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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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Organization

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



Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

At the midpoint of 2014, there have been several causes for hope against the evil empire of the animal rights groups. I'm sure that most of you have heard of the settlement made in the federal racketeering lawsuit filed by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. This settlement cost the Humane Society of the United States \$15.75 million. This all came as a result of the exposure of the fact that HSUS was paying the plaintiff and "star" witness in their original suit charging Ringling with abusing their elephants. That original case was thrown out by a federal judge. To further add insult to injury to HSUS, they were counting on insurance to pay the damages, even though the insurance company had told them in 2010 that they would not pay

should a settlement be reached. HSUS still contends that the insurance should pay and has instigated yet another lawsuit against the insurance companies. Hopefully this will cost HSUS millions of dollars more in attorney fees to lose another frivolous lawsuit.

The HSUS had stated when the settlement was made that no donor dollars would be used to pay the \$15.75 million. Now that the insurance has reiterated to them that they will not pay, it will be interesting to see what HSUS has to say about where the money will come from. Even if they say that the money comes from investments, didn't that money originally come from donors?

HSUS has never been ashamed of lying to its donors and this is beginning to come

back to bite them. The Oklahoma Attorney General has announced that his office is opening an investigation into HSUS's fundraising tactics and has also issued a consumer alert advising potential donors that all might not be on the up and up. Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator, has lowered HSUS's rating, based on the fact that HSUS filed false income tax filings in which they had stated their income was higher than it actually was to look more powerful. They could do this because they are tax exempt and pay no taxes no matter how much money they make. Charity Navigator now has the HSUS on its "Donor Advisory" list. This means that all potential donors should use "extreme caution" before making any donations.

The HSUS's latest annual report stated that contributions were down \$20 million in 2013. That is good news, but taking into consideration that in 2011, their revenue was \$125 million, it still gives them lots of firepower. It has been reported that their annual budget is \$181 million and that they pay their CEO Wayne Pacelle a \$2.5 million salary. Obviously, the budget numbers don't add up considering their revenue, but we have already learned that HSUS cannot be trusted to give out the truth. I am confident that Pacelle's salary is correct though.

What does all this mean? It does NOT mean the end of the HSUS. Definite chinks have been made in their armor and it means that we should all keep exposing them for what they are and not sit back and relax. Several bills proposed by the HSUS in the last year were defeated nationwide and we must keep up the fight to continue the trend. They will not give up. With their donations down, you see their ads on TV even more begging for money to help the poor abused puppy. Less than one percent of donations actually go directly to help animals. They won't say it, but without the donations, how are they going to be able to keep filing frivolous lawsuits to try to bankrupt people and force them out by lobbying for legislation?

Keep fighting the good fight. In the end, integrity and honesty will win out.

Kevin Chambers

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From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

I attended the Symposium on “Lions, Tigers and Bears,” held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 8th and 9th. This was an intensive learning opportunity put together by the USDA, and I commend the agency for their efforts. Even though I do not have these large cat species, I found most of the presentations completely applicable to the smaller wild cat species. I have done my best to share with you in this *Journal* what I found most interesting and most helpful. It was 16 hours of speakers and my short summaries cannot do justice to the volume of information shared by these experts. There were no cameras or recording equipment allowed in the USDA building, but the event was videotaped by the USDA and in the future it will be uploaded to the APHIS website for everyone to watch when they have 16 free hours.

A lot of attendees were curious about why the USDA offered this symposium, especially with topics such as transportation, hand rearing, and diet. USDA has come under increasing pressure from animal rights extremists groups wanting them to shut down all commerce with big cats, stop the practice of removing cubs from the mother, public contact with cubs, and traveling shows and circuses. I saw folks in dark suits that were not part of the feline community at the symposium, and at least some of them were identified as representatives of PETA and HSUS, as well as their attorneys.

I have read a couple of negative reviews from members of the feline community disappointed that any animal rights types were speakers and suspicious that the government agency is being taken over by them. I also read an amazingly stupid blog by Carole Baskin, who, by the way, did not attend the symposium because she felt it was just another case of the USDA in bed with the “backyard breeders and exploiters” of big cats and bear cubs. I guess she found out she was not going to be able to stand up and preach to the audience that “cubs should not be ripped away from their mothers and used as photo, swimming, and ego props until they are 12 weeks old” and spared us her presence. I think that’s all she cares about, pointing fingers at others, and she is so busy with that she has no

time to actually learn anything from others. On her blog, she condemned the “teachers,” for having 25 years to 35 years’ experience in the “zoo industry,” and “breeding and raising animals to live in a cage.” The only two speakers she approved of were Pat Craig, a sanctuary founder (although the same Cat Blog site where I read her opinion piece also is where I found the 2005 – 2006 archive stories of Pat threatening to euthanize the animals in his sanctuaries if people did not give him more money), and Ben Callison, the brand new executive director of the HSUS-funded, 1,300-acre Black Beauty Ranch, which holds just four tigers.

Carole ended her diatribe with the sarcastic remark, “Maybe backyard breeders, roadside zoo operations, and traveling acts will learn something useful at the event.” Too bad for Carole that she did not attend, as she clearly has no clue and is not even remotely qualified to house so many endangered cats. I think everyone who did attend will agree it was a great way to reach stakeholders and help the feline community improve animal care.

Curious to get to the bottom of the event, I spent some time speaking to Laurie Gage, who has been the USDA APHIS field specialist for big cats since 2004. She stated that USDA has put on similar symposiums for dog breeders, and the idea of offering one for the big cat and bear community was born December of last year and really took shape with speakers and event planning in April. She then referred me to another USDA Veterinary

Medical Officer and symposium presenter, Dr. Kate Ziegerer, for more questions. When I asked, “Why these animals and not all cats or other wildlife, like primates?” she reminded me that USDA had been hit with several petitions recently on these species. And then it all began to make sense. The public comment period for the HSUS petition demanding USDA prohibit all hand-rearing and all public contact of cats and bears of any age ended November 18, 2013. And then, just a few days later, animal rights were at it again. November 26, 2013, a PETA petition demanding USDA create detailed standards of care for bears was published in the Federal Register for a 90-day public comment period.

Dr. Ziegerer pointed out that there are other ways of addressing citizen concerns than creating more regulation. I realized that, yes, the animal rights movement is behind this symposium, but it might not be such a bad thing. USDA is not all animal rights and it is trying to satisfy many different agendas. But I would not be surprised if we do not hear anything more from the USDA on the HSUS petition to prohibit hand-rearing and public contact. Even though there were 14,000 nearly identical canned comments demanding that the animal community be stopped from what they consider abusive and inhumane practices, I think the Symposium was the action USDA chose to take. It’s a great start, and I hope they do more of this around the country for other species and other folks.

Nomination Period for Board of Director Elections closes August 10th.

Elections are held every other year, and this is an election year. The nomination period opened May 1st and closes August 10th. It takes two FCF members to properly nominate someone. Nominations are to be mailed to the secretary, or they can be written, signed, scanned and attached to an email to the secretary. Contact information is on page 3 of every *Journal*.

Positions open are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Director Positions. FCF is a democratic society that extends voting rights to members that joined at least one year prior to voting. Elections are held in the fall, and those chosen by this federation will begin serving January 1, 2015, and conclude on December 31, 2016.

IMOS Has a Suitor

By Doug Kildsig

Mid-morning on May 30, 2014, I was alarmed at a rather substantial amount of vocal squabbling coming from IMOS's enclosure that attaches to the home. With spring and summer ramping up rapidly here in Southern Indiana, the windows were open and I could hear IMOS, in a very aggressive voice, howling and snarling at something! I was doing some work on my computer, as I always do in the mornings, when I had to quickly determine what was awry with my beloved



IMOS bobcat, apple of Doug's eye, is apparently pretty attractive to the visiting wild bobcat as well.

None of this really comes as a surprise, except the determination of and willingness to accept proximity to the residence and a human presence by the native male North American bobcat. I am sure the behaviors I am going to explain come as no surprise to the breeders and other experienced exotic cat owners in my reading audience. She is fired up, and so is he! He is patiently making his way about the enclosure system, and she, somewhat, is going about her regular routine, with the opportunity to rally her voice, charge the fencing, swatting, and howling. Sometimes



Visiting bobcat sits outside IMOS's habitat and contemplates what to do next.



The wild bobcat climbed the enclosure walls to reach the roof to see if there might be a way inside.

IMOS. To be frank, I was not surprised by what I found! IMOS had a suitor who was trying to woo her, a native North American bobcat from the area. As I begin to pen this article and summary of the intriguing and entertaining event, he remains fairly vigilant to get her attention and lays sprawled atop one of the logs that frame the enclosure system, enjoying the morning sun, hoping and hoping that he might be the one for her! The date is now June 1, 2014, so he has been regularly here, seeking IMOS's affections, for several days.



Visiting bobcat looks down from the metal roof of IMOS's enclosure.

they will just sit, nose-to-nose at the fence, sprawled out, and just stare at each other lovingly (or should I say, lustfully?!).

Today is June 3rd, and I regret that I have not noticed IMOS's suitor at her side since June 1st, so this may be the end of his interest. The entire event has had absolutely no impact on IMOS's incredible interest in time spent with me, grooming each other, and being thankful for this blessed life he has given us together!



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FCF Supporting Fishing Cat Conservation in India

By Lynn Culver

During the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, which will be covered in detail in the next *FCF Journal*, one of our attendees was a student at the University of Arizona and volunteer of the Wild Cat Conservation and Research organization founded by speaker Lisa Haynes. Ashwin Naidu presented a compelling case for fishing cat conservation in his native homeland of India. As he was leaving in a few days to further this project, FCF members generously donated to his cause, raising more than \$1,300 (!) in just a few minutes. Ashwin has promised a detailed article for the next *Journal*, but I wish to share his correspondence with the board of the FCF. We excitedly look forward to future developments and communication from Ashwin.

I cannot express my heartfelt thanks enough to you all for giving me the wonderful opportunity yesterday to interact and talk with you about fishing cat conservation in India, and for experiencing something that I never thought would happen - from the \$50 bill to a whopping \$1,309 by the end of the night - you had Devan Sewell, Lisa Haynes, and me amazed. Wait till my fishing cat team in India gets to hear this. I leave for India about 14 hours from now, and I am going to stick the FCF sticker on their shirts!



Photos: Murthy KLN

Fishing cat scat and prints found in the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to let you know that this project started with Jim Sanderson and me talking about it last year in September. We have gathered several records of fishing cats (class I evidence) on the east coast of South India, and based on records to date, the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary likely harbors the closest mainland population to isolated populations in Sri Lanka.

There are no records of fishing cats further south from here in India, so Murthy (our project coordinator in Andhra), Appa Rao (the local conservation hero who replanted ~20 acres of mangrove habitat outside Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary), my dad - Pradeep Kumar (who has volunteered his retirement for the fishing cat project), myself, and my fiancée, Abhipsha (a compassionate volunteer animal rescue/rehabber), are headed out in July again to look for more evidence of their occurrence on the east coast of South India. Kyle Thompson, secretary of the Fishing Cat Conservancy, will be joining us towards the end of July as well.

The plan is to work with the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department to establish Krishna and Coringa Wildlife Sanctuaries, and sizeable unprotected areas occurring outside these locations, as the world's first dedicated fishing cat reserves. These places are not only habitat for the fishing cat - flagship, top predator, King of the Marshes, endangered (EN) - but also the dhole (EN), rusty-spotted cat (VU), smooth-coated otter (VU), sloth bear (VU), sambar (VU), king cobra (VU), leopard (NT) and blackbuck (NT).

Let's hope we can achieve our goals and get the local people to pass their natural treasure on to their current and future



Areas being surveyed for evidence of fishing cats.



Searching for fishing cat signs in yet unprotected areas.

generations... who shall help protect some of the last remaining wild places in India.

Special thanks to all the donors who emptied their wallets, wrote checks till the ink in the pen was no more, and pledged to help get the Fishing Cat Conservancy up and running. Please forward this news to all who attended the FCF Convention and were present yesterday to hear me talk and share their thoughts with me.

Ashwin Naidu



Ashwin had never touched a wild cat until he came to the FCF Convention, where he held a Geoffroy's cat kitten.

15 Million Reasons Not to Give to the Humane Society of the United States

By Stephen Payne

VIENNA, Va. – May 15, 2014 – The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), along with their co-defendants, have paid Feld Entertainment, Inc., the parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, \$15.75 million to settle cases stemming from a lawsuit they brought against Ringling Bros. over the care of its Asian elephants. This historic settlement payment to Feld Entertainment ends nearly 14 years of litigation between the parties.

“We hope this settlement payment, and the various court decisions that found against these animal rights activists and their attorneys, will deter individuals and organizations from bringing frivolous litigation like this in the future,” said Kenneth Feld, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Feld Entertainment. “This settlement is a significant milestone for our family-owned business and all the dedicated men and women who care for the Ringling Bros. herd of 42 Asian elephants. We look forward to continuing to set the standard for providing world-class care for all our animals and producing high quality, family entertainment.”

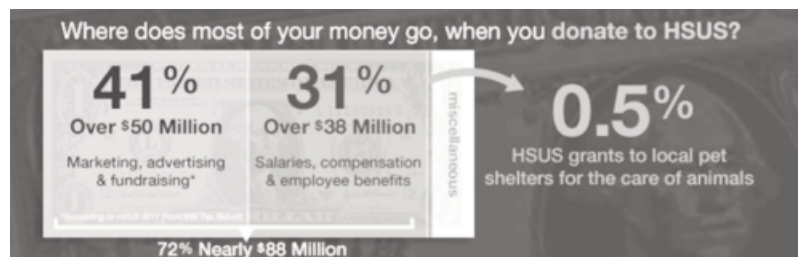
HSUS and animal rights groups the Fund for Animals, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA (formerly the Animal Protection Institute), the Wildlife Advocacy Project, the law firm of Meyer, Glitzenstein, & Crystal, and several current and former attorneys of that firm, paid the settlement for their involvement in the case brought under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that the U.S. District Court ruled was “frivolous,” “vexatious,” and “groundless and unreasonable from its inception.” Today’s settlement also covers the related Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) case that Feld Entertainment filed against the groups after discovering they had paid a plaintiff for his participation in the original lawsuit and then attempted to conceal those payments.

In Decem-

ber 2012, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), a former co-defendant in the case, settled its share of the lawsuits by paying Feld Entertainment \$9.3 million. Today’s settlement brings the total recovered by Feld Entertainment to more than \$25 million in legal fees and expenses, which the company actually spent in defending the ESA case.

“After winning 14 years of litigation, Feld Entertainment has been vindicated. This case was a colossal abuse of the justice system in which the animal rights groups and their lawyers apparently believed the ends justified the means. It also marks the first time in U.S. history where a defendant in an Endangered Species Act case was found entitled to recover attorneys’ fees against the plaintiffs due to the Court’s finding of frivolous, vexatious and unreasonable litigation,” said Feld Entertainment’s legal counsel in this matter, John Simpson, a partner with Norton Rose Fulbright’s Washington, D.C., office. “The total settlement amounts represent recovery of 100 percent of the legal fees Feld Entertainment incurred in defending against the ESA lawsuit.”

In the original ESA lawsuit, Feld Entertainment discovered the animal rights groups and their lawyers had paid over \$190,000 to a former circus employee, Tom Rider, to be a “paid plaintiff.” The Court also found that the animal rights groups and their attorneys “sought to conceal the nature, extent and purpose of the payments” during the litigation. Their abuse of the judicial system included the issuance of a false statement under oath by Rider, assisted by his counsel, who the Court found was “the same attorney who was paying him” to participate in the litigation. The Court found in addition to Rider being a “paid plaintiff,” that the lawsuit was “frivolous and vexatious.”



The Legal Battle to Keep Tony the Truck Stop Tiger Home

By Michael Sandlin

In 2006, Animal Rights Activist Organizations were successful in getting legislation passed in Louisiana, banning big cats and nonhuman primates from the state. Former Rep. Warren Triche, Jr., introduced the bill. Triche argued the new law was needed to address public safety concerns. The bill was passed unanimously. Exemptions to the law were given to universities, zoos, sanctuaries, and research facilities. Also, a provision was made to grandfather previous owners. Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) was given the task of promulgating rules and regulations concerning the new legislation.

In 2009, Tiger Truck Stop, Inc. was notified that LDWF did not consider it exempt under the law as a USDA-licensed zoo and required it to file for a state permit to keep Tony. The permit was to be issued under the grandfather provision. Tiger Truck Stop, Inc. applied for a state permit. LDWF denied Tiger Truck Stop, Inc. a permit, sighting a 1993 Iberville Parish ordinance banning possession of the animals within the Parish. Tiger Truck Stop filed suit against the State of Louisiana and Iberville Parish to prevent seizure of its legal property, Tony. LDWF orders its agents to no longer buy fuel or do business with the truck stop. The Iberville Parish Council voted 11 to one in favor of Tony staying home and exempted Tiger Truck Stop from the ordinance.

With the strong support and exemption from parish officials, LDWF decides to issue a state permit in 2009 and again in 2010.

April 15, 2011

Animal Legal Defense Fund and former Louisiana State Representative Warren Triche, Jr., file suit against Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries alleging permitting issued in 2009 for the truck stop to display the tiger, and renewed last year, violates state law. ADLF claims that LDWF made certain exceptions for Tiger Truck Stop and Michael Sandlin and that the permits issued were illegal.

May 2011

The district court granted ALDF request for a permanent injunction against Louisiana renewing Sandlin's permit.

August 2011

A state appeals court ruled Sandlin and his business should be allowed to intervene in the lawsuit and ordered a new trial, vacating the trial court's earlier decision.

October 2011

Baton Rouge appeals court threw out a judge's May ruling that barred state officials from issuing any new permits to an Iberville Parish truck stop to keep a 550-pound tiger on display there. A three-judge panel of the state's First Circuit Court of Appeals sent the matter back to state District Judge Mike Caldwell for another hearing, saying Tiger Truck Stop Inc. in Grosse Tete, and its owner, Michael Sandlin, deserve to be heard.

November 3, 2011

Judge Michael Caldwell of the East Baton Rouge District Court ruled in favor of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, which began litigation in April against Tiger Truck Stop owner Michael Sandlin. State officials must revoke his permit to keep the Bengal tiger and are prohibited from issuing new permits.

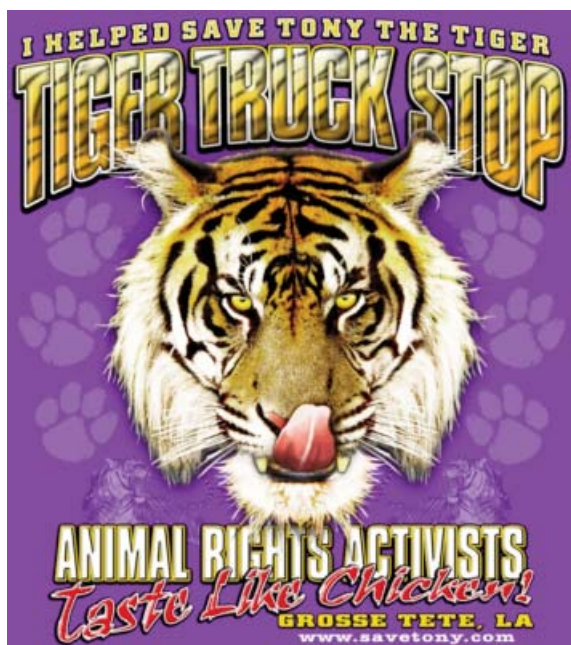
January 15, 2012

Tiger Truck Stop owner Michael Sandlin sued the state of

Louisiana over the constitutionality of their ban prohibiting "anyone from owning wild, exotic or vicious animals for display or exhibition." This lawsuit is separate from the ALDF lawsuit concerning a



Tony the Tiger, blissfully unaware that groups are trying to remove him from his home.



state permit and challenges the constitutionality of the 2006 law banning big cats & nonhuman primates. Sandlin argues that "there is no rational basis to exempt one USDA-licensed facility over another and that this is blatant discrimination. This law violates personal freedoms and the taking of property without due process of the law."

May 7, 2012

First Circuit Court of Appeals has a hearing at the LSU Campus.

October 4, 2012

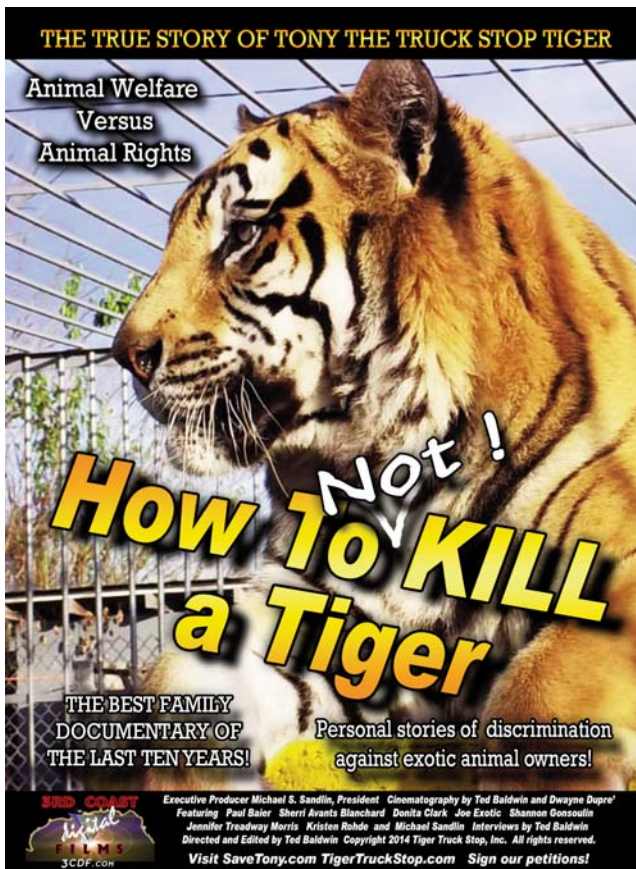
Court decision essentially upholds lower court rulings against Sandlin's ability to keep his permit for the tiger.

February 19, 2013

A three-judge panel in Baton Rouge, heard Michael Sandlin's case for keeping Tony, the Bengal tiger displayed since 2000, at his business.

April 25, 2013

The Louisiana Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling in ALDF's case against the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for unlawfully issuing Michael Sandlin a permit to keep and



More than a thousand DVDs about Tony's life were given away to student visitors and other interested people at the Capitol Rotunda during the legislative session.

exhibit Tony. The Court of Appeals agreed with Judge Caldwell, holding that Sandlin is ineligible for a permit to keep Tony. However, the court did reverse the lower court's ruling that ALDF has standing.

July 2, 2013

Appeal filed by Mr. Sandlin's lawyers to Louisiana Supreme Court. Senior attorney

Matthew Liebman said the Animal Legal Defense Fund will be filing its opposition to Morris's request.

July 17, 2013

The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a brief asking the Louisiana Supreme Court to let stand two lower court rulings that the owner of Tiger Truck Stop in Grosse Tete, cannot have a state permit to keep a tiger.

October 4, 2013

The Louisiana Supreme Court denied Sandlin's petition to review the decision by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in the ALDF case.

December 9, 2013

LDWF and ALDF each filed exceptions to Sandlin's discrimination case, seeking to have the lawsuit dismissed.

April 2014

Sandlin seeks a legislative solution. Senate Bill 250 by Port Allen GOP Sen. Rick Ward is introduced to amend current

state law, which exempts universities like LSU from keeping live animals as mascots, and would effectively grandfather Michael Sandlin's tiger, Tony, by adding to the existing law, "Previous ownership shall include persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed their animal since August 15, 2006, and currently hold a USDA Class C

Exhibitors License." The original bill was to exempt all USDA Class C Exhibitors from the law but LDWF pushed to limit the bill further with amendments against Sandlin's wishes.

May 2014

The Senate voted 20-18 and the House 68-27 in favor of Republican Sen. Rick Ward's bill SB250, granting exemption to allow Tony the Tiger to stay in his Louisiana home.

June 18, 2014

Gov. Bobby Jindal signed SB250/Act697 into law.

June 24, 2014

Former Democrat Rep. Warren Triche, Jr. and the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed suit in East Baton Rouge District Court after Gov. Bobby Jindal signed the bill into law June 18th. The suit names the LDWF, the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Tiger Truck Stop, and Sandlin. Triche and ALD say the exemption violates Louisiana's constitutional prohibition against laws granting exclusive benefits to a single individual or interest for financial gain.

July 19, 2014

Tiger Truck Stop, Inc., Michael Sandlin, and his legal team prepare to argue that Act 697 is not a special law and that Louisiana elected officials recognized that Tony benefits the entire community, not just Tiger Truck Stop. Sandlin also argues that there are other animal owners in the state that qualify under the new law, not just him.

Tiger Truck Stop and Michael Sandlin's lawsuit against the state and LDWF challenging the constitutionality of the 2006 exotic animal ban is still pending.

Governor Signs Bill to Keep Tiger

June 20, 2014

Grosse Tete, Louisiana

The effort to save a Bengal tiger from exploitation by professional animal activist exhibitors was successfully finalized June 18, when Governor Bobby Jindal signed Senate Bill 250 into Louisiana law. Activists had worked their way through legal loopholes to try to force Michael Sandlin, owner of the Tiger Truck Stop and its 14 year old tiger Tony, to give up his cat, but the legislature made

itself clear that a law enacted in 2006, was intended to allow responsible private owners who met all federal and state regulations to keep their exotic animals.

The bill was the subject of much controversy, and animal rights activists from all over the world became embroiled in petitioning lawmakers with their pleas to "rescue Tony." Their knowledge about the condition of the tiger and his habitat was the result of misinformation, lies and deception on the part of a few activists that stood to gain from his relocation,

according to Sandlin. "We spent a lot of time and energy putting the truth into the hands of the decision makers," Sandlin said, "and at last the truth won out."

Mr. Sandlin is known as an animal welfare advocate, which is borne out by the fact that at one time his facility had more live tiger births than any other facility in the nation. He stressed that the difference between welfare and "rights" activism is that the activist makes no real effort to follow up or care for the animal once it has been given its "human" rights. Animal



Tony sits tall and proud at his Grosse Tete, LA, Tiger Truck Stop home.

welfare experts from around the United States have concurred that the habitat at the Tiger Truck Stop is one of the finest private exhibits in the country, and has excelled in diet, veterinary care, and spaciousness.

Claims have also been made by adverse activists that Mr. Sandlin has repeatedly violated United States Department of Agriculture regulations in caring for his animals, but these allegations have been disproven. USDA inspectors have certified that the Grosse Tete, Louisiana, facili-

ty meets or exceeds all federal regulations, and has never had its USDA permit revoked.

The State of Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries also has a permitting process, and recognized that Tiger Truck Stop was fully in compliance with Louisiana law in granting two permits for the tiger. The animal activists tried different ways to get the permits revoked, and were successful only when they got a court, in a suit against DWF by Animal Legal

Defense Fund, an activist group based in California, to overturn the permit based on law that was later discovered not to apply to the exhibit at Grosse Tete. This injustice was rectified by SB250.

Denham Springs, Louisiana, lawyer Bob Morgan, who led the lobbying effort at the statehouse, commented that "once the legislators were told the truth about the tiger's situation, it was a watershed moment for them. They did not like being lied to by the activists about the tiger."

Mr. Morgan is an attorney with expertise in Louisiana property law, and sees this as a clear cut victory for Mr. Sandlin's property rights. "We applied the truth, and it won," he said.

For Tony, and the thousands of visitors that view his exhibit at Tiger Truck Stop, the legislation means that he will be able to live his life out in the care and protection of Mr. Sandlin, in the spacious home with the people he has known since he was a six month old cub, and continue to delight visitors to the exhibit.

Schoolchildren mobbed the tables displaying information about Tony at the Capitol Rotunda during the legislative session. More than 1,000 DVDs about Tony's life were given free to the student visitors and other interested people.

Mr. Sandlin offered his final comment - "We would like to thank Governor Jindal, Senator Rick Ward, Rep. Major Thibaut, the Louisiana Legislature, and the Tiger Truck Stop legal & lobby teams, friends, family, employees, loyal customers, and our local community, as well as the many supporters from around the world for taking a stand against animal rights terrorism. It is a great victory for private exotic animal owners, personal freedoms, and the protection of all of our animals."

Blast From the Past: The Cisin Safari

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB
Vol. 2, No. 4
July 1958

By Catherin Cisin

Our own little ocelot world is anxious to hear, the grapevine has it, about the safari Carlotta and the Cisins made during the month of May from Amagansett, N.Y., on the East Coast, to Los Angeles, on the West, and return. It began a little before May 1st.

In preparation for the trip, we fitted our station wagon with such conveniences as would provide for Carlotta's needs and for our own driving comfort. The back section of the wagon was fenced off, using a flexible two-inch wire mesh screen.

This screen hung between the ceiling and the top of the back seat, travelling on taut wire much like a transverse curtain. One side was fastened permanently, while the other could be unlatched and drawn aside to afford access to the cat. Once she

was put in her "room," an area about six feet square, she had all necessities and a few luxuries available, while the others in the car had complete riding and driving comfort. Carlotta may have had the better deal, since she had not only transportation with an observation deck, but also sleeping quarters and toilet facilities.

We started off with some misgivings about the reception an ocelot as a guest would get at motels throughout the country. We made no attempt to conceal her. The cage-like arrangement clearly visible from outside the car suggested we were carrying more than luggage. To our surprise and gratification, she was as welcome as we were. At only two motels we saw prominently displayed "No Pets" signs.

Many motel owners and managers were thrilled not only to have her as a guest (a first in many instances), but to see an ocelot. Few could identify our "leopard," "cheetah," or "tiger cub."

As though aware of this hospitality, Carlotta respected her accommodations.



Pet ocelots like this one are what inspired the creation of the club that has grown into today's Feline Conservation Federation.



A pet ocelot enjoys a ride in the car. Photo from Getty Images.

Having stopped at 30 motels on 30 nights, total damage comprised one glass, which she swept to the bathroom floor with one well calculated gesture, and one sink stopper which she chewed beyond recognition or usefulness. Both of these misdeeds came about rather because of human oversight than feline mischief.

After registering each night, the bathroom was prepared for Carlotta. Towels and shower curtains were put out of her reach. Glasses and toilet tissue were removed. Her private toilet was moved from the car to the bathroom, and her bedding and food were put in the bathroom.

During the evening, she had her exercise by playing ball -- a game of retrieve (which required human participation) or pounce, ignore and surprise, stalk and "kill." Some evenings and mornings, we walked her on a leash around the motel grounds. She ate grass and hunted insects. Hunting was particularly rewarding in one area of Kansas, where there was a grasshopper invasion.

Like most ocelots, Carlotta is a very clever door opener. Special precautions had to be taken to keep her shut in the bathroom during sleeping time each night. These included wedging the door with a leather glove so that it required greater strength than hers to open it, and piling luggage in a chair and tying it to the doorknob by means of a leash. If the frame was wood, we linked a choke collar around the doorknob and over the head of a screw which we inserted in the frame. Needless to say, we left a trail of inconspicuous screw holes in door frames from coast to coast.

Carlotta was decidedly unimpressed with the vastness and scenic wonders of

the nation -- Niagara Falls, Pikes Peak, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, New Mexican and Mojave Deserts, the Los Angeles Freeway -- but wherever she went, she was herself one of nature's wonders. Tourists became lecture groups as they gathered around the back of the car while we patiently explained about the wonders of the ocelot. At one service station in Aguilar, Colorado, the owner brought out his mother guinea pig and her three

infants for Carlotta to see. By this she was decidedly impressed. At the agricultural inspection between Arizona and California, the officers carefully inspected each vehicle for citrus fruits, nuts and assorted other goodies, transportation of which from one state to the other was prohibited. After carefully searching the contents and trunk compartments of the three cars preceding us, he simply asked us a few of the questions and passed us through after a very cursory inspection, having seen Carlotta "guarding" her room in the rear. Of course, he called his fellow inspectors to see the cat, to ask the usual questions, and to receive the usual lecture.

At Colorado Springs, while our car was being greased, one of the attendants told us there was a girl across the street with a lion. We disbelieved him, but he suggested we go look for ourselves. There, sitting at the counter in an auto parts supply store waiting for attention with her mistress, was a nine-month old African lioness. She outweighed her mistress by about 25 pounds, but hadn't had occasion to learn about her advantage. As a matter of fact, she had always lived with people and, from all indications, thought she was a member of the human race. She had been used, up until that time, for demonstration in lectures to school children. Having grown to proportions which prevented her further use, she was going "home" to continue life as a pet.

After about fifteen days of public life, Carlotta discovered, quite by accident, that she could conceal herself effectively. Seeking refuge from the heat of the California desert, she learned she could improvise a tent by crawling under the cotton rug, one end of which served as her bed,

and the remainder of which covered the luggage stored in her room. The privacy of her tent was so appealing she spent the balance of her travelling time sleeping there, underground.

We will long remember the hospitality extended to us by members Jill and Ray Malyszka, with Tinker Belle, who visited us at our Niagara Falls motel. They had hoped to have us as house guests and had made preparations. But circumstances prevented us from accepting. Jerrie Hollenbeck of Dearborn, Michigan, whose phone number was not available to us in time, had invited us "to stop by if at all possible for any length of time." We will always regret the lack of time which made it impossible for us to visit with many others. Ann and Alf Eichelman were expecting us at New Market, Virginia, as were Dee and Don Wilson at Mt. Ephram, N. J. Dorothy Jolley, who was babysitting Baby at Alliance, Ohio, was disappointed not to see us.

In California, our host and hostess were Bernard and Mildred Slator, not to mention their Junga. Mildred and Bernard planned out the one day we had to spend in the Los Angeles area. First, they took us to meet Joe Berger at El Monte, where we met his famous blue-eyed ocelot, Jo-Jo, his bobcat, Spooks, and his fifty pound ocelot, Gordo. Spooks is more like a dog by nature than a feline.

In the afternoon, the Slaters took us to visit Marty Giuffre at Van Nuys, and her Zorro, a four year old cheetah. Zorro, who was delighted with the visitors, spending his time beside the chairs in which they were sitting, waiting for his head to be scratched. It was easy to accommodate him, since he sits a little bit taller than chair height. Marty supplied lunch and drinks, after which we went on to visit Jewel Carr in Los Angeles, whose menagerie at the moment included three ocelots, an alligator, one cat, one mynah bird, and possibly others.

Our safari taught us that travelling with an ocelot is easy. Difficulties are largely in the imaginations of the masters. A plentiful supply of toys, food, and company keeps the cat as happy on the road as she is at home. Our trip confirmed our belief that the world is full of wonderful people. We can't think of a better time to remind our readers that it is always "Open House" at club headquarters in Amargansett, N.Y.



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"Alzheimer's" In a Black Leopard

By Terri Werner
Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge

In August 2013, our 18 year old black leopard, 8Ball, started having typical old age problems. First, it was a little stiffness in the joints and he was not as active as he once was. Blood work and an exam still showed him to be in good physical health. He was declawed when we got him, so his pads were getting worn down in places and he was having sore feet, but the bones that were left were still good and no additional surgery had to be done. 8Ball was put on Meloxicam for the arthritis and joint pain.

Over the next couple of months, things really started to change with his demeanor. 8Ball's temperament was always the same; he was very laid back and calm, but he was not responding to his name and he was not playing with his toys anymore. At first, we thought his eyesight might be going, as he did not seem to notice us when we were in front of him, nor did he respond when we called his name, and he had difficulty locating and grabbing food off a stick. 8Ball's eating habits became odd, too. He would bite at his food as if biting a chunk of meat off a hide, but then act like he could not chew or swallow. We also thought maybe his hearing was going as well, but when we would rattle the chains on his gate or move the lid to his feed slot, he would look in that direction. We also noticed he was having a harder time getting in his

hammock, which was his favorite place to sleep. Again, blood work was normal and most things about him were normal, but I always felt something was not right, but could not pinpoint the problem.

On October 17, 2013, one of my keepers went to give 8Ball his Meloxicam in the morning and noticed he was unresponsive. His eyes were rolled back, jaws clenched, and he did not flinch when his feet or ears were touched. His breathing was normal. He stayed like this for about ten minutes and then just "woke up" as if nothing had happened. He was taken to the vet immediately and nothing abnormal was found. Dr. Hobbs recommended a cardiologist or neurologist look at him.

The next couple of days, 8Ball would vomit up his food, but then continue eating. He also had another "seizure" episode. He became very lethargic and was scheduled for a visit to Texas A & M on October 21, 2013. No sedation was needed to transport him to Texas A & M,

and he was still very lethargic upon arrival after a three-hour drive. Blood work was done, as well as an overall exam and a CT scan. A cardiologist looked at his heart and said it was very healthy. An MRI was scheduled for the next day. The MRI results showed that he had severe atrophy of the brain. His brain resembled that of an Alzheimer's patient. Due to the damage of the brain, there was no treatment and no



This firehouse hammock was a favorite resting spot for 8Ball, an older black panther living at Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge.

medications they could recommend. We took 8Ball home and gave him a comfortable life until December 2, 2013. Over time, his appetite became smaller and smaller. He stopped defecating regularly. He was alert, but did not know his name. Fortunately, he never became aggressive. He allowed us to touch him, give him fluids, and even stimulate him to have a bowel movement. At times, he would start moving in circles, but could only turn to the left. We continued to give him pain medications (Gabapentin and Meloxicam) and even put him on various homeopathic remedies to see if that would do anything. Some days, he acted like he was improving, he was more alert, ate his normal diet, became more active and responded to us, but that would last a short time and he would revert back to a declining state.

On December 2, 2013, we euthanized 8Ball. As we looked back on his behavior, "Alzheimer's" made sense. Not responding to his name or to us in a personal manner, normal playing behaviors stopped, the distant look in his eyes, plus the odd eating behavior could all be attributed to the brain not knowing how to respond. Some days he was 8Ball and other days he was very distant, but in the end his organs started shutting down. Texas A & M said they really had not seen this before, so could not really give us an answer as to why this happened or how common it is. So, as our cats age, we now know that they can be susceptible to atrophy of the brain.



8Ball began exhibiting worrisome changes in behavior; lack of responsiveness to his name, difficulty locating and eating food, and difficulty in getting into his hammock.

The Animal Healing Project

By Andrea Sobotka
Photos by Nancy Wulff

This past April, I had the pleasure of working intensively with a lion, a cougar, three tigers, and a wolf for a week out at PrideRock Wildlife Refuge in Terrell, Texas. PrideRock Wildlife Refuge is a stunning and pristinely kept facility owned and operated as a 501(c)3 by Carol and Gary Holliman. My trip to the refuge was born out of a special mission that I call “The Animal Healing Project.” It started as a small idea and just blossomed into a wonderful experience.

My name is Andrea Sobotka; I am a holistic animal healer and communicator, as well as a trained wildlife rehab medic. I also teach the foundations of energy medicine for animals and animal communication through my signature workshops called “Animal Sense.” While my busy private practice consists of mainly domestic cats, dogs, and horses, several hours a week I also volunteer at a very busy wildlife rescue and rehab facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, specializing in raptors and large birds of prey. I am very passionate about my work with animals (and their people), but I felt it was time to expand my reach and make an even bigger difference if I could, and I wanted to have the opportunity to take my holistic healing and communication work to some out-of-the-ordinary exotic wild animals whose futures will not likely include being “set free.” My plan was to initially volunteer out my services to an appropriate non-

profit facility in return for allowing me to video-document my work. The hope was to produce a short video production that illustrates the value of holistic healing, energy work, and animal communication for wild, exotic, and domestic animals alike. And so the idea of “The Animal Healing Project” was put to paper at the start of this year.

The idea was as much for the research benefit as it was for providing some special critters in need with a taste of gentle holistic healing and communication methods. So, a proposal was sent out to a few contacts to see if there would be any interest in participating in the project. The key features to the proposed mission were:

1. To help the animal by relieving emotional, physical, and/or instinctual compromise issues via gentle holistic methods.
2. To document the process and progress through videography, photography, and daily logging of activities, observations, and results.
3. To raise public awareness and support for both the animals in need and for the non-profit facilities that would accommodate the project.
4. To help raise global awareness for what I love to do, can do, and can teach others to do through my Animal Sense Workshops.

Carol Agnew Holliman, proprietor and director of PrideRock Wildlife Refuge, responded to my message almost immediately. She was thrilled with the proposed idea and wanted to know how fast I could come out. Great!! So then I only had two more wee things to work out: HOW was I going to fund this venture that required flights, hotel stay, car rental etc? and WHO was going to video and photograph the work?

If you put it out there, the universe listens! My good friend, a strong supporter of animal rescues, and freelance photographer, Nancy Wulff, felt the calling to take part and volunteered. She decided the digital image documenting job was for her. I jumped for joy and gave her a BIG hug! Annette Creekmore, a dedicated PrideRock volunteer, offered to act as our



Andrea teaches the foundations of energy medicine for animals, and animal communication through her signature workshops called “Animal Sense.”

“facility guide” and additional photographer. As a funding solution, PrideRock loved the idea of hosting one of my signature Animal Sense workshops right onsite at the refuge (which is not open to the public) and agreed to help me promote it in the Texas area. After making a donation to their refuge from the workshop registration proceeds, thankfully, a good portion of the trip expenses were covered. The attending students were also encouraged to support PrideRock, and many arrived with generous donations in cash and in kind. Such kind hearts!

Carol and the keeper, Corey, selected a group of animals that they felt might best benefit from some non-traditional healing and/or communication. After initial assessments of the nine animals they had originally identified, I ended up determining six of them to be in most need. Their cases ranged from deep emotional issues, to chronic physical ailments and traumatic injuries. (Note: Except in the case of the wolf with fear issues, all animals had received traditional allopathic care for their conditions. In some cases, the prescribed remedies were not having much effect, and in other cases, the process of undergoing further traditional treatment would prove to be more traumatic to the animal than their condition possibly warranted.)

Cherokee, a beautiful elder female cougar, stole my heart from the get-go. She suffered from chronic arthritis in the legs, hips, and wrists. In addition, she would display an innate dislike of women. Good thing the keeper is a young man who adores her, and she is smitten with him. From the first moment I met her, she seemed to know I was there to help and was very tolerant of my presence. Each day that I would begin my work with her,



Andrea Sobotka is a holistic animal healer and communicator, as well as a trained wildlife rehab medic.

she would bring herself as close to me as she comfortably could and position her body directly in front of me to receive the energy healing work. Sometimes she lay with her back presented to me lengthwise, and sometimes with her belly towards me. By the last few days, she would be quite “kittenish,” purring and lovingly playful towards me at the end of her healing sessions. It was clear she was grateful for the relief, and it made my heart swell with love and respect for her soul. She also ceased growling and screaming at the few women who would pass by her mew. Although I cannot reverse her age, or her arthritis, I was able to bring her energetic balance, emotional peace, and a little more ease of movement so that she was not in

the vet, where they cleaned up the remaining stump and attempted to stitch it shut. Sadly, not only did the wound keep opening, but Tony was becoming depressed and withdrawn. They were hoping that my work would help the tail heal naturally (to avoid another stressful trip to the vet and possible surgery) and that I could help him find his voice and bravado again. While the tail proved to be a



Corey watches as Cherokee, an elderly cougar suffering from chronic arthritis in her legs, hips and wrists, moves closer to position her body directly in front of Andrea to receive her energy healing work.



Jake suffers from arthritis and maintaining weight. Andrea provides pain relief through energy healing methods, determines reasons for his weight issues and suggests holistic remedies for ongoing support.

pain.

Tony, a lovely and lively large male tiger, had a most unfortunate accident. His tail had somehow gotten under the tiniest of gaps between his holding mew and the next one. The next mew happens to house male and female lions, Leo and Chloe. The female had gotten hold of his tail and proceeded to gnaw it off. The event was highly traumatic for all involved that day, especially poor Tony, who was helplessly caught. According to the keeper Corey, it was actually Leo, the male lion, which saved the day. When he heard Corey's desperate screams to get Chloe to let go, Leo roared into their holding mew and bit her squarely on the butt, then ran back out, causing her to let go of poor Tony's tail in favor of scolding Leo. As a result, Tony of course was rushed to

bit tricky because of its length, his spirits lifted by leaps and bounds each day! By the time the Animal Sense workshop day rolled around, he already seemed back to his old show-off self, chuffing, strutting, and actively seeking out the attention of the visitors! On parting, I had left Corey with special instruc-

tions for continued care using saltwater baths and essential oils. My last report from Corey is that Tony is doing grrreat!

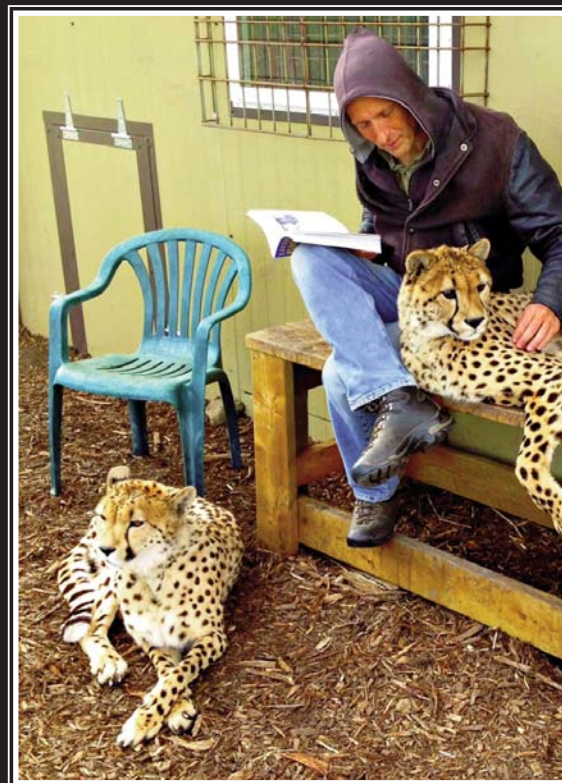
All the cats, as well as “Bleu” the wolf, showed varying degrees of positive results. Some were quite dramatic, and others were very good. For the week that I was there to work with these special animals, I could not have been more pleased with the outcome. Carol, Gary, Corey, and Annette were all extremely happy with the progress made and results for each of their “babies,” as Carol refers to them. They are hoping to be able to have us back again...and, of course, my friend Nancy and I would love to do a return healing trip to the beautiful grounds and wonderful souls, four-legged and two-, of PrideRock Wildlife Refuge.



Vets thought Jamu might have pre-hip dysplasia. Andrea assesses all seven major chakras of the body (energy centers), then balances the system for general health and wellbeing. Here she balances the brow chakra, which is the center that governs intuition, instinct, clarity of understanding, ocular, brain, and pituitary health.



Tapanga the Asian leopard cat.
Photo by Sherri DeFlorio.



Earl Pfeifer relaxes with cheetahs Annie and Earl.
Photo by Carol Pfeifer.

Your Best Shots!



Olivia Robertson caught this big lion catnapping at Walk on the Wild Side.



Max the cougar and his best friend Milo the Rhodesian ridgeback. Photo by Patty Pfeifer.



ahs Robin and
Plato.



Debi Willoughby captures Geof-
froy's cat Spirit doing his meerkat
imitation.



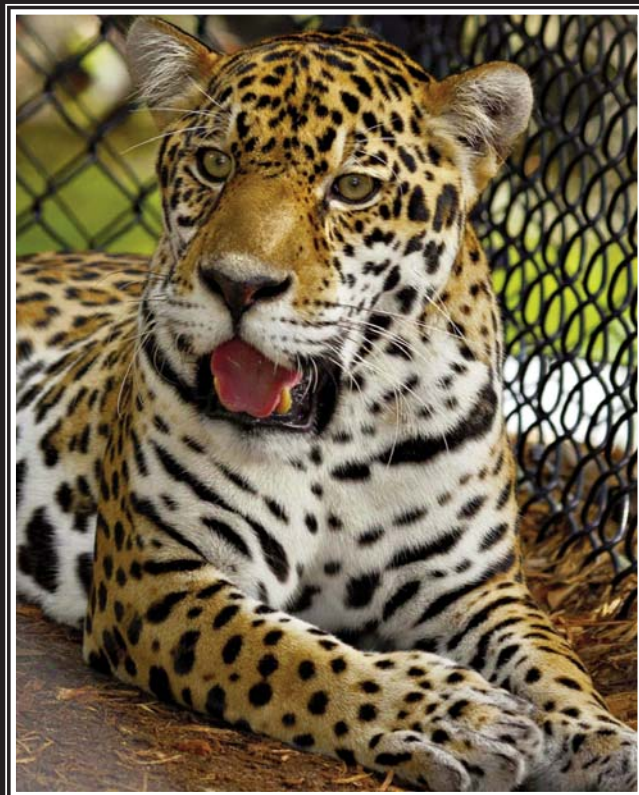
Lexi the bobcat kitten is
adorable. Photo by
Amanda Lyne.



o, a
erry.



Tiger pair at Out of Africa making
"stinky faces." Photo by Jeff Harwell.



Bella jaguar poses for Yvonne Veety at
Panther Ridge Conservation Center.

Bobcats for Bucks and Wild Cat Research

By Lisa Haynes,
Coordinator
UA Wild Cat Research
and Conservation Center

Greetings, FCF'ers! I am Lisa Haynes, coordinator of the University of Arizona Wild Cat Research and Conservation Center. I was so honored to be asked to make a presentation to the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, in late June. What a wonderful group of wild cat fanatics!

The UA Wild Cat Center (UA-WCC) is a center dedicated to studying and conserving all of the world's species of wild cats, primarily by supporting, teaching, and mentoring students and biologists from around the world. We have eight graduate students working in one way or another on 11 species of cats around the world, one of whom is Ashwin Naidu, from India, who many of you met at the FCF Convention.



Folks uploaded more than 400 photos of their backyard bobcats to the old U of A website. Lisa Haynes wants the site modernized and working again.

He is truly one of our rock stars! (See page 8) We need to clone him and many more! Our mission is for the UA-WCC to be a training platform, educational center, and hub for international (and U.S.) students to come to one university, learn the techniques and



Lisa wants to connect the enthusiasm that people have about their backyard bobcats, like this mother bob and her kitten, with the plight of the world's wild cats.



In areas around metro Tucson and Phoenix, and increasingly elsewhere, bobcats are ubiquitous in suburban backyards; i.e., dipping in the pool, walking on the patio walls, and even drinking out of the bird bath!

conservation strategies necessary for wild cat research and conservation, share their experiences, and create mutual support systems to then go back to their home countries and do good things for cats!

So, here's the situation. The University does not support the Center financially in any way. As many of you know, universities are struggling, and the University of Arizona has cut millions from its budget. Therefore, there is no funding for student scholarships or support, nor is there any funding for staff or operations for the Center as an entity (I work for the UA-WCC for free). Yes, we have students and faculty (and me) who are intensely (and, I

would say, frantically) working their hearts out on specific wild cat projects, funded through specific project grants and contracts, but none of these support the Center itself or leverage into more support for more students. So, what we desperately need is to create funding sources (i.e., donations) for scholarships for wild cat students through an e-newsletter and an upgraded website (our current one is hopelessly outdated and static).

University of Arizona's wildlife program is world-renowned, but it is expensive and the entrance standards are high relative to English proficiency and other criteria. Jim Sanderson has directed several wild cat students to UA, only to have them go elsewhere or not pursue graduate studies at all due to the cost or the high bar for English proficiency and other prerequisites. It might take an extra semester or two, or tutoring for students to pass the TOEFL (English) exam, to enable them to attend UA's stellar wildlife program. This costs money.

Bobcats to the rescue! Are bobcats the answer to our dilemma? Yes! And here is why: the University of Arizona mascot is the wildcat (i.e., your basic, local cat buddy, the bobcat)! In areas around metro Tucson and Phoenix (and increasingly elsewhere), bobcats are ubiquitous in suburban backyards; i.e., sleeping on the lounge chair, snoozing on the patio, and their kittens playing on the roof! They very nicely coexist with their (usually) enthralled and very lucky human neighbors, who have conveniently provided lots of shade, patios, golf courses, cover, and water (fountains, pools, etc.) for bobcats and their favorite snacks, i.e., bunnies, birdies, pack-ratties, lizardies, mousies, etc. All this equates to Shangri-La for bobcats! As long as humans secure their small



As long as humans secure their small pets, bobcats and people coexist just fine.

pets, bobcats and people coexist just fine, and most folks are totally jazzed with seeing bobcat kittens romping, jumping, and carousing in their backyards. Now, these cats aren't dumb; they live in some of the nicest backyards you can imagine... like the ones in Sunset Magazine! I'm telling ya, these are some nice digs! So, if we can connect the enthusiasm that people have about their backyard bobcats with the plight of the world's wild cats, BINGO! Cha-ching!! \$\$\$ for wild cat students! And making that connection takes a nice website and outreach mechanisms like an e-newsletter. Our old web-

can go towards paying that student or another to focus on more bobcat outreach to help people make the connection between their favorite backyard bobcat and the world's wild cats, and then... scholarships and support for the students dedicated to their cause! As we say at U of A, "GO WILDCATS!!!" If any more of you wonderful, generous FCF'ers are so inclined, donations can be made online on our (old) website at www.uawildcatresearch.org or mailed to me at the address below. Checks should be made out to *University of Arizona Foundation* (or U.A.F.), with *UA Wild Cat Center* in the memo line. Thank you, wild cat aficionados!!



Most folks are totally jazzed with seeing bobcat kittens romping, jumping, and carousing in their backyards.

Lisa Haynes, Coordinator
UA Wild Cat Research and
Conservation Center
School of Natural Resources
and the Environment, BSE
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"Our mission is to understand and to conserve the world's 36 species of wild cats, their prey, and their habitats in perpetuity, while promoting vibrant human communities nested within biologically rich and life-supporting ecosystems."

GO WILDCATS!!

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USDA Symposium on Lions, Tigers, and Bears

By Lynn Culver

USDA put on a two-day symposium in early July entitled “Lions, Tigers, and Bears.” The APHIS website announced the event a month prior and provided a registration link. The symposium was held at the Kansas City USDA office and accommodated 200 persons. I signed up as the executive director of the Feline Conservation Federation to share the information presented to the FCF members through this article in our *Journal*. The USDA plans to upload a video of the 16 hour symposium onto the APHIS website.

Attendees were a mix of AZA, ZAA, and independent zoos, GFAS and independent sanctuaries, several HSUS and AZA attorneys, veterinarians, USDA-licensed exhibitors and breeders, and assorted animal rights interests. It was a diverse and somewhat antagonistic audience, brought together for the purpose of learning about best management practices for husbandry and safety. The range of topics presented provided insight into enrichment, operant conditioning, program animals, contingency planning, emergencies, fiscal responsibility, hand-rearing, diet, transporting, preventative medicine, and development of veterinary care programs.

Most speakers were professionals, zoo vets, zoo keepers, or seasoned USDA-licensed transporters, and were all very qualified to speak on their subjects. However, two of the three “animal rights” representatives were not. Both had been hired into their positions just a month prior, and the third animal rights speaker was Tim Harrison, who does have many years’ experience as a first responder and spent most of his presentation promoting himself, his books, and his documentary film, “The Elephant in the Living Room.”

Behavior-Based Husbandry

The opening speaker at the symposium was Else Poulsen, a native Canadian, wildlife biologist, zookeeper, consultant for Behavioral and Environmental Solutions, published author, and president of the Bear Care group. She began her presentation with a conclusion that FCF members would all agree with, that non-human animals have consciences, are self-aware, experience emotions, and manipulate their environments to benefit them-

selves.

She explained that the backdrop to this acknowledgement, that animals are not much different than humans, came from a July 7, 2012, Francis Crick Memorial Conference on “Consciousness in Human and Nonhuman Animals,” which was attended by cognitive neuroscientists, neuropharmacologists, neurophysiologists, neuroanatomists, and computational neuroscientists. They concluded, “. . . the weight of evidence indicates that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness. Nonhuman animals, including all mammals and birds, and many other creatures, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates.”

Else Poulsen advocates behavior-based husbandry, which came about in response to behavioral issues in captive animals. Ms. Poulsen says that by mimicking nature, we can improve behavior. Keepers need to provide species-specific, internal and external care to their felines, befitting their genetic and circumstantial expectations.

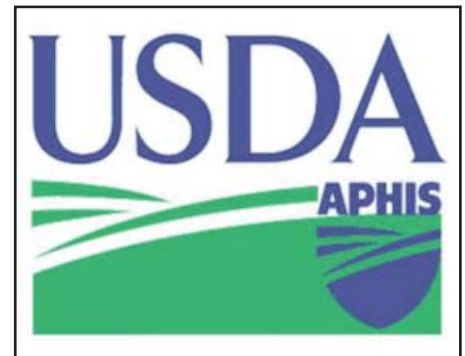
As sentient animals, our felines have genetic expectations, as well as expectations from their personal history and their current environment. They expect to fit into the habitat, to find food, and to mate. Our captive husbandry practices need to stimulate our felines’ vision, hearing, taste, touch, movement, and problem-solving abilities. Behavior-based husbandry strives to address the need for daily routines, as well as seasonal routines, and to present food resources as would be in nature. Feline keepers need to provide clean water, natural substrate, daily feedings, nest building material, daily enrichment, exercise, relationship building, training, and vet care.

Simple and Successful Carnivore Enrichment

Now that we had opened the symposium by elevating our felines to a status equal to humans in terms of consciousness and emotions, the next speaker was Dawn Neptune, behavior programs manager at Utah’s Hogel Zoo. Dawn has coordinated, developed, and implemented enrichment and training programs for husbandry, veterinary, and research purposes. Dawn’s talk motivated us to prioritize environmental enrichment. Benefits of

enrichment include improved physical and mental health. Behavioral enrichment challenges the mind, introduces novelty to the feline, reduces stress, improves the environment, offers behavioral choices, encourages species specific behaviors, increases activity, promotes natural behavior, and teaches social skills, flexibility, coping behaviors, and play behaviors.

The basics of successful enrichment begin with a plan that sets goals. Then observe and respond safely. Thoughtful and carefully planned enrichments will consider the risks of enrichment items, such as impaction, the potential for our felines to be cut or injured, possible social



aggression over enrichment items, effects on the diet, or potential for toxicity or contamination. When presenting foods as enrichment, they need to be task-oriented, provide challenges, extend feeding time, and promote hunting behaviors. These could be whole prey items, potentially hidden in the enclosure or placed in a non-normal food presentation area.

Introduction of manipulative toys spark investigation and exploratory play. Changes in the feline’s environment add complexity and enhance the habitat. Our target behavioral goals should be to stimulate the sense of smell, visual and auditory senses, hunting, foraging, and strength training through climbing and digging. Prioritize realistic expectations, then start small and simple and build from there. Observe results, develop a response plan, evaluate success, adjust, and share results.

Some ideas for enrichment are substrates, barrels, corrugated tubes, Christmas trees, pumpkins, browse, logs, burlap sheets, and fire hose furniture.

Operant Conditioning Techniques

Using operant conditioning techniques for long term behavioral management was

presented by Jay Pratte of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Jay is an animal trainer with more than two decades of work experience with the film industry, game farms, and independent and AZA zoos. Jay has co-created a class on Human-Animal Interactions that he teaches at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Training is a type of learning that causes a change in behavior resulting from practice or experience. When done with humans, it is called training. Any animal can be trained and all will benefit. Positive reinforcement training is a form of enrichment that provides animals with opportunities to develop cognitive skills, interact socially, and develop a more trusting relationship with keepers. All training sessions should end on a good note, with a rewarding scenario.

In operant conditioning, behavior is modified by consequences. Passive training is habituation, where behavior declines after repeated presentation of stimuli, useful to get an animal accustomed to a stimulation that it normally reacts to. This is desensitizing, presenting an adverse stimulus repeatedly to eventually decrease the reaction, and is also known as "counter conditioning."

To achieve results, trainers use two kinds of consequences. One is a reinforcer, the other is punishment. Positive reinforcement is a reward presented after a desired behavior. Negative reinforcement should be used only rarely, as it has undesirable side effects; loss of trust, increased stress, risk of injury, increased threshold, impaired learning, and the feline will eventually work only hard enough to avoid the stimulus.

Positive punishment is the addition of adverse stimulus after the animal has performed an undesirable behavior. Negative punishment includes actions such as "time outs" or removing food and toys.

The basic steps to training are: 1. Establish a positive relationship with the feline. 2. Be able to target feed. 3. Teach name recognition. 4. Condition a bridge, teach a target, an object to touch, follow, go to, etc. In other words, cue-behavior-reward.

To start a training program, identify what behaviors will be helpful and consider whether the feline is capable of them. Review the feline's history and get input from others familiar with the feline. Train in small steps to be shaped into bigger behaviors. Have rewards, such as food or novel items. Use a bridge, such as a whis-

tle or clicker, to pair with the reward at the exact time of the behavior. Your cues need to be concise, distinct verbal and physical actions. Be consistent; same cues, same expectations, and same rewards.

The direct benefits of a training program are the ability to identify the animal's body condition, target medical treatment, and perform advanced medical assessments. Trained felines benefit from increased activity, wider range of behaviors, and cognitive exercise. Training can reduce feeding aggression, stress, and injuries.

Large Carnivore Safety

Steve Bircher is a mammal curator at the St. Louis Zoo. His talk focused on safety – for the keeper, animals, and visitors, with ideas to improve. The beginning was a discussion of the pros and cons of single vs. multiple keepers, noting that a single person knows what he opened and closed, and when there are more keepers, they may not know. While more eyes to watch can observe more, double keepers can also mess up, thinking that the other person is doing something they are not.

Steve emphasized keeper training, espe-



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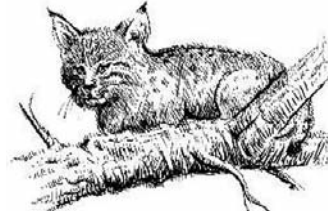
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cially what to do if an animal escapes or attacks. And visitor safety depends upon exhibit barriers that prevent visitors from coming in contact with the felines. Animal safety depends upon the staff that must take into consideration many factors when doing introductions, breedings, pair formations, or social groupings. The final take home: "Always stay on guard, and always stay focused."

Safety Procedures

Because safety is so important when working with large carnivores capable of inflicting fatal injuries, several speakers gave talks on this topic, including Hollie Colahan, currently working as a curator of large mammals at the Denver Zoo. Hollie has also led development of AZA's felid husbandry course and position statement on "Felids as Program Animals."

Hollie began by stressing the need for a culture of safety at each facility. The attitude by employees creates the cultural norm, and new people follow the lead of existing employees. So, what is the atmosphere where you work? Have there been any close calls? To change a culture, one must set goals. Define clear expectations and hold people accountable. Safety begins with staff training. Have written protocols, people that train, and evaluations of new people. Procedures with two persons are safer, with one person designated as a shifter. And when things go wrong, handling violations need to be reported to persons in charge. Hollie's take away was that attitude and behavior must be modeled at every level. Her parting words of advice: "Count your cats, assume nothing, and trust on one."

Hollie also expounded upon safety of big cats as program animals, acknowledging that nothing makes a bigger impact than live animals. Her advice was to carefully consider the impact, safety issues, welfare of the program animal, and messaging to the public. And again, written protocol, staff training, proper equipment, transport considerations, emergency procedures, and appropriate venues must all be part of a program animal plan,

and a good plan relies heavily on staff expertise.

911 Emergencies

So far, the symposium speakers were all highly professional AZA employees with years of experience. The next speaker, however, was Tim Harrison, who most FCF members remember from the "Elephant in the Living Room" documentary and his outspoken and frequent comments in favor of legislation that severely restricted wildlife owners in Ohio, and closed this state to future owners. His presentation focused on his accomplishments in capturing escaped wildlife and his training operations at Texas A & M, where he teaches disaster and emergency response.

I can't explain exactly why, but Tim's presentation, while fascinating to me, did not generate many notes. I think it was because he spent so much of his time promoting himself. His big take home message was for animal people to communicate with their local first responders, sheriff, police, and fire and rescue services. I am sure he turned off many in the audience by painting a dark picture with broad strokes of generalities, such as, "breeders

have forgotten their responsibilities to the new owners, animals and public." To a licensed breeder who prides herself on being conscientious, that's a big turn-off, and then he followed with admonishments that we do not reach out to public officials when animals escape or people are injured. Wonder why?

Tim played audio footage of the 911 call on Travis the chimpanzee which viciously attacked its Connecticut primate owner's friend, biting her face, hands, and body. The dialog was indeed very heart wrenching, as the owner was frightened and begging for police to hurry up and arrive and be ready to kill her pet. Tim pointed out it was also a case of very poor communication, the owner repeatedly telling the dispatcher that Travis was a chimp, and the dispatcher relaying to the police that a "monkey" was loose.

Tim lost credibility with me as he claimed there were more tigers in Texas than in the wild, something the FCF has refuted time and again. Tim also brought up Terry Thompson, the Zanesville, Ohio, man who turned his big cats and bears loose. Tim discounted the conspiracy theories about the event, claiming to have inside information that Terry Thompson threatened to get even with police, family, and friends prior to his release of his animals and committing suicide.

Contingency Planning

From animal rights self-promoter, the symposium switched back to Yvonne Nadler, an AZA veteran veterinarian and consultant on hazards and disaster planning. Yvonne began by pointing out the obvious, that animal people are vulnerable when bad things happen. We need to plan for natural disasters and other emergencies. By making plans, we show that we care about our animals, which are valued members of our communities. Disasters increase the chances of injury or escapes from unintended consequences, so there is an increased need to address staff and public safety. By having disaster plans, we protect our first responders, protect the value of our genetic resources,

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and decrease financial loss that could threaten business viability.

In 2008, the USDA proposed a new regulation to require contingency plans as a requirement of licensees. Exhibitors and breeders still await a final rule, but, in the meantime, Yvonne says it is prudent for the animal community to move forward with disaster planning.

Yvonne suggests using an Incident Command System that incorporates fundamental considerations for contingency plan development and is a systematic tool for the command, control, and coordination of emergency response. Plans need to identify goals and include participation of stakeholders. Plans need to be flexible and scalable.

Gather a collaborative planning team of fire, police, public works, and utilities, as well as yourself, employees, volunteers, and friends. Do a risk assessment; that is, identify hazards, vulnerabilities, and consequences and likelihoods. Then focus on the things most likely to happen, most vulnerable and with the highest consequences. Identify resources, plan realistically and in-budget. Assemble the staff and write the plan.

Fiscal Responsibility

The symposium then switched back to a HSUS spokesperson, Dr. Kellie Heckman, who discussed the need for sound fiscal management in animal enterprises. Ms. Heckman is the new executive director of Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), and was only appointed June 9th of this year. Her previous experience was with non-profits aimed at eliminating pet overpopulation.

GFAS is a relatively new organization backed by the multi-million dollar HSUS lobbying machine. GSAF facilities have recently enjoyed the exemptions from draconian legislation being crafted and promoted to state governments and Congress by HSUS. It accredits sanctuaries in the U.S. and other countries, though most facilities are domestic animal and farm animal sanctuaries. Only a few wild animal sanctuaries are part of this HSUS network.

Ms. Heckman laid out the basics of infrastructure for non-profits to be fiscally responsible. Her first step method combined planning, execution, recording, reporting, and monitoring. Fiscal responsibility begins by assembling financial records, budget financial plans, banking

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

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

Scott Deschenes - Basic

Jennifer Kasserman - Intermed.

Basic Feline Handlers have documented at least one year of experience, Intermediate level is at least five years of experience, and Advanced handlers have more than ten years experience. Update your registration when you obtain additional handling experience or new species experience.

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

Being a registered handler is the first step to becoming a Professional Member. Professional Membership application is also online on the Members-Only website.

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

Debi Willoughby, FCF Secretary

records, fundraising activities, and disclosures. With these materials in hand, gather the stakeholders, i.e., the founder, executive director, board of directors, and staff.

It was at this point that the new executive director of the GFAS tried to relate to the audience, most of which were not GSAF sanctuaries (though there were a fair amount of big cat sanctuaries in attendance), but zoos and exhibitors. And then she blurted out, "We all came into the business of animal welfare because we love money." No kidding. She immediately turned red, realizing her Freudian slip, and corrected herself, "Because we love animals." This slip definitely knocked her off balance, though, and the rest of her presentation seemed strained.

A strategy plan includes a mission statement and outline of goals, objectives, activities, and assessment of current assets. Follow by developing pension plans for the animals that fill the needs for food, care, enrichment, and maintenance for the expected lifetime of the animals.

Ms. Heckman advises sanctuaries develop a strategy for saying "no" to requests for services when the business does not have the means to take on additional animals. Ms. Heckman suggests that phone call requests be heard by trained volunteers or staff with a questionnaire at the ready. This way, the request cannot be answered immediately, but must be forwarded to an acquisition committee by a neutral messenger.

Ms. Heckman encouraged sanctuaries to have endowments, which are large

amounts of donated money held for the purpose of continuing care, not current operations. Incorporate this need into budget goals, establish an endowment committee, develop the endowment, and create the marketing materials.

Ms. Heckman concluded with several suggestions:

1. Have liability insurance for the directors and human resource personnel of non-profits.

2. Create job descriptions for everyone on staff.

3. Cross-train staff to be better prepared for a disaster or change in leadership.

4. Recognize the potential for founder's syndrome, which can cause a leader to lose sight, become possessive, and lose ability to delegate or make a smooth transition.

5. Have a succession plan for founders. A change in leadership is a new opportunity to engage with donors.

She concluded with, "Transparency, governance, leadership, and results will differentiate a high performing non-profit from an underrated one."

Cub Development

Day two of the USDA symposium began with Else Poulsen speaking again, this time on cub development. She began with the statement that the further the captive environment is removed from the genetic expectations of the species, the higher the stress level. I suppose this is the rationale for leaving cubs with the mother in a zoo setting, but, in my experience, a hand-raised cub is far less stressed

in a human dominated environment than one left to its mother. And the environment they are going to grow up in is a human dominated habitat.

Ms. Poulsen continued with the observation that adverse early experiences have the potential to negatively influence the development process through physiological and behavioral mechanisms. Ms. Poulsen recommended behavior-based husbandry, which is designed to lower stress levels. Ms. Poulsen stated that it is questionable whether or not lions and tigers actually imprint on their mothers. It is a state of learning, it is not permanent, and it is complex. Do what you can to promote proper brain development for the personality of the cat. Felines require species specific cues for normal development; without these cues, the brain grows abnormally. She brought up the famous experiments that psychologist Harry Harlow conducted in the 1950s, on maternal deprivation in rhesus monkeys, which contributed to the evolving science of attachment and loss.

Best Practices for Hand-Rearing

Gail Hedberg is a veterinary technician with more than 37 years of zoo experience. She is versed in preventative health

care, husbandry and nutrition, but her true passion is with neonatal and hand-rearing of exotics.

Ms. Hedberg suggests starting by conditioning felines for ultrasound to determine pregnancy and number of fetuses, and be sure to have enough staff on hand to take care of the cubs. Draw blood from the mother to be spun down into serum prior to parturition, and freeze it for use in cases where cubs need to be removed for hand-rearing before they have nursed their mother's colostrum.

There are three generalized development phases; neonatal phase, growth phase and weaning phase, which should be taken into account when designing a program for the four levels of care. Level one care is for kittens and cubs that suffered maternal neglect. They have no suckle response, are dehydrated, and core temperature is sub-normal. These neonates need more fluids, and they should be given sub-q to reach homeostasis. A urine sample will indicate level of dehydration. Continue fluid therapy for the first 48 to 72 hours. Level two is the period where kittens still cannot thermoregulate. Level three kittens still need nightly feedings. At level four, nutritional needs can be met in an eight-hour day.

Cubs are often predisposed to sepsis through the umbilical stump if left untreated. Two to three times a day, apply a topical antiseptic, either 0.5 percent chlorhexidine solution or two percent tincture of iodine, until the umbilical stump is dry and falls off.

For neonatal septicemia, Ms. Hedberg recommends using a third generation cephalosporin antibiotic, ceftiofur sodium (Naxcel, Pharmacia and Upjohn), as it alters normal intestinal flora minimally and is usually effective against the causative organisms.

Cubs are unable to completely thermoregulate until three to four weeks of age, so during that time maintain their environmental temperature at 80 to 85 degrees. Provide a warm, draft-free environment with a sheltered nesting area for healthy litters. Single or tiny cubs are more susceptible to hypothermia and should be housed in a controlled environment while monitoring their core body temperature twice a day to ensure it is maintained at 98 to 99 degrees. Compromised cubs should be maintained in an incubator with a consistent temperature gradient between 80 and 85 degrees until the cubs are capable of thermoregulation. Once cubs are stable and capable of ther-



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moregulation, a warm ambient temperature with a gradient of at least five degrees Fahrenheit is essential, so the cubs can seek the temperature in their environment most comfortable to them.

Compromised cubs probably did not receive maternal colostrum. The intestinal absorption of maternal IgG antibody stops by 24 hours after parturition. Colostrum deprived kittens given adult cat serum at a dose of 150 ml/kg (0.15 ml/gm), SC or IP, will develop serum IgG levels comparable with suckling littermates. Adding serum to the protocol for initial evaluation at the time of stabilization can reduce the risk for prenatal or postnatal infections and act as a natural antibiotic. Serum is also used as part of the recommended neonate total fluid replacement calculation of 100 ml/kg per day. This protocol may need to be repeated in four to five weeks if the feline was compromised at birth and antibody reserves were depleted.

Integrating solids into the milk formula, such as turkey or chicken baby food, at two weeks of age elevates the caloric intake without increasing volume. Transition then to Zupreem in the milk formula at the age of three weeks to reduce stress-

ful behavioral moods and possessiveness associated with bottle feeding and weaning.

Neonatal Resuscitation Kit:

Syringes (tb), acupuncture needles, very small gauge needles < 25G
Epinephrine freshly diluted 1:9
50% dextrose freshly diluted to 5%
Oxygen sources
Suction (pediatric bulb syringes)
DeLee aspirators
Small face masks
Towels
Heat source (Baer, warm water blanket, infrared lamp)
Puppy box (Styrofoam) with heat support
Multiple clean mosquito forceps & small scissors
3-0 Gut Suture for umbilical cords, needle removed, cut in 5" lengths
Tincture of iodine 2% or 0.5% chlorhexidine
Bowls for warm water baths
Pediatric/neonatal stethoscope
Doppler
Neonatal scale

Neonatal Resuscitation Drugs:

Dilute epinephrine

Dilute dextrose

Ceftiofur reconstitute (dilute and freeze for improved shelf life), 2.5 mg/kg (0.0025 mg/gm) SC q 12h x 5days
Vitamin K1

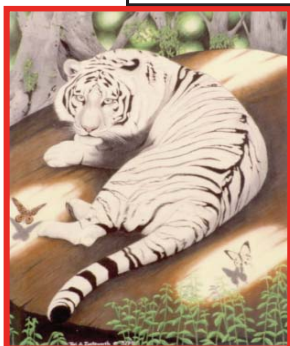
Diet and Nutrition

Cheryl Morris, Assistant Professor of Comparative Animal Nutrition at Iowa State University, teaches undergraduate animal nutrition and companion animal management. She is also the nutritionists at Henry Doorly Zoo.

Ms. Morris began by pointing out the importance of nutrition to health and well-being, as it is essential to support immunity, growth, reproduction, and maintenance. In addition, proper selection and usage of dietary ingredients can also offer environmental enrichment.

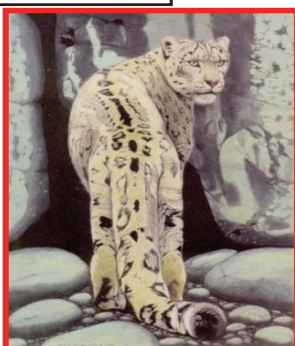
Lions and tigers, similar to other felids, are obligate carnivores through natural history and evolution. Felids have unique requirements for several nutrients. Lions and tigers have requirements for taurine and arginine, two amino acids that other mammals make endogenously. A diet deficient in taurine results in heart and eye conditions, including dilated cardiomyopathy and feline central retinal degeneration. Natural sources of taurine include tongue, eyes, and heart tissue. Arginine is an amino acid synthesized metabolically in the urea cycle; however, because felids consume such high protein diets, arginine is not produced in large enough concentrations to eliminate the ammonia produced through the breakdown of dietary protein. Arginine deficient diets rapidly result in elevated ammonia concentrations that are fatal to felids. Arachidonic acid is a fatty acid obtained from animal tissue and is required specifically by felids because they lack enzymes to make it endogenously from linoleic acid. Dietary deficiencies of arachidonic acid result in poor coat condition, hair loss, poor immunity, slow healing, and fatty livers. Felids are unable to convert beta-carotene to active vitamin A and do not synthesize vitamin D in their skin at rates high enough to meet requirements. Vitamin D works synergistically with calcium and phosphorus and typically contributes to metabolic bone concerns when fed at improper concentrations. Liver is a natural source of vitamins A and D. Unfortunately, both vitamins also are quite toxic at elevated intakes; therefore, feeding and inclusion of liver in lion and tiger diets requires careful consideration

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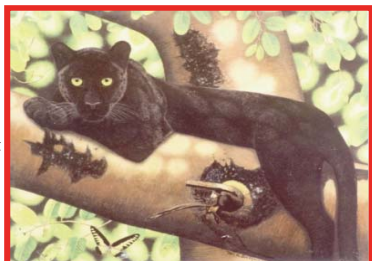
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Go to the FCF website to make a donation with PayPal today. Or call the treasurer at 479-394-5235 to use your credit card and support this worthy cause.

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



and formulation. Calcium and phosphorus are two minerals that easily become out of balance in carnivore diets without attention. An improper balance of these two minerals contributes to metabolic bone disease and other bone malformations. Lastly, most mammals have the ability to metabolically convert the amino acid tryptophan to the vitamin niacin. Felids are unable to make this conversion; therefore, dietary niacin also is a unique nutrient requirement for lions and tigers.

Ground, raw meat-based diets, offered by Central Nebraska Packing, Sustainable Swine Resources, Triple A Brand Meat Company, and Miliken Meat Products, LTD, offer assurance that felids receive adequate concentrations of required nutrients. Supplement products are available from Mazuri and Central Nebraska Packing to help balance diets that consist of muscle meat only. Whole prey items can provide a valuable balance of nutrients. However, continued feeding of a single prey item, such as "deer-only" diets, can quickly lead to nutrient imbalances. Whole prey items should be varied in order to provide a more appropriate balance of nutrients. In addition, if cats are selecting or not consuming certain components of the prey item, imbalances or deficiencies of nutrients are likely.

Lions and tigers often become obese in managed environments due to over consumption of calories and inadequate exercise. Running programs and enrichment plans are valuable aids in managing obesity in these felids. Likewise, diets should be evaluated for caloric density, because the two species are not similar in caloric need. Lions are more efficient with energy, compared with tigers, and therefore require approximately 30% fewer calories, based on body weight. Because of their high caloric needs, tigers also become emaciated more quickly. Body condition indices are extremely important for continued documentation of felid health.

Objectively monitored

and documenting the consistency of feces is valuable for animal health monitoring. Continued loss in fecal consistency can indicate severe health concerns or dietary concerns before other clinical signs become obvious.

Microbial contamination can be high in both raw meat and whole prey. Proper handling precautions should be adhered to for optimal manager and cat safety.

Reputable Sanctuaries

The symposium speakers switched back over to the animal rights interests with Ben Callison, hired two months ago as the executive director of Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch. He is an architect by degree and joined the organization's board in 2011. He also serves on the board of directors of the Texas Humane Legislation Network.

Mr. Callison defines reputable sanctuaries the same way the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does in the Captive Wildlife Safety Act – no breeding, buying, selling, or touching the animals. And so, if you violate these rules, you are either not a sanctuary or you are not reputable according to his view.

Everything needs to revolve around the animal care, the staff needs to be trained, the financial plans need to be stable and sustainable, the acquisition and disposi-

tion of animals needs to meet the restrictions, and the public needs to be kept away from the animals.

The Black Beauty Ranch is operated by the Fund for Animals, now part of the Humane Society of the United States. The 1,300-acre property, according to Mr. Callison, holds nearly 1,000 animals, though the May 2013 USDA inspection reports only around 300, and, of those, 88 are fallow deer, 88 are wild pigs, and 24 are Barbary sheep. Their wild feline collection on the inspection form shows a pair of bobcats and a trio of tigers. It was accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries in 2007, after the precursor accrediting organization – TAOS – The Association of Sanctuaries, folded, and was replaced by this much better financed, HSUS-backed accrediting organization.

Black Beauty Ranch should not want for anything, with such deep-pocketed owners; the latest IRS 990 form for the Fund for Animals, Inc., in New York, grossed over \$7 million and shows that Black Beauty Ranch is one of three sanctuaries run by the organization. So I can understand hiring an architect to lead the non-profit. Mr. Callison has great plans for the future development of big cat habitats. He showed the audience drawings of his vision of multiple habitats with centralized indoor housing that encompassed many acres of the ranch.

Apparently, he has great plans to acquire plenty more tigers. However, the only image of a tiger habitat I saw was from the PR video of the recent tiger brought from Kansas. Most of the footage included close-ups of the tiger laying in grass, but one could see the fencing behind the big cat, and that habitat looked to me to be only around 1,500 square feet.

Mr. Callison told the audience that sanctuaries were needed because animals need homes and animals suffer from neglect and inhumane treatment. He believed laws are too lax and he is working with others to have them strengthened so that ownership rights are limited to only those qualified to pro-

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.

Fishing Cat Project:

Jodi Wenzl
Lynn Culver
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JB & Reva Anderson

General Fund:

Capital One

Wildcat Safety Net:

Cynthia Peterson

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vide lifetime care. He pointed out that these kinds of situations are a burden on the taxpayers, due to the need for first responder services. To illustrate this problem, he relayed the story of a 2013 call from a sheriff in Kansas who asked for his services. He showed us a video of chain-link cages containing tiger, cougar, lynx, bobcat, and serval, and their poop-covered muddy floors, with no perimeter fence, located just a short distance from an elementary school. Supposedly, school officials would not allow the children to play outdoors because it was not safe. How this situation lasted this long, when Kansas has laws prohibiting tigers and big cats without a USDA license, is a mystery to me.

Black Beauty Ranch took the tiger and Carole Baskin's Big Cat Rescue took the Canada lynx. Why a sanctuary association sends a heat-intolerant species like Canada lynx to Tampa, Florida, leaves me wondering just how much do they think about the cat's needs. What was painfully ironic to this story is that many in the FCF were already familiar with this owner, Matt Baker. At one time, he was not only a member of the FCF, but the Kansas state representative. How embarrassing for us. Apparently he hit hard times. He dropped his FCF membership, lost his wife, had his home foreclosed, and gave up his USDA license. He moved himself and his cats to his parents' place. He never asked for help from his peers in the feline community, which is so sad, as there are FCF sanctuaries and FCF zoos nearby that would have come to his rescue. It seems that every time I learn of a facility being rescued, it is someone I know of, and that reinforces my belief that this community

really is small and getting smaller all the time.

Mr. Callison admitted he had no idea of the size of the big cat problem, but he did point out that four children have been killed by big cats in the past 24 years. And he believed that public contact with cats causes mental damage to the cats. He wanted only responsible breeding by facilities that are totally committed to keeping the offspring. He wants safe handling and keeper training, and housing that meets the psychological and physical needs with a high level of security and safety.

Transport Preparation

Alan Sironen owns Zoo Consultants, Inc., which provides exhibit planning and animal transportation services. He spent 35 years working at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as a zookeeper and mammal curator. He is also a board member of the Zoological Association of America and on their facility accreditation committee.

Knowledge of species and preparation of the animal and paperwork are the start to good transport plans. Transports need to move quickly and smoothly, and to achieve this goal one must consider transport stressors such as the vibrations, noise, proximity of strangers, separation anxiety, strange environments, and exposure to dust and unfamiliar smells. Reduce as many stressors as possible before the transport. Begin by crate training the animals. Allow two to four weeks to give the cat time to acclimate to a crate. Train the feline to eat, sleep, and drink in the crate. Crates need to be leak-proof, enable movers to monitor the animal, protect the handlers, and be accessible for a pole syringe.

International Shipments

Raymond A. Sutton, Special Projects Director of Wild Acres Ranch/Safari Adventures Zoo has extensive experience in management, propagation, collection, crating, shipping, and relation of wildlife.

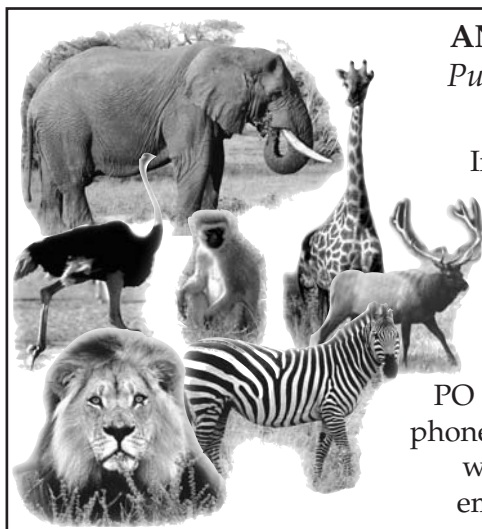
The following requisite international paperwork is required in advance and must accompany the shipment:

1. USDA Federal Health Certificate endorsed.
2. Any quarantine period necessary from shipping country.
3. Any testing requirements, treatments, vaccinations, blood testing, etc., requirements or statements from shipping country necessary to be recorded on USDA Health Certificate.
4. USF&W CITES permits and/or Declaration of Exportation or Importation.
5. Veterinary Import Permit from receiving country.
6. USDA Port Inspection if necessary at Port of Exportation.
7. United States Certificate of Origin form.
8. Customs Declaration.
9. Any quarantine after arrival at receiving country.

Transportation of Lions and Tigers

The third speaker on transporting was Pat Craig, executive director of The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado. Pat says he is the oldest sanctuary in the U.S., more than 34 years in existence and he has created the largest habitats in the county, some of them 20 acres or more in size, housing large groups of carnivores like lions and tigers. His facility has not always been as secure as it is now; in 2005 and 2006, he did not have enough funds to operate and told the press several times that he might have to euthanize his animals. The non-profit's hard times were relieved by the filming of "Growing up Leopard" at his facility, which has aired numerous times and generated generous donations from animal lovers around the world, including Bob Barker. Today he continues to rescue animals from across the country and internationally.

In total contrast to the careful, thorough transport of healthy zoological animals by the licensed professionals, Pat explained the difficulties of transporting big cats on a moment's notice, sometimes with their health and lives in jeopardy, and the animals seized by authorities. It was indeed embarrassing to be reminded that we have



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way too many of these situations occurring in our feline community.

When Pat transports, he takes into consideration the overall concerns of the destination, equipment, safety, the animals, and proper permits. He says he considers the animal's perspective and its ability to adapt to novelty to help achieve the success of the operation. He notes that hand-reared animals are less stressed during transport. He partners animals whenever it seems appropriate, as they seem to draw strength from each other when transported together or near each other.

Geriatric Husbandry

Dr. Ellen Weidner is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, with more than 15 years of carnivore experience. Her opening remarks were that preparing for old age should begin when the animal is young. Geriatric veterinary medicine is a matter of management rather than curing, with a goal of improving the quality of life.

For older cats, simple adjustment to husbandry, such as soft grass to lie on, pools for water aerobics, lowering of platforms, and adding stairs can mitigate their diminished abilities. Dens should be accessible for observation and pole syringes. Give help with temperature control, provide heat in winter weather, and create cooler areas in summer.

Geriatric cats can develop allergies and Idiopathic Bowel Disease (IBD). Their caloric needs decrease, so managers need to keep track of the feline's weight. Other conditions that generally affect older cats are dental diseases, renal disease, cancer, obesity, and osteoarthritis. Pyometria is common to lions, IBD in tigers, and for cheetahs, well, they get everything.

When sedating older cats, Dr. Weidner quoted Dr. Murray Fowler, who said, "There are no safe anesthesia drugs, only

safe anesthesiologists." She cautions that 5% of all cats spike high potassium levels under sedation.

Older cats frequently undergo behavior changes, lethargy, unusual aggression, confusion, decreased appetite, or not eating at all. She advises that we listen to our gut feelings. Seek veterinary assistance after 12 hours of vomiting or diarrhea, or when odd colored urine, damaged teeth, or skin lesions that don't heal are noticed.

For pain management use NSAIDS, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and she suggests combination therapy of drugs such as meloxicam, gabapentin, and tramadol and observing the animal's response.

Palliative care eventually may lead to "the time has come." Clinicians should strive for a peaceful and pain-free death. Necropsy is encouraged to provide information that may help other felines.

Preventative Medicine

William Suedmeyer has been the director of animal health at the Kansas City Zoo for the past 23 years. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Zoological Medicine at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

A simple health program between the owner and the veterinarian can prevent future problems and should include a review of the diet, routine exams, annual vaccination, and yearly to biannual fecal evaluation.

Routine physical exams (yearly to every other year) are important to detect early disease problems, such as dental disease, tumors, external parasites, arthritis, and chronic renal or cardiac disease, all of which if detected and treated early can significantly increase the quality of life for the animal, especially ones

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approaching geriatric age.

Proper nutrition is integral to ensuring good health. Wholesome food and fresh water are integral to the animals' well-being. Raw meat lacks proper nutrient balance to maintain adequate health when used as the sole food source. Supplementation is necessary for proper calcium and phosphorous ratios, as well as assurance of adequate vitamins and minerals. Raw meat is high in phosphorous and low in calcium. When a feline is fed raw meat for months it causes secondary nutritional hyperparathyroidism, which leads to metabolic bone disease, a condition by which the body resorbs calcium from the bones to maintain muscle and blood levels.

Infectious diseases include viruses, parasites, bacteria, and fungi. The viral diseases owners should be aware of include the respiratory feline calici and rhinotracheitis virus, canine distemper virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, feline panleukopenia, and feline infectious peritonitis.

Feline calicivirus causes ulcers on the tongue, discharge from the eyes, somnolence, and inappetence.

Rhinotracheitis can cause ulcers on the eyes, upper respiratory disease, and lethargy, and in some cases death. Feline panleukopenia virus causes immunosuppression, bloody diarrhea, anemia, stumbling, dehydration, and death. Vaccination with killed domestic feline products that protects against calici, rhinotracheitis, and panleukopenia (Felovax Lv-K, Fort Dodge, Inc. Ames' IA 50501) is recommended on a yearly basis, but may not always protect the cat from calicivirus since there are differing strains of this particular virus. In unvaccinated animals, one vaccine followed by a booster in three

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weeks and annually thereafter affords the best protection. Kittens should be vaccinated at six weeks of age, then three weeks later, and annually thereafter.

Canine distemper is a serious viral infection that has been documented in tigers and lions. The virus is thought to have caused the demise of up to 60% of some wild African lion populations and has caused death in many captive animals in the U.S. It is highly contagious and has been linked to infected domestic dogs and raccoons. Treatment is generally unrewarding. Prevention is key and vaccination is critical to preventing infection. The current recommendation involves use of Merial Purevax® Ferret Distemper recombinant vaccine once yearly. In unvaccinated animals, one vaccine followed by a booster in three weeks is generally recommended. In kittens, vaccination should occur after six weeks of age and annually thereafter. Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), a contagious coronavirus, has been documented in lions and tigers, though specific strain identification is lacking. Anorexia, chronic weight loss, and diarrhea have been observed. There is no specific treatment or vaccination. Feline immunodeficiency virus is com-

mon in lions and less so in tigers. It can cause immunodeficiency in these animals, leading to oral disease, anemia, skin infections, vomiting, diarrhea, and neurologic problems. There is no treatment and no vaccine. The disease is transmitted through bodily fluids and is thought to be most commonly transmitted through fighting. All animals should be tested before being introduced to any other felid. If a positive result is found, placing animals together or adjacent to each other should not occur. Feline leukemia virus, a common infection of domestic cats, has occurred in a cheetah, Iberian lynx, leopard cat, European wildcat, and mountain lion, but not in tigers or lions, though the potential for infection is possible. There is a vaccine for domestic cats and it has been used in exotic cats, but efficacy has not been determined. Rabies can be transmitted by wild mammals, including raccoons, skunks, bats, coyotes, domestic dogs, and cats. It is a fatal disease and can be passed to people as well. It is recommended to vaccinate exotic cats once yearly against rabies, especially in areas with endemic rabies or high populations of the above reservoirs. Use of a killed product, as is used in domestic cats, is

warranted. Feline leukemia, while common in domestic cats, has not been documented in tigers or lions. Vaccination is not recommended in these species, but animals should be tested routinely and any positive animals kept separate from negative animals. In addition, other vaccines available for domestic cats, such as those for *Chlamydomydia felis* and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, are not recommended for use in the exotic cats.

Parasite infections are common in lions and tigers. Intestinal parasites including toxoplasma, roundworms, hookworms, coccidia, flukes, giardia, and tapeworms have all been documented. Heartworm has been documented in exotic cats, but seldom causes clinical disease and monthly prophylaxis is generally not recommended. Ticks, fleas, lice and various mites, chiggers, mange, and ear mites are commonly encountered external parasites. Routine fecal exams (at least once yearly) will detect intestinal tract infections. Physical exams and ear mite swabs will detect parasites of the skin. Medications used in domestic cats and dogs are generally safe for the exotic cats, though only one product (Fenbendazole granules, 22.2%, Panacur, Intervet, Inc., Millsboro,

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DE 19966) is approved for use in lions and tigers. This product will treat intestinal nematodes, hookworms, and some species of tapeworms. Aberrant parasitic infections, such as *Baylisascaris procyonis* originates in raccoons and migrates to the brain and spinal cord of exotic animals, causing severe neurologic disease and death. It is an intestinal nematode of raccoons that causes no illness in the raccoon. There is no treatment once the parasite migrates out of the intestinal tract. Prevention is key to success; eliminating exposure to raccoon feces in hay and bedding, preventing raccoon latrines in and around exotic felid enclosures, and trapping raccoons are all integral to preventing infection. *Sarcocystis falcatula* and *S. falcatula*-like infections are parasites that originate in native opossums. The parasite is deposited in feces and becomes infective within a week. The parasite is ingested and replicates in the lungs, causing insignificant to severe respiratory problems. The parasite can migrate to the brain, internal organs, and muscles. There is no definitive test for this parasite in exotic cats, though cerebrospinal fluid and PCR on whole blood samples can occasionally document the parasite in ill animals. Treatment, though also not approved, can be effective through the use of Ponazuril (Marquis, 15% w/w., Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201).

Developing and Documenting a Program of Veterinary Care

Katheryn Ziegerer, DVM, is a veterinary medical officer at the USDA, who has also worked as a compliance inspector in Missouri. Her presentation explained how to properly conform to the USDA requirements of a Veterinary Care Program, and while it is mandatory for licensees, it is nevertheless something all feline owners should strive for, whether they are businesses or pet owners. Having a written program of veterinary care has always been a requirement of USDA licensing, and a fill-in-the-blanks form is provided to licensees, but Dr. Ziegerer informed the audience that this form generally does not have enough space for the kind of detail the USDA will be looking for going forward, especially if the collection has multiple taxa.

The Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) is a formal, written agreement between the licensee and the attending veterinarian and establishes a relationship between the veterinary care provider and the licensee. The PVC document should be reviewed annually or more often if necessary, by the facility and attending veterinarian to ensure that it is still accurate. The program should also be updated as needed for situations such as the addition of a new species, or changes in any of the medical program or practices, change in attending vet, or change in an animal's status. Whenever the PVC is changed, it must be signed and dated by the attending veteri-

narian.

A comprehensive program of veterinary care may include, but not be limited to:

- A schedule of regular visits to the premises, at least annually and possibly more frequent.

- Methods that will be used to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. Common and chronic conditions must be diagnosed and treated. This also includes guidance on appropriate selection and use of cleaners and disinfectants. Review product choice, appropriate mixing, surface preparation, and contact time.

- Description of how veterinary medical care is tracked and recorded. Maintain detailed records at licensee premises. Veterinary treatment information (from preventatives like worming, to daily maintenance of therapeutics) should include the manufacturer, the frequency, the method of administration, injection sites, and potential side effects. Document all communication; phone call dates and discussions and vet visits. Use log books, either by computer or just a notebook and be sure to keep medical records accurate and timely.

- Methods of euthanasia appropriate for the animals. It must be AVMA approved and performed by appropriately trained personnel.

- Mechanisms for direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian on problems of animal health, well-being, and behavior. Communicate with your veterinarian and keep him apprised of medical conditions by phone or office or farm calls.

- Methods of obtaining emergency, weekend, and holiday care. Develop resources of back-up veterinarians, clinics, and phone numbers.

- Guidance regarding animal handling. If chemical restraint will be utilized, the licensee should document proper training under their veterinarian by having the vet sign off that you are qualified.

- Descriptions of the facilities and equipment used to care for the animals. Discuss with your vet what equipment is necessary and appropriate for restraint, transport, and veterinary care.

- Dietary considerations for animals in the various life stages and health states at the facility. When feeding a non-commercial diet, have the attending veterinarian approve that the diet is nutritionally appropriate.

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store and can be purchased for only \$5.00 each with \$5.00 shipping and handling to U.S. addresses. You can also use the Membership form/Product order form included in this *Journal* issue. FCF coffee mug profits benefit the Wildcat Safety Net Fund.

Heart of Trinity Award Goes to the FCF!

By Lynn Culver

On May 19th, the FCF received an email informing us of the Animal Compassion Group and Cassandra, Bella, Brandon, and Kairo of the Trinity School. The letter explained that this group of fifth graders from Trinity School, an elementary school in Menlo Park, California, has a service learning project that involves giving awards to foundations or organizations that impress them with their work. The FCF was selected for an award called Heart of Trinity, under the "Animals" category.

Heart of Trinity is a project in which the children give \$100 (from a school fundraiser to which the kids in the school gave money), a certificate, and a medallion to organizations they think make a difference in the world. The children admired the FCF's work in educating and supervising for proper care of felines. They also liked how the FCF helps felines forced out of their habitat and how the FCF helps sick ones.

They wanted a representative from the FCF to come to the Trinity School so the children could properly present this award. The planned time for making awards was any morning at 8:30, during their daily chapel time, the week of June 2-6.

I contacted Kimberly Thacker, a fifth grade teacher, and since we did not have someone in the Menlo area to visit the school, the alternative of a Skype video ceremony was instead chosen. I set up the necessary ID contact request with their communications person, Kathy Hoekenga, and on June 4th at 2:30 in the afternoon, my intern Drew Tkach set up Skype and everything needed on my laptop so that the video camera pointed at me. I watched and listened as three of the fifth graders each read a paragraph of their letter explaining why they had chosen the FCF for their Heart of Trinity Award.

The video quality was blurry, probably because the children were so far from the camera, and it was panning the whole

room. I had my monitor set up so that I could see a small version of what my camera signal was sending to them and I could see that as long as I was close to the camera, it was in pretty good focus.

I thanked the children for the honor of their award, medallion, and gift of \$100. I explained more about the FCF and then took the opportunity to share with them some of the hand-reared kittens that were in my home at the time. When the image of a small bobcat kitten came into focus for the kids, the room burst with chatter. The kids were amazed and it generated numerous questions about the kitten, why it was in my home, and where it would eventually live. The kitten did not stay still very long and, when it moved, the camera image was quite blurry. But Drew next handed me a small Geoffroy's cat, giving me the opportunity to tell the children a bit about this tiny South American species. And then we got one of my Eurasian lynx cubs. I held it up close to the camera mounted on top of my laptop and my intern Drew snapped his fingers to get her attention and she froze for a moment and was in totally "purrfect" focus, and then the room really got loud with the kids all exclaiming such delight



at seeing the cub. It left no doubt at all that while the kids chose the FCF because of our website, and probably a natural attraction to wild felines, the impact of actually seeing these rare creatures in real life has a lasting emotional response that can only help with species survival as this generation grows up and decides what is important to them.

I really enjoyed the video exchange and it was a great honor to be chosen by these children.



Cassandre and Bella hold the certificate and Brandon holds up the Heart of Trinity medallion awarded to the FCF from the Trinity Elementary School in Menlo, CA.



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Heart of Trinity

Animal Compassion Award

Presented to Feline Conservation Federation

June 4, 2014

Dear Feline Conservation Federation,

Congratulations! We appreciate your work helping all these felines. You've really earned the Heart of Trinity Award. This award is to show our appreciation for some of the amazing organizations in the world.

The award is \$100 that we raised in a fundraiser, a medallion, and a certificate. Trinity School students raised money for this and other projects during a fundraiser called penny panic. Students do chores, bake sales, lemonade stands, yard sales, and other things and bring money to school. We do projects with the money that help with the environment and basic needs. We chose you because helping animals is a value of our school. We don't want animals to become extinct or endangered because animals are important to keeping our ecosystem healthy. We also enjoy learning about animals and their different abilities.

We really like how your organization goes around to zoos and other places that have animals to make sure that they are caring for the animals well and keeping them healthy and safe. We haven't heard of any other organizations that do that kind of work, so we think it's great that you do that. It's important because organizations could be mistreating their animals, or not caring for them properly, and no one would know. We also admire how you spread awareness about felines that aren't as well known, because they are important also. All in all, your organization does a lot of amazing work, and we feel that you completely deserve this award.

Thank you for all of your hard work and everything you have done for the remarkable felines you save.

Grade 5 students at Trinity School, Menlo Park
Kairo, Brandon, Cassandre, and Bella

Bella

Kairo

Brandon

Cassandre



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: Cover model Sabao Serval lives with Billie Lambert of Billiekatze Exotics in Panama City, Florida. She's a loving, young mother who makes a striking subject for photographer Lon Addison of Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Addison is exceptionally skilled at bringing out the personalities of her animal models on film. Lon Addison Photography and Billiekatze Exotics can both be found on Facebook.

Back Cover: Max, the Canada lynx, is one of the animal ambassadors of Wildlife Education by Bernie, in Salem, New York. Max makes appearances at youth and senior organizations, libraries, and schools. Bernadette Hoffman says that Max arrives in a crate and comes out if he's comfortable. Max helps Bernadette captivate her audiences so they are excited to learn about the animals she presents. She's worked at zoos and natural history museums, but is self-employed as a USDA-licensed exhibitor.

