



Feline Conservation Federation

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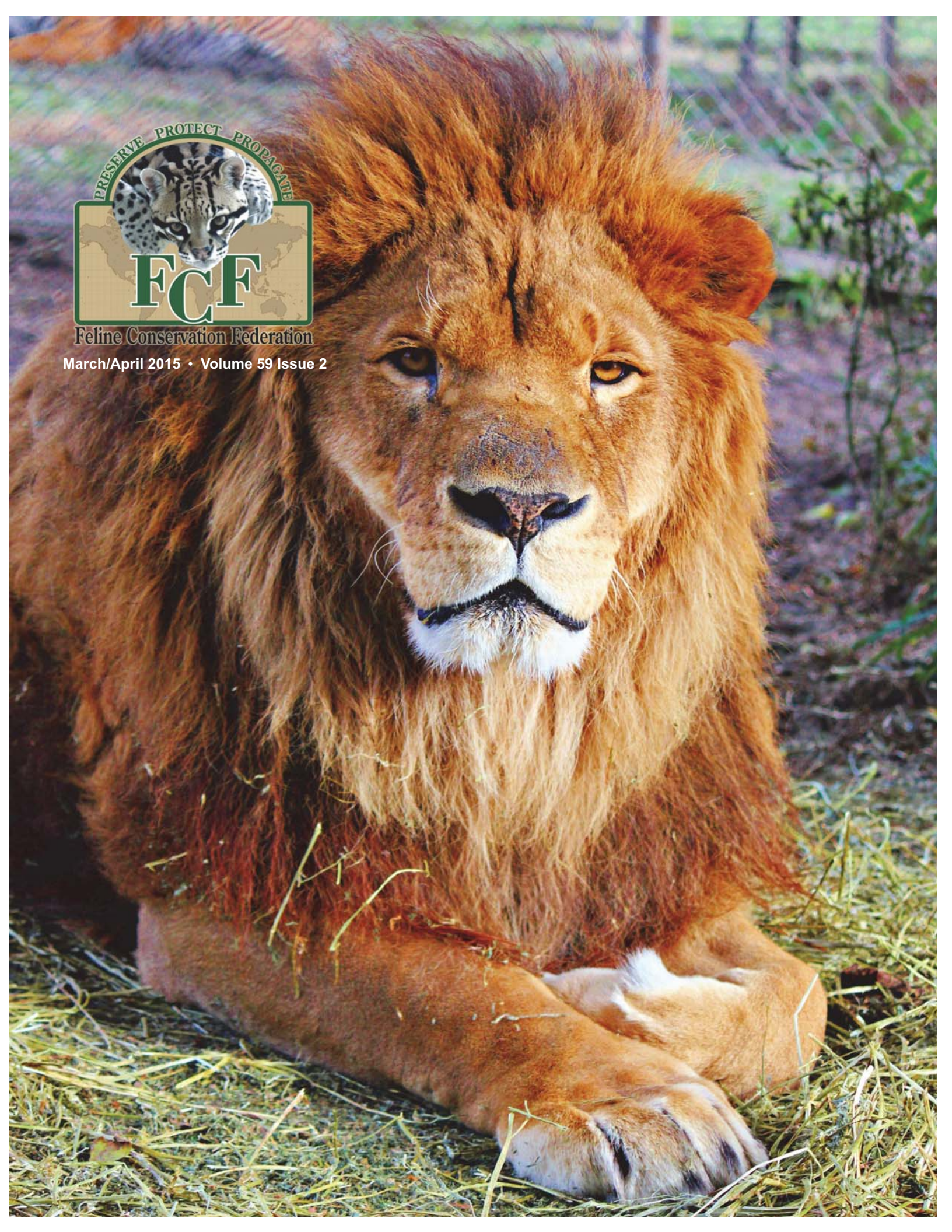


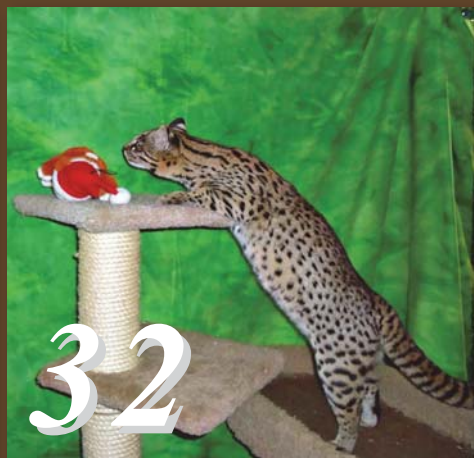
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A membership to the FCF entitles you to six issues of the *Journal*, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to FCF husbandry and wildlife education courses and annual convention, and participation in our online discussion group. The FCF works to improve 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

I would first like to apologize for the printing errors that occurred with our last issue. Everything was fine with the proofs, but apparently there was some computer glitch at the printers that cause the back half of the *Journal* to be printed out of sequence. They have assured us that this will not happen again. I hope you were still able to enjoy the great article on the Caspian tigers. It was heartwarming as well as heart breaking to hear the tale of a man who put forth such an effort to conserve tigers in a time and place where most everyone just wanted them shot. I can't imagine the pain he felt when he heard the word years later that they had become extinct. Mo, you still have our respect and we appreciate everything you did to help save the tigers.

I hope we can all take inspiration from the story of Mo. Here is a man who fought against the prevailing attitude to do what he knew was right. If each of us would do the same, even to just a fraction of the commitment Mo had, we could make a difference and never have to hear on the news that our favorite species has left the earth forever. You can do your

part in so many different ways, such as being active in legislation, donating to research, etc. Probably the most important thing you can do is to be a flag bearer and educate others as to why it is important to conserve nature. You don't have to have a television show or be able to write long, eloquent articles for the media. You can be in Walmart and explain to someone why palm oil or the farm-raised shrimp from Thailand is killing wildlife. Changing the world one person at a time is possible if we have enough people in the army with the desire to make a difference.

The board recently made its appointments of directors and various committee heads. Lynn Culver will be retained as the FCF's executive director, and will also still be serving as our *Journal* managing editor. Eden Tran is the *Journal* layout editor and Judith Hoffman will be helping Lynn as associate proofreading editor.

The board of directors will have oversight of the standing committees as follows: Pat Callahan is in charge of Conservation and Marketing; Chris Tromborg is in charge of Education and Member Services; and Robert Bean is in charge of

Development, Public Relations, and Legislation. Each director will get with the chair of these committees and guide them.

The standing committee chairs are: Director of Conservation - Pat Callahan, Director of Education - Debi Willoughby, Director of Legislation - Amy Flory, Director of Member Services - Jennifer Kasserman, Director of Public Relations - John VanBeber, Director of Marketing - Kurt Beckelman, and Director of Development - Erin Patters. Caroline Alexander was also reappointed as chairman of the Wildcat Safety Net.

Your participation and help on these committees would be greatly appreciated. You can contact any of the chairs to find out what they do and how you can help, or you can contact me and I will put you in touch with them. Take your inspiration from Mo and do what you can to save these magnificent animals and keep them from disappearing forever.

Kevin Chambers

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.

**James Dougherty -
Advanced**

**Dona Dougherty -
Advanced**

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

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From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

In springtime, life begins anew. Flowers resurface and wild cats start courting. And our elected representatives consider another year of legislative proposals. Several states have introduced animal rights legislation and, thankfully, the bills were defeated. Other states have proposed bills with some redeeming value, including Senate Bill 97 in Kansas, set to modify the ban on public contact with big cats to permit regulated activity with cubs. The bill passed favorably by the Senate committee, but died while in the House committee and won't become law this year. Perhaps next year...


Another very interesting bill is in the Texas legislature. HB 3952, introduced by Representative Guillen, modifies the Texas Dangerous Animal Law pass in 2001, by removing several small cat species from the dangerous list. Cats removed are serval, caracal, bobcat, and lynx. It also removes most of the exempted entities from the requirement for registration and regulation. If passed as written, movie companies, schools with wild dangerous mascots, AZA-accredited zoos, rehabbers, and animal transporters would be in the same boat as the private owners and USDA-licensed facilities regulated by this act. Tighter control and reporting of dangerous animals is the goal, and additional Animal Health and Safety rules are established, and it creates an advisory committee to oversee caging rules, administration, and enforcement. Since almost all dangerous cats in Texas are actually in sanctuaries, and not personal pets in backyards, it is prudent for the FCF sanctuary community to give their input, as they are the ones to fall under these proposed regulations. For a review of this year's introduced legislation, read Amy Flory's article on page 40.

On page 24, take a long look at one facility and how it got into a legal battle with the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture. This is very sad story, since the animals are elderly and the owner has decades of experience. This fight isn't over and serves as a dire warning to everyone that government officials can and will overstep their authority, and we are all at risk of being run over someday.

Protecting our animal enterprises can be a full time job when we find ourselves

under attack. On page 34, there is an article on animal enterprise in America. The author, Mindy Patterson, is president of the Cavalry Group and will be at Convention in June, and I highly recommend that you take advantage of this opportunity to speak with her.

Convention information starts on page 20. Registration forms are included with this *Journal*. We have strived to make this as cost affordable as possible. Our hotel will provide breakfast, and the FCF serves Thursday dinner, Friday lunch, and Saturday lunch and dinner. We have great zoo trips lined up and a host of speakers, and furry friends are welcome, too.



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Legislative Agent

Wichita has specific regulations to bring our cats into the city, so be sure to get with me if you want to bring a cat. Contact me by phone (479-394-5235) or email (executivedirector@felineconservation.org) and the FCF will help with the permit fees. Do not bring a cat to convention without informing the FCF. That said, do plan to come and join with other like-minded cat lovers to learn and have fun.

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Introducing Two Bobcats

By Debi Willoughby

I have a three year old, neutered bobcat, Dakotah, who *seemed* happy in his enclosure. He was an animal ambassador for the first year and a half of his life, and he still does occasional educational shows, but not on a consistent basis like he did when he was younger. He has the choice of hanging out in his indoor enclosure or going through his extra-large cat door to his outdoor enclosure. He prefers to sleep inside and be outside when he is awake. His neighbors, a Geoffroy's cat and a Bengal cat, live in the enclosure right next to him just a couple feet away.

I observe my cats on a daily basis and always ask myself, "How can I improve their lives?" Usually it means I change up their enrichment and training sessions, but I also give them at least one to two new permanent items in their enclosures each year. These permanent items could be a new hammock, a swimming pool, new grass, new deck area, new scratching post, etc.

Over time as I observed Dakotah, I noticed he seemed a little lonely. I would occasionally hear him calling at night trying to lure in a wild bobcat. I also noticed

he seemed a little jealous of his neighbors when they would play together. He does spend a lot of time stalking his neighbors and running the length of his enclosure to play with them. It seemed like he wanted a companion to interact with, sleep with, play with, and communicate with. So I decided to get another bobcat. I got a baby named Moxie and kept her in my house for the first five months of her life, because it was wintertime and she had not grown a nice thick, warm coat yet



Dakotah grooms his new girlfriend, Moxie, a young bobcat female that Debi introduced to the bachelor bobcat.



Moxie arrived at Jungle Encounters as a bottle baby and Debi continued to offer milk until Moxie weaned on her own.

to handle our bitterly cold winters. Once she was old enough, I would bring her outside during the day to explore in her "transition" cage. Here she could learn about outside life, have a warm bed to snuggle in if she got cold, and she could see the other cats and communicate with them. For about a month, she lived in her outside cage during the day

and came in at night when the temperature got cold.

During this time, Dakotah was slowly introduced to Moxie. The introduction was started by walking her on a leash outside of Dakotah's cage. He would come over and they would sniff each other through the cage. Then, when she was a little bigger, I started bringing her inside Dakotah's cage and keeping her right by my side so Dakotah could not hurt her with his wrestling and bouncing around. As she got bigger, I started letting her roam around his enclosure with her leash on and stood by watching, ready to pounce if the interaction between the two bobcats got too rough. The leash was kept on her so I could easily grab it and pull her away. Dakotah is very gentle and listens well, but once he gets playing, he does not realize his own strength and Moxie seemed so little and fragile. It was probably just me being an over-protective mom, but I would rather take it slowly than have something go wrong.

Once I felt Moxie could handle herself enough, I would leave the enclosure but stay close by and watch them interact. They would wrestle, jump on each other,

pounce, stalk, and communicate in a good manner. Sometimes animals act differently when we are with them, so the decision to leave the enclosure and watch from an out-of-sight spot would allow me to see how they were together without any interference or the feeling that “Mom’s watching.” They did well together, but I was still concerned that Moxie’s baby mentality of not leaving Dakotah alone would eventually eat away at Dakotah’s patience, so it was always a little nerve-wracking leaving them alone. Up until now, they had supervised visits that lasted 15-30 minutes at a time.



Initial introductions were with a fence in between. Pictured are howdy’s between Moxie and Dakotah where they see and smell each other. No aggression expressed, but the size difference is significant and Moxie needs to grow more before Debi will bring her inside Dakotah’s enclosure.

And near the end of each visit, it seemed like tensions started to run high between them and that is when I would end the meeting. For about two weeks, these meetings seemed to end on a more negative note than a positive one. I thought about it and knew I had to take the leap and let them stay together longer, unsupervised, to let them work through their issues. It was tough for me to do, but I did it.

There are security cameras set up in and around the cat enclosure, so their interactions could be watched from inside my house on the cameras. It was soon apparent that my overprotective mothering instincts were hindering their relationship. Through the cameras, they could be seen playing, wrestling, and sniffing each other. They did have a few episodes where they got irritated with each other, but they worked it out. I watched them learn how to read each other and, once they got that down, their relationship improved greatly. They knew their boundaries with each other and played well. They were fine together and absolutely hated it when I separated them.

Once I realized all they wanted to do was be together, I took the plunge

and let it happen. They have now been together for about a month and are

quality of life, and I am grateful that they are both so happy.



Finally Moxie has grown enough to hold her own in a scuffle and the pair got plenty of snow play this winter.

Husbandry Guidelines - Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx* spp.)

By Celestra Krelekamp
European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Edited and summarized by Lynn Culver

Husbandry guidelines have been developed in Europe to increase the knowledge of the keepers of Eurasian lynxes. Better husbandry improves well-being and reproduction of captive lynxes and establishment of a sustainable population. Data from this article was collected through a literature study, a husbandry questionnaire, and through personal knowledge of the European StudBook keeper, Ing. Lars Versteeg.

Eurasian Lynx Natural History

The Eurasian lynx is a medium sized felid that is currently found in Europe, the Russian Federation, and Asia, thus living in ambient temperatures ranging from -25°C to +25°C. The brownish-yellow felid is terrestrial and primarily associated with forested, mountainous areas. Their home range size depends on habitat type and type and density of prey. They are strictly carnivorous and primarily hunt on small ungulates. These solitary animals are active at dawn and dusk (crepuscular). Mating is seasonal, between February and April. The total population size is estimated at below 50,000 mature breeding individuals. Although as a species the animal is not threatened yet, it may not survive unless active measures are taken to conserve it.



The northern lynx (*Lynx lynx lynx*) numbers fell in the early 1900s, but recovered concurrently with increases in small ungulate populations.



Carpathian lynxes, such as this individual, have been the subspecies source for reintroductions into the Alps and Jura Mountains (France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria).

Subspecies of the Eurasian lynx:

<i>Lynx lynx lynx</i>	Northern lynx
<i>Lynx lynx kozlovi</i>	Irkutsk lynx
<i>Lynx lynx wrangeli</i>	Siberian lynx
<i>Lynx lynx carpathicus</i>	Carpathian lynx

The Eurasian lynx has a stout body with a thick and soft pelt to protect it from the coldest Siberian winter nights. Eurasian lynx fur is brownish-yellow, but can vary to rusty or reddish brown. There are three main coat patterns: predominantly spotted, predominantly striped, and unpatterned. Variations exist within and between different parts of the species' range. The spotted-striped types, controlled by the "tabby" gene, predominate in present reintroduced European lynx populations, originating from the Carpathian Mountains further east. Northern lynxes tend to be grayer and less spotted than southern animals, which are more reddish and exhibit profuse spotting.

The spotting is more apparent in the lynx's shorter summer coat, and is not

as visible in the much longer fur of the winter phase. Eurasian lynxes have large, fur-covered, wide-spreading feet. This snowshoe effect makes it possible for the cats to walk easily on the surface of deep snow. The thick fur also keeps their feet warm as they walk on the cold ground. The lynx underbelly and face are of a lighter cream color. The large pointed ears have long tufts of dark hair, believed to aid in their excellent hearing. The backsides are black toward the tip, showing light central spots. The irises are a unique yellow brown. Eurasian lynxes have short tails, though longer tails than their bobcat relatives. The last three or four inches of the tail is black. The Eurasian lynx can purr, due to having a completely ossified T-bone. The rear limbs are longer than the front legs, giving the body a tilted forward appearance. The retractable claws are very long and sharp.

Rather than smelling their prey, lynxes depend on their extraordinary sense of hearing, along with their sight. It is believed a lynx can hear a mouse nearly 200 feet away and can spot roe deer at a distance of 1,500 feet.

Individuals from the species' northern and eastern geographical range are larger than those from southern and western areas, with the lynxes of eastern Siberia reaching the largest size. Males are larger than females.

In nature, the Eurasian lynx has no natural enemies. Only sporadic cases of



In the past 150 years, lynx populations were drastically reduced by hunting and trapping for fur and for sport. Natural prey became increasingly rare, forcing them to prey on livestock, so they were hunted even more. Their habitats were also being destroyed by deforestation, expansion of agriculture, and an increase in human population.

lynxes killed by wolves, wolverines, and tigers have been reported. Hunting prey can result in fatal injuries. Lynxes can suffer from parasitic loads, rabies, or feline panleukopenia (feline distemper). At least half of juvenile lynxes will not reach adulthood. Traffic accidents and hunting are the main causes of mortality. Wild Eurasian lynx live an average of ten to 12 years, possibly as long as 17 years. In captivity, with proper medical care and good husbandry, a Eurasian lynx can enjoy a lifespan of up to 24 years.

The Northern lynx (*Lynx lynx lynx*) can be found in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, and the Western Russian Federation.

The Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*) has its range in the Carpathian Mountains (Slovakia, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine) and in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro,

Albania, Macedonia, and Greece.

The Irkutsk lynx (*Lynx lynx kozlovi*) can be found in Central Siberia (Central Russian Federation).

The Siberian lynx (*Lynx lynx wrangeli*) is in Eastern Siberia (Eastern Russian Federation).

Eurasian lynxes are also found throughout the northern slopes of the Himalayas, the mountains of the Central Asian desert region, and the entire Tibetan Plateau.

Lynx also live in the Caucasus (Russian Federation, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, and Turkey). Animals from this last region are sometimes recognized as the subspecies *Lynx lynx diniki* (Caucasian lynx).

The reintroduced Eurasian lynxes live in the Alps and Jura Mountains (France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria). The Carpathian lynx population has been the source of this reintroduction.

The ICUN lists this species in the category Nearly Threatened (NT). This means the Eurasian lynx does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable status now, but is close to qualifying for, or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) lists *Lynx lynx* under Appendix II, which contains species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction but may become so if trade is not controlled. It also contains species that look so similar to endangered species that they are difficult to distinguish.

The lynx hunts mostly at dusk and at night, mostly by sight and hearing. Being strictly carnivorous, it hunts for small ungulates, particularly roe deer (*Capreolus spp.*), musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*) and chamois (*Rupicapra spp.*). The prey animals are mostly female, young, weak, old, or ill animals. When these prey animals are scarce, they will also hunt pikas, rodents, hares (*Lepus spp.*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), ground-dwelling birds, and domestic animals such as sheep (*Ovis aries*). In general, throughout Europe and Siberia, the Eurasian lynx primarily hunts ungulates. The lynxes of the Central Asian deserts and high moun-

tains appear to prey mainly on rodents, hares, and pikas. In some parts of their range, lynxes prey mainly on large ungulate species, including red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), caribou/reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*), argali (*Ovis ammon*), and moose/elk (*Alces alces*). Overall, female lynxes seem to hunt for less deer than males.

Because of their small hearts, lynxes can only run fast for short distances. They follow their prey for up to several days, keeping low to the ground, and when circumstances are favorable they surprise attack animals at close range. Once the animal is caught, the prey is killed by a bite in the neck, cutting the spinal cord. If the animal is too large, they will hold the throat of the animal until it suffocates. A Swedish research project reported the chance of a successful hunt at about 75% when the prey is at a distance of 20 meters (66 feet). The chance decreases to 50% at 50 meters (164 feet) distance and to 30% at 200 meters (656 feet) distance.

Winter brings both problems and advantages. Lynxes can be easily seen



This Siberian lynx is completely comfortable in even the most frigid temperatures, due to thick fur and large, fur-covered feet.



During the breeding season, male and female spend all their time together and sleep side by side. The female is receptive during a period of 24 to 48 hours within this time frame.

against the snow in wintertime because of the lack of grass for hiding. Moving through snow is relatively easy for these cats because of their large, fur-covered feet which prevent them from sinking into the snow. Large ungulate prey is favored in winter because of its vulnerability in deep snow. For example, Scandinavian lynxes have been reported to switch from predation of small game in autumn to large game in winter. In the summer months, the intake of rabbits increases.

Sexual maturity in Eurasian lynx females is reached between 21 and 27 months, while males take 30 to 36 months to mature. Females remain fecund until the age of 14; males until they are 16 to 17 years old.

Mating is seasonal. The mating season is in the early spring, between February and April. A second breeding period has been observed in May for females that did not conceive during the primary period, and those that lost their cubs early on. The receptive period can last from one to ten days.

One or more males follow a female during a three to five day course. When a female and male meet for the first time, they greet each other by sniffing and rubbing their cheeks against each other and head-butting foreheads. After this, they sniff the other's genital region. During the first two days of contact, male and female spend all their time together and sleep side by side. During this period, they chase each other, hunt together, and sniff and lick each other. The female is receptive during a period of 24 to 48 hours within

this time frame.

Mating usually takes place at night and during the late afternoon. The male approaches the female, grasps her by the nape, and mounts by straddling the female; first with the front feet and then with the hind feet. The female responds to the nape bite by adopting a lordosis posture (front quarters lowered, rear quarters elevated, and tail moved to one side).

The female sometimes also treads with her hind feet. At this point, the male occasionally begins stepping with his hind feet, often simultaneously rubbing against the female's flanks. The rubbing by the male may induce the female to adjust or to exaggerate her lordosis posture. The male then begins pelvic thrusting, lasting typically one to five minutes before intromission occurs. In most instances, the male maintains a firm grasp on the female's nape throughout the mount. Intromission is readily apparent and is signaled by a "copulatory cry" given by the female; this vocalization is typically a low, barely audible growl. Five to ten seconds after the female emits this vocalization, she throws the male off her back, often threatening him, and then she begins to roll vigorously on her back. Rolling on the back typically lasts five to 30 seconds. Then the male and female groom their own anogenital regions. They usually mate many times before the male leaves to find another mate.

The gestation period lasts 67 to 74 days. Female lynxes give birth to a litter of between one and four cubs, with the average being two. They are generally born in

April, May, or June. Cubs are born with their eyes closed, nearly deaf, immobile, and are unable to regulate their own body temperature yet. They weigh on average 250 to 360 grams (nine to 13 oz.). The young are completely dependent on their mother for warmth, food, and protection. The mother stays with her cubs constantly until driven to leave by hunger, and even then she is only away for very short periods of time. Cubs' eyes open between ten and 17 days, and cubs are finally able to keep themselves warm without the help of their mother. They begin to walk between 24 and 30 days. The female nurses her young for three to five months, and cubs begin to eat some solid food at one month of age. At six weeks of age, the cubs begin to follow the mother on short trips. Cubs are weaned between three and five months old, and are usually independent of their mothers by ten months, but remain with their mother until the following mating season. Young lynxes may remain together for some weeks or months after separating from their mother, traveling and hunting cooperatively. By the time they reach two years, they are fully grown.

The Eurasian lynx is generally a solitary animal. The social units are a mother with dependent offspring, male and female during breeding season, siblings hunting together before separating, and females hunting together when having cubs.

Captive Husbandry of the Eurasian Lynx

The in situ captive situation of the



Lynxes seem to prefer perching platforms at or near the top of their enclosure, a place from which they can hide and peer out

Eurasian lynx relies on wire mesh, glass, and concrete. More important than an enclosure's size is its complexity and usability. Each lynx should have access to its own den box. Established pairs and groups can be kept together continuously for enrichment, although incidents may occur. In the case of established pairs and groups, removal of other animals prior to a birth is not required, although risks can be inherent to this situation.

Enclosures

Recommended minimum space per cat is as follows: 12 x 6 x 8 feet per cat (l x w x h). Floor space should be increased by 50% for each additional cat. The Eurasian lynx is a terrestrial species and they should have more floor space allocated than arboreal species. However, complexity and usability of the enclosure is more important than size, as mentioned earlier. Cats should have access to at least 75% of the enclosure's vertical space. Researchers found that the greater the height of the enclosure, the lower the levels of fecal corticoid hormones, which are stress indicators.

A separate space should be available for each lynx. This can be reached by using a shift or secondary holding area, or a primary enclosure which can be divided into separate compartments.

The climbing skills of Eurasian lynxes should be taken into account; enclosures must either be covered, or the barriers must be made high enough to prevent the lynxes from jumping out. The top part of a non-covered barrier should be an inclined plane, sloping in the direction of the enclosure. Electric fencing should be attached on the inside at the top for security.

Enclosures should have a shift or secondary holding area in order to safely move animals from their primary enclosure for cleaning, feeding, and medical procedures. Doors between these areas should be remotely operated shift doors, with sliding or guillotine types preferred. It is also possible to have a primary enclosure which has the ability to be divided into separate compartments. It must always be possible to give each cat its own separate area.

Because Eurasian lynxes are originally solitary animals, it is recommended that each cat have access to its own den box and a multitude of visual barriers in the enclosure. Each visual barrier should be

large enough for one cat to be out of view of another cat in the enclosure. Many exhibits have water features to create white noise.

Cement or concrete are preferred for flooring of indoor enclosures, covered with a layer of straw, wood shavings, or sand on the floor. Bedding materials for dens include straw, wood shavings, or wood wool; however, the presence of bedding material sometimes induces felids to urinate or defecate in the nest box. If individuals persist in using a den box for a latrine, a second den box should be provided.

The complexity and usability of an enclosure is very important. There is a negative relationship between time spent pacing and enclosure complexity. In other words, lynxes that are housed in a complex enclosure spend less time pacing than those housed in enclosures that are more sparsely furnished. Enclosure complexity is among others defined by the number of physical barriers which one cat could use to hide from another. In enclosures with seven or more barriers, pacing was reduced or non-existent.

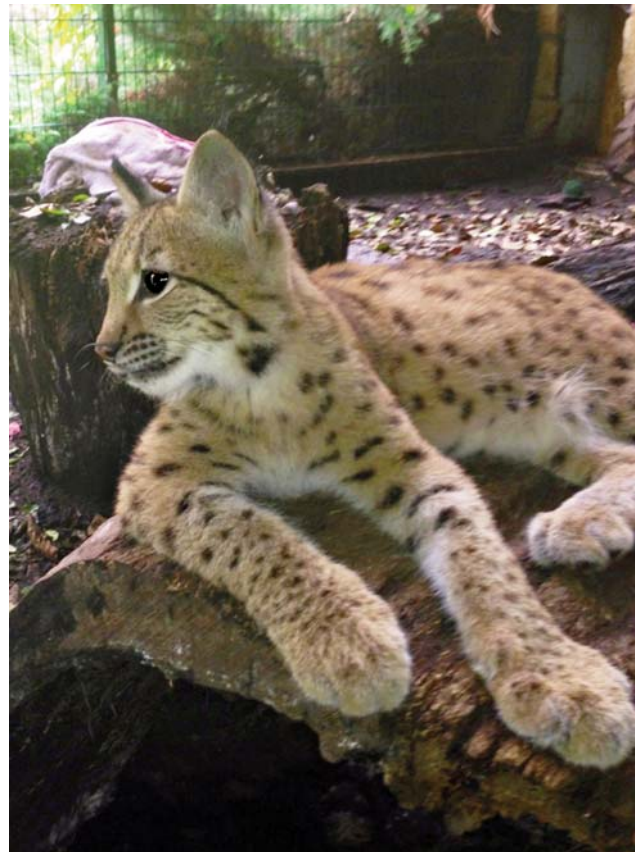
Animals housed continuously outdoors should each be provided with a den designed to protect them from the weather elements and temperature extremes. However, it must be taken into account that shelter from sunlight does not necessarily constitute shade.

Care should be taken to allow lynxes to utilize the vertical component of an enclosure by providing aerial pathways. Aerial pathways (e.g. logs) can be suspended by chains and, thereby, the pathways can be changed by repositioning the logs.

Lynxes seem to prefer perching platforms at or near the top of their enclosure, a place from which they can hide and peer out. Durable plastic materials as well as wood make good platforms or shelves. The location of the elevated platforms should provide the cats with a good view

of the horizon.

Live plants can survive in lynx enclosures. When plants are placed in the enclosure, most are protected with artificial materials, but a few are left unprotected. These few "sacrificial plants" will be destroyed while the "hosed-off" plants remain relatively untouched by the cats. Eurasian lynxes also require logs upon which they can sharpen their claws. Rotting logs stimulate clawing activity. Water features such as pools, recirculating streams, built-in water features for drinking, aesthetics, and eventual bathing are recommended. However, pools should be filled from a source of potable water.



Young Carpathian lynx on exhibit in German zoo. Durable hollow logs make good platforms or shelves. The complexity and usability of an enclosure is very important. There is a negative relationship between time spent pacing and enclosure complexity.

Unless the pool has a mud bottom, it should be dumped, scrubbed, and disinfected at least weekly. If animals routinely defecate in the pools, auxiliary sources of water should be provided. Pools should slightly slope and should contain deep and shallow areas.

Since scent marking behaviors (cheek,

chin, head, and neck rubbing on an inanimate object, urine spraying, scraping the ground with hind feet, and sharpening claws) seem important to lynxes, cleaning (especially with disinfectants) should be done sparingly. Dirt substrates in outdoor planted exhibits should be raked and spot-cleaned daily (feces picked up), and standing pools of urine should be hosed off with water. Urine-stained cement surfaces should be disinfected weekly. Food containers and water bowls should be cleaned and disinfected daily. Food and animal waste should be disposed of carefully. Phenol disinfectants should not be used. Perches and shelves where animals climb, sit, and rest should also be kept free of feces and urine, but it is not necessary to clean them daily. When a layer of straw, wood shavings, or sand is present on the floor of the enclosure, this must be changed approximately every two months, depending on to what extent it is used.

Appropriate controls for vermin infestation should be maintained. Rodent control can be accomplished by using snap traps or live traps. Bait stations should contain poison which provides a very low chance of secondary poisoning. Insect control can include fly or pest strips, natural or synthetic pyrethrum, and growth inhibitors. All chemicals should be approved by a veterinarian prior to use.

The Eurasian lynx can tolerate a wide range of temperatures, but cannot endure high temperatures. Because of this, lynxes that are kept outdoors should have sufficient shade. In case of extreme weather conditions, shelter (in the form of a den) should be provided that has sufficient clean bedding materials or other means to protect the cat from the weather elements (rain, snow, and wind) and temperature extremes.

Indoor housing should be well-ventilated in order to minimize drafts, odors, dust, and moisture condensation.

Diet

Lynx can be fed a variety of whole animals (for example, rabbits, rats, or guinea pigs), gutted carcasses (for example, chickens or rabbits) and carcass parts (for

example, beef) as the major part of the diet. Day-old chicks are easy and convenient to use for food, but they are generally too rich in vitamin A. Once a chick has absorbed its yolk sac, it becomes a more suitable food item.

Lynxes require high levels of animal protein containing a wide range of essential amino acids and have a limited ability to conserve nitrogen when dietary levels are low. Due to a limited ability to desaturate fatty acids (unlike most other mammals), lynxes cannot meet their essential fatty acid (EFA) requirements solely from linoleic and/or linolenic acids. They have a limited capacity to synthesize arachidonic acids, present in animal fat. Deficiencies of fats of animal origin result in poor coat condition and reproductive failures.



Even though Eurasian lynxes in nature are solitary animals, the species forms compatible pair bonds in captivity and can be kept together without issue.

Lynxes require water-soluble vitamins of the B group that can be provided by whole animal prey items, although some are synthesized by the intestinal bacterial flora.

Lynxes rely on preformed vitamin A from animal tissue in the diet. This vitamin occurs predominantly in the viscera of prey, particularly the liver. Deficiencies may occur in cats fed meat diets without supplementation. Vitamin A deficiency produces general ill thrift, anorexia, alopecia, and neurological problems in some species. Conversely, excessive amounts of dietary vitamin A can lead to the development of painful bone abnormalities in the spine and limbs.

Carcasses of terrestrial vertebrates contain adequate amounts of calcium. How-

ever, where only meat is fed, diets must be supplemented with calcium. Calcium carbonate is the most appropriate source. Excessive amounts of dietary calcium are not absorbed, but may inhibit the absorption of manganese and zinc.

The amount to feed depends on the season, the fat content of the diet, the activity level of the animal, and the physiological state (e.g. lactating, growing, geriatric). Amounts can range from 4% of the body weight (dry matter basis) to 10%, and should be determined by experience and individual observation.

It is best to offer a cross-section of diets (a combination of ground meat diet; dry extruded diet; bones; and whole animals, gutted carcasses, and carcass parts) on a weekly basis rather than an exactly balanced diet each day. The goal is to provide a nutritionally complete diet while giving the animals opportunities to exhibit species-appropriate behaviors.

Lynxes should be fed once a day and fasted once or twice a week. A portion of their diet may be used for training, for example to shift into secondary holding areas. Lynxes should be separated before feeding to prevent fighting and to allow accurate measurement of food consumption.

Fresh, clean, potable water should be available at all times, presented in containers that cannot easily be overturned or emptied.

Enrichments

Captive lynxes often exhibit hunting behavior toward novel objects, even if they are not associated with food. Stalking and pouncing behavior can be induced with Boomer Balls or other large plastic objects. To encourage exploratory behavior, Boomer Balls can also be partially cut open and large bones wedged inside.

Pumpkins placed in an enclosure may be stalked and attacked. Burlap bags stuffed with straw also stimulate hunting sequences. Rotting logs exposed to the elements stimulate clawing activity. Animal skins (for example, cow hides), but also skins of sheep, rabbits, or goats seem particularly attractive to lynxes and maintain their interest longer than plastic objects. Lynxes also have shown interest

in skins shed by snakes and the wool of sheep. Scents such as perfume (for example, Avon Angel Fire and Calvin Klein Obsession), fresh catnip, and spices such as cumin, allspice, and cinnamon elicit investigation and scent marking behavior.

Introductions

Lynxes are solitary animals. However, they can still be housed together in captivity. In fact, being placed in a situation where they are not competing for food and territory significantly alters their behavior towards each other. They build strong social bonds when in captivity.

Established pairs and groups can be kept together continuously. Eurasian lynx pairs and groups can consist most commonly of one male and one female, multiple females with or without a male, or a mother with cubs. It is not advised to house males together, as there is too high a risk of fighting.

Since the potential for fatalities is always a possibility, introductions should proceed slowly. Perhaps the three most necessary ingredients to long-term success are adequate space, knowing the animals, and staff preparedness.

Ideally, the space should be designed in such a way that each animal can be individually rotated without physical contact with its conspecific. This encourages the cats to perceive the enclosure as a shared space. Initial contact should be through a small mesh fabric, providing visual, olfactory, and auditory, but not physical contact. If the approach of shared space is not possible, howdy cages or alternating between cages with only a small see-through partition is recommended. If one cat is noticeably more timid than the other, it is recommended that the timid cat's cage should be used for the physical introduction, thereby allowing it the advantage of being in familiar territory.

The decision to move from visual contact to physical contact should be made carefully. Things to consider during the initial physical introduction include making each cat fully aware of the other's



Introductions should begin slowly. This female bows her head to the male held inside the connecting enclosure. Her friendly vocalizations and body language indicate that the pair is ready for the next step, face to face contact inside her enclosure.

presence. If startled, lynxes sometimes respond with a life-threatening attack. Caretakers should observe tail, ears, eyes, and whiskers as indicators of escalating aggression; the tail twitches in mild to thrashing motions, ears go back and are flattened, eyes narrow, and whiskers are thrust forward. The cat's head will likely move up and down, both cats will sidestep, arch their backs, and circle around one another. They usually maintain a certain pre-determined, mutually agreed upon safety zone or distance between themselves, as they continue to posture and vocalize with hisses and/or growls. A key point is that during this initial stage, their eyes are never averted. If one breaks and runs, a chase usually ensues. This is where the caretaker must be doubly alert to possible serious aggression.

Depending on the cat, a certain amount of yowling, scratching, and jumping on each other with fur flying can be expected. It becomes a judgement call as to whether to separate them until the next day's meeting or to try to distract and redirect them. It is important to be able to distinguish between dangerous fighting and simple testing. It

is best to err on the side of safety. Gradually, the cats will begin to look more relaxed. Newly introduced cats should be allowed daily contact as even one day apart can set the process back to the beginning. Furthermore, no matter how compatible a pair may seem in the first meetings, the cats should be separated at night until they show consistently positive behavior in full-day encounters and appear totally at ease with each other and their surroundings.

During an introduction, staff should prepare for the worst-case scenario, planning strategies ahead of time. Planning should include knowing the availability of the veterinarian, location of transport carriers, and an exact plan of action with roles clearly defined. If a fight does escalate to a life-threatening level, hoses and/or poles are often used to separate lynxes. Loud noises (for example, noise from a CO2 fire extinguisher) and shouting can often provide the needed surprise effect for distracting a cat.

Breeding

If animals are housed separately, a pair must have a common enclosure wall (mesh screen) or the male must be rotated into the female's enclosure (while the



When a female and male meet for the first time, they greet each other by sniffing and rubbing their cheeks against each other and head-butting. After this, they sniff the other's genital region.

female is in a holding area), so that behavioral responses that indicate estrus can be observed.

Hand-rearing

Immediately after removal from their mother, the young should be weighed and their sex determined, they should undergo a complete physical examination, the rectal temperature should be taken, and the umbilicus be disinfected. Congenital defects such as cleft palate will be detected at this stage. The degree of dehydration must be assessed at this stage by a veterinary surgeon and if possible a blood sample taken for hematology and serum biochemistry. Prophylactic antibiotics may be given.

The cubs should initially be kept in an incubator or box heated to 25 to 30°C with a relative humidity of 50% to 60%. The housing temperature is gradually reduced over the first three weeks until the animals are thermally stable at room temperature. An ambient temperature that is too high can cause hair loss.

For the first 12 hours, only 10% dextrose or oral rehydration fluids should be given to pulled cubs. After this, milk replacements mentioned above are given. With these products the caregiver only has to add water, although it may be necessary to vary the formula strength. Rehydration fluids and milk should be fed at body temperature and all bottles, teats, and other equipment used should be sterilized after each feed.

Before and after each feed, urination and defecation should be stimulated with a clean, warm, and damp cloth. Care should be taken to avoid abrasion. The cubs should be fed every few hours from early morning to mid-evening. The table below shows how much and how often the cubs need to be fed per day, at each age.

Each animal should be treated as an

individual; some will take more milk, some less. A rough estimate of the required fluid quantity is 10 to 15% of the body weight per day. Increases in volume and concentration and the addition of supplements are based on the response of the neonate. Some individual animals may have intolerance either to the quantity of a formula that is given or to some of its ingredients. If a neonate develops diarrhea, poor hair coat, and/or poor weight gain that cannot be related to other causes, switching from one milk replacer to another should be considered. In such cases, the milk should be replaced with oral rehydration fluids for 24 hours and the formula reintroduced or replaced gradually thereafter. Made-up solutions should not be stored longer than 12 hours. The correct posture for a lynx when being bottle fed is prone with the head raised slightly and supported. Never feed a neonate on its back. Formula should never be forced into the neonate's mouth by squeezing the bottle. A young lynx that is very weak or has poor suckling reflexes may inhale some of the fluid. Solid food can be introduced at four weeks of age, with complete weaning usually possible by ten to 12 weeks. Throughout the whole hand-raising period, accurate daily notes must be kept on feeding, urination, defecation, and weight.

If caregivers have problems or concerns, a veterinarian should be consulted immediately. There is very little margin for error and there is no substitute for knowledge and experience in addressing the issues quickly and effectively. Mortality is the highest during the first few days



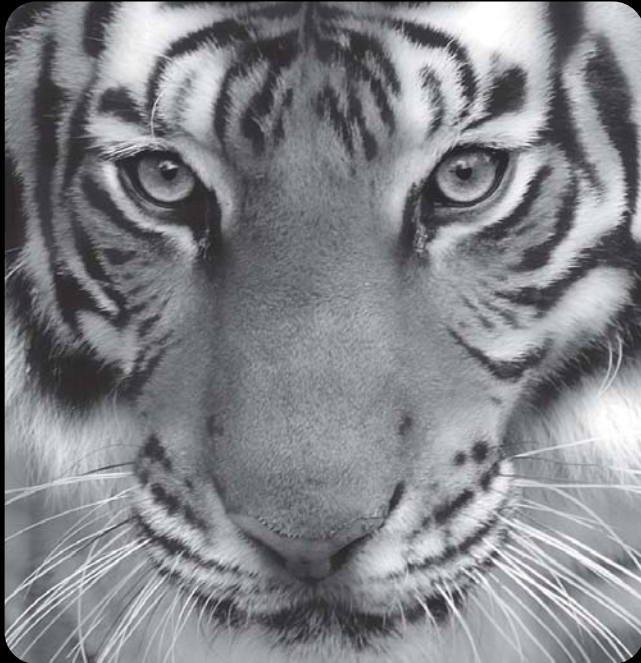
Bottle-raised Carpathian lynx cub naps with his zookeeper “parent.”

of life and early vaccination of hand-reared lynxes is recommended, because they are at a higher risk of infection through their frequent interaction with humans (pers. comm.).

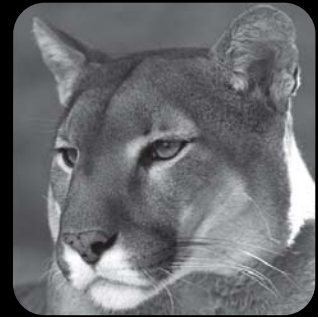
When hand-rearing a litter, it is advised to house them separately for the first two or three weeks, as injuries may result from suckling by siblings. In the event of a single cub having to be pulled, it is important to socialize it with conspecifics. Four weeks is a good age to introduce a domestic kitten or cub of its own or another species. The introduced kitten or cub should be from a healthy female with current vaccinations and be seronegative for FIV and FeLV. A medical examination should be performed on the hand-reared as well as the introduced kitten or cub, prior to any contact. The companionship between the two will provide valuable play experience necessary to acquire socialization and developmental skills. Another very viable solution for a singleton or even a litter is to make use of a domestic female as a surrogate mother that is healthy, appropriately vaccinated, and seronegative for FIV and FeLV. Several institutions have had success using domestic dogs, cats, or even goats. Psychologically, having a surrogate dam may have major benefits for the neonate.

Age	Frequency	Notes
Week 1	6 x daily	Every 3 hours (4 to 6 hours at night)
Week 2	5 x daily	Every 4 hours (8 hours nightly)
Week 3	5 x daily	Every 4 hours (8 hours nightly)
Week 4	4 x daily	Every 4 to 5 hours (Add baby food)
5 weeks to weaning (10 to 12 weeks)	4 x daily	Every 5 hours
Weaning (10 to 12 weeks) to 6 months	3 x daily	
6 months to a year	2 x daily	

Hand-rearing feeding schedule (Mellen and Wildt, 2003)



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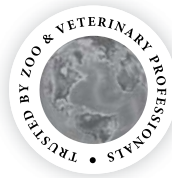
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Kukol/Shoemaker Accreditation

By Lynn Culver

The FCF's independent Accreditation Committee has once again approved the private facility operated by Zuzana Kukol and Scott Shoemaker for Feline Facility Accreditation. Zuzana Kukol and Scott Shoemaker are best known as founders of the non-profit organization, REXANO, dedicated to responsible exotic animal ownership. Scott is also the chairman of the Nye County Animal Advisory Board, representing the exotic animal sector.

Being high profile supporters of an individual's right to own captive wildlife has been made more effective by their self-imposed adherence to the highest standards in the pursuit of their passion. Zuzana and Scott have been featured as respectable private owners in numerous documentary TV programs, including *The Elephant in the Living Room*, Canadian-produced "The American Tiger – The Nature of Things," the Diane Rehm Show's "Exotic Animal Industry in the U.S.," and the Canadian-produced *Wild & Dangerous: The World of Exotic Pets*. They were also interviewed and quoted in Peter Laufer's book *Forbidden Creatures*, in National Geographic's article, "Wild Obsession," and USA Today published the couple in a guest editorial. In these presentations, usually opposing views criticized the ability of average people to take proper care of wildlife in captivity. Zuzana and Scott have allowed themselves to be filmed and interviewed so that the general public is informed about what

responsible private ownership of exotic felines actually looks and sounds like.

FCF Executive Director Lynn Culver was pleased to inform Zuzana of the committee's decision. "Ms. Kukol and Mr. Shoemaker have one of the best facilities in the country, meeting the FCF's accreditation standards in design and management. It takes hard work and dedication to meet Feline Conservation Federation facility standards."

Many of the exotic cats at this facility arrived as cubs to be cherished as pets by Zuzana and Scott, but others found safe haven as displaced adults in need of new homes. The couple cares for 12 felines; a bobcat, an ocelot, a serval, a liger, two cougars, two lions, and four tigers.

This is the second time the facility has undergone examination by the FCF Accreditation Committee. Since the first inspection, several new felines have arrived. Hope, a ten month old liger (cross between a tiger and a lion), is the



Scott Shoemaker walks Libby the lioness inside the ten-acre facility's perimeter fence. Leash training is an important part of this facility's management protocol as it enables the handlers to move the cats from one habitat to another, providing new experiences and mental stimulation.

latest addition. She arrived as a three week old cub and is "loved to death" by Zuzana and Scott. Zuzana says she is "amazing." One "amazing" fact about Hope, according to Zuzana, is that Hope started spraying at the age of just four months!

Another addition is Katz, an adult male cougar that once lived at the now defunct Las Vegas Zoo. According to the zoo, Katz was left at their door when he was about six months old and had already been castrated and declawed. When the zoo closed in 2013, Zuzana and Scott agreed to give this deserving feline a home. Katz had not been handled by the zoo, so Scott has built a lock-out area so that cleaning and maintenance of his habitat can be performed. Katz is housed next to Coogie, the couple's eight year old female cougar. As the pair of pumas gets to know each other, someday they may become roommates.

Another new cat is Libby, a very happy former photo cub born in Nevada. She is two years old now, and she and nine year old Bam Bam, the couple's male lion, may someday be introduced. The process is slow going, but making progress.

Zuzana says all their felines have enjoyed good health, with the exception of an episode of ehrlichiosis in their lion Bam Bam (affectionately known as



Hope, a young female liger, hangs out over the pool on a summer day. She's part lion, part tiger and she inherited her tiger parent's love of water.



Frosty, a white Bengal tiger, lays on one of the platforms provided in the spacious habitat.

“BB”), which nearly cost him his life. Ehrlichiosis is a tick-borne illness, very uncommon to the dry desert southwest, but BB had symptoms suggestive of this disease. He was drinking water, but was getting dehydrated. His appetite was off and he was losing weight. He was also lethargic and weak, especially his hind quarters. At first, they wondered if he had injured his legs, as he was so weak he was limping.

At the Pahrump veterinarian’s office, it was revealed that his kidneys were failing, which explained the dehydration and inappetence. Poor kidney function allows toxins to build up in the blood, which can cause nausea and lack of appetite. Also, the dehydration had led to severe constipation. Fecal matter inside the intestine was dry and impacted. The veterinarian had to manually remove the feces. The vet administered four liters of Lactated Ringer’s solution to counteract the dehydration.

The next day, Zuzana and Scott took BB to a specialty veterinary office in Las



Large habitats are double re-curved at the top, and around the entire property is fenced eight feet tall.

Vegas. BB was still dehydrated, so that vet set up four IVs, all going at once to give the lion another 18 liters of fluids.

Zuzana explained that in clinically ill cats like BB, a presumptive diagnosis of ehrlichiosis can be based on the detection of antibodies against *Ehrlichia canis* or *Ehrlichia risticii*, or by excluding all other possible causes of the animal’s clinical picture, and having a positive response to Doxycycline at anti-rickettsial dosages.

Zuzana administered Doxycycline twice a day for six weeks. The pills were specially made for the adult lion at a com-

pounding pharmacy in New Jersey. Had normal pills been used, BB would have needed 30 pills in the morning and another 30 in the evening. Because the pharmacy made concentrated tablets, Zuzana only had to dose him with six pills every morning and night. She used a variety of methods, from manually shoving them down his throat, to hand-feeding him meatballs laced with the pills, to offering his meds off the end of a meat stick inside a food treat. By being persistent and creative, Zuzana was able to ensure that Bam Bam swallowed most of his medicine.

In addition to the Doxycycline, their vet visited weekly to sedate BB and administer two to four liters of fluids fortified with vitamin B to increase his appetite. Blood was drawn each visit to track BB’s anemia and kidney function. Based on improving values, the diagnosis of Ehrlichia was confirmed. Zuzana would camp by BB and make sure his IV line stayed in. Eventually, BB was moved to the metal barn for the night, because it was getting cold in late October and early November. And with this constant supportive care, the ailing lion recovered, regained his lost weight, and once again enjoys good health.

The liger, lions, and tigers are leash-trained and worked with on a regular basis. This allows Zuzana and Scott to rotate the big cats to different



Zuzana offers Bam Bam a doxycycline-laced meatball. The lion required a six week course of antibiotics to be cured of *Ehrlichia*.

pens around the facility as a way to offer novelty and prevent boredom. Enclosures contain many forms of enrichment, including toys such as boomer balls and several types of native vegetation that provide shade, interesting scents, and privacy.

Scott is the main cage builder and the latest cage he's completed was constructed using nine gauge chain link, 12 feet tall with a top, making it suitable for climbing felines if there is a need. The rest of the big cat cages are open topped, with 12 foot tall walls and, above that, four feet of electrified and barbed wire.

To be re-accredited, a site visit by Accreditation Committee member Rebecca Krebs was made on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Rebecca was very impressed with the spacious habitats provided to the cats. "Overall, the facility was beautifully kept, with many of the enclosures being more than secure, with nine gauge chain link for the small cats and then six gauge for the large cat enclosures."

Misters and shade cloth in the enclosures moderate the desert heat and dryness. Most enclosures have at least two water sources so that there is always fresh drinking water if the cats choose to use one of the water sources as a latrine. In ground pools provide cooling and play potential.

Fencing is topped with not only a recurve, but also a hot wire. The entire ten acre property is perimeter fenced with eight foot chain link. One hot wire is attached at the ground level and another at the top of the perimeter fence.

Zuzana and Scott know that they need to be prepared for all possibilities. So the latest project Scott is working on is a new vet/medical building that will also have runs connected to allow the cats to be inside or out.

Zuzana and Scott feed their cats a variety of food items, from store bought chicken and pork to fresh processed horse and cows. Local livestock that has been injured or is not wanted by the owners is picked up and brought to the property for butchering. Zuzana says horsemeat is a favorite of the big cats and she tucks Centrum vitamin pills into a piece of meat to provide supplemental nutrients.

Accreditation Committee Chair Christa Donofrio said, "This is an exemplary example of what private facilities can achieve on their own."

Probable Ehrlichiosis in Cheetahs

By W. Tarello, N. Ricciari
Published in *Revue Med Vet* 2008
Edited by Lynn Culver

Twelve young adult cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), imported from Tanzania in 2003, lived in a large, fenced area with acacia trees and palm groves providing appropriate shadow and shield, in a desert resort near Dubai (UAE). All animals were regularly vaccinated against the most common infectious diseases (feline herpes virus, calicivirus, parvovirus, leukemia, and rabies virus) and daily fed with fresh meat and water. However, during the last six months of 2005, five cheetahs progressively deteriorated, decreased their food intake, lost weight, and died, despite prompt administration of antibiotic therapy (amoxicillin) and supportive medication (vitamins, corticosteroids). Common clinical signs were poor appetite, lethargy, fever, wasting, vomiting, diarrhea, polydipsia, and dehydration. Hematology and biochemistry results were unremarkable apart from a uniform one- to three-fold increase of creatinine and BUN above the normal average level. Necropsies did not show any particular abnormality and kidney failure due to renal insufficiency was the common diagnosis.

In December 2005, seven surviving cheetahs, five females and two males, four to six years old, were presented with a seven day history of clinical and biochemical picture overlapping that previously noticed in animals which succumbed to the fatal syndrome. Two cheetahs appeared so weak that they could be captured without anesthesia, whereas the remaining five animals were darted with a blowpipe using half of the recommended dose of tiletamine/zolazepam (Zoletil®, Virbac) for wild carnivores. Blood samples were drawn from each and every cheetah for biochemical and hematological analysis, and thin blood smears for the search of haematozoa were prepared onsite. Microscopic examination of Wright-stained smears showed the presence of *Ehrlichia*-like inclusion bodies in lymphocytes.

Five hundred lymphocytes were examined in each slide and the presence of single and multiple *Ehrlichia*-like inclusions, assumed to be initial or elementary bodies, was detected in the cytoplasm of 0.4-2% of lymphocytes. Diagnosis of monocytic ehrlichiosis was based on the same criteria used for cats. Infestation with unspecified tick species was occasionally recorded in some cheetahs. Due to the critical conditions of the animals, initial therapy was preferentially injected (subcutaneously), based on imidocarb dipropionate (Imizol®, Schering-Plough Animal Health) administered at the same doses used in dogs (i.e., 7.13 mg/kg, thus 1 ml/17 kg) and enrofloxacin (Baytril®, Bayer), given at the anti-rickettsial dose of 10 mg/kg. Such treatments are reported to be efficacious against canine and feline monocytic ehrlichiosis as well.

Diseased animals were isolated in roofed pens and submitted to maintenance therapy with an oral solution of enrofloxacin administered at doses of 10 mg/kg/day for 21 days in the drinking water. Treatment was successful and the clinical signs gradually receded during the following days. None of the animals died and a complete clinical remission was evident three weeks later.

Microscopic re-examination of blood smears performed six months later showed the disappearance of ehrlichial inclusions in three cheetahs and a sharply decreased (0.1%) number of mononuclear inclusions in four cheetahs. Eighteen months of follow-up confirmed lasting clinical recovery, with no further sign of disease or death.



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FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION 44TH

The 2015 FCF Convention, being held June 25th through 27th, will be in Wichita, Kansas. The FCF hotel is conveniently located near the airport. To reserve your room at the Wichita Airport La Quinta Inn and Suites, 5500 West Kellogg Drive, Wichita, Kansas 67209, call 800-255-6484. Pay the FCF price of only \$95 nightly. The hotel provides internet, free parking, pool, spa, and breakfast each morning.

Courses

You can also sign up for the FCF Feline Husbandry Course or the FCF's Wildlife Conservation Educator's Course, both being taught Wednesday, June 24th, from 8 am to 6 pm, at the hotel.

An online reservation form lets you sign up for the Convention and the courses. Visit the website and click on "Upcoming Events," then pay with PayPal.

Getting ready for Convention

Convention begins Thursday afternoon. In addition to plenty of networking opportunities, expect furry friends on hand, vendor displays, a silent auction, ice breaker cash bar, and Southwest buffet, followed by the annual membership meeting. Be sure to show your support by bringing something for the silent auction. Perhaps something from your facility's gift shop or something you picked up just for FCF. Favorite items are T-shirts, feline clothing, cat care supplies, and educational materials. If you can't make the event but still want to be there in spirit, you can mail your donated item to the hotel in care of the FCF Convention.



Have you taken the feline husbandry course?



Interact with cats like this serval.

Permits

Wichita city limits require a special wild animal permit. Only Class C exhibitors with liability insurance will be granted these permits. Kitten permits cost \$100. The FCF will fill out and purchase these permits. If you have a kitten to bring, please contact Lynn Culver to make arrangements to comply with the city permitting requirements.

Speakers

This year's speakers include Mindy Patterson, founder of The Cavalry Group, advocating for animal owners and animal businesses. Mindy has plenty of sound advice on legal matters that pertain to our future.

USDA facilities and animal business employers will gain valuable insight from another of our speakers, Kathy Stearns, of Dade City's Wild Things. She's going to be sharing the latest on how to prepare for, comply with, and



Holding a bobcat kitten is Lena Tran's favorite part of convention.

ANNUAL CONVENTION IN WICHITA, KANSAS!



We'll see clouded leopard kittens at Tanganyika Wildlife Park.

deal with OSHA and USDA.

Expect an important update from conservation advisor Jim Sanderson on what's happening around the globe.

These are just a few of the speakers presenting Friday morning before we bus to Sedgwick County Zoo at noon.

Activities

A BBQ rib lunch will be waiting for us at Sedgwick County Zoo's Big Bear Watering Hole. We'll tour the zoo and listen to a presentation by one of the zoo's carnivore keepers. We'll be back at the hotel around 5:30 pm, leaving free time for touring downtown Wichita, its restaurants, and to take in the nightly lighting of the "Ring of Fire" at Wichita's Keeper of the Plains sculpture, when large fire pots can be seen burning in the river at the base of the famous statue. Or, if you want down time, take a dip in the indoor pool, soak in the spa, dine at La Quinta's Flyers Steakhouse and Lounge restaurant, and hang with the kittens back at the hospitality suite.

Saturday morning and early afternoon, we have special plans at Tanganyika Wildlife Park in

Goddard. This ZAA accredited, FCF member zoo exhibits plenty of cats, such as tigers, Amur leopards, servals, and Eurasian lynx, but it's most renowned for its success in breeding snow leopards and clouded leopards. We expect cubs on hand. Zoo founder Jim Fouts is an FCF member who has graciously offered to give the FCF the royal treatment. We have a catered lunch, and will then listen to experts on rare feline husbandry.



Liz Felton gets some kitten love in the hospitality suite!



Keeper of the Plains and the "Ring of Fire."

Banquet Night

Saturday night's banquet starts at 6 pm, with cocktail hour and the conclusion of bidding on the silent auction donations. Dinner will be served at 7 pm, followed by a select group of donated items to be auctioned off live, and then Native American entertainment will be presented to end our night.

Join us for a WILD 44th year together!!

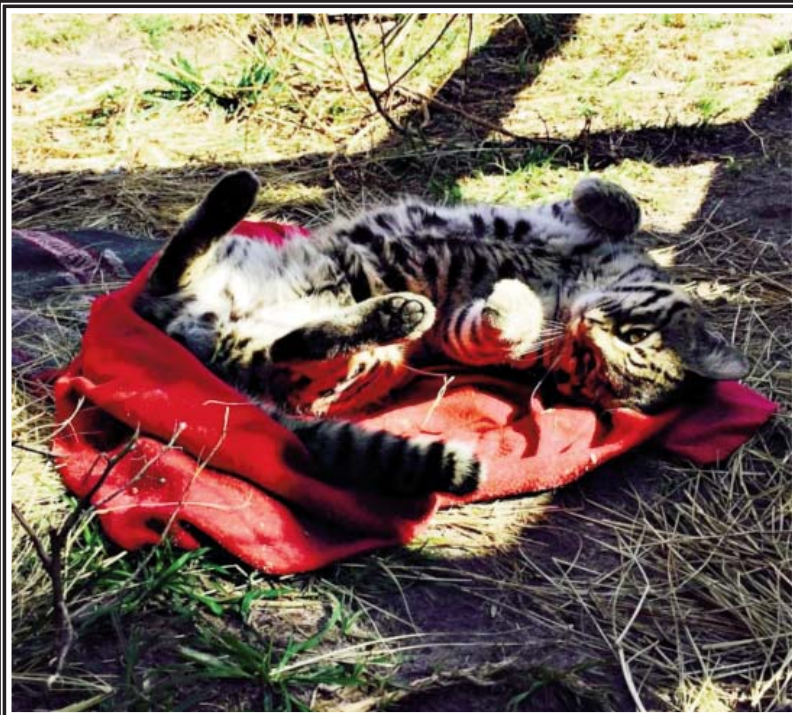


Debi Willoughby has a bobcat camera trapping project in her state of Massachusetts. This winter she checked the camera to see this fellow walking through the snow.



Sandi Spears spends time at Panther Rehabilitation Center, where she likes to photograph. Phoebe caracal enjoys a chin scratch.

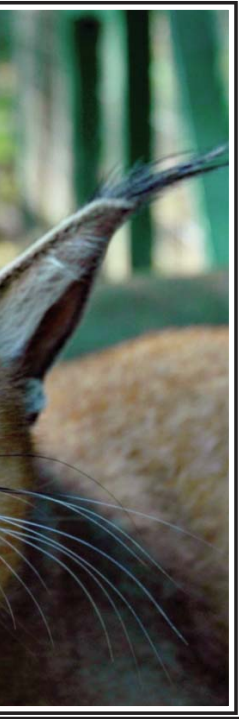
Your Best Shots!



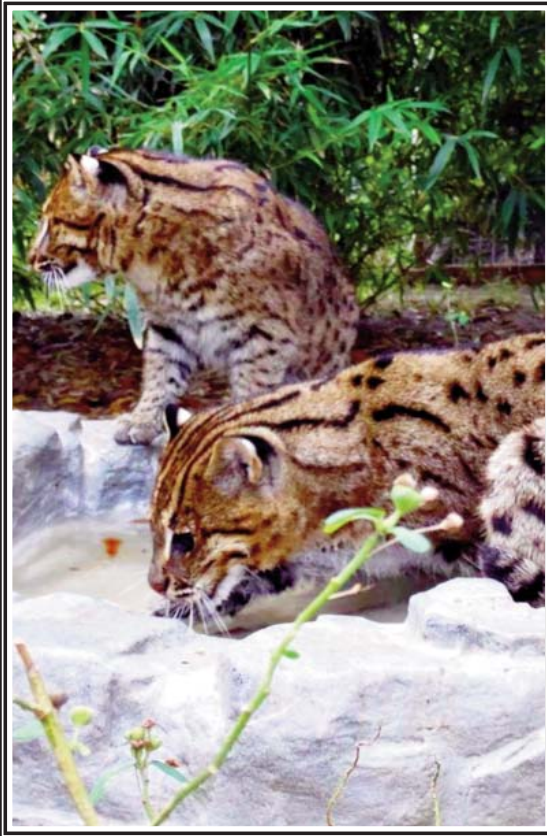
Dahruma the Geoffroy's is posing for "Playcat" magazine. Photo by Sheri DeFlorio.



What a cutie! Little caracal kitten owned by [Name], in Panama City, Florida. Photo by [Name]



Edge Conserva-
graph the cats.
n from her.



Justin Dildy, owner of Kapi'yva Exotics, raises fishing cats, a rare species in the private sector. Photo by Brandi Chism.



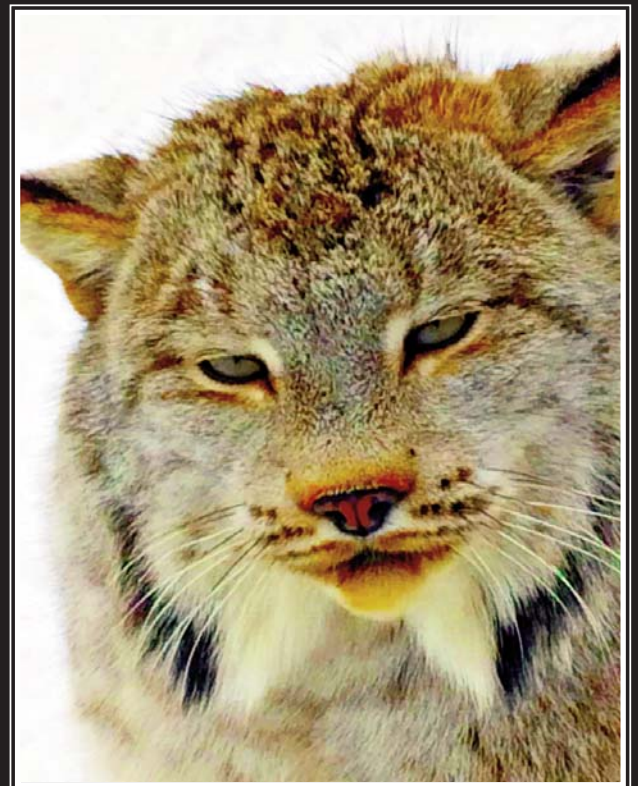
Bandit the bobcat hugs his monkey buddy. Stephanie Wells captured this adorable moment.



by Billie Lam-
n Addison.



This 1986 photo of Bobby Afill and cougar is titled "Bowling Ball Disaster." Strike!



A close up face study by Jennifer Kasserman of her Canada lynx, Jaeger.

More Tragedy in the Wake of the Zanesville Massacre

By Corrina Coffman

Kenny Hetrick has been a USDA class “C” license holder since 1989. His facility is called Tiger Ridge, and it is located in Stoney Ridge, Ohio. Kenny has more than 40 years’ experience owning large cats and bears.

Ohio had been working toward an exotic animal ban for many years. The Zanesville incident, where Terry Thompson committed suicide and released more than four dozen big cats, staged a big enough scene to cause public outrage. The Ohio legislature implemented an exotic animal ban with stringent and unobtainable goals and very little time for any owner to comply.

At first, USDA facilities were told that they may be exempt from the ban, but later were told there were no exemptions. There was also discussion regarding current permit holders being grandfathered in, as well as education permits being granted, which were also not the case. The Ohio Association of Animal Owners (OAAO) banned together and hired an attorney to appeal the law on a constitu-

tional level. The judge ruled against the plaintive and an appeal on the ruling was also lost. Many animal owners had held off applying for a permit while the legal process played out. By the time the appeal had been ruled on, the deadline to apply for a permit had already passed.

The regulations created by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) include very expensive caging requirements and upgrades, microchipping, sterilization of all male animals (even if no females were present), a million-dollar liability insurance policy, fingerprinting of owners, and costly application fees. Also, you must submit letters from local law and fire departments stating that they

know about the animals and your contingency plans. The Ohio Department of Agriculture was well aware of USDA standards and, in many cases, doubled them. For instance, the USDA requires the perimeter fence to be eight feet high and a minimum of four feet away from a primary enclosure. The ODA demands that perimeter fencing be at least eight feet away. Kenny knows from his four decades of experience that giving a tiger which has escaped its cage that much room gives them ample space to maneuver, jump, and run past the owner, increasing the odds of injury to an animal and an



Kenny raised Leo the lion from a cub, and enjoys a relationship of love and respect with the big cat. The FCF Husbandry Course stresses “keep your eye on the cat,” and the photographer has Kenny covered.

owner. All of our fencing was connected to the fence posts on the outside of the poles, which, since 1989, has been allowed by the federal USDA standards, but now Ohio requires it to be on the inside.

Kenny received a letter from a special prosecutor on October 8, 2014, stating that he had ten days to surrender the animals or else be charged criminally. He immediately retained an attorney, Karen Novak, and she advised Kenny to immediately comply with the law and permit process. To apply for a permit, you must sign a notarized affidavit stating that your animals have microchips, the males are sterilized, and you are in complete com-



Kenny Hetrick and his Kodiak bear, Cody. Eden Tran took this photo a few years ago when she visited the Ohio facility.



Asia is one of four tigers that live at Tiger Ridge, in Stoney Ridge, Ohio.



Part of Kenny's security system is cameras mounted to view all the animal compounds. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is recorded repeatedly whacking the sedated Kodiak bear with a metal pole to make sure he is fully anesthetized.

pliance with the law. This is contradictory, since if you applied but did not have all requirements completed, you would be denied and then possibly charged with perjury. If you did not sign the affidavit, your permit was denied. Kenny submitted his application for the permit, along with written documentation of vet care, microchips, insurance, neutering of males, and a letter from his veterinarian stating that some animals were too old to be microchipped or neutered. Kenny also included two written variance requests on perimeter fencing and another fencing requirement. Kenny's daughter drove the application directly to the Reynoldsburg ODA facility.

On November 7, 2014, Kenny was inspected by the ODA. Kenny had one week's notice, unlike the USDA inspectors who show up unannounced. The ODA proceeded to inspect for four hours. After inspecting Kenny's facility, the special prosecutor decided not to proceed with charges and asked the ODA to give Kenny time to finish complying with the law.

On January 18, 2015, Kenny and his attorney received a letter stating the ODA was "proposing to deny" his permit. This was the first communication from the ODA since the visit almost three months earlier. The reason given for denial was first and foremost that Kenny had applied for the permit after the cutoff date, though he had registered his animals with the ODA on time as required. The ODA gave other reasons for denial as well, stating there were concerns of public safety and

the animals' well-being. The USDA, the government agency that had regulated and inspected Tiger Ridge for decades, had inspected the facility on August 28, 2014, and found no non-compliant items. The ODA's claim of concern over public safety seemed suspicious, considering that the agency did nothing about it after the inspection in November, and did not contact Kenny until January.

On January 27, 2015, Kenny met with his attorney to start the process of appealing the ODA's permit denial, which, according to the letter, allowed him ten days to file an appeal.

But just the very next day, early on the morning of January 28, 2015, at 8 am, the ODA pulled into Kenny's driveway and demanded he surrender the animals. Kenny's attorney stated to the ODA over the phone to leave the property immediately. The ODA was back within an hour with a warrant in hand for an INSPECTION! The ODA never gave Kenny a transfer order stating their intent to remove animals. The judge who signed the warrant was unaware of any intent to remove the animals. The ODA was required to inform Kenny of their intent to transfer at least two days prior, in person. The ODA did not know Kenny had surveillance video all over his property, which can prove without a doubt that no one attempted to notify him.

The ODA showed up on the four year anniversary of the death of Kenny's wife, Roberta. The temperature was 16 degrees Fahrenheit. The ODA stole six tigers, a 25 year old lion, a 24 year old liger, a 16 year old leopard, a cougar, and a hibernating grizzly bear, all out of their dens. They proceeded to tranquilize the bear in his den and left him face-down in the snow for 43 minutes before attempting to drag him through the snow. The ODA tranquilized the animals and dragged them through the snow around the compound on nets, although there were plenty of people who could have carried the animals with the respect and the dignity they deserved. Dragging them through the snow with 100 supporters watching from

across the street was another slap in the face to all involved. The animals were placed inside horse trailers which were heated with a salamander heater (not very safe due to fumes and the straw and the fact that no one was in the trailer for a three and a half hour trip). Not one vet or any personnel asked Kenny if any of his animals were under vet care, taking medications, or if there were any concerns regarding tranquilizing and transporting. Also, all of the animals had access to food and water until the moment they were tranquilized, which is dangerous to the animals' health. Meanwhile, Kenny's attorney went to the courthouse and filed a stay to have the ODA immediately return the animals, which was granted by the judge. The ODA refused to comply and instead headed for their holding facility in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

The animals are now being held inside a pole barn with no natural sunlight, on concrete, which they have never felt before, eating a different diet and drinking different water. The ODA has refused Kenny and his personal vet access to the animals. Kenny has only been told once, *in a newspaper article*, that all animals were awake and eating.

On February 19th and 20th, Kenny traveled to Columbus, for the hearing on



Contrary to the testimony offered by the ODA vets under oath, the sedated animals were dragged across the snow in the 16 degree weather, rather than being carried above the frigid ground.

the transfer order. The Columbus Zoo vet and the state vet testified, as did Kenny and several creditable witnesses, in his favor, including a fencing expert who testified that all cages were safe. The hearing was continued over to a later date due to the fact that the state did not give enough time for Kenny's subpoenas to be delivered.

More than a month has passed without the animals and every day is more heartbreaking than the one before. Kenny is an active duty police officer, a veteran of the United States Army, and an upstanding, tax-paying citizen of the State of Ohio. Tiger Ridge has been shared with the public for decades. Kids have grown up visiting Kenny's animals, gotten married, and are now bringing their own children to see them. And it is clear that the community feels attachment to these animals and wants them returned to Tiger Ridge. With the help of hundreds of supporters, donating labor, equipment, and money, we have worked non-stop to meet every excessive and crazy regulation of the ODA and will not stop until we have our animals returned. Since before and after January 28th, the following work has been done to become compliant with the law:

The grizzly bear area needed updating, according to ORC 901:1-4-02 Family – Ursidae; common name - bears. This rule applies exclusively to bears as dangerous wild animals as defined in division (C) of section 935.01 of the Revised Code. (A) Primary enclosures shall be constructed of at least six gauge diameter chain link or its equivalent. (B) The frame of the primary enclosure must be constructed using at least three inch diameter steel vertical posts or equivalent material for cross bracing, door frames, and top and bottom rails. (C) For one animal, the primary enclosure shall be a minimum of 400 square feet, eight feet high with a roof, or 12 feet high with a cantilever. For each additional animal, the primary enclosure must be increased by 200 square feet.

*So, we had to put six gauge fencing all on the inside of the compound. The ODA destroyed our electric fence, so it had to be reinstalled as well. We redid the bear's

pond, since they kept saying it looked like a hole in the ground, but it was quite hard to tell what it looked like due to the five inches of snow on the ground. Since we had millions of dollars' worth of equipment at our disposal, we went ahead and did the pond.

*We had to install eight foot high chain



Even though the Tiger Ridge facility already had a perimeter fence in place four feet from the cage walls, the ODA would not approve this fence. Volunteers had to construct a second perimeter fence four feet further out to satisfy the new Ohio regulations.

link eight feet away as a perimeter fence. This was the major feat due to living on solid bedrock. The amount of equipment and the manpower alone that it took to dig the holes for the new posts were astounding. The original perimeter fence was four feet away from the enclosures, and we left it in place. I would think that many animal people would agree that giving an escaped cat eight feet worth of room is not as safe compared to the more restrictive four foot distance we had that limited the cats' movements and ability to jump.

ORC (D) If used to construct a primary enclosure, chain link fence must be secured on the inside of the primary enclosure's posts.

*Since the construction of our first animal enclosure, our fence has always been on the outside

of the posts, but the ODA wanted it on the inside. We left the fencing in place and we had to install welded wire panels on the inside of the enclosure fence posts. This took a lot of time and a lot of volunteers to get accomplished, as the steel panels are very heavy and we were working in horrible conditions with snow, ice, and below-zero temperatures.

ORC (K) Cantilever fencing, as required in this chapter, shall be: (1) Made of chain link or equivalent with an electrified top wire, high tension cables with an electrified top cable, or a combination thereof; (2) A minimum of three feet in width from the base of the cantilever to the top of the cantilever; and, (3) Attached to the top of the primary enclosure at a 45 degree angle into the enclosure.

*We had the cantilever fence up, but never had the hot wire installed. So, around the entire compound, hot wire was strung on the top wire.

*And we went ahead and built all new dens, placed new roofs, and built new platforms and feed tables.

According to the ORC, we needed to have a top on our black leopard and cougar areas. This was a very hard thing to do; we had to special order netting for it and it was very expensive and very time consuming. We had to buy not only the net, but everything with which to hang it, which made it quite comical to watch us trying to figure it all out. But after a few days, we got it up and it looks great.



In addition to new fencing, new den boxes and loafing tables were constructed by volunteers that rallied to the support of Tiger Ridge and their animals.

We have literally worked from sun up to sun down since January 28, 2015. There were days we had hundreds of volunteers and, on the subzero days, we would have at least a few. We have approximately \$60,000 in upgrades done, not counting the cost of attorney fees, which are mounting rapidly due to all the administrative hearings we have to go through just to get into court.

We have finished our initial hearing on the transfer order down in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. We do not expect to have a good outcome with this, due to the fact that the decision comes from the Director of the ODA, David Daniels, who is the one who signed the transfer order that started this whole horrible nightmare.

This is a huge part of the case, because the ODA never served the transfer order; we have everything on surveillance video and there were never any attempts to serve Kenny with a transfer order. So, in essence, the warrant and subsequent seizure of the animals should have been disregarded, which it was by Wood County Judge Reeve Kelsey, yet the ODA kept darting and loading our animals as quickly as possible to get them off the property.

The ODA filed tons of motions after they got the animals down to Reynoldsburg, and they wanted the hearings to be there, since the ODA would have sole authority. The reasons stated for the transfer order were for public safety concerns and animal well-being. This seems disingenuous. First, it took 80 days from initial inspection of the facility to seizure, so public safety was not too big of a concern. And when questioned about it at the hearing, Vet Simmerman stated, "Well, the holidays were coming up and we had a person out sick." Secondly, about the animals' well-being, they tried to slander us by saying the cats had parasites because they had diarrhea, but all the lab results were negative for any type of parasite. All three vets testified that, on the day of inspection and the day of seizure, the animals appeared to be healthy, and when all the tests were run, all cats were found to



Kenny freshens the straw in the big cat beds and stops his work to pet Emily, a beautiful white tiger.

be healthy. Our male lion was set to be put to sleep on Wednesday of that week due to his worsening condition. He had been under vet care and receiving medications daily, which he has NOT received at the ODA facility.

The ODA claimed that the animals did not have access to water due to it being frozen on the day of the seizure. This was a bold-faced lie. The electric bill alone every month is \$600, but, under cross-examination by our attorney, the vets said that the water that was frozen was in the animals' swimming pools and that the vets were unsure of the actual drinking water buckets that are heated. Secondly, they stated that on the date of inspection in November, we had spoiled horsemeat. We had voluntarily showed them this meat, which was fresh meat that I had just rendered the day before. It takes me an hour and half from start to finish; the meat gets placed directly in the deep freezer and then goes to the refrigerator the day before for feeding. They said that some of our gates were unlocked on the day of inspection. The USDA shows up randomly for inspection, and yet this has never been an issue. We had seven days' notice that the ODA inspection was coming up, and yet we left gates unlocked?! Not believable, and not true.

Our vet stated on our permit application that, due to advanced age, a few of the animals were too old to be anesthetized for microchipping and neutering, yet the ODA tranquilized all of the animals without any regard to age or condition. There were no questions asked about which ani-

mal was which, if any were under vet care or on medications, the animals had access to food and water up to the moment of tranquilization and while under anesthesia, and they were dragged through the snow in open nets. The ODA stated in one place that we did not microchip, yet they have all the numbers. And in another testimony, they stated that two of the cats' microchips were switched. So which is it??

We have been given no updates on the animals' conditions. We were scared to death as to which ones even woke up, because they hit

the cats so hard and fast, some dropping in a matter of minutes. The bear, on the other hand, lay face down in the snow for 47 minutes in 16 degree weather. He had been roused out of hibernation by being hit with darts. We have been told through media reports that all animals were fine and doing well, but at the administration hearing we found this to not be the case. Our cougar was the last to go, and this was after the stay was ordered by Judge Kelsey. The prior ODA officer testified in court that they were told to hurry up, that the cougar was not tranquilized fully, but yet they went in and grabbed her with the net anyway. She was then thrown into the transfer cage not yet fully sedated, a transfer cage which had sharp, ungrounded edges on which she cut herself all up. It turns out that she was fighting for her life during the whole three-hour trip, unsupervised (like all the animals), and she bled for three days following the transfer. Our lion, which they stated was in such a bad condition, has not been given any medication for his weakened back end like he was provided with here at the facility, and there are no statements about our tiger getting her tail hurt. Yet, before the hearing, we were told that all animals were fine and healthy?! Again, these are lies. The state vet, Dr. Forshay, testified at the hearing three times that our bobcat was fine and doing well, eating, drinking, with regular bowel movements. The only problem is, we have not had a bobcat in over six months!! Dr. Simmerman was a meat inspector before becoming a vet for the ODA. He has no exotic animal expe-

rience. Dr. Forshay was a swine vet, which means no exotic animal experience. Dr. Powell is a dog and cat vet with no exotic animal experience. The ODA is now paying Columbus Zoo volunteers \$50 an hour to take care of our animals.

Kenny's attorney, Karen Novak, filed an amended complaint before the Court of Common Pleas of Wood County, Ohio. The Ohio Department of Agriculture moved to dismiss the amended complaint February 18, 2015. Kenny's attorney filed a response to the ODA motion on February 25, and the ODA filed a reply on February 27, 2015.

In the decision issued by Judge Kelsey on March 4, he explains the facts of the case, which are edited and copied below:

ODA had raised the issue of whether the Woods County Judge had jurisdiction to determine Mr. Hetrick's claims against the ODA. After a review of applicable law Judge Reeves Kelsey ruled (1) the ODA's statutory scheme does not contain mandatory language that would confer exclusive jurisdiction, (2) its statutory scheme is not sufficiently complete and comprehensive to confer exclusive jurisdiction, and (3) the nature of the rights affected is significant. The court found that Mr. Hetrick's complaint does not involve an area over which the ODA has exclusive jurisdiction, and so the court has jurisdiction to determine the issues.

On January 13, 2015, the ODA sent Mr. Hetrick a letter indicating that it proposed to deny his permit application based on violations of RC. Chapter 935. The letter further stated that Mr. Hetrick had the right to administratively appeal the proposed denial within 30 days, and that his failure to appeal would be considered a waiver of any objections to the permit being denied. Then, if Mr. Hetrick failed to appeal, the ODA would issue an order denying his permit application. The court notes that a thorough reading of R.C. Chapter 935 and Ohio Administration Code Chapter 901:1-4 does not reveal any laws or regulations that appear to authorize the ODA to issue a "proposed denial" of a permit application.

The ODA argued that this

court lacks jurisdiction to hear Mr. Hetrick's complaint because the ODA has exclusive jurisdiction over dangerous wild animals until the administrative process is complete.

The judge disagreed with ODA's argument, noting that the statutes governing dangerous wild animals use mandatory language to vest the ODA's director with power to investigate potential violations of R.C. Chapter 935. ("The director of agriculture immediately shall cause an investigation to be conducted ...") But the same section also uses permissive language to describe the ODA's transfer and quarantine powers. ("[T]he director or the director's designee may order the animal . . . quarantined or may order the transfer of the animal ...") Further, the general powers granted to the director and his appointees regarding the conduct of investigations and the exercise of some quasi-judicial powers in administering the laws in R.C. Title 9 are permissive, not mandatory. ("The director of agriculture in conducting investigations, inquiries, or hearings, and every person appointed by him, may administer oaths, certify to official acts, take depositions..."); and ("For the purpose of making any investigation . . . , the director of agriculture may appoint ...an agent whose duty shall be prescribed ...") Additionally, Mr. Hetrick's request for an injunction is directed at the ODA's transfer power (an area over which the ODA does not have exclusive jurisdic-

tion), not at its investigatory powers. The court's action on Mr. Hetrick's complaint does not interfere with the ODA's investigation of Mr. Hetrick (indeed, the letter sent to Mr. Hetrick on January 13, 2015, proposing to deny his permit application, indicates that the ODA had concluded its investigation and made its determination). The ODA could conduct any further investigations that it feels are necessary without seizing the animals and the court's actions in this case does not circumvent that investigative power.

As for director's authority to seize dangerous wild animals, the Judge found that the entirety of the ODA's review process is contained in one short subsection: "A person that is adversely affected by a quarantine or transfer order . . . , within thirty days after the order is issued, may request in writing an adjudication in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code."

The ODA makes much of the fact that the director's order and the processes surrounding it are "special statutory proceedings" that are not reviewable by the court before Mr. Hetrick completes the administrative appeal process. This line of thought is in error. The director's order in this case deprived Mr. Hetrick of his substantial right in his property, and, according to the ODA, it was made in a special proceeding. Thus, the director's transfer order is statutorily reviewable by a higher authority - this court - which grants the court jurisdiction to hear the case.

Initially, the court ordered the animals returned, but the agency refused to return them (ostensibly because it was concerned for the animals' health and safety), and the animals remain at the ODA's holding facility. By the time Mr. Hetrick filed his amended complaint, there was no threat of immediate and irreparable injury to Mr. Hetrick; the injury had already happened. The court cannot issue a temporary restraining order unless the harm will occur in the future.

Additionally, it would be against the interests of judicial economy for the court to exercise its jurisdiction over Mr. Hetrick's complaint now. According to Mr. Hetrick's



All the Tiger Ridge animals are now locked up inside the Reynoldsburg facility waiting for the legal battle to conclude. Leo, the 25 year old lion, suffers from arthritis and a weak rear end, but is forced to lie on concrete in this "modern" ultra-secure state animal prison.

amended complaint and response to this motion to dismiss, he has instituted appeals with both the ODA and the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County. If this court proceeds immediately on Mr. Hetrick's claims, there is a very real possibility of inconsistent decisions and judgments coming out of different tribunals. This would do nothing but cause confusion and increase the potential for further litigation. It could also be detrimental to the health and safety of Mr. Hetrick's animals. If different bodies order the animals moved multiple times, the chances of the animals needing to be anesthetized multiple times increases, which puts them at

increased risk of health complications or death. Mr. Hetrick's legal battles are best pursued in one forum at a time, so the court declines to exercise its jurisdiction over the amended complaint at this time.

On March 4, 2015, Judge Reeve Kelsey ruled to deny the Ohio Department of Agriculture's motion to dismiss and the temporary restraining order filed by Mr. Hetrick's attorney on January 28, 2015, was vacated. A permanent injunction hearing has been set for August 18, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.

Ohio law is being basically copied and pasted to other states to be introduced into

law. This has to stop here and now and be changed. We have to speak up; we have to get our animals home before they get killed. They have no access to fresh air, no sunlight, and are on concrete 24/7. The big cats are being fed seven and a half pounds of Zupreem, and the bear, who weighs 1,500 pounds, is getting five pounds of Omnicrow and three pounds of various other stuff. Our cats are much better fed at HOME!! Our cats get better vet care at HOME!!! Our cats have never stepped foot on concrete at HOME!! They have never been deprived of love and affection at HOME!!

Youth Newsletter Seeking Conservation Article Volunteer

By Amy Flory
Editor, *FCF Young Feline Ambassador Newsletter*

The *FCF Young Feline Ambassador Newsletter* is the bi-monthly electronic newsletter produced by the Education Committee for kids and teens. We are currently seeking a volunteer to be in

charge of the conservation section for each issue. The volunteer would need to come up with the conservation topic, research it, and write and send a one- or two-page article every other month. Past articles covered captive conservation, education in schools, the FCF's history with ocelots, and conservation of specific species. A photo or two to go with it is

also encouraged. The newsletter goes out the first of odd months, so the article would need to be turned in a week beforehand. Time required is about one to two hours every other month.

If you are interested in this position, please email the Youth Education Committee at Youth@FelineConservation.org.



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“Kiss & Tail” at the Kansas City Zoo

By Jennifer Kasserman

The mission of the Kansas City Zoo is “to conserve and provide access to wildlife to entertain and educate our visitors in order to instill a respect for nature.” With this in mind, the Kansas City Zoo has many different events and interactive activities that cater to different groups’ needs, wants, and interests.

For the past few years, I have attended their Valentine’s Day event, called “Kiss & Tail.” Some of you may remember an article about it a few years back presented by wildlife expert Ron Magill. Ron has presented for a few years and always brought many of his pictures with fun mating facts from the animal world.

This year, our executive director & CEO, Randy Wisthoff (who some of you may know from his previous work at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE), and board of directors decided to change it up a little bit. The annual, adults-only “Kiss & Tail” event was held Saturday, February 7th, 2015, from 5:30-8pm.

Upon arrival and check-in, we were able to enjoy different varieties of heavy appetizer snacks along with a variety of spirits. There were different animal ambassadors being carried around by handlers to interact with guests while live music played. Silent auction items and prizes were offered if you could spin the wheel and answer animal trivia correctly.

Next on the agenda was the improv presentation on jungle love, played out through actors from the Living Room Theater. This year’s presentation was hilarious, and very different. The actors went from tuna to tiger, and they described acts such as a kangaroo screw to

fish tank hanky panky. It was terrible, tantalizing, yet educational.

The narrator begins by describing the species each skit is based on. Then the actors follow suit. For example, he starts out with the crested owl... “Flock you, buddy,” as the actors engage in a no holds barred fight to the death. Then the victor earns the right to woo the female. The actress dances in and harmonious mutual preening takes place. “You got bugs on you,” says the male. “I bet you say that to girls all the time,” she responds. The crested owl mates for life, but then again, that’s only about 15 years.

During the performance, the narrator’s wife interjects throughout, claiming that she is leaving him, that she’s tired of the animals ALWAYS coming first. He wishes her happiness in her new life, knowing that without her he is a fool, but knows she is making the right choice.

Back to the show... Koi fish are next. They spend centuries in a life of dignity. The male actor enters: “What are you up to today?” The female: “Fish stuff...” Did you know? Koi [coy] actually means shy, reluctant, or modest. Weather changes, water gets warmer. No sunshine, length of day is changing. “Hey, Karen?” say two courting koi fish. “Guys, I’ve got stuff to do,” as she nervously looks back and forth for a way to get away from her courtiers. A chase ensues and two days later she releases her eggs. Sheer persistence pays off, as with humans.

The narrator continues to share and actors continue to play out funny animal behaviors and antics. In the meerkat world, for example, females have control, similar to human society. Males groom the females and a group of them is referred to as a gang or a mob.

Next is the emu, which happens to be the filthiest bird, which is described as virtually a velociraptor in drag. Their courting ritual is similar to what you see at a drunken dance club. Feathers are lost! Playful, confusing, ritual dance, chasing ensues, running, then a peck barely felt happens and, yep, all done! Now, mind you, the actors are playing their animal parts to their full potential for the audience at this point.

The mighty regal African elephant, with “junk in the trunk,”



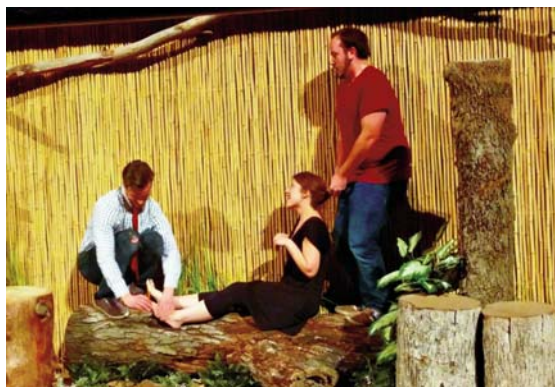
After the show, the ladies posed with the show’s narrator, Victor Raider Wexler. Pictured are Jennifer’s sister-in-law, Erin Cox, being hugged by Victor, Jennifer Kasserman, and Stacey Poe.

appears on stage. Did you know that the elephant mating process has no bones? Yep, you heard me. In order for the male to be sure the female is ready, the “trunk goes into the junk, to access the funk, if the stunk? It’s ready to punk!” They do have the most dexterous penis in the animal kingdom. It actually moves independently of the pelvis. Which results in virtually no movement outside. Also 45 seconds’ copulation time. “Unfortunate-lay, oh yes, an elephant never forgets.”

Now that sounds pretty quick, but then there is the savannah giraffe. Oh, never mind... in, out, and done! Miracle of life, in a mere five seconds. Realistically actually more like two, but the girl liked it, they claim.

The courtship rituals were played out hilariously through the actors and emphasized by the humble narrator. If you didn’t blush, you surely laughed and were left to look at some animals in a different way than you ever had before. Also, you are left to appreciate some of the lesser rituals of our own species. Simple is sometimes the best, but I myself would rather not be spit on as a form of flirting like the camel does. Then again, kangaroos can hold off delivery so that they get to choose when it’s convenient for them to have a baby. Must be nice!

In closing, the narrator left us with this, “As we close out this evening’s educational activity, we acknowledge we are the most beautiful, but most perplexing... Sometimes, if you can get laid at least once in a while, well, that’s a good thing, too.”



Actors portraying the meerkat world; males preening the female.

Are Servals at an Increased Risk for Potentially Deadly Urethral Obstructions?

By Sarah A. Cannizzo, VMD and Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, DVM, PhD, DACZM

Kiko, a 14 year old male serval, was found dead one morning this past winter. His death was an unwelcome surprise, because he was not showing any clinical signs of illness and had no pre-existing medical problems. During a post-mortem examination, small stones (uroliths) were found in Kiko's urinary tract. His urinary bladder was full to the point of rupture, and two of the stones were completely preventing urination. In a domestic cat, this condition is commonly referred to as a "blocked cat," and medically as a urethral obstruction. The urethra is the small tube that connects the urinary bladder to the outside world. Urethral obstructions are more common in male animals than female animals, because the male urethra is smaller.

The clinical signs of a urethral obstruction can be subtle and possibly not observed depending on a particular feline's behavior patterns. Urethral obstruction can mimic signs seen with other problems, such a urinary tract infection or gastrointestinal disease. Straining to urinate, making frequent trips to the litter box, and bloody urine are all signs of a urinary tract problem, such as infection or urethral obstruction. It can appear to owners as if the cat is straining to defecate. Other common signs are lethargy and decreased appetite. Vomiting can also be a sign of a urethral obstruction. It is important to note that vomiting, lethargy, and decreased appetite can be seen with many disease processes, so it is important to call your veterinarian if you notice any of these signs in your serval.

Urethral obstructions are life-threatening emergencies and fatal if not treated immediately. If an animal cannot urinate, toxins and an electrolyte, potassium, which are normally excreted from the body in urine, build up in the blood to dangerous levels. The increase in potassium in the blood causes the heart to stop beating, which results in death of the animal. The only treatment is to remove the blockage in the urinary tract, and that sometimes requires surgery. Owners often do not know their pets have stones in their

bladders until one becomes lodged in the urethra, causing clinical signs.

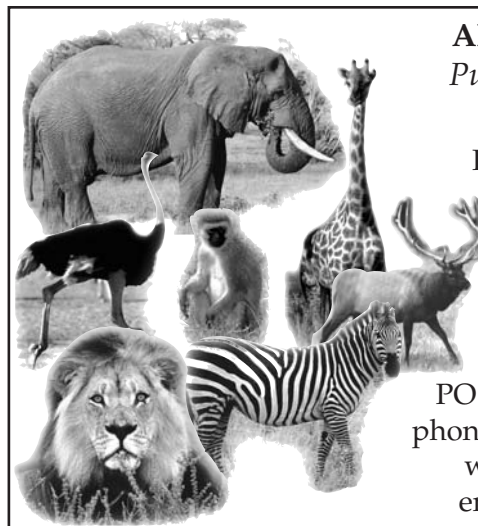
There are many types of stones that can be made in the urinary tract, and they are never normal. Certain types of stones can be seen with radiographs, but not all types are visible. In some cases, animals with urinary stones have visible crystals in the urine when examined with a microscope. The lack of crystals, however, does not mean there are no stones. Kiko's stones were 100% cystine. Cystine is an amino acid normally found in the body. Cystine stones can be difficult to see with radiographs and they do not always produce crystals that can be seen with a microscope. Amino acids like cystine are usually reabsorbed by the kidney so they are not lost in the urine. If the kidney cannot reabsorb cystine, then there is an excess of cystine in the urine. As the concentration of cystine increases, the cystine can precipitate in the urine and form crystals and stones within the urinary tract.

Humans, domestic cats, domestic ferrets, and many dog breeds, such as Newfoundlanders, are known to excrete excess cystine in their urine (cystinuria), and therefore can develop cystine stones in their urinary tracts. This condition is called cystine urolithiasis. The maned wolf, a South American canid exhibited in zoos, is also predisposed to cystinuria and cystine urolithiasis. In humans and Newfoundlanders, cystinuria is a genetic disease with an autosomal recessive inheritance. This means that if both parents are carriers

of the defective gene and they each pass one copy of the defective gene on to their offspring, the offspring will have the disease.

Unfortunately, Kiko is not the only serval that has died from complications related to cystine urolithiasis. There is a report of two other captive servals dying and several other servals at the same facility testing positive for cystine in their urine (Moresco et al, 2004 AAZV Conference Proceedings). The cause of cystinuria in Kiko and the other servals is not yet known. To determine if cystinuria is common in servals and may have a genetic basis, we are conducting a pre-survey to determine recognition of urinary tract problems in servals, basic lineage information on sire, dam, and siblings, and ability and willingness to collect urine from servals for a follow-up study looking for the presence or absence of cystine in submitted urine samples.

This pre-survey is an important first step to evaluate the risk of this potentially fatal disease in servals. Please participate even if you have not observed any urinary problems in your servals. Go to <http://goo.gl/forms/H0cKypLFd7> to complete the short pre-survey. And remember, if you ever observe your serval straining to urinate, please seek veterinary care immediately. A urethral obstruction is a life-threatening emergency and fatal if not treated quickly.



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To Retire or Not To Retire?: Tips For Retraining Your Ambassador Feline

By Debi Willoughby

I've written about Spirit in past issues of the *Journal*, so some of you may be familiar with him. He is a six year old Geoffroy's cat that is a cat ambassador for his wild cousins. He has been doing educational shows since he was a baby. To put it nicely, he has a "full personality." What I mean by this is he is stubborn, sly, tough, and a bully, but has a sweet middle. He likes to patrol his territory and keep his cage mates in line. He parades around with a puffed-up chest to show how big and tough he is. The look in his eyes is nothing but trouble. Even though he works hard at keeping that image, he can be very sweet and affectionate when no one is looking. We have had a great relationship that has grown throughout his life. I get affection on a daily basis from him and he needs to be coddled when something in the woods has spooked him. He is full of grumbles and is always telling me about his day.

When at a show, Spirit acts much differently. He is out of his element and tends to be much more nervous, anxious, and untrusting. Most species of exotic cats are hardwired to become homebodies by the time they are sexually mature. Once full maturity sets in, a majority of these cats don't want to travel anymore to do educational shows. At this stage of their life, their instinct tells them that if they step outside of their own territory they will be attacked by whoever owns that territory, and therefore they don't



Spirit is harness- and leash-trained, enabling Debi to take him for walks on the property where he can enjoy the sensory stimulation of nature outside his enclosure.

want to do it. Because of this, I have to train my cats on a daily basis to keep them comfortable with going outside of their territory. Some of my cats are completely relaxed at a show and some are not. Spirit is the most nervous cat I have, so when I interact with him at a show, I handle him in a way to keep him as comfortable as possible.

Spirit is both collar- and harness-trained, but he has never let me put his harness on him before I load him for a show. Once he sees the show crate, he gets a little on edge. He will run right into the crate, but doesn't want to be handled right away. Because of this, I usually harness him once I get to a show before the show begins. In order to keep Spirit somewhat calm at a show, I am constantly reading his body language and trying to redirect him to something else in order to keep him relaxed. The trick to keeping him out on display is to keep his mind occupied. If his mind is occupied with something, he won't start to get scared. I occupy Spirit's mind by putting different things on the display table so he always has something new to "investigate;" giving him new things to climb or walk on or look inside of while on display. There is also a mutual respect and understanding that we have while at a show; he lets me know when he is starting to get nervous and then I let him end his performance. I never try to keep him out on stage for longer than he feels comfortable being there. He knows he will always be allowed back into his crate where he feels safe when he has had enough. There are a variety of things I bring to a show to use as tools to keep his mind occupied, and I change out these items every month or so to keep things new and interesting: cat bed, scratch post, scents, blanket, etc. Doing all of these things has allowed me to bring Spirit to shows for the past six years.

And then a couple months ago the "dreaded incident" happened... he refused to let me take him out of his crate to do a show. He was very vocal and defensive when I reached in the crate to get



Spirit, a Geoffroy's cat, is a working ambassador that regularly stars in Jungle Encounter's feline show. He recently required some retraining after he refused to perform.

him. I gave him a few minutes to relax and then tried again, with no luck. I was kind of surprised that, without warning, at this age, he decided he didn't want to do shows anymore. Needless to say, I respected his wishes and he did not perform that day.

I tried to think about what made him change his mind about shows so suddenly. Did he have a bad experience at a previous show? Were there unusual sounds or smells at a previous show? Did something scare him at a show? I couldn't come up with one thing that would explain why he had changed his mind. I didn't want to give up on him continuing to be a cat ambassador, so I wanted to explore all of my options before retiring him. Maybe there was something he was trying to tell me that I had overlooked, or maybe I hadn't been reading him correctly? These are the types of questions you need to ask yourself when your training technique isn't going in the direction you had hoped – always look at every angle.

The first thing I wanted to rule out was any health issue. If he was feeling a little under the weather, maybe the stress of a show could set him off. There were no clinical signs of him being sick, so I won-



This is the first step in his retraining. We are in the back of my car and I am calming him down so he will come out of crate.

dered if he had worms. We do feed frozen mice weekly, so the presence of worms is always a possibility and he was due for his bi-annual preventative dewormer. After giving him his doses, I found no signs that he had had worms, but we always do preventative deworming twice a year just to be safe. So, okay, he doesn't have worms and isn't acting sick or hurt... now what? I thought long and hard about this and decided to try to retrain him to do shows. Maybe somewhere along the line he grew nervous about the whole transporting process or display process. I started back at square one.

What were the hurdles that we needed to overcome?

He has always gone into a crate for me; that is not the issue. The issue became getting him out of the crate.

He always preferred having his harness/leash put on at a show, never before.

So the hurdle was getting him *out* of his crate to get his harness on him. If I could accomplish that, I would switch things up at a show and leave his crate on the display table for him to go in and out of whenever he wanted to during the show. That would give him the added security he needed.

I started taking him in his crate for short rides around the neighborhood. I did this daily and, believe me, it's harder than it sounds. We all have very busy lives and to take 30 minutes to an hour out of my day every day to stop and do this was a big commitment – but it was worth it to me. On each trip, I would park somewhere and crawl into the back of my SUV next to his crate. The first two times, the only expectation I had was to

open his crate door and have him not attack me! So I opened his door and I just sat there. Every time he started to come out of his crate, I would praise him. That was it; I didn't take it any further during those two sessions. Spirit is very smart and once he has figured out what you want from him, he refuses to do it! So micro-baby steps is the way to work with him. The first day, he never came out of his crate, but instead just kept lunging at me, hissing and spitting (this is

something he NEVER does, but for some reason this was his new thing). I tolerated it, but he knew I wouldn't let him act this way for long. The second day, he started to come out of his crate and the aggression diminished. I continued to praise him and talk softly to him, expecting nothing more than him to do what he wanted to do. The third day, he seemed much more relaxed and interested in what was going on around him, so I decided to start petting him. He acted much more like his normal self; my petting him was accepted and his curiosity kept him looking out the car windows. On the fourth day, he was so calm that I was able to put his harness on him without incident. Yahoo – goal accomplished! – but I didn't want to get too excited until he continued to accomplish this on an ongoing basis. For the next week, we would go for rides, I would crawl into the back of the SUV, open his crate door, harness him, and let him look around the car and out the windows. Now that that was accomplished, the next step was to load my car up with all of my show stuff and see if Spirit would act differently thinking he was going to a show. He

didn't (yahoo!). Finally, the big test came; I had a show to do and I took him with me. He was a little grumbly when I squeezed into the back of the SUV. This time, he knew he was going to a show because there were other animals in the car, so his demeanor was a little off. I made sure I arrived at the show early enough to spend a half hour in the back of the SUV with him if needed. Once I opened his crate door, he grumbled a little, so I looked out the window. This relaxed him because I wasn't focused on him. He became curious as to what I was looking at and came over to investigate. I petted him and felt that his muscles were relaxed, so I slipped his harness on. All without incident, I might add! Now the big test... how would he act at the show?? When it was his time to come out, I put his crate on the display table and opened the door (I had previously attached his leash to his harness and tied it to the outside of his crate). I had ahold of his leash before he came out and he was free to go in and out of his crate as he wished. The show went well and he did a great job!

It was very rewarding to know that all of that time and effort spent with him worked. He has been to a few more shows since then and has done wonderfully. I am pleased that he is doing shows again, but I know there are no guarantees that it will last. I will continue to use him as long as he wants to go to shows, and then he will be retired when he tells me its time.

I wanted to share this experience with you so that you don't write off your feline ambassador at the first signs of distress. I went into detail explaining things so you can have the tools needed to observe and read your cat to see how far you can go with it. As I stated above, never try to force your animal to do a show. Instead, watch its actions and work with what he is telling you. Never push it; patience can go a long way. And always keep in mind that whatever you try, it may not work. You may need to accept that your animal is done with shows and retire him respectfully. Retirement is the time where we can spend quality time with our animals and say thank you for all of the work they have done for us.



At this point, Spirit was calm enough to come out of crate and I was able to leash him again. After this step, he went and did a show.

American Business: The Real Endangered Species?

Mindy Patterson will be joining FCF at the Wichita, Kansas, Convention in June. She will be speaking on Friday. This is a great opportunity to converse with the president of the Cavalry Group and be educated on the threats and risks to your livelihood and passions. The Cavalry Group provides animal owners and businesses protection for their way of life, their liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Cavalry Group members receive preventative advice, intervention, and, if necessary, access to an expertly prepared attorney and funding for your defense against illegal search and seizure of private property and violations of due process as guaranteed in the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America. Annual memberships range from individual, hobby breeder, business, and corporate rates. The reduced price membership code for FCF members is F7CSVS61.

By Mindy Patterson
President, The Cavalry Group

How Animal Enterprise in America Could Become Extinct

In 1973, Congress passed and President Nixon signed into law the Endangered Species Act (ESA), with the intent of protecting the conservation efforts of threatened species such as the bald eagle, which at that time was on the brink of extinction. Since then, 1,600 species and subspecies (and counting) have been added to the listing under the

Endangered Species Act. While this act was originally well intended, the Endangered Species Act has become the Trojan horse that marches in a multitude of regulatory actions and lawsuits under the guise of conservation. This threat to animal owners and animal-based businesses has expanded significantly in recent years, with radical animal rights groups hijacking the conservation aspect of the ESA to advance their radical agenda.

These groups make up a \$400 billion global coalition of organizations that raise money under the guise of promoting the welfare of animals, while using that money to buy lawyers and lobbyists to fund misleading, emotionally driven campaigns to pit the public against animal

owners and breeders.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) is one such radical animal rights group based in San Francisco, which files lawsuits against privately owned animal businesses with no intent of winning in court. Rather, the lawsuits are used to propagate a false narrative against their targets (typically animal-based small business owners) in order to force them out of business. Instead of doing the work of raising, breeding, and caring for animals, the victims of these lawsuits must spend scarce resources on lawyers and public relations experts to clear their good name, defend their livelihoods, and their animals. Many cannot afford this burden and simply close up shop.

Recent reports from the House Committee on Natural Resources have uncovered that an entire cottage industry exists around filing lawsuits based on the ESA. As a result, funds that were once intended to be used to protect species in danger of extinction are now being diverted to fund frivolous lawsuits against animal owners who are the targets of extremist animal rights groups.

In addition, government bureaucrats often act unlawfully through a tactic called "sue and settle." They settle litigation with their allies in environmental and animal rights groups behind closed doors in a way that advances the activists' radical agenda and, in the process, block out citizens, states, and local governments affected by their decisions and their subsequent rules and regulations.

This "sue and settle" tactic funnels millions of settlement dollars from the Federal Government to the animal rights and environmental activists to fund their continuing efforts to game the system and wrongfully attack animal enterprise ultimately. The result is the destruction private property, businesses, and lives.

Pam and Tom Sellner, who own the Cricket Hollow Zoo in Iowa, are victims of such attacks. Pam and Tom have been

bringing joy to families for years with their privately owned collection of tigers, lions, pumas, and other exotic animals. Their zoo provides learning opportunities for students in rural Iowa, who may otherwise not have access or contact with these animals. However, that will never satisfy the animal rights extremists, who believe that these animals don't belong in captivity. Tom and Pam are now faced with mounting legal fees to fight this frivolous lawsuit from an animal rights activists group (ALDF) radically out of step with American values, but funded and well-staffed with attorneys to do the dirty work. The Sellners are just one of the many faces of the victims of ESA-based lawsuits that have sprung up across the country. While well-intentioned when written over 40 years ago, the ESA has become a weapon for lawyers to beat small animal businesses over the head, all at the taxpayer expense. Ultimately, this abuse of power and the system attack the animals the ESA was intended to protect, while protecting those species that are not at risk, but make a convenient vehicle to steal private property rights from American citizens.

The animal rights groups are using the courts as a weapon to destroy those who aren't in line with their ideology. If this works on animal enterprise, what is next?

Mindy Patterson is the president of The Cavalry Group, a member-based company protecting and defending the constitutional and private property rights of law-abiding animal owners, animal-related business, hunters, and agriculture concerns legally and legislatively nationwide.

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Wild Species Registry Update - Phase 3 of the Initial Release

The ability to track animal pedigrees is the basis of sound captive management. As our populations of animals produce successive generations in captivity, the likelihood of breeding related animals increases. Identifying best genetic matches can be accomplished by knowing the lineages of potential mates. Entering this data into the registry will be a time-consuming process and dedicated volunteers will be appointed to oversee feline species and seek out historical information and help users maintain proper data. While this registry is long overdue, it will still be extremely valuable as we go forward. The FCF Board of Directors has already supported this project with two financial contributions. Last year, the FCF gave \$3,000 to enable the code writing to continue, and during the 2015 first quarter board meeting another \$5,000 was approved for additional funding.

The Wild Species Registry team has continued to make very good progress with the final stages of the coding of the registry. We are very pleased to report that the first two phases of the initial release have been completed, and the third and final phase is nearing its completion.

As always, the WSR team would like to extend their most sincere thanks and gratitude for the ongoing support from the FCF, which continues to make the work on this sizeable project possible.

As with the previous updates, this one will highlight the work completed and ongoing in the various high-level components of the project - ARTHUR (the management tool used

species coordinators for maintaining registry information), ROLAND (the reporting system for WSR operators and species coordinators), SAVIK (the underlying framework of the system), and WILLOW (the public-facing website for the WSR).

ARTHUR: The coding of the ARTHUR tool has been completed, as has the beta testing. The Arthur system is fully functional and is in the final acceptance phase where integration testing with the system as a whole is being finished - one step from production-ready.

ROLAND: The reporting framework has been designed, implemented, and beta testing successfully performed. The discussions now regard the nature of the reports necessary for the different user-

groups of the system to perform their various functions.

SAVIK: The SAVIK framework has continued to prove a reliable, robust underpinning to the WSR system, readily adaptable to any changes to the various services or data models necessitated by the beta and integration testing.

WILLOW: The user-facing website component of the WSR project has entered its integration testing phase. The layout and design are being finalized, while at the same time users from The Conservators' Center are now performing initial user acceptance testing.

And - of course - lawyers. The WSR team has retained a lawyer who is in the

process of refining the documents necessary to ensure both the transparency of the system and its processing of the data held securely within, as well as the privacy and control guaranteed to each and every user of the system in regard to their personal data and that of the animals they own.

And for your viewing pleasure: the image accompanying this update is a screenshot from the WSR website. Specifically, this is the animal record for Ted the Geoffroy's cat, illustrating the information that Ted's owner would be seeing after logging into the WSR website and viewing the "My Animals" section. (The animal and owner data have been altered to protect the privacy of the actual owner and animal - "Ted" and "Test User" are, perhaps unsurprisingly, pseudonyms.)

The screenshot shows the Wild Species Registry website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Contact, My Animals, Resources, and Manage Account. The main content area displays the record for a cat named Ted, with the ID WSR-GEOF-000009/001. A large image of a grey tabby kitten is shown on the left. To the right of the image is a 'Registry Information' section with fields for Global Identifier, House Identifier, Species, Sub Species, Color, Markings, Sex, Registration Date, Reared, Captive Born, Hybrid Status, and Sterilized. Below the image are two buttons: 'Request A Pedigree for Ted' and 'Edit Ted's Records'. Underneath the image is a 'Litter Information' section with fields for Global Identifier, Sire, Dam, Mating Date, Whelp Date, Number of Mates, Number of Females, Number of Unknown Sex, Registration Date, Artificially Inseminated, Species, Sub Species, and Country Whelped. To the right of the litter information is an 'Ownership Information' section with fields for Primary Owner, Global Identifier, Ownership Dates, Address, Phone, Email Address, and Website. At the bottom right, there is a 'Location Information' section with a note: 'We do not currently have location information on Ted'.

Pumarama Accreditation

By Lynn Culver

The Feline Conservation Federation Accreditation Committee approved Pumarama, a rescue and education facility in Tyron, Oklahoma, for FCF Feline Facility Accreditation.

Pumarama is run by Bob and Leah Afill. Bobby is no stranger to exotic cats, having owned species from bobcats to lions over the past five decades. Bobby wanted his wife Leah to share his love of cats, so eight years ago the Afills purchased a cougar cub named Zinnia, and Leah raised her from a bottle baby. It was a life changing event and it inspired the couple to want to help other cougars in need. When they heard about an adult cougar confiscated by the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, they put in a bid to give it a home. And then they took in another adult cougar from Texas, which lost its home.

The cougars were followed by a bobcat. Thunder, a three week old, Oklahoma-born kitten, was raised from a bottle baby into a beautiful adult bobcat. Leah and Bobby felt Thunder would benefit from a playmate, so a couple of years ago they contacted me about purchasing a Canada lynx for him. I had my doubts about whether it would work, but Leah and Bobby remained positive. They brought home Isabella, a four year old female lynx. Thunder was immediately smitten with his furry companion. It took Isabella a bit of time to return the affection, but, in



The Pumarama caging complex looms large in the skyline.

the past couple of years, Isabella has adjusted well to her new life at Pumarama.

I had not seen Isabella since she left my place. I made this site inspection visit for the accreditation committee this past January, and spent the day and night with Bobby and Leah and the cats. When I entered the kitchen, Isabella and Thunder were both lying on top of the cabinets. Though Isabella had spent her prior adult life living exclusively outside, Leah says, given a choice between being inside or out in her enclosure, she chooses the heated and air conditioned climate and creature comforts of their home. A really special treat for me came the next morning, when Leah called

Isabella down to the kitchen table where she stood for pettings from Leah and me. In all the years I had owned Isabella, she had never let me pet her.

Pumarama is a property in the country where the Afills have converted a veterinary clinic into their comfortable home. Thunder and Isabella spend most of their days inside the home, but they also have access to an attached outdoor enclosure as



Zinnia opens wide for a big yawn. The eight year old cougar was bottle-raised by Leah and Bobby.



Thunder the bobcat checked out photographer and overnight visitor Lynn Culver.

well. Leah told me that in the evening the pair gets frisky, tossing and chasing toys down the hall. Sure enough, a “thundering” commotion outside my bedroom woke me up. After their romps, Leah explained, they ask to go outside and will spend the rest of night outdoors, listening to the other animals and the sounds of the night.

Leah does educational programs for kids and community groups to educate them about cougars and how to co-exist peacefully with the big cats that are returning to the state. Her talk programs were enhanced with photos and artifacts, but not live cats. In 2014, Pumarama was approved by the USDA for an exhibitor’s license. This new license now allows Leah to conduct educational tours of the pumas at the facility. Tyron is only a few miles from the veterinary college. Students visit and also assist with routine veterinary checkups.

Pumarama has two multistory puma habitats. The construction materials are six gauge wire panels welded to two inch square steel posts. One habitat measures 30 by 60 feet, and the other is 40 by 50 feet. Both enclosures sit on concrete



Inside the puma cage are platforms and towers and ramps that connect the tower spaces.

block footings three feet deep. Enclosure walls are 20 feet tall, with towers in the middle of each. The habitats are roofed with welded wire. One had to gain control of any fear of heights to attach all the wires and cables for this complex design.

Enclosed catwalks run across the top of the two habitats connecting the towers in each habitat. The cougars have a choice of several elevated resting platforms. Each space has ample shade from trees inside, and features grass, a dirt mound, and extra logs placed about for scratching, jumping, and balancing. A pair of guillotine gates allows

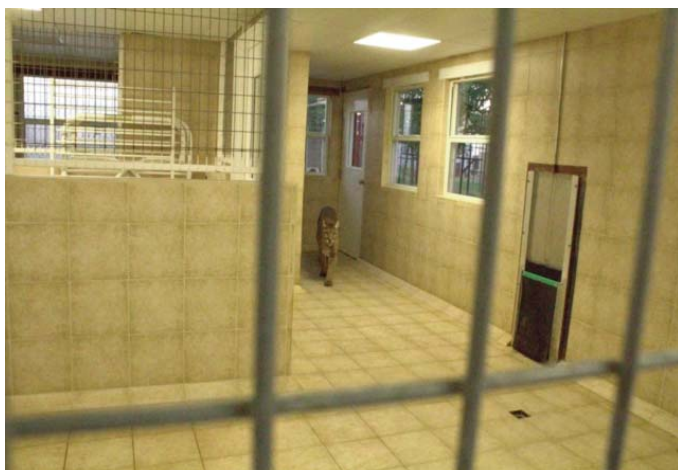
cougars to be moved or separated as needed. The entire facility is surrounded by eight foot tall chain link perimeter fencing.

Pumarama has a climate controlled indoor block building with walk-in cooler and freezer, food preparation areas, a quarantine area, and divided cougar rooms. All the walls and floor are completely covered in washable ceramic tiles. The building is designed to withstand the extremes of Oklahoma’s weather, which can range from triple digit temperatures in the summer to tornados.

Occasionally, people stop by Pumarama, attracted by the large and very noticeable cage complex looming high above their home. On

the day I was there for the inspection, a couple of construction workers employed across the street stopped by. Leah graciously gave them a tour of the pumas and talked about the species. The men were very impressed and fascinated by the big cats.

Pumarama is the latest facility to meet the FCF Accreditation standards. Committee chair Christina Donofrio said, “The block cat building is awesome, designed with cleaning in mind. The outdoor enclosures are well constructed, large, and full of enrichments.”



The inside building for the pumas is completely tiled for ease of cleaning. The cats access from their outdoor habitats through sturdy metal slide gates that are remotely operated.



Isabella relaxed inside the Aufill’s home. She adjusted to the change in homes, and she and Thunder keep each other company.

Blast From the Past: Christian's Dilemma

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter
Volume 19 Number 6
November/December 1975

By Jane Baetjer
Fellsmere, Florida

Christian is a big, 47-pound male, domestic-born ocelot, and two and a half years old. Chris has never really had any illness or disease other than two mild cases of hookworms and a recurring cystitis problem, which has not bothered him for over a year. Christian is an extremely healthy and strong cat.

December 30, 1974, Chris ate his daily diet of 30 chicken necks; December 31st,



No photo of Christian is available, so Magic, Fragile Planet's ambassador ocelot, is illustrating this story. Photo by Tyler Thomas.

Chris ate only 15. January 1st, he ate only three and had a loose, yellow stool. We immediately took a stool sample to check it, which proved negative. On the 4th of January, Chris could not keep any food down, had a liquid, yellow stool, and drank water excessively. All other cats showed no signs of illness or coming down with any of the same symptoms. That afternoon, Chris became very irritable and very sick; he tried desperately to suck on my finger and could not use his jaws or mouth. Then he tried very hard to bite me out of frustration, but he could not even bite me. He was very tender around his abdomen, and his head and neck were swollen. The worst was the severe twitching in his head and neck, which appeared to be muscle spasms. He also had times with a completely blank look in his face that lasted only a few minutes, but hap-

pened quite often. I consulted several veterinarians throughout Florida, and told them the symptoms over the phone and all the diagnoses were rabies or tetanus, and no one was even willing to see him. I knew of one veterinarian that I could always count on in emergencies; he was extremely experienced in exotics. So I called Dr. Mueller in Miami, at 4 am, and told him about Chris. All he said was, "How fast can you get him here?" I immediately said, "We are leaving now, but it is a four hour drive." He said he would be waiting.

We arrived at Dr. Mueller's at 8 am, and he was waiting and ready to run tests. By now, Chris was down to 33 pounds and Dr. Mueller gave him a light dose of Ketaset (about 2.5 cc). Blood, stool, and urine were tested, and all were negative. The X-rays gave us one clue. He had a bad inflammation of the stomach; the lining of the stomach was extremely thick. Dr. Mueller's only diagnosis was something toxic, but only the good Lord knew what it was. The X-rays eliminated the possibility of any obstruction, and his throat was also checked for possible obstructions. His ears were examined for possible infection or abscess, and each proved to be negative. Dr. Mueller prescribed Darbazene (2

cc) and 1.5 cc Dexipen daily for 10 days. Chris was coming out of the anesthesia in three hours and was completely out in four and a half hours. That evening, Chris was able to keep baby food down, and all vomiting stopped. The medication was very effective in his case, and he gradually improved. The only problem remaining was the twitching of the head and neck, and that they were still swollen.

In two days, we returned to Dr. Mueller for more tests to try and find a reason for the swelling and twitching. X-rays of his head were made with intentions of possibly finding a head injury from a fall. He still could not bite or suck on my finger, and the blank expressions worried me terribly. The only explanation was that whatever

toxin it was had caused some mental disorder, and there was no way of knowing whether it would be temporary or permanent.

We returned to Fellsmere, and Christian's swelling and twitching gradually disappeared over a period of nine months, but he still occasionally has those blank stares as if he were just not there, but they have become fewer and far between now, thank God.

We kept Chris in the house to recuperate and went out to go over his cage with a fine-tooth comb for any possible suggestions of anything poisonous. Right outside, two feet from Christian's gate, I found a nine-inch snake skeleton with a little bit of skin still left on the backbone, and the head had been bitten off. The famous Florida fire ants had just about finished off the snake when I found it. It has taken me this long to have it identified. Ross Allen, world famous herpetologist, studied it very carefully and without absolutely any doubt, identified it as a pygmy rattlesnake. All facts available regarding the ingestion of rattlesnake venom are based on humans and domestic animals. Venom is not supposed to be toxic if ingested orally, unless there is an opening such as an ulcer, tooth cavity, or the like. Of course, it is likely that Chris was bitten on the head or neck, even though we found no evidence. Chris is back to his 47 pounds (maybe a few more) and is doing well. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who can shed light on this occurrence and where venomous snakes are likely to be found. We suggest a tiny wire fence (screen or otherwise) around the lower part of outdoor cages.



A pygmy rattlesnake, the possible culprit of Christian's rapid health decline. Photo by Eden Tran.



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Update from the Legislation Director

By Amy Flory

We are in the middle of the legislative season, with at least 44 states currently in session. Pennsylvania is in recess until March 30th for the House, and April 13th for the Senate. Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming have adjourned for the year. Kentucky and West Virginia concluded their regular sessions and will officially adjourn before the printing of this *Journal*. Louisiana convenes (starts its session) on April 13th.

No federal bills have been introduced for the 2015-2016 Congress.

For state bills, some bills have already failed this year, including the Indiana Wildlife Permit Bill (S 226) that removes the commercial dealer exemption for wild animal permits, and the West Virginia bill to repeal the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. Also, there is currently no interest in the Oklahoma bill to ban dangerous wild animals, but it is NOT officially dead.

Two states carried over their legislation from 2014; New Jersey and Virginia. Virginia did not have any feline bills to carry

over from 2014, and all New Jersey bills from 2014 have had no action this year.

Several new bills have already been introduced. Many of them are nearly exactly the same as the ones that failed last year. They include the following:

Alabama SB 39 would remove the exemption for non-governmental publicly-owned zoos and wildlife exhibits and privately-owned traveling zoos from the public exhibition of wildlife permit. It also changes the \$25 permit fee to an amount sufficient to cover costs.

Illinois SB 1824, titled CRIM CD - Dangerous Animals, revises the exemptions for the Dangerous Animals Act. It adds a definition for animal refuge, limits the zoological park exemption to AZA or those operated by a municipality, county, park district, conservation district, forest preserve district, or the state, and changes the federally licensed exhibit exemption to only exempt Class C for possession of current animals and prohibit them from breeding or acquiring the larger cats and bears.

Kansas HB 2293/SB 132 will not only

add primates and pure wolves to the dangerous regulated animal list, but will remove the current grandfather requirements for ALL regulated animals and create new ones.

Michigan SB 146 will amend the exemptions to the Large Carnivore Act. While it amends the USDA Class C exemption to both a Class A and Class C exemption and includes conservation as a purpose allowed, it limits such exemption to only AZA, the Zoological Association of America (ZAA), or the American Sanctuary Association. It also moves the exemption for AZA and sanctuaries to another section, so they would be exempt from the ban on owning, breeding, and transferring, but would be required to comply with the microchip requirement. The bill also specifically grants the ZAA permission to breed animals instead of just AZA.

New Jersey introduced a companion bill (A 4092) to its strict tiger bill on January 13th.

New York A 637/S 1246 would prohibit circuses in the state for two years if they

had any USDA deficiency relating to care or handling of animals, official warning notice, or entered into stipulation, consent degree, or settlement with the USDA within the last two years, or if they were found guilty of ANY state animal cruelty or neglect laws. A 4239 and A 4378 prohibit the sport killing of any zoo, circus, or carnival animal. A 4786 makes it a Class E felony to own, possess, or harbor any wild animal or reptile. A 1405 prohibits wild or exotic animals in animal acts if

they were traveling up to 30 days prior. A 1804 creates a tax on circus admissions to be used in an animal cruelty fund.

Pennsylvania again introduced two bills (HB 439 and SB 263) that would ban future exotic wildlife possession permits. They also prohibit direct public contact for menagerie permit holders and require at least five transactions per year for dealer permits.

Some brand new bills this year are:

Hawaii HB 1012/SB 141 as originally written would prohibit exotic and wild animal displays unless such entities were in the state at least 300 days prior, except for AZA. The House bill passed its original committee with an amendment that replaces the 300 day requirement with a paragraph that is similar to the New York bill. The amendment also requires providing any USDA citations when applying for an import permit for such animals.

Illinois SB 1362, titled "Animal Control – Database," is a bill that would require all owners of dangerous wild animals to register their animals in a first responder database. There is no definition of "dangerous wild animal."

Kansas SB 97 is the bill that will allow public contact with the cats on the dangerous regulated animal list. The bill passed the Senate with amendments so

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that direct contact is allowed for cubs up to ten pounds and incidental contact is allowed with cubs up to 40 pounds. The amendment also requires the public to sign a statement acknowledging that they can be bitten or scratched by the cubs.

Missouri just introduced HB 1264, which would exempt so-called "mini circuses" from the Large Carnivore Act. This bill would create a USDA Class C exemption for those temporarily in the state.

Nevada filed a bill draft request titled "Enacts provisions relating to captive wild animals." The actual bill has not been

introduced yet.

New Mexico HB 300 would prohibit unauthorized and unjustified entry into a zoo animal enclosure and contact with zoo animals. It passed the House March 2nd, passed the Senate Conservation Committee on March 12th, and is currently in Judiciary.

Tennessee HB 1363/SB 1273 would revise the Class I wildlife enclosure standards to require that each animal be able to "make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement."

Texas HB 3243/SB 987 would add a Zoological Association of America exemption to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act.

Texas HB 3963/SB 908 would create a temporary Animal Welfare Commission to study exotic animal ownership and circus animal welfare among other areas to determine any issues and come up with efficient and effective solutions.

Texas HB 3952 is Representative Guillen's bill that was just introduced to make various revisions to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. One requirement is a public information registry. It will also create an advisory committee.

The West Virginia dangerous wild animal rule was introduced in the 2015 legislature and was bundled into SB 199 and approved by both the House and Senate with amendments to remove some reptiles and now goes to the governor.

All FCF members can keep updated on the latest status of these bills and the latest status of the state legislatures through the "Legislative Alerts" of the members' only section of the website. Members are also notified of bill hearings through email alerts.

Donations

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

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

General Donations:
Chris Tromborg

The FCF appreciates your generosity & continued support.

First Quarter BOD Minutes

The 2015 First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting was held on the FCF forum from January 28 – February 8, 2015. Board members present were: President-Kevin Chambers, Vice President-Mindy Stinner, Treasurer-Lynn Culver, Secretary-Debi Willoughby, Director-Pat Callahan, Director-Robert Bean, and Director-Chris Tromborg.

Ratify the 3rd Quarter 2014 Minutes: the minutes stand ratified as presented, no changes or comments made.

Voting and motions:

Accreditation Committee Appointment: Susan Steffans, of Tigers for Tomorrow, submitted a letter of interest to serve on this committee. Lynn Culver moved to accept her nomination, Chris Tromborg seconded it. There were 5 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

Fundraising Ideas: Debi Willoughby asked each board member to come up with two fundraising ideas to help raise money for the organization. Robert Bean suggested we hire an executive director to handle fundraising. Chris Tromborg suggested we create and sell t-shirts and sponsor educational events. There were no other suggestions.

Feline Census: We released the results of our feline census in 2010, and we need to gather the data and do it again. It was general consensus to do this again.

Studbook: Mindy gave an update on where her group is at with the studbook; these updates are also printed in the *FCF Journals*. Mindy requested an additional \$5,000 to continue with this project. Lynn moved to approve this donation, Kevin seconded it. There were 6 YES votes, 0 NO votes, and 1 ABSTAIN vote.

2015 Executive Director: Lynn Culver offered to continue to do the executive director work in 2015, and get paid at the end of the year for her services. Mindy moved to accept this proposal, Robert seconded it. There were 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

2014 Executive Director Compensation: Lynn Culver requested to be paid \$6,000 for the executive director work she did in 2014. Mindy moved to accept this proposal, Robert seconded it. There were 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

Suggested Educators Course Changes: Debi Willoughby, Lynn Culver, and

Mindy Stinner have been discussing and working on introducing new topics to rotate offering in place of the existing Educators Course. Robert Bean moved to table this discussion until Convention, Kevin seconded it. There were 6 YES votes, 0 NO votes, and 1 ABSTAIN vote. *Website Update Status:* Debi has been working with our webmaster to get our website updated with new code and reformatted. The databases have been written and the front pages have been reformatted. The webmaster is currently working on reprogramming the front end with an ETA of the beginning of February.

Facebook: Erin Patters compiled a list of suggestions our members have given about our Facebook page. The ideas were: posting a different theme each week, posting training videos and articles, posting more upcoming events, adding more legislative posts, posting interactive videos/Q&A sessions, and offering free giveaways.

Direction of the Organization: Debi asked each board member to list two areas that our members would like to move in the direction of for 2015. Lynn suggested legislation and education, Mindy suggested growing & retaining our member database and concentrating on conservation. No other suggestions were given.

U.S. Cat Species Camera Trap Idea: Debi and Jim Sanderson suggested starting a U.S.-based wildcat camera trap project that our members could assist with. They asked the board to discuss to come up with ideas and a game plan. Robert suggested offering advice to members who want to do this on their own, but to conserve our funds for other things.

Three Board Directors Responsibilities: Pat Callahan is in charge of Conservation and Marketing; Chris Tromborg is in charge of Education and Member Services; Robert Bean is in charge of Development, Public Relations, and Legislation. Each director will get with their chair of these committees and guide them.

Appoint Editor: Lynn Culver is the existing editor and Judith Hoffman is the associate editor; they both agreed to stay on if appointed. Mindy moved to approve Lynn as Editor, Kevin seconded the motion. There were 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

Appoint Director of Conservation: Pat Callahan is the existing director and

agreed to stay on if appointed. Pat was appointed by acclimation.

Director of Education: Debi Willoughby is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Debi was appointed by acclimation.

Director of Legislation: Amy Flory is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Amy was appointed by acclimation.

Director of Member Services: Jennifer Kasserman is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Other interested parties: Caroline Alexander and Carol Cochran. Lynn moved to keep Jennifer as Director, Kevin seconded the motion. There were 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

Director of Public Relations: This position has been open for about a year. John VanBeber is interested in becoming the director for this position. John was appointed by acclimation.

Director of Marketing: Kurt Beckelman is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Kurt was appointed by acclimation.

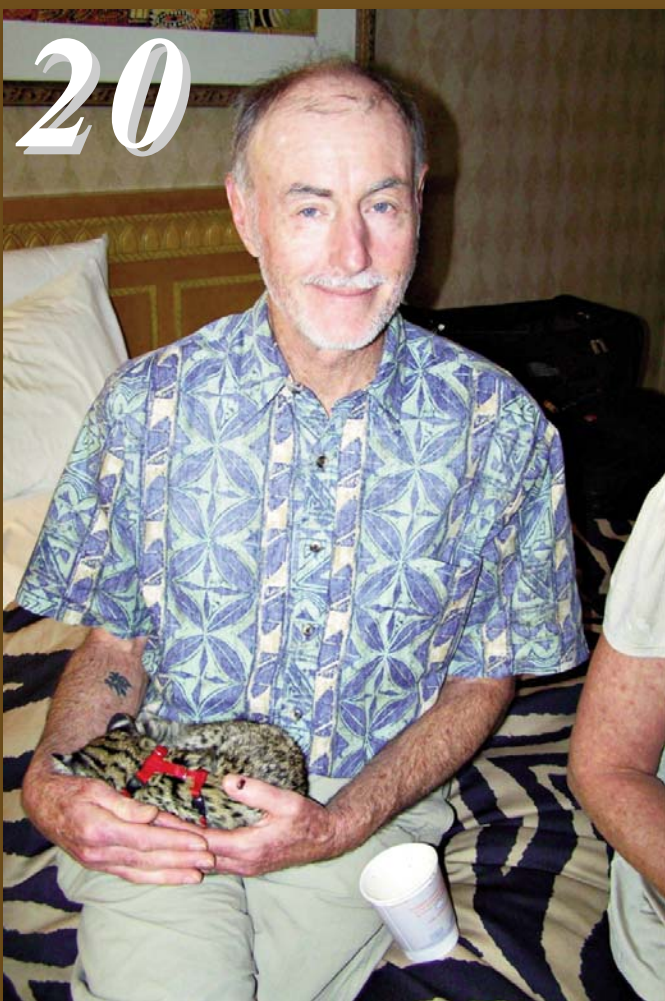
Director of Development: Erin Patters is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Other interested parties: Maurine Shellean. Kevin moved to keep Erin as Director, Lynn seconded the motion. There were 5 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

Chair of Wildcat Safety Net: Caroline Alexander is the existing director and agreed to stay on if appointed. Lynn moved to keep Jennifer as Director, Kevin seconded the motion. There were 7 YES votes, 0 NO votes.

2015 Budget: Lynn posted the budget. There were no comments or changes, therefore the budget was approved by acclimation.

No other new business was discussed.







Feline Conservation Federation

March/April 2015 Volume 59, Issue 2

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: Leo the lion in happier days. Leo was raised by Kenny Hetrick, and has spent his life at Tiger Ridge Exotics until January of this year, when he was confiscated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and moved to their exotic animal holding facility in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Photo by Lisa Pandora.

Back Cover: Bandit lives with Stephanie Wells and family. He's their neutered and microchipped pet bobcat. He enjoys being spoiled as much as his family enjoys spoiling him. It's a "purrfect" match.