts to determine a correlation between high glucocorticoid levels to low testosterone levels. Off-exhibit males showed significantly higher total sperm and total motile sperm and lower glucocorticoid levels than cheetahs housed at institutions open to the public. The results suggest the cheetah's reproductive function possesses a “stress sensitivity” that helps explain the breeding difficulty. Fecal monitoring was crucial in helping to solve this mystery and we can use this information to help improve the future and health of cheetahs.

If natural breeding is not possible, as was the case of ocelots Sala and Monsieur, fecal hormone monitoring is the basis for planning assisted reproduction. Fecal endocrine testing is used to track estrus and testosterone rhythms to prepare for the assisted reproduction. This is similar to a woman tracking her basal body temperature to determine exact ovulation time to improve chances of successful fertilization.

These are just a few specific examples of how valuable fecal endocrine testing is in the reproduction of wild cats. Massive research has been done and is currently being conducted, and all contributing to the conservation efforts for all cats.

In conclusion, Mostl and Palme stated, “as the measurement of physiological stress also has importance in wildlife management, conservation biology, and behavioral ecology, the measurement of fecal glucocorticoid metabolites is gaining

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Technology Brings Bebo the Bobcat Back Home

By Jeff Collins

One of the most difficult issues with exotic cats is maintaining a secure, escape-free environment. This problem came to the forefront recently when, on a hot July morning, I discovered that overnight my 14-month-old male bobcat, "Bebo," had escaped the barn where he lived.

Fortunately, Bebo was equipped with a small transmitter on his collar, about the size of a quarter, made by the LoCATor Company. This transmitter, which is tracked by a hand-held receiver up to one mile in distance, was also the very same one worn by our Bengal (Egyptian mau/Asian leopard) cat named "Punkin."

And Punkin's story is one that has to be added to my commentary for your edification.

My wife Mary and I acquired Punkin the Bengal in 2004, with the intention of keeping him indoors. Punkin, however, did not approve or appreciate this arrangement, and over a period of time began



Bebo sports his LoCATor collar, a precautionary safety device that recently paid for itself when Bebo's enclosure was damaged by a storm.



Jeff Collins holds his big yearling bobcat Bebo.

protesting incessantly with human-like howling vocalizations which drove us absolutely crazy. Eventually, we compromised with Punkin and, after he was neutered and a year of age, he was collared with the transmitter and allowed to roam the fields and forests of our southwestern Ohio farm.

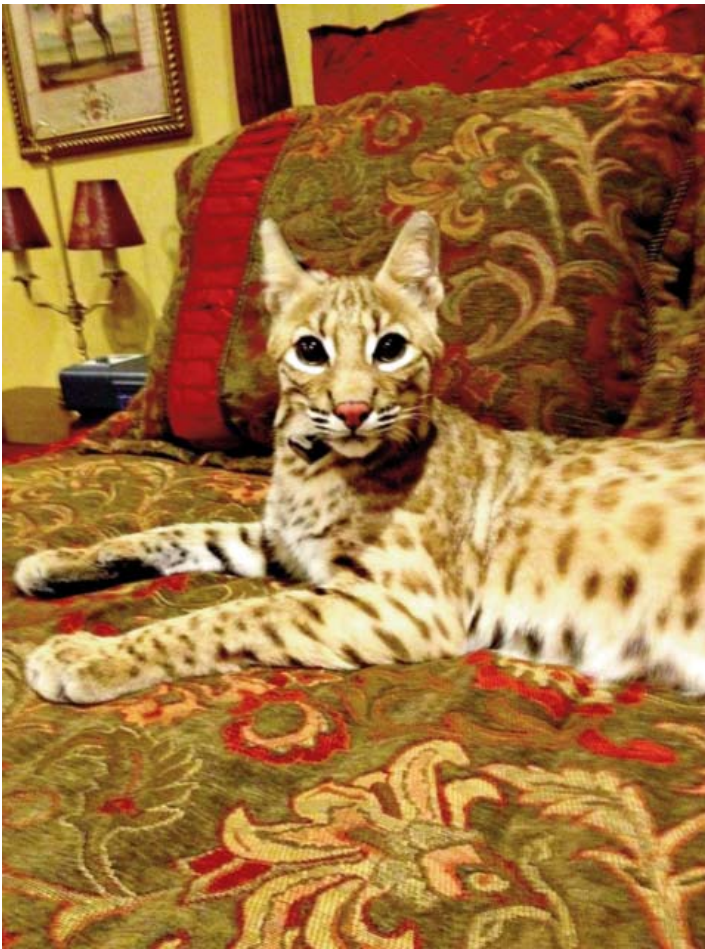
Our primary concern for Punkin was the roving packs of coyotes which were the greatest threat to the 20 pound cat. So, over a seven year period, Punkin was permitted to be free until sundown, and if he had not returned by then, I would go into the woods with a flashlight and, receiver in hand, track him down and bring him home.

This worked to perfection for years, until one week we were out of town and the caretaker did not bring the cat in after dark. I came back to find that Punkin had been the victim of the dreaded coyotes. I was able to track down the transmitter, which a coyote had pulled off the cat

and buried in the dirt. The poor cat's remains were about 100 feet from that spot.

It was a few months later that we acquired Bebo the bobcat from Lynn Culver. Bebo was five weeks old and quite a handsome male bobcat with spectacular rosettes and markings. Bebo was not permitted outside without a leash and he did not appear to want to go outside. Just to be sure, we outfitted Bebo with Punkin's old transmitter collar. He did not mind the collar at all, even though he would fight with his leash harness. A few times, Bebo got free from his area of confinement, but always returned shortly, being frightened by the smells, sights and sounds. But on the hot July morning of his recent escape, he was really gone this time and I could not detect a signal on the receiver. It was obvious he was long gone, so I made two circles around the two mile perimeter of the farm and finally picked up a faint signal far away and on another property deep in the forest.

I set out on foot, crossing property lines, creeks, ravines, brambles, and blow downs, all the while the signal strength increasing. Finally, I climbed up to a steep wooded ridge line overlooking a creek, where I had a receiver signal at full strength. I had to be right where he was, but I could not detect a cat anywhere. The



Bebo is more used to the creature comforts of a nice couch and air conditioning than the thorny thickets and ravines full of bugs that border his owner's property.

horrible thought crossed my mind that maybe I might find the collar buried again. Finally, I looked down about ten feet in front of me and there was a bobcat, virtually invisible, flattened against the ground, ears back and completely still, staring at me intently.

So I had tracked down the illusive beast, but now how was I going to get him back home through almost one mile of rough terrain? (I had not ventured into the woods unprepared; I had brought a raw chicken leg wrapped in a bag for this occasion.) Bebo still remained motionless, flattened on the ground, so I called to him softly, and he stood up, every hair on his body erect. He did not approach me, so I tied the chicken leg in the bag onto a stick and began walking home dragging the bag behind me. Bebo eventually followed, very slowly, tentatively, constantly sniffing the ground where I had been.

I walked through the woods, dragging my bait, ever watching the bobcat slowly

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following me and being thus distracted, I plunged down a hill into a creek, winding up muddy and bruised, while the frightened cat ran off during the commotion. I backtracked and found him lurking about 50 yards away and began the drag routine again with Bebo following. I finally arrived within 50 yards of the barn, but the bobcat holed up in a thicket of honeysuckle and

refused to come out. So I fed and watered him in the thicket and left him there sleeping until dusk, when he came out of the thicket and into the barn.

So, Bebo the prodigal was returned to his home without incident, other than a few scrapes and bruises, and we are so happy he was not lost and wandering far from home, thanks to the advent of modern technology and the LoCATor Company.

I would be remiss not to mention the great job that Lynn Culver does in the exotic feline industry, tremendous experience, expertise, and professionalism, combined with a passion for her cats. Every time I have needed assistance or support, Lynn has gone to great effort to be of assistance. We thank her for her dedication to the industry and the species.



Bebo gets his excitement balancing on the upstairs railing of his people's home.

A Back Door Venue to Eliminate Big Cats from the Private Sector

By Vera Chaples

“What man does not understand, he fears. What he fears, he destroys.”

Not only is the private sector of exotic animal owners coming under attack with such bills as HR 1998 (this has been presented before as HR 4122 the prior year), but now organizations such as IFAW, HSUS, and Big Cat Rescue have now petitioned the USDA to ban the handling of big cat cubs of ANY age and to not allow the removal of the cubs from the mother until appropriate weaning time (which in a big cat can be upwards of six months if you want to get technical and with a leopard 18-24 months), and I for one do not want to have to have to help, treat, or even try to handle and keep healthy an animal that has not had human interaction until that age! This petition has been acted upon by the USDA and there is now a public comment period open until October 4, 2013, asking for input from everyone on this proposal. The easiest way to make a comment is online at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!document-Detail;D=APHIS-2012-0107-0002>.

Now, I am here to give you the “inside scoop” and the reality of all situations occurring in this world. To most, because they are not in the world of big cats or exotic pets, it is a foreign and confusing world, and if one does not investigate, one can be fooled into thinking they are doing something good, when in fact they are destroying what they are so adamantly trying to save or help. It is up to us, in this industry, to realize this fact and stand steady in our resolution to educate the masses. Remain professional at all times and, even though you feel you have repeated something for the millionth time, remember this very well could be the first time that the person you are engaging has heard it. If one person begins to realize, they will educate someone else. Thus it becomes a chain reaction. Even in online discussions, remember to remain professional no matter how bad you are being baited, because, rest assured, you have an audience that is watching and your com-



Vera Chaples and Asian leopard Keeper share a moment of trust and genuine affection.

ments can and do make the difference in what a lot of people will choose to believe.

Having experience in this specific area, I am going to give you the VERY VALID reasons WHY this is a bad idea and WHY these cubs DO need to be removed from the mother at a young age. I have a 100% success rate in raising all exotic cats, from tigers and leopards down to bobcats.

Remember, as stated, that big cats in captivity are the result of over 15 generations of captive breeding programs. The private sector (facilities such as ours and private owners) have not obtained endangered species from the wild since the induction of CITES in July of 1975.

The reason I am recapping this is because I cannot tell you how many times I get into online fights because of the trance-like, Kool-Aid drinking chant taught by their illustrious leaders, saying

“They belong in the wild” or “They belong in their native habitat.” That is unfortunately where I have been losing my professional attitude, as I seem to be repeating the same rhetoric over and over again, having to defend an issue that to me is black and white and, to others, as foreign as Mars.

Now on to the facts of cub handling by the public...

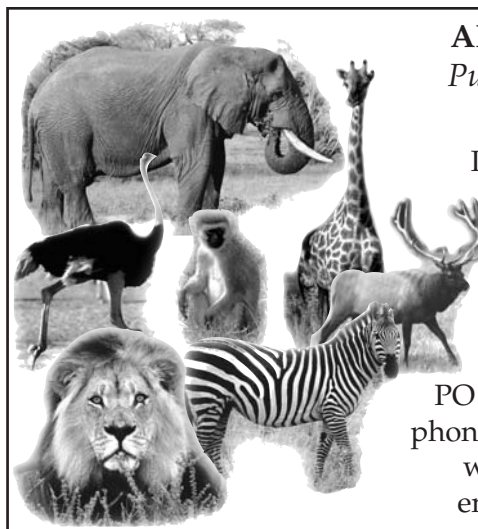
It is human nature to have to touch, see, and smell to realize the sometimes dire situation an animal is in. One can read about what is happening in a third world country and see statistics where a species is facing extinction, but one really begins to get genuinely involved when one gets one-on-one with that animal. You begin to feel it in your heart and soul. So cubs do play an important part in helping with conservation on a different leg of the spectrum, as well as it does to help fund these facilities that have the cubs.

Now why is it necessary to take these cubs away from the mom so early? Well, as cruel as it seems, there are many reasons this is absolutely necessary:

1. For critically endangered species, hand-rearing is the safest, most viable option to assure the health and well-being of the animal.

2. Big cats in captivity need to be socialized in a way that they are trusting of humans as their “human mothers.” Why, you may ask? This will help to improve safety for staff, volunteers, han-

dling.



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Species like African and Asian leopards are not conserved by AZA member zoos. If changes to the USDA regulations proposed in an animal rights petition are adopted, private preserves will be unable to bottle raise ambassadors to increase public awareness.

dlers, and owners having direct contact with these cats, as well as to decrease the levels of stress in captivity when there are frequent visitors. They begin to actually look forward to the human engagement as they find comfort and, yes, even love, bonding with their human. Big cats bond and bond HARD with their human mothers, trust me!

3. The removal of cubs early on also benefits ease of well care. We are able to facilitate basic vet care without the use of



Spike the tiger lets everyone know what he thinks of these animal rights fanatics and their petition.

tranquilizers. This early hands-on activity actually saved our beloved Rosie's life. She had a uterine infection and had gone septic. To tranquilize her for the trip to the specialty hospital (over an hour's ride away) would have increased the risk of her dying. We would have had to tranquilize her for the trip, and then they would have had to put her under anesthesia, doubling the risk of anesthetic death, as her system was already in trouble due to the sepsis. We were able to load her with minimal stress to her and transport her where she needed to be to save her life.

We also are able to vaccinate, de-worm, and doing general physical exams (check teeth, mouth, gums, feel all over for bumps, lumps, wounds, etc.) without tranquilizing, as each and every one of our cats have been hand-raised (with the exception of Bobby) and accept our handling with no fuss at all. This helps to find and ward off any problems before they become serious. Every time you sedate an

animal (or human for that matter), you are taking a chance on that animal NOT waking up from the procedure.

4. Most ALL of the private facilities are in rural settings due to zoning laws. What this brings with it is the presence of native wildlife, inclusive of venomous snakes. This is an increased risk to all the residents of a wildlife facility, but a cub cannot withstand the bite of a venomous snake, much less a full grown big cat.

Couple this well planned back door banning with Big Cat Rescue's latest smear campaign of painting all exotic pet owners as Hitler (according to the BCR blog, it states that petting tiger, lion, and other big cat cubs leads to animal abuse and has a picture of Hitler holding a cub), http://bigcatrescue.org/abuse-issues/issues/pet-cubs/#The_Truth_About_Tiger_Cub_Petting_Displays_in_Malls, this ranks right up there with the likes of PETA, which has tried that same propaganda method by making posters with slaughtered chickens on one side of the poster and Nazi death camps with pictures of Jewish prisoners on the other (<http://www.peta.org/b/thepetafiles/archive/tags/holocaust+on+your+plate/default.aspx>).

Think about this -- ANYTIME you ban something, you inadvertently create a black market. A prime example is, first and foremost, prohibition. The Asian leopard is supposedly protected. With the ban laws on molesting these cats, this has actually increased the value of their pelts and other body parts. And, of course, it will drive some owners underground, jeopardizing the very animals these ban seekers want to see protected.

And last, but not least, conservation has many different facets. There are the ones in the field, the ones in the media, and the ones in your own backyard, such as us, the educators, doing what we can to raise awareness on situations that are in dire need of attention. And captive breeding programs by the private sector can and do work. Remember, it takes a nation to save a species, and not just one individual or organization can do it all alone.

Remember to do your part. The exotic world cannot afford for ANY of us to sit back and do nothing. No matter your species of preference, if it is not you today... it will be tomorrow!

Please download your copy of the pamphlet provided by the FCF for reference and guidelines on how and what to comment on at:

http://www.felineconservation.org/uploads/6nqz_a_call_to_action_laid_out.pdf, and then go submit your comment at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!document-Detail;D=APHIS-2012-0107-0002>.



While the petition only seeks to impact the large feline species, we all know if it passes, the small cats like this bobcat are next.

Blast From the Past: A Tail of Two Bobcats

Volume 47, Issue 4 July/August 2003

By Krista Griffin

When people realize that you have bobcats in your home, you get a lot of responses, but mostly they ask, "Do they make good pets?" My response to that question now after raising two of them is, "The question is would you make a good keeper?" Note that I use the term "keeper" and not "owner;" bobcats believe they own you and not the other way around. Actually, I guess it must be a relationship of mutual respect. I am constantly learning something through our experiences together.

As of right now, our situation is this: Simon, the eldest, is quite contented with his companion Izabella. They are not a mating pair, as they came from the same gene pool on their father's side. Anyway, Simon was neutered long before a second bobcat was even considered. In hindsight, I wish I had not had him neutered; I believed at the time that Simon would be the only bobcat in our home and had hoped that it would possibly prevent the territorial spraying of our home as well. I was wrong on both accounts. At about the age of two years, Simon began to spray anyway and everywhere.

So began the construction of the outside confinement area. My husband began work on the largest, most elaborate cage he had ever built. When it was finally completed, ours was a bittersweet departure of Simon from the inside of our home to the outside cage. At first, I brought him back in the house practically every day and continued this practice for a while, but it soon became apparent that Simon was not too happy with the routine. He was content to be outside and bringing him inside only seemed to make

him grouchy. Since my husband and I work outside the home and are away for a large part of the day (five days a week), I felt that Simon needed a companion.

Enter Izabella - Here we go again with the round-the-clock bottle feedings and everything that goes with it (a tiresome job, but special bonding time between you and your baby). Izzy, as she is called most of the time, really became a momma's baby. Right away we could see the personality differences between her and Simon. It would seem that perhaps there were some nutritional differences as well. It was not that long ago that we were not sure that Izzy would even still be with us. I was going along trying to repeat the same steps and practices of raising Simon, when suddenly everything went wrong. I was unaware that Izabella was experiencing a calcium deficiency. It happened so fast. One night, we were playing with her and suddenly she was dragging her back legs behind her and defecating uncontrollably. She could not get up onto her back feet. She could not be handled and would not be comforted. We managed to get her to the pet taxi, and bright and early the next morning we made a mad dash to the veterinarian (which, by the way, is a two-hour drive).

We began treating Izzy for the calcium

deficiency and hoped that there had not been any major fractures to her spine, as there was a questionable area on her x-rays. Her calcium was increased, but at the time she had stopped eating. We began to give her B-12 injections to boost her appetite, while also injecting her with Calciferol (which has to be given carefully). It was a long haul, but finally she began to eat again. We increased her daily calcium with extra doses of calcium gluconate mixed with magnesium carbonate powder and crushed vitamin D tablets. She was also given more bone and cartilage with her meat.

Today, Izzy is not only up on her feet again, but is running, jumping, stalking, and doing all the normal bobcat things. I would not give up on her when she was down, but I have to say that the Lord answered my prayers for her. Yes, I prayed for a bobcat. After all, she is one of God's creatures.

After a slow introduction process, Izzy is now in the outdoor enclosure with Simon. They are very happy together. At the beginning of Izzy's introduction to Simon, he seemed more irritated with me than with Izzy. It was a very sad time for me, because he seemed to be rejecting me. It was as if he felt he had been betrayed. His mom had a new baby. After he got

used to having Izzy around and was quite contented with her, he acted as if he did not need my attention anymore. Sometimes, though, Simon and I have our moments of reconnection; then he goes back to Izabella, who still enjoys getting to come into the house on occasion to nap on mom's bed.

Both Simon and Izabella will always be my babies. Each of them in their own special way has made a lasting impression on this family and occupies a very special place in my heart.



Little Izabella walks right up to Simon, who is a year her senior.

News of Over 10 South China Tigers in Africa Under Rewilding Unknown

Reported by Nan Xianghong
Southern Metropolis Daily

Recently, the well-known “Tiger Woman,” Li Quan, who has been saving rare South China tigers, revealed to a Southern Metropolis journalist that she had not received any news about Laohu Valley Reserve in Africa for nearly a year. She did not know whether the tigers were healthy, safe, or if there are any newborn tiger cubs or not.

Li Quan said she found out from the official website of Save China's Tigers on September 29th, that the South China tiger “Princess” gave birth to a cub on September 16th. The next time she heard any news was when the tiger cub went missing several weeks after birth and the reason was unknown. Since then, there were no updates on the website of Save China's Tigers, which had been used for communicating with the public, and the weekly diaries and photos of the South China tigers in South Africa have also



Li Quan gets close to one of the tiger cubs born at Laohu Valley Reserve.



Huwaa, about six months old, playfully grabs the hindquarters of young adult King Henry. They are two of the many tigers born at the South African Laohu Valley Reserve.

been stopped.

The missing tiger cub was the first offspring of South China tigers born and raised in the natural environment in Africa, namely the third generation of tigers in Africa. The birth of the third generation was iconic in the history of wild animal rewilding.

“I wrote to Heinrich Funk, manager of Laohu Valley Reserve in Africa, and his answer was that he had been informed that he couldn't tell me anything about the Chinese tigers and Laohu Valley Reserve, or he would be fired by my husband's company, Conservation Finance International,” said Li Quan.

Marriage Hitting rocks and Quan Was Removed by “Save China's Tigers UK”

Save China's Tigers was registered by Li Quan in England, Hong Kong, Australia, and Mainland China, respectively in the years of 2000, 2003, and 2011. When the UK Foundation was registered, her husband Stuart Bray was made a member and chairman of the board of directors by her. The initial funding for the charity came from the couple and donations from friends.

Li Quan admitted that she and her husband Stuart Bray are in a divorce proceeding.

“On July 21st of last year, I found that he was closing down Save China's Tigers UK, and, together with my colleagues of SCT Australia, we questioned the actions. On August 8th, I received a legal letter saying that I had been removed by ‘board of directors’ of Save China's Tigers.”

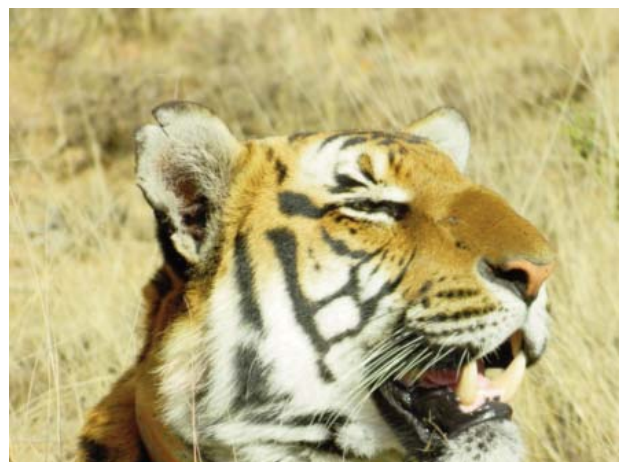
Chinese Tigers South African Trust and the UK charity signed South China tigers rewilding project with China's State Forestry Administration in the year of 2002. On August 18th, just three days after filing for divorce, she was ousted from this board of directors of the trust as well.

Li Quan said that her husband seized all her 13 years' worth of documents and materials after her divorce petition was filed, and he also closed all the channels that she could use to get information about tigers.

The Public Lost Connections with South China Tigers

The UK charity also stopped issuing news on the South China tigers in South Africa.

Steve Prassas, a lawyer who executed the will of his client, Ms. Jenifer Bone, to donate \$100,000 Australian dollars to big cat conservation in 2008, had visited Laohu Valley Reserve in South Africa, and named a newborn tiger JenB. He was so moved that he become a volunteer of



Head shot of Madonna, a proven breeder and successful mother who has raised litters inside her territory.



CoCo is an adult male tiger who has been successfully rewilded and lives with his brother JenB. The pair regularly hunts blesbok in their fenced-in territory.

saving the South China tigers. He and Li Quan registered Save China's Tigers Australia and became he chairman of the board of directors of the Australia charity.

Steve Prassas confirmed to this journalist that the Australian charity had kept contact with Li Quan and Laohu Valley Reserve since 2008, receiving weekly and monthly reports, but no news was forthcoming about this project since August of last year.

Another director of Save China's Tigers Australia, Chris Stomo, was also concerned about the Laohu Valley Reserve. In the email reply to the inquiry from this journalist, he said it is very difficult to get any news now. "Stuart mixes charity matters with his personal issues. In my opinion, he is hiding information on purpose." Chris Stomo thought that the tiger rewilding project is at a critical stage and this situation will adversely affect the effort that he and his colleagues have devoted for many years.

Email by this journalist to Heinrich Funk, who was in charge of the rewilding project in South Africa, inquiring on the health condition of tigers and operation of the project, received no reply. 15 South China Tiger Cubs Born and 11 Survived

The UK charity reached

an agreement with the Chinese State Forestry Administration on the rewilding of South China tigers in Africa for reintroduction in 2002. Li Quan's husband invested in 17 defunct farms, and the charity established facilities at Laohu Valley for the rewilding of South China tigers as well as a breeding center through deploying public donations.

Five South China tigers were sent to Laohu Valley in South Africa successively. They not only learned to hunt in the wild, but also successfully bred. Fifteen South China tigers were born in Africa, and 11 survived.

Lu Jun, Chinese representative of the South African rewilding project from the State Forestry Administration of China, had written to Stuart Bray, hoping that he could deal with the problem calmly and allow Li Quan to return to the UK charity, because "Li Quan had been the represen-



Henry and Huwaa watch some of Cathay's cubs living on the other side of their enclosure.

tative of Save China's Tigers UK and coordinator of the Chinese project."


The letter also pointed out that, as one of three parties to the agreement and owner of the Chinese tigers, the China party hoped that Stuart Bray provides accounts of the charity's donations and those raised in the name of the tiger project, as well as their usage.

Seven international wildlife biologists, including Dr. Peter Crawshaw, signed a joint letter to four government officials, including Director General Zhang Xiwu, in charge of Wildlife Protection and Nature Reserve Management Department of China's State Forestry Administration, to express their concerns: "It is important not to lose the achievements obtained in these ten years, especially for such an important subspecies as the South China tiger."

This reporter contacted relevant departments of the State Forestry Administration for information by telephone and message, but received no answer.

"The South China tigers are national treasures of China. They should not be used as a bargaining chip as Stuart Bray did in the divorce with Ms. Li Quan," Mark Szotek, who once worked for CFI, said to this reporter in an email.

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Finally Getting Into Cats!

By Courtney Frenchak

Hello, everyone. My name is Courtney Frenchak, and my husband, Michael, and I operate Frenchak Farms, a small exotic wildlife park in Madisonville, Texas, which we started over four years ago. We mostly exhibit to children from the local schools and scout groups. During exhibits, we try to incorporate a few hands-on shows where children are allowed to feel and pet a few of the animals, including the 16-week-old lynx, binturong, tortoises, and coatimundi. In addition, we are trying to give visitors a good look at how awesome exotic felines can be instead of the typical stereotype. To us, having guests see the real side of exotics is the most important part of the job we do.

We took the plunge into exotics with the purchase of a spotted hyena we named Giggles. We decided to look into becoming licensed as exhibitors. After researching and talking to fellow zoos and exhibitors in and out of state, we definitely had some thinking to do. Most had good things to say, but many had warnings and concerns for new people coming into the world of exhibiting exotics. We contacted the regional USDA office and spoke with someone about what needed to be done and what applications we need to fill out. We received our paperwork, filled it out, and sent it in. A few weeks went by before we were contacted by the inspector for our area. During the first inspection I was certainly nervous. When he arrived, he spoke with us about how difficult the permits were to obtain for any dangerous exotics. It was our understanding that they would not be just "handing out" this permit to anyone. Thankfully, our inspector was great and was able to point us in the right direction of what need to be done to get licensed. He explained that we would need to write up our experiences with dangerous exotics and what the diet would consist of and also what exactly we would be using our license for. After completing all the paperwork, we mailed it in and patiently waited for what they said could be up to nine months before we were approved or denied. Thankfully, we had passed our inspection and gained our approval and license in about a month. From there, we really



Three month old Siberian lynx cub was given the name Kitty Pat, after Courtney's daughter mispronounced kitty cat. As the saying goes, it wasn't long before one cat led to another.

tried to think of animals that were unique and would be the best for exhibits. We mostly stuck with smaller mammals, but as the years passed we wanted to expand to larger animals and felines were at the top of the list.

This past July, we finally decided to get our first exotic feline, a lynx. My husband Michael had been wanting to get a Eurasian lynx for a couple of years and fate stepped in when he was doing one of his late night searches of exotic animals and saw that one just happened to be available. He contacted Lynn Culver and, a few days later, we were on our way to pick up our new baby lynx. I was always a bit skeptical because of the stories the media publish about owners being attacked. We have had several different exotics over the years, including a spotted hyena, spider monkeys, and binturong, but this would be the first feline. Excited to get there after a seven hour drive from Texas, we were amazed to getting up close and personal with all the different species of felines at NOAH. We couldn't contain our excitement as we met our lynx for the first time. Walking around the facility, we learned how to properly care for and provide the best habitat for our nine week old lynx. We even got the opportunity to pet a few of the friendly cats as we went by. Seeing different species of lynx, servals,

Geoffroy's, caracals, and even a cougar, was more incredible than I can even explain. After visiting with Lynn and her husband Bart, we headed home with Kitty Pat, which was what we decided to name him after our daughter couldn't correctly say "kitty cat." The first few days were nerve wracking, with us wanting to make sure he was eating and drinking water on a regular basis. It seems like every time we get a new critter we go through this constant worry. After a week passed, everything settled down and we got into the swing of things. We wanted him to be as friendly as possible, so we would monitor him while playing with our 22-month-old daughter, who fell head over heels in love with him. He has quickly learned right from wrong and does awesome when we bring him around new people or take him to places for positive exotic feline awareness. He is happy and purrs as long as you are petting him. In our small town, he is quite the hit and he hasn't met anyone who didn't think he was absolutely amazing.

After having Kitty Pat for a few weeks, we started looking into getting other felines. We had an interest in Geoffroy's, servals, and maybe a caracal. So, one day browsing on Facebook, I came across a status Joe Schreibvogel had written about needing some help placing animals he had



Lincoln Canada lynx arrives at his new home at the Frenchak's Farm.

taken in from various locations. I messaged him and he explained that he had a few animals we were interested in, including a serval, Canada lynx, and two Asian leopard cats. Having done my research on servals and lynx already, I didn't know what to expect from the leopard cats. After talking to a few people, I got a good understanding of the personalities of this species of cat.

Michael drove out that night and arrived at the GW Zoo at 9:00am. After picking up the animals and getting brief background stories on them, he headed home. When he arrived home, I was nervous, but excited to see all the new critters. We unloaded all the animals and began to assess what needed to be done to make them happy here in their new home. First thing the next day, we took them to our vet to get a health check and all the necessary vaccinations. The lynx, we were told by Joe, had a weight issue, and when we got him sedated and out onto the table we could definitely see that. Lincoln, which is what we named him, came from an area where they had been doing a lot of "fracking," which is a process where wells are drilled deep into the ground and fluids are injected that cause the shale layer of rock in the earth to crack, releasing methane and natural gas. These gases can sometimes get into the water table and contaminate well water and have caused illness and even death to anything that comes into contact with them. The owner of these cats abandoned her home and gave away her animals in hopes of saving their lives, because the fracking operation had caused the death of some already. Lincoln, unfortunately, has issues from this. As the examination went on, we could tell his weight was going to

be the big issue, as he only weighed 23 pounds. He also seems to have difficulty focusing in on an object and his hearing doesn't seem to be normal either. We wanted to make sure he was getting the best nutrition possible, so we immediately started with chicken necks as the basis to his diet, and we give him fish, beef, and shrimp for the iron to address his anemia. After a few weeks of him being in his outdoor enclosure, we got to see his personality really come out. In designing his habitat,

we included three large trees, multi-leveled shelves, stumps, logs, and a claw scratching post for his enrichment. We are looking into expanding his enclosure and possibly adding a companion to ensure a happy, long life. Sometimes, I get lost in time scratching his ears and he seems to have an appreciation for us since coming here. He's a dream to have! I think he knows how much we have fallen in love with him already.

When we got the leopard cats sedated and out of the kennels, we looked them over to see what needed to be done with them. Joe had explained that they unfortunately came out of a garage in Houston, with several others. I was amazed at how beautiful their fur was. Dr. Sullivan, with the Madisonville Veterinarian Hospital, looked over the cats one at a time and both seemed to be in fairly good condition and weight was no issue for these little girls. Although, one of the girls, the vet discovered, had an ulcer on her eye that was going to need to be sutured for a few weeks to heal properly. She explained that there was a chance that if the eye wasn't sutured, she could lose it. Doing what was best for her, we went ahead and had it stitched up. About three weeks

went by before the stitches fell out. You could see the difference already and, as another week went by, it was almost normal. I began talking with Jane Baker on Facebook about them, as she seemed to be very knowledgeable about leopard cats. She educated me on how important chicken necks were for their diet and how certain types of wood could be toxic if ingested. I told her my plans for the enclosure and she guided me in the right direction on what was necessary for them to live a long, happy life. We constructed an enclosure for them that was 10x10x8. I added a tree in the center and crisscrossed branches in every direction. I also made them what I call a log cabin to hide and sleep in. I also built them a few shelves out of small logs cut in half. We moved them out into the new enclosure and expected them to start exploring right away. Well, that didn't happen; they hid for days. As time has passed, they have started to show a little interest in us and will come out and greet us instead of running to hide. I tried to hand feed them their first piece of chicken neck every day to help them get used to us. I felt this was a big step forward from how nervous and scared they were upon arriving. I believe they feel a sense of relief and happiness here with us.

The last was the serval, ohhhh, the serval; they have a lot of sass packed into that little body! The whole time we were at the vet, she just hissed and growled and



Lincoln got a complete physical examination by the veterinarian to assess his health issues and formulate a plan of action.

hissed some more. After getting her sedated, we were able to get a good look at her. She didn't have issues like the others, but needed a good flea treatment, worming, and a round of vaccinations. We found that she was declawed on all four feet. Her teeth were in good shape, so we guessed her to still be fairly young. After searching and asking around for ideas, we decided a 20x20 enclosure would be decent to start with for her. Dealing with the fact that she might have a little difficulty climbing, we wanted to make sure she could walk up logs and get to any ledges or tree limbs. After her aggressiveness still hadn't settled any, I was reassured by Lynn that it was normal. She explained that the servals she had taken in as adults were the same way. In time, I believe the best option for her would be to get another serval for companionship, since I fear she will never have an attachment to us like the felines have. Even with all her sass, she seems to be a favorite among the visitors and doesn't seem to show fear when being admired. Guest always seem to enjoy the fairy tale happy ending story from animals coming out of bad situations and going to live happy lives in stable environments.

Almost a month has passed since we took in the animals from GW and two



Hunter gives Kitty Pat a pat on the head. Kitty Pat is happy and purrs as long as you are petting him, but his watchful parents don't take any chances, and keep Kitty Pat leashed while they supervise the two kids.



Lincoln lynx appreciates some head scratches.

months since we got our first lynx from NOAH. We have learned a lot and continue to become more educated every day from others and our own experiences. We have definitely come to love felines and appreciate what they

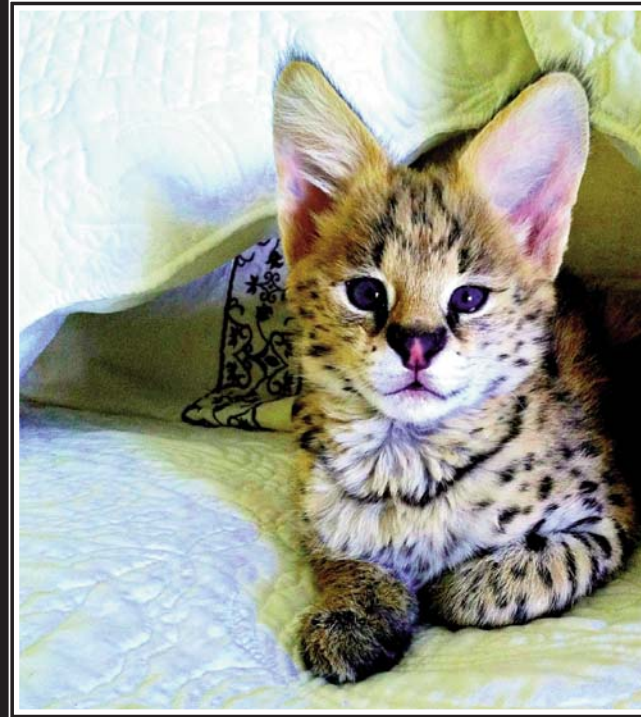
have to contribute, not only to our lives, but to others as well. I personally never would have guessed this group we have now could bring so much joy and happiness. Most people love to raise them from kittens, but I believe the ones you take in as adults can be the challenge with the greatest rewards.



One of two female Asian leopard cats lounges on the grass in her new enclosure.



Debi Willoughby captures her Geoffroy's cat, Spirit, in this stunning head shot.



Little Buddy the serval is the new light rapher Liz Hatton's life.

Your Best Shots



Tyler Thomas and his ocelot Magic share a moment together. Photo by Amylynn Moon-Sick. MoonSick Photography.



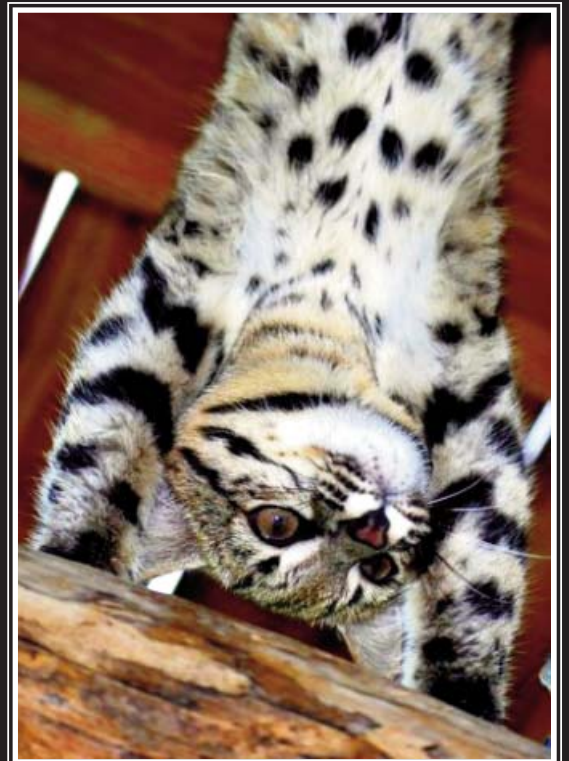
Steve and Donna Cochran's cougar Sadie is kicking afternoon nap. Photo shot by their granddaughter L



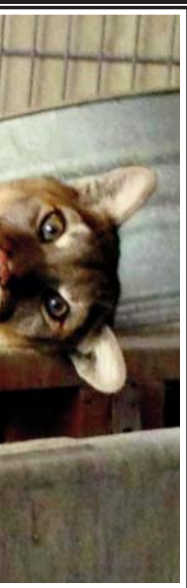
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IMOS bobcat enjoys a good brushing from his owner Doug Kildsig.



“Look at me, I can do a head stand,” says Kiwi Geoffroy’s cat. Photo by Jennifer Kasserman.



back for an
-lindy.



Indian the tiger is one of three cubs taken in by Tigers for Tomorrow from a failed zoo in Wisconsin. Photo by Susan Steffens.



Saint the cougar is full of energy at Bear Creek Feline Center. Photographer Paul Winterman freezes his graceful motion in this shot.

Help Wanted - More USDA Licensees Wanted

By Leah & Bobby Aufill

Job Description: Must own exotic animals with a desire to do public display or breeding.

Successful Candidates Must Have:

- The patience of Job.
- Good communication skills: verbal and written. Grant writing experience is helpful but not required.
- Willing to work hard, going above and beyond your pay grade. Successful candidate may not get reimbursed by Obama.
- Ability to network with others to build from their wisdom. Successful candidate will not get paid to recreate the wheel.

My husband Bobby owned exotic cats for 20 years in the 60s and 70s, before there were laws and vaccinations. After retiring, he wanted to give back to them, which started us on this journey. We have been FCF members since 2004, when we acquired a puma cub, and are avid fans of the FCF and Lynn Culver for all the help we have received as exotic cat owners. We believe the FCF is there to help people be successful owners of exotic cats – from pet owners to breeders to educators, etc. In addition, we like that the FCF supports research, propagation, and conservation of



Pumarama habitats are twenty feet tall and the height is accessed by cat-walks that connect platforms and hangouts for the resident pumas.

the wild populations. For success in the wild, we believe humans need to have a direct connection with the exotic cats; after all, most losses in the wild are due to

humans causing the cat's habitat loss. The FCF helped us move from pet owners to professional exotic owners out of necessity. We currently have two pumas and two lynxes, a bobcat, and a Canadian lynx.

Our state is in transition, being one of only a few not having laws for exotic cat ownership unless they are native to the state, i.e. puma and bobcat. In addition, we are experiencing an increase in the wild population of pumas and, since 2004, the officials have gone from denying they exist to saying maybe a few are in the panhandle, too. They are limited on what they can say or do; therefore, we believe it is necessary for someone to answer the questions and curiosity of the public. Our goal is to help people to understand the native population and their importance as a primary predator, instead of wanting to shoot them all out of fear. We have accomplished this as professional educators (no USDA license) by taking our talks to the classroom and feeding the curiosity of the children. We are not interested in taking kittens for touching, and they are eager to learn. We have successfully done this for years, using large photos, trivia questions, and sincere enthusiasm. Our audiences have included local Boy Scouts, 4-H, schools, etc.



Elvis is caught in midair jumping to one of the loafing platforms.



The front of the puma building with puma towers visible behind. The puma building has a walk-in cooler/freezer attached on the left. This is great space for storage and defrosting all meat.

We have opened our puma home to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife when they have confiscated ones who need a home for the rest of their lives. Others have come along or will come as the years tick by.

While all this can be done without a USDA license, we are ready to expand. To have visitors and collect donations/fees, we must have a license. Again, this is not for touching the pumas; it is for having ambassador cats to show their beauty and grace and impress on the

visitors the importance of all cats in the wild. This is our USDA story.

Our journey of acquiring a USDA license began with applying for FCF accreditation. While our FCF application got caught up in politics and still is awaiting approval, writing down details to answer questions for it was great preparation for the USDA license.

11 Oct 2012 – Sent application to USDA. They confirmed receipt of our application and a notice that Dr. Nancy Ellifrit would be calling us for a prelicense inspection. After not hearing from them for months, we called their office to find out she was retiring and maybe they could find someone else to do the inspection.

28 Jan 2013 – After weeks of writing, planning and scheduling this is the big day of inspection. We met with Dr. Michael Tygart. He was given a tour of the Puma Building and shown the Cat Book. Our Cat Book is divided according topic:

- Feline Resume –List of personal exotic cat experience including current licenses, organizations, cats owned, meetings/conferences attended, continuing education acquired, etc.

- Daily Care – Written so that a volunteer or emergency substitute caretaker could feed any of the ani-

mals.

- Contingency Plans – Divided in sections explaining procedures for: all natural disasters in Oklahoma, animal medical emergency, animal escape, owner sickness/death (long term or short term), etc.

- Acquisition – list of animal acquired, showing alive and deceased.

- PVC – form provided by USDA for vet to complete. Individual sections for each cat, showing care since acquisition. Includes: treatments, medications, diagnosis, etc.

- USDA – Copies of correspondence.

Lastly, Dr. Tygart was given a tour of the outdoor facilities, examining the perimeter fence and outside cat rooms. The outside puma rooms are 30x60x20 ft.



Bobby shows off the puma watering bowls inside their block building. The pumas drink from actual working porcelain toilets, which are easy to refresh with clean water just by pushing the lever.

tall and 40x50x20 ft. tall. The perimeter fence is five feet away from the enclosure walls. Our facility was designed to be a habitat for the pumas, not just a cage and is very impressive.

During his visit he pointed out two deficiencies, which were reasonable, and discussed that a second inspection needed to be scheduled after these deficiencies were corrected. He made it clear that it would be a completely new inspection.

Mid Feb 2013 – That was not the end of visit number one. After a few weeks, we received written communication asking for clarification on several points. His boss, Dr. Sabalas, had concerns that need-



A perimeter fence is five foot away and surrounds the entire Puma Outdoor area. This width is great for mowing and also serves as a dog run for additional security.



Thunder looks like he is laughing at the photographer. Wonder what the joke was...

ed to be addressed. Therefore, the official inspection date was moved from January 28 to February 14. In the meantime, we also corrected the two deficiencies found during the January inspection.

Early Mar 2013 – Dr. Sabalas was basically asking us to restate things already said verbally during our inspection or written in the Cat Book. We organized the response according to the sequence the



Trees inside the puma habitat provide plenty of shade and Elvis likes to climb them too.

questions were asked. This response and copies of requested materials from the Cat Book were sent to Dr. Tygart.

Mid May 2013 – This was not the end of visit number one. The 90 day limit was nearing and we had not heard from Dr. Tygart. We sent an email asking about our status. In return, he called us with more questions from Dr. Sabalas and asked for a veterinary signature on our diet plan. We asked our veterinarian to write a letter about our diet plan, giving her copies of our Daily Care from the Cat Book and the answers from the March 2013 questions. It took time to organize getting a letter from the veterinarian. It kept getting lost in cyberspace. Dr. Tygart called to check on our response. We finished organizing the response according to the sequence the questions were asked and sent these in with the veterinarian's letter.

Early Aug 2013 – Dr. Tygart called to schedule the second inspection. Our schedules do not match up quickly, so it was set for late August.

18 Aug 2013 – An article written about our sanctuary was published on front the page of the Sunday Oklahoman.

19 Aug 2013 – Dr. Tygart called



Two puma outdoor habitats are built around live trees which are trimmed annually during dormancy. Towers (with red roofs) have platforms every five feet, allowing the pumas easy access to the catwalk. The catwalk is built across the top of the cage and is 20 feet above ground for activity or napping areas.

with concerns he and Dr. Sabalas had about our facility in regard to the article and he now needed to add the house cats (Canadian lynx and bobcat) to the inspected area. He gave some helpful advice and referred us to the USDA blue book. We confirmed that we wanted to keep the scheduled appointment for the second inspection.

26 Aug 2013 – Day of second inspection. Since multiple concerns had been expressed by the USDA about our feeding plan, we scheduled to have our veterinarian there for the inspection. We had written down the inspection time for 10 am and Dr. Tygart had written down 11 am. After that little stressful moment passed, we moved on to other things.

We started again in the puma building, touring the walk-in cooler/freezer, looking at the Cat Book and taking some pictures. Dr. Tygart visited with our vet, Dr. Ketz from the Oklahoma State University Avian, Exotic, and Zoo Medicine Department and an AZA zoo inspector, asking her questions about our diet plan, care, and how comfortable she was with our system. He commented that our Cat Book had more documents than was asked for. We explained to him that writing the contingency plan had come in handy this year. We had three consecutive days of tornado warnings and writing the plan helped us implement it. While it was hard

work “herding cats,” it was good practice. He said most people give them a hard time for asking a facility to have a plan in writing.

Next we stepped outside to tour the outdoor facilities, looking at the perimeter fence and outdoor puma rooms. He took pictures and asked Dr. Ketz about the safety of having fencing with 4x4 openings for the cat cage. We had good discussions about safety of volunteers, visitors, and caregivers. Next he came inside our home to inspect the lynxes. He spent time reviewing his thoughts and notes with us. He said he would call us with a response later that day or the next morning.

27 Aug 2013 –He called to tell us that Dr. Sabalas was not happy with the safety of the puma’s in regard to their fence having 4x4 openings. Dr. Tygart discussed that we may need to add a layer over the existing panels as a way to prevent harm to the pumas when they reach thru their fence. In the meantime, he said Dr. Sabalas was going to meet with the USDA big cat expert Laurie Gauge and others and get back to Dr. Tygart. Dr. Tygart would then call us with the results. We called our veterinarian to update her on this news. Her response in regard to adding a layer of fencing was that the pumas could also hurt themselves on a second layer. It may add problems while preventing one. We are caught in the middle of these experts and expected this to take several more months to get figured out. However, to our surprise, Dr. Tygart called back the same day to tell us that we were approved for a USDA license with the request that we overlay the fence panels. I explained to him the OSU vet’s response. So he said we could leave it as is, but if we are inspected and a puma is hurt from reaching thru the fence, we



Work area includes a stainless steel table for easy sanitation before and after food preparation. Additional space on table is used for storage of emergency preparedness items (weather radio and lantern).

would be written up. I told him that I understood and thanked him sincerely for his hard work. In my view, he is caught between Dr. Sabalas, us, and the bureaucracy.

Our next step is to finish paperwork with the USDA office by paying the fee and getting our license in hand. Since we are financially limited, we will start with having visitors by appointment, using signage, brochures, and a personal guided tour. It is an interesting habitat and fellow FCF members and volunteers who have been here are completely amazed. We will continue to work with students from Oklahoma

State University, adopt recues as space becomes available, work on legislation in Oklahoma to protect private owners, their cats, and the public, and support the FCF as it strengthens and fills an important role for exotic cats. By breaking the mold, we believe we are filling the needs of the cats and our community. Saint Francis is the patron saint of animals and we honor him with our sanctuary, Pumarama San Francisco.



Bales of hay are used for enrichment. Pumas use them for rubbing their face on and sharpening their claws.

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Cougar Attacks: Encounters of the Worst Kind by Kathy Etling

Review by Kane Molavi

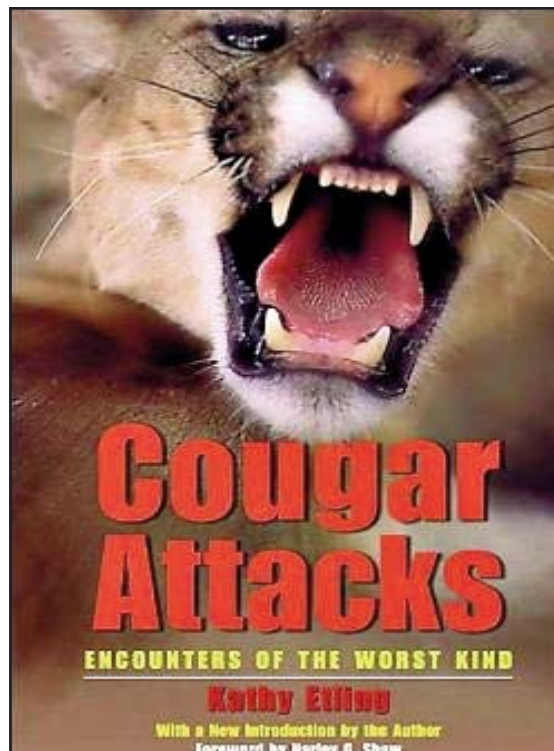
“Cougar Attacks: Encounters of the Worst Kind” written by Kathy Etling is mainly a collection of records of attacks documented by the game and wildlife agencies of various states and the Canadian province of British Columbia. The author has provided individual descriptions of each incident regarding unexpected/unintended confrontations made between wild cougars and visitors of the great outdoors. In reading this book, keep in mind cougar behaviors described were displayed specifically by cougars that were absolutely never raised with and socialized among human beings. This is precisely why the aggression of the cats should come as no surprise. The majority of attacks were committed against those invading the cougar’s territory, such as campers, hikers, and/or mountain bikers. Another important point as reported by wildlife officers and the author is that attacks were committed either by males defending their territories, mothers defending or intending to feed their kittens, or individual cougars who were starving, having been identified as such by exceptionally low body weights and malnourished/skinny appearances after they were hunted down and killed.

It is clear that wild cougars starve. They cannot just simply eat whenever they become hungry. They must search for food and, even if they find it, they must then kill it before they can eat. As many others who have written books about cougars, Etling also states that when cougars hunt, it will require as many as three attempts before they make a successful capture of prey. They will leap onto the back of their intended meal and administer the killing bite at the neck of a victim.

Cougars living independently in the wild are, of course, not socialized among human beings. And this becomes a problem when they run into hikers; they may or may not

experience fear. Although, according to the author, fear is not the only reason for attacks, as shown in the reports of cats completely unafraid, making no attempt to “sneak up” on a potential victim.

One thing quite a few of the attacks involved was completely uninformed individuals, who were absolutely not expecting any kind of a confrontation with a large predatory animal. Many of these people were small children, who had virtually no knowledge of how to react appropriately so it should not be surprising that their responses to the situation end up portraying them as prey. As explained in the book, people can and often do get seriously injured even if they are fortunate enough to survive, but regardless of whether a person survives an attack or not, the cougars are hunted down and killed, which is ultimately a defeat for both parties involved.



I believe that a cougar living under the care of human beings, either as pet or ambassador seems to have a much better life. One example of this is the fact that in captivity cougars never experience starvation and they have the opportunity to be acquainted with humans, a species that can entertain and stimulate the intellect of these great cats. As we all should know, this situation is normally beneficial for both the cats as well as for us.

While this book, in my opinion, is certainly not one that should be noted for any type of entertainment value, it did contain various bits of information that could contribute toward possibly debunking several types of claims that make cougars out to be nothing but vicious, evil killing machines. The author provides advice that can help people who live alongside or travel into the territory of this magnificent predator by reducing their risk of interaction.

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Mice



	Size	Less than 500	500	1000	3000	5000	10000+	Length(inches)	Weight(grams)	Count
X-Small Pinkies:		\$0.25	\$0.24	\$0.23	\$0.22	\$0.21	\$0.20	0.50 - 1.00	1.30 - 1.89	100
Small Pinkies:		\$0.25	\$0.24	\$0.23	\$0.22	\$0.21	\$0.20	0.50 - 1.00	1.90 - 2.49	100
Large Pinkies:		\$0.25	\$0.24	\$0.23	\$0.22	\$0.21	\$0.20	0.50 - 1.00	2.50 - 3.09	100
Peach Fuzzies:**		\$0.30	\$0.29	\$0.28	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.25	1.00 - 1.25	3.10 - 4.49	100
Fuzzies:***		\$0.30	\$0.29	\$0.28	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.25	1.25 - 1.50	4.50 - 6.99	100
Hoppers:***		\$0.45	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.37	\$0.35	1.50 - 2.00	7.00 - 12.99	100
Weanlings:***		\$0.55	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$0.47	\$0.45	2.00 - 2.50	13.00 - 17.99	50
Large Adults:***		\$0.65	\$0.63	\$0.61	\$0.59	\$0.57	\$0.55	2.50 - 3.00	18.00 - 25.99	50
X-Large Adults:***		\$0.95	\$0.93	\$0.91	\$0.89	\$0.87	\$0.85	3.00 - 3.75	26.00 - 45.00+	25

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

Rats



	Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Length (inches)	Weight (grams)	Count
Pinkies:		\$0.50	\$0.45	\$0.40	1.50 - 2.00	3.00 - 8.99	100
Fuzzies:		\$0.75	\$0.70	\$0.65	2.00 - 2.50	9.00 - 19.99	100
Pups:		\$1.00	\$0.95	\$0.90	2.50 - 3.50	20.00 - 29.99	25
Weaned:		\$1.25	\$1.20	\$1.15	3.50 - 4.50	30.00 - 44.99	25
Small:		\$1.50	\$1.45	\$1.40	4.50 - 6.00	45.00 - 84.99	20
Medium:		\$1.75	\$1.70	\$1.65	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.99	10
Large:		\$2.00	\$1.95	\$1.90	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.99	5
X-Large:		\$2.25	\$2.20	\$2.15	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.99	3
XX-Large:		\$2.50	\$2.45	\$2.40	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.99	2
XXX-Large:		\$2.75	\$2.70	\$2.65	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00+	2

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

Quail



	Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Grams	Oz.	Count
1 Day:		\$0.75	\$0.70	\$0.65	7.50 - 10.00	.25	100
1 Week:		\$1.00	\$0.95	\$0.90	30.00 - 49.99	1.0	25
2 Week:		\$1.25	\$1.20	\$1.15	50.00 - 75.00	2.5	10
3 Week:		\$1.50	\$1.45	\$1.40	100.00 - 129.99	4.0	10
6 Week:		\$2.00	\$1.95	\$1.90	130.00 - 154.99	5.0	5
8 Week:		\$2.50	\$2.45	\$2.40	155.00 - 189.99	6.5	5
10 Week:		\$3.00	\$2.95	\$2.90	190.00 - 229.99	8.0	5
Retired Breeder:		\$3.50	\$3.45	\$3.40	230.00 - 260.00+	9.0	5

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits

	Size	Less Than 100	100	250+	Weight (lbs.)	Count
X-Small:		\$5.00	\$4.75	\$4.50	0.50 - 0.99	1
Small:		\$6.00	\$5.75	\$5.50	1.00 - 1.99	1
Medium:		\$7.00	\$6.75	\$6.50	2.00 - 3.99	1
Large:		\$8.00	\$7.75	\$7.50	4.00 - 5.99	1
X-Large:		\$9.00	\$8.75	\$8.50	6.00 - 7.99	1
XX-Large:		\$10.00	\$9.75	\$9.50	8.00 - 9.99	1
XXX-Large:		\$11.00	\$10.75	\$10.50	10.00 - 12.00+	1

* We offer combined quantity discount rabbit pricing.

Chickens



	Less than	500	500	1000	3000	5000	10000+	Oz./Lbs.	Count
XSmall:		\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22	\$0.20	1.00-1.99 oz.	25
Small:		\$1.00	\$0.95	\$0.90	\$0.85	\$0.80	\$0.75	2.00-5.99 oz.	10
Medium:		\$1.50	\$1.45	\$1.40	\$1.35	\$1.30	\$1.25	6.00-9.99 oz.	5
Large:		\$2.00	\$1.95	\$1.90	\$1.85	\$1.80	\$1.75	10.00-13.99 oz.	4
XLarge:		\$2.50	\$2.45	\$2.40	\$2.35	\$2.30	\$2.25	14.00-17.99 oz.	3
XXLarge:		\$3.00	\$2.95	\$2.90	\$2.85	\$2.80	\$2.75	2.50-4.49 lbs.	1
XXXLarge:		\$3.50	\$3.45	\$3.40	\$3.35	\$3.30	\$3.25	4.50-6.50+ lbs.	1

* We offer combined quantity discount chicken pricing.

Guinea Pigs

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Small Cat Alliance Presentation

By Chris A. T. Tromborg, Ph.D.

On Saturday, August 17, 2013, in the small town of Monte Sereno, California (just south of the San Francisco Bay Area), The Wildlife Conservation Network sponsored a presentation by Dr. Jim Sanderson and The Wildcat Conservation and Education Fund to offer a presentation on the plights of free-living small wild cats and the probability of their future existence in captivity under current AZA-sanctioned management strategies. There was also a discussion of the vagaries of raising funds for small cat conservation in a universe strongly biased toward the conservation of large cats.

As many of you know, Jim Sanderson is a board member of the FCF and is our small cat specialist. A presentation of the Small Cat Alliance is held every year in the same location and provides me with the opportunity to compare notes with Jim on the previous year's conservation successes and failures.

The Wildlife Conservation Network has been around since 2002, providing direct funding to conservation-oriented scientists who focus on community-based approaches to wildlife preservation. WCN has some 14 primary projects, including the Nissai Lion Project, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and the Small Cat Alliance. WCN-

funded conservation research is being supported in over 30 countries around the world. As of 2013, over \$30,000,000 has been raised for community-based, scientifically-driven wildlife conservation. The WCN holds an annual event, the Wildlife Conservation Expo, at the University of California Mission Bay Center in San Francisco, where scores of wildlife conservation organizations converge to display their missions, communicate with like-minded conservationists, and to hear presentations from important scientists about their efforts in the field. The FCF has been present at the WCN Expo for many years. This year, on October 12, I will host the FCF table and another for the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Jim Sanderson founded the Small Cat Alliance in 2009, when he left a successful career at the Los Alamos National Laboratories as a gifted scientist working in the symbolic world of mathematics to concentrate on one working in the very real world of conservation. Ultimately, he would focus his attention on the Andean cat of South America. His interest would gradually expand to include the conservation of the over 20 species of small wild felids.

At this year's presentation, Jim concentrated his attention on the discrepancy between the funding of conservation efforts directed towards large cats versus those directed towards small cats. He

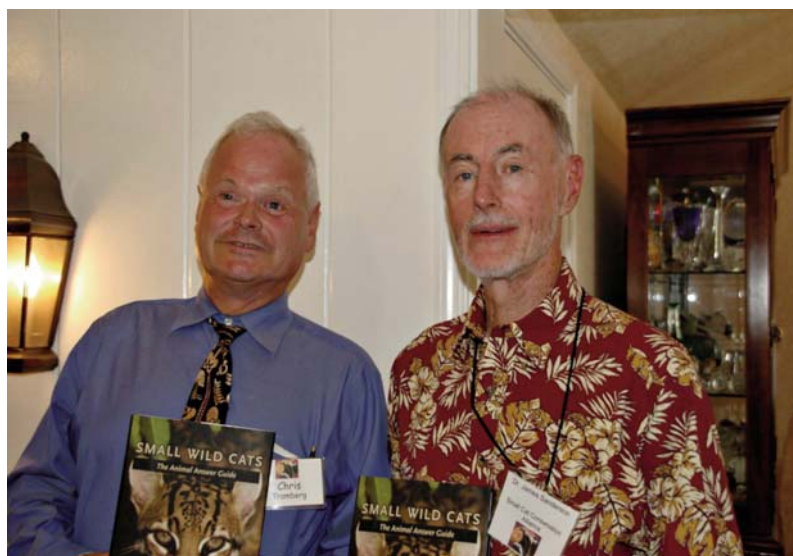
noted, for example, that Panthera, the feline conservation organization founded by jaguar conservationist Allen Rabinowitz, raised nearly \$700,000 in 2007 for conservation projects involving jaguars, cougars, leopards, snow leopard,

ards, and cheetahs. Within a few years, for the same species, the funding level had risen to over \$3,000,000. In 2009, the Species Conservation Fund was established with an endowment of over \$30,000,000 by the crown prince of Abu Dhabi. The first small cat conservation project that Jim requested funding for was supported at an initial level of \$20,000. As of this year, over 99.2% of all funding is directed toward research on the conservation of large and medium sized cats. Only 0.78% is dedicated to the conservation of small cats. This should interest everyone who remembers that FCF started out as an organization called the Long Island Ocelot Club.

Jim believes that conservation organizations should diversify their funding of conservation research projects to stimulate the initiation of new research projects involving under-represented species, such as small cats. He maintains that if individuals are dissatisfied with this current state of affairs, they should inaugurate their own research and then should seek funding to support it.

Among the many problems with establishing and maintaining small cat research and conservation programs is that there is simply very little history to guide the development of these efforts. Everyone is familiar with Project Tiger and similar projects focusing on lions and cougars, but few are aware of research on the flat-headed cat or the Andean cat. Once research is begun, the research entity must demonstrate reliability (staying power) to continue to receive support. Jim's projects have demonstrated their durability and importance, and he is slowly winning over the support of some funding agencies.

In captivity, the problems confronting small cats are equally daunting. The small cats are obviously less charismatic than the large cats. Small cats, because of their size, are typically more reclusive than larger cats. They are not considered desirable species to maintain on display by AZA facilities. Consequently, the AZA is quietly "managing the captive populations of small cats into extinction." The AZA will vociferously argue against the buying or selling of these species by any but AZA-accredited institutions, while doing nothing to enhance the likelihood of their continued survival in either zoos or in nature. For all of his good



Chris Tromborg drove up to Monte Sereno, California, to listen to Jim Sanderson's presentation and visit with him afterwards.

efforts, Jim was soundly upstaged by what followed his presentation.

Rob and Barbara Dicely, of the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, followed Jim with the presentation of three living wild cats. As with some FCF facilities, Wildcat Education and Conservation is nominally licensed as an educational outreach organization. When their cats are brought to school assemblies, students are surprised to discover that there are cats other than lions, tigers, and leopards. The effectiveness of presenting live animals to students, future voters who will soon be responsible for making decisions that will influence the future survival of many cats, is remarkable.

They first introduced Dakota, a two year old bobcat. Bobcats are the most widely distributed species of lynx in the world. From an evolutionary perspective, it is the most ancient, being phylogenetically and morphologically closest to the common ancestor of the Canadian lynx, the European lynx, and the Scottish wildcat. Although not immediately in danger of extinction, the bobcat is under heavy hunting pressure from those wishing to supply the fashion industry with fur. The largest



The Dicely's ocelot Chochi was one of the outreach felines shown to the audience during the afternoon presentation.

remaining population of bobcats in the world is in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, where bobcats and their larger cousins, mountain lions, are fully protected.

The second cat that was introduced was Chochi, an ocelot. Ocelots are the most heavily hunted and trapped of all of the cats, again for their fur. Whitney Houston possessed a custom designed bedspread that probably required the skins of nearly one hundred ocelots. I suspect that a single living ocelot is a better comforter.

The third cat brought out to the audience was the very diminutive Geoffroy's cat. These cats are difficult to use as educational ambassadors because of their shyness. As mentioned previously, it is this characteristic shyness of small cats that has led to their being virtually eliminated as display animals in AZA-accredited institutions. These small, spotted cats are also exploited for their fur. It takes over 30 cats to make a small fur coat. It is a good thing that Whitney Houston did not know about these cats, since there is no telling how many of them must be killed to make a custom bedspread.



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The ocelot and the Geoffroy's cat are nominally protected under the CITES convention. This does not prevent their furs from showing up in the show rooms of some very well-known furriers. The more numerous bobcat is not protected over most of its range, and there are even bounties on them in parts of the United States. It seems that in areas where these species are less understood, they are either more heavily exploited or even feared by humans.

In South America, small spotted cats are believed to embody evil spirits. When they are spotted by the members of many indigenous tribes, they are stoned to death. Rob and Barbara, along with others, have taken it upon themselves to introduce these small cats to representatives of indigenous tribes so that their members can develop an appreciation for living small, spotted cats.

As those of you who live with cats know, large or small, wild or domestic, being with cats is a real challenge, but also very rewarding. It must be; in a few short conversations with Jim and Rob, it became clear that no one is getting



Guarani, a spotted South American Geoffroy's cat, is the smallest feline species doing outreach. The audience was amazed to see a wild feline that is smaller than a domestic cat.




wealthy working for and with living wild cats. Unfortunately, it appears that there

is still more money to be made in ending their lives than in preserving them.



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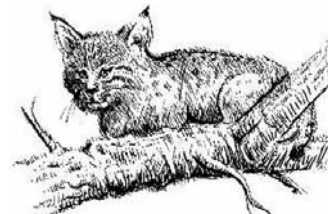
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A Brief, Incomplete Review of Wild Cat Conservation Funding, or is the Leopard a Small Cat?

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Since receiving a grant of \$15,000 at the annual meeting in June, I have struggled with trying to explain how important this contribution is to small wild cat conservation. To say the grant is very important is to sell it far short of reality. So how important is it?

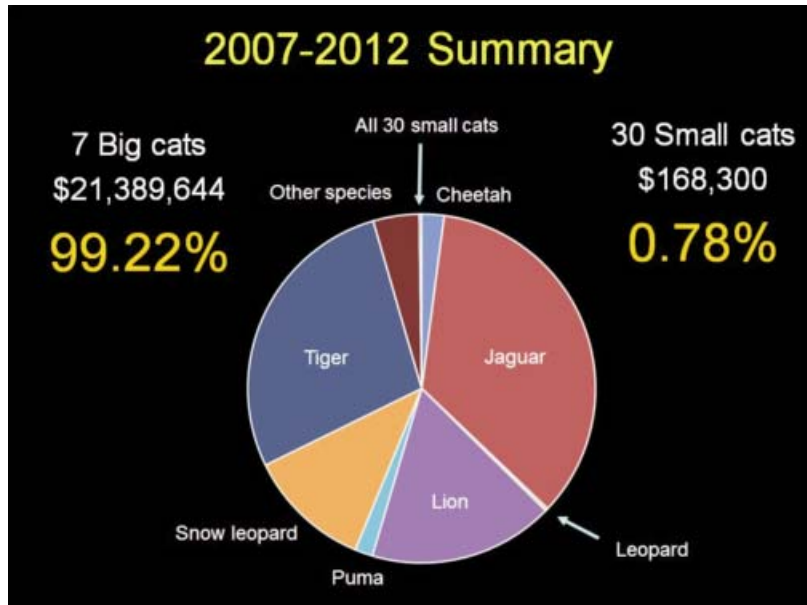
In October 2012, Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) sent out an appeal to raise \$400,000 by the end of 2012. Today, 29 August 2013, I received an appeal from CCF requesting \$176,000 by the end of August, just 2 days away! I stand in absolute awe and envy of these numbers. Since 2008, Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation (SWCCF) has raised, one way or another, \$481,000 in total, a measurable amount coming from the membership of Feline Conservation Federation. June's \$15,000 donation will likely be 20% of the 2013 budget, if we have a bit of good fortune between now and the end of the year. This donation is the proverbial big fish in a small pond, not the daily budget of larger organizations. This fact sends us back to 2007 where our story begins.

In 2007, Panthera set its huge paw print in wild cat conservation. Since Panthera is a registered 501(c)3 charity (just as SWCCF is), I went to Panthera's website and looked at the raw tax returns. In 2007, Panthera, captained by Alan Rabinowitz, contributed \$660,519 to four big cat projects.

Jaguar	\$ 44,870
Lion	\$ 83,898
Snow Leopard	\$ 12,500
Tiger	\$519,251
Total	\$660,519

This is very impressive funding, but the flood gate had been barely cracked open. In 2008, Panthera ramped up to speed, quickly funding \$3,029,113 in support of six big cat species.

Cheetah	\$ 3,396
Jaguar	\$ 893,037
Lion	\$ 654,679
Puma	\$ 50,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 240,610
Tiger	\$1,187,391
Total	\$3,029,113



In 2009, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund was born with a \$30,000,000 endowment fund by His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The fund supports the conservation of all living things, from the smallest fungi to blue whales. In 2009, wild cat conservation funding totaled \$163,772. My proposal for the Andean cat received what has turned out to be the largest grant SWCCF has ever received. The following projects received funding:

Andean cat	\$ 22,000
Asiatic Golden Cat	\$ 10,000
Cheetah	\$ 24,991
Jaguar	\$ 41,781
Lion	\$ 15,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 25,000
Tiger	\$ 25,000
Total	\$163,772

It was not only Panthera's creation of the Small Cat Action Fund that provided a vehicle for funding small cat projects. Panthera, Summerlee Foundation (Scottish wild cat and puma), and MbZSCF provided the following for wild cat conservation:

Andean Cat	\$ 22,000
Asiatic Golden Cat	\$ 10,000
Cheetah	\$ 6,443
Jaguar	\$1,296,034

Lion	\$ 718,572
Puma	\$ 140,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 425,914
Tiger	\$ 712,514
Wildcat	\$ 10,000
Other Species (Panthera)	\$ 205,406
Total	\$3,571,874

Small cat funding from Panthera is included with a leopard project in the "Other" species category. Higher resolution is not possible. Let us assume small cats received half of the funding in "Other" species.

In 2010, National Geographic created the Big Cat Fund and awarded \$200,000 to various lion conservation projects. MbZSCF awarded the following:

MbZSCF awards:	
Andean cat	\$ 4,375
Cheetah	\$ 30,000
Jaguar	\$ 5,000
Leopard	\$ 25,000
Lion	\$ 20,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 4,594
Sunda Clouded Leopard	\$ 21,678
Tiger	\$ 10,000
Total	\$140,647

But it was Panthera that again led the conservation initiative. In 2010, fully \$4,841,843 was invested in wild cat conservation, shares invested in jaguar, tiger, lion, and cheetah conservation, followed by snow leopard and puma.

Andean cat	\$ 4,375
Cheetah	\$ 30,000
Jaguar	\$1,699,936
Leopard	\$ 25,000
Lion	\$1,049,451
Puma	\$ 45,000
Snow leopard	\$ 591,111
Sunda Clouded Leopard	\$ 21,678
Tiger	\$1,127,558
Other Species (Panthera)	\$ 246,734
Total	\$4,841,843

The leopard seems to be the odd big-cat-out and received a good portion of MbZSCF wild cat funding.

In 2011, things changed for small cats. National geographic bumped their funding to \$325,150 for big cats. MbZSCF also supported big cats.

MbZSCF awards:

Cheetah	\$20,000
Leopard	\$20,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 11,000
Tiger	\$ 46,000
Total	\$ 97,000

Panthera did the heavy lifting. For all of 2011, we saw more than \$5,000,000 go into wild cat conservation projects, mostly for big cats. Small cats and Panthera's ongoing leopard project in South Africa are lumped together, preventing higher resolution. Panthera, however, likely provided more funding for small cats than small cats have ever received in the past.

Cheetah	\$ 257,380
Jaguar	\$1,875,551
Leopard	\$ 20,000
Lion	\$1,083,230
Puma	\$ 100,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 586,643
Tiger	\$ 940,823
Other species (Panthera)	\$ 277,838
Total	\$5,141,465

In 2012, the last year for which we have data, the summary was as follows:

Andean Cat	\$ 4,000
Cheetah	\$ 123,659
Jaguar	\$1,731,674
Leopard	\$ 10,000
Lion	\$ 117,811
Puma	\$ 20,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 24,526
Tiger	\$1,484,968
Other Species (Panthera)	\$ 192,492
Total	\$4,313,130

From 2009-2012, \$21,557,944 has been invested in wild cat conservation from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, National Geographic, Panthera, and the Summerlee Foundation.

The Big Cats:

Cheetah	\$ 445,869
Jaguar	\$ 7,541,102
Leopard	\$ 55,000
Lion	\$ 3,707,641
Puma	\$ 355,000
Snow Leopard	\$ 2,482,304
Tiger	\$ 9,972,505
Other Species (Panthera)	\$ 830,223
Total	\$21,389,644

Small Cats:

Andean cat	\$ 30,375
Asiatic golden cat	\$ 10,000
Sunda Clouded Leopard	\$ 21,678
Wildcat	\$ 14,000
Other Species (half-Panthera)	\$ 96,246
Total	\$168,300

A single pie chart summarizes this information:

Seven species of big cats received 99.22% or more than \$21,000,000. Thirty (30) species of small cats received

\$168,300 or less than 1% (actually 0.78%) of the funding.

Note that SWCCF invested more than this in small wild cat conservation projects. Many other foundations also contributed to both big and small wild cat conservation projects. We should, however, assume the big cats received \$99 for every \$100 invested in wild cat conservation.

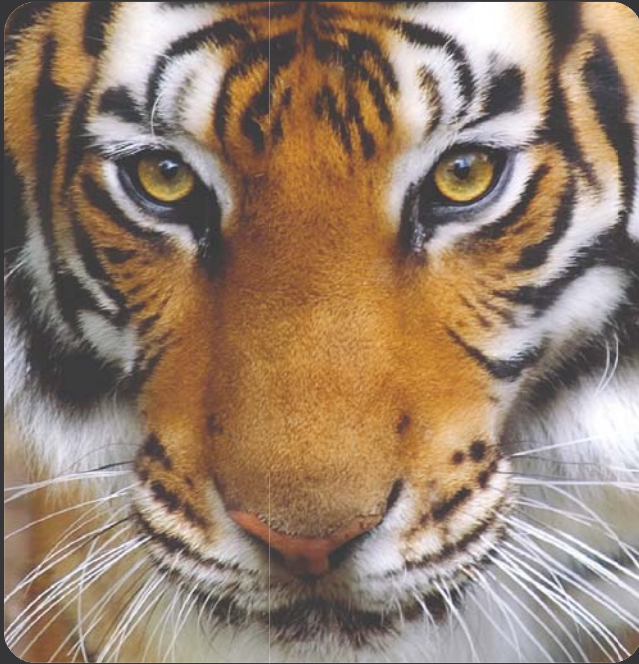
Returning to the original question: How important is the \$15,000 donation from FCF? It is measurably important in global terms. This donation ranks in SWCCF's Top 10 and would be close to 9% in the above figures.

But let me end with a plug for leopards. All FCF members know how intelligent leopards are (in contrast to some of the big cats getting all the funding). By going through this exercise, I have gained a deep empathy for leopards, who seem to have no champion. Is there a Leopard Conservation Fund? One would think with so many leopard subspecies being IUCN Red List endangered that there would be. Certainly there is a need for an umbrella fund with subspecies funds. Count me interested.

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FCF Marketing Committee Invites You to Join the Effort to Increase FCF Awareness

By Lauren Bean

Hello to all! I am writing to update everyone on our education committee, specifically our Marketing department. The four of us just recently had a conference call that turned out to be very productive and was definitely a positive communication tool that we will be using in the future from now on. It provided a great way for us all to brainstorm and get on the same page with the many directions we want to go with our committee. As a result, these next few newsletters will have updates from each of our departments within the committee explaining our goals, current projects, and what we need help with etc. We would really appreciate the memberships' participation in our efforts! There are many ways you can be involved in helping us and a good number of opportunities take hardly any of your time or much effort.

Marketing Goals:

Help our membership become aware of our goals and what we are trying to accomplish, so that way members can have a more active role in our committee and the many directions it takes.

There are a few forms of communication that we will be using to reach everyone and I ask that you please read our newsletter articles, e-mails etc and stay up to date with our progress. We want your ideas and opinions! Even if you don't have the time to directly help us with the projects and meeting goals, we still believe our members' opinions and ideas are important! We need your input, feedback and participation!

Some of the ways we will be promoting our ideas and projects are through e-mails to the general membership, please read and whenever necessary respond to those! Other forms of communication will be FCF's Facebook page, our bimonthly newsletter (hardcopy), the youth newsletter (e-mailed) as well as our adult newsletter (e-mailed). If you were not aware of the e-mailed newsletter's, are not on

the e-mail list etc, please contact me at laumbean@ut.utm.edu.

I will be making an effort to contact school teachers (specifically those involved in the sciences and agriculture departments) and other youth related organizations in an effort to get more kids receiving our youth newsletter.

Some of my other goals include providing our website with files of materials for members to use for advertising at their facilities (especially those open to the public) but also at other venues such as vet offices, schools, libraries, and any other places you might think of.

We want to get more FCF members and spread the word of what all we are about. We will be posting on our Facebook page and providing incentives for people to "like" our page and become involved with FCF. (So if you have a Facebook and have not "liked" the 'Feline Conservation Federation' page PLEASE DO SO.)

We will also be more heavily advertising our FCF products that are for sale on our website and can be purchased directly through FCF. Not only do these items



make great Christmas gifts, Birthday gifts etc. but those purchases raise money for FCF so that we can continue with our mission. So you know that your money goes towards a good cause.

Soon I will be sending out an e-mail for people to start sending in photos so that I can create a 2015 calendar of exotic cats, photographed by FCF members.

To reiterate my main points throughout this article:

Please keep your eyes and ears open for Education Committee updates!

Send us your opinions and ideas!

"Like" FCF's Facebook page, if you haven't already!

If you (or your kids) are not receiving the online newsletters via e-mail, please contact me at laumbean@ut.utm.edu so we can change that!

As we begin advertising more heavily, please help us spread the word and bring in more members!

If you, or anybody you know, is able to directly help out by becoming a member of the Education committee and helping us accomplish our goals, contact me at laumbean@ut.utm.edu.

Thank you and I wish everyone a great fall season!

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.

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The FCF appreciates your generosity & continued support.

Why is Palm Oil so Bad?

By Tina Bayer

Palm oil is a type of vegetable oil derived from the palm fruit grown on the African oil palm tree. These trees easily flourish wherever heat and rainfall are abundant. According to Treehugger.com, "88% of the world's palm oil is produced in Indonesia and Malaysia." Pulling out my world atlas this encompasses not only Malaysia, but Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali, and other Greater Sunda Islands not really known.

Palm oil is an extremely popular vegetable oil loved by manufacturers because the cheap and easy production can increase the companies' profits quicker and larger than other oils. This is achieved at the expense of the plant and animal world. Palm oil is disguised by many names and used in everyday products like baked goods, confections, cosmetics, body products, and cleaning agents. It is surprising when it is discovered how many products used in our homes contain this tainted product.



The orangutan is the most publicized species being decimated by the palm oil industry. The slash and burn deforestation method outright kills animals too numer-

ous to count. The outright killing isn't the only torture method; the roads constructed for plantation workers also provide easy exposure to wildlife and facilitates access

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by poachers and animal smugglers.

The cat species affected by the palm oil industry are: the tiger, clouded leopard, fishing cat, flat-headed cat, bay cat, marbled cat, and leopard cat. Starting with the tiger, certain subspecies are or have been affected by the palm oil plantations, including the Sumatran, Malayan, and Indo-Chinese species.

The clouded leopard and newly discovered Sunda clouded leopard, of Borneo and Sumatra, are the next largest cats facing the threat of decimation. The clouded leopard has a wider distribution than some other cats listed, but is still facing the same decline, especially residents of Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo. In Sumatra, estimates vary, but some experts estimate 65-80% of lowland forest is gone and maybe 15% of mountain forest is gone. The clouded leopards still occur, but only in a few discontinuous areas.

The fishing cat faces habitat loss in some areas due to palm oil. The danger to fishing cats is that this species does not adapt well to cultivated habitats.

The marbled cat has a wider distribution over Asia, but also includes peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo, the most negatively affected areas. Because of human disturbance and habitat destruction, the marbled cat has declined and become very rare in much of its range. This reclusive forest dweller is believed by scientists to be intolerant of human disturbance, abandoning a forest that is even only moderately disturbed.

The bay cat is the least known felid species and, with it only inhabiting Borneo, faces serious jeopardy. The first live bay cat only surfaced in 1992, emaciated

and at the point of death. The first pictures weren't obtained until a trapped cat in 1998 provided the first live photographs. Twenty years of world recognition is not a suitable time frame for the world to get to know this rare cat, and having it decimated before it is even fully known and understood is a true biological crime.

The next cat, which Jim Sanderson describes as "in the most trouble," is the flat-headed cat. This small cat shares water habitats and hunting behavior with the fishing cat.

The last cat affected is the leopard cat. The leopard cat has a much larger distribution than all the other cat species, but, in a strange way, research shows it seems to benefit from the palm oil plantations. Only the leopard cat was found to inhabit palm oil plantations, easily being observed hunting rodents at night. The other cat species that shun the plantations were found to avoid even migrating through them. Maybe the other species' disappearance is allowing the leopard cat to benefit?

Oil palm plantations, along with logging, fires, and other factors, destroy rainforest habitat, hinder migration patterns, and block travel corridors. Roads and plantations fragment the rainforest, facilitate encroaching settlements, and make animals accessible to illegal hunting and poaching. If they enter plantations while searching for food outside the rainforest, animals may be killed by workers. They are also at risk when plantation companies set forest fires to clear land for oil palm; some fires burn out of control, demolishing much larger areas than anticipated.

Plantations also pollute the soil and water with pesticides and untreated palm oil mill effluent, cause soil erosion and increased sedimentation in rivers, and cause air pollution due to forest fires.

The demand for palm oil is forecast to double by 2020. To achieve that production increase, 1,160 new square miles will have to be planted every year for 20 years. Indonesia has 26,300 square miles more forest land officially allocated for new oil palm plantations; Malaysia has almost 3,000 square miles more. The expected thousands of square miles of new plantings on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo could kill off the remaining orangutans, rhinos, and tigers.

All plant and animal species are important to an ecosystem. The removal of even one species causes a chain reaction of checked and unchecked predator and prey relations. Cats being predators keep the herbivores and rodent vermin populations in check. With rodents being a disease incubator, cats are doing us a favor in the form of pest control. The removal of predators also causes/forces other species to live at higher population densities than optimal; this changes social structure, behavior, health, and disease. Those herbivores and scavengers run rampant, causing more biological decimation. Cats help maintain biodiversity and ecological balance. Awareness of the palm oil industry and its decimating effect on biodiversity is a step in halting what is now referred to as the Sixth Mass Extinction, the greatest loss of biodiversity the world has experienced in the last 65 million years. Say NO to palm oil!

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 Calcium oleyl lactylate

Calcium stearate
 Calcium stearoyl lactylate (482/E482)
 Capric triglyceride
 Caprylic acid
 Caprylic triglyceride
 Caprylic/capric triglyceride
 Caprylic/capric/stearic triglyceride
 Capryloyl glycine
 Caprylyl glycol
 Cetareth (2-100)
 Cetearyl alcohol
 Cetearyl ethylhexanoate
 Cetearyl glucoside
 Cetearyl isononanoate
 Ceteth-20
 Ceteth-24
 Cetyl acetate

Cetyl alcohol
 Cetyl ethylhexanoate
 Cetyl hydroxyethylcellulose
 Cetyl lactate
 Cetyl octanoate
 Cetyl palmitate
 Cetyl ricinoleate
 Citric and fatty acid esters of glycerol (472c/E472c)
 Cocoa butter equivalent (CBE)
 Cocoa butter substitute (CBS)
 Decyl oleate
 Diacetyltartaric and fatty acid esters of glycerol (472e/E472e)
 Dilinoleic acid
 Disodium laureth sulfosuccinate
 (continued on next page...)

Disodium lauryl sulfosuccinate		SLS
Elaeis guineensis oil	Octyl palmitate	Sodium cetearyl sulphate
Emulsifier 422, 430-36, 470-8, 481-483, 493-5	Octyl stearate	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate (SDS or NaDS)
Epoxidized palm oil (uv cured coatings)	Octyldodecyl myristate	Sodium Isostearoyl Lactylate
Ethyl lauroyl arginate (243)	Octyldodecyl stearoyl stearate	Sodium lactylate; sodium oleyl lactylate; sodium stearoyl lactylate (481/E481)
Ethylene glycol monostearate	Oleamide MIPA	Sodium laurate
Ethylhexyl hydroxystearate	Oleic acid	Sodium laurel
Ethylhexyl palmitate	Oleyl betaine	Sodium laureth sulfate
Ethylhexyl stearate	Palm fruit oil	Sodium laureth sulphate
Ethylhexylglycerin	Palm kernel oil	Sodium laureth-13 carboxylate
Fatty alcohol sulphates	Palm oil	Sodium lauroyl lactylate
Glycerin	Palm olein	Sodium lauryl
Glycerin or glycerol (442)	Palm stearine	Sodium lauryl ether sulphate
Glyceryl distearate	Palmitate	Sodium lauryl sulfate
Glyceryl laurate	Palmitic acid	Sodium lauryl sulfoacetate
Glyceryl monostearate	Palmitoyl oxostearamide	Sodium lauryl sulphate
Glyceryl myristate	Palmitoyl tetrapeptide-3	Sodium palm kernelate
Glyceryl oleate	PEG-100 stearate	Sodium palmitate
Glyceryl polymethacrylate	PEG-15 stearyl ether	Sodium palmitate
Glyceryl stearate	PEG-150 distearate	Sodium stearate
Glyceryl stearate SE	PEG-2 oleamine	Sodium stearoyl lactylate
Glycol distearate	PEG-20 stearate	Sorbitan isotearate
Glycol stearate	PEG-4 laurate	Sorbitan laurate
Hexadecylic	PEG-40 stearate	Sorbitan monostearate (491)
Hexyl laurate	PEG-8 distearate	Sorbitan oleate
Hexyldecanol	PEG-8 stearate	Sorbitan palmitate
Hydrogenated palm glycerides	PEG-80 sorbitan laurate	Sorbitan sesquioleate
Isopropyl isostearate	Pentaerythrityl tetraisostearate	Sorbitan trioleate
Isopropyl palmitate	Peptide complex	Sorbitan tristearate
Isopropyl titanium triisostearate	Polyethylene (40) stearate (431)	Sorbitan tristearate (492)
Isostearamide DEA	Polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (475/E475)	Stearalkonium chloride
Isostearate DEA	Polyglycerol esters of interesterified ricinoleic acid (476/E476)	Stearalkonium hectorite
Isostearic acid	Polyglycerol-2 oleyl ether	Stearamide MEA
Isostearyl alcohol	Polyglyceryl-3 diisostearate	Stearamidopropyl dimethylamine
Lactic and fatty acid esters of glycerol (472b/E472b)	Polyglyceryl-4 isostearate	Steareth-10
Lauramide DEA	Polyglyceryl-4 oleyl ether	Steareth-2
Lauramide MEA	Polysorbate 60 or polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monostearate (435/E435)	Steareth-20
Lauramine oxide	Polysorbate 65 or polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan tristearate (436/E436)	Steareth-21
Laureth	Polysorbate 80 or polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate (433/E433)	Stearic acid (vegetable oil)
Lauric acid	Polysorbate-20	Stearic acid or fatty acid (570)
Lauroyl sarcosine	Polysorbate-40	Stearyl sarcosine
Lauryl betaine	Polysorbate-80	Stearyl alcohol
Lauryl lactate	Polysorbate-85	Stearyl dimethicone
Lauryl pyrrolidone	Potassium stearate	Stearyl heptanoate
Linoleic acid	PPG-15 stearate ether	Sucrose stearate
Magnesium myristate	Propylene glycol esters of fatty acids (477/E477)	Sucroseesters of fatty acids (473/E473)
Magnesium stearate	Propylene glycol laurate	Taxanomic
Mixed tartaric, acetic and fatty acid esters of glycerol (472f/E472f)	Propylene glycol stearate	TEA-lauryl sulphate
Mono-and- di-glycerides of fatty acids (471/E471)	Retinyl palmitate	TEA-stearate
Myristate	Saponified elaeis guineensis	Tocopheryl linoleate
Myristic acid	Sleareth	Triacetin
Myristic Cetrimonium Chloride Acid	SLES	Triacetin (1518)
Myristoyl		Tribehenin
Myristyl alcohol		Tricaprylin
Myristyl myristate		Tristearin
		Vegetable glycerin
		Vegetable Oil
		Zinc stearate

Cleaning Palm Oil Out of Our Lives

By Liz Hatton

I stumbled upon the “poo free movement” by accident. I had thought for some time I was doing a great job keeping my home palm oil free simply by not purchasing anything with the words “palm oil” in the label. Then I found “the list.” Approximately a hundred names of substances derived from palm oil. One of which, sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) seems to be in just about every commercial shampoo, soap, lotion and cleaning product on the market. I figured there must be someone out there making palm oil free products and while I was able to find a few I found something I liked far better. Not using shampoo at all.

Advocates of the poo free movement will tell you it is unnatural to shampoo your hair. That’s not to say you shouldn’t clean your hair but we seem to be caught in a perpetual trap that is neither good for our hair nor the environment. The scalp secretes an oil called sebum, which protects the scalp and naturally conditions hair. It also helps deflect dirt. Chemical shampoos strip the hair and scalp of this natural oil, leaving most with a need for conditioner, which attracts dirt and causes the need for more frequent washing. It’s a marketer’s dream, products that cause a need for more products. Unfortunately you are not only stripping your hair, you are letting the chemicals into your body through your scalp.

There are many ways to be “poo free.” Once you deprogram what has been forced to you as “normal” by commercials and do a little critical thinking, you’re in a position to find the one that is best for you. Some people have it down to simply using water. If you still need to use “something,” apple cider vinegar is very low cost and effective. One capful of ACV per cup of water is recommended. It will clean the scalp and leave the hair with a nice shine. If the hair is still a little rough either honey or a little (VERY LITTLE) coconut oil make a great natural conditioner. There may be a transition period where hair seems oily. This is only because your scalp is accustomed to over-producing sebum to make up for what you strip away. It can resolve right away but usually takes no more than 30 days. I had

decided to give “poo free” a 30 day trial and figured I could always search for products without palm oil if it didn’t work. It has been about a year and I can honestly say I feel no reason to. No one knows I don’t shampoo unless I tell them. In fact I believe my hair is in better condition than it has ever been. In addition to avoiding palm oil, going poo free has reduced the amount of plastic containers we need to throw away and saved a considerable amount of money that we once spent on hair care products.

Soap and lotions are products also difficult to find without any form of palm oil. Many of the “natural” soaps contain palm oil as well. When you consider the skin is your largest organ you start to rethink what you “should” be putting on it. Again, the simplest solution is water. A mixture of either honey and sea salt, or coconut oil with sea salt will not only clean your skin (anti-bacterial/anti-microbial) but will leave skin so soft you’ll feel like you’ve had a spa treatment. If your skin still needs a little extra moisture, grape seed

oil is a wonderful solution. No overpowering odor to it and it settles into the skin well leaving it soft, not greasy.

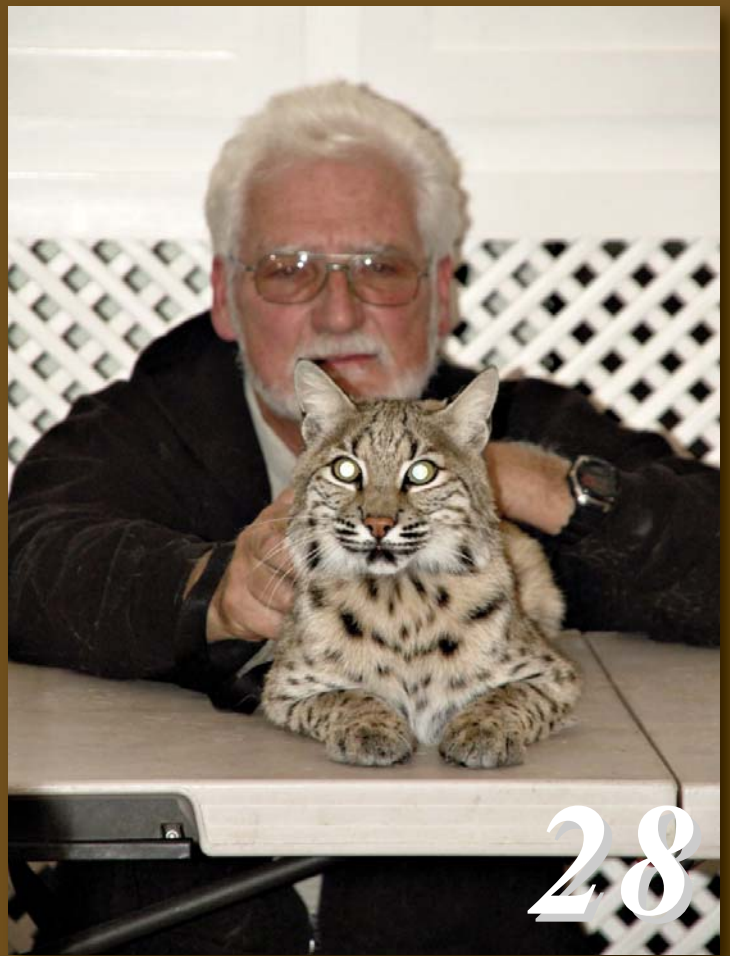
If you take a look at the list of many names palm oil is hidden under in this journal you should have a great head start to truly ridding your home of the product. If you find products you “just can’t do without” that contain palm oil, at the very least call the manufacturer and let them know you are displeased with their use of palm oil. It can be difficult to change core beliefs about “being clean” or what constitutes a cleansing product. I challenge you, my fellow FCF members to challenge yourselves for thirty days poo free. If you don’t like it you can always go back. You may however, like I, find yourself astonished that you’ve had the wool pulled over your eyes for years and have been harming yourself and the environment simply because marketers are clever and have socially shamed you into giving them money for products you don’t need.



Liz Hatton’s hair looks shiny and healthy and her serval, Buddy, likes the fresh clean smell too.



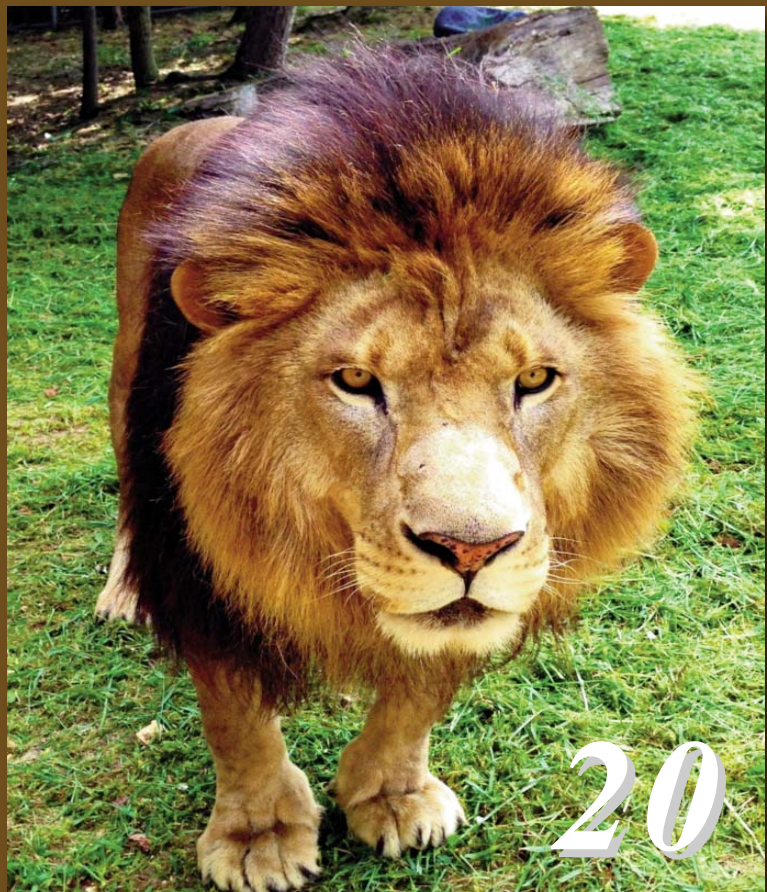
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The mission of the FCF is to support the conservation of wild felids by advocating for qualified individuals to own and to pursue husbandry of wild felines, providing expertise and material support to ensure the continued welfare and viability of these populations, contributing to research, and funding protection programs that benefit felids living in nature.

Front Cover: Clouded leopard lounges in a tree in his habitat at the Nashville Zoo. FCF members spent the day at this facility in June, as part of the annual Convention events. Nashville Zoo is renowned for its breeding success of this leopard species and owes its success to hand-rearing techniques that greatly reduce the stress levels in this species. It's ironic that the USDA published a petition written by ill-informed animal rights organizations asking the agency to prohibit hand-rearing, under the false premise that hands-on husbandry is a form of animal abuse. Photo by Lynn Culver.

Back Cover: Kapi'yva Exotics' Zayne's Destiny of Kharistan and Kaanna Bali of Kharistan were purchased by CJ Epperson when they were about eight weeks old. These Chinese subspecies of leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis chinensis*) are some of the most beautifully marked varieties. CJ says they are extremely bonded to each other. Kaanna has the best temperament; she can pick her up anytime. Zayne will let CJ pet him, but rarely pick him up. Photo by CJ Epperson.

www.FelineConservation.org

