



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES

FALL 2001

## CAT UPDATE:

Welcome to our newest resident Tara, a female Amur leopard cub born here on June 20th, 2001. She's 6.5 weeks old in the 2 photos on this page. Her mother is Aijka and her father is Gigant. This makes her the full sister of Sergei and Katia (now at the Philadelphia Zoo). You may remember we tried to introduce Aijka to Freddi, but she wanted her favorite old stud Gigant instead. You can follow Tara's growth on our web site, new photos are added regularly. As she is a mother-raised cub, no one handles her. We prefer for cubs to be mother raised as they are healthier and relate better to other cats as adults. Plus, it's great enrichment for the mother to have a cub to play with. It's amazing to watch Aijka with her cub. You would not call Aijka a playful cat normally, but she loves to wrestle and play games with her cubs.

We are still home to a total of 12 Amur leopards, as adult female Solstice has been transferred to the London zoo. They have a male there for her to mate with. We still have her daughters Anju and Masha here, who we hope to mate with Samson, the new male imported from Russia a few months ago.

As guests of this year's Twilight Tours know, we are also now home to a male tiger named Ceasar. He came here at about 4 months of age from the Fish & Game department, which confiscated him from a drug dealer. While we are not a rescue facility in general, several of our cats do come from private home/abuse situations. This is not our primary purpose - there are many facilities in the U.S. housing several HUNDRED unwanted tigers, lions, cougars, etc. These animals cannot be used in a breeding program as their bloodlines are

unknown and they are often inbred or hybrids between subspecies (i.e. Siberian/Bengal tiger mix). Ceasar is very playful, and completely unhandleable - we think his owner must have wrestled with him. Not a smart thing to do when the animal will be over 500 pounds full-grown!

## Fabulous Feline Follies

On August 25th our 12th annual Fabulous Feline Follies fundraiser entertained and thrilled over 150 guests. David and Anita of "Zoo to You" walked a cougar, 2 tigers, and fishing cat among the guests. The silent auction & live auction both drew active bidding, and altogether the event raised almost \$20,000. Special thanks to our sponsors:

**Platinum, \$1000** - Jerry Gadwood, George & Joan Paulikas, Nancy Vandermey, and Vivienne Jolles.

**Gold, \$500** - Scott & Nicole Pearson and EFBC/AAZK Chapter

**Silver, \$250** - Steven Crutchfield, Larry Purcell, Subway of Bishop, and Systems Consulting Associates of Palmdale

**Bronze, \$150** - Hazel Martin Studios, Lancaster, and Marchall Caldwell, Leona Valley.

The "Felitarian of the Year" award went to Pamela Gray, a former volunteer now living in Sebastopol, California. Pamela is a successful screenwriter with the hits "Music of the Heart" (which earned Meryl Streep an Oscar nomination) and "A Walk on the Moon" to her credit. She recently finished a script for Michael Douglas and is currently working with Julia Roberts. Pamela was chosen one of "Ten Screen writers to Watch" by Variety magazine. She is

also one our major contributors to Project Tiger and adopts leopard Kim Lee and part of tiger Ceasar.

#### Past Felitarians:

'00 Nancy Vandermey;  
'99 Steve Rendes;  
'98 Jerry Gadwood;  
'97 Dr. Pat Morris D.V.M., Dipl. A.C.Z.M.  
'96 Richard & Jakki Baker;  
'95 Ron Wildermuth;  
'94 Larry Purcell;  
'93 Julie Abraham;  
'92 Mark Purcell;  
'91 Betty White;  
'90 Randy Miller

### More Special Events

Our last evening Twilight Tour will be on September 22nd. This will be your last chance this year to go behind the scenes and see our tigers and leopard breeding areas, which aren't open to the public during the day. Also, leopard cub Tara is in an area not open during the day, so you'll only see her at Twilight Tour events. Twilight Tours are \$15 per person, 18 and older only. Next year we will again have three Twilight Tours (April-June-September), Fabulous Feline Follies (August), and a Cocktail Party. Dates will be announced on the web site as we set them.

### Raffle Winners

The 50/50 raffle prize was \$1,210 this year, and was won by Laura McDonell who donated \$100 of it back at the summer Twilight Tour. The \$1,000 grand prize winner at the Fabulous Feline Follies was Ken Banks of Ridgecrest. Congratulations!

### Donations

Pamela Gray \$10,000, pool for Project Tiger.

Patricia A. Brown Charitable Lead Trust - \$5000 for new clinic roof.

Our thanks to the 2nd grade class of St. Paul's Episcopal School in Bellingham, WA. The children did community projects and raised \$75 for us.

Continued thanks to Adrienne Ayres and David Lewis for providing computer equipment

In response to last newsletter's wish list, Karen Hutcheson and Jon Kishi both came through by donating refrigerators, We were able to replace the ones in our clinic and staff trailer. Thanks!

Special Thanks to all who have their support of EFBC/FCC go even further by participating in their companies' matching gift programs. Remember, memberships, adopt-a-cat donations, general donations, and even Twilight Tour ticket purchases qualify as funds to be matched by companies offering this program to their employees.

### Holidays Fast Approaching

When doing your holiday shopping, remember you can make a no-cost donation to our facility simply by shopping online through our affiliate programs with Amazon, PetSmart, and Igive.com. Just start at our homepage [cathouse-fcc.org](http://cathouse-fcc.org) and follow the links to make sure we are properly credited with a percentage of your purchases.

### Project Tiger update

The den area has had the retaining wall finished and self-draining concrete floors and septic tank installed, as well as some electrical work completed. Still to be done inside are plumbing and building the interior holding cages. Next up for outside is the excavation and plumbing for the 2 large swimming pools. Keep those donations coming and maybe we'll finish in 2002!

### Other Happenings

In addition to continuing work on Project Tiger, we have also begun installing the pathway lighting that we received a Kern County grant for, and completed an electrical upgrade for the entire compound to a three-phase system. We had just outgrown a standard electrical hookup! The walk-in freezer is now in use and greatly eases our food preparation process and increases our storage capacity. We also completed the installation of the new clinic roof.

On May 20th, our volunteers Camille Valenzuela, Dana Thomas, and Gayle Caruso hosted a table at Hart Park's Animal Fair in Santa Clarita. Over 250 of our flyers were given out to attendees. Pictured below is Camille with the display.

In July 2001 we completed the purchase of 57.8 acres of land adjacent to our current location and extending west. This land will act as a buffer zone against human encroachment and development, as well as give us room for future expansion. SPECIAL THANKS to Roger Hughes of Hughes Land Management for his assistance. Roger waived all commission fees and even donated a portion of the purchase price, for a savings of over \$13,000 to EFBC/FCC.

Correction to last newsletter: The Chahinkapa Zoo (reciprocal zoo program) is in Wahpeton, North Dakota, NOT Nevada.

### **Volunteer of the Quarter**

Gayle Caruso is our Volunteer of the Quarter for Fall 2001. Gayle has been at the compound for about 1 year and works on Saturdays. Her favorite cats are Annie the jaguar for her personality and Ceasar the tiger because of his brattiness. She finds it very soothing to volunteer here - almost like therapy - to escape the insanity of the world. (Maybe because she works in accounting?) She has 2 cats and a dog at home, and dreams of traveling to Africa with her daughter in the next few years.

### **Cat News from Around the World**

National Wildlife Federation, March 2001

The NWF released a report on Endangered Cats of North America which can be accessed at: <http://www.nwf.org/wildalive/panther/catsreport.html>

Asia Intelligence Wire, July 4, 2001

Northeast China's Jilin Province, which is famous for its vast forests and wild Siberian tigers, has decided to build another 38 nature reserve zones in the next 10 years. The acreage of the province's nature reserve area is expected to reach 12 percent of the province's total land space. Since the 1980s, nearly 500 cows, horses and pigs were

eaten or injured by wild tigers. The provincial legislature has stipulated that any one who suffers property losses or injuries because of protection of wild animals like Siberian tigers, could receive compensation from the provincial government.

REUTERS, July 4

South Africa's leopards are being killed by hunters using trained packs of dogs to help track down their prey. The National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) urged the government to stop or at least regulate commercial safari operators that have allowed teams of up to 40 dogs to root out leopards who by nature are shy, nocturnal animals. Dog packs were being hired by foreign and local hunters to track the scent of the leopard before chasing the exhausted animal, which usually finds temporary refuge in a high tree. Hunters would then follow their dogs and shoot the leopard in the tree at close range.

ITAR-TASS News Agency, July 12, 2001

Four rare Amur tigers have died in Russia's far eastern taiga since the start of the year - two killed by poachers, one dead from hunger and another from disease, nature inspectors told Tass. This distant part of Russia is the only habitat of Amur tigers anywhere in the world. They number just 450 and are hunted by poachers for skins fetching up to 15,000 dollars, and for bones fetching handsome prices in Asia.

New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad, July 24, 2001

A tigress which is believed to have killed a 32-year-old rubber tapper in Jeli, Kelantan, early in July, and its three-month-old male cub, arrived at their new home - the Malacca Zoo. The 105kg adult female Indo-China tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) was believed to be between 12 and 15 years old.

Cat News, Spring 2001 (a publication of the Cat Specialist Group)

Serengeti cheetahs are protected from poaching within Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, but

only 5% of cubs born make it to one year of age due to being killed by other predators (mostly lions), abandonment, floods, and fires.

Cat News, August 2nd, 2001

A captive breeding plan for the critically endangered Iberian lynx has been in place for 18 months but bureaucracy and lack of funds have brought it to a virtual halt. The latest population estimates by the Spanish Ministry of Environment suggest the current lynx population does not exceed 300 animals, a dramatic drop from the estimated 1,100 to 1,200 in 1988.

### **Feature Cat - Serval**

Servals are from Africa. They live in regions with tall grasses, and use their long legs to move through the grass. They have big ears to pinpoint the location of prey hiding in the grass without the prey knowing the cat is there. And if they flush out a bird, they can leap up to 10 feet in the air to knock down a bird in flight. The North African subspecies has been isolated from the sub-Saharan servals for 6,000-7,000 years. In Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia there have been scattered reports of sightings, but no confirmed record since 1936. In southern Africa they are fairly common and survive in a variety of habitats, from the hot coastal belt, to thornscrub, savannah woodlands, and in mountain areas. Melanistic servals are not unknown, and are thought to be more common above 10,000 feet. Our serval Teshi is 11 years old. British artist David Stribbling did a wonderful painting of Teshi based on the photo at right for this year's Follies auction.

### **WISH LIST**

Wireless P.A. System

Golf Carts

Landscape Materials

Electrical & Plumbing Materials

Slide Projector