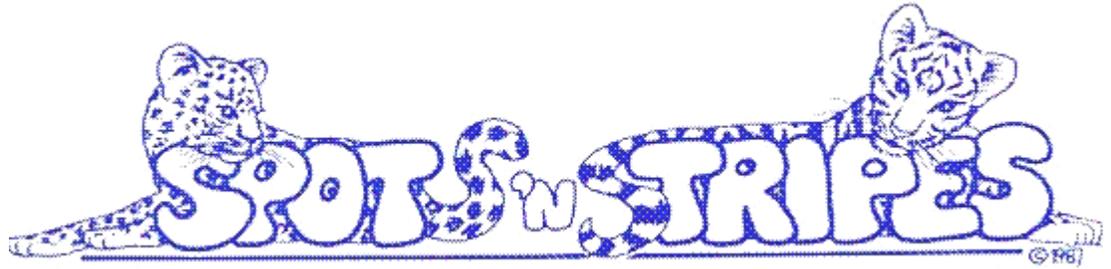


EFBC's Feline Conservation Center



SPRING 2017

Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

Inside:

Be a Feline Friend and Donate!

<i>Donations</i>	2
<i>Cat of the Quarter</i>	3
<i>Artificial Insemination & EFBC</i>	4, 5
<i>Meet the Keeper</i>	6
<i>Sand Cats on the Move</i>	6
<i>Adopt-a-Cat</i>	7
<i>Stay Connected</i>	7
<i>Membership Form</i>	7
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	Back Page

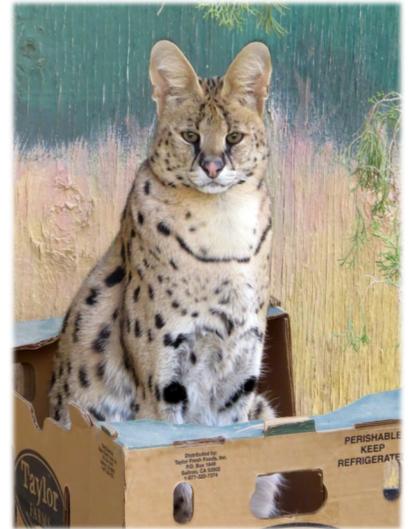
As time marches on, the quality of the tools we work with tend to lose their luster.

More than a decade ago, we received a donation of Motorola two-way walkie-talkies and charging station. These walkie-talkies are a crucial component to our work at EFBC-FCC. Communication is key when working at a large facility with dangerous animals.

Without a proper working radio system, we risk the ability to have a clear and open line of communication between staff, zookeepers and volunteers.

EFBC-FCC is looking for a Feline Friend to donate a new or gently used walkie-talkie system with charging station that can handle the rigors of cleaning cages, prepping food, being out in the hot summer or cold winters and can clearly communicate from one end of the facility to the other.

We are also always in need of industrial hoses (that can handle the extreme weather situations in the high desert without cracking or breaking) and towels.



Obi the Serval asks "Will you help us upgrade our walkie-talkies?"



Accredited Facility



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Feline Follies Just Around the Corner

EFBC-FCC's annual dinner fundraiser, the Fabulous Feline Follies, will take place this year on Aug. 12.

We are currently seeking sponsors for the event, which raises important funds for the cathouse. Sponsor levels vary and those interested can visit our Follies page online at www.wildcatzoo.org/follies.html. We are also accepting silent auction donations. Contact our office for details.

Donations

GENERAL DONATIONS: This has been a rough winter. The facility had to close several days these past months due to the extreme rain storms and flooding. Our gift shop/welcome center had a lot of damage and the building will be receiving a new roof, interior walls, flooring, counters and interior painting. Wow – what a project. All the museum exhibits and merchandise will need to be moved out and stored during the renovations, and we are trying to come up with ideas on how to keep the facility open and process admissions during the repairs. Basically, it is going to be gutted right down to the studs. We are currently obtaining bids from contractors and requiring time-lines for completion so we can better plan our strategies. These are the types of unexpected occurrences that make the financial support received from our members to our general operating fund so important. We thank the following for their support of this vital fund since our Winter newsletter listing: **Anne Calabrese, Vicki Collins, Michael & Jan Cross, David & Victoria Erickson, Jill Evensizer, Linda Frank, David Gregory, Ian MacLeod & Susan Lozier, Joan McClain, Donald & Suzann Raine, Chris Tromborg, Rebekah & Wesley Ward,** and our lifetime member, **Katherine Davis.**

EMPLOYER MATCH/MAJOR DONATION: We thank our director **George Radda** for a major general gift donation of \$10,000. George works for Apple corporation, which has a matching gifts program for their employees and he is well-aware of how taking advantage of this program helps benefits the charities he is passionate about. We have several members who also take advantage of the matching gifts programs offered by their employers and we encourage everyone to look into this opportunity. It is usually a very easy process which just requires you to fill out a form with your employer as to how much you donated to the 501(c)(3) charity. They will match donations to EFBC derived from membership dues, adoption payments, fund-raising events and restricted and general donations. Thank you, George.



RESTROOM FUND: We raised another \$229 toward our restroom fund, mainly thanks to **Justin Smith**, our adoptive parent who includes an additional \$50 each month toward this project. This brings our total in the fund to \$16,652. Our goal when we started this fund was \$75,000, however a recent review of the original designs

indicates that the costs are rising as more time passes. So, we are looking in to alternative ways to provide adequate restroom facilities for our visitors at a cheaper cost to the organization. We will keep you updated on any design changes we decide to make.

RED LIGHT TOUR: This new fund-raising event is growing in popularity. We held another Red Light Tour on Feb. 25 and had 315 people attend, raising \$3,150. Although it was cold, everyone enjoyed the guided tours and the opportunity to see the antics of our felines in the evening darkness under red lights.



Cat of the Quarter: Rosa the Jaguar

Frequent visitors to our Twilight Tours (our first of 2017 is April 29) know one of the best areas to watch the cats get their special treats and enrichments is up on the hillside area where some of our jaguars are located.

Among those living up there is Rosa, a 12-year old female jaguar who was born at EFBC-FCC in 2005. Rosa and her brother, Poncho, who lives next to her, were raised by their mother, Annie, who was also born at the compound in 1998.

Rosa isn't hard to spot. She's missing her whole tail. This is due to an issue she had several years ago in which she was chewing her tail to the point it needed to be amputated. Despite her "disability," Rosa has great balance and loves to play and scratch on her big tree log.



Jaguars are the third largest cat in the world, after tigers and lions, and the largest western hemisphere cat. They were once found in California, but were hunted for sport until their population was completely wiped out. The last jaguar in California was shot in the late 1800s.

Male jaguars can reach up to 300 pounds in the Pantanal region of Brazil, but are more commonly 250 pounds, with females around 200 pounds. Jaguars in the north are smaller, only about 150 pounds for males and 100 pounds for females.

The most common question we have about our jaguars is "What is the difference between a jaguar and a leopard?"

Well, jaguars are the "New World" big cats. They are stockier than leopards and more muscular, particularly in the neck region. Their rosettes are much larger and set farther apart, with enclosed spots more common than you see in the leopard. They are also one of only a few cats that enjoy water.

Jaguars are considered extinct in the United States and found only south of the border in northern Mexico and mostly down through Central and South America. However, a male dubbed "El Jefe" crossed the border into Arizona about three years ago and several camera traps set up have recorded his movements in the Santa Rita Mountains near Tucson. A second male was recently photographed in southern Arizona's Huachuca Mountains in December.

El Jefe hasn't been seen recently and researchers believe the jaguar, who was a young male when he was first discovered three years ago, may have returned to Mexico now that he is mature and looking to breed. But his presence and interest by conservationists and the community has prompted U.S. Fish and Wildlife to create a recovery plan to reintroduce the jaguar into the U.S.

In many areas they are declining or near extinction, however they are listed as Near Threatened because of the large numbers surviving in the Amazon basin rainforests.

Clouded Leopard Born in Nashville Highlights Important Research in Artificial Breeding

For more than 25 years, EFBC-FCC has been part of research and studies to perfect the artificial breeding of felines, including artificial insemination (AI) and in vitro fertilization (IVF), the latter of which happens when an embryo is created in a Petri dish then transferred to the female's womb. Although AI and IVF have not taken in our cats, each procedure gathers important scientific data for the research teams and has contributed to the successes we are seeing today.

Most recently, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute and the Nashville Zoo in March jointly announced the birth of a male Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) on March 1 that was the first of its species to be conceived through artificial insemination using frozen/thawed semen.



The newborn male Clouded leopard born at Nashville Zoo. Photo: Amiee Stubbs/Nashville Zoo

Although there have been clouded leopard cubs born via artificial insemination over the last several years, this marks the first time conception was achieved through the use of cryopreserved sperm and "a giant step for global conservation efforts," the zoos said in an announcement.

"This cub ... is a symbol of how zoos and scientists can come together to make positive change for animals and preserving global biodiversity," said Adrienne Crosier, biologist at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. "Collaboration is the key to conservation of Clouded leopards, along with so many other rare and endangered species we care for and study."

Because the captive clouded leopard population is not self-sustaining, it necessitates the need for intensive reproductive management techniques to maintaining captive populations not only in the U.S. but also throughout the world, according to the zoos joint statement.

The staff at the Nashville Zoo used hormones to induce ovulation in a female named Tula living there. The Smithsonian's research staff collected semen a week earlier from a male named Hannibal at National Zoo. The team used a new technique depositing a very small volume of semen into the oviduct where the eggs normally rest after ovulation.

We at EFBC-FCC applaud this milestone. Our mission is to save endangered and critically endangered felines in the wild and through captive breeding and we have worked with zoos around the world in preserving the genetic diversity among these rare species.

The staff at the Nashville Zoo used hormones to induce ovulation in a female named Tula living



Dr. Bill Swanson (bottom left) extracts semen from a male Snow leopard at EFBC in 2015.

And the research continues.

In early February, Dr. Bill Swanson, Director of Animal Research for the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) based at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, returned to EFBC-FCC to perform AI on several of our small cats, including the Black-footed cat and Fishing cats.

Swanson is one of the world's experts on cat reproduction and the smaller feline species, which he states in his CREW bio have been neglected in many science and conservation circles.

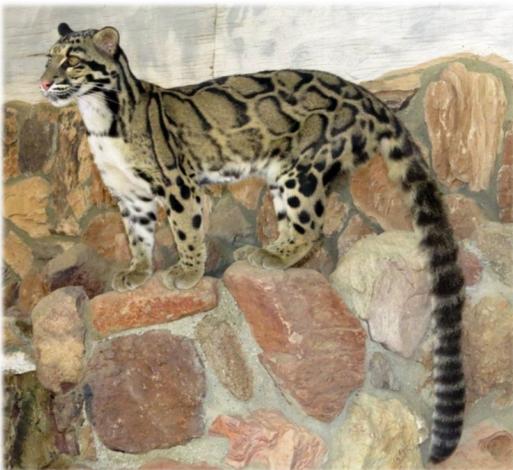


Dr. Swanson and his team inseminate a female Fishing cat at EFBC in 2015.

"I believe that the research that we conduct at CREW and our training programs for scientific colleagues in developing countries, where many of these small cats are found, are critically important if these species are to survive in the future," his CREW bio states.

We are proud to be among the facilities that have participated in this important research, which will ultimately benefit felines in the wild.

Clouded leopards are among the rarest of the world's cat species and one of the most secretive. Due to limited knowledge of this species, they have proved difficult to breed in captivity. They are sensitive to auditory and visual disturbances, increasing the stress levels during captive breeding programs – leading facilities, such as Nashville Zoo, to work with artificial insemination specialists to increase the size and diversity of the captive bred population.



Kyoke the Clouded leopard who lives at EFBC.

The successful birth of the male cub is part of a larger global breeding program for clouded leopards by the Smithsonian National Zoo, which has collaborated since 2000 with Point Defiance Zoo and Thailand's Zoological Park Organization to form the Clouded Leopard Consortium.

For clouded leopards, not every female has a mate and vice versa and there are many females and males in the population that would be a good genetic match, but aren't a bonded pair, according to the zoo.

"By exchanging semen from animals that are still living in South East Asia, we can use those samples to perform artificial inseminations here and, hopefully, create cubs that are genetically diverse," Smithsonian National Zoo said.

Meet the Keeper: Jordan Rosas



EFBC-FCC employs three full-time zookeepers. For the next three issues, we'll introduce you to these dedicated professionals.

Jordan Rosas, 21, came to the facility in March 2015 as an intern zoology major studying at Antelope Valley College. Jordan learned about the cathouse and our internship program and applied with the hope of gaining experience and opportunity.

Jordan proved himself a dedicated intern so much that he was offered a full-time keeper job in November 2015 and has learned a great deal 18 months into the position.

"I think what I've found most beneficial is the knowledge and experience I've gained working with our veterinarians, Dr. Scott Weldy and Dr. Kristi Krause," Jordan says of his job. "I also enjoy the networking and contacts with other zoo professionals I've made."

One key training Jordan has received from Weldy and Krause is in the ZIMS systems. Standing for Zoological Information Management System, ZIMS has transformed EFBC's paper recordkeeping into electronic recordkeeping. This is beneficial for when we transfer in or out cats. Now, we can log into ZIMS and view the cat's records in preparation for their arrival, and vice-versa if sending a cat to another facility.

Jordan's work in ZIMS and contacts with other zoo facilities has earned him an invitation in July to speak about the Sand Cats and their breeding at the annual Felid TAG Conference in Erie, Penn. The conference brings together felid managers, keepers, scientists, educators and other related professionals. This is quite an honor for Jordan and we're proud of him for participating!

What's Jordan's favorite part of working with the wild cats?

"Learning each of their individual personalities," he says. "They're quirky in their own way."

Sand Cats on the Move!

Last year proved to be the Year of the Sand Cat (*Felis margarita*) for EFBC-FCC! We had a total of 12 Sand cat kittens born to three different breeding pairs.

They are at an age now that we are in the process of sending some of them out to other zoos. The following is the list of facilities they are transferring to:

- Chattanooga Zoo (TN)
- Hogle Zoo (UT)
- Erie Zoo (PA)
- San Diego Zoo (CA)
- North Carolina Zoo (NC)
- Mesker Park Zoo (IN)
- Cincinnati Zoo (OH)



Nine-week-old Sand cat kittens, one of three litters born last year at EFBC-FCC

Adoption Program

EFBC-FCC's adoption program is a key part in helping with the large food bill that incurs when feeding more than 70 wild cats.

Our program is an intimate one, where a limited number of people can adopt a cat, instead of adopting the same cat out to dozens of people. Adopting a cat includes membership with EFBC-FCC and an exclusive photo of the adopted cat. Additionally, our June Twilight Tour honors our foster parents with free entry to the event. Foster parents also get their name on a plaque outside their adopted cat's enclosure.

As of press time, our two young male Malayan tiger brothers, Jango and Raja, are in need of adoption. Jango is available for \$220 per month – if you adopt all of him. You may also adopt half of him for \$110 per month. Half of Raja is available, also for a monthly adoption of \$110. Those paying a full year's worth in advance receive one month free. Feeding a tiger is a lofty task. For our boys, they EACH are fed 35 pounds of food per week! **Contact our office at (661) 256-3793 to adopt today!**

Stay Connected!

VISIT ...

Our website www.cathouse-fcc.org or www.wildcatzoo.org for the latest on new arrivals, births and construction projects.



Our Google Group e-mail list at groups.google.com and search "EFBC-FelineConservationCenter" (no spaces).



LIKE ...

Our Facebook Fan Page "EFBC's Feline Conservation Center."



FOLLOW ...

Keep track of the latest via Twitter and Instagram @wildcatzoo



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- \$500.00 PATRON**
- \$100.00 ASSOCIATE
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- \$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.**

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FELINE CONSERVATION CENTER
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Phone (661) 256-3793 Fax (661) 256-6867 <<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/>>



Katmandu, our white tiger, has retired and is now found in the Upper Hillside area off public display.

This area is not open to the public, even Twilight Tours, but special arrangements can be made to see him for an additional donation. Please contact our office for details.

SPOTS & STRIPES is published quarterly by the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound's Feline Conservation Center for members. For questions, comments or suggestions, contact 661.256.3793. © 2017 EFBC-FCC



SAVE THE DATES!

Twilight Tour	April 29
Military Appreciation Days	May 28-29
Twilight Tour	June 24
Feline Follies	Aug. 12
Twilight Tour	Sept. 16
Kids Day	Oct. 21

EVENTS CALENDAR



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