

**Welcome to the 2006
Fabulous Feline Follies**



Saturday, August 19, 2006

**Hosted by the Exotic Feline Breeding
Compound's Feline Conservation Center**

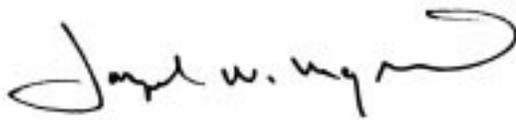
Rosamond, California

Message from the President

Thank you for attending our 17th Annual Fabulous Feline Follies. This event helps EFBC get through the slow winter months, and continue our programs to help save the Worlds wild and endangered felines. Part of tonights proceeds will also go toward our Project Tiger Building Fund, and we hope to have this exhibit up and running in 2007 - 2008.

As Founder of EFBC, it gives me great pleasure to see how far we have come, and to know that EFBCs work will continue well past my lifetime. We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors who are committed to insuring that the long term goals of EFBC will not only comply with our Mission Purpose, but also continually adapt to environmental, social and economic changes that will inevitably occur in the future.

However, it is the community at large that will keep EFBC going into the future. The support of individuals and businesses such as you, not only provides us the revenue needed to maintain our current programs, but also gives us the strength to make long term plans for expansion. We sincerely thank you for that support, and your personal commitment to EFBCs, Feline Conservation Center.



SPONSORS

PLATINUM - Donations of \$1,000.00

Scott & Nicole Pearson, Los Angeles, CA

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Coach's Sports Bar & Grill, Rosamond, CA

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SILVER - Donations of \$250.00

Palmdale Veterinary Hospital, Palmdale, CA

In Memory of Steve J. Rendes, Former Director EFBC
Sponsored by Irene & Cheryl Rendes, Fullerton, CA

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PROGRAM

Welcome to the 17th Annual
Fabulous Feline Follies

- 6:00 PM Cocktail Reception
- Silent Auction (closes at 9:30 PM)
- 7:00 PM Welcome announcement
- 7:15 PM Dinner
- 8:00 PM Programs and Presentations
- 9:30 PM Raffle, silent auction winners announced

(Gift shop open for sales from 6:30 to 7:00 PM only)

Our emcee this year will be Dana Fredsti

ANIMAL ENTERTAINMENT

This year's entertainment will be provided by David and Anita Jackson's Zoo To You.



SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE DONORS

David M. Mitchell
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Our 2006 Felitarian Award Honors Cherylrene Rendes



Cheryl, along with her father Steve Rendes, founded Wonders of Wildlife in 1983, an educational organization that travels throughout Southern California visiting schools, libraries, nature centers and other civic and private functions promoting public awareness of wildlife and conservation. Cheryl is a credentialed instructor in the animal care field and has over 35 years of experience working with a variety of exotic animals. Cheryl is also co-host of the "Pick-A-Pet" cable show for the Newport Beach Animal Control for the wildlife/special segments portion of the program. Cheryl and her mother also help out at our events as in the above photo at our "Kid's Day" last year. Thank you Cheryl and congratulations.

Previous Felitarian Award Recipients

1990 - Randy Miller	1991 - Betty White Ludden	1992 - Mark Purcell
1993 - Julie Abraham	1994 - Larry Purcell	1995 - Ron Wildermuth
1996 - Richard & Jakki Baker	1997 - Patrick Morris, D.V.M., Dipl. A.C.Z.M.	
1998 - Jerry Gadwood	1999 - Steve Rendes	2000 - Nancy Vandermey
2001 - Pamela Gray	2002 - Pat Quillen	2003 - George & Joan Paulikas
2004 - David & Anita Jackson	2005 - Not Awarded	



This event was made possible with the help and support of the following people and businesses;

Sandra Masek, Nancy Vandermey, Donna Turman, Lori Hands, EFBC Staff, Camille Gadwood, Starr Bayard, Joe Maynard.

Sponsor plaques donated by Bill & Andy Meyer, American Data Plates, Lancaster, CA

Printed materials provided by Bohn's Printing, Lancaster, CA

Catering Provided by Tastee's Catering Service, Palmdale, CA

Cocktail Service provided by The Golden Cantina, Rosamond, CA

Some Photos used in the Follies Program courtesy of Jim Sanderson, SCCA

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“Bigger Isn’t Always Better”

This year’s theme focuses on the many small cat species throughout the world. There are 36 recognized species of cats in the world. Most people are familiar with the big cats - lion, tiger, cheetah, leopard, etc. - and medium sized cats like bobcat and serval, but few people could name the 20+ small cats. These miniature felines are found in every corner of the world, living in protected reserves, in high-altitude mountain ranges, in jungles and forests, and in close proximity to human populations. Like their bigger cousins, small cats are threatened by the loss of valuable habitat and prey, indiscriminate killing, and conflict with humans, livestock and domestic animals. Because there is so little information on the small cats, it is very difficult to obtain funding for conservation projects, provide protection for them, and establish conservation protocols. Very few researchers are investigating the ecology and behavior of small cats. Indeed, the number of species of small cats is still being debated. Conservation efforts are directed almost exclusively at the largest members of the family – the big cats. In fact, many millions of US dollars are spent each year on Tiger conservation alone. Only a small fraction of this is spent on small cat research all over the world. This is very sad because we know almost nothing of these small cats.

Captive breeding of small cats

Captive breeding and housing of the smaller species in a zoo environment has presented new challenges for the EFBC, from satisfying specialized diets, building special enclosures, and reevaluating protocols for medical treatment and research studies.

In 2005, the EFBC saw the birth of four South East Asian Fishing Cat and three Pallas’s Cat cubs. In the years ahead, the EFBC hopes to expand the center to accommodate even more small cat species, continuing its mission to save endangered wild felines from the threat of extinction. For almost 30 years, the center has established its successes in captive breeding management, research and education towards the preservation of the world’s top predators.

The Cincinnati Zoo’s Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) is a leader in the field of assisted reproductive technology, including techniques such as artificial insemination (AI), in vitro fertilization (IVF), embryo transfer (ET), and embryo and semen cryopreservation. Over the past ten years, their laboratory research has focused on detailed characterization of early embryo growth and pregnancy in domestic cats. They are developing a feline-specific culture medium to optimize embryo development in vitro and identifying appropriate recipient synchronization protocols to improve pregnancy success after ET. Extrapolation of these findings to endangered non-domestic cats requires a fundamental understanding of the reproductive similarities and differences among felid species. For each small cat, analysis of fecal hormone metabolites is being used to non-invasively characterize testicular function in males and ovarian activity and pregnancy in females. In some species, periodic semen collection and analysis also are being used to provide additional basic data. Among other findings, these studies have shown that Pallas’ cats have a very distinct reproductive seasonality and that female fishing cats often ovulate spontaneously (unlike most other cat species). These findings have laid the groundwork for taking the next step in applying ART to small cat conservation – using frozen sperm from free-living, wild males to produce offspring in captivity. CREW currently collaborates with field researchers and veterinarians working with Pallas’ cats in Mongolia, ocelots in Brazil, black-footed cats in South Africa, and fishing cats in Thailand.

Small cats at EFBC/FCC



The Pallas's cat, or manul, lives in Mongolia and other semi-mountainous areas around Russia. They have long, thick hair and a bushy tail. Manuls are very seasonal breeders. Due to the cold climate they live in, all kittens are born at the same time of year so they have the warm summer season to grow up in. All kittens are born between late March and early May. EFBC/FCC has housed this species since 2003, when we brought in cats from the San Diego Zoo, Moscow Zoo, and Rotterdam Zoo. Captive born kittens have a high mortality rate, often due to toxoplasma infections. This disease is not present in their native habitat so it is thought these cats are unusually susceptible to it. Litters were born in 2004 and 2006 but did not survive. However in 2005 a litter of 3 kittens born here were the ONLY manul kittens to survive in all of North America.

The fishing cat lives in Tropical Asia – countries like India, Nepal, Vietnam, and Malaysia. They weigh about 25 pounds for males and 15-20 pounds for females. They love to eat fish and will even dive in water to catch them. They also eat other water-based prey like frogs, snakes, and crustaceans. They have been seen swimming underneath waterfowl like ducks and grabbing their legs from underneath. On land they also hunt rodents, young deer, and pigs. They have gray to reddish-gray fur with black spots along their sides, which sometimes form stripes. Their fur is oily, to help them not get completely wet when they're in the water. Although they have a wide range in the wild, they are threatened by water pollution and forest clearance for human settlement through much of their range. EFBC/FCC has been breeding these cats since 1993, and has had nearly 20 kittens born. In 2003 we imported cats from Cambodia and the Singapore Zoo, all new bloodlines in this country. Many zoos across the United States exhibit fishing cats born here in Rosamond, including the Columbus Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo, San Diego Zoo, and Point Defiance Zoo to name a few.



The margay is found in forested regions, not on the open plains. They eat rats, birds, frogs, insects, and monkeys. They are more arboreal (use trees more) than other cats. They hunt and sleep in trees. One special adaptation they have for life in trees is that the ankles of their back feet can rotate 180 degrees, allowing them to climb down tree trunks headfirst like squirrels do. Margay only weigh about 7 pounds on average. They are mostly active at night. They have black-ringed rosettes and long black blotches on tan or reddish colored background fur. They are becoming more rare over much of their

range due to deforestation. EFBC/FCC is home to 3 margay. Unfortunately our female is not interested in the attentions of either of our males.

Sand cats live in sandy deserts, in Africa and the Middle East. Their large ears help them both hear small prey animals under the sandy surface, and to radiate heat from their bodies. They have thick hair on the bottom of their feet, to protect the tender pads from heat and help them move in the sand. These cats are particularly unusual in that they do not need to drink any water; they get all the liquid they need from



the prey they eat. They mainly eat rodents like gerbils, but also birds and snakes. They are mainly active at nighttime, and sleep during the heat of the day in shallow burrows in the ground or among rocks. Sand cats are solitary animals. They are born at any time of year, averaging 4-5 kittens in a litter. The young are fully grown at just over one year old. EFBC/FCC became home to a trio of Sand Cats in 2002. The female is 12 years old so it is not too surprising she has not borne kittens here.



Jaguarundi are small cats that are found in the wild in South and Central America, and even in the southern United States (New Mexico, Texas) along the Rio Grande River. They only weigh about 6 to 15 pounds full-grown. Another name for them is the

otter-cat. Many people also think they resemble weasels. The jaguarundi's body is long and sleek. They have short legs and a flattened tail. Their small heads are elongated compared to the round heads of other small American cats. Their fur is solid-colored, with no markings on the legs, belly, or ears – very unusual among wild cat species. The fur can be brown, gray, or reddish-colored. They are more active during the day than other wild cats. They like to eat rodents, birds, and even fish. While they are not hunted for their fur, their population in the wild suffers from habitat destruction and persecution by farmers for attacking poultry. EFBC/FCC recently received two sister jaguarundi from another facility in California.

The Asian leopard cat has a highly spotted pattern on its fur and is still common across much of its range. These cats live in India, China, and Southeast Asia. But, the leopard cats that live in Russia are much more rare and aren't as distinctly spotted. These cats are called Amur leopard cats. Leopard cats weigh 5 to 10 pounds. EFBC/FCC is home to one elderly female Amur leopard cat.



Ocelots are the best known of the small American wildcats. They have a very beautiful coat pattern, with wide bands outlined in stripes and filled with spots and colors running along their sides. In Mexico, the background color is very light, while in Brazil they have a much darker background color and redder coloring in the bands. A few ocelots are still found in the United States, in Texas near the Rio Grande River. Ocelots eat a lot of rodents, but will also eat iguanas, fish, crabs, and larger prey like monkeys and deer. EFBC/FCC is home to two male ocelots.



The jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) isn't named very well - it's rarely found in jungles. Instead it lives along rivers or marshlands, or even in open grassy areas. Other names for it include the swamp cat and reed cat. Some live in northern parts of Africa but most are found in India and Southeast Asia. They are not shy around humans and are often seen in the daylight. Some even live at the edges of villages in abandoned buildings, hunting rodents and chickens. They are common in irrigated plantations, especially sugarcane. The jungle cat has long legs and a slender body. Their fur is solid colored, generally sandy brown to reddish brown, although black individuals are sometimes seen. Throughout its range the jungle cat is considered to be common. Destruction of its wetland habitat is the main threat to wild populations. EFBC/FCC is home to one jungle cat.



Small cats in the wild

Rare, little-known small cat species of the world and IUCN red list status:

South America:

Andean mountain cat: Endangered

Geoffroy's cat: Near Threatened

Guigna (Kodkod): Vulnerable

Oncilla: Near Threatened

Pampas cat: Near Threatened

Africa:

African golden cat: Vulnerable

Black-footed cat: Vulnerable

Sand cat: Near Threatened

Asia:

Asiatic golden cat: Vulnerable

Bornean bay cat: Endangered

Chinese mountain cat: Vulnerable

Fishing cat: Vulnerable

Flat-headed cat: Vulnerable

Manul (Pallas's cat): Near Threatened

Marbled cat: Vulnerable

Rusty-spotted cat: Vulnerable



Dr. Sanderson with a captive Bay Cat

The Small Cat Conservation Alliance (www.smallcats.org) was founded by researcher Dr. Jim Sanderson with the mission of supporting in-situ small wild cat conservation worldwide by carrying out research projects, and by providing a support network that delivers financial, technical, and personal support to colleagues working on small cat projects.

In Jim's words:

"To understand the conservation needs of small cats, we first need to learn their present geographic range. Most researchers admit that finding small cats is much harder than finding large cats or other carnivores. Thus, I have used camera photo-traps to help me in my search.

"The first step is to locate places likely to have the small cats I'm trying to find, then identify local graduate students that are interested in working on a degree program involving conservation. I supply the students with camera traps, accompany them into the field, put out cameras, and help identify potential partners to keep the students going. My repeated experience is that the students are keen to produce results and keep the cameras running.

"Only with sustained effort will we find the rarest of the rare - the small cats. This is why I created the Small Cat Conservation Alliance. It is impossible to work alone.

"The goal of the Small Cat Conservation Alliance is to obtain a continuing stream of information on all small cat species globally. There is no substitute for conserving species in the wild. A tiger in a zoo is not a wild tiger. To prevent extinctions in the wild populations of wild cats must be monitored. To do that local experts are required. In many cases SCCA is helping to create those local experts."

Current SCCA projects:



Andean Mountain cat (*Oreailurus jacobita*). Weight 5 kg, height 15 inches. Alias: gato andino. The Andean mountain cat is the most Endangered cat in the Americas. The cat occurs above 3500m in the Andes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru but only where there is water to support its rodent prey.

Flat-headed cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*). Weight 4.5 kg, height about 9 inches. Alias: kucing hutan. The Flat-headed cat is the most aquatic of the cats, more aquatic than the Fishing cat! The cat occurs in Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo. The cat is a lowland water specialist feeding mainly on frogs and fish. Despite tens of thousands of camera trap photographs taken throughout Sumatra only a single individual has ever been photographed, in 1996.

Chinese mountain cat (*Felis bieti*). Weight 4.5 kg, height about 10 inches. Alias: Chinese desert cat, Grass cat. The Chinese steppe cat neither occurs in deserts nor in forested mountains but in high altitude grasslands called alpine steppe. The cat has never been studied in the wild. SCCA is currently looking for a study site to learn more about threats to the cat. Although hunting wildlife is illegal in China, local Tibetan herdsmen trap or poison the cats for their rich winter coat from which traditional hats are made.



Marbled cat (*Profelis marmorata*). Weight 5 kg, height about 12 inches. Alias: kuching Dahan. The Marbled cat seems to be rare wherever it occurs in its geographic range that is Southeast Asia, Sumatra, and Borneo. Rarely seen in the wild, all camera trap pictures show the cat with its tail held stiffly and in a horizontal position. It seems to occur in lowlands and in mountains and is believed to be arboreal. Virtually nothing is

known of its habits in the wild. We have far more information about Sumatran tigers that are thought to be rare but in fact show up in more camera trap pictures than Marbled cats.

Bay cat (*Catopuma badia*). Weight 6 kg, height about 15 inches. Alias: kuching merah. The Bay cat is one of four Endangered cats in the world. There are only two camera trap pictures of the cat in the wild. Other observations of the cat exist but nothing is known of the cat in the wild. SCCA is trying to identify a site where they can undertake a more detailed study of the cat and threats to its existence. One observation suggests that the cat is found in partially logged forests. If so, this is good news.



Pallas cat (*Otocolobus manul*). Weight 5 kg, height about 10 inches. The Pallas cat is found across the great Asian steppe through Mongolia. They live in rocky places where they prey upon pikas and other rodents. Their fur is thick and luxurious especially in winter. Local Mongolians capture them in their dens and make hats and coats out of Pallas cats. Many are captured for their skins that are sold to Chinese traders. The Pallas cat has been studied in the wild but more needs to be done.



Guigna (*Oncifelis guigna*). Weight 5 kg. Alias: kod-kod. The Guigna is found in south-central Chile and a small bit of Argentina. The cat favors thick lowland forest, especially coastal forests. One of its strongholds is Isla Grande de Chiloe, the largest island off the coast of Chile. The Guigna is a beautiful little cat, much smaller than a house cat, grey with black spots and a very bushy tail - another Chilean miniature like the Pudu, the world's smallest deer, whose habitat it shares. Many guigna are melanistic (black phase).



Dr. Sanderson with a wild, tranquilized guigna (left), black guigna with lizard (right)

Rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosa*). The Rusty-spotted cat is very small and rivals the Guigna as the world's smallest wild cat. On June 1 2006 SCCA launched a camera trapping effort to find these little cats in the wild. Fortunately, Rusty-spotted cats are spread throughout the Indian peninsula and also Sri Lanka. They are able to live around humans and likely feed on the rodents that accompany humans.

Sources:

Cincyzoo.org
smallcats.org