

# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center



SUMMER 2013

Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

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## Rare Pallas' Cats Born at EFBC-FCC

EFBC's Feline Conservation Center primary goal is the breeding and preservation of endangered species. And on March 26, we welcomed two male Pallas' cats born to Bora and Pavel.

Mom Bora was born at EFBC-FCC in March 2007 to Princess and Yuri. (Her littermate Buster is at the Cincinnati Zoo and became a father for the second time this year.) Dad Pavel arrived last October with his brothers, Alik and Luka, from the Red River Zoo in North Dakota. The two young males – now close to three months old – are an important addition to the captive breeding population of this lesser-known species of cat.

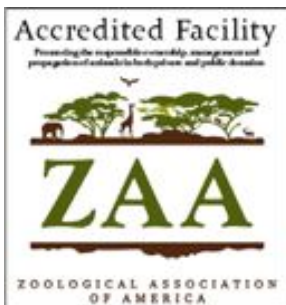
The Pallas' cat (*Otocolobus manul*), also known as a Manul, is among the many animals named on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List. Since 2002, its status on the list is "near threatened" due to their "broad but patchy distribution" in grassland areas of Central Asia, the negative impact on their habitat, decline in their prey base and hunting. The IUCN concludes the species could qualify as "vulnerable" in the near future.

The areas these cats are found include: Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbaijan; China; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Mongolia; Pakistan; Rus-



*A feisty Pallas' cat baby at 7 weeks.*

*Continued on page 3.*



## 2013 Follies to Spotlight Tigers

### See page 3 for details!

## Donations



**RECIPROCAL ZOO LIST UPDATE:** We are pleased to add the Montgomery Zoo in Alabama and the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, Calif. to our list of reciprocating zoos. One of the many benefits of being a member of EFBC-FCC is our reciprocal relationships with more than 50 facilities in 25 states. These reciprocal deals vary from facility to facility, but can include free or discounted admission or gift shop discounts. A list of facilities and their benefits is sent out with every new membership and updated yearly. Lists are also available in our gift shop.

**RESTROOM BUILDING FUND:** This quarter we added \$1,405 to our fund making a total raised of \$6,754 for new restrooms. Our goal is \$75,000. We send a special thank you to **Justin David Smith** (\$750) and **Janice Howley** (\$100) for their restricted donation to help us build our public restrooms.

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** Each quarter we like to acknowledge those who supported our general operating fund with their general donations. These funds allow us to stay on top of those unexpected expenses. Thank you to: **Thomas Abate, Gregory Addington, Barbara Bradley, Linda Braun, Melissa Breeding, Anne Calabrese, Bonnie Clark, Vicki Collins, Mary Duque, Ann Eiseman, Jill Evensizer, Carol Fenwick, David Forward, David Gregory, Sharon Hathaway & Leslie Ward, Janice Howley, Lisa & Kyle Kathary, Jim & Stephanie Lester, Brent Prindle & Vicki Haneckow, M.M. Pringle, Deanna Sanchez, Karen Sharitz, Justin David Smith (In Memory of Sevastian), Bill & Bobbe Spicer, Chris Tromborg, Lee Turner and Laurel Woodson.**

**BEQUEST:** Additional funds in the amount of \$60,705 were received from the estate of our long-time member **Mary Sinclair**, who passed away in January 2012. Mary designated EFBC as one of her beneficiaries and so far we have received \$77,205 thanks to her generosity.

### JUNE 22ND TWILIGHT TOUR = FOSTER PARENTS NIGHT!

The second Twilight Tour of the year is scheduled for June 22 and celebrates our adoptive parents! If you are an adoptive parent, you are welcome to attend our summer evening Twilight Tour as our guests. If you can make it, please call Sandy at (661)256-3793 so your name can be added to our list.

The Twilight Tours are our most popular event at EFBC-FCC. This fun evening is for adults 18 and over. It is the only chance visitors have to see the "back area" of the facility, which is not open to the public during normal business hours.

It's an evening of fun, food, raffle prizes and more!

Tickets can be purchased by calling (661) 256-3793 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or on the day of the tour. Advanced ticket purchase allows guests to arrive a half-hour early. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for tickets purchased at the door.



*Katmandu smashes a big box during the spring Twilight Tour.*

## Feline Follies Focuses on the Tigers of the World

Come dine under the stars, bid on fabulous silent auction items and meet special animal visitors all while raising money for the Feline Conservation Center at our annual Fabulous Feline Follies on Aug. 17. This year's theme is "Tigers: Disappearing in the Wild."

We're currently seeking sponsors – individuals or businesses – for the event. Sponsorship levels vary in price and include several perks, including tickets to the event, advertising in our program and more. Individual tickets are also available.

The funds raised allow EFBC's Feline Conservation Center to continue expansion of breeding areas



*Tiga the Malayan Tiger*

and improve the center overall for both visitors and felines.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with no-host cocktails and special animal visitors. Door prizes and raffle drawings and a special presentation round out the evening's festivities.

A raffle drawing with a \$1,000 grand prize and a si-

lent auction with many collectible, one-of-a-kind items up for bid are also included in the festivities.

More information, including ticket and sponsor packages, can be found on our website at <http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/follies.html>.

*Pallas' cat babies continued from cover.*

sian Federation (Altay, Buryatiya, Chita, Tuva); Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; and Uzbekistan. Mongolia is probably the stronghold of the species, however, the species is still allowed to be hunted there and does not enjoy any legal protection despite being classified as near threatened.

Along with these threats, Pallas' cats born in captivity are highly susceptible to toxoplasmosis, which compromises a viable population. The newborn mortality rate is around 60%. It



*One of the males at 7 weeks old.*



*Pallas' cat baby at three weeks old.*

is unknown why this species is vul-

nerable to this virus. EFBC-FCC has taken several disinfection-related precautions to avoid the spread of this virus among the population of Pallas' cat. As a result, we have had a low mortality of newborns at our facility and have been able to contribute to its captive population.

To document the growth of the babies, volunteer Nancy Vandermeij set up a motion-activated trail camera to monitor the babies while no one is around. Several compilation videos of them are available online at our website (under the Pallas' cat section) and on our Facebook fan page.

## Cat News



*Obi the Serval (right foreground) enjoys his newly upgraded cage.*

### Small Cat Enclosures Upgrade Completed

Over the last several months, we've been updating members on the upgrades to three of our small cat natural habitat enclosures located in the public area of the facility. These enclosures house Thumper (Canadian Lynx), Rico (Ocelot) and Obi (Serval) and were in need of major repairs including wall replacements, landscaping and new paint and murals.

Obi's cage was the last cage completed in this project. Thank you to Paula Delfosse, who volunteered to paint Obi's mural. And big thanks go to our supporters whose donations help fund projects such as this.

### California Mountain Lion Bill Update

In the last issue of *Spots & Stripes*, we informed readers of our efforts, along with other California wildlife organizations, to pass Senate Bill 132 "Mountain Lions" in the state.

We're pleased to update that SB132 has passed the State Senate with a 39-0 vote and has been ordered to the Assembly for review.

This important legislation, introduced by Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), seeks to revise the policies of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in their handling of mountain lion incidents, including allowing the department to partner with wildlife groups and nonprofits when responding to mountain lion incidents if there is no imminent threat to human life. The bill would require DFW to use nonlethal options when responding to incidents. Supporters of the bill can still sign the petition at the Mountain Lion Foundation's website, [www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org).

### Camera Traps Help Estimate Jaguar Numbers in Guatemala

The Wildlife Conservation Society has released new photographs and an updated manual on catching images of jaguars by remote camera traps in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve.

These camera traps are activated by motion or heat differentials and capture the elusive jaguars. Because of each cat's unique spot patterns, researchers can use the photographs to identify individuals and estimate their abundance in the reserve.

The WCS survey in Guatemala is utilizing 50 stations of paired camera traps covering a 500-square kilometer area of community-managed forest to study the jaguar.



*Spring Twilight Tour attendees watch Poncho the Jaguar carry away his watermelon enrichment.*

## Vet's Corner: How Can My Cat Possibly Be Stressed???

by Dr. Kristi Krause

It has become well documented how environmental stress plays a major role in the health of our feline friends. Diseases such as diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, pancreatitis, obesity, and urinary tract disease are all common medical conditions seen with stress. These diseases, along with behavioral problems, especially house soiling, can seriously impact the relationship between the owner and the cat.

Cats often do not show obvious signs of stress or anxiety. However, even stoic cats have been documented to have increased levels of hormones and enzymes that are released during times of stress. Unfortunately, when cats do show signs of stress, they are often in the form of negative behaviors, such as house soiling, aggression, and other destructive behaviors.

Cats are solitary hunters, so most feline behavior is designed to enable the cat to hunt safely and protect itself. Lions are the only felines who live and hunt in a group. Cheetahs will live in small family groups until the males become adults and get pushed out into their own territories. Cats prefer a familiar territory. They like an awareness of their physical and social environment. This sense of control makes them comfortable and reduces stress. Predictability, familiarity and routine give cats a better ability to cope with stresses they may have placed on them in their environments.

Cats will avoid signs of weakness, pain, or illness, making it difficult to recognize when they are sick. This makes it very important that we pay very close attention to even subtle changes in our cat's behaviors. Changes in activity, routine, eating, drinking, urinating, movement, and interests can all be indicators of illness. Routine veterinary physical exams and preventative care are important to track what is normal for your cat and to help detect early changes and signs of disease.

Cats have an extreme "fight or flight" response. They do not have a hierarchy social structure- they do not typically have an "alpha cat" in their social systems. Because of this, they do not have many of the submissive behaviors and ways of appeasing other cats in a group like you will see with dogs. This means, they have a decreased ability to diffuse conflict within a group or between individual cats. If a cat feels it is unable to maintain a safe distance, it will lash out in defense (aggression) to deal

with this perceived threat. This aggression may be towards people, other cats, or other animals- not just the cat by which it feels threatened.

All of this being said, cats can live comfortably in social groups if they are provided with enough resources. Cats typically select their preferred affiliates, usually cats that are related or have been together since kittens. However, adult cats can get along as well. But, many cats do not get along well if their environmental needs are not met. This may go unnoticed unless fighting, behavioral problems, or stress-related illness develops. Cats that do not get along will still eat and sleep together out of necessity, so don't let that fool you!

So, how do you have multiple cats in a home live happily together and stress-free?

1. Provide a safe place for each cat away from and out of sight of other cats and their safe place.
2. Provide multiple resources out of view of other resources. This includes litter boxes, food and water bowls, sleeping areas, and elevated perching areas.
3. Provide opportunity for each cat to play and act out their innate predatory behaviors.
4. Provide positive, consistent, and predictable human-cat social interaction
5. Provide an environment that respects the importance of a cat's sense of smell

A safe place is a private and secure area, often in a raised location (like a perch). It enables the cat to withdraw from conditions it considers threatening or unfamiliar. If the cat cannot see a potential threat, even if the whole body isn't fully covered, it feels safer. Each cat should have its own safe place, separated from each other, with more than one entry so access is not blocked by another cat.

Multiple resources should be provided allowing cats to have free access without being challenged by another cat or what they perceive as potential threats. Place each resource in separate locations, which will enlarge the cat's environment. A cat should have a choice of resources, even in a single cat household. Providing individual eating locations allows for privacy and prevents

*Continued on page 6*

*Vet's Corner continued from page 5*

the stress associated with feeding competition, which is a major source of stress in many cats. Even though a cat may walk away from a food bowl that is not empty, it can still feel the stress of feeding competition.

Not providing cats with opportunities for predatory-type behaviors can result in obesity, boredom, or frustration that can lead to over-grooming, stress-associated disease, or misdirected aggressive behavior. This is easily done by providing a variety of toys, play-based interaction with the owner, and feeding devices or practices that require the cat to actively acquire food (hiding food in multiple locations, scatter feed kibble, tossing kibble for the cat to chase, and/or puzzle feeders). Hide toys in puzzle boxes or other locations that require the cat to search and "capture" the toys. It is a good idea to rotate toys to prevent routine and boredom. Always avoid using your hands and feet as toys, even with kittens! Remember, even older cats still want and need to play. They may not move or play as much, but it is still important. Discuss options with your veterinarian to make sure geriatric cats are as comfortable and mobile as possible.

Most cats prefer several short rounds of interaction with humans (I call them "kitty drive-bys."). Each cat in the household should receive individual attention, not interrupted by other cats. A cat's preferences for human interaction may change as it gets older. For example, instead of being picked up or sitting on your lap, it may now prefer to be petted at a resting site. Of course, as with any change, it can also be a sign of an underlying medical problem and should be closely watched.

Cats use smells to evaluate their surroundings, maximizing their sense of security and comfort. Scent marking with pheromones, chemicals in their scent glands that are rubbed on objects to declare them "theirs," help to establish the boundaries of their living area where they feel safe and secure. If cats sense what they perceive as threatening smells or pheromones, or if they cannot express their own scents, problem behaviors and stress-related illness can occur. Be sure to provide scratching areas that will allow the cat to scent mark through the foot pads. Wash bedding on a rotation so some items with the cat's scent always remain. As difficult as it is for us to

understand, scent marking behaviors, such as scratching and house soiling, should not be punished. These are normal behaviors that need to be appropriately directed. Punishment will lead to increased stress and further difficulty in guiding behaviors.

Synthetic pheromones, such as Feliway®, can be used to reduce anxiety and encourage normal behaviors. It is especially helpful when an individual cat has been away (at the vet, etc.) to help maintain the existing "scent profile" in the house and aid in reintegration with other cats.

As cat lovers, one cat is rarely enough. However, to a cat, that is ideal. It is up to us to make sure that our feline friends have the full opportunity to be a cat and express their normal behaviors in a stress-free environment.

*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.*



*Willow the bobcat.*

# EFBC-FCC Volunteers Recognized for Hours of Service

Volunteers are the life blood of EFBC-FCC and have been essential to the success and growth of the facility.

All our volunteers are appreciated, whether they come out once a month or once a week. But there are a few special volunteers who dedicate several days a week to come out and assist our zookeeping staff in cleaning cages, preparing food and acting as docents in our visitor area.

In April, we recognized our top three volunteers who put in the most hours in 2012. Each received a special certificate of appreciation and a gift.

The top volunteer hours for 2012 were:

Awbrea Moss (1,218 hours); Debbie Crosthwait (615 hours); and Richard West (412.5 hours). Additionally, we thank volunteer Jim Alling who clocked in 973 hours assisting in administrative and other facility work, including computer/network administration, painting, maintenance and setting up surveillance cameras.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call (661) 256-3793 or visit our website to learn more.



The top three volunteers with the most hours in 2012 were (l-r) Awbrea Moss, Debbie Crosthwait and Richard West.

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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FELINE CONSERVATION CENTER  
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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)



*Maya the Jaguarundi*

### 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).

## 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Twilight Tours:** June 22  
Sept. 21

**Follies:** Aug. 17

**Kids Day:** Oct. 19



SHOP ONLINE:  
<http://www.cafepress.com/wildcatzoo>

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