



Feline Conservation Federation

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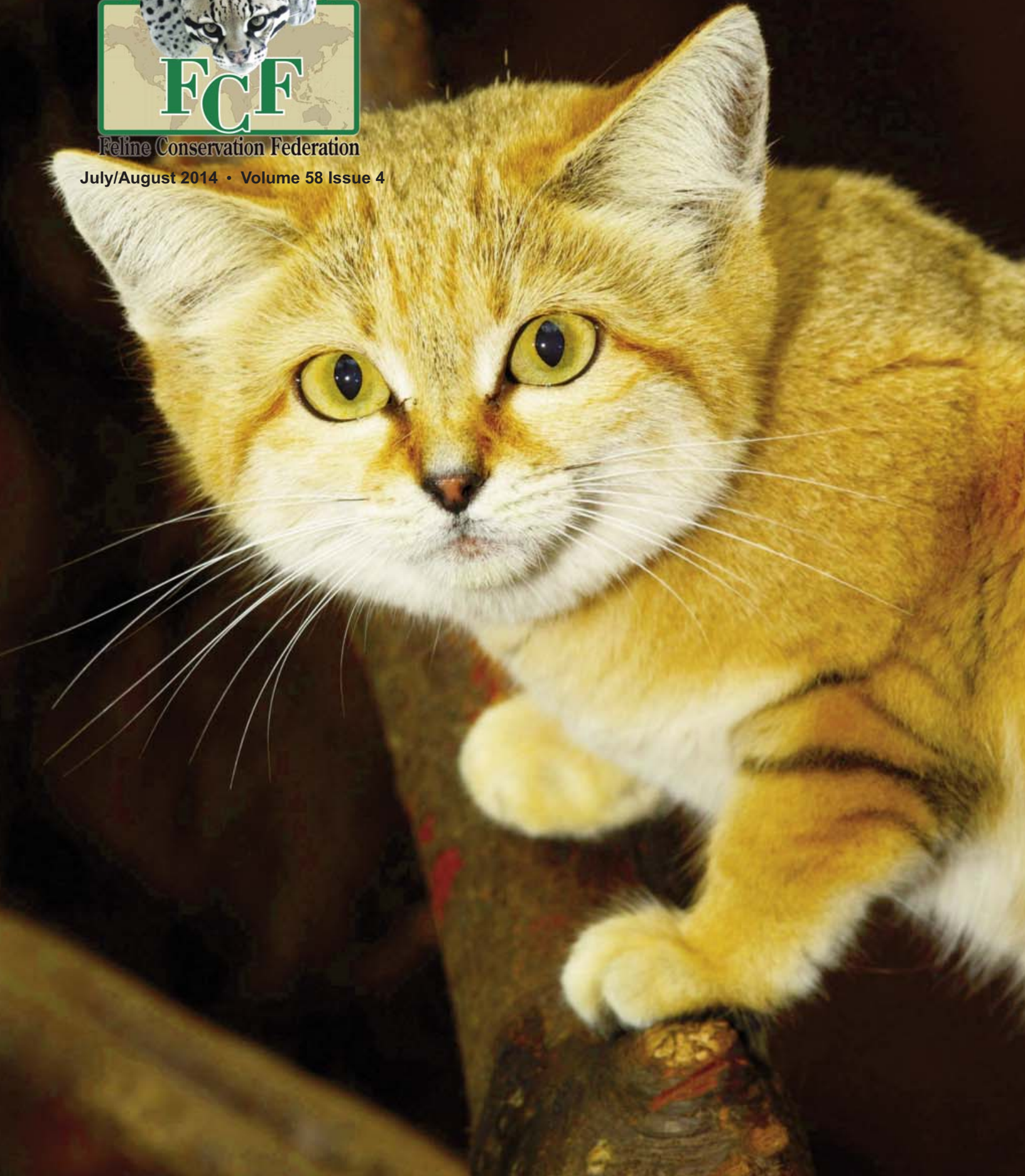


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A membership to the FCF entitles you to six issues of the *Journal*, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to FCF husbandry and wildlife education courses and annual convention, and participation in our online discussion group. The FCF works to improve captive feline husbandry and conservation. The FCF supports captive and wild habitat protection, and provides support for captive husbandry, breeding programs, and public education. Send \$35 annual dues (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 141 Polk Road 664, Mena, AR 71953.

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

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

Letters to the editor and guest editorials are also published.

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

Submission deadline for articles and advertisements is the 10th of even numbered months. Please submit high resolution photos and articles to the *Journal* Managing Editor. Photos and articles may be emailed to

lynnkulver@hughes.net, or send by postal service to: 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

Elsewhere in this newsletter, on page 34, you can read about the status of the Wild Species Registry and the FCF's involvement with it. At the convention board meeting, the FCF board approved a \$3,000 donation to this project and promised future support. Why do we feel that this is such an important project? Well, one of the most frequently heard statements by our detractors is that the privately held animals are of little genetic value and that there is no true conservation being done by private breeders. The current studbooks are kept by the AZA and they contain very few non-AZA animals and would not consider allowing an animal from a non-AZA facility into any of their breeding programs unless the animal was transferred to an AZA facility.

By helping the Wild Species Registry become operational, we are placing the tools needed to establish organized breeding programs for our animals to exist. Call it an investment in our future, if you will. In the past, it has been very difficult for someone to find out the ancestry of an animal when trying to find potential mates for their animals. This will give us a way to keep good genetic records, make informed decisions on pairings, and keep the genetic health of each species at the optimum level as may be done. The beauty of this registry is that a breeder need not be involved in an organized breeding program and may make those decisions independently, if they so desire. The registry is also not open for just anyone to check into how many and what species

you keep. Even though needed to keep good records, many of the fields may be kept private where they cannot be viewed unless you give permission for that person to see them. This tool has long been needed and the FCF is proud to be involved in its implementation. You will be hearing lots more on this project as things progress.

The nomination period for the 2014 election to the Board of Directors ended August 10. The present board members all accepted their automatic re-nominations except for Jim Sanderson. There was only one nomination received from the membership and that was Robert Bean for director. As a result, there is a full slate of nominees, but only one for each position, so there are no contested races. The Board held a meeting in late August, and decided to do the election differently this year. The cost of an election generally costs the organization around \$1,000 in printing, postage, and counting costs. Since none of the races are contested and write-in votes are not allowed in the constitution, the Board decided that since the outcome is basically pre-determined, we could save the organization the \$1,000 and hold the election on the forums this year. The constitution, bylaws, and programs and policies were reviewed to make sure that this would be allowed. In the September/October issue of the Journal, you will receive full instructions on when, where, and how to vote using the FCF website's Members-Only section. That issue will also include full biographies of all the candidates running for the Board.

Kevin Chambers



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From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

One of the FCF's earliest members, Loreon Vigne, passed away quietly at home on July 15th. Loreon's FCF membership number was 214, and that tells you something. She joined the Long Island Ocelot Club in 1962, when it was operated out of Amagansett, New York, by Catherine Cisin.

In the 1960s, ocelots were being purchased from classified ads in the newspapers. They cost a mere \$60. Ocelots were coming into this country from South America, after their mothers were killed by natives in the rain forest, no doubt for her fur, and the babies taken for the pet trade, and they were even sold in pet stores.

Loreon and other cat owners started an LIOC chapter in California, and members would meet at local parks or each other's homes to discuss how to care for their cats. There was not much attention toward breeding, as most of these cats were destined to be pets. Loreon, however, was determined to make more ocelots in captivity, feeling certain that as time went on and more generations were born

in a domestic environment that they would indeed become pets and the barbaric practice of taking them from the wild would cease.

Loreon's early contributions to the Long Island Ocelot Club newsletter included "The True Romance of Trilby Ocelot," illustrated by Mike Balbo. Written in a humorous and playful way, in those days ocelot ownership was a lighter affair and not fraught with all the rules and regulations that we face today. When Trilby delivered Omar, her first offspring, it was the first ocelot to be born in San Francisco, and her story was given positive press in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Loreon organized an LIOC Convention in San Francisco. It was during this very convention that there was a tragedy in the city where some folk's mountain lion mauled a child in their backyard. The cat had no cage, but was kept tethered to the house. This story was the beginning of the end of exotic cats in San Francisco. Laws were passed to remove all exotic animals from the city.

Loreon moved to ten acres of land in Geyserville, a small wine growing community in Sonoma County, and resided

there until her recent death. Loreon was awarded the Lotty for her contributions to ocelot breeding and in the 1980s the LIOC held a convention at her Isis Oasis.

Not many members have spanned so many decades of cat ownership that included breeding, rescue, and exhibiting. Loreon continued to breed ocelots long after most owners gave up in response to the burdensome restrictions placed on endangered species commerce by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2005, Loreon was charged with violating the ESA and fined heavily for accepting monetary donations to her non-profit Isis Oasis church in exchange for gifting ocelot offspring to the donors. The government did not recognize this as a gift. She was fined and forbidden to breed her ocelots.

From the boom of the 1960s, to the bust of today, ocelots are nearly gone from private sector captivity. I hope and pray that we can hold onto other species, but fear that once the generic tiger is brought back under ESA control, we will see the same scenario play out for this critically endangered species.



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New Member Review of 2014 FCF Convention Scottsdale, Arizona

By Cynthia Stimpson

My interest in the husbandry of exotic animals began upon learning that my great-great-grandfather, Lee Richard-



Cynthia did not know what to expect arriving at the FCF Husbandry Course, but made friends quickly with Geoffroy's cat Isabella.



Isabella hangs by Cynthia.

son, was the founder of the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, Kansas. Since then, I wanted to follow suit and establish

my own zoo and education program. I first learned about FCF five years ago while doing research on Savannah cats for my ROP veterinary assistant course. When I saw that they offered husbandry and educational courses, I knew I had to take them. So, in March 2014, I joined as an

official member and, on June 17th, my friend Chris and I were on the road to Arizona. It was a pleasant drive. I arrived at the Cottonwoods Resort around five o'clock, which gave me enough time to relax before the course.

I did not know what to expect when arriving to the class the next morning. While everyone was introducing themselves, I felt a level of uneasiness. Everyone had several years of experience while I was just soaking my feet. I began to wonder if my goals were unrealistic. My doubts were washed away in an instant at the sight of the Geoffroy's and lynx kittens running around the room. The Geoffroy's kitten took a liking to my bag. Throughout the class, I would look down once in a while and see her lying on it. As the class commenced, I was surprised how empowering the course was. It was a breath of fresh air to hear people say, "You can do this, too."

Before I found the



The peaceful atmosphere at Scottsdale Cottonwoods Resort was enhanced by its beautiful landscaping. Photo by Lynn Culver.

FCF, it was always difficult to find material on the subject of exotic animal husbandry; it was almost Area 51 confidential. All the material for the course was very insightful and covered everything



Fiona, another of the Geoffroy's cats at convention, shows off her jumping abilities during the Thursday evening icebreaker. Photo by Fred Hood.



Everyone enjoys the display of exotic kittens. Chris Morahan holds a Eurasian lynx cub.



Out of Africa wildlife included rhinos. Photo by Debi Willoughby.

from natural history to training and enrichment. There were several breaks throughout the class, including lunch. At the end of the course, there was a multiple choice test for which, if passed, a certificate of completion was rewarded. The test covered all topics discussed. After the course, we also attended an educational presentation of the kittens that were there. It was very insightful. It had a great introduction to the FCF. I particularly liked how the employees and other

people staying at the resort were invited to the presentation.

Thursday, June 19th, was the official start of the convention when most members had now arrived. This meeting for me was most educational and provided me with the deeper understanding of the mission of the FCF. There was discussion about Michel Sandlin, the owner of Tiger Truck Stop, and his tiger named Tony, and the battle that he fought against animal rights that he won! It was appalling and somehow came as no surprise as to how out of touch the animal rights groups are.

After the meeting, I took the opportunity to interact with the kittens again. They were joined with a bobcat and two other Geoffroy's cats. I lost track of time and had not noticed that the other attendees had left to play bingo. My friend and I found ourselves alone with the kittens. We happily sat there keeping an eye on them. Again, the Geof-



The safari bus tour makes a stop at the giraffe barn. Sandra Hohn holds a carrot in the mouth and gets "kissed" by one of the gentle giants. Photo by Robert Hohn.



Zebras bray at Out of Africa. Photo by Fred Hood.





Jeff Harwell allowed Cynthia and Chris to hose down Journey, one of the park's two new tiger cubs.

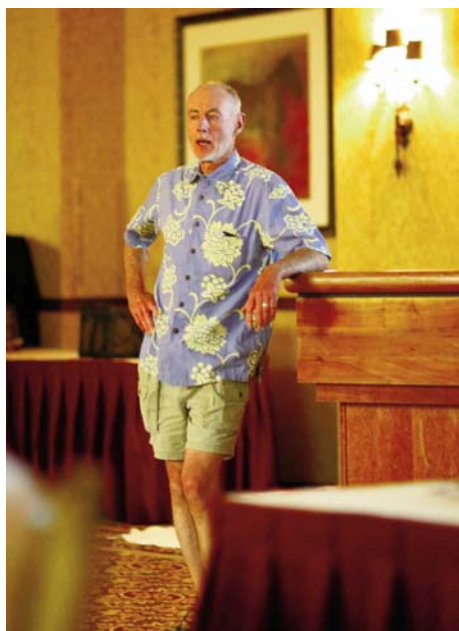
froy's cat, now known as Isabella, was content to stay close to me to avoid the rough and tumble of the other kittens. Chris, on the other hand, found himself to be the best toy that the lynx had ever seen.

Friday, we all boarded a bus to Out of Africa. The commute had a beautiful view of the Arizona landscape. Upon arrival, we immediately boarded a bus for



Ashwin Naidu gave a compelling talk about his plans for fishing cat conservation in India, and FCF members willingly opened their wallets to support his work. Photo by Fred Hood.

a tour inside the hoofstock enclosure. We were greeted by zebras and several other African and Asian hoofstock. I especially enjoyed meeting the giraffe, who offered a kiss in exchange for a piece of celery. After the bus ride, we had lunch and headed over to Tiger Splash, a show where tiger and handler enjoyed chasing toys and cooling off in the pool. While they played, Dean Harrison took the microphone to educate us on the instinct of



Jim Sanderson explains how big cats get the "lion's share" of the donation pie and small cat conservation efforts have to operate off the crumbs. Photo by Fred Hood.



The Tiger Splash show was a one-of-a-kind experience that featured a variety of inflatable toys being "hunted" by the big cats. Photo by Fred Hood.



Banquet night was enhanced by the presence of this serval kitten, Gary, brought by Jennifer Kasserman. Photo by Fred Hood.



Kurt Beckelman opens the auction up for bidding, auctioneer Abe Basmajian, standing, FCF president Kevin Chambers, seated. Photo by Fred Hood.

predators. Afterward, we all dispersed to look at the different animals; I went with a small group of other convention goers. One of the keepers, Jeff Harwell, introduced us to the hyenas and some of the cats. Jeff introduced us to a couple of tiger cubs that had just been brought to the facility. He explained to us how the cubs were not allowed to be used in Tiger Splash because of a disagreement with HSUS. After this, he asked us, "Who has never hosed down a tiger before?" I immediately raised my hand and he handed me the hose and instantly the cubs came bounding up jumping in and out of their tub trying to catch the water. My interaction with the cubs was more than I ever expected from the weekend. Very few members of the public are given the opportunity that I was given. After that, I was on cloud nine for the remainder of the day.

On Saturday, there were several guest speakers. My favorite guest speaker was Ashwin Naidu, from India, and his work with fishing cats. I was astonished to learn from Jim Sanderson's presentation



Saturday night banquet where everyone gathers for conversation, comradery, fine dining, and evening festivities. Photo by Debi Willoughby.

how little donations for wild cat conservation reached the small cat species. Later that night, there was a formal banquet and an open donation for Ashwin's work for fishing cats that raised over \$1,300. That was the last day for me at the convention. I went home with my certificate of completion and a greater appreciation for wild cats.

Becoming a member of the FCF is one

of the best things I have ever done. It has driven me to be more involved with wild cat conservation than I ever thought possible. It has made me feel responsible for the future of wild cats and other animals. I now know beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the work I want to dedicate my life to.



Ashley Fitzpatrick holds a mountain lion statue for bidding in the live auction Saturday night. Photo by Fred Hood.

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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.





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Arabian Wildlife

By Balazs Buzas

Al Mayya Breeding Center, Al Mayya Sanctuary, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

(Adapted from a talk at the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, AZ)



The Arabian Peninsula encompasses seven countries and holds many threatened and endangered species of wildlife, including the critically endangered Arabian leopard.

The Arabian Peninsula is an important part of Western Asia (Asian continent), between Africa and Asia, and is also called Arabia or the Arabian subcontinent. It was formed by the Arabian tectonic plate moving from Africa toward Asia, as a result of the rifting of the Red Sea 56 to



The Gordon's wildcat (*Felis silvestris gordonii*) distribution is widespread and presumed to cover most of the Arabian Peninsula, except the big sand dune areas. Unfortunately, Gordon's cats are threatened by hybridization with feral domestic cats. This specimen is most likely a hybrid.

23 million years ago. This three million square kilometer area is mainly desert, with mountains around the coast on the east and south.

The climate is either arid, desert climate or arid, steppe climate. During summer, it is hot and humid near the sea and experiences either no rain or heavy rainstorms. Some areas, like the Dhofar area in Oman, and the Al Mahrah area in Yemen, have a summer humid tropical monsoon climate.

The Arabian culture is a religious Muslim culture with traditional Bedouin lifestyles. The Bedouins are desert-dwelling Arabian ethnic groups usually divided into tribes or clans. In contrast, there is the modern urban lifestyle. Traditional hunting with Arabian greyhound Saluki and falconry are practiced.

Twenty-five percent of Arabian species are threatened with extinction. The most important mammal species are the critically endangered Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) and one of his prey, the Arabian tahr (*Arabitragus jayakari*). According to the "Regional Red List Status of Carnivores in the Arabian Peninsula," published by the IUCN

in 2011, the other felid species are also threatened by



This three million square kilometer area is mainly desert, with mountains around the coast on the east and south.



poaching and habitat loss.

The Gordon's wildcat (*Felis silvestris gordonii*) distribution is widespread and presumed to cover most of the Arabian Peninsula except the big sand dune areas. The major threat is hybridization with feral and free-ranging domestic cats, the same problem wildcats (*Felis silvestris*) have in Europe. The IUCN Red List status is Near Threatened, and the number of Gordon's cats in zoos worldwide is less than 100 specimens.

The sand cat (*Felis margarita*) population is likely declining as sand dune habitat continues to be lost. Additionally, they are sometimes caught for the international pet trade. The IUCN Red List status places this cat at Near Threatened. According to the latest Sand Cat Studbook, the captive population is less than 200 animals. The biggest captive population lives in the Al Ain Wildlife Park in the United Arab Emirates.

The Asiatic caracal (*Caracal caracal schmitzi*) is widespread in the region and



The sand cat (*Felis margarita*) population is likely declining as sand dune habitat continues to be lost.



The Asiatic caracal (*Caracal caracal schmitzi*) is widespread in the region and appears to be stable at present. This caracal photographed is from South Africa.

appears to be stable at present. IUCN Red List status is Least Concern, but the number in zoos is less than 50, with very few specimens represented outside of Arabia.



Balazs Buzas works at the Al Mayya Breeding Center, Al Mayya Sanctuary, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Balazs spoke at the FCF Convention about the endangered felines of the Arabian desert and mountains.

The Arabian specimens of cheetah were collected during the last century and were assigned to the Asian subspecies (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*). This one lives in Iran. DNA analysis has recently confirmed that the animal shot in Dhofar region in Oman, in 1977, belonged to this subspecies. The IUCN Red List status is Critically Endangered and only a few of these felids are living in a breeding center in Iran. Captive cheetahs in Arabia are the North African (*A. jubatus soemmeringii*) and South African subspecies (*A. jubatus jubatus*).

The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) is endemic to the Arabian Peninsula, except for small populations in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, and in the Negev desert in Israel. The IUCN Red List status is Critically Endangered. The latest studbook shows less than one hundred living in ten institutions, with the biggest populations in the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW), Sharjah, UAE, and in Taiz Zoo, Yemen.

There are around 70 breeding



Arabian specimens of cheetah collected during the last century were assigned to the Asian subspecies (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*). The cheetah above was photographed in Pardisan Park, Tehran, Iran.

centers, private collectors, and zoos across the peninsula. Lots of private collections mainly house hundreds of gazelles, Arabian oryx, scimitar-horned oryx, and African ungulates, but there are at least ten breeding centers and some big zoos. Only one rescue center exists, located in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Lots of confiscations of birds, baboons, cheetahs, and other wildlife happen in the region at the busiest international airport in Dubai.



The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) is endemic to the Arabian Peninsula, except for small populations in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, and in the Negev desert in Israel. Photo by Hadi Musalam Al Hikmani.

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Where Are All Those “Crazy Cat Lady” People at Convention?

By Olivia Robertson

Exactly how much luggage do nine people need? As we all stood in the parking garage, we quickly learned how much was too much! My name is Olivia Robertson and the “we” I am referring to is A Walk on the Wild Side. This last June, I had the pleasure, along with our CEO director, zoology intern, and big cat handlers, to attend the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

I have had the opportunity to travel all over the world and have explored Africa on three occasions, and also lived abroad in the UAE. To me, I have always had the experience, but never took the side of education and conservation seriously until returning to the States. I have been with A Walk on the Wild Side for nearly seven years now.

A Walk on the Wild Side is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that does rescue, conservation, and education in Canby, Oregon. A Walk on the Wild Side was founded by Steve Higgs and Cheryl Jones. Steve and Cheryl's first exotic animals were a binturong and a cougar cub. Since the early days, they have continued to take in and house all sorts of exotic animals. They currently house one of the largest collections of the world's deadliest snakes and other reptiles. One of their big cats had the pleasure of hosting a party for Faith Hill and Tim McGraw. Bella, the bear, was also featured on Jay Leno as a cub.

A Walk on the Wild Side currently houses over 150 different species of animals, but the prime focus is on conservation of felines. Siberian tigers, Bengal tigers, Barbary lions, a black leopard, servals, caracals, bobcats, Canada lynx, Siberian lynx, Bengal cats, and Savannahs all call A Walk on the Wild Side home.

A Walk on the Wild Side is run solely by volunteers, many of whom have been with the organization for five plus years. Safety is a prime concern at the facility when working around big cats. The founders have put in place a set of rules that all abide by. Any individual wishing to work around big cats are required to acquire 1,000 big cat hours, working solely with big cats between the ages of six and 16 weeks (only). The facility



Turns out the “crazy cat lady” type people at Convention were none other than Shelleen Mathews, co-worker Theresa Daykin, and boss Steve Higgs. Photo by Olivia Robertson.

currently has two full-time exotic feline handlers with well over 5,000 documented hours, two full-time volunteers with over 1,000 documented hours, one full time CVT with over 1,000 documented hours, and one OSU zoology intern with 1,000 documented hours. We hold our standards very high when teaching and training at



FCF members ride the safari bus at Out of Africa, filming zebra and other hoof stock. Photo by Fred Hood.



Olivia has one of the Out of Africa park's giraffe eating out of her hand.



Habitats at Out of Africa park were spacious and natural looking. This one is for servals. Photo by Lynn Culver.

our facility.

A Walk on the Wild Side is not receiving any state funding and/or grant money. We are the only working non-profit organization of our kind in the state of Oregon. We work June through September, throughout the northwestern states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. Several ambassador animals accompany our qualified volunteers and interns to various events. We have received numerous awards and ribbons for our educational displays. Several animals are displayed in a jungle-themed atmosphere. On the average, we see two million plus

organizations, on our mission and efforts to help keep many disappearing species alive. When available, we take our cubs and kits or other non-feline species on stage. We enjoy speaking to the public on conservation and our efforts. Our organization offers “photo opportunities” with our babies. We love giving a “bucket list” opportunity to

individuals pass through our exhibit yearly. We are often asked to speak to various organizations, including schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, vets, elderly, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, and many more

public that we do not “make them work.” By allowing the general public to interact, hold, and have their pictures taken with cubs, it also helps us with our future handling of our big cats.

A Walk on the Wild Side never knows exactly what each year will bring. We often agree to take in cubs, feed, house, love, and raise them temporarily, so that they can properly and safely be placed with another accredited facility to live out their lives. We have donated many cubs to smaller zoos throughout the Northwest.



Jeff Harwell coordinates with another park handler to stimulate tiger play during Tiger Splash. Photo by Debi Willoughby.


folks. Our animals fulfill a lot of “Make a Wish” and young cancer patients’ last wishes. But, as it should be, our animals always come first. We make it very clear to the

Most recently, we were contacted by Moorpark Zoology School. The school lost a male tiger and asked us to hand-raise a male for them in the future. The opportunity to raise a cub and pass on teaching to future zoo keepers is a positive opportunity for both parties. Our cubs are usually given anywhere from 10-12 hours of hands-on, daily interaction by our handlers. Our future endeavors are a daily



Mickey Olsen, Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium park owner, gives a tour to Kevin Chambers, Lynn Culver, Jessica Bean, and Bobby Bean. Photo by Fred Hood.

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adventure to strive to help educate the general public, advocate for private ownership, and continue our mission of healthy captive breeding.

the speakers present were indeed an added bonus. Speaking of "Out of Africa," what an incredible park! Weeks prior to leaving, I would spend an hour or so a day just

Prior to leaving for convention, I heard I would meet some real "crazy cat lady" type people. Keep in mind that the Convention was a first, not only for me, but for our entire organization. I was excited for the opportunity to meet these so-called "crazy cat lady" type individuals. However, I did meet a lot of great animal lovers!

I applaud the FCF for a great line up of guest speakers. I willingly admit my attendance was mainly for "Out of Africa."

However, the speakers present were indeed an added bonus. Speaking of "Out of Africa," what an incredible park! Weeks prior to leaving, I would spend an hour or so a day just admiring their website. I was clearly excited to visit, and Dean and Prayeri have an incredible park and amazing staff.

"Tiger Splash" was by far my most memorable part of the entire day. I want to give a special thank you to Dean and Prayeri for also taking time out to speak to all of us.

Upon arriving at Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium, we were greeted by Mickey Olsen himself. What an incredible man. He took time out to introduce himself to all of us and wel-



Ashley Bordelon and Jamie Maurer demonstrated how to draw blood from a tiger's tail during our visit to Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium. Photo by Olivia Robertson.

come us. It was a great learning experience for me to have the handlers draw blood from a tiger using the tail. I was able to record the process and bring it back to show our other staff and volunteer members.

Thank you to Cottonwood Resorts for hosting us all. The resort staff was eager to please and we spent quite a bit of time in the pool area. I would like to thank Lynn Culver for helping to save our pool visitor, our alligator.

All I can say is, FCF, you made my first convention quite memorable and enjoyable for both myself and the entire staff of A Walk on the Wild Side. Thank you to all the FCF officers for putting on a great convention and allowing us to be a part of it.



[Left to right] Bailey Bemis(volunteer), Julie Moore(board member and exotic feline handler), Theresa Daykin(CVT), Steve Higgs(CEO/founder), Jay Daykin(volunteer), Cheryl Jones (director and board member), Heather Panaro (volunteer), Olivia Robertson (board member and exotic feline handler), and Kris Hernandez (zoology intern).



The Walk on the Wild Side gang had a good laugh making Lynn Culver believe the little alligator in the Cottonwoods Resort pool was real. Photo by Olivia Robertson.

My N.O.A.H. Internship

By Cassandra Jermyn

My name is Cassandra and I am a college current student studying wildlife biology. I had always dreamed of one day working with exotic cats, but I thought it was very unlikely that I would ever get the chance. So, I spent my first year of college studying sports medicine and working with people. I quickly found my passion for people dying down while my passion for animals stayed strong. I searched the web for colleges that had a wildlife major and transferred to the first one I found, hoping to get a chance to live my dream.

My first semester in my new college proved to be much more related to what I wanted to do. I worked in a herpetology lab for a year, taking care of different species of pythons, turtles, and water monitors. One week was spent in North Carolina, working for the conservation center; collecting population dynamics by catching individual snakes and turtles and taking their statistics. Even though I was not working with cats at the time, I was so happy to work around different species of beautiful animals. I found a love for reptiles that I had not had before, and it gave me a desire to work with various animals.

Around the same time that I started working in the lab, I applied for a volunteer position at Jungle Encounters, an edu-



Cassandra Jermyn plays with Geoffroy's cat Charlie as part of her daily routine. Photo by Lynn Culver.

cational facility run by Debi Willoughby. I was accepted and began working with her four exotic cats. I was ecstatic to be able to see a bobcat, Geoffroy's, Bengal, and Savannah cat every weekend! Debi walked me through my new routine and also began teaching me how to read a cat's body language. Together, we worked on forming my bond with the animals. Her Savannah is a total love bug, so that bond was not hard to form! The bobcat, Dakotah, and Geoffroy's cat, Spirit, were the trickiest to bond with. They were both totally wild and had their very individual personalities. Sometimes they could be very friendly to me, and

sometimes they could be tired, grumpy, and want nothing to do with me. Happiness is even working with a grumpy cat, because I was finally able to work with wild cats.

Debi mentioned that the woman whom she got her cats from was looking for an intern for the summer. She told me I would be interning at a breeding facility in Arkansas, and being the cat enthusiast that I am, I gladly jumped aboard without a second thought. Taking care of exotic cats and their cubs seemed too good to be true. We talked with Bart and Lynn Culver, the owners of the N.O.A.H. breeding facility, to see if the internship was still available. Luckily for me, it was, and just like that I had a summer adventure planned.

I headed down to Mena, Arkansas, with no idea what to expect, arriving near the end of May on a rainy afternoon, and was invited in to observe one of the bottle-feeding sessions with the babies. Lynn had her hands full with 14 kittens. I could barely contain my excitement as I watched the cute, tiny bobcats, Geoffroy's, and lynx, all run around and bump into things. Lynn began to teach me about the kittens; she mentioned how lynx grow their canine teeth before their eyes open, the Geoffroy's become independent and begin climbing things at a young age, and that bobcats often develop more slowly but are always full of purrs. I tried tak-



Charlie and Fiona Geoffroy's visit Cassandra in her RV for overnight stays.



Chubbs the bobcat sticks his head out to greet Cassandra.

ing in as much as possible to be able to help her in the near future.

After a tour of the property and an introduction to each adult cat (including bobcats, servals, caracals, Geoffroy's, lynx, and one cougar), it was time to prep food. After watching Lynn prep for a couple of days, it was my turn to give it a go. Soon enough, I was able to prep and feed the adults on my own, and I immensely enjoyed all the interaction with the adult cats. Some of us had our routines down already. Individual feeding behaviors had to be learned as well as which type of meat certain cats preferred. The lynx in particular are really picky eaters!



Hummer is one of three male servals at NOAH and the father of the kittens Cassandra helped raise.

In addition to feed time, I would also go around in the morning or afternoon to check on each cat, which means stopping by each cage for about ten minutes and observing. Several serval cats were in heat and the male servals were sweet talking to their ladies. I even got to see caracals mate. I slowly became familiar with the repertoire of noises each species makes, which sometimes could be a bit bizarre. The male Geoffroy's that were in heat and could smell a female in heat but could not get to them would make this raspy scream that could be heard throughout the compound. Before understanding what that scream was, I was almost cer-

tain that some cats were fighting. One of my favorite cats to talk to was named Loki, a Eurasian lynx. I would go over and kneel at the side of his cage and he would run over and make a deep "oof" sound towards me. Mimicking the sound as best I could allowed us to have conversations. When at the cougar enclosure, Mishu would make a variety of sounds. He always hissed as he neared me, but always ended up purring and lying down next to me. Whenever Mishu saw Lynn or Bart (Mom and Dad), he would call out to them in a raspy, mid-tone, short greeting; it almost sounded like he was saying "Mom!" There was one time in particular when I visited a male bobcat named Chubbs and playfully said "Heyyy" to him in greeting. To my surprise, he responded with what sounded exactly like a "Heyyy" in the same pitch, same tone, same everything! I had to do a double take to make sure I was not getting pranked!

The day would only continue to get better. After feeding and taking meat out of the freezers for the next day, I would retreat to my RV and have some dinner. Around 9 pm, I would pick up some of the kittens from the house and have them stay the night with me. This got them used to new places, new smells, and different people.

We played for hours and I bottle-fed them until they fell asleep. However, they had tons of energy and would only end up falling asleep if the lights were off and fell asleep when I did. Occasionally, I would wake up in the middle of the night to a Geoffroy's kitten curled into my neck and a bobcat kitten snuggling in the side of my chest. It was safe to say I was in heaven! I had



Kassandra bottle feeds Peanut, a rather large bobcat kitten that still enjoys drinking milk. Photo by Lynn Culver.

only dreamed about working with wild cats before, and to be able to do it for an entire summer was entirely surreal, not to mention that kitten cuddles were always included!



Sariah, a spotted lynx arrived at NOAH during Cassandra's stay. She made friends with Fiona Geoffroy's. Photo by Lynn Culver.

As my internship went on, I found myself becoming more comfortable with bottle-feeding. I was not an expert by any means, but was able to handle several kittens on my own. Then there was learning the art of pooping a kitten. It was tough to get the hang of it at first; many kittens would squirm and try to get away from me. Soon enough though, Lynn and I were going through rolls of toilet paper each feeding.

I also became faster at feeding the adult cats once I got the hang of it. My daily chores started taking less time and allowed me more time to spend on projects and with the cats. I was able to give the adult cats some enrichment. I would take spearmint from the garden and boxes from chicken we had processed, tie them together, and put them in the cat cages. Spearmint acts just like catnip and they would be drooling in no time. It also proved that no matter how big the cat, a box is still the best toy.

Close to the end of my internship, we had another influx of kittens. There were five bobcats, five Geoffroy's, three caracals, three servals, and three lynx. We almost could not leave the house, because as soon as we were done with one feeding it was time for another! For these feed-



Toward the end of the internship, Cassandra was interacting with serval, caracal, bobcat, lynx, and Geoffroy's kittens. Photo by Lynn Culver.

ings, I would sit on the couch and Lynn would take out the kittens, three or four at a time, and we would begin feeding and pooping them. Gradually, the couch would be filled with kittens walking across our laps. There was fur, milk, crying, and cuteness everywhere and it was just the best. We tried to cuddle them all and give them all the love they wanted. It was amazingly cute and I am still not quite sure how my inner cat-love did not implode from all the cuteness!

All too soon, my internship had ended and I said goodbye to the wonderful kittens and cats at N.O.A.H. This experience is not something I take for granted, and I will never forget what it was like to live my dream for an entire summer. I cannot thank the Culvers enough for allowing me to have this opportunity. I was truly blessed to be able to do this and would definitely recommend the internship to any fellow cat lover out there.

Now I am home and will be starting school shortly. I have gladly returned to Jungle Encounters, volunteering with the wild cats I first met. I am forever grateful to Debi for allowing me to start working

with cats and setting me up with Lynn. The boys (Debi's wild cats are all male) do not seem too phased by my return, but I bet they cannot wait for a certain someone to be added to the mix, Debi's new baby girl, a bobcat kitten named Moxie! Moxie was a kitten at N.O.A.H. and was born during my internship, and now she has a wonderful, loving home in New England. We are so excited to see her learn and grow.



Nico, a Eurasian lynx, naps on Cassandra's lap. Photo by Lynn Culver.



Loki lynx is the father of the lynx kittens born at the NOAH facility.



Mother margay and her kitten relax in Brazil facility. Photo contributed by Pat Quillen.



Dane Anthony was the young dance at the FCF Convention
ing Thumper Eurasian lynx.
Robert Hohn.

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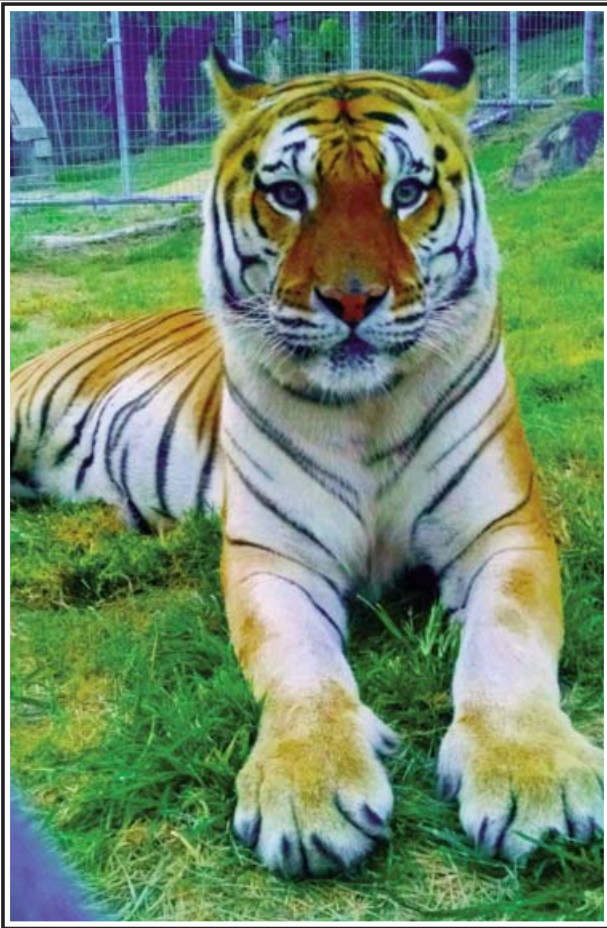
Giana Geoffroy's cat sharpens her claws.
Photo by Robert Hohn.



Stunning black panther at Wildlife World
Aquarium. Photo by Fred Hood.



gest in atten-
i. He's hold-
. Photo by



Tina Bayer regularly dotes on Kiran the Siberian tiger at Safari's Sanctuary in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.



Young Ashley Vagg took this photo of Dolly Gluck's eleven year old serval Sawabu at the family picnic.



Zoo and



Close up face shot of "Kitty Pat" Eurasian lynx. Photo by Courtney Frenchak.



Wait, first let me take a selfie! This gorgeous couple is Yhetti Canada lynx and Tina Bayer, at Safari's Sanctuary.

Tracking Cats with Satellites: Tagg the Pet Tracker Review

By Maxene Price

Through my efforts to have a safe indoor/outdoor serval, I decided to purchase a GPS tracker for my cat, Vega. There are several pet tracking devices on the market, and after some research decided to purchase “tagg,” the pet tracker. The product description explains how tagg is used to turn your pet’s existing collar into a GPS collar.

The tagg pet tracker system comes in a small box and includes the tracker, charger, and collar clip that attaches the tracker to your pet’s existing collar, and the tagg guard - a protective sleeve that keeps the



The tagg pet tracker system turns your pet’s existing collar into a GPS collar. It comes in a small box and includes the tracker, charger, and collar clip that attaches the tracker to your pets’ existing collar, and the tagg guard - a protective sleeve that keeps the tracker clean.



Maxene’s serval Vega wearing the tagg pet tracker on his regular collar.

tracker clean. Specifically designed for pets over ten pounds, it would be too bulky for a domestic cat to wear comfortably, but fits perfectly on our adult serval.

The tracker is a hard plastic square featuring an off/on button in the center with flexible silicone sides. By pinching the sides of the main

plastic piece, it opens hinges wide enough to clip onto the collar clip. The collar clip is comprised of hard plastic, metal, and two flexible silicone straps, the grey strap for large collars and a clear one for small collars. To attach the tracker to the collar, you first remove your pet’s collar, place the clip on top of the collar, hook one side of the flexible strap into the collar clip groove, then wrap the strap around the back of the collar attaching it to the other groove. Complete the assembly by pinching the hinges of the tracker and pressing it onto the clip.

I set up the tagg account by going to www.tagg.com and following the click-by-click instructions. The most important step of this process was setting up the tagg zone. We dragged a square digitally over our enclosure using their GPS map. If the tracker, and your pet, leaves this square, it shoots a signal up to a satellite and back down to our computer and phone. That is right; there is an app for that! We downloaded the tagg app for our smart phone. The ability to check in on Vega while we were out by app is what appealed to us initially. Using the tagg app, you can



Using the tagg app, you can locate and track if your cat has left your digital perimeter, get turn-by-turn directions to your escaped pet’s location, and track your pet’s daily activity levels.

locate and track if your cat has left your digital perimeter, get turn-by-turn directions to your escaped pet's location, and track your pet's daily activity levels.

By using 24 satellites, tagg has 95% accuracy within 25 feet of the tracker's location. You receive a text and email within ten minutes of your pet leaving the tagg zone. You can also locate them immediately by clicking the locate button on the tagg app for the most recent

updates. The battery of the tracker should last between 20-30 days in optimal conditions. In our experience, the tagg tracker's battery lasts an average of three days. Tagg sends you an email and text when your battery becomes low. It takes less than 30 minutes to reach full charge from empty. The signal reception in your area can affect its accuracy and battery life. Tagg also sends email and text alerts if it falls off and disengages from the collar.

I personally tested the tracker before using it for Vega. I had my husband hide in the woods and used the turn-by-turn directions to locate him. Each time proved successful. We did experience a major malfunction with the tagg tracker within the first weeks of using it. The first time we left Vega in his enclosure without direct supervision, my husband and I went to see a movie. We made sure his tracker was on correctly, secured the doors to his double entry, and made our way to the theater. After getting popcorn and sitting down, I checked the tagg app. It



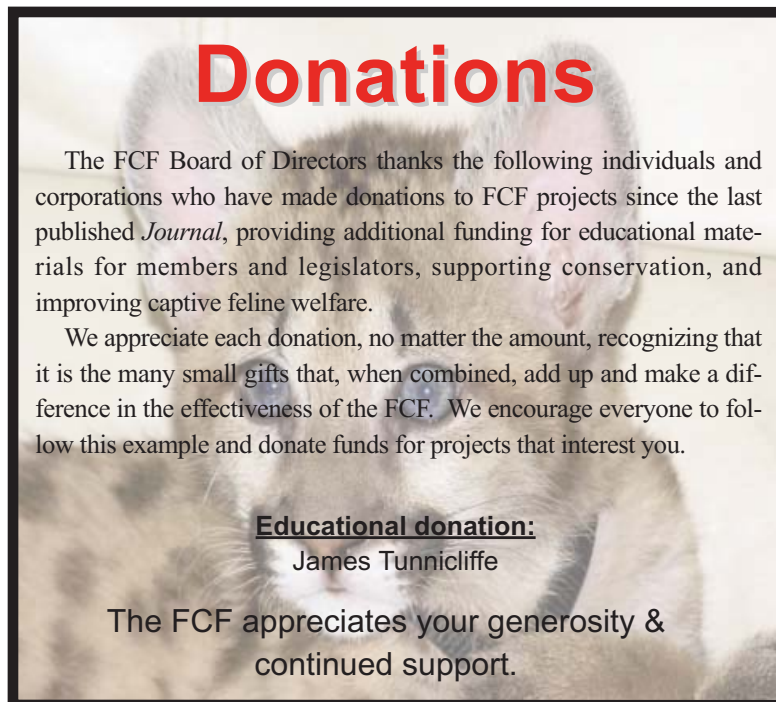
The first test of the tagg system gave a false alarm, leading Maxene to race home, only to find Vega sleeping by the perimeter.

said Vega was outside the tagg zone. I drove home at 100 mph, popped a tire, put on the spare, sped at 60 mph on the donut, then ran to his enclosure the second we pulled into our driveway. To our surprise, we found him in his enclosure sleeping by the perimeter. The satellites had perceived him to be just outside it. We fixed the issue by expanding the tagg zone a few feet outward of his enclosure.

safest way to protect our community from negative backlash. In the event of escape, we are left with few options to safely bring our cats home. If the tagg tracker can help pinpoint the location of our animals and aide in retrieving them, it is a tool I want to have on hand. Fortunately, others are starting to accept and praise the exotic pet community, including those of the tagg company.

After reaching the tagg company and notifying my use of their product, they gave me this statement: "COOL! We know that tagg gets used for domestic pets, farm animals, and even jet skis, but this is the first time we have heard of it being used for exotic species. We are excited to know that tagg is expanding its uses!" They also notified me that they were developing new trackers that would be out within the next year.

Out of the available trackers, tagg is affordable and easily accessible. And though it is far from the best and most accurate of trackers, we feel better with it than without it.



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.

Educational donation:
James Tunnicliffe

The FCF appreciates your generosity & continued support.

Thank You for the Feline Husbandry Course

By Marisa Katnic

I have been a member of the FCF since 2009, and since joining I have always wanted to register and take the Feline Husbandry Course that usually takes place in conjunction with the annual convention. My choice to take the course was, of course, to gain further knowledge of feline husbandry in general and to understand my own cats, namely my two high percentage savannahs and my Bengal cat. The secondary purpose was to meet like-minded people and share personal experiences and our mutual love of the feline world. Each year, the course takes place in the month of June, which is a hard month for me to get away from work. It is



Eurasian lynx cub Thumper seems to want to make a call home on this cell phone. Photo by Nancy Wulff.

also a month for graduations, weddings, Father's Day, etc. To get over to the East Coast, as I am in California, adds time, so every year I have had to sadly bow out.

So, this year the course was pretty close to me, in Phoenix, Arizona. I had neither weddings to attend nor graduations on the horizon. This was it. I took the time off work, made my airline reservation, and was purring with delight to have finally made the commitment to take my long-anticipated feline husbandry course! I was very pleased and impressed with how the FCF put it together. Lynn Culver was gracious to have hooked me up with folks arriving around the same time I did, which was the day before the course started. The evening prior, I met Debi Willoughby, the FCF secretary, who was so genuinely nice

and helpful I felt like I had visited with an old friend I knew my whole life.

The following day, I arrived bright and bushy tailed to class not knowing what to expect. I began introducing myself, as many of the names I recognized were electronic contacts or by membership, but had never met face-to-face. Each participant of the class received a fabulous student text pamphlet. The first portion of our course was natural history and very cool to learn more about and discuss the 37 recognized cat species. Have you ever heard of an Iriomote cat (*Prionailurus iriomotensis*)? Well, I did not. It should be nicknamed "Remote Cat." There are none in captivity and they are only found on an island of Japan. Fascinating facts to learn!

I am quite partial to servals, having hybrids and my passion is the cheetah. I sit on the U.S. board of trustees for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. The course also covered nutrition, health care basics, handling, behavioral condition, enrichment, proper enclosures, fencing, facilities, and equipment, along with regulatory agencies and permits. Question and answers were offered throughout class. We even had kittens/cubs in class! So, you might ask me, how can one study when you have baby Geoffroy's cats crawling on your textbook, together with a Eurasian lynx kitten batting your feet? It is hard. It was such an exciting opportunity and experience. I felt like a kid in a candy store, as it certainly was sheer pleasure.

I must acknowledge how wonderful our course instructor was. Mindy Stinner was so full of information, knowledge, education, and experience, and she kept the



Marisa bottle feeds Isabella during the Husbandry Course break.

class attentive at all times. You did not want to miss anything she said. Well, maybe the class lost a little interest when the cubs were at our feet, but, joking aside, Mindy delivered and presented the course better than I could have imagined. I was like a sponge trying to absorb everything she said. I am so thankful to have had Mindy as my instructor.

When the day finished, we were given exams and I sharpened my pencil and memory and passed the test! I received a lovely certificate of accomplishment. So, what better way to show my happiness? Open a bottle of a celebratory drink and share with a friend. In this case a baby bottle, me, and a Geoffroy's kitten!



Mindy Stinner teaches the Husbandry class to a room of eager students. Photo by Lynn Culver.

An Extraordinary Tiger

By Vera Chaples
Mystic Jungle Educational Facility, Inc.

Spike came to us in November of 2009. Let me rewind... Although I had the experience with big cats, as well as a lifetime around all species of animals both wild and exotic, I was ADAMANT that no big cats come onto the property.

A bundle of chuffing, goofy fur, he came bounding into the house to find me in the bathroom and greeted me as if we had known each other our entire lives. I was still not sold and requested the paperwork that accompanied him. On it, the paperwork stated that Spike was a 12 week old Siberian tiger. I was aghast. Of all tigers, my husband had to bring home the biggest of the big cats. I prayed that there had been a mistake. That he had been so diluted in lines that he would be the size of a Bengal. But my prayers went unheard. Spike grew and grew and GREW!

As life moved on, I continued to care for Spike. With my husband going to



Spike arrived a bundle of a chuffing, goofy fur and matured into a beautiful Siberian Tiger.

South Florida frequently for big jobs, the majority of the entire zoo became my responsibility. I loved them all big and small. If I had to pick favorites, it would be either Sher Khan or Fury. Both Asian/Indian leopards. I was never really a "tiger person." Not that I did not like them, but my passion was the leopards.

Spike grew to be very large and magnificent. He quickly became the star of the Jungle, with his fre-

quent bubble baths and his willingness to engage the guests. Little did I know that a timer was ticking away inside this magnificent creature; a time bomb ready to go off at the least provocation.

The rollercoaster ride began in January of 2014. I had set off for the Wild Cat Weekend in Sarasota, Florida. The weekend started with my intern and me walking out of the hotel, only to find my truck stolen. The weekend was fantastic regardless, and I finished my husbandry course.

Spike had begun to go "off" his food while I was away, which we all know in wintertime is not normal, nor a good sign. After a week battling to try and get him to eat, we called in our regular veterinarian. He was sedated, and blood work and a physical examination were done. All results were normal. As our vet put it, "Spike was the healthiest looking sick tiger he had ever seen." To him Spike looked normal, but I knew better.

The on and off again with food went on for a few weeks, but then he started vomiting. We rushed him to a specialist who did radiographs, barium series, ultrasound, CBC, chemistry profile, urinalysis, stool cultures and exams, and finally exploratory surgery with cytologies and biopsies; NOTHING was found. Despite all of this, he came home and recovered. Although I was grateful that he had recovered, I was fearful because no diagnosis was made. If



Spike had begun to go "off" his food while Vera was away at the FCF Wildcat Weekend, which was not normal and not good.



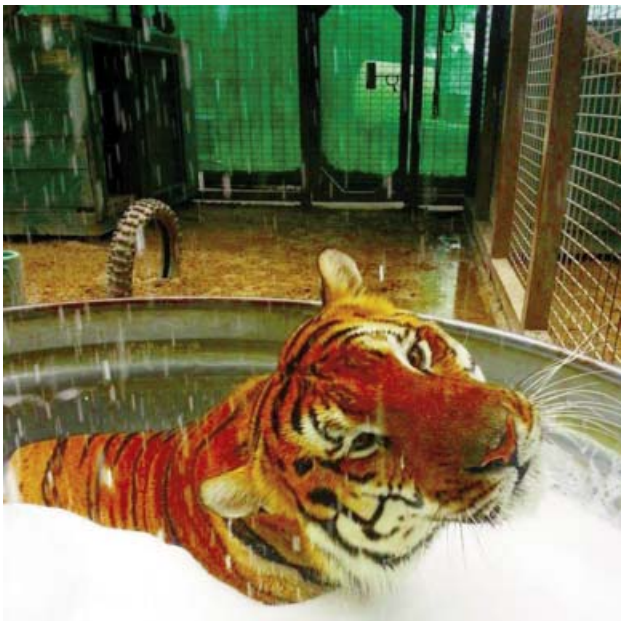
Every kind of diagnostic test was run but no diagnosis was made.



Spike returned home from the vet hospital and recovered, but left Vera fearful of a relapse.

we did not know what this was, then how could we prevent it from happening again?

We had close contact with many of our colleagues during this time. Most offered advice and moral support. The most crushing advice though was the admonishment from some for going as far as we did. More than one person told us that they had seen this exact same scenario, where the people spend a ton of money, only to end up with a dead tiger. This by far was the most depressing, but we persevered.



Spike soaks in his tub, cools off from the Florida summer heat under the watchful eye of Vera.

For some time all was great. Spike was gaining weight in leaps and bounds; that is, until I left for the Arizona Feline Conservation Federation Convention.

Spike started going off of his food again, but this time he totally stopped eating anything. This went on for five weeks, until again he started vomiting. He was again rushed to our specialists. This time he was in critical shape. He was given over 24 bags of fluids within a 24-hour span.

Our veterinarian this time did full skull radiographs, dental radiographs, fecal cultures, blood cultures, and an endoscopy. He was also tested for *H. pylori* (negative), but upon reflection that probably was not an accurate result as he had been on antibiotics for two weeks prior. Again, nothing was found. At one point, when I walked in to visit him, euthanasia was at the forefront of my mind. I had an emaciated, depressed animal that was starting to give up. I was beginning to believe the people that had told us that despite it all, we would have a dead tiger.

Spike was given an injection to help with the vomiting, which normally would only last 24 hours, but in Spike it lasted up to five days. He was taken home, and my husband, of course, had to leave for jobs again. It was down to my son and me to work with a very sick tiger. He stopped eating three more times shortly after coming home. And to treat him, we had to sedate him, give the injection, more fluids, and then recover him. Not only was this stressful on him, but on us as well.

I cried myself to sleep every night. Every waking moment caught me deep in



Vera has a close relationship with Spike, which certainly helped with the examination, treatment, and recovery of Spike's illness.

thought about Spike. He is only five years old! How can an animal so young and vibrant one moment, turn into a critically ill animal the next?

Then it hit me. Even though the endoscopy and the test were negative and non-conclusive, the only thing that made sense through it all was ulcers. At this point, we had nothing to lose. So I started him on famotidine twice a day, changed his diet to lean red meat only, and feed three times a day.

But one has to wonder. What truly causes ulcers? No one really seems to know, but I firmly believe that stress plays a hard roll in it all. And one cannot ignore the fact that he crashed both times that I left town. My feeding regime was followed to the letter, so it was not a change in diet or routine. Stress lowers the immune system by raising cortisol levels. So is it safe to say that perhaps, my leaving stressed him out, causing him to develop ulcers?

To date, he is growing stronger daily. His meat intake is more than it has ever been. And, it is pretty safe to say that I am never leaving town again, unless of course the hotel will take tigers!

Management of Mountain Lions in Arizona

By April Howard

Predator, Furbearer, and Large Carnivore Biologist, Arizona Game & Fish Department

(Adapted from a talk at the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, AZ)

Few adult mountain lions in the wild live more than 12-13 years, although some might reach 15 to 18 years; most pass away by the time they are six years old. In Arizona, the peak breeding season is March to June, and the births generally peak between June and September. While the litter size is two to four kittens, only one or two usually survive. Mountain lions prefer rough mountainous terrain with abundant stalking cover.

Male lion territory is anywhere from 60 to more than 300 square miles. Females hold smaller territories, generally 15 to about 115 square miles. Home ranges overlap between sexes, but mountain lions are territorial and practice mutual avoidance in their overlapping distributions.

Lion populations are limited by abundance of prey. They generally disperse from natal populations between ten and 33 months of age. Eighty percent of male sub-adults disperse, compared to just 30 percent of females. Lions disperse over long distances, some over 50 miles.

In the 1950s, the concepts of ecology began to emerge with awareness of predators as natural and essential components of ecosystems. By the 1970s, mountain lions were no longer classified as “varmints,” but regulated as a big game species. Controlled hunting provided protection, as the cats were now valued as trophies by hunters and as license fee income for the Wildlife Department. In the 21st Century, many biologists now consider mountain lions as important indi-



“Management of Mountain Lions in Arizona” was presented during Convention by April Howard, Predator, Furbearer, and Large Carnivore Biologist, Arizona Game and Fish Department.

cators of ecosystem health.

Much of the early research focused mainly on diets. Later research focused on relationships between mountain lion predation and populations of prey, including cattle. Most recent studies have centered on mountain lion predation on bighorn sheep. Urban mountain lion studies look at the barriers to gene flow. Genetic analysis suggests a high degree of genetic mixing throughout the western U.S. and Canada. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah study results indicate mountain lions from the four states shared a common gene pool. Habitat barriers like the Grand Canyon, extensive deserts, grasslands, rivers, and highways do seem to limit gene flow. Most agencies that manage mountain lions believe populations have increased in recent times. Mountain lions have re-established in regions of the Great Plains, boreal Canada, and eastern U.S. These conclusions

are based in part on the increased encounters with humans and increased harvest rates in many regions. The Arizona population is estimated at between 2,500-3,000 individuals.

To manage the increasing number of urban lion/human conflicts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has established interactions using established guidelines. It has clarified how reports should be verified, what types of cougar behavior are considered exceptionally dangerous, how many such verified incidents would trigger removal, and how the offending animal will be removed.

Mountain lions occur at relatively low densities and are difficult, expensive, and time consuming to study. The abundance differs widely in various habitat types. Learning about mountain lions is a slow process, as this kind of research is not conducted in a lab. Wildlife managers continue to learn about prescriptions necessary to achieve conservation and management. Adaptive management includes maintaining corridors for dispersal. The current direction is to manage predators, including mountain lions, in a sustainable manner that integrates conservation, use, and protection. Maintenance of occupied habitat and range in Arizona, is a key component of mountain lion management. Lions are managed through regulated hunting, bag limits, ML zones, and depredation removals.



Mountain lions are difficult to study. Most recent studies have centered on mountain lion predation on bighorn sheep.

State	Deer	Javelina	Bighorn	Small prey
Arizona	15-48%	17-60%	2-26%	10-50%
New Mex.	86%	<1%	<1%	5-10%
Texas	39-76%	15-38%		8-18%
Mexico	14-55%	7-11%	35-52%	55-73%

Variability of mountain lion diets - % occurrence in scats.

Update from the Legislation Director

By Amy Flory

For those who are unaware, I was officially appointed as the FCF Legislation Director in early 2013. I prepare and post the legislation on the member's only section and keep it updated regularly, even though the last updated date may not reflect this. This list is always available on the website under "Legislative Alerts" and the current year. I also send out alerts to members in states when a hearing has been scheduled on a bill and annually review the state laws for updates. If any members have any questions or comments on legislation, I may be reached at legislation@felineconservation.org.

Here are some updates on both bills introduced into legislature and rules introduced by agencies this year.

BILLS

On the federal level, all bills affecting felines are currently stalled in committee, with Congress on vacation in August. This situation affects the Big Cats Public Safety Act. The U.S. Congress ends its two-year session this year, so all federal bills that do not pass by the end of the year must be reintroduced next year and the process started all over again.

On the state level, most state legislatures have either adjourned or concluded regular floor sessions. By the time you receive this, only Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will still be in regular session, with Ohio in skeleton session and Massachusetts in informal session. For those of you unfamiliar with these terms, I will briefly explain. A skeleton session is a non-voting formal session where a few legislators from each chamber (House and Senate) briefly meet - sometimes as little as just a few minutes - to conduct routine business. An informal session is where a few legislators meet to work on routine or non-controversial matters. It should be noted that Massachusetts is the only state that passes legislation which is supposed to be non-controversial during its informal sessions. Since it is informal, such votes are not recorded.

A few new laws were passed this year, both good and bad. This year, we saw yet another state pass a ban on so-called dangerous wild animals. West Virginia

passed HB 4393, with very limited exemptions for exhibitors, as only AZA or related facilities, circuses, and USDA Class C exhibiting at a fair or carnival, along with medical and research institutions are exempt. Those not exempt must obtain a permit, have \$300,000 liability insurance with maximum \$250 deductible, permanently mark each animal, and meet certain caging standards, along with other requirements. The law left the actual list of animals up to the newly created Dangerous Wild Animals Board. Their list, which currently includes the same felines as the Ohio ban, was approved on July 30, and goes before the legislature in 2015.

On a positive note, bans or severe restrictions in Kansas, South Carolina, and Wisconsin, have been defeated. Also, two states passed bills this year to allow certain people who possessed animals on the date the bans took effect, but who never obtained a permit, to be allowed to obtain

have been averted after companion bills were introduced to prohibit USDA Class C from acquiring certain species, including the larger cats, unless they meet strict requirements. Maryland zoos were able to change the language to allow them to acquire new animals if they have a \$1,000,000 insurance policy, paid full-time director, and at least one full-time staff trained to care for each species, animal disposition policy if the facility closes, and zoonotic disease risk and prevention training plan. Both bills passed with the amended language.

Several other attacks against USDA licensees were defeated, including an Illinois bill to completely prohibit USDA Class C from obtaining certain animals, two Indiana bills to remove the exemption for commercial dealers, companion Iowa bills to limit zoos to AZA for so-called dangerous wild animals, a New York bill to restrict animals used in traveling shows

and circuses, and a New York bill targeting circuses.

RULES

This year, a few rules were introduced that affect felines. Colorado passed a rule clarifying which sectors are exempt from Chapter 11 #1103C, Indiana passed a rule making several of the smaller cats Class II and revising the requirements of the wildlife possession permit, and

Wyoming passed a rule to add a permit denial process for permits under Chapter 10 live wildlife, Chapter 33 scientific permits, and Chapter 45 rehabilitation permits.

Louisiana introduced two rules pertaining to big exotic cats: a rule to comply with the big exotic cat law change and a rule to revise the definition of zoo and the inspection requirements and to delete the cougar enclosure standards. Comments are due on September 30, and August 30, respectively.

PETITIONS

There is one active state petition regarding felines. Several groups have filed a petition with California Fish and Game to ban hybrid cats in the state. The agency is scheduled to take action on the petition on October 8. If accepted, the agency would draft a formal proposed rule and have a public comment period and hearing before voting to adopt it.

Committee Should Axe the Big Cats and Public Safety Act

Dr. Jan E. Janecka of Duquesne University, who has well recognized work in the field of conservation genetics for multiple exotic feline species, as well as disease genomics, states, "The key to long-term survival of a species is large effective population size and high genetic diversity. Passing Senate Bill 1381 would significantly reduce both. It would have an unavoidable negative impact on the future of the captive tiger population as well as other endangered feline species maintained in captivity."

the necessary permit to legally possess their animals. Those in Oregon with an approved disability who use an animal possessed before January 1, 2010, to alleviate the disability have until December 31, 2014, to obtain a permit. In Louisiana, those who possessed a big exotic cat since 2006, have another chance to get a permit. Both bills were introduced to help owners of an exotic cat get a permit: a lynx in Oregon, and Tony the tiger in Louisiana.

This year, several bills seemed to be focused on USDA licensees by either placing restrictions on them or limiting what animals they can acquire. One bill succeeded, as New York recently passed S6903, as amended, which prohibits dealers or exhibitors from allowing direct contact with a big cat without a permanent physical barrier between the public and the cat.

However, in Maryland, an attempt to limit what animals USDA licensees can

Husbandry and Beyond

By Kae Hamilton

Lynn called me wanting me to write an article on the FCF convention. I told her I am not a writer, so here it is! (LOL) This was my first FCF convention. I arrived a day early to take the husbandry course. I have owned servals for 12 years and wondered what I could learn, if anything. I actually learned quite a bit; some from the class and a lot from course instructor Mindy Stinner talking about her first-hand experiences. And, yes, I passed the class!!

I was also surprised at all the different reasons people were members; zoo own-

ers and employees, sanctuaries, breeders, healers, and people wanting to own a big cat. I met lots of members, especially since I was new to the convention, and it was hard to remember everyone (some due to my age, LOL). Some of them I still keep in touch with and have become good friends with. I'm ready to be there next year to see everyone again.

The trip to Out of Africa was a lot of fun, especially getting to see all the animals up close while being fed. Tiger Splash was very interesting, as it is their way of keeping everyone safe



Little Bit, a very tiny Geoffroy's cat, found Courtney Palmer's shoulder to be a great place to perch. Photo by Nancy Wulff.



Young bobcat Tucker takes in all the sights and sounds of convention. Photo by Nancy Wulff.



Male lion chews on carcass meat during the feeding tour after the Tiger Splash show at Out of Africa. Photo by Fred Hood.




A stop At Black Springs Café on the way home from Out of Africa fed the hungry crowd. Photo by Fred Hood.



Everyone had a great time on banquet night. Photo by Fred Hood.



An amazing flying tiger leap into the water is an everyday occurrence during Tiger Splash. Photo by Debi Willoughby.



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*Protecting Your rights
To own Animals
since 1990*

Polly Britton
Legislative Agent

while entertaining. I thought I was going to die on the walk back up the hill under the searing summer sun, after walking down the hill and taking pictures of all the animals being fed. Thanks to Barbara Deutsche for staying with me until we got safely back to the group (a little misguided

direction). I think my favorite part of the tour was kissing the giraffe!!! After the long, hot, tiring day, it was super refreshing to stop on the way home at Black Springs Café for barbeque buffet. The best part was that it was waiting for us; all we had to do was serve up our plates and eat.

I also got to stay for the Sunday tour of Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium. I had a great time riding the rides and seeing all the animals. I loved all the birds and would have stayed a lot longer if I could have figured out a way to do it.

The highlight of the trip was playing with all the kittens. Nothing better than hands-on!

Husbandry Leads to Animal Sense!



Andrea Sobokta practices her bottle feeding skills during the husbandry course. Photo by Nancy Wulff.

By Andrea Sobokta

The FCF Convention was a first for me. I took the Felid Husbandry course and so appreciated the detailed course content and lively delivery. Out of Africa was wonderful! As a result of that trip, I have arranged to run one of my “Animal Sense” workshops onsite there in November. Thank you for having the convention right in our backyard!! I know I can also speak for Nancy in saying we both hope to attend the next one.

Andrea “Critter Doc” Sobokta

Communication, Natural & Energy Healing, Intuitive Counsel
For Animals & Their People
Specializing in
Exotics, Wildlife & Domestic Pets



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Wildlife Conservation Educator's Course Review

By Lynn Northern-Spangenberg

I attended the Educator's Course this summer. I wanted to share a little about myself and my experience at the FCF Educator's Course. I am the owner of one male serval named Stryker and one female F1 hybrid named Stella. They were both hand raised and bottle fed. I only have four years' experience with exotic cats, but have long had a passion for exotics and have looked for every opportunity to expand my knowledge base on all aspects of exotic felines. I have established relationships with a few breeders who have been willing to serve as mentors to me, and they have worked with me when I have had questions or concerns, but ultimately I have learned as I have gone, often by experience.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have dreamed about owning a zoo and interacting with exotic animals of all types, but especially the big cats! Lions, tigers, and cheetahs; each animal carried with it its own unique style and characteristics. Having a pair of every animal would be ideal! I guess I was always a little jealous of Noah and his Ark.

It was not until a few years ago that I realized that these long-held dreams could, to some degree, become a reality. I had reached a point in life where I was financially able and mentally prepared to care for a few of these exotic animals. My goal from the beginning was to search for the right species that would best fit my

abilities and resources. My ultimate goal has been to expand my knowledge base as much as I can with the express purpose of then searching out opportunities to enhance the general public's understanding of these amazing species, and to push for an increased awareness of the need to promote the conservation of all exotic felines. Without the benefit of persistent education from knowledgeable sources, the general public, and specifically our various local, state, and national governments, will base their understanding on what they learn from biased media reporting and hearsay.

I am early on in my journey, but the process has been rewarding in every respect. The more I learn, the more I recognize how little I truly know! There is so much to learn from these beautiful creatures. Every day they teach me something new about their unique personalities, the idiosyncrasies of each species, and ultimately the power of instinct.

When I first received notification of the scheduled seminar, I jumped at the opportunity to take part in a course that would expand my exposure to like-minded peo-



Shelleen Mathews practices her lynx bottle feeding during one of the breaks. Photo by Fred Hood.

ple and hopefully help me better understand the exotic animals that I currently own. Going in, I was unsure what to expect from the course, but I was pleasantly surprised at how organized and professional everyone was. It was immediately clear that our instructor had years of experience and a vast reservoir of knowledge. She was captivating in her abilities to share her knowledge in a way that was both informational and fun. Besides the set program, I loved mingling and comparing backgrounds and experi-

ence with really cool people who share my same interests! Instead of getting the dubious looks that I normally get when I talk to people about my cats, I was now surrounded by people who get it! Everything from jaguars to the Geoffroy's cat was a topic of discussion; it was my dream come true!

This was the experience that I was hoping for. I would recommend future courses to anyone who owns, has aspirations to own, or just has a love for exotic cats. This is the course for you! I cannot wait for the next one to be announced!

Great job on putting together a superior course!



Little Bit Geoffroy's kitten rests on JB Anderson while he takes the educator's test. Photo by Debi Willoughby.

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.

Marisa Katnic – Basic
Robert Threadgill - Basic

Cynthia Baird - Intermediate
Paul Stevens – Intermediate

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

Raising Spots: The Asian Leopard Cat Vs. the Geoffroy's Cat

By James Sublett & Sheri DeFlorio,
Twin Pine Farm & Exotics

I never thought in a million years that we would have an opportunity to own a Geoffroy's cat. One day, that hope and desire came and another was seized as we acquired an Asian leopard cat (ALC). Not too many people are given a chance to own a Geoffroy's, but we were fortunate enough to have the right timing in our lives to do so. We always admired and desired an Asian leopard cat, but we had accepted the fact that owning one was out of our reach. I remember every moment leading up to the day these cubs were placed in our hands, the moments of growth, youth, and the continuing knowledge that I gain each day as they age into adults. Within just a few days of birth, these babies came into our lives. Their first sight, their first focus, was a moment of bonding love and an everlasting, life-long connection formed. Bottle feeding and hand rearing these felines, imprinting, taking on the role of their mothers, was an amazing experience. As they continue to grow, we are gaining knowledge of their traits and characteristics that make them both unique individuals within their own species. The knowledge and insight that is gained each day is truly fulfilled when it can be shared with others.

My motivation and inspiration stems back from childhood; the bond and connection I had with my first cat made an impression in my life. An imprint of



Luna the Geoffroy's cat matured more quickly than leopard cat Tapanga, noticed in size, growth, and by her skills, specifically in hunting, climbing, and communication.

childhood cat memories led me to who I am and what I do today. The desire, commitment, and hard work that are poured into our farm each day make us love every second. Twin Pine Farm & Exotics is home to many animals, but the conservation of felines is the driving force behind it all. The support and connections from other FCF members, private owners, businesses, and enthusiasts have contributed to the Farm's success. My wonderful mentor and friend, Lynn Culver, has been a role model creating a high standard that we live by.

I would like to start by recognizing the intelligence of these two species. Looking beyond those captivating eyes and spotted rosettes reveals two entirely different felines with a commonality. These cats share a purpose of what the FCF and its members strive for – population.

Reproduction of these species, through breeding, will keep their future alive; we can contribute to this by standing behind them, pushing their existence with preservation, education, and research. While these species live with a purpose to naturally expand their genes, we can live with a purpose by devoting ourselves to them.

The Geoffroy's cat and ALC are nearly the same in size, but possess entirely different personalities. Love is the one common trait they both hold true to testament; both felines fall in love with those who raise them. That love is a trait that bounces back and forth each day, in each interaction, as they live in our home. Geoffroy's seem to mature more quickly than the leopard cats. The faster maturity rate is not noticed in size or growth, but by their skills, specifically in hunting, climbing, and communication. ALCs, on the other hand, mature a lot more slowly in life skills, but are much more affectionate and they seem to adapt

their skills into their surroundings.

The Geoffroy's are more independent than the leopard cats; they live their lives in a faster motion. The Geoff's are quick,



Tapanga, an Asian leopard cat kitten, possesses an intuitive mind and empathetic personality in tune to her people's every feeling and thought.

sly, and witty, and in constant speed within everything that they do. This speed is carried through the nursing of a bottle, to the meal at dinner, and in every mindful thought. Their thinking process is fast and they tend to be five steps ahead of themselves all the time. This trait causes poor decision choices, as they are not thoroughly weighing the consequences of their actions. Their speedy thought processes, however, can benefit them in many other aspects of life, such as hunting. The leopard cat, like all cats in general, is independent, but is much more docile and slow. The intuitive mind of a leopard cat is frightening at times. They are empathetic to your every feeling and thought; sometimes I think they foresee what will happen in advance. These little fortune tellers know to be more affectionate if you are sad and more playful if you are happy. When the lights go out, they make their way to you, staying with you throughout the night. My Geoffroy's, to this day, will



Spacious enclosures with plenty of height for climbing are important components for these small, athletic, and energetic species.

snuggle up under the covers with me as well. No matter how long my adult Geoff's have been outside in their habitat, I can bring them back inside our home, at any time, and they will use the litter and sleep beside us, as if they never left. The ALC's physical growth rate is nearly the same as a Geoffroy's, but their mind development is slower. It takes a much longer time for the leopard cat to learn their jumping, stalking, climbing, and overall life skills than the Geoffroy's.

Both cats are very loving and connected to the people they bonded with. They will both tell you what they want and when they want it, almost demanding orders. Some of their demands include what they would like to eat, how they want you to play, what cat litter they prefer, and, of course, where their box should be located. Demands even extend to the time they prefer to eat; they will let you know when they are hungry because it is demanded, whether you are ready to feed them or not. When preparing their meal, the Asian leopard cat will literally jump on the counter and pick the piece of chicken that SHE prefers out of the bowl. They are both strong-willed. If I fed the ALC her meal in a room and she does not like the drumstick I gave her, she will find her way back to the kitchen, to the bowl, and pick the thigh instead; she will dive head-first into that bowl, growling a "back-off" while she carries it back to her room. These are the moments that bring you laughter, and you bend the "no counter" rules, just a little, for times like these.

Both felines share a passion and interest with water. The Geoffroy's will play in the water for hours with their toys. The

leopard cat likes to share her water talents; she demands to be held while her humans take a shower, perhaps just to spend time with us. Since the Geoff's are so speedy, they prefer action, so a robotic swimming fish or any toy in motion suits them well. They will keep themselves occupied at length sometimes, not ever knowing when to quit their fun. The ALC is always there, shadowing you while you clean dishes in the kitchen sink or brushing your teeth in

the bathroom sink; if the water is on, she is there. Other than the love of water being a shared trait, these cats both love to play. They will play with anything and enforce the playfulness out of their humans. It is so important to enrich their lives with toys and interaction. Both cats have learned to play catch and retrieve; they will bring their toy back to me for more throws for hour upon hour. Sometimes I wake up in the mornings with a vast array of toys that are ready to be thrown upon waking again. It is times like these that you know you would not want your life to be any other way.

We believe there are many similarities between these two species. Perhaps the common traits they possess come from their upbringing; their humans. The Geoffroy's and leopard cats are raised alike, with the same attention to love and affection. This proves as truth, while the Geoffroy's are outside they remain just as loyal as if they never left our home. To this day, we can go into their outdoor habitats and they will crave our attention; they will be very affectionate and loving, wanting and sometimes demanding to be held or just petted.

Tapanga, our Asian leopard cat, is much more in tune with our emotions and feelings. The ALC is intuitive to the humans she is bonded with. She looks to us for guidance and is with us during

every waking or resting moment. She is by our side from the moment we get home to the moment we leave home. She will greet us at the door to express her thoughts of missing us with affection and kisses. Leopard cats watch your every move; Tapanga studied her humans so attentively in the bathroom, she now uses the toilet as a human would. They are observant, constantly learning, and always curious while striving to please you all at the same time. The Geoffroy's are so smart, so cunning, and so stealthy that we humans could learn a thing or two from them! An extremely loyal species with an intelligent mind of a lion wrapped up into a six pound body. Nothing can stop a Geoffroy's cat, nothing can get in their way, and there is not an obstacle or challenge they cannot conquer. Once you create a bond with a Geoffroy's, they will be connected to you for life.

If you are ever given the chance to own a Geoffroy's cat, Asian leopard cat, or any other exotic feline species, you should take the opportunity of a life changing experience. There are no words that can describe the bond and connection made with these species. Hand rearing, imprinting, and raising these felines bring us such joy and love. To know that a wild cat loves and accepts you as its own is a fulfillment unlike any other. With the proper love, affection and attention, these magnificent felines will be the best addition to your life. We continue our conservation efforts here on the farm because of that fulfillment and love gained each day. We are constantly learning and striving to give them the best of the world while gaining knowledge to share with others.



Luna naps in the clothes closet, a typical hangout for Geoffroy's.

Wild Species Registry Update - Phase 1 of the Initial Release

By Wild Species Registry Team

At the close of last year, the Wild Species Registry was still in a nascent state. The primary work that had concluded had been the creation of a functional relational database and a very rudimentary interface that could be used to manage the data (animals, users, locations, etc.).

Work on the WSR project slowed as discussions about the overall direction were held, the determination of what the feature set of the initial roll-out should include was determined, and the resources available to conclude the work were put in place.

Thanks to a very generous contribution by the FCF, work on the project has resumed at an accelerated pace, and this article is the first update of the progress of the WSR project.

In addition to the finalization of the architecture of the database, the structure of the software has been broken down into

the following frameworks (which are named after some of the animal residents of The Conservators' Center):

ARTHUR: This is the management console which will be used by WSR operators (and, in the future, Species Coordinators) for maintaining registry information. This has now been built and is in the initial testing phase.


ROLAND: This is the reporting system that will be used by WSR Operators (and, in the future, Species Coordinators) to generate the various reports required of the system. This system is currently under development.

SAVIK: This is a framework that isn't directly used by a user of the system, but is comprised of the data model, web services, the core database, and all of the security features of the system. This system is in place, with some tweaking possible depending upon what the testing of the other systems reveals to us.

WILLOW: This is the WSR Website. It

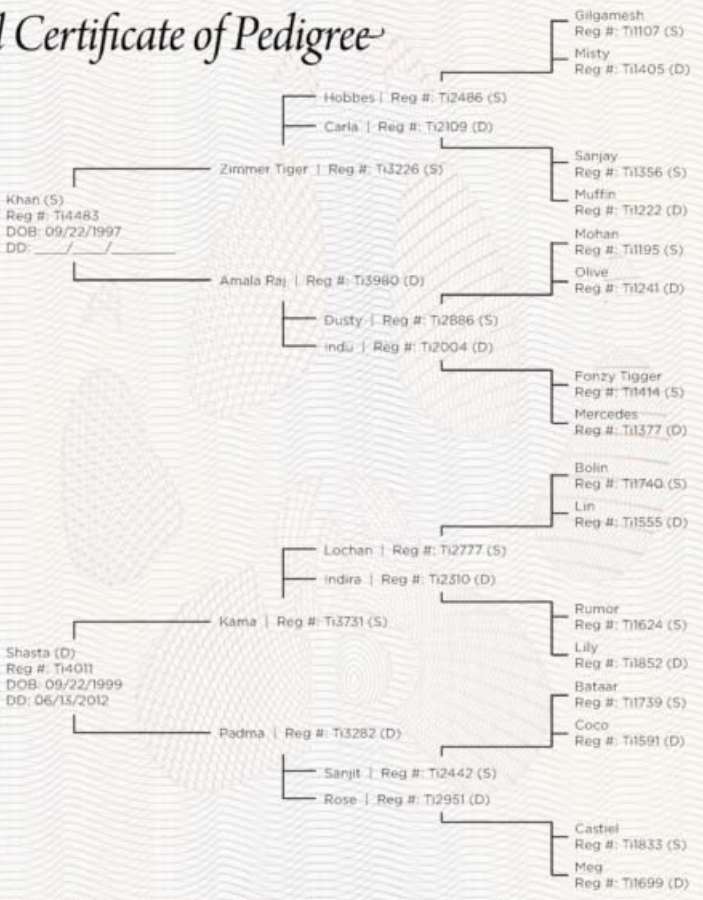
will include not only the general public-facing website for WSR, but will include (amongst other things) areas to learn about the WSR, a page at which a user may download documents, another page to allow a user to submit forms, a user login area to view their account and the animals/litters registered with the WSR. This has been designed and the initial work has begun.

With all of this work underway, we thought it would be nice to present an initial mockup of one of the pedigrees that a customer of the WSR could receive for an animal that they have registered. (It's worth noting that this is the design toward which we're working. The logo for the WSR may change, and the inclusion of images of the animal will likely not be available until a future release, but the information provided will most certainly be there.)



William
Panthera tigris tigris MALE/INTACT
 Reg #: T15312
 DOB: 04/12/2012 DD: ____/____/____
 Distinguishing Features: Missing toe on left hind paw

Official Certificate of Pedigree



Mindy Stinner & Doug Evans
 Conservators' Center, Inc
 676 E Hughes Mill Road
 Burlington, NC 27217
 (owner)

Jeanne P. Grey
 Terrific Tigers
 3812 Carnivore Lane
 Sunnydale, CA 93478
 (breeder)

Wild Species Registry Registrar

Date

The Wild Species Registry hereby certifies this pedigree is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge and according to our records.

Blast From the Past: Fractures in Ocelots with Juvenile Osteoporosis

Long Island Ocelot Club
May 1964
Volume 8 Number 3

By John P. Hunter, D.V.M.
San Jose, California

Juvenile osteoporosis in felines is thought to be a dietary condition brought about primarily by a lack of calcium in the diet as opposed to osteogenesis imperfecta in man, which is a hereditary disease.

Of the three dozen or so ocelot kittens we have seen in the past three years, approximately one third have experienced lameness or soreness of the limbs and pelvis. These affected kittens varied in age from five to 12 weeks.

The first ocelot kitten presented to us with pain and lameness in the rear legs was a ten week old male. The pain and lameness had come on over a period of about a week. On examination, the kitten had a normal temperature, was eating well, but showed extreme discomfort on palpation of the rear legs and pelvis. Full body X-rays were taken and showed well

advanced osteoporosis. There was a lack of calcium in the entire skeleton; the long bones showed wide marrow cavities and very thin cortices, and the lumbosacral vertebrae showed lack of density and a definite ventral curvature of the spine. Vitamins and calcium were prescribed and it was advised that the kitten be confined to a small area.

Eight days later, the condition was diagnosed and the kitten returned unable to use its rear legs since falling off a chair the day before. X-rays were taken and showed identical fractures in the proximal one-third of both femurs.

The kitten was anesthetized with a 4% solution of Surital sodium and stainless steel intramedullary pins were used for fixation of the fractures by open surgery through the fracture site. Due to the softness of the bones, the pins did not fit very tightly in the medullary cavities. For this reason, approximately one inch of pin was left extending through the skin over the coxo-femoral joint on each side and the pins were connected by a transverse pin to help immobilize the rear legs.

The kitten was hospitalized for a few days and then sent home. At ten days post-surgery, the pins were quite loose, but despite some slippage a good callus could be felt at each fracture site. At three weeks post-surgery, X-rays showed good healing and the pins were removed. The kitten began to use the legs within a few days and made an uneventful recovery.

In the past year and a half, we have had two more ocelot kittens with fractured femurs; one was seven and the other nine weeks old. Both kittens had osteoporosis and in both cases the fractures were caused by minor falls. In each case there was a fracture in the upper one-third of one femur. These fractures were also repaired with stainless steel intramedullary pins and both healed nicely.

Prognosis appears to be good in the early stages of juvenile osteoporosis and permanent lameness, and the possibility of fractures can be prevented by heavy supplementation of the diet with calcium and vitamins.

TERCERA'S INFIRMITY

By Catherine Cisin

"Terry" was the gentlest, sweetest creature as a young kitten that we had ever known. We grew gradually to accept the following qualities as normally hers without suspicion that they should have been indicative:

1. Her more than cautious hesitation to jump down from a lap or chair.
2. Her plaintive habit of placing her front paws on our knees, asking to be picked up.
3. Her near panic, clinging to our hands with toes and claws, as we lowered her to the floor.
4. Her intermittent, almost imperceptible limp.
5. Her preference to gallop, kangaroo-like, using front and rear legs together when running.
6. Her cautious walking gait, swinging her pelvis from side to side, almost crossing her hind feet.
7. From her early life, her habit of urinating high above body level, instead of

below it (later thought to be due to her spinal curvature).

And then, at age five months, weight ten pounds, it "suddenly" happened. Terry's hindquarters collapsed under her, followed the next day by her forelegs. Soon she could not support her weight.

Promptly we took her to a veterinarian in Saint Petersburg, Florida, where we were when it happened. Dr. Fred Wil- ilarth's Animal Medical Center (2540 30th Avenue, N.) tranquilized her, after finding her temperature low enough to be considered normal, with injectable Thorazine. He immobilized her long enough for X-rays. His diagnosis:

"To Whom It May Concern: Terry, a five month old ocelot, was presented to us the 9th of March, 1964, with definite signs of lameness in her rear quarters. "Radiographs show a very thin cortex of all bones." There is a very marked ventral curvature of the lumber-sacral area. The pelvis is tipped greatly from the horizontal plane. A diagnosis of osteogenesis imperfecta was made; Calcium Gluconate (10%) was given intravenously, plus injections of Vitamin A and D."

Looking back over the weeks, we wonder whether her condition resulted from the too early removal from her mother and the lack of natural bone-building material, or was it in part due to her unbalanced diet. She rejected all food except beef and we indulged her. Of course, her all-protein diet was supplemented with many forms of calcium and the multiple vitamins contained in oleum percomorphum.

From our experience, members may take warning to suspect the health of a kitten that is too docile, too sweet, too dependent, even though outwardly there is no indication that all is not well.

Dr. John Swinford, Syosset, N.Y., observing Tercera on April 5, said that the picture of her which appeared on page 10 of the March Newsletter clearly shows the curvature of her spine, her back showing indentation close to the beginning of her tail. We examined the radiographs from Saint Petersburg, confirming his suspicions regarding her spine. He further noted the closeness of her pelvic bones, forming too narrow an opening to permit bearing kittens. Caesarian section would be indicated should the situation arise.



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Second Quarter Board of Director Minutes

The second quarter Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Cottonwoods Resort in Scottsdale, AZ, June 19, 2014. Board members present were: President-Kevin Chambers, Vice President-Mindy Stinner, Treasurer-Lynn Culver, Secretary-Debi Willoughby, and Director-Pat Callahan.

Directors Jim Sanderson and Chris Tromborg were not present.

Ratify the 1st Quarter 2014 Minutes: Moved by Mindy, seconded by Pat, that the approval of the minutes of the First Quarter 2014 be ratified. The motion carried with five yes votes.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn to send details to board members via email. Global assets = \$107,553.81; ING Savings = \$76,141; and Bank of America checking account \$29,000 (convention expenses not included in this number).

Old Business:

Executive Director Update: Lynn Culver will be writing herself a check for the \$5,000 we approved to pay her in the last board meeting for her services as executive director in 2013.

Journal: The printer we were using was bought out and the new owners seem more responsive. *Journal* creation is going well and getting out in a timelier manner.

Registered Handler Program: We currently have 149 registered handlers, 16 new in the last year.

Conservation Committee updates – there have been a few new grant applications. Board suggested we ask Jim Sanderson to get with his conservation contacts to see if they want to apply for a grant.

Pat Callahan will ask the people we have awarded grants to write an article for our *Journal*, detailing the progress of their project and how the grant was spent. There was also discussion on how we can get members involved with field research. Discussion continues.

Public Relations update: We have signed an agreement with Vocus PR. We are currently using their site to generate internet newsletters and emails. We can also review statistics on those newsletters and emails. We need a Public Relations volunteer to head this account up.

Legislation update: Amy Flory contin-

ues to update our legislation section as needed.

Development update: Erin Patters manages our Facebook page on a continuous basis.

Education Committee update: Currently sends out bimonthly newsletters, revises online fact sheets as needed. Working on devising a plan to work with teachers and get the FCF into schools; creating more online resources for teachers, educators, etc.; and reviewing the current courses/workshops offered. Locations for next Wildcat Weekend were suggested: Stillwater in January, in conjunction with OSU.

Marketing Committee update: Marketing currently includes items for sale and Vocus PR. It has been hard to attract new vendors to advertise; money is tight.

Wildcat Safety Net update: No applications were received this year. We need to spread the word about this.

Accreditation Committee update: Current members are Christa Donofrio, Pat Callahan, Karl Mogensen, and Rebecca Krebs. We need one more member. There are two pending applications; Debi will give those people the instructions on how to reapply to the new committee members. There is also one new application; Debi will inform that facility with the same info.

Professional Committee update: Current members are Karl Mogensen, Pat Callahan, Mindy Stinner, and Shelleen Mathews. There were four new applications in the last year. There is an issue with the system not forwarding applications to the committee head, Shelleen Mathews. Lynn will get this fixed. Shelleen will write a *Journal* article explaining what is going on and how to apply.

New Business:

Website: Chuck Bunnell with Eagle Web Designs is almost done with the rewriting of the code to make the website more secure. Next he will work on reformatting the site; this will give it a fresh new look. Debi Willoughby will be in charge of recruiting volunteers and coming up with a few designs for the Board to review. Total estimate for website overhaul from Chuck is approx \$3,500.

Studbook: Mindy Stinner said there is

information in this system, but the website interface is not up yet so people can't update their own information. She needs \$15-18,000 to get the interface functioning. She asked the ZAA to help sponsor this and is awaiting an answer. Lynn Culver moved to have the FCF donate \$3,000 to start, to the CCI Wild Species Registry Code Writing Project. In return, Mindy will write up a proposal on what the FCF will get in return. Kevin Chambers seconded the motion. 4 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Motion passed. Mindy Stinner abstained from the vote due to her involvement in the project. At the next board meeting we will review Mindy's proposal and decide on additional funding.

Election: The Borda count was previously decided on. The nomination period ends Aug 10th; there have been no nominations submitted. Members will be reminded of this in the general members meeting and in an FCF *Journal* article. Lynn Culver will be researching secure online voting to determine if it will work with the Borda count. She will present to the Board in a special meeting. If online won't work, we will determine where the votes will be counted in the special meeting.

2015 Convention: Suggestions were Jungle Cat World in Canada, Philadelphia Zoo.

General Members Meeting Items to discuss:

Vocus PR, website, new public relations person, election nominations, next convention location, advanced course, species registry, accreditation and professional applications.

No other new business was discussed. Debi Willoughby moved to adjourn the meeting, Pat Callahan seconded. 5 yes votes, 0 no votes; motion passed.



General Membership Meeting Minutes, June 2014

The general membership meeting was held at the Cottonwoods Resorts in Scottsdale, AZ, Thursday evening after the ice-breaker, June 19, 2014.

Several topics were discussed:

The members were informed about the FCF contract with Vocus PR, an internet-based public relations and marketing package. We asked for a volunteer to head this area; no one volunteered.

The members were informed about the FCF website updates being done and were asked to see Debi Willoughby if they want to give suggestions on the formatting.

The members were reminded that this is an election year and nominations need to be submitted to the Secretary by August 10th.

Members were informed that we were reviewing the courses we currently offer and are working on an advanced course or workshops.

Members were informed that the board voted to donate \$3,000 for code writing to speed up the Registry being developed for

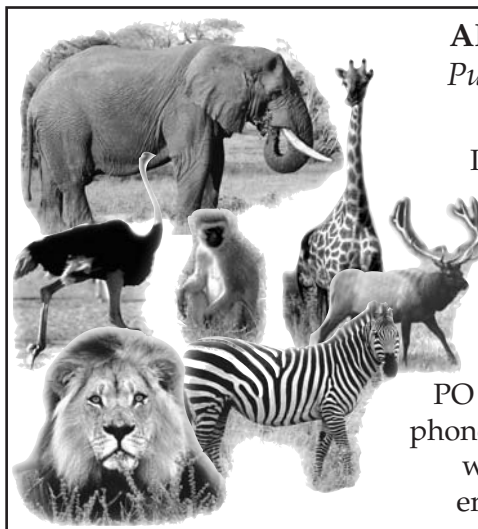
wildlife species and encouraged involvement.

Members were informed that we need one more volunteer for both the accreditation committee and the professional members committee.

2015 Convention locations were dis-

cussed. Potential sites suggested were Philadelphia Zoo, PA, Dallas or Ft. Worth with a tour of Fossil Rim, and Jungle Cat World in Canada.

Debi Willoughby, FCF secretary



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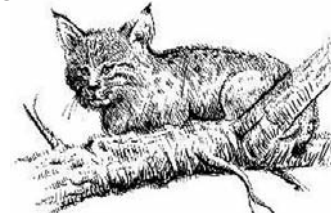
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Feline Conservation Federation

July/August 2014 Volume 58, Issue 4

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: The sand cat (*Felis margarita*) is a true desert dwelling feline and one of the most formidable cats in the world. Also known as the sand dune cat, it is found in both sandy and stony desert, living in areas far from water. These small cats have thickly furred feet, an adaptation that protects them from the extremes of a desert environment and helps them tolerate extremely hot and cold temperatures. Photo by Balazs Buzas.

Back Cover: Fiona, one of three Geoffroy's kittens to attend the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. Other kittens present were a Eurasian lynx, a bobcat, and a serval. The kittens were on display during Wednesday's Husbandry and Wildlife Educator's courses, and during Thursday's icebreaker and Saturday evening's banquet and auction. Photo by Fred Hood.

