

# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center



FALL 2013

Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Feline Follies Raises \$23K

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A warm summer evening served as the perfect backdrop for EFBC-FCC's annual Fabulous Feline Follies on Aug. 17, which raised more than \$23,000 for the facility and focused on the plight of tigers in the wild.

Guests dined under the stars, bid on silent auction items and met some special animal visitors courtesy of Conservation Ambassadors Inc. and Steve Martin's Working Wildlife.

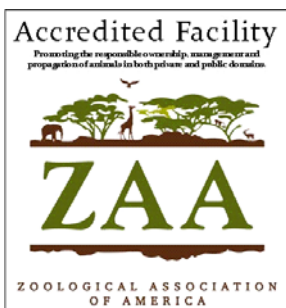
A live auction included an original scratchboard of EFBC-FCC resident and Amur leopard Sakhar by artist Heather Curtis Lara and a private tour, dinner and overnight stay for two at Safari West in Santa Rosa, Ca.

Our raffle winners for the evening included Linda A. Thompson of Carson City, Nev. Everyone was amazed when Linda's name was pulled as the winner of both the 1st prize of \$1,000, and 3rd prize of a motion activated Bird cam. Linda donated \$510 of her winnings back to EFBC and planned on donating the additional \$490 to another animal charity she is involved with in Nevada.

What a great lady and we thank her for her generosity.



*Follies guests were able to meet up close a young Eurasian lynx named Mukluk, courtesy of Conservation Ambassadors. More photos of the*



*Continued on page 3*

**EFBC-FCC's Annual Kids' Day is Oct. 19**

**Visit [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org) for more info.**

# Donations

Our 50/50 raffle was held at our June Twilight Tour and the lucky winner of the \$1,240 prize was **Audrey F. Brooks** of Sunland, CA. Audrey was present for the drawing and graciously donated \$240 of her winnings back to EFBC to continue our work. Thank you Audrey!



Also at the June Twilight Tour, the members of the **Rotary Club of Lancaster** presented EFBC with a check for \$750 to aid our programs. The Rotary has supported EFBC for many years and provide the BBQ at our Twilight Tours, which our attendees always enjoy. Thank you everyone at the Rotary Club of Lancaster.

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** As many of our long-time members know already, unrestricted cash donations helps EFBC keep up with expenses that are not always budgeted for.

This quarter we had to make major repairs to some of our heavy equipment (you would not believe how expensive it is to rebuild the engine in a crane and get tires) and we thank the following for supporting our general fund:

**Thomas Abate, Betsy Bainbridge, Gerald Bandy, Anne Calabrese, Vicki Collins, Rod & Judy Ditzler, Jill Evensizer, David Forward, Tom Kornegay** , In memory of **Kenneth Kulow**, our Lifetime members **Leo & Kathy Notenboom, Steve Sebesta, Thoms Family, Chris Tromborg, Lee Turner, Echelle Wysong**, and a \$150 grant from **Roll Giving** based on the recommendation of **Tara Lara**.

**RESTROOM BUILDING FUND:** We only received \$165 this quarter to aid in our efforts to build public restrooms bringing our total to \$6,919. Our goal is \$75,000.

## RALPHS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

On September 1, 2013 it became time for our supporters to register again with the Ralph's program, to insure that a percentage of their purchases made at Ralphs, Food 4 Less, and other Kroger grocery stores goes to EFBC.

Registration has to be done each year to continue your participation and EFBC's number is **82845**. In our 2012-2013 fiscal year, we received \$2,495.93 from this program which was a 94.3% increase over the prior year's earnings of \$1,284.70.

Wouldn't it be great if we can keep getting more people to participate and see this increase in earnings continue? What's great is that it is easy to do. **Just go onto [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)**. Whether you are registering for the first time, or have previously been signed up for the program, the directions are easy to follow.

Once registered, every time you make a purchase using your Ralph's card, EFBC will receive a portion of your purchase as a donation. The sooner you register, the sooner your shopping will help benefit EFBC!



**Stay Connected:** Visit [www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org) for the latest on new arrivals, births and construction projects. You can join our **Google Group** mailing list at [groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com) and search EFBC-FelineConservationCenter (no spaces).



Our **Facebook Fan Page** is "EFBC's Feline Conservation Center." Like us today!

# 2013 Fabulous Feline Follies Fun



Working Wildlife brought out several animals, including this Binturong from Southeast Asia.



Guests could enjoy their favorite beverage in a special hand-painted cat-themed glass.

*Follies continued from Page 1*

The 2nd prize winner of our raffle was Diane Herriges of Orange, CA who won a Kindle Fire HD 7" with Dolby audio.



Conservation Ambassadors introduced their brown lemur to guests.

This year's theme was "Tigers: Disappearing in the Wild," in honor of the completion of our Project Tiger. After several years of dormancy, EFBC-FCC's breeding program focusing on endangered tigers has started up again with the arrival of Tiga, a male Malayan tiger. This endangered cat was only recently recognized as one of the few remaining subspecies of tigers and our hope is to bring in a female for him to breed with, produce offspring and raise the numbers of these cats in existence.



Thanks to our sponsors for helping make the evening great!

The funds raised allow EFBC's Feline Conservation Center to continue expansion of breeding areas and improve the center overall for both visitors and felines.

We would like to thank all our sponsors, auction donors and attendees who supported this yearly event.



The silent auction consisting of unique and cat-themed items, is always a highlight.



This scratch board of Sakhar was a top live auction item.

## Cat News

### Report Confirms Close to Half of Africa's Lions are Threatened with Extinction

Nearly half of Africa's wild lion populations face near extinction over the next 20-to-40 years without urgent conservation efforts, according to a report published March 5.

Led by the University of Minnesota, the report, *Conserving Large Carnivores: Dollars and Fence*, finds that fencing lion populations in conservation areas, and fencing humans out, may be the only hope for their survival.

Using field data from 11 African countries, the study examined the cost of managing fenced and unfenced habitats, comparing lion population densities and trends in both. The report found that conservation costs are less and lion population sizes and densities are greater in reserves secured by wildlife-proof fences. Lions in unfenced reserves were subject to a higher degree of human threats, including retaliatory killing by herders, habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as overhunting of lion prey.

### Important Status Research of Wild Felids in Nepal Conducted

A survey of felids in Nepal's mid-hill belt in the Annapurna Conservation Area found a presence of leopard cat, leopard and clouded leopard in the higher altitudes of the Hugu-Kori forest.

The purpose of the survey was to contribute to the knowledge about felids and assess their status in the Annapurna Conservation Area, which is located in the Central Himalayas. The project focused on the clouded leopard and Asian golden cat. With an area of 7,629 sq. km, the conservation area is the largest protected area in Nepal representing the Trans-Himalayan and mountain ecosystems covering tropical, temperate and alpine regions. It harbors 22 different forest types and 97 mammal species.

Six felid species are found in the mid-elevation hills of Nepal – which range from 700 to 3,000 meters in elevation – including the Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Asian golden cat (*Pardofelis temminckii*), marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*), jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) and leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). While studies in the lowlands of Nepal have focused on the tiger and snow leopard species over the last 40 years, little has been researched on these small felids in the country's mid-hill belt, despite their important role in the forest ecosystems regulating mammal and bird populations. As a result, conservation status of these felids in most parts of Nepal is poorly known.

A total of 17 wild mammal species were recorded through the camera trappings, sightings, track prints, calls, scat/pellet findings and interviews with locals. Of the 17 mammal species, three felid species were recorded: clouded leopard, Indian leopard and leopard cat.



The presence of six felid species, including the Clouded Leopard (pictured, above is EFBC's Kyoke), were found during the course of the study.

## FIV in Domestic and Wild Cats

by Dr. Kristi Krause

There are several diseases that domestic and non-domestic cats share, but different species are affected in different ways by some diseases. For example, Feline Herpes virus, which is endemic in the domestic cat population, can cause severe clinical disease and be fatal in some species. One disease that is very different in non-domestic species compared to domestic cats is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

FIV was first discovered in a California cattery in 1986. It is in the same family of viruses as HIV. The virus targets cells in the body that are required for immunity. This results in a decreased ability of an infected cat to mount an immune response to any disease to which it may be exposed.

In domestic cats, FIV is a disease that is most commonly found in free roaming toms. The virus is present in saliva, so it is easily transmitted through bite wounds of fighting cats. Infected queens can pass FIV to kittens in utero, especially if the queen has a high amount of virus in her blood, but this is uncommon.

Clinical signs in domestic cats are variable and nonspecific because they are usually a result of secondary infections and not the actual virus. Signs can be mild to severe, including chronic inflammation of the gums, ocular disease, anemia, skin infections, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, neurologic disease, and cancer, depending on the strain and stage of disease.

There are species-specific strains of FIV that have been found in some of the non-domestic cat populations including puma, bobcat, lion, leopard, and Pallas' cat. These strains of FIV are all slightly different from each other and are unique to each species. It has been found in wild cats during sampling by bi-

ologists during routine evaluations and surveys of wild animals to monitor the health, population numbers and territories of these animals.

A high prevalence of FIV has been found in many populations of wild cats, including African lions and bobcats and pumas of the Western United States. Wild cats typically remain asymptomatic and do not show the same clinical signs of a compromised immune system as do domestic cats. Because FIV is so endemic in many populations of wild cats, such as the lions in Serengeti, when they become infected with other diseases, it is difficult to determine what role, if any, FIV plays in the disease process since there are very few FIV-negative cats to compare. It has been determined that if a cat of one species is infected by a strain of FIV from another species, there is greater risk of clinical disease.



*Species-specific strains of FIV have been found in some non-domestic cats, including bobcat.*

Although FIV was originally discovered in a domestic cattery, it is believed to be an "ancient" disease in non-domestic cats. The high prevalence of FIV in many healthy, free-ranging felid populations suggests these cats have been living with this virus for so long, they have become adapted to its effects. The incidence of the virus does not appear to affect the health and status of these populations. There is currently no evidence for an increase in death, influence on population numbers, or immune pathology in non-domestic cats. This is a significant

contrast to the FIV in our domestic cats and HIV in humans.

*Dr. Kristi Krause DVM is a member of the Board of Directors of EFBC-FCC. She also serves as the Fishing Cat and Jaguarundi Veterinary Advisor for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Felid Taxon Advisory Group and the Cheetah Veterinary Advisor for the Zoological Association of America and has a special interest in Pallas' Cats.*

## Cat of the Quarter

Tran is a male black Asian leopard (*Panthera pardus*) who was born at EFBC-FCC in 1996. He just celebrated his 17th birthday on Oct. 1.

He and his brother, Kota, were the third litter born to Meesha and Isaac, and the only litter that Meesha raised on her own. Isaac passed away several years ago but Meesha is still going strong at a sprite 22 years of age.

Black leopards are often called "black panthers," but there's really no such animal. "Panther" is a generic word used to describe many large cats, especially black ones, such as the Florida panthers, which are just a subspecies of cougar with dark markings.

We have both black leopards and black jaguars here - who are often born in the same litter as the colored cats. The black color, called melanism, is considered a recessive gene in leopards, however a study of jaguars by the National Cancer Institute discovered it was a dominant gene in jaguars. Melanistic cubs can be born to two spotted parents.

Another misconception is that the cats are all black. But they are dark brown, with the same pattern of black spots as any other leopard. There are no solid black big cats.



Tran the black Asian leopard recently had his 17th birthday.



EFBC-FCC's intern program was in full demand this summer. Pictured (L-R) are Lauren Wickham, Anne Castiglioni and Samuel Sabo. Said Castiglioni of her experience, "My experience at EFBC can only be described as life-changing. I had the amazing opportunity to get to know all of the cats on the compound personally."

### U.S. Considering Critical Habitat for Jaguars

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to designate 858,137 acres in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico as critical habitat for the jaguar (*Panthera onca*).

The proposal was a result of a study conducted by a Fish and Wildlife-assembled, bi-national, scientific Jaguar Recovery Team. The term "critical habitat" is found in the Endangered Species Act and identifies geographic areas containing features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species, and which may require special management considerations or protection.

The service plans to publish a final critical habitat designation to Dec. 16, 2013.



**Hot of the presses!** Our 2014 EFBC's Feline Conservation Center Calendar featuring 12 of our residents, including Julian the margay, Tiga the Malayan tiger, and Obi the serval. We also have a new line of t-shirts available (left).

You can pick up the latest gear in our gift shop, which is open during normal business hours. And while you're at it, do some early holiday shopping. Remember members get a discount!



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  - \$1,000.00 V.I.P.\*\*
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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 All memberships are Annual except Lifetime

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Visit us at [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org)



*Pallas' cats Garab and Yeshi (born March 2013).*

### Shop online and raise money for EFBC-FCC

While direct donations to EFBC-FCC is the best way to support the facility, the public can also help by starting at our home page before shopping online. In addition to Amazon, shoppers can use Goodshop or Igive, or search through Goodsearch.

We also have an official Facebook page and a cause that you can donate through. We also invite you to write reviews of us on TripAdvisor or Yelp. Links for all of these can be found on our homepage at [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org).

## EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>Kids Day:</b>	Oct. 19
<b>2014 Dates:</b>	
<b>Twilight Tour</b>	April 26
	June 21
	Sept. 20
<b>Feline Follies</b>	Aug. 9
<b>2014 Kids Day</b>	Oct. 18



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