

Feline Conservation Federation

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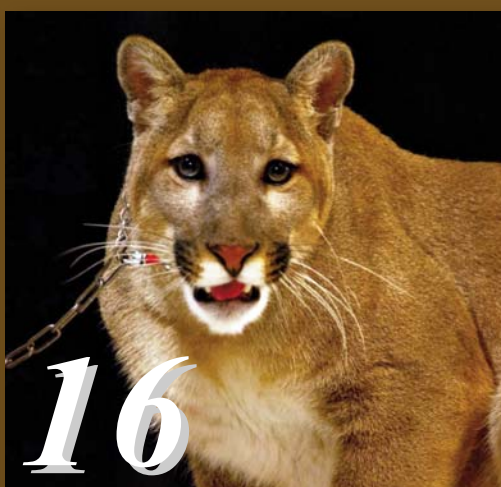
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JOIN THE FCF IN ITS CONSERVATION EFFORTS - WWW.FELINECONSERVATION.ORG

The FCF supports 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. Send \$35 annual dues (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 141 Polk Road 664, Mena, AR 71953.

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Contact Us

FOUNDER:
Catherine Cisin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Lynn Culver
executivedirector@felineconservation.org

OFFICERS:
President
Kevin Chambers
7816 N CR 75 W
Shelburn, IN 47879
812-397-2302
president@felineconservation.org

Vice President
Mindy Stinner
P.O. Box 882
Mebane, NC 27302
336-421-0065
vicepresident@felineconservation.org

Secretary
Rebecca Krebs
P.O. Box 770514
Miami, FL 33177
305-962-5349
secretary@felineconservation.org

Treasurer
Lynn Culver
141 Polk Road 664
Mena, AR 71953
479-394-5235
treasurer@felineconservation.org

DIRECTORS:
Conservation
Pat Callahan
1961 Connecticut Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45224
513-304-7155
conservation@felineconservation.org

Chris Tromborg
217 Baja Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
530-753-2763
director@felineconservation.org

Robert Bean
4633 Chandler Road
Hermitage, TN 37076
615-889-4633
RBeandirector@felineconservation.org

JOURNAL STAFF:
Managing Editor:
Lynn Culver

Layout/Copy Editor:
Eden Burgess, edenburgessfcf@gmail.com

Associate Editor:
Judith Hoffman

Membership Services:
Jennifer Kasserman
816-674-7277
membershipservices@felineconservation.org

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The FCF is a non-profit (Federal ID#59-2048618), non-commercial society devoted to the welfare and conservation of exotic felines. The FCF publishes the *Journal* quarterly.

Members are encouraged to donate older copies of the *Journal*, with permission of the resident, to vet offices, dental or medical waiting rooms, or public libraries or public officials, to increase awareness of the FCF, its members, and mission.

The author's point of view does not necessarily represent the point of view of the FCF. 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.

Display advertisement space is available at the following prices: \$10 business card, \$25 quarter page, \$50 half page, and \$100 full page ad.

Submit articles on husbandry, conservation, current events, editorials, and photos for publication to the managing editor, Lynn Culver, at lynnculver57@gmail.com.



Feline Conservation Federation

From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

Below are a few summaries of news stories about exotic felines since our last *FCF Journal*. The recent court ruling ordering the Ohio Department of Agriculture to return Tiger Ridge animals is covered elsewhere in this *Journal*. It is with great sadness that these beloved animals are still not with the Hetrick's and have apparently been moved from South Dakota to Colorado.

Also covered in this *Journal* is the appeal by Cricket Hollow Zoo to overturn the lower court's ruling in favor of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, finding the zoo guilty of violating the Endangered Species Act. Apparently the ALDF has tried to bully the Houston Aquarium to give up their white tigers and were slapped with a defamation lawsuit.

And now PETA has jumped into the act with a suit against Dade City Wild Things, alleging their husbandry is a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

And finally, two animal cases emerged in Pahrump, Nevada, in November. Animal rights groups are using these stories to highlight their campaigns to pass legislation to outlaw private ownership of wildlife.

SPEARFISH, SD — Some of the exotic animals seized from the Stoney Ridge facility in 2015, have been moved again after a tiger got loose and bit a sanctuary director, Michael Welchynski, at the Spirit of the Hills wildlife refuge keeping them in South Dakota.

Three tigers and one bear originally from Tiger Ridge Exotics were among 18 animals removed. The tiger that bit the director was not one of the Tiger Ridge animals.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary of Keenesburg, Colorado, has taken in nine tigers, one lion, one wolf, and seven bears this week from that South Dakota facility after the USDA revoked its license and the facility voluntarily surrendered the animals. Nearly all of the animals were underweight and some had medical issues that had been left untreated, he said.

HOUSTON, TX — Landry's, Inc., filed a defamation lawsuit in Harris County, Texas, against California-based Animal Legal Defense Fund over allegations

made about the living conditions for the white tigers at the company's Downtown Aquarium.

The lawsuit accuses ALDF of defaming the company with "deliberately false accusations of animal mistreatment and criminal conduct," over four captive-bred, white Bengal tigers that have been housed at Houston's Downtown Aquarium since 2004.

In the lawsuit, Landry's accuses officials with ALDF of making false statements about the tigers, saying they are kept in "deplorable" conditions harmful to their well-being. The company says the organization distributed "false information" through social media, interviews, and their public website.

In late September of this year, ALDF gave written notice to Landry's that if they did not give up their tigers to a suitable sanctuary within 60 days, the group would file suit alleging the white tiger exhibit harms and harasses an endangered species in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

TAMPA, FL — On October 12, PETA filed a federal lawsuit against Dade City's Wild Things, Inc., alleging the zoo's husbandry practices constitute a violation of the prohibitions against a "taking" of endangered species in the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

PETA's complaint states, "unwilling cubs are forced to interact with the public for profit," and handlers and trainers use "abusive methods to force cooperation." PETA also charges the adult tigers live in "woefully inadequate enclosures."

PETA's lawsuit alleges the zoo "harms" and "harasses" the tiger cubs in violation of the ESA's "take" prohibition by causing them pain and discomfort; impairing their development; exposing them to a high risk of illness and injury; distressing them; depriving them of the companionship and care of their mothers; and preventing them from carrying out their natural behaviors.

PARUMPH, NV — Trisha Meyer has been arrested after Nye County deputies found three tigers loose in a backyard that only had a four-foot field fence to contain them.

On Saturday, November 5th, Las Vegas Animal Control contacted Nye County's Animal Control to report Meyer was pos-

sibly heading to Pahrump with three tigers in a U-Haul trailer. Deputies also learned Meyer had a felony arrest warrant from Harris County, Texas.

Nye County Animal Control visited Myers and did not find any animals on her property. Officials told her it would be illegal for any special animals to be brought into the county without a permit.

On Nov. 7th, the sheriff's office received a report of three tigers in the backyard of a home on Manse Road.

Deputies arrived later that day, after confirming the Texas felony warrant, and found the three tigers eating raw chicken while a 17-year-old kept watch, the sheriff's office said.

Eight monkeys were also found inside the house. Myers allegedly did not have the necessary permits for the monkeys.

Myers was arrested on the warrant, and the tigers were taken into protective custody. Meyers will be extradited to Harris County, Texas, where she faces charges for theft and endangering a child.

PARUMPH, NV — a Bengal tiger, African lion, panther, fox, two lionesses, and nine Eurasian/Canadian lynx cross cats and a serval/caracal hybrid were seized by Nye County Sheriff's Office because they were living in terrible conditions.

Though the home had an animal permit allowing possession of special conditions animals, several of the cats were discovered locked in bedrooms and had been urinating and defecating on the walls and carpet. The home was deemed unsuitable and the air quality substandard. Jacki Freeman and Abby Hedengran, owners of the animals, are each facing misdemeanor animal cruelty charges. The owners are currently suing each other.

In 2005, Abby Hedengran was charged with making false statements to federal officials, submitting false records, destroying evidence in a federal investigation, obstructing justice, witness tampering, and violating the Federal Animal Welfare Act in connection with the escape of one of his tigers, which roamed the neighborhoods of Moorpark, California, for four weeks before being shot by police on February 23rd.

Abby moved to Pahrump, Nevada, with his remaining animals.

Letter from the President

The FCF recently made a \$5,000 donation to Jim Sanderson's Small Cat Conservation Alliance. This happened at an event in California where Jim was able to maximize the FCF's contribution by taking advantage of an offer to match donations. This money had been previously raised for an Andean cat monitoring and research center. Jim will be working in conjunction with the Chilean government to study and camera-trap Andean cats. The FCF is very proud to put our members' money to such a commendable use, helping these little-known and understudied species.

The Board has been discussing various ways to increase membership and how to appeal to potential new members. While several different avenues are being investigated and planned, Director Pat Callahan has devised a grassroots membership drive. What we would like each member to do is, rather than throwing away your old *Journals*, recycle them by placing them in veterinarians' offices, doctors' offices, libraries, etc., any place where people congregate and are looking for something to read. We are hoping that this kind of exposure will introduce the FCF to new audiences who have an interest in wild cats and will hopefully join.

The Constitutional Amendment to change the *Journal* production from six times a year to quarterly passed by the required 2/3 majority vote. Fifty ballots were returned, 41 voted "yes," nine voted "no." We are hoping that this change will allow the *Journals* to come out in a timelier manner and be of higher quality. You may never have thought about it, but our managing editor, proofreaders, and layout editor put in countless hours for each issue. Each issue is a major undertaking.

On a similar train of thought, with this issue, we are using a different printer. We had used the previous printer for several years, but increasingly had difficulties that slowed production and even found out that they were not getting all issues mailed out to members. Enough was enough and we began the search for a new printer. My thanks to the several members who passed along contacts for printers that they had used. Please let us know if you see anything that is not up to par. We also will want to know when you receive your *Journal*, so just send us a quick email that you received yours and what state you are in. We are hoping that everything goes just fine.

The Board appointed Rebecca Krebs as acting secretary in our third quarter meet-

ing. Rebecca was the sole nominee for the secretary position for the upcoming election and, since the position was currently vacant, we decided to go ahead and get Rebecca started early. She has experience being an organizational secretary and is well acquainted with raising felines. She currently works at the Miami Zoo and a private facility. In addition, her father has raised exotics and cats for many years, so she was born into the business. Many of you may have met Rebecca at either the Nashville or last year's convention. We are happy to welcome Rebecca aboard.

On another election-related matter, the only nominee for treasurer, Caroline Alexander, has had to withdraw from the race. This means that the Board will have to appoint a treasurer come January. As treasurer, you will be a member of the board and be responsible for receiving payments and paying our expenses. We currently use QuickBooks to keep the records, but we can work with you and use something else. If you have any questions or are interested in serving as the FCF's treasurer, please contact me at president@felineconservation.org.

Kevin Chambers

FCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION ONLINE VOTING RUNS FROM DECEMBER 5th TO DECEMBER 31st, 2016

We are trying something new for the election this year. Since all of the positions are being run unopposed, we figured this would be a great time to try stepping into the 21st century with online voting. It is much cheaper than printing paper ballots, mailing them to all members, and hiring an accountant to receive and tally them. Now, we realize that not every member has a computer, but anyone can go to their local library or college or borrow someone's phone or any other device, get online, go to the website, and vote. You are able to use anyone's device and vote securely.

There are candidate platforms in this *Journal* issue starting on page 6 that will familiarize you with these members who have accepted nomination for office. Starting on December 4th, all FCF members who have registered an email address will receive an email invitation to vote. In a nutshell, FCF voters will be automatically logged in to vote in this FCF election upon clicking on the hyperlink in the email announcement. Once you log into the website, you will see six positions up for voting. While none are contested, you are still invited to vote for the candidates. After you vote, you will not be able to go back and vote a second time, so it is just as secure as a paper ballot.

If you lose your email invitation with the hyperlink to vote, you can still vote. Email or call Lynn Culver to find out your username and password (in most cases this will be the same as what you have used to log into the FCF member's site, so try that) and you can log into the voting website manually.

If you have never registered an email with the FCF, then you never received an email invitation. You are however, entered into the database and a username and password has been generated, so call or email Lynn Culver and she will tell you that information so you can vote.

If you have problems or just have comments in general, contact us. We want to know your thoughts on whether this should be continued in the future.

2017 FCF Election Position Platforms

Kevin Chambers - Candidate for President

Kevin Chambers has been on the FCF Board of Directors for 12 years. He has been President for the last eight years. Before that, Mr. Chambers served as Treasurer for two years, and as Vice-President for the two years previous to that. Mr. Chambers has worked with animals, both domestic and wild, on his farm in Indiana. He attended Purdue University, where he studied Agricultural Engineering and played football. His experience with exotics began in 1974, and he has experience with over 140 different species of mammals, birds, and reptiles. He bred his first exotic feline in 1982, and is the first person to successfully breed Irkutsk lynx (*Lynx lynx kozłowi*) and white lions (*Panthera leo krugeri*) in North America. Mr. Chambers founded the Zoological Animal Reproduction Center, which breeds various species of wildlife in addition to the exotic cats. This USDA and USF&W-licensed operation specializes in breeding, brokering, importing, and exporting. Chambers has transported animals all over the USA, and to and from more than 25 foreign countries, dealing with facilities from all venues, including research facilities, domestic and international zoos, private breeders, pet owners, entertainers, and exhibitors. He has owned 26 species of felids, from the small Geoffroy's cat and black-footed cat, to lions and tigers. Mr. Chambers is very active in the 4-H youth organization, where he has served on boards and various positions for over 30 years.



Mindy Stinner - Candidate for Vice-President

Before co-founding the Conservators Center, Mindy graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in secondary education, and she taught for most of a decade. Gradually transitioning out of a formal classroom setting, Mindy spent several years volunteering and working at other facilities with varying business models and philosophies. During this time, she worked as a zookeeper for over 250 animals, managed a private zoo, served as a breeding facility's office manager and bookkeeper, provided education programs, and assisted with innumerable veterinary procedures. Concurrently, she engaged in training and research on wild animal husbandry, non-profit management and development, international conservation efforts, and emergency response situation management. She has assisted with the management of several crisis situations, ranging from unscheduled facility closures, regulatory enforcement actions, hazardous weather, and the emergency transport of big cats.



She now serves as Executive Director of the Conservators Center in North Carolina, which she co-founded with partner Douglas Evans in 1999. The Center has housed many species of wild cats, including: serval, caracal, bobcat, jungle cat, Eurasian lynx, Canada lynx, ocelot, Geoffroy's cat, lion, tiger, and leopard. The Center houses almost exclusively carnivore species that consist of both breeding animals and animals for educational exhibit only. Beyond the public education programs onsite, the Center partners with colleges and universities to provide training for people seeking animal-oriented careers, provides veterinary student training opportunities, consults with other facilities in development, and provides husbandry expertise to conservationists working in the field. Mindy's background as an educator has shaped the trajectory of the Center as an educational entity and will help ensure the long-term relevance of that organization in the continuing evolution of the professionally managed captive wildlife industry.

Mindy has a specific interest in contingency planning and understanding the impact of regulatory and legislative changes on the wildlife owner industry. She has participated in the North Carolina State Animal Response Team since 2000. Since 2015, she has actively participated in the Secure Zoo Working Group, a USDA-funded initiative designed to provide contingency planning guidance for the zoological community. The group's current focus is on foreign animal disease, with a special emphasis on evaluating successful strategies from the agricultural industry and applying them to the exotic animal industry. Mindy's role includes helping represent the interests of USDA-licensed facilities not operating under other accreditation umbrellas.

Mindy and a group of other dedicated animal owners have worked together since the mid-2000s to ensure responsible wildlife owners in North Carolina are protected from poorly conceived legislation. This group is in favor of reasonable regulation to ensure public safety and animal welfare concerns are being addressed, but is not in favor of closing down legally operating businesses or removing a person's property without due process.

Mindy has served on the FCF Board since 2013, in the role of vice-president. She is a primary instructor for the Wild Feline Husbandry Course, and has been responsible for several major revisions to the course over time. She and other instructors have been developing shorter module courses as requested by the membership. Mindy previously served as the FCF Journal editor from 2001-2004. Thanks to the efforts of several active board members, the newsletter grew during that time from an average of 18 pages in length to more than 40 pages per issue. Since retiring from that role, Mindy and other FCF members from the Conservators Center have continued to contribute articles and photos to the Journal. Mindy helped author the original accreditation standards for the FCF, and has been involved in screening and selecting the conservation programs the FCF has chosen to fund since 2004. She is a Lotty Award recipient.

Mindy firmly believes that individuals and organizations must work together to preserve and manage the species we hold. She strives to connect entities with related goals and facilitate the success of collaborative efforts across the industry. Protecting ownership rights includes providing quality educational opportunities for people both within and outside of the industry, and providing

strong support for the scientific community studying these species.

Mindy is working to encourage the directionality of the FCF toward providing more educational programs and materials and to expand the membership to include more young professionals learning to work with these species in a business setting. The vast experience of FCF members must be passed down intergenerationally. With fewer family businesses passing these skills forward, we must reach out to staff members at zoos and parks that will be continuing this work for many years to come.

Rebecca Krebs - Candidate for Secretary

Hello, fellow feline conservationists, my name is Rebecca Krebs and I am running for Secretary of FCF. Here is a little about me for those of you who I have not yet met. I am passionate about exotic felines and the preservation of the species both in captivity and in the wild. My father has been working with exotics for the majority of his life, owning his own zoo, and I have followed suit, making animal care my life's work. I have had the privilege of working with a large variety of felines in captivity; Bengal tiger, Sumatran tiger, lion, amur leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, jaguar, cougar, Florida panther, caracal, bobcat, and serval. For many of the species listed, I have assisted in or taken full responsibility of the infant care. I have participated in many forms of feline conservation from biological field work and public education, to scooping poop and mending fences. Currently, I work at two zoos; one is an AZA facility and one is a private facility. Coming from a background in the private sector (I've worked at seven different private facilities) and now working in a more corporate sector, it gives me a wide perspective on the challenges and achievements that both entities face. It is my belief that as a unit we are strong, but divided we are weak. It is my hope that all feline enthusiasts can bond together in the common goal of education, preservation, and conservation. I believe that the FCF is striving to do just that and I am honored to be part of a truly great organization.



Dr. Chris T. Tromborg, Ph.D. - Candidate for Board of Directors

I am writing to announce my intention to run for re-election to the Feline Conservation Federation Board of Directors in 2017. I would be honored to be considered for an additional term, and will continue to be so honored irrespective of the outcome of the election.

I have been a member of the FCF since 1992, when it was then known as The Long Island Ocelot Club. This reflects a nearly three-decades-long interest in feline behavior, conservation, and husbandry.

Actually, I became interested in the plight of free-living and captive felines earlier than that, when, in 1969, I became involved in efforts to change the management status of the mountain lion in California, where they had been poorly studied and were virtually unprotected. The Coalition to Save the California Mountain Lion succeeded in achieving a high degree of protection for the mountain lion. Years later, the Mountain Lion Foundation, a successor to the original coalition, would achieve even more protection for cougars within the state of California. Recently, the MLF, along with other conservation organizations, succeeded in supporting the passage of legislation outlawing the use of steel-jawed traps on bobcats in California. My continued interest in conservation of free-living cougars and other felines motivated me to become more involved in the plight of other felines, both in the wild and in captivity. In order to better serve free-living felines, I became a member of the Board of Directors of the Mountain Lion Foundation. Shortly thereafter, an interest in the plight of captive felines motivated me to become more involved in the activities of the Feline Conservation Federation, culminating in my becoming a member of its Board of Directors in 2012.

Over the past 45 years, I have worked for the protection of wild mountain lions and bobcats in California; the preservation of free-living cheetahs, snow leopards, and tigers; and the improvement in the management of populations of captive felines in both public and private institutions, both accredited and non-accredited alike.

I am a member of both the American Zoo Association and the Zoo Association of America. Membership in both of these organizations has provided me with access to important information about the management of populations of captive felines. My interest in the husbandry of captive felines prompted me to serve as a member of the AZA's "Animal Care and Husbandry Advisory Board (Feline TAG)," and to conduct and publish several studies focusing on behavioral enrichment for captive animals in zoos. In cooperation with Dr. Hal Markowitz, the developer of the concept of behavioral enrichment in laboratories and zoos, I have spent over 30 years conducting research that focused on improving the conditions of captivity for a variety of captive species, including many species of feline, with the goal of enhancing their cognitive opportunities and their overall quality of life.

Over the past several years of serving on the board of the FCF, I have come to reconsider my relationships with many organizations claiming to be concerned with the future of animals in nature and captivity. Consequently, I have eliminated my associations with some organizations and realigned my associations with others. Over the past several years, I have de-emphasized my relationship with the AZA, while enhancing my relationship with the ZAA, which I now consider my primary zoo-related professional association. I also maintain associations with important feline-oriented organizations, including the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Cat Conservation Foundation, the Endangered Feline Conservation Center, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Cheetah Conservation



Fund, and the Wildlife Conservation Network. I also support the conservation efforts of others, including Niassa Lion Research, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Andean Cat Conservation, as well as others.

As a long-term member of the Wildlife Conservation Network, I volunteer to represent the FCF at its many West Coast events, including the Fall and Spring Wildlife Conservation EXPO events. I have supervised the FCF exhibits at these events for over half a decade. Further, whenever it is possible, I attempt to assist FCF member organizations, such as the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund or the Lyon Therapy Animal Ranch, in bringing their ambassador animals to public events in an attempt to spread the message about the importance of maintaining viable populations of socialized wild animals to enhance the conservation message. For example, the Cheetah Conservation Fund has featured live cheetahs from WCEF, and the Snow Leopard Conservancy has featured camels and servals from the Lyon Therapy Animal Ranch in their presentations. We have found that the presence of living felines at these events dramatically enhances the effectiveness of the conservation message being presented. Whenever such events occur, I attempt to provide FCF members with an account of the presentation by providing a summary of the event in the *FCF Journal*. In fact, whenever possible, I have published articles in the *FCF Journal* providing important information about taming and domestication, stress in captivity, and enrichment for captive felines. I have even delivered one presentation on the history of behavioral enrichment to the 2016 FCF Convention. Finally, I support the work of FCF Conservation Advisor Dr. James Sanderson in his relentless attempts to preserve the habitats of many of the world's smallest felines.

Although I do not presently possess wild or exotic felines, I have always recognized the right of responsible private individuals to possess, manage, display, breed, and befriend captive felines, both exotic and native. Whenever I have the opportunity, I attempt to interact with as many socialized wild felines as I can.

If re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Feline Conservation Federation, I promise to continue to uphold its constitution and to continue to work for the felines of the world, domestic, exotic, captive, wild, and free.

Robert Bean - Candidate for Board of Directors

I joined the FCF in 1987. Back then it was called LIOC-ESCF. I've worked with and owned wild animals for 55 years and had non-domestic cats for 30 years. My wife and I founded the 501(c)(3) non-profit Tennessee Nature Center, which, at its peak, housed 55+ non-domestic cats. We specialized in non-invasive research that added to the body of knowledge on enrichment, reproduction, and diet. I have experience with over 13 species of *Felidae*, including tiger, leopard, cougar, snow leopard, Chinese leopard, Siberian lynx, bobcat, caracal, serval, and more. We were at one time one of the most successful breeders of caracals worldwide. Presently, we care for just a few non-domestic felids consisting of bobcats, Siberian lynx, and serval.

I have served in many capacities for this organization, from Life Director to Director of Advertising/Marketing. As Director of Advertising, I gained advertisers to allow the *FCF Journal* to expand the pages and include color photos. As Convention chair, I gained corporate sponsors and set new fundraising and attendance records. I worked with Lynn Culver on press releases. I've served on the Conservation Grants Committee and the original Accreditation Committee that laid the foundation for a facility accreditation program.

I am honored to continue service as a director of the FCF. I have seen this organization suffer growing pains and come out stronger, and take on projects such as fighting against animal rights legislation, teaching husbandry to the next generation of keepers, and funding in-situ conservation.

My past voting record on the BOD has always been represented by member feedback, and I welcome you to contact me with questions or suggestions. I want to work with today's membership to see that the FCF meets its goal of conservation of felids both in captivity and in nature.



Pat Callahan - Candidate for Board of Directors

I retired from the Cincinnati Zoo in 2013, following a long career in the animal business. My animal career began at an Ohio Division of Wildlife Forest Game Research station in 1974. I became one of the original employees at the startup of Lion Country Safari at Kings Island, where a monorail ride traveled through large groups of African, Asian, and native species. I and other animal professionals cared for more than 50 lions, 12 tigers, 29 white rhino (imported from Natal), African elephant, elk, bison, various birds, and some primates.

In 1981, I found my true love; small cats, followed by medium cats and large cats, at the Cincinnati Zoo. I participated in successful captive breeding programs for clouded leopard, margay, ocelot, jaguarundi, black-footed cats, Asian golden cats, and cheetah.

I have travelled to South Africa, Namibia, and Chile, to participate in field studies by such experts as Alex Sliwa, Laurie Marker, Jim Sanderson, and Fernando Vidal. I draw on these experiences when I review conservation projects submitted for FCF Conservation Grants.

As a member of the Facility Accreditation Board, I have a special interest in designing holding facilities and habitats, with safety and animal welfare in mind and focus on these aspects when reviewing applications for FCF Feline Facility Accreditation.

I am honored to continue as a director on the board of the FCF and will serve the next two years.





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Andean Cat Conservation in Chile

By Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.
Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation
Global Wildlife Conservation

As Feline Conservation Federation readers know, the Andean cat occurs in the high Andes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru. The Andean cat is ranked by the IUCN as Endangered and, as such, is the only IUCN Red List endangered cat in the Americas. In Chile, the Andean cat is fully protected and the human population in Chilean Andes is both low and seasonal. Pastoralists graze llamas and leave the herds to graze while they return to the coastal lowlands. At times, small Andean villages appear abandoned. Winter in the Andes is extremely dry and cold, especially at 4,500 meters (approx. 14,765 feet) where the Andean cat lives. A sparsity of coal and wood fuel to keep a house warm places a harsh limitation on human habitation. Threats to the Andean cat in Chile are the least of any range country. Nevertheless, constant vigilance is required to make sure threats remain low.

Our conservation strategy in Chile rests on identifying Key Andean Cat Areas (KACAs), monitoring those areas continuously, and urging protection of those KACAs that are not protected. To do this, we make extensive use of camera traps. We have established a network of camera traps in the high Andes of Chile, and because the cameras are remote, we check the cameras once every six months. Because this is waste area, we have never been able to cover the entire area, but we do not need to.

Studies have shown the Andean cat's diet is 85% mountain viscacha and chinchilla, both members of the family *Chinchillidae*, order *Rodentia*. These prey do not hibernate in winter. Their requirements are few but vital: grass to eat, and boulder fields in which to dig burrows and have their offspring. Grass requires water from glaciers in the high Andes. The absence of water means no

grass, which means no prey, and, hence, no Andean cats. Moreover, water sources are very few and distant. Even when water and grass are present, if there are no boulder fields, there are few or no *Chinchillidae*. Mountain viscachas are far more common than their smaller relatives, and they are also colonial, sometimes numbering in the hundreds of individuals. Moreover, since Andean cats do not occupy such colonies but only visit them, others colonies must be in the area. An Andean cat visits a colony, hunts for a few days, then leaves to hunt at another colony. Knowing these facts about the Andean cat's natural history allows us to visit an area and quickly assess whether the Andean cat is possibly present. For instance, if we see water, grass, boulders, and many viscachas hopping around on the rocks, then there is a good possibility, but not a certainty, that an Andean cat might visit someday. Pampas cats and puma are other possible cats that also co-exist with Andean cats.

Some areas, like Salar de Surire in northern Chile, have multiple, large viscacha colonies, and we are monitoring Andean cats there. Another area lies closer to Peru and Bolivia, in the foothills of Lago Chungara. These are fully protected KACAs.

The equivalent of our National Park Service, CONAF, in Chile, has decided to launch a monitoring program in all its more than 30 national parks. The kick-off meeting is in November. Four national parks have been chosen for a pilot monitoring program. Two of these parks might have Andean cats. Guignas and Pampas cats have been camera trapped

in one of the lowland national parks. Thus, it makes sense for our monitoring program to be combined with CONAF's efforts under one umbrella. There is one difference, however, and that is our objective. One of CONAF's objectives is to monitor threats to the integrity of the parks. This means monitoring places that border livestock areas to document illegal



Andean cat conservation got a boost from the FCF with a \$5,000 donation presented to Dr. Sanderson at his annual fundraiser event. Members raised these funds in previous years for Dr. Sanderson's proposed Andean Cat Monitoring Center and held them until this past October, when members Rob and Barbara Dicely, who were there with the ambassador cats of Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, handed over the check on behalf of the FCF.

incursions into protected areas. Andean cats are in high elevation areas away from livestock areas. Thus, while we operate under the same umbrella, we will most likely supply our own camera traps to compliment those of CONAF.

Interestingly, our strategy for Pallas's cats is similar. Pallas's cats (or manul, as they are locally known) inhabit a vast stretch of Asian steppe, a treeless, rolling grassland. The presence of Pallas's cats is determined by three factors. Firstly, marmots and/or badgers must be present. These burrowing animals make holes that Pallas's cats can occupy and make dens inside of. Secondly, there must be prey such as pikas and voles that do not hibernate. Finally, maximum snow cover must be less than ten centimeters and must not form a windswept crust for more than a few days. While rodents can forage under the crust, Pallas's cats cannot dig. These limiting factors are most often easily discovered. Few people live in the steppe, since making a living is difficult. Pallas's cats are IUCN Red List Near Threatened. Our conservation strategy is similar to that of the Andean cat: Identify Key Manul Areas (KMAs), and monitor these areas with camera traps. I will present more on our efforts in a following issue of the *FCF Journal*.



Few photos existed of the Andean cat before Dr. Sanderson captured this one, which appeared in February 2000's *National Geographic*.



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The Cat-tivity Project

By Nicole Maxene Price

The Cat-tivity Project is an ongoing photographic series that observes the interactions between captive exotic felines and the humans that care for them. It can be viewed online at www.cat-tivity.com. Big cats have always captivated people. The owners, keepers, and trainers who work with them understand this better than anyone else. The relationships and deep-seated bonds created with our feline companions are tremendously compelling, but also difficult to describe to others outside of the



Rosie the Indian leopard with owner Vera Chaples. This spotted cat lives at Mystic Jungle, located in Live Oak, Florida.



Hollywild Animal Park keeper Laura Salzhauer gives a neck scratch to Cricket the cougar.

industry. This lack of understanding about the bond between humans and cats leads to the misinterpretation of the work we do with them, especially after an animal rights terrorist attack occurs. The Cat-tivity Project was created to help shine a light through the harmful misconceptions spread by animal rights groups which are threatening the welfare of felines in captivity, as well as to show the public an honest look at the lives these cats lead. The series achieves this by merging artistic black and white photography with documentary-style narratives.

The use of black and white photography is a deliberate choice. When felines

are presented in full color, viewers are often distracted by their beauty. In the Cat-tivity Project, the cats are just one element within a larger interaction. The colorless presentation provokes a harder look and detailed observation of the visual information. While featuring multiple facilities shot in different

lighting conditions and in different seasons, the black and white editing also serves to create a sense of unity between our participants. While color would emphasize differences, black and white emphasizes the similarities between care, compassion, and motivation at each of the facilities in the Cat-tivity Pro-

ject.

Our similarities shine best when we bond with our animals. Every owner and keeper has a deep love of the animals they work with. By unifying our community through powerful imagery, accompanied by sensible explanations, husbandry education, and background, we can change negative perceptions of our community and re-inspire our existing supporters. Through an overwhelming number of depictions of humans working positively with cats, the Cat-tivity Project will have our voices heard, but, more importantly, those voices will be

understood.

Ready to Participate?

You are not alone. Several facilities have been featured in the Cat-tivity Project already, including Bee City Honeybee Farm & Petting Zoo, Hollywild Animal Park, Mystic Jungle Educational Facility, the North Georgia Zoo, Panther Ridge Conservation Center, the Serval Conservation and Education Refuge, Sunshine Exotics Animal Education Center, and Tiger World.

Who Can Participate?

If you are a non-AZA facility that hosts



Yolandi the serval and Starbuck the domestic cat nose to nose. The pair call Sunshine Exotics Animal Education Center home.



Tiger World keeper Jessica Williamson Donovan receives the affection of lion Bo.



North Georgia Zoo's young Canada lynx clearly enjoys the tactile affection of her keeper.



At Tiger World, in North Carolina, cats and the visiting public line up for feeding time, where chickens and chunks of meat are tossed over the fence where the big cats leap for their rations.



Hope Bennet, owner of North Georgia Zoo, snuggles with a serval kitten.

felines of any non-domestic species, you are eligible to participate. The Cat-tivity Project wants to exhibit a broad spectrum of felines in the private animal industry. We are looking for legal pet owners, private breeders, zoos, nature centers, refuges, and sanctuaries that house exotic captive felines. If you are interested in

participating, please contact photographer and creator of the Cat-tivity Project, Nicole-Maxene Price, at maxenesunshine@yahoo.com, or visit the Cat-tivity website at www.cat-tivity.com.

If you choose to participate with our photographer, an FCF registered cat handler with zookeeping experience with both small and large felines, she will travel to your facility and follow any and all safety protocols and regulations. Our photographer will need to either be given a tour of your facility's felines and/or shadow a feline keeper for a day. All aspects



Mechel Whitaker, owner of the Serval Conservation and Education Refuge in Hartford, Alabama, watches over servals Zulu and Puma.



Nicole Maxene Price gains the attention of Brandy the cougar while she cleans the big cat's enclosure at Panther Ridge Conservation Center in Wellington, Florida.

of feline husbandry are being explored within this project. Food preparation, cleaning, enrichment, training, and any other forms of interaction between humans and cats are preferred. You will have all rights to the photographs of your animals and facility as well as the ability to decline or approve photos and captions that would be published on the website.

Third Quarter 2016 Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes

By Rebecca Krebs

Third quarter Board of Directors Meeting was held on the FCF forum from September 19-26, 2016. 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.

Voting and motions:

Ratify the 2nd Quarter 2016 Minutes: Moved by Kevin Chambers, seconded by Lynn Culver, that the minutes be ratified as previously approved. The motion carried with a unanimous "yes" vote.

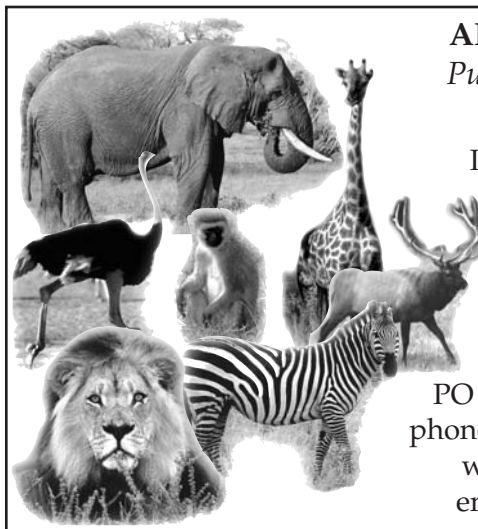
Make appointment to fill the open secretary position: Moved by Robert Bean, seconded by Lynn Culver, that we replace the previously resigned FCF Secretary, Debi Willoughby, by appointing Rebecca Krebs as the interim FCF Secretary. The motion carried with a unanimous "yes" vote.

Old *Journal* donations: Moved by Pat Callahan, seconded by Chris Tromborg,

that each issue of the *Journal* shall contain on the inside cover page or page one the suggestion that members donate older copies of the *Journal*, with permission of the resident, to vet offices, dental or medical waiting rooms, or public libraries or public officials. The President shall explain in his *Journal* address to the Membership, at his next opportunity, the idea that this could broaden our base of new members. The motion carried with a

unanimous "yes" vote.

Online election service: Moved by Robert Bean, seconded by Chris Tromborg, that the FCF BOD use the online election service, "Election Runner" (<https://election-runner.com/>), to manage and count the ballots for the FCF's 2017 upcoming Board of Directors election. The motion carried with a unanimous "yes" vote.



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Cats on Campus

By Chris Tromborg
Photos by Ardyn Magere

On October 15, a pair of young panthers was presented to the Sacramento City College community during the college's "Centennial Celebration Open House" event. They were on the campus to illustrate what the term **panther** means. First, some background...

Of Panthers, Pumas, Mountain Lions, and Mascots

Sacramento City College has adopted the panther as its mascot. Yet, the word **panther** is one with an ambiguous meaning.

The word **panther** is used somewhat casually to refer to any of several medium-sized felids, including the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Onca onca*), and the mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). This is especially true when the animal has melanistic (extremely dark) characteristics. Oddly, although the term **panther** is used to describe the preceding species, it is almost never used to describe the snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), lion (*Panthera leo leo*), or the tiger (*Panthera tigris*). This is ironic, since both the tiger and the lion are classified within the genus *Panthera*, with the root word panther in the genus name. The mountain lion, the felid most frequently referred to as **panther**, belongs to a completely different



One of the cats presented was Kanika, a black panther, which is actually a melanistic leopard.

CATS ON CAMPUS



**At the Performing Arts Center
October 15th at 4pm**
Live animals and a 10-20 minute lecture

LEARN ABOUT

- What big cats are panthers?
- What is the natural history of panthers?
- Are they dangerous?
- Is the SCC mascot a correct representation of a panther? And MORE!



Dr. Chris Tromborg helped organized an event at the Sacramento Community college to explore the institutional identity and create respect for California's native panther.

genus, *Puma* (formerly *Felis*). Surprisingly, the genus *Felis* is the same genus that the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) belongs to.

In any case, the appellation **panther** is usually reserved for mountain lions and both African and Asiatic leopards, again especially for their melanistic forms. Consequently, black panthers were almost always leopards or cougars. More rarely, the term **panther** is used to refer to the jaguar, again, especially extremely rare, darkly pigmented individuals.

Of the preceding species, the mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) is the animal with the greatest number of alternate names, including mountain lion, cougar, catamount, puma, painter, and, not least, **panther**.

Historically, the leopard has been widely distributed throughout Africa and Asia, the jaguar widely distributed throughout South America and southern North America, and the cougar widely distributed throughout all of the Americas. In fact, the mountain lion has the widest distribution of any free-living felid. Today, the populations of all three species are declining in the wild. Of the three, only the mountain lion has had an historical presence throughout the Central

Valley of California, where it continues to exist under protected status.

Consequently, it seems clear to an advocate for and an observer of mountain lions, that the **panther** that was selected as the mascot of Sacramento City College was almost certainly inspired by the California mountain lion. Some believe that Hugh,

the feline portrayed in our art and sculptures, more closely resembles a jaguar. Perhaps so, and, if so, then this situation should be remedied. We should be recognizing a fellow Californian as the symbol of Sacramento City College.

What a wonderfully appropriate recognition. Many institutions feature mascots that are fanciful, imaginary, or mere caricatures of wild animals. Sacramento City



Dr. David Wyatt, of the Sacramento City College Department of Biology, opened the presentation with a discussion about the current status of the jaguar in South and Central America.

College's most appropriate mascot, though elusive and mysterious, is not fanciful, but a very real, living member of California's natural community. We should be thankful that we live in an area with such a compelling potential institutional representative. While our collegiate predecessors had the wisdom to select a magnificent feline species as our college mascot, contemporary decision makers now need to confirm that this cat is, indeed, a puma, e.g., a **panther**.

Once Sacramento City College has officially recognized the mountain lion as its mascot, then perhaps we should try to convince our state leaders to exhibit similar wisdom and to adopt the mountain lion or **panther** as the state animal, replacing the grizzly bear, which is extinct in California. California, like Sacramento City College, should have a vibrant, living symbol, not one that lives on only in memory, but one which lives on in the wild. Pumas are creatures of strength, beauty, grace, and



The Sacramento College mascot is a panther, and this native big cat, Tocho, is a species that goes by many names, such as mountain lion, puma, cougar, and panther.

intelligence—all qualities that we of Sacramento City College should celebrate while the spirit of the **panther** forever stalks both our imaginations and the halls of our venerable century-old institution...

This brief account provided the underlying rationale for the presentation of two living panthers to Sacramento City College, in an attempt to explore our institutional identity while creating respect for California's native panther.

The presentation began with a comprehensive discussion of the current status of the jaguar in South and Central America, presented by ring-tailed cat expert Dr. David Wyat, of the Sacramento City College Department of Biology. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Chris Tromborg, of the Sacramento City College Department of Psychology, focusing on the meaning of the term **panther**. Finally, Rob and Barbara Dicely appeared to present the cats, first the leopard, and then the cougar.

Kanika, the black African leopard, is just over two years of age, while Tocho, the mountain lion, is just over one year old. Both were born at private zoos, exactly one year apart from one another, on July 20, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Both cats were hand-reared by Rob and Barbara Dicely to serve as ani-

mal ambassadors for their respective species.

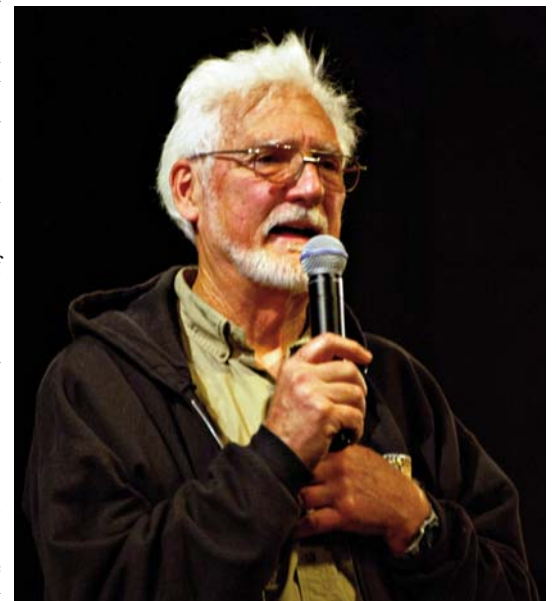
When Kanika the leopard was introduced to the audience, the effect was galvanizing and immediate. There were simultaneous awe-inspired inhalations and astonished exclamations in response to the grace and beauty of the young feline. There were similar responses to the presentation of Tocho the cougar. Once again, the fact that the effectiveness of conservation messages is enhanced by establishing a direct connection with a living animal was demonstrated. Compared to every other modality of conservation education, nothing seems to be as

immediately powerful as presenting living exemplars of the natural world, especially felines, to the public.

Rob and Barbara Dicely, of the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, have been involved in presenting socialized wild felines to the public as components of their conservation education outreach programs for over 20 years. The WECF is an FCF member organization. Good work, everyone.



Barbara Dicely, co-founder of the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, speaks to the school's students and visitors about the two very different species known as panthers.



Rob Dicely presented the large felines to a room filled with awe-inspired inhalations and astonished exclamations.

2016 AZA Annual Felid Taxon Advisory Group Report

By Julia Wagner

The long-term survival of big cat species in captive habitat, and the resultant ability to positively impact populations in their native ranges, is heavily predicated on the success of coordinated breeding programs. The Species Survival Plan® (SSP) Program, coordinated by the AZA, is the nation's largest and most well-known network of coordinated breeding efforts. While the SSP Program should be commended for laying critical foundation for the coordination of conservation breeding efforts, it should not be mistaken for a conservation panacea. Many species are not covered by SSPs and, of those species managed, many rely on external sources to ensure a sufficiently robust genetic pool. This means that many SSPs work with institutions external to the AZA or rely on international imports to ensure the necessary stability for their populations. When one examines the captive habitat (existing and potential) available within the AZA-accredited institutions, and takes into account that many are located in large urban centers in which additional acreage acquisition is challenging, it becomes evident that there is no practical way that only 200+ zoos and aquariums are equipped to manage captive conservation breeding needs for all desired species.

When one examines the SSPs for big cats, it quickly becomes evident that the scope of species represented is not inclusive of all subspecies. The total population of big cats being managed is often fewer than optimal due to capacity restrictions. Furthermore, the reliance on importation for many of the SSPs points to a picture of long-term unsustainability without participation from other stateside industry participants. Otherwise, many big cat SSPs are reliant on ongoing genetic infusion from international sources to ensure long-term population viability - a risky proposition when one considers challenges and cost associated with international importation, and the distinct likelihood that, over the coming years, other nations will change their allowances regarding exportation.

coordinated breeding efforts (and to verify the veracity of the documented lineage of those that already exist within coordinated programs). This means that animals previously thought to carry no conservation



African lions are an iconic zoo species. These great cats are popular with the public and recently gained additional protection from commercial exploitation by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which has changed their status to threatened species. Interstate sales of captive-bred lions will require a F&W commerce permit. This lion lives at Dave Hansen's facility in Oregon. Photo by Katie Crane.



Three subspecies of tiger are managed by AZA zoos; the Bengal tiger, most numerous in private collections, is not. Pride Rock Wildlife Refuge, in Terrell, houses several of these great cats. Photo by Robin Wheeler.

In recent years, the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) formalized its own Animal Management Programs (AMPs), meaning the AZA is no longer the only domestic organization managing conservation breeding through a coordinated and recognized effort. Furthermore, other managed breeding programs are coordinated within the independent sector (businesses external to accreditation). These efforts have been underway for generations, and the industry is continuing to work toward formalization of efforts and enhanced coordination of studbooks and other critical records held by entities external to the SSPs and AMPs.

Available and affordable genetic testing allows for an understanding of the genetic composition of animals from certain species that are undocumented in

value due to unknown lineage can be reconsidered for integration into coordinated breeding efforts. This has been of importance to the big cat community, as genetic testing of tigers and other big cat species is demonstrating the value of previously disregarded lineages. While this option is not available for all species yet, the science is rapidly advancing to cover an even greater number each year. There is a lack of cohesive understanding of the collective value of these undocumented genetic lines - housed within and outside of accredited institutions - meaning that decisions regarding conservation must be carefully considered and involve inclusive thinking to maximize conservation breeding options. Animals from entities that may seem unlikely to contribute genetic value could, in fact, represent a critical addition to an existing or needed coordinated breeding effort.

The short summary of status of most of the feline species managed under AZA's Species Survival Plans (SSP) reported during the most recent AZA Felid TAG meeting reveals the following:

Three tiger subspecies are maintained in captivity; the Amur, the Sumatran, and the Malayan (formerly known as the Indo-Chinese). Cage space also holds generic tigers which are being managed into extinction through a ban on breeding and new acquisitions, reducing 114 individuals in 2010, to just 124 generic tigers in 2016. The Amur is the oldest SSP under AZA management and its population is decreasing. In 2010, there were 145 of this subspecies; now there are just 124 Amur tigers. The Sumatran tiger SSP is much younger, and is still increasing from 61 individuals in 2010, to 97 in 2016. And the Malayan tiger population has grown from 50 animals in 2010, to 64 in 2016.

Jaguars are a combination of generic (animals with no pedigrees, or mixed subspecies origin) and sub-species pure animals. In 2010, there are 105 jaguars, but only 40 were part of the deliberate breeding program, the rest



AZA boasts a healthy population of cheetahs, in part due to imports from DeWildt in South Africa. This cheetah, Charlie, lives at Panther Ridge Conservation Center, in Wellington, Florida. Photo by Jamie Thody.

were either too old, or genetically redundant, or of unknown or mixed species origin. Today, the population of jaguars in AZA zoos number 80.

Snow leopards are allotted more cage spaces, 154 are in the 2016 inventory, up from 141 in

2010.

Cheetahs are the largest population of all the big cat species, with 294 living at AZA facilities. This is an increase from the 2010 total of 259.

Pumas are not bred in AZA zoos, but are brought in from state wildlife agencies when wild animals are orphaned. Right now there are 133 in AZA zoos, up from 123 in 2010.

An aggressive importation and breeding program has brought the highly inbred clouded leopard population up considerably in the past six years. In 2010, just 65 of these rare cats were exhibited by AZA. Today there are 98.

In the small cats managed by AZA, there are far fewer cage spaces provided for each species. Servals number 107, up from 96 in 2010. Fishing cats are holding their own, with just a single animal increase since the 2010 inventory of 35. Pallas's cats are down from 47 in 2010, to just 33 in 2016. Black-footed cats numbered 43 in 2010, and 47 today. Canada lynx have seen a big jump in their numbers, from 48 in 2010, to 88 in 2016. Sand cats number 30, increased by only one since 2010.



The AZA jaguar population is decreasing as the breeding of generic cats is suppressed in an effort to convert the population to pedigreed jaguars. This jaguar lives at ZAA-accredited Catoctin Zoo, in Thurmont, Maryland. Photo by Kelly Hahn Johnson.



The AZA snow leopard population is stable, with 154 living in this organization's zoo system. Marishka is a five month old snow leopard cub that lives at the Sloth Center, in Rainier, Oregon. Photo by Raegan Royale.



Jameson the bobcat, with owners Jay and Julie Mastalski, enjoys the wintery weather. Photo by Susan Hennessey.



Fishing cat Tiberious hisses at the camera woman at Frenchak Farms Zoological Conservatory in Madisonville, Texas. Photo by Courtney Frenchak.



Beautiful blue-eyed serval Raja lives at Midwest Mysticals in Owen, Wisconsin. Photo by Debi Johnson.

Your Best Shots

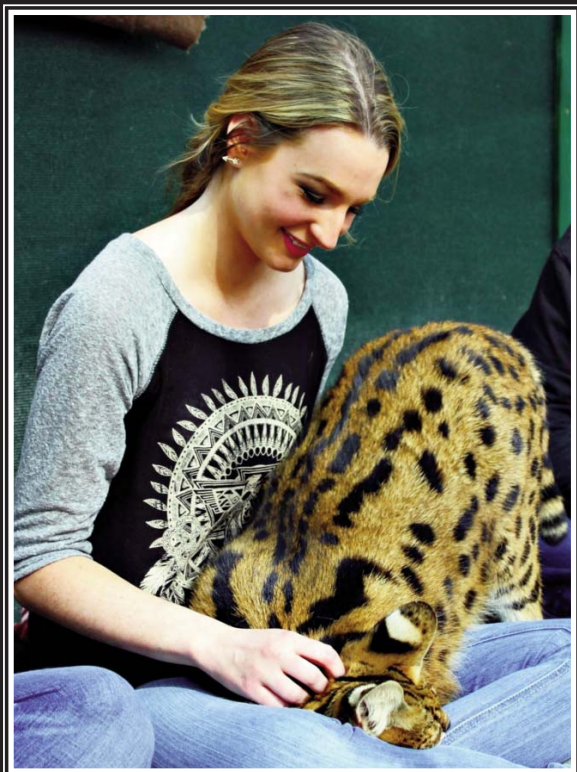


Six month old Eurasian lynx, Cydney, cools off in a water puddle. Photo by Phil Cooper.

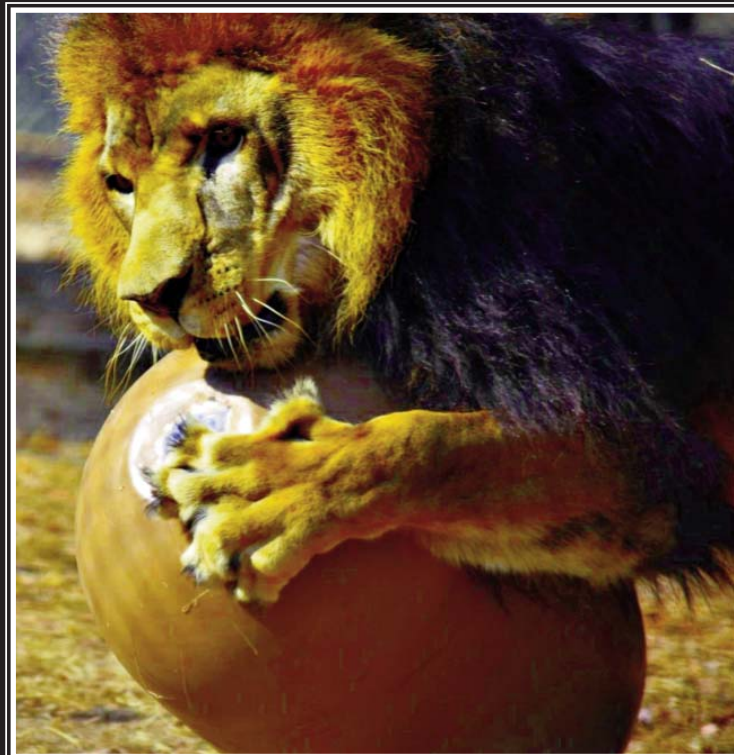


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Bear Creek Feline Center in Panama City, FL, is a popular tourist destination where visitors can interact with friendly servals like this one named Aza. Photo by Jim Broadus.



Furry lion playing with new weeble toy at Tigers for Tomorrow, at Untamed Mountain in Attalla, Alabama. Photo by Don Knapp.



Big bold spotting on Kahlee serval. This young feline lives at High Desert Exotics, in Redmond, Oregon. Photo by Katie Crane.



Panther Ridge Conservation Center in Wellington, Florida, has a new resident, Meeka the cougar. Photo by Jamie Thody.

2016 WCN Small Cat Conservation Foundation Presentation

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

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, at the stunning San Francisco residence of Susan Janin, the founder of the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, Dr. Jim Sanderson, and the founders of the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, Rob and Barbara Dicely, offered a presentation focusing on the conservation of small wild felids around the world. Dr. Sanderson presented a summary of the extremely precarious situation surrounding many of the less charismatic smaller cats that, compared to the more spectacular, larger felines, receive disproportionately little attention from the press and even from conservationists. There was also a discussion of the vagaries of raising funds for small cat conservation in a universe strongly biased toward the conservation of large cats.

As many of you know, Jim Sanderson is a former board member of the FCF and continues to work with the FCF on small cat conservation issues. While Jim presents his knowledge to audiences several times each year, fundraising events are rare. This event was sanctioned by the Wildlife Conservation Network.

The Wildlife Conservation Network has been around since 2002, providing direct funding to conservation-oriented scientists who focus on community-based approach-

es to wildlife conservation. WCN has some 14 primary projects, including the Niassa Lion Project, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and the Small Cat Conservation Foundation.

Jim Sanderson founded the Small Cat Conservation Foundation in 2009, when he left a successful career at the Los Alamos National Laboratories as a gifted scientist working in the symbolic world of mathematics to concentrate on the very real world of feline conservation. Jim first focused his attention on the Andean mountain cat of South America. Over time, his focus expanded to include the conservation of many of the over 30 species of small wild felids.

At this year's presentation, Jim concentrated his attention on the discrepancy between the funding of conservation efforts directed toward large cats versus those directed toward small cats. He noted, for example, that Panthera, the feline conservation organization founded by jaguar conservationist Allen Rabinowitz, raised nearly \$700,000 in 2007, for conservation projects involving tigers, lions, jaguars, cougars, leopards, snow leopards, and cheetahs. Within a few years, for the same species, the funding level had risen to over \$3,000,000. In 2009, the



Chachi, an ocelot, walks down the carpeted post head-first, hanging on with the aid of highly flexible rear ankle joints.

Species Conservation Fund was established with an endowment of over \$30,000,000 by the crown prince of Abu Dhabi. Alternately, the first small cat con-



Guarani is the smallest wild cat presented. This tiny female is only about six pounds and needs some reassurance from her handler, Rob Dicely, to venture out of the protection of her carrier.



Bondhu, an adult male fishing cat, is very food motivated. In fact, he's helping himself to some chunks of meat out of Rob's treat pouch.

servation project that Jim requested funding for was supported at an initial level of \$20,000. Over the past few years, over 99.2% of all funding has been directed toward research on the conservation of large and medium-sized cats. Only 0.78% is dedicated to the conservation of small cats. Jim believes that conservation organizations should diversify their funding of conservation research projects to stimulate the initiation of new research projects involving under-represented species, such as small cats. He maintains that if individuals are dissatisfied with this current state of affairs, they should inaugurate their own research and then should seek funding to support it.

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

In captivity, the problems confronting small cats are equally daunting. The small cats are obviously less charismatic than the large cats. Small cats, because of their size, are typically more reclusive than larger cats. They are seldom considered desirable species to maintain on display by most AZA facilities. Consequently, the AZA is quietly "managing the captive populations of small cats into extinction." For example, the AZA will vociferously argue against the buying or selling of these species by any but AZA-accredited institutions, while simultaneously doing little to enhance the likelihood of their continued survival in either zoos or in nature.

While Jim is a wonderful speaker and a valuable colleague, he was soundly upstaged by what followed his presentation.

Rob and Barbara Dicely, the founders of the Wildcat Education and Conserva-



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

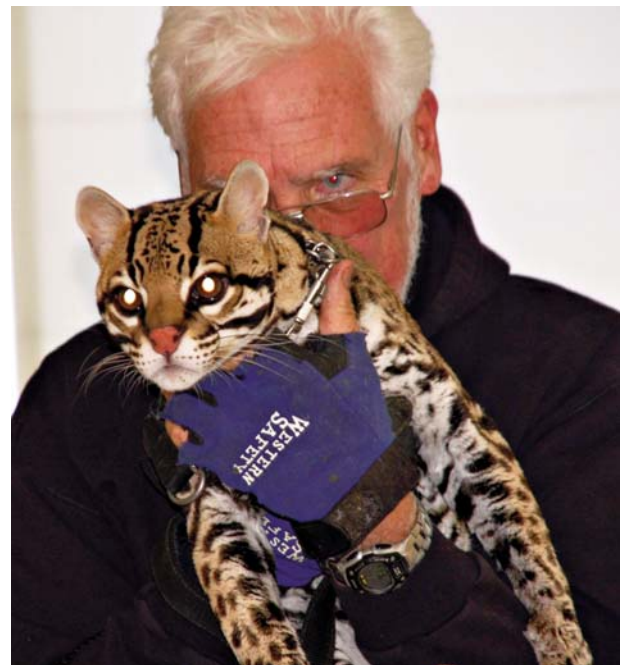
tion Fund, followed Jim with the presentation of three living wild cats. As with most FCF facilities, the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund is nominally licensed as an educational outreach and conservation organization. When their cats are brought to school assemblies, students are surprised to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

All of the Dicelys' cats are captive-born and are usually received by the Dicelys at the age of around five weeks so that they can be maximally socialized for use in outreach programs. They first introduced Chachi, a four-year-old, 20-pound ocelot. These medium-sized cats are found throughout Mexico and in Central and South America. Interestingly, of all of the cats, they have a specially adapted joint in their hind foot that enables them to rotate it to

such a degree that they can climb down from trees while facing downward. Ocelots were one of the most heavily impacted cats from the trade in skins for spotted cats. It takes over 100 prime pelts to make a custom fur coat from ocelots. They are rare in captivity today. Ocelots are important in the history of the FCF, since at one time it was called the Long Island Ocelot Club. According to Barbara, Chachi is essentially evil in the way of all cats.

The second cat to be presented was a diminutive Geoffroy's cat named Guarani. She was obtained at five weeks of age and has grown to a staggering six pounds. This is a very reactive, rapidly moving cat. If you blink, you miss much. Their shyness and secretive nature make them somewhat difficult to use as outreach animals. Geoffroy's cats, incidentally, were also exploited for their fur. It requires over 30 Geoffroy's cat pelts to make a small shawl.

The third cat presented was Bondhu, a fishing cat. In fact, Bondhu is probably the only fishing cat being used in outreach programs in the United States. Bondhu is three years old, and he weighs about 25 pounds. Of all of the cats, Bondhu has the most striking aroma. Fishing cats are found in many of the mangrove marshes of Southeast Asia, which are being rapidly displaced by palm plantations for the pro-



Rob Dicely and the cats helped raise awareness and much needed funds for the Small Wild Cat Foundation.

duction of palm oil. If any of you know Jim Sanderson, you know that one of his missions in life is to inform people about the damage being done to wildlife, especially fishing cats, by the expansion of palm oil plantations. The ocelot and the Geoffroy's cat are nominally protected under the CITES convention. This does not prevent their furs from showing up in the show rooms of some very well-known furriers.

In South America, small spotted cats are believed to embody evil spirits. When they are spotted by the members of many

indigenous tribes, they are stoned to death. Rob and Barbara, along with others, have taken it upon themselves to introduce these small cats to representatives of indigenous tribes so that their members can develop an appreciation for living small, spotted cats.

After the cats left the stage, Jim was awarded several conservation grants. The Feline Conservation Federation awarded him a grant of \$5,000. I also presented him with an additional \$500.

As those of you who live with cats know, large or small, wild or domestic,

being with cats is a real challenge, but also very rewarding. It must be; in a few short conversations with Jim and then with Rob and Barbara, it became clear that no one is getting wealthy working for and living with wild cats. Unfortunately, it appears that there is still more money to be made in ending their lives than in preserving them. Even still, with such dedicated individuals such as Jim, Rob, and Barbara, and with the support of the Wildlife Conservation Network and the Feline Conservation Federation, hope springs eternal.

Liberty Has Victory in Indiana

By Doug Kildsig

Photography by Darryn Wheeler (9-19-16)

It was September 17, 2014, 8:50am CST, that my beloved IMOS died in my arms. She had succumbed to a deadly untreatable anemic condition, the cause of which was never discovered. It was at this point I came to realize how important and instrumental IMOS had become as a part of my life. The grief was overwhelming, as I planned the memorial stone to mark her gravesite, inside her enclosure. By November of the same year, I was exploring the possibility of visiting other FCF members and their cats, and coined the trip the "Kissing Kitties On the Lips Trip." After some exploration in conversation with Lynn Culver, FCF Executive Director, about when I might visit her and Bart in Arkansas, and who else I might visit, I arrived at a two-week travel plan to visit not only Lynn and Bart, but also FCF members Bobby and Leah Afill in Oklahoma. The trip turned out great, and I got to experience some excellent contact with lynx, bobcat, and cougar, as well as receive the generous fellowship of Lynn, Bart, Bobby, and Leah. Thanks to all who hosted me on my trip; it was very helpful for

me to get past the loss of IMOS.

By December 2014, I had placed an order for a male North American bobcat kitten and was told I was on a tentative wait list. I remained hopeful and pressed on with daily life and faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. To my surprise, my baby boy, LIBERTY, became available as early as June 2015. And, as the title of this article suggests, Indiana had recently been pressed to remove their governance and statutory regulation of

wild animals as pets, so Liberty was able to be adopted into my home without any governmental oversight. Thank God! The name "LIBERTY" was determined from the scripture reference and words of hope on IMOS's memorial stone, but does have multiple meanings, since I am a sincere advocate of the American view of government being as our Declaration of Independence makes clear, "...to secure the liberties endowed by our Creator God..." No more, no less. Indiana,



Little Liberty has big paw prints to fill. Here the tiny bobcat visits the grave of IMOS, Doug Kildsig's long-time companion bobcat who passed away in 2014.

unfortunately, has returned to statutory regulation of wild animals as pets, albeit statutes which are some of the more reasonable and rational in contrast to some of the other states. I have included my scripture reference for your hope and encouragement, as it provides me the same. Please also see the kitten photo of Liberty at IMOS's memorial stone/gravesite in what

is now his enclosure.

Romans 8, King James Version (KJV)
20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

So, in making a long story reasonably short for your enjoyment in the *FCF Journal*, Liberty and I are doing GREAT! He is a larger sub-species, same as IMOS was, *Lynx rufus superiorensis*. This sub-species also sports large foot structure and beautiful markings. I feel blessed in every way, as Liberty has brought tremendous joy to my life, and to the many visitors he receives on a regular basis. He is well socialized, as was IMOS, and enjoys all human companionship and company, and in fact he craves it! He and I look forward to many years together, and I look forward to updating you with periodic photos and written updates.



Liberty, at about 17 months of age, September 2016.

Justice for Tiger Ridge Finally Prevails!

By Lynn Culver

On November 21, 2016, Judge Reve Kelsey ordered David T. Daniels, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, to issue appellant Kenneth Hetrick a rescue facility permit and return all of Kenneth Hetrick's dangerous, wild animals before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. Further, the Ohio Department of Agriculture is responsible for all costs incurred in the care, confinement, and transportation of Kenneth Hetrick's dangerous, wild animals from January 28, 2015, until the date they are returned to Mr. Hetrick's possession.

This is the long awaited ruling for justice for Tiger Ridge, however it is not the end of the story, as the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has already indicated they will appeal Judge Kelsey's decision to the Court of Appeals, and will also file a motion delaying the ordered movement of the animals until the appeals process is resolved. ODA cites a previous ruling by the Ohio Supreme Court that acknowledged the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture as having sole authority in determining DWA issues, as specified by Ohio Revised Code.

This case resolves around Mr. Hetrick's application for a rescue permit. The court found that his permit would be for a new rescue facility, since no evidence was introduced into court that Tiger Ridge, as it existed, met the requirements in the definition of a rescue facility (must be a federally tax-exempt organization that does not engage in breeding, commerce of wildlife, or allow public contact). In the state law, a new rescue facility can come into operation. This is an important point; one only had to apply for the rescue permit 60 days before beginning operation. And the court found no statutory authority for the proposition that a person who possessed registered DWA in Ohio, on January 1, 2014, is barred from applying for and receiving a rescue facility permit at any time thereafter.

Most facilities in Ohio applied for another type of permit – the animal shelter permit, which allowed possession of already existing animals, and which was only being issued to persons who registered their animals prior to October 1, 2013. Most dangerous, wild animal own-

ers in Ohio did not apply for their permits by the January 1, 2014, deadline, but ODA allowed them to apply late and receive permits and then come into caging and regulatory compliance months later.

The Hetrick case resolves around two issues – due process and equal protection. State laws must be applicable to all persons under like circumstances and not subject people to an arbitrary exercise of power. To prevail, some element of purposeful or intentional discrimination must be shown. The court found that Kenny Hetrick's application was treated differently than others.

First, the ODA granted some permit applications filed after January 1, 2014, but denied Mr. Hetrick's. As late as October 17, 2014, the ODA is on record as being committed to working with Ohio's DWA owners to bring them into compliance with the law. The court found the whole process by which the ODA evaluated Mr. Hetrick's application was very disingenuous. Other animal holding facilities were not inspected until months after being granted a license and many were not in compliance with regulations for up to a year or longer. Mr. Hetrick was subjected to a pre-licensing inspection in November 2014. Following this inspection, David Daniel, Director of the ODA, made several material misrepresentations to this court on January 28, 2015, when it sought the warrant to search Mr. Hetrick's facility. The ODA represented to this court that Mr. Hetrick kept his animals in small, cramped areas when they were actually in cages at least twice the required square footage. The ODA represented to this court that Mr. Hetrick had not cooperated "from day one" when he had registered his animals, filed for the rescue facility permit, and permitted the ODA to inspect his facility and animals on November 7, 2014. "Fresh water available to the animals" became "green-colored with debris present." "Fresh-smelling meat" became

meat with a "pungent odor," indicating it was "spoiled." Some easy fixes to bring Mr. Hetrick's facility into regulatory compliance became "significant safety concerns regarding the construction of the facility and the ability to prevent the escape of the animals."



Kenny Hetrick at Tiger Ridge before the unlawful seizure, with his lion, Leo, who passed away under the "care" of the ODA.

The court found the November 7th inspection was, in reality, a scouting expedition so the ODA could be prepared to seize and confiscate Mr. Hetrick's animals on January 28, 2015. Further, the court asks, "If the ODA was in good faith evaluating Mr. Hetrick's rescue facility application, why did it confiscate his animals prior to Director Daniel's final decision on August 14, 2014?"

The court found that ODA purposefully and intentionally discriminated against Mr. Hetrick when it denied his rescue facility permit application, noting that the ODA looked at Mr. Hetrick with "an evil eye and an unequal hand."

UPDATE: On November 23rd, the 6th District Court of Appeals granted a stay and agreed to hear ODA's appeal of the Woods County decision. Tiger Ridge animals will remain at the three out-of-state facilities until the court has had a chance to rule on the record.

Fall 2016 Wildlife Conservation EXPO

By Chris Tromborg, Ph.D.
Photos by Julie McNamara

On October 8, 2016, the Wildlife Conservation Network held its annual WCN EXPO at the Mission Bay Conference Center of the University of California, in San Francisco, California. Over 70 conservation organizations were represented, with many of them maintaining exhibits, one of which was the Feline Conservation Federation.

There were also over 30 well-known speakers, including cheetah biologist Laurie Marker, small cat biologist James Sanderson, African lion biologist Colleen Beggs, Andean cat biologist Rocio Palacios, and many other conservation biologists, including a respectable number of feline conservation biologists.

The Feline Conservation Federation

Director Lynn Cullens, MLF Development Officer Erin Hauge, and long-term MLF volunteer Kathryn Klar. In fact, the FCF exhibit was in between the Mountain Lion Foundation exhibit and the Felidae Fund exhibit, not the worst company in the world to have.

This was the most well



Dr. Chris Tromborg stands by the table set up for the FCF at the Wildlife Conservation Network annual expo in Sacramento, California.



Specially trained Anatolian shepherds are donated to herders to protect livestock in Africa from predation by cheetahs and leopards.

was represented by FCF board member Chris Tromborg, and FCF volunteers Sherilyn Dance and Julie McNamara.

The FCF exhibit featured informational materials representing FCF member organizations, including Safari West, the Endangered Feline Conservation Center (EFBC-EFCC), and the Wildlife Education and Conservation Fund (WECF).

I am also a board member of the Mountain Lion Foundation, which maintained an exhibit adjacent to that of the FCF. The MLF was represented by me as an MLF board member, MLF Executive

attended EXPO in over eight years. The tickets for the event sold well to the general public. The FCF experienced one of its most interactive EXPO events ever. The "Cats of the World" supplement that was included as an insert in the *FCF Journal* last year was mounted and matted in a hand-

some frame and a score or more of visitors expressed interest in purchasing this poster. Even more interesting was the offer of a new artist to contribute her feline art to FCF if we would make an effort to publicize her work through our *Journal*. We sold all but one T-shirt, all of the FCF mugs, and many *FCF Journals*. Our sign-up mailing list of interested visitors contained about ten names. We

engaged in many robust discussions about the morality, practicality, and efficacy of captive feline possession and management. In general, visitors left the exhibit appearing to be thoughtful about these issues. Perhaps, with a better informed public, the future of the FCF's captive felids could be improving, even if conditions for free-living felids continue to deteriorate outside of captivity.



Chris answers questions from visitors about the FCF organization and our members.

Re-wilding Center in South Africa Suffers Death of Senior Supervisor by one of the Center's Tigers

Li Quan, founding director of Save China's Tigers was one of the speakers at the 2011 FCF Convention in Orlando. Li outlined for the FCF attendees how the project started by flying zoo-raised tigers from China to South Africa, and introducing them to large habitats that also contained herds of native African hoof stock for the tigers to hunt and eat. Li left the project in 2012, after a bitter divorce with cofounder, London banker Stuart Bray, and has not been on-site since.

Edited from Africa Geographic

Vivienne McKenzie, a senior supervisor at Laohu Valley Reserve near Philippolis in the Free State, South Africa, was killed by a tiger in early October. The Laohu Valley Reserve is a roughly 350km² private reserve that was established in 2002, as a breeding center for the South China tiger. The reserve is not open to the public, as the tigers are part of a project that aims to re-wild the animals for eventual return to protected reserves in China. According to the reserve, it was necessary to put down the male tiger, known as 'Beta,' during the incident.

At this time, the exact circumstances of the incident, which occurred during routine management activities are not clear, but local authorities and the project team are conducting a thorough investigation.

A statement by Li Quan, the Beijing-born former fashion executive, who estab-

lished the Chinese Tiger Re-wilding and Re-introduction Project, says, "Vivienne came to me as a complete surprise while I was looking for a tiger supervisor for the South China Tiger Rewilding Project in South Africa in 2008. She had no formal training in biology or zoology, but to me, that was actually an advantage, as what we were doing was completely unprecedented and required open-mindedness. She was keen to learn everything. The culprit was a tiger named Beta. Vivienne and I witnessed the births of Alpha and Beta by the tiger mother Cathay, who I brought from China to South Africa in 2003. I mourn the deaths of both Vivienne and Beta.

"Although I no longer have had any involvement with the South African part of the South China Tiger Project since 2012, I have continued to follow the progress of the tiger re-introduction project. We understand that China has been ready, since last year, with two state-of-the-art facilities to receive the tigers back from South Africa and has been trying to get the tigers to return back to China since then. It will be wonderful to see these South China tigers, long absent from home, and set their powerful feet back on China's soil again soon. It will be a great day of celebration."

The breeding center is part of the Save China's Tigers charity, which aims to bring the South China tiger back from the edge of extinction by taking them



Senior supervisor of Laohu Valley Reserve, Vivienne McKenzie. Photo courtesy of Africa Geographic.



Li Quan, founding director of Save China's Tigers and former FCF Convention speaker. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.

out of zoos, breeding them, letting them regain their hunting abilities, and re-introducing them back into the wild in China.

In the case of the South China tiger, there were no known South China tigers still living in nature when the project began – Chinese zoos were the only source of South China tigers, and two cubs were taken from zoos to start the breeding center in South Africa. The plan calls for those South China tigers that have successfully regained hunting skills, and are able to survive independently in large fenced habitats in South Africa, will someday be reintroduced back to China to protected reserve(s), based on the model and principles of successful African reserves.

The project is being conducted in South Africa instead of China because of land costs, an abundance of wild prey animals, and the many highly skilled wildlife managers and conservationists.



Cofounder of Save China's Tigers, Stuart Bray, at Laohu Valley Reserve. Photo courtesy of www.bloomberg.com.

Mocha – 18 Years and Still Going Strong

By Chuck Bunnel

Mocha lives in an 800 square foot compound which includes an air-conditioned building, an outdoor area that has a concrete floor and 12-foot-high steel roof, plus an outdoor pen that is all chain link with plants, grass, and a tunnel to run through or lie on.

Her air-conditioned room has tables at two feet and four feet. The four-foot table puts her at a window that opens up to my office directly next to my desk. The room has her water bowl and a “doggie” door that allows her to go to the outside areas whenever she wants. Her covered outside area has a 15-foot table four feet off the ground. Four feet above that table is an eight-foot table that she can lie on if she wants to be up high. This area also contains three more tables that connect to each other; one at two feet, one at three feet, six inches, and one at five feet. Each table is approximately six feet long. Her litter box is also kept in this area. Mocha’s final outdoor area is chain link on all four sides and top, with a chain link door going out to it from the covered area. The outdoor area has scratching posts, grass, small trees, and a concrete tunnel that she can walk through or lie on. There is also an additional litter box in the outdoor area.

We “rescued” Mocha when she was just



Chuck Bunnel and Mocha his 18 year old cougar nose to nose. The elderly feline has been fortunate to have a dedicated owner who has seen to all her needs throughout her long life.

eight weeks old. A young guy had purchased her from a zoo at six weeks old, and, for two weeks, was feeding her soft cat food from a can. After just two weeks, he decided he did not want her, so I gave him his money and took her home. I was in the right place at the right time. My wife, Karen, thought I was crazy!

I called Doc Antle from T.I.G.E.R.S. and told him what happened. He immediately sent over some of his staff to help. After a couple of months of feeding her the proper foods, Mocha was looking healthy and strong and growing quickly. We took Mocha to Doc Antle’s compound multiple times, where we learned how to train a puma. He told us what to expect in the future and made it clear that this was a lifelong commitment, not something you get tired of after a couple of years and just quit. He made this point quite clear and repeated it multiple times, making sure we understood how involved we would have to be. He went over the (obvious) dangers of having a big cat and what would be expected of us as big cat owners regarding animal and human safety.

We also attended an FCF convention and took all of the classes the FCF offered. This was also a great experience, and we learned things that we could combine with what we learned from Doc Antle.

I would not trade Mocha or the experience of being accepted by her for anything. My wife, on the other hand, feels a little differently. For the first two years, Mocha and Karen got along great. Mocha would sleep on her lap and love all over her. However, Mocha later became a little protective of me and started snarling at Karen. Since then, Karen does not get near Mocha without a fence between them. She does feed Mocha occasionally, but can do this without any close contact.

August 12, 2016, was Mocha’s 18th birthday. She is still doing great, though much lazier than when she was 12 years old. She is still very affectionate to me, and still hisses and snarls at Karen.

During Hurricane Matthew, we brought Mocha to our house and she stayed in the garage and laundry room for two days. She seemed quite content just having me near her and did not seem stressed about the change of scenery.

I am honored every day that I get to see that beautiful puma face and hear her purr. I find it amazing that she allows me to sit with her, rub on her, and that she gives me puma kisses. What a great experience that only we big cat owners can understand.



In addition to an outdoor area, Mocha has access to an indoor room where a four-foot table puts Mocha at a window that opens up to Chuck’s office directly next to his desk.

Hurricane Disaster Plans

By Kylie Reynolds

Last week, Hurricane Matthew was projected to hit Florida, as a Category 4 storm and leave a wake of destruction in its path. Wild Florida, a wildlife park located an hour west of Melbourne, Florida, was in immediate danger. After watching the forecast and tracking the storm, I realized that we would have to enact our disaster plan in anticipation of the storm.

Every organization should have a disaster plan. A disaster plan is a detailed set of procedures that outlines what needs to be done in the face of a catastrophic event. When writing Wild Florida's disaster plan, I realized that it would be an important document in case of emergency. I also hoped that we would never have to use it. Unfortunately, Hurricane Matthew put our disaster plan to the test.

I was aware that Hurricane Matthew posed a danger to Wild Florida. I did not, however, realize how big a threat the hurricane was until I received an email from our local Florida Fish and Wildlife officer two days before the storm was supposed to hit. In the email, the officer stated that if he did not hear from us after the storm, he would assume the worst and make a visit to the park. If this occurred, he would inspect the facility and help us rebuild in any way possible. This email resonated with me and set our disaster plan into motion.

To start the plan, the owners of Wild Florida compiled a list of emergency supplies that we needed and set out to get the goods. This list included additional animal crates to ensure that all of our animals had shelter during the storm. With the

owners stocking up our supplies, the Animal Care Team began doing their part of the disaster plan. The main objective of this team was to secure the close to 50 exotic animals on the property, including three bobcats, and two servals.

When discussing how to secure the animals, we considered the wind force of the hurricane and the limits of our exhibits. Hurricane Matthew was a slow moving storm and Wild Florida was directly in its path. The storm was projected to have winds that were over 100 miles per hour and our exhibits were built to withstand wind speeds up to 120 miles per hour. This was encouraging, but we knew that the trees around the exhibits may not be able to endure those winds. This is why one of our major concerns for the storm was structural damage to the exhibits from trees and other debris. With this in mind, we made the decisions to crate all of our animals and move them into an interior room of Wild Florida's large event building. With our plan in place on how to secure the animals and where to house them during the storm, we turned our attention to the other dangers that could accompany the storm.

Hurricanes often bring power outages and the loss of running water with them. To combat these potential life threatening events, the Wild Florida staff located animal water troughs and filled them with fresh water. These troughs were able to store enough water to sustain the park for the next two weeks, if needed. In addition to storing water, we had a generator ready to keep the freezers and refrigerators running in the case of a power outage.

The day before Hurricane Matthew was to hit Wild Florida, the Animal Care Team began to execute our plan of crating the animals. At Wild Florida, crate training is part of our Husbandry Program. This training allowed the animals to feel safe and secure in their crates as well as reduced their stress levels. When determining the order in which we should crate the animals, the team decided that the sloths would be first since they can sleep and be comfortable just

about anywhere. The primates and cats were the last animals we crated and secured inside.

Obviously, crating animals is not an ideal situation, but it was the safest. By crating them and securing them inside, we reduced the stress on the animals as much as possible and protected them from the treacherous weather conditions. Once the animals were safe and the emergency supplies were gathered, all we could do was wait for the storm to pass and hope for the best.

When the storm finally arrived, it hit the hardest between three and six in the morning. The entire county was on orders to stay indoors for over 24-hours. During this mandate, I spent my time envisioning the damage that might be done to the exhibits and formulating a plan on which animals could be housed together and what temporary housing we could use while exhibits were being fixed.

Luckily, Hurricane Matthew took a wobbly turn to the right before it made landfall and saved Wild Florida from sustaining tremendous damage. When I arrived at the park the day following the storm, I was thankful that we had not sustained any structural damage to exhibits. Half the park did not have power, but we still had running water. After doing the initial assessment, the Animal Care Team was deployed again to get the animals out of their crates and into their exhibits as quickly as possible. All the animals, except the ringtail lemurs, seemed to be happy to be back outside. The lemurs seemed to hold a grudge toward us for keeping them inside for a day. Little did the lemurs know that we saved them from a very wet and miserable time.

Looking back on Hurricane Matthew, we were extremely fortunate that we did not sustain serious damage. Not only this, but the hurricane provided us with a learning opportunity. We were able to learn how to execute our disaster plan, learn from bumps in the road, and we discovered that we could handle a potentially devastating situation. Having to enact our disaster plan is not something I wish for again, but knowing that it is there makes me confident that we can handle another natural disaster. Having a plan in writing is important, but being able to implement the plan is what saves our animals' lives.



Photo courtesy of www.people.com.

How-To Guide for Lobbying Your Governmental Officials

Adapted by Kevin Chambers from Indiana Farm Bureau Newsletter

Do Your Homework - Know Who You Are Talking To

Make attempts to understand the basis for their positions. Among the factors to consider are the officials':

- Record on related legislation and/or votes; be aware of any prior commitment to your cause.
- Party, position, and tenure in legislative and political power structure.
- Constituent pressure from all sides of the issue.
- General predispositions.
- Responsiveness to constituent outreach (for example, preferences for in-person meetings vs. electronic communication).

Following these guidelines will demonstrate that you are objective and able to deal sympathetically with the concerns of both sides of the issue.

Know Your Organization

When you are speaking on behalf of the FCF, or any other group, you will want to be a credible representative. Be fairly aware of the FCF's positions as well as the relationships we maintain with other organizations and governmental agencies.

Know Your Issue

Phrase the argument in your own words. No one can be expected to address every question or matter of concern regarding an issue, and there is nothing wrong with admitting when you don't have specific knowledge on a particular point. You'll enhance your value to the official, though, if you find the requested information and report back.

Know Your Opposition

Anticipate the opposition and address their arguments before they surface publicly.

Know Yourself

Be aware of your own personal prejudices and biases in order to maintain objectivity by anticipating your own response in a given situation.

Options for Communicating With Officials

1. In-person visits
 - Most effective method for getting your opinions heard.
 - Allows you and the official to connect names with faces.
 - Establishes you as a known, concerned constituent.
2. Timely and effective phone calls
 - Remind the official of any previous contact.
 - Leave a message. Be brief and specific and be sure to leave your name, address, and phone number.
 - Make sure you call at a strategic time; just before a vote or immediately following government action in support of your cause.
3. Letter or email
 - Introduce yourself as a constituent if you are one. Constituents carry more weight than non-residents.
 - Within the first paragraph, specify what action you want taken. If possible, refer to bills by name or number, but focus on the issues.
 - Briefly explain the issue and how it affects you, your community, your job, and your family. Be clear, but respectful.

times not as effective as an actual letter.

- Avoid form emails as they often go ignored and are not looked on with favor.

4. Social media

- Twitter, Facebook, action alerts, and other social media platforms allow new features for advocacy from interested individuals

5. Other ways to make your voice heard

- Letters-to-the-editor
- Opinion piece (also known as "op-ed")
- Radio call in shows
- Contacting television stations
- Distributing action flyers
- Reaching out to other organizations

Do's And Don't's Of Lobbying

Do:

- Work to establish a relationship that goes beyond specific issues.
- Remember that your actions reflect on all feline and exotic animal owners.
- Know what your issues are, and make them clear.
- Check in with staff or elected official by predetermined means and arrive on time.
- Use your own words and tell your own story; be brief, concise, and explicit.
- Be courteous and respectful. Use deference.
- Recognize that lobbying is an exchange of information, not a debate. Be reasonable.
- Understand the political and legislative tone at the time of your visit.
- You don't have to be an expert. If you are asked something you don't know, offer to follow up by phone or email.
- Be confident and well composed.
- Dress appropriately.
- End the meeting knowing the next steps, and be sure to follow up. Also, be sure to exchange contact information.

Don't:

- Begin with "as a citizen and taxpayer..." We all pay taxes, so think more about your role as someone with an intense interest in wild felids.
- Read word for word off of note cards or a list of talking points.
- Argue or ignore the opinion of the official or staff.



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- Include your name, address, email address, and telephone number. Including your home address is important because it identifies you as a constituent.

- Keep it short; three or four paragraphs and less than 300 words.
- Email can be effective, but it is some-

Lynette Lyon Brings Nahndi the Serval to Chris Tromborg's Classroom

By Chris Tromborg

On October 21, 2016, several exotic African animals, including Nahndi, a two-year-old serval, Kiwanja, a fennec fox, Darwin, an 11-month-old galago, and Sir Lancelot, a diminutive Palawan porcupine, were brought to the Davis Center of Sacramento City College, under the auspices of Dr. Chris Tromborg's Animal Behavior and Cognition class and with the support of the Animal Behavior and Conservation Alliance student club.

The animals were with their friend and handler, Lynette Lyon, of Lyon Ranch Therapy Animals. The Lyon Ranch, an FCF member organization, employs many species of exotic, native, domestic, and wild animals as animal ambassadors in various educational outreach programs in California's classrooms, and in a novel approach to animal-assisted therapy at some of Northern California's assisted living and medical facilities. Most of the animals at the ranch are rescued from private owners who can no longer care for

them or from failing facilities. Outreach animals are hand-reared beginning at as early an age as is possible and socialized to be around humans. Many are even socialized to be around some nonhumans, including domestic cats. The animals that Lynette brings to classrooms and hospitals are often so well socialized that they can be tactually interacted with by the audience.

The reason for the presentation of the animals to the Animal Behavior and Cognition class was to illustrate their effectiveness at generating an interest in animal-related issues, including conservation and welfare as a component of the course focusing on interactions between human and nonhuman animals. Sometimes, students are so powerfully moved by these presentations of live ani-



Nahndi the serval was one of several hand-raised wildlife ambassadors presented by Lynette Lyon to students of Dr. Chris Tromborg's Animal Behavior and Cognition class at the Davis Center of Sacramento City College.




mals, that they seek further information about captive felines through the FCF website.

As usual, the favorite animal introduced to the class was Nahndi, the docile, yet outgoing serval. Always cooperative, Nahndi allowed himself to be respectfully and tactually greeted by his public. Always thoughtful, he then provided a urine sample that was later employed in an enrichment experiment with a colony of domestic cats being supported by the author. Of course, each time Lynette brings Nahndi into my classroom, she has to check my pockets for him before she leaves.



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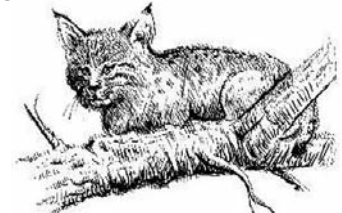
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The Logic of Captivity

By Nicole Maxene Price

Introduction

After recent tragedies in zoos were sensationalized in the media during 2016, support for animals in captivity in America has reached an all-time low. Many people do not see the value of captive animals, and believe that all animals should be kept in the wild. Conservation can be implemented in the wild and in captivity; but the public's support is crucial for both methods to be successful. Wanting animals to succeed in the wild is a great ideal, however, human influence is causing animal populations in the wild to decline at an alarming, irreversible rate. Habitat destruction, poaching, and inadequate government protection plans point to a bleak outcome for struggling wild populations. With an end goal of preserving animal species, I propose a series of questions to resolve the philosophical issue of conservation in captivity being eliminated in favor of on-the-ground conservation alone. In my line of questioning, I will use the example of wild tiger populations.

When it comes to species preservation, it is more than just a numbers game. Diversity is the key issue in sustaining a thriving population. **Can we increase genetic diversity in the wild at a realistic rate to maintain current genetic diversity without the use of captive tiger populations?**

Research by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment has concluded that, "...for tiger populations to maintain their current genetic diversity 150 years from now, the tiger population would have to expand to about 98,000 individuals if gene flow across species were delayed 25 years. By comparison, the population would need to grow to about 60,000 if

gene flow were achieved immediately." The ability to maintain and increase diversity in the wild without significant human intervention is not only unrealistic, but, at this point, impossible within the time window. The habitats of tigers have been divided by large populations of humans, creating isolated genetic pools. The wild is simply not as connected as it once was.

Is there enough genetic diversity in captivity to preserve the species?

Dr. Brian Davis, founder of the American Captive Exotic Feline Repository, has said, "Genome studies have shown that the American population of big cats is significantly more genetically diverse than wild populations." With "19% of all mammals, 10% of all bird species having been bred in captivity, as well as 90% of all mammals, 74% of all birds added to U.S. zoo collections since 1985, being born in captivity," we can assume that other animals besides exotic cats may also fall into the same category. The Royal Society of Biological Sciences has also claimed that several studies on

historical genetic variation in exotic felines revealed that, "...despite major bottlenecks, genetic variation is often comparable between modern and historical samples." With proactive genome mapping of current captive species, we can also successfully prevent further allele fall-out and genetic drift by recording genetic structures in the current captive populations and eliminate breeding on incompatible and related pairs. All of this research combined points to a limited, yet positive, outlook on the viability of captive populations to sustain certain species.

Can captive populations be successfully re-introduced into the wild?

Though translocation and reintroduction programs on a whole do not



In 2005, the Iberian lynx specie's future depended on a captive breeding program, co-coordinated between the Spanish and Andalusian governments. Two lynx in a municipal zoo in Jerez, Southern Spain, produced these offspring in March of that year. In 2016, around 20 captive-born Iberian lynx were released in Spain and Portugal in the latest phase of the reintroduction program.

presently have a high success rate, the successes they have had indicate that with time, re-introduction husbandry can be improved to achieve desirable outcomes. Introduction programs for specific subspecies, such as the South China tiger, have seen major success recently. Dr. Igor Chestin of World Wildlife Federation (WWF) related, "We've gone from around 50 to 110 since 2002.... It's safe to say it's [Southern China tiger] the only subspecies that has doubled, which makes a major contribution to the global aim of doubling the population by 2022." Reintroduction has its many challenges, including but not limited to increasing habitat and range, prey, and protection of wild areas. Fortunately, there has been indication that, as conservation on the ground improves, the rate of successful reintroduction of captive species will increase.

Conclusion

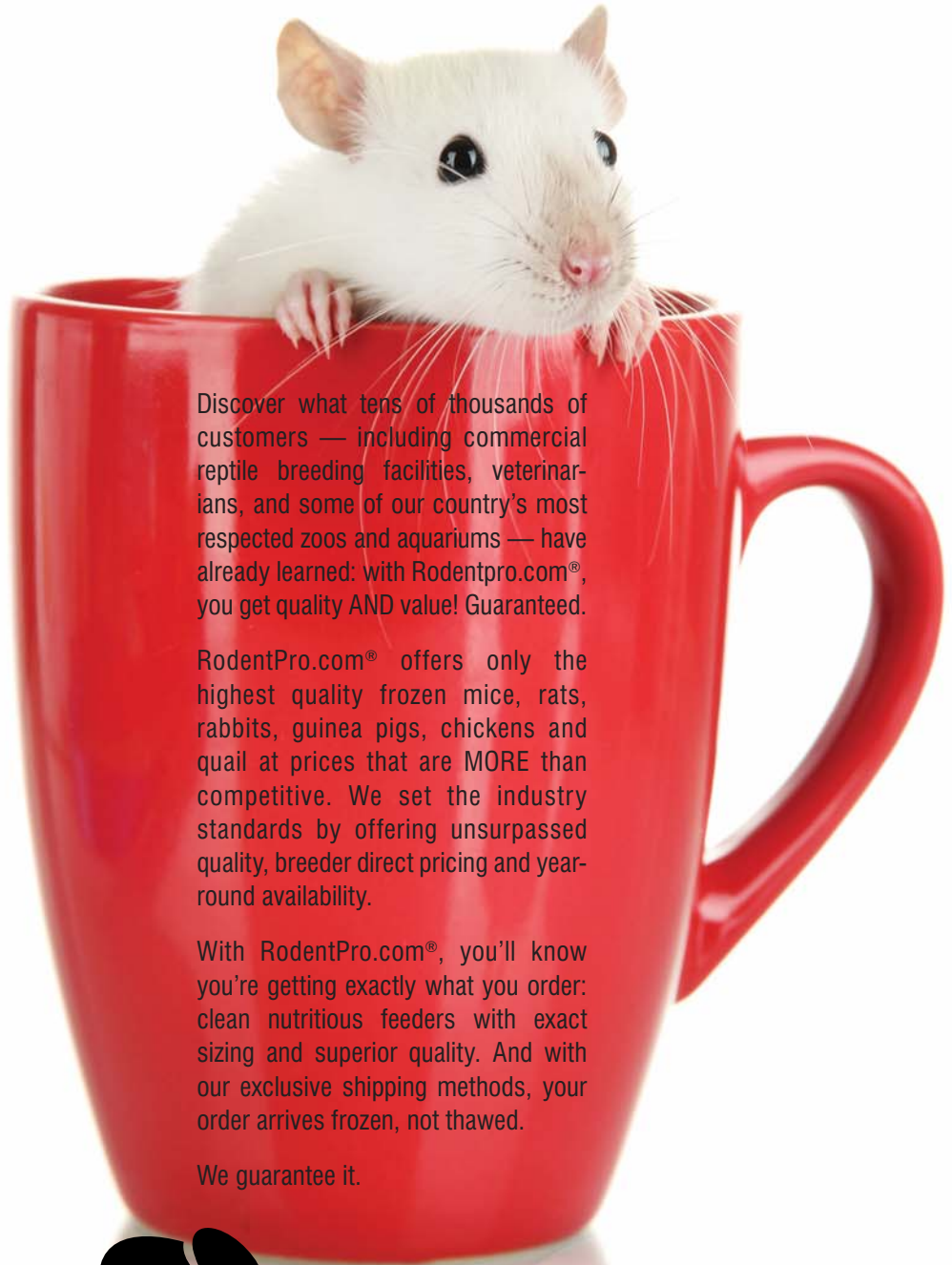
In conclusion, we need both captive conservation efforts and on-the-ground conservation to work together to prevent species extinction in the wild. There is not enough genetic diversity in wild populations of tigers. Re-introduction of more genetically diverse captive animals into the wild will not be successful unless on-the-ground efforts are made to ensure their safety and viability once re-introduced. We need the support of the public on BOTH fronts to ensure the continuation of this species.



The Amur leopard is probably the only large cat for which a reintroduction program using zoo stock is considered a necessary conservation action with some prospect of taking place in the near future. Photo of Catoctin Zoo's Amur leopard by Kelly Hahn Johnson.

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Cricket Hollow Zoo Files Appeal of District Court Ruling from February 2016

The lawsuit against the Cricket Hollow Zoo was reported in the May/June 2015 Journal and again in the May/June 2016 Journal. The suit has been litigated in district court and was ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs. The Sellners' have appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

This case is important to the animal community as it is the first time a lawsuit against a USDA-licensed facility has been brought by an animal rights organization alleging AWA violations are evidence of violations of the Endangered Species Act.

Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) has used this same cookie cutter lawsuit against other licensed animal facilities but none have been litigated in court, instead the animal facilities have acquiesced to the demands of the ALDF to avoid the expense of a protracted legal battle. The latest facility to be threatened with this kind of lawsuit is the AZA accredited member, the Houston Aquarium, for its husbandry of white tigers in an indoor exhibit. It will be interesting to see how the AZA responds to the threats of the ALDF.

Appeal brief by Larry Thorson
Edited by Lynn Culver

The Sellners' attorney filed an appeal for the U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit, asserting that plaintiffs did not have standing in the trial brief and post-trial brief and that the Cricket Hollow Zoo and the Sellners did not violate the Endangered Species Act. The plaintiffs in this case are individuals who assert that they were offended in various ways by the conditions they purportedly observed at the Cricket Hollow Zoo, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), a non-profit organization that advocates for animal welfare, asserts that the interests of its members, including the named plaintiffs, are harmed by the alleged conditions at the zoo.

In this appeal, the Sellners' attorney makes the argument that the individual plaintiffs lack standing because they adduced insufficient evidence of any imminent harm that they would avoid by the requested injunctive relief. According to the appeal, plaintiffs manufactured their exposure to the conditions at the Cricket Hollow Zoo. None of the plaintiffs

testified to any specific plans to visit the tigers and lemurs at the zoo if conditions improved, or to visit the tigers and lemurs at another facility if moved elsewhere. Plaintiffs only testified to an inchoate and speculative thought to do so. The emotional harm that plaintiffs claim to have experienced by observing the tigers and lemurs is not constitutionally sufficient.

The appeal argues that the ALDF lacks standing for two independent reasons. Firstly, it was not shown that any of the individual plaintiffs were members of ALDF at the time they suffered the alleged harm of viewing the tigers and lemurs in deficient condition. Secondly, there was no evidence demonstrating the requirements for associational standing, including evidence that any of its "members," including the individual plaintiffs, have any voting rights, including the right to elect the governing body of ALDF.

The Supreme Court has ruled the core constitutional requirement of standing is based on three elements: (1) "the plaintiff must have suffered an 'injury in fact' - an invasion of a legally protected interest which is (a) concrete and particularized and (b) 'actual' or 'imminent,' not

'conjectural' or 'hypothetical'; (2) "there must be a causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of - the injury has to be 'fairly traceable to the challenged action of the defendant, and not the result of the independent action of some third party not before the court"; and (3) "it must be 'likely,' as opposed to merely 'speculative,' that the injury will be 'redressed by a favorable decision.'"

The Sellners' attorney makes the case that if the desire to observe an animal species, even if for aesthetic purposes, is a cognizable interest for the purpose of standing, the plaintiff must demonstrate that he or she would be directly affected, and not just injured in their special interest in the subject. The plaintiffs' profession of an "intent to return to the places they had visited before" - where they will presumably, this time, be deprived of the opportunity to observe animals of the endangered species - is simply not enough. Such "someday" intentions - without any description of concrete plans, or indeed even any specifications of when the someday will be - do not support a finding of the "actual or imminent" injury that our case requires.

It is significant that all of the plaintiffs visited the Cricket Hollow Zoo for the purpose of looking for claimed violations. Thus, standing was "manufactured" by the plaintiffs. Plaintiff Lisa Kuehl first became aware of the Cricket Hollow Zoo by researching the USDA's inspection database while she was looking for direct violators of the Animal Welfare Act. Plaintiff Tracey Kuehl learned of the Cricket Hollow Zoo from her sister Lisa Kuehl. Plaintiff Nancy Harvey was also contacted by Lisa Kuehl about the zoo. Plaintiff John Braumann was contacted about the Zoo by Mindi Callison, who had visited the zoo with Lisa Kuehl. It is read-



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ily apparent from the evidence that each of the individual plaintiffs visited the Cricket Hollow Zoo as a result of Plaintiff Lisa Kuehl's search for zoos or other facilities in violation of pertinent regulations. Plaintiffs cannot manufacture standing in this way.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund proof of associational standing falls far short of the legal requirements. It does not appear from the record that ALDF's "supporters" play any role in selecting ALDF's leadership, guiding ALDF's activities, or financing those activities. The only evidence of record presented by ALDF was that some of the plaintiffs testified they were "members" of ALDF. Plaintiff Nancy Harvey testified she became a member of ALDF at the time of trial in October of 2015, months after her visits to the zoo. Plaintiff Lisa Kuehl testified she became a member of ALDF in April 2014, 15 months after her zoo visit. Ms. Harvey lacks standing for various reasons, including the fact that she never observed the tigers or the lemurs. Plaintiff Tracey Kuehl testified that she became a member of ALDF in the fall of 2013, months after her last visit to the zoo. Plaintiff John Braumann testified that he is not a member of ALDF. Thus, ALDF failed to prove that any of the individual plaintiffs were members of ALDF at the time each plaintiff visited the Cricket Hollow Zoo.

The Sellners' appeal also makes the assertion that the plaintiffs could not bring an action for violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) under the guise of an Endangered Species Act (ESA) injunctive suit, and that as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed facility, the Cricket Hollow Zoo and the Sellners were exempt from the ESA as to animals they exhibited from this type of a lawsuit. These arguments were made by the Sellners' attorney in the trial brief and post-trial brief and the district court ruled on this issue, preserving the error.

The AWA provides that a license (which the zoo has always possessed as an

exhibitor) allows the zoo to house endangered species. The ALDF position, which appears to have been adopted by the trial court, seems to negate that safe harbor and allows a trial by proxy. This was a trial where the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspectors' reports (which are simply allegations until tested by a trial, including cross-examination of the inspector) were used as evidence of violations, even though in an administrative proceeding they can be successfully contested.

Not only does this lessen the proof normally required in an administrative action and shift the burden of proof, but it also means that no institution or zoo has any safe harbor to hold endangered species. Even though there were very few allegations of any direct non-compliances (the most serious offense that requires immediate correction) - the effort put forth by the plaintiffs to attempt to interpret what the inspection reports from APHIS show with regard to the zoo and the equal effort to hide from the court inspection reports that do not allege "non-compliances" of any sort - direct or indirect (as well as the attempt to prevent the court from viewing

the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) reports that were generated from complaints by the plaintiffs because those reports are favorable to the Sellners) - exposes the weakness of their case.

Defendants supplied USDA routine inspections showing no non-compliances which range from August 6, 2008, to May 30, 2014, and IDALS inspections from April 17, 2012, to August 28, 2014, which uniformly indicate that the animals were safe and well taken care of or that Mrs. Sellner was handling any issues with animal health in the proper manner.

The claims pursued by the plaintiffs in this action have many unanswered and maybe unanswerable questions. Does a facility that has a noncompliance immediately fall out of the protective umbrella of 50 C.F.R. § 17.3, which exempts "animal husbandry practices that meet or exceed minimum standards for facilities and care under the Animal Welfare Act..."? If so, every expert that testified on behalf of the plaintiffs was from or had represented an institution that at one time or another was not in compliance with the AWA. Dr. Conrad testified the zoo she had worked with as a veterinarian had non-compliances from the USDA. Dr. Klopfer admitted that Duke University had "lots of non-compliance reports with the USDA," and David Allen admitted that Blank Park Zoo had AWA violations.

The conclusions of the District Court with regard to the violations of the standard of care for the endangered species can be reviewed for abuse of discretion because of significant weight given to improper factors in the determination that an injunction was warranted in this action. The defendants do a lot for their animals and not only they, but also Dr. Pusillo, a renowned nutritionist, have commented on how good the animals at the zoo look. The zoo has had violations over time with regard to the AWA, and this is evidenced by the inspection reports. It has also received inspection reports with no

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violations. The IDALS reports speak to the general good condition of the animals at the zoo.

The plaintiffs are right that no court has made any determination as to whether "harassing" a captive endangered species constitutes a "take" under the ESA, and no court is likely to hold that a licensed USDA facility under the AWA can be found to have committed a "take." The cases where a take has been found all involve potential damage to animals in the wild, not by non-licensed defendants.

The ESA regulations define "harm" within the definition of "take" to mean an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. If the habitat meets the requirements of the AWA, it by definition cannot generate "harm" to endangered species.

Many of the tigers have lived a long time at the zoo. The only standards that matter in this instance are the standards that the United States Department of Agriculture has promulgated under its rulemaking capacity under the AWA, and those stan-

dards have been complied with most of the time. The USDA APHIS inspectors have never told the defendants that they must remove the tigers from the zoo.

The enclosure sizes at the zoo meet or exceed the size requirements of the AWA, and there is no indication that they are inadequate because of size in the inspection reports. The behaviors supposedly witnessed by the plaintiffs have all been explained by the Sellners as being natural and sometimes playful behaviors and are not an indication of any "psychological distress" in the animals mentioned.

CONCLUSION

The plaintiffs clearly lack standing to bring this action. They lack standing because they have alleged they had emotional trauma after making carefully planned trips to defendants' zoo. Their complaints parrot the APHIS inspection reports. They have not suffered the type of loss that would give them standing under any federal case. Some of these plaintiffs claimed that they would be willing to visit the animals if conditions were different or they were someplace else at some indefinite future date. This is not sufficient to create standing.

Standing is also an issue because this

facility is a licensed USDA facility. The Sellners still have a license. They, like every other licensed facility (at least every other licensed agency mentioned in this case), have had some non-compliances - the vast majority of which are "house-keeping issues," as IDALS inspector, Doug Andersen, said in his reports. The truth or validity of these non-compliances is yet to be determined in an action that is pending in an administrative procedure in USDA. The Sellners believe that they have met these factual allegations of neglect head on - even though that should not be an issue in this case and should be something the court never has to review or determine in order to decide that the plaintiffs are not entitled to injunctive relief under the ESA. As the cases make clear, the determination of neglect should be made by the USDA in an administrative procedure.

Neither the zoo nor Mr. or Mrs. Sellner have engaged in any actions in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The zoo is subject to the jurisdiction of the USDA (APHIS) under the Animal Welfare Act - not the private cause of action brought by the plaintiffs in this case.



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Blast from the Past: Gastro-Intestinal Stoppage

Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter
Volume 20 Number 2
March/April 1976

By William Engler

Gastro-intestinal stoppage is a condition usually caused by ingestion of an object or a material that is indigestible and is of such size, shape, or texture that it cannot pass through the pylorus, the opening from the stomach, into the small intestine. This can be a hair-ball, material such as hay or straw, draperies, rope, or otherwise, that the cat has eaten. It can be caused by the cat swallowing plastic toys, a rubber or plastic ball, plastic wrapper, or other goodies that may strike his fancy.

The symptoms of a stoppage are variable. Usually a cat with a stoppage will drink normally; sometimes more than normal. He may refuse to eat or he may eat and then vomit. After the bowel is evacuated, there are no more normal movements or there are sometimes small diarrheal movements.

In early stoppage there is usually one degree of temperature (102.5) and if infection develops, the temperature rises. After a period of time when the cat's condition becomes critical, the temperature may become subnormal.

Early diagnosis of stoppage is based on history, symptoms, a tenseness felt in the upper abdominal region, and the cat standing with an arch in his back. Of course, if you are lucky, you may have found parts of the offending matter in his stools. Weakness in and falling down of the hind quarters, if not due to rickets, may be due to severe constipation, for which some of the procedures to be described herein are not recommended.

The aims in the treatment of stoppage are to remove whatever is causing it and to control any infection resulting therefrom; and to accomplish this before the cat becomes too weakened and/or toxic to recover from his condition.

If it is not known what the cause of the stoppage is, my regime of treatment is:

- Give petroleum jelly orally copiously.
- Two to four hours

later, if he will drink it, give as much unwhipped whipping cream as he will take; otherwise, smelts or raw liver are good laxatives if the cat will eat it and not vomit. If this "oils" up the stoppage and moves it on, it is usually passed within eight hours and the tenseness in the abdominal region is relieved.

If this does not get the stoppage or if it is known that the cat swallowed a rubber ball or some other object that is too large to pass through the pylorus, I do what is called a "backflush." This amounts to giving a high enema. Use a tube as large as is practical and insert as far as possible. The water container should be held two to three feet above the cat. Let the water run into the cat until he vomits (quite forcibly). This may be repeated if necessary. In most cases, this will remove the stoppage.

This backflush must be done without the use of tranquilizers or anesthetic. The peristaltic reflexes must remain strong.

In the rare event that none of the above treatment removes the stoppage, the last resort is surgery.

Along with and after this treatment, any resultant infection must be controlled. In most cases, Furoxone (Eaton) is effective. This must be given with a little food or milk. If the cat will not eat or drink, wash the tablet or portion thereof down with two milliliters of coca cola syrup (use a plastic syringe). Otherwise, the Furoxone irritates the stomach and causes the cat to vomit. If this does not control the infection, other antibiotics may be tried. Tetracycline HCl is often effective. Biosol M (neomycin with scopolamine) is valuable, especially in cases where diarrhea persists. As with

any antibiotic, these must be given in proper dosage and continued for a day or two after symptoms subside to prevent recurrence, in which case the antibiotic used will be less effective.

A soft, non-irritating diet should be fed to allow any abrasions to heal.

It is possible for stoppage to result from endoparasites (ascarids and possibly tapeworms), in which cases suitable anthelmintics must be used.

Don't Put Off or Dilly-Dally With Treatment of Stoppage

Pursue it diligently with the steps given here before the cat's condition degenerates excessively. Short of surgery, strong peristaltic action is helpful, and surgery, if necessary, is safer in not too weakened a cat.

As is often the case, we recently had an experience with stoppage, but have been hesitant to write it up (your editor, of all people, should know better). Bill's article came as the necessary incentive, so following is our story. The cat in this case is Critter, a five year old male margay.

Critter's Stoppage

By Shirley Wagner

His symptoms began with a change in stools and their frequency. Instead of the usual one or two bowel movements a day, we began getting six or more grayish stools the consistency of baby food. We did not think anything drastically wrong. Perhaps a little stomach upset, and we began him on Furoxone with no improvement. This regimen was continued for two or three days.

During this time, Critter's appetite remained good and, although he did vomit once or twice, all that was brought up was a clear fluid. When things did not improve but actually deteriorated to a point where the stools were very liquid, we ran a fecal float to check for parasites, which proved negative. In addition, we ran three separate cultures with three different labs; one came back negative, one came back showing *Pseudomonas*, and one came

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back indicating a yeast culture.

By this time, Critter was beginning to look sick; he lost a couple of pounds since food was being flushed right through his system. We withheld food for 24 hours and then fed only a soft diet and Kaopectate with no results.

Finally we decided to do a barium flow. Critter was anesthetized with ten milligrams per pound ketamine and one milligram per pound acepromazine. An esophageal tube was inserted and 30 cc of barium sulfate contrast media (mixed to directed strength) was injected.

This was followed by an immediate x-ray, another at five minutes, at which time the barium was already leaving the stomach, one at 15 minutes, by which time the barium had totally left the stomach, then additional ones at 30, 60, 90, and 120 minutes. If necessary and barium remains in the system after two hours, another x-ray is taken at 240 minutes. Critter's system was flushing things out at an alarming rate; food was not being allowed to stay in the system long enough for it to be absorbed.

It must be noted here that Critter was not entirely stopped up; but there was something revealed in his stomach, which his system was trying to expel by the constant flushing.

The next morning, Critter was again anesthetized and gastrotomy was performed. This entails an incision into the stomach which, when performed, yielded not a thing! He was put on Chloromycetin (injections twice a day and orally three times a day). The injections were continued for three days, until he became strong enough to put up quite a fight and we began to fear for his stitches. The oral was continued for ten days. We gave him the liquid form. It tastes slightly like lemon custard, whereas the capsule has an extremely bitter taste. We are fortunate in having a vet who tastes the various medicines he prescribes and avoids those that are too objectionable and therefore more difficult to administer orally. Many antibiotics come in forms suitable for infants, which, although having a

cherry flavor, are less objectionable than tablets or capsules made for adults which may have a bad taste.

For the next three days, his diet consisted of only baby food. Then it was expanded to baby food with cottage cheese omelets (scrambled eggs with cottage cheese added). After a week, he was allowed ground chicken; after two weeks, chunk meat with all tendons, etc., omitted. It was a full month before he was allowed his regular diet of chicken necks.

What is interesting to note here is, about five days after surgery, he passed the offending material – a piece of cloth, about two inches long and an inch wide. We are fortunate. Although Critter lost about two pounds during this procedure,



Critter margay was not entirely stopped up, but there was something revealed in his stomach, which his system was trying to expel by constant flushing.

he went into it with a couple of extra pounds; had he not had that extra reserve, the story might be different.

As a point of interest, vomiting immediately after eating points to something in the stomach, whereas vomiting after a half an hour or so indicates small intestine troubles, and after two hours large intestine difficulties.

In our case, diagnosis and action took a very long ten days; he was not totally blocked, but the cloth was irritating his system and each day increased the irritation, worsening the diarrhea. It must also be pointed out that cultures are very helpful in isolating the type of infection if there is one, but may, due to different culture mediums, be misleading. Critter did not experience the regular vomiting one would associate with this type of problem, which is one reason it went undetected as long as it did.

Critter has recovered nicely with no complications. We have yet to discover the source of the piece of cloth; it matches nothing we can find in the house. But you can be sure we've learned a hard lesson and take no chances, and even the much loved Kleenexes are denied him.

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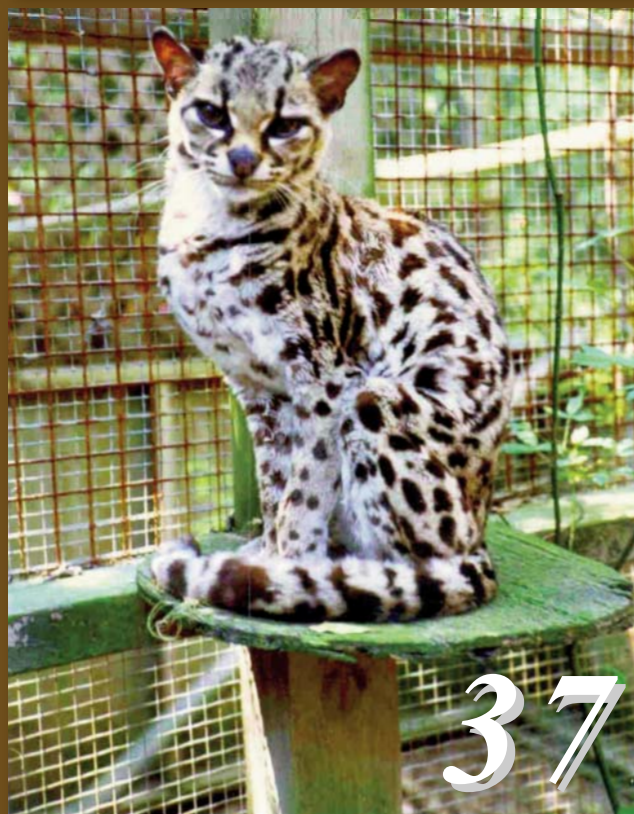
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Feline Conservation Federation

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Front Cover: Mandela is truly a regal lion, looking down upon his doman at Hollywild Animal Park in Wellford, SC. Photo by Nicole Maxene Price.

Back Cover: Jameson the bobcat checks out the floating water hyacinths in his enclosure pond. Photo by Julia Mastalski.



Feline Conseration Federation
7815 Houser Street
Kansas City, MO 64167

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