

# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center



FALL 2012

Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## New cats join EFBC-FCC Family

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This summer, EFBC-FCC celebrated the births of two fishing cats and two jaguars.

On June 27, our jaguar breeding pair, Annie and Nacon, became parents to a male, Nadarr, and Myress, a female.

This is the fourth time Annie, who was born at EFBC-FCC in 1998, has given birth.

*Continued on page 3.*



*Our newest additions to the fishing cat breeding program, born July 26.*

## Kids' Day Coming Oct. 20

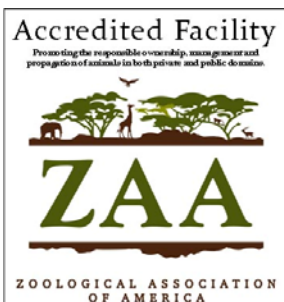
Our annual Kids' Day is set for Oct. 20. This is a day centered on fun and education for the entire family. Educational live animal presentations combined with fun projects such as enrichment toy making, scavenger hunts and train rides to go see the tigers make it a truly special time to visit.

Our young visitors leave feeling they are part of a very unique preservation center and know they can be a part of the effort to help endangered species.

Kids' Day hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Please note:** increased admission prices are \$10 for Adults and \$7 for children aged 12 and under. Price includes most activities and prizes. There is an additional charge for the train rides.

Because this is a special fundraiser, members do not receive free admission on this day.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. No child drop-offs will be allowed.



## Donations

**RESTROOM PROJECT:** Thank you to **Harry & Patricia Eby** for their donation of \$100 to our restroom building fund. At our Follies event, member **Rick Spears** challenged everyone in attendance to join his efforts to help us raise funds for this project by donating \$1000. Several got on board including: **Scott & Nicole Pearson** (\$1,000), \$500 each from **Sandy Masek** and **Elizabeth Marquart**, **Bill & Debbie Crosthwait** (\$200), and \$100 each from **Walter & Catherine Ritchie**, **Eric Barkalow**, and **Detlif & Jan Schnieder**. An additional \$494 was also raised from other donors that evening. This brings our total in the Restroom Building Fund to \$4,862. Our goal is \$75,000.



*Lancaster Rotary President Don Hart (R) presents EFBC-FCC Director Joe Maynard with a \$750 donation.*

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** We always appreciate it when our members provide additional funds to support our programs. This quarter we thank the following for their donations to our general operating fund:

**Brent Prindle & Vicki Haneckow, Monika Ritter, Barbara Crane, Chris Tromborg, Vicki Collins, Susan Smith, Lisa Edmondson, Gerald Bandy, Roberta Lotter, Denise Vardaro, Joyce Dugger, Kathryn Davis, Carolyn Michels, Carl Sorenson, Deanna Sanchez, Jon Thomas, Phyllis Martin, Charles & Jean Wiese, The Fabric of America.**

Thank you to everyone at the **Nestle Purina Pet Care Company** of Mari-  
posa, Calif. who joined our "Lifetime" members group with their generous donation of \$2,000.

We thank the members of the **Lancaster Rotary** for not only continuing to provide the BBQ at our Twilight Tour events, but also for their generous donation of \$750 this last quarter.

It is sad when we receive news of the passing of one of our members. We received a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of **Denise Nola-Faye Lowe**. We sincerely appreciate her thinking of EFBC when she did her estate planning.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:** In July, the **Cardinal Health Group** of Ontario, Calif. had a truck deliver six pallets of medical supplies, as well as two standing freezers as backups in our food prep building. The donation of medical supplies helps us reduce our operating expenses in this area, and allows us to continue providing the best possible medical care for our feline family.

**GRANTS: The Healey Foundation** generously funded our grant request for \$6,535 to convert the clinic entry area to a post care facility for our animals. New caging and custom cabinetry will be installed and the design will allow us to continually monitor our animals before and after medical procedures. The Healey Foundation has helped us many times in the past and we thank them for their continued support.

**50/50 RAFFLE:** Our 50/50 raffle was held at our June Twilight Tour and the winner of the cash prize of \$1,525 was **Robert Templeton** of Los Angeles. The Templeton's are longtime members of EFBC and he generously donated his winnings back to EFBC to continue our work. A special thank you to the Templeton's.

**The winners of our Follies raffle were:** First Prize \$1,000 = **Bobbe & Bill Spicer** of Honolulu, Hawaii. The Spicer's are Tori's (fishing cat) adoptive parents and they gave \$495 of the winnings back to EFBC to continue her care. Second Prize, a "Kindle Fire," went to **Suzan Meyer** of Azusa, Calif. Third Prize, a \$50 gift certificate, went to **Roberta Lotter** of Rosamond, Calif.

## Births & Arrivals

*Continued from page 1.*

The father, Nacon, was born in the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans in 2002. The two new cubs bring the total of births for this breeding pair to seven.

On July 26, our fishing cat Kai gave birth to two kittens that she is raising.

Nemo, who was born at EFBC-FCC in 2004, is the father. Kai was born in 2008 in the Minnesota Zoo and arrived in April 2010 from the Dallas Zoo.

This is the second birth of fishing cat kittens for Kai and Nemo. In July 2011, Kai gave birth to Chimlin, Dara and Devi, who remain at the cathouse.

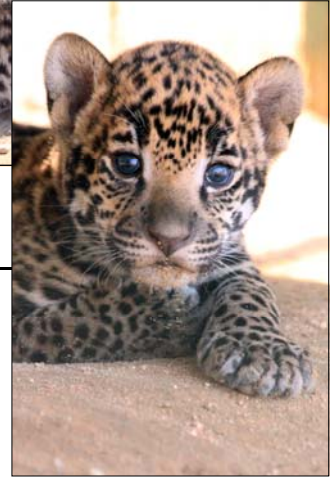
All our babies are doing well being raised by their mothers. They are adventuring out and enjoying their small pools, which allow for lots of fun in the mud and relief from the hot summer weather.

On July 18, EFBC-FCC received a male cougar—now named Serrano—who was caught by the California Department of Fish and Game in Whiting Ranch Park in Orange County.

Serrano was taken out of the wild after exhibiting behavior that was not normal for a wild young male cougar. He was not aggressive and he was appearing on hiking trails during the day.



*(Above) Nadarr and Myress play. (Right) Nadarr.*



*Mama Kai with one of her babies.*

Serrano has adjusted well to his new home. After spending time in our quarantine area, Serrano is now on display in one of our large natural habitat cages.

All of our new felines made their debut at the September Twilight Tour.



*Serrano is now on display in the visitor area.*





## Vet's Corner: Understanding Kidney Disease

by Dr. Kristi Krause

One of the most common illnesses that is seen in geriatric felines, both our beloved wild cats as well as our cuddly domestic pets, is chronic renal insufficiency. This is a gradual decrease in the ability of the kidneys to do all of their many jobs properly.

The kidneys have 5 main jobs:

1. Filtering toxins/waste products from the body
2. Production and concentration of urine
3. Regulating electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, phosphorus, and calcium
4. Producing erythropoietin, a hormone that tells the bone marrow that more red blood cells need to be made.
5. Producing renin, an enzyme that helps to control blood pressure.

The main job of the kidneys is to work as a filter and conserve water, which is usually how we first detect clinical signs that they are not functioning as well as they should be.

The kidneys are made up of individual filtration units, called nephrons. Once a nephron is destroyed, either by disease, a toxin, or other causes, it cannot be replaced. The kidneys are able to maintain full function until they lose approximately 75% of their nephrons.

A properly functioning kidney concentrates a large amount of toxin in a small amount of water (urine). It is balanced with certain electrolytes staying in the body while others are eliminated with the toxins to maintain tight controls and levels that the body needs to function. When there are not enough nephrons to filter toxins, concentrate urine, and balance electrolytes properly, an excessive amount of urine is produced. Instead of a concentrated amount of toxins being eliminated from the body in a small amount of urine with electro-

lytes being conserved, a small amount of toxins are being eliminated in a large amount of urine with electrolytes being eliminated randomly.

This inability to concentrate urine, filter toxins, and balance electrolytes causes the cat to urinate large amounts frequently, leading to dehydration. In return, the cat will start drinking excessively to try to keep up with the amount of water it is losing. However, no matter how much it drinks, it is not enough to keep up with the amount the kidneys are eliminating and toxin levels will start to rise. The electrolytes will also become unbalanced, leading to different problems, such as muscle weakness.

Erythropoietin is a hormone that is made by the kidneys. It travels to the bone marrow to signal the need for more red blood cells to be made and released into the blood vessels. When the kidneys are not functioning properly, this hormone does not get made. As a result, the bone marrow does not get stimulated to make red blood cells and the cat becomes anemic. This can cause the cat to become lethargic and sometimes lose their appetite.

Renin is an enzyme produced by the kidneys that is part of a complex system that controls blood pressure, water retention, and electrolyte balance. A decrease in renin production causes an increase in blood pressure, a decrease in water retention (more water loss through urination), and more loss of electrolytes. This increase in blood pressure causes the remaining nephrons to work above their normal capacity, which can mask renal insufficiency for a while. However, the nephrons can only keep up with this for so long before they start to wear out, increasing the progression of renal insufficiency.

Common clinical signs associated with chronic renal insufficiency include excessive drinking and urination as discussed, nausea, vomiting, drooling, grinding teeth, bad breath, decreased appetite, and/or oral ulcers from the increase in toxins building up and affecting the stomach. Weight loss and a poor

# Follies Celebrates 35 Years of EFBC-FCC

EFBC-FCC's 35th anniversary was celebrated at the 23rd annual Fabulous Feline Follies on Aug. 28.

The event raised \$27,800 and included a dinner and a silent and live auction. Longtime volunteers and EFBC-FCC board members Camille Gadwood and Nancy Vandermey gave a presentation on EFBC-FCC's past and future.

Volunteer Eric Barkalow served as the emcee with animal encounters provided once again by Zoo to You. We thank all of those who made general donations for the follies to insure the success of the event, as well as our auction donors and sponsors.

The 2013 Fabulous Feline Follies, will take place on Aug. 17. We accept high-end donations for the silent and live auction year-round.



Our 35th anniversary cakes included one featuring Ceasar (center)



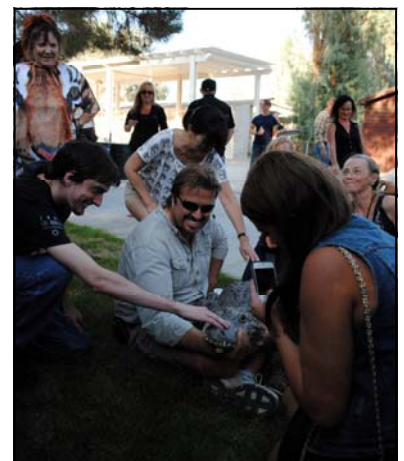
(Above) Artist Chris Hoy (R) painted a beautiful painting of our resident tiger, Ceasar. Pictured with him is Trina Ray, who won the painting at the live auction.



(Above) Thank you to all our sponsors, including those who attended the Follies (L-R) Scott Pearson, Eric Barkalow, Nancy Vandermey, Nicole Pearson, Camille Gadwood and Melany Marotta (for AAZK EFBC-FCC Chapter), Elizabeth Marquart and Mary Marlowe.



Zoo to You provided fun encounters with several animals, including a marmoset, kangaroo and alligator.



## Vet's Corner (cont.)

hair coat are also commonly seen. Constipation is a frequent problem that is secondary to dehydration. The retinas can become detached with high blood pressure, causing blindness.

Treatment in our pet cats is much easier than in our wild cats. While chronic renal insufficiency is a progressive disease and not something that can be cured, it can typically be managed to help give the cat the best quality of life for as long as possible. Treatment is aimed at compensating for the dehydration and electrolyte imbalances, as well as any deficiencies that may be occurring.

Diet is one way to help manage renal insufficiency. A balanced reduced protein diet will help decrease the amount of toxins and waste products the kidneys have to filter. The proteins used in special renal diets are easy to digest and are readily available to the body, making processing as easy as possible on the kidneys. This is easily done in our domestic cats, but not as easily done in our exotic cats that are on predominantly meat based diets. Very little can be done to alter their diet. There are current studies being done to develop diets specifically formulated for exotic cats with renal insufficiency.

Fluid therapy is another common way to manage renal insufficiency. Since dehydration is such a major component of this disease, giving fluids under the skin helps to off-set the ongoing water loss. A balanced electrolyte solution, such as the fluids that are given IV when you are in the hospital, can be given (usually every other day or daily) under the skin. This is something that owners can be taught to do at home.

Obviously, telling a leopard to sit still while a person gives them their fluids is not an option! There are some zoos that have created special crates that allow the cat to receive their fluids while protecting the people from contact with the cat. The cat is trained to go into the crate for the fluids to be given and rewarded with a treat when finished.

The most common electrolyte imbalance is low potassium. Potassium can be supplemented either in an oral gel or powder added to the food or added to the fluids if fluid therapy is being done. Calcium balance is another factor that can lead to the progression of renal disease. A medication called calcitriol can help the system that controls calcium balance and decrease the progression of renal disease, potentially prolonging the life of the cat. This is a medication that we can use in all types of felines to manage their renal insufficiency.

High blood pressure can be controlled with medication. Even if the retinas have detached, if caught early enough, there is a possibility they can reattach and the cat regain partial to complete vision. Measuring blood pressure is a relatively simple process in a domestic cat. However, in a non-domestic cat, it is not such an easy task. An inflatable cuff must be placed around a limb or the tail and a measuring device put over an artery - not easy to do while staying out of contact with teeth and claws! The biggest dilemma with monitoring blood pressure in domestic cats is accounting for "white coat disease," or their stress level when coming into the vet hospital, which, of course, will increase the cat's blood pressure.

Most cats diagnosed with chronic renal insufficiency will eventually succumb to this disease. With exotic cats as well as domestic cats, the goal is to make the cat as comfortable as possible by managing the disease as best as the cat will allow.



### Have you renewed?



Participant re-registration for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program began Sept. 1. All must register or re-register at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) or by using the scanbar letter at the register. If you received a scanbar letter last year, it is still good and can be used this year. Even if you just registered a few weeks ago, you have to register again.

Thanks for your support!



# Cat Briefs

Local Eagle Scout **Ben Jespersen** selected EFBC-FCC for a project. Ben raised funds to buy lumber and supplies to build eight small cat den boxes. He delivered the boxes on Sept. 7. Pictured (*right*) with Ben and some of his boxes is head zookeeper Melany Marotta.

Thanks Ben in selecting EFBC-FCC for your Eagle Scout project!

**Project Tiger** has been completed and we are now awaiting the arrival of its new inhabitants: two male and one female Malaysian tigers. One male tiger will be coming up from the San Diego Zoo and the other two are at a facility in Florida.



One of the last finishing touches for the project was a plaque (*pictured*) dedicated to our many sponsors and donors for Project Tiger . We are so grateful for everyone's support throughout this long-term project!

This summer, EFBC-FCC hosted **three interns**, studying various areas of zoology/wildlife biology.

**Chelsea Holm** is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota working toward a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Biology. **Marine Gourdet and Marine Videau** (*pictured right*) are vet students from the Université de Toulouse in France.



Internships are offered year-round for qualified interns. The program provides first-hand training and experience in maintaining wild felines in captivity.

More information can be found at [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org).

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- \$2,000.00 LIFETIME\*\*
- \$1,000.00 V.I.P.\*\*
- \$500.00 PATRON\*\*
- \$100.00 ASSOCIATE
- \$75.00 SUPPORT
- \$40.00 FAMILY
- \$40.00 FOREIGN (Individual)
- \$25.00 INDIVIDUAL (U.S. Only)
- \$150.00 WALK OF HONOR

**\*\*Indicates payment plan: 50% down, balance of 50% due in 90 days.**

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal  Gift  
All memberships are Annual except Lifetime

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Gift For (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Walk of Honor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your deductible contribution to  
EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND, INC.'S  
FELINE CONSERVATION CENTER  
3718 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA 93560  
Phone (661) 256-3793 Fax (661) 256-6867 <<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/>>

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



### 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.

Approximately 96% of the money donated goes directly toward the care of our feline family.

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.

## 2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Kids' Day:** Oct. 20

## 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Twilight** April 27

**Tours:** June 22

Sept. 21

**Follies:** August 17

**Kids Day:** Oct. 19

### 2013 Calendars Now Available!

Purchase yours today in our gift shop OR order online at:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/nancy-vandermeij/2013-cat-house/calendar/product-20334117.html>

## EFBC's Feline Conservation Center

3718 60th Street West  
Rosamond, CA 93560

**661.256.3793** voice, during operating hours  
(10 am-4 pm Thurs-Tues)

**661.256.3332** recorded directions and information,  
24 hours

**661.256.6867** fax