



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SUMMER 1999

### **Thank You!...**

To all who came out for our Spring Twilight Tour. Despite the strong winds, our guests had a great time, as usual. We raised over \$6700.

Our special guest was Dorrie Walsh with Cheyenne, a Eurasian lynx, who posed for pictures with guests (until she got tired - then Peaches the ocelot had to step in once again!) Keep in mind the dates of our other special events this year - Summer Twilight Tour is June 19, and all adoptive parents are invited to attend as our special guests. The last Twilight Tour is August 14, and the Feline Follies is September 18 (see next page for more info).

### **Cat Updates:**

In mid March one of our fishing cats on breeding loan to Baton Rouge Zoo gave birth to 2 cubs - one of which is ours. At 6 months it will be transferred to Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Mich.

Calamity, our female jaguar born in 1996, was transferred from Tulsa Zoo to Henry Doorly in Omaha, Neb. She will be paired with an unrelated male.

Our female clouded leopard MyLe, who is on loan to us from Baton Rouge, will be transferred to Audubon Zoo's Breeding Center in Louisiana sometime in June. She was not compatible with our males, so we thought she would be a good AI (artificial insemination) candidate.

Kishka and Khan, Amur leopards, will be going to the Living Desert Museum in Palm Springs. Because their bloodlines are well represented in the captive population, they will go there on an exhibit loan. Khan has had a vasectomy, which will prevent him breeding Kishka.

Our Northern Chinese leopard KimLee (pictured below), now 3 years old, has been paired with Kandgi, a male we brought in from Germany a few years ago. They were seen mating in early May.

### **Fabulous Feline Follies**

Our annual Feline Follies is fast approaching. Follies 99 is Saturday, September 18. Our theme this year is "Cats of Southeast Asia." Tickets are \$50 per person, \$400 for a table. Sponsorships are needed! Some levels of sponsorship include tickets to Follies. Check our web site for details, or call (661) 256-3793. Also, we need donations for the silent auction. All types of items are acceptable. Popular items in the past included blimp rides, signed movie posters, airplane rides, and, of course, all kinds of big cat artwork and collectibles! We'll have some beautiful signed, framed prints by artist Charles Frace this year. If your walls are bare, the Follies is a good place to get great artwork.

### **50/50 RAFFLE**

The drawing for this year's 50/50 raffle will be held at the Summer Twilight Tour on June 19. Raffle tickets will still be available at that time.

Funds raised go towards Project Tiger, our new tiger/jaguar exhibit area.

## AREA CODE CHANGE

Don't forget, our new area code is 661, which you will be required to use as of August. Our numbers are: (661) 256-3793, office/gift shop; (661) 256-3332, recorded information/directions, and (661) 256-6867, fax.

*How are we doing? Have any comments or suggestions on newsletter content or anything else? Please send them in! You can email us at [cathouse@qnet.com](mailto:cathouse@qnet.com), or our mailing address is: HCR 1, Box 84 Rosamond, Calif. 93560.*

## CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

US Newswire, 15 March 99:

Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club intend to sue the Immigration Service and others over Operation Rio Grande, which would destroy some of the last remaining habitat for the small U.S. population of ocelots and jaguarundis. The project would construct fences, lighting systems, boat ramps, build roads and burn vegetation, along 100 miles of land by the Rio Grande.

Fresno Bee, 28 March 99

Dale Anderson's Project Survival is trying to raise money to study and protect jaguars and other wild cats in the Chaco region of northern Paraguay. He also founded Sierra Endangered Cat Haven near Fresno. (*Eds note - Dale is a former EFBC/FCC volunteer*).

Environment News Service, 6 April 99

A proposed dam in Belize would destroy a riparian ecosystem. The Chalillo Dam would flood the Macal and Raspaculo river valleys, which contains many Mayan ruins. Jaguars and an endangered species of macaw would be severely affected.

Addis Ababa, 19 April 99

For two weeks, a pride of lions and a pack of hyenas battled over territory in Ethiopia's Gobeles desert. At least 6 lions and 35 hyenas died. Drought conditions probably helped instigate the war. The lions came out victorious.

AP, Kansas City, MO, 23 April 99

An 8 year old snow leopard at the Kansas City Zoo will have both hips replaced in surgeries 6 months apart, an operation only performed once before on big cats. His hips are degenerating due to arthritis. In the wild, snow leopards have been observed leaping up to 50 feet.

Cat Action Treasury, 6 May 99

The International Snow Leopard Trust has established a "herder incentive program" in Mongolia to convince herders to stop hunting snow leopards. Although the cats attack their livestock and the cats pelts bring high prices on the black market, herders indicated a willingness to participate. They will be reimbursed (\$15 US) for the loss of each cashmere goat from predation. This small price is helping protect a population of a few hundred snow leopards.

Contra Costa Times, 6 May 99

A mountain lion found its way onto the grounds of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory east of San Francisco. After leaping over a 7 foot high fence topped with barbed wire, the cat was chased off that evening.

Trade and Environment Database

The TED database can be accessed at the URL below; it contains interesting studies about how development and deforestation in many countries are affecting the animals and the environment.

**Cat News Continued:**

Lynx in Colorado (various sources): A total of 36 lynxes have been released in the southern mountains of Colorado, of which at least 4 have starved to death. Several are doing well and have found habitat with an abundance of snowshoe hares, their main prey. It appears that some of the lynxes were released into poor territory, where they may never have lived in the past. If at least 50 percent of the released lynxes do not survive through the end of summer, the program will be ended, instead of releasing up to 50 more lynx next winter. There is also new evidence that lynx still existed in Colorado before the reintroduction, despite the last verified sighting being in 1973. A park service ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park reported seeing a lynx in December, far from the release area.

Denver Post, 18 May 99:

A young male Siberian tiger at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo accidentally killed his new mate while playing. They had been introduced a few days earlier. There were no signs of aggression.

From the Internet:

Sumatran tigers have been isolated from the mainland tigers for over 8000 years, and some biologists feel they are genetically distinct enough to be considered a separate species of tiger, instead of subspecies.

Status of wild tigers: compiled by Peter Jackson, Chairman, Cat Specialist Group, World Conservation Union (IUCN), 1998:

Bengal (Indian) tiger P.t.tigris	3,176-4,556
Amur (Siberian, etc)tiger P.t.altaica	360-406
South China (Amoy) tiger P.t.amoyensis	20-30
Indo-Chinese tiger P.t.corbetti	1,227-1,785
Sumatran tiger P.t.sumatrae	400-500

Minimum/maximum estimates of wild tigers. Total 5,183-7,277 or 5,000 to 7,000 in round numbers.

A breakdown per country is also available. Some countries' estimates are more reliable than others.

Newswire, 19 May 99:

Exxon Risks Link to Siegfried & Roy For Tiger's Sake: The international tiger conservation community was stunned to learn that Exxon's Save the Tigers project has teamed up with the Las Vegas magic act to promote their efforts to save wild tigers. "White tigers are a dangerous tool for anyone to be using in any effort toward serious tiger conservation," says Cory Meecham, an environmental journalist whose book, HOW THE TIGER LOST ITS STRIPES, details the endangerment of the species. "The scientific community has spent the last 15 years explaining how white tigers are useless to tiger conservation." Many scientists have singled out Siegfried and Roy as the biggest obstacle in getting the truth about white tigers to the public. "Siegfried and Roy have, frankly, misled the public by promoting themselves as serious conservationists." \

**VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER:**

Mark McConnell was chosen our Volunteer of the Quarter for the second quarter of the year.

Mark has been with us for two years. He became interested in volunteering after he attended one of our Twilight Tours in 1997.

Mark's other interests are water skiing, and golf. He also has three housecats at home. His favorite felines at EFBC/FCC are; Peaches, Roby and Jasmine.

Great job Mark, and we hope you will be with us for years to come!

*Eds note: Our volunteers are the backbone of our facility and we really could not operate as effeciently as we do without them. Thanks all!!*

## **BEHIND THE SCENES...**

In addition to our volunteers, we have a few people who are here full-time who really keep the whole place running. We'd like to introduce them to you one at a time over the next few newsletters, starting with Karla Losey, our Facilities Supervisor.

Karla is in charge of the volunteers and, more importantly, the cats' health and well being. She is here 5-6 days a week, up to 12 hours a day. She oversees the daily cleaning and feeding of our 60+ cats, supervising the volunteers to make sure the cages are properly cleaned, the cats' health is assessed, and also that no volunteers get hurt by doing something they're not ready for. Karla first started at the compound back in May 1990 and has enjoyed watching the compound grow and improve over the years. Karla said she can't pick who's her favorite cat, or name what is her favorite part of her job, because she enjoys what she does very much. One thing she's looking forward to the new tiger/jaguar exhibit. She knows firsthand how much the cats enjoy the larger, natural habitat style cages - even though the swimming pools in the new cages will add to her workload. Many compound visitors see Karla at work while she's in a natural habitat cage cleaning the pond and they're always asking her what kind of species she is, or if she bites. Everyone here really appreciates all that Karla does for the compound!

## **DONATIONS:**

We would like to thank Pam Rose, one of our volunteers, who held a garage sale and donated the proceeds to us. Pam raised over \$500.00 on the sale. Thanks Pam!!

Dr. Mark Kopit, owner of Veterinary Diagnostics in Orange, CA., donated his time and ultrasound equipment checking peaches. Thanks Mark, we really appreciate your expertise and Peaches is doing fine.

We would also like to thank everyone at the Antelope Valley Hospital's Medical Center for their recent donation of supplies. They continuing to think of us when they have surplus equipment and supplies. Thanks All!

## **FEATURE CAT: MARGAY**

EFBC/FCC is home to 16 species of wild cats, out of 36 world wide. How many of them are you familiar with? Let's start off by looking at our smallest cat, the margay. Margays are native to North, Central, and South America. While officially a U.S. endangered species, the last one recorded in the US was in 1852. Young ocelots look similar to adult margays and in some parts of Latin America, residents consider them the same cat. However, margays are more particular about habitat. They live in dense tropical forests and are both nocturnal (mostly active at night) and arboreal (spending much of their time in trees). They are exceptionally agile acrobats, with mobile toes for gripping and climbing, and flexible ankles that can rotate 180 degrees outward. They can climb down a tree headfirst, like a squirrel. Their large, brown eyes are a striking feature, and help them hunt at night. Our female, Maggie, likes to hang upside down from the logs in their enclosure. She and Rustin, our male, recently moved to a larger living space, with lots of high logs for them to climb on.

### **WISH LIST**

**Reinforcement bar for Project Tiger**

**Roofing material (composite shingles)**

**3 phase walk in freezer**

**4/0 THHN electrical wire (copper)**

**Golf carts**