



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES WINTER 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

After many years of hard work, Project Tiger is finally nearing completion! The walls are currently under construction; still remaining after those are landscaping and walkways. We're all very excited and look forward to its completion in 2003. We still plan to use one side for Sumatran tigers, and the other side for jaguars. These are both species that love water, and will make good use of the large swimming pool on each side. Our jaguar Annie (picture below), born here in 1998, will move into this enclosure with her future boyfriend, who's currently at Audubon Zoo with his mother. Work has progressed slower than expected due to a decrease in donations after the terrorist attack in 2001. This has only slowed down our expansion and upgrade plans - we are financially healthy, and have continued to attract steady numbers of visitors. We received a grant from the Kern County Board of Tourism that allowed us to print color rack cards and place them in hotels and other information racks around the county. We are conducting a survey to find out how first-time visitors heard about us, which will help us with future advertising plans. We want to once again thank you, our members, for supporting our work in preserving and protecting the endangered cats of the world. More cats become endangered yearly mainly due to habitat destruction by the ever-expanding human population. Our facility, and others like it worldwide, help try to stem off the extinction of species through captive breeding programs and education of the public. We are grateful for your support.

CAT UPDATE:

We are home to yet another bobcat. In October we picked up an adult male that had been captured in Ridgecrest, supposedly chasing someone's pet cats. We planned to give him a checkup and re-release him farther from a city, as we have done in the past. However, we were immediately struck by how non-wild he acted; he was calm sitting in a cat carrier, even when people entered his cage, and happily ate chicken out of a bowl. During his exam we saw he was seriously underweight, is 10-12 years old, and appeared not to have eaten in a long time. There's a decent chance this was a captive-raised cat that escaped or was dumped, so we've decided to keep him rather than release him. He's been named Moses.

In other news, three Amur leopards that were born here have all moved on to new homes to be part of breeding programs elsewhere. Tara went to the New England Zoo in Boston and Sergei and Sasha went to Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. All have settled in fine. You may remember Sergei left us once before, but didn't get along with his intended mate that time. He was brought back to EFBC/FCC and paired with Sasha. They bonded quite well so we sent them off together. We're proud to be such an integral part of the Amur leopard captive breeding program.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER:

When I first learned of being able to volunteer at EFBC/FCC I jumped at the opportunity. It has been five years now and I have met many wonderful people (and cats!) One of the most

rewarding aspects as a volunteer is the chance to educate others. It is a nice feeling after giving a tour to a group knowing that they are walking away with a better understanding of endangered felines. I look forward to the completion of Project Tiger. EFBC/FCC is expanding to be better all the time and I am proud to be a part of it.

DONATIONS:

We've received more computer equipment, all much appreciated, from: Lisa Jorgensen-Los Gatos, CA., Brian Chafin-Tujunga, CA., Adrienne Ayres and David Lewis-Lake Charles, LA., Angela Ji-Sherman Oaks, CA., and Pam Rose and Gene Bowan-Aliso Viejo, CA.

Gail Lyon, Rosamond, CA. provided various useful construction equipment, thanks Gail!

Mike and JoAnn Glass, Lancaster, CA. brought out a large box of office supplies, all very useful!

Julita Jones, Laguna Beach, CA. sells her own line of greeting cards at various events and donates a portion of the proceeds here - thanks Julita!

Greg Harrison, Rosamond, CA. provided a wheeled transport cage. Thanks Greg!

Cub Scout Pack 248 from Lancaster brought out cleaning supplies, YAY Cubs!

Larry Cherry, Rosamond, CA. donated a large number of leopard pins; Check them out in our giftshop! Thanks Larry!

And special thanks to the Rotary Club of Lancaster for their \$400 donation to our general fund!

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

Vancouver Sun, 2 November 2002

China has managed to kill off one of the most enduring symbols of Asian pride, driving its long-endangered population of wild south China tigers to extinction, says a new report. The report was written by Ron Tilson, a U.S. biologist and chairman of The Tiger Foundation, a Vancouver-based conservation group. Tilson was

invited last year by the Chinese government to conduct a census of what it believed were an estimated 20 to 30 of the tigers that still lived in the wild. But after eight months of searching the forests where the Chinese had said tigers still live, Tilson and his team of U.S. and Chinese researchers found no reliable evidence any tigers are still alive, he said. "There are no tigers," Tilson told a conservation group here recently. "There is no prey and there is no habitat. All of China's tiger conservation areas have been converted to spruce and fir forests. I did not even hear any birds." And to make matters worse, just 47 south Chinese tigers survive in captivity, Tilson said, in a heavily inbred population. If Tilson's findings are correct, just four tiger subspecies of an original eight have survived into the 21st century. Indo-Chinese, Bengal, Siberian and Sumatran tigers still maintain wild populations, although those are seriously threatened. In all, some 5,000 tigers are believed to still live in the wild. China is believed to still contain tiny populations of Indo-Chinese, Bengal and Siberian tigers in border areas. Tilson's findings have triggered a wave of controversy in China, he said. He acknowledged that his research team did not examine one of the country's more promising tiger habitats, the Wuyunjie Provincial Reserve. According to Tilson, the reserve's administrators would not admit his team to the park, but showed it video of the habitat. "The forest looked good," he said. "It was early winter, there was a little bit of snow on the ground, it just looked promising compared to where we'd been." Tilson's report questions recent tiger "sightings," and plaster casts of paw prints. In an interview, he said the plaster casts he was shown were of suspect quality and origin and some of the paw prints were far too big to belong to tigers, or to any other living cat. He said his researchers interviewed villagers who reported sighting tigers, and using picture cards the researchers determined the villagers could not distinguish between tigers and other big cats that are believed to still survive. The researchers installed remote trail cameras in areas where there was a possibility of tigers or prey, but 90 per cent of the photographs showed livestock, domestic dogs or humans, Tilson said. Just one big cat, a leopard, was photographed. "After nearly eight months of field work, including walking 288 kilometers of trails, 1,056 man-hours in the field, and 392 camera trap nights, no

evidence of tigers was found in any of the eight reserves investigated,” the report says.

South Africa Mail & Guardian, 15 November 2002

In South Africa, 40 to 50 breeders of large cats keep about 2500 predators in captivity, often supplying them to “canned hunt” operations. Breeders advertise cats available for hunting, such as a adult male white lion for US\$165,000. Six breeders are currently offering over 80 big cats (jaguars, tigers, white lions, regular lions, and lionesses ‘guaranteed to be pregnant’). Conservation officials say the large number of sales may be in anticipation of a legislative clampdown on canned hunting next year. The proposed new laws outlaw hunting of big cats in captivity, hunting at night, using drugs to tranquilize target animals, using dogs, and they also stipulate hunting must be done on foot.

Environmental News Service, 18 November 2002

The former operator of an exotic animal farm in Oklahoma has been fined and sentenced for his role in the illegal sales of two tigers and three leopards in 1998. A federal court in St. Louis sentenced Stoney Ray Elam to one year confinement, two years probation and ordered him to pay \$5,000 restitution to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Save the Tiger Fund for selling the federally protected animals. Elam, former owner of PowerHouse Wildlife Sanctuary in Ft. Gibson, will

serve six months of his one year sentence in an Oklahoma detention facility and six months in home confinement. Elam pleaded guilty in April to two felony violations of the Lacey Act, a federal wildlife protection law. In June 1998, special agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) observed Elam transport two tigers and three leopards - one black leopard and two spotted leopards - from Oklahoma to Missouri. Elam then met with an undercover federal agent posing as an exotic animal dealer near a highway rest stop in New Florence, Missouri. Elam sold the cats to the agent for \$4,800, then falsified federal documents declaring the illegal sale to be a “donation.” Elam was one of five people indicted in Missouri last November as a result of Operation Snow Plow, a lengthy multi-state investigation into the illegal exotic animal trade by special agents of the USFWS. UFSWS investigators, working closely with U.S. Attorney’s Offices in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan, uncovered a group of residents and small business owners in the Midwest that bought and killed exotic tigers, leopards, snow leopards, lions, mountain lions, cougars, mixed breed cats and black bears with the intention of introducing meat and skins into the lucrative animal parts trade. Elam is the fourth defendant charged by the Missouri Federal Court to be sentenced.

The Vladivostok News, 21 November 2002

A veterinarian at a Khabarovsk zoo was fined and sentenced to community service for negligence after causing recent death of an endangered Far Eastern Leopard, authorities said on Friday. The animal's cage was mistakenly treated with insecticide in June and the leopard died after inhaling the toxic spray. A court in Khabarovsk on November 14 fined the zoo veterinarian Galina Galushkina 52,035 rubles (\$1,635) and sentenced her to six months of community service, said Anzhelika Alyoshina, a Khabarovsk environmental prosecutor who investigated the case. The amount of the fine is about equal to the price paid for the big cat by the Khabarovsk zoo when it bought the animal from a zoo in Novosibirsk, a city in Siberia. The Khabarovsk zoo recently suffered another incident. An African leopard died there on October 30 and experts are working to determine the cause of its death, Alyoshina said. Her office

WISH LIST

Wireless P.A. System

Landscape Materials- trees and bushes for Project Tiger and other places

X-ray Processor

Golf Carts

VHS/DVD Recorder combination

Construction equipment and supplies (8x8x16 concrete block, rebar - backhoe, dozer, loader)

won't file a criminal inquiry into the case because this type of leopard is not endangered, she said.

New Straits Times (M) Berhad - Dec. 2002

Developer saves injured rare clouded leopard:

Sitrac Development Holdings executive chairman Datuk Syed Mustafa Shahabudin bought the injured animal for RM1,000 from an Orang Asli who had trapped it. "I was upset when my assistant told me an Orang Asli had caught an injured leopard and was seeking to sell it. The man had caught two cats and had sold the earlier, and bigger, one to someone who was probably going to make a meal out of it. I stepped in as I did not want the same thing to happen to this one." The two-meter leopard named Tampet by Syed Mustafa is believed to have lost its right paw in a trap, leaving it with a bloody stump.

The cat, rarely seen even in the wild, is believed to have been trapped in Sitrac's 7,000 hectare Tanarimba integrated project area.

Mustaffa said he did not allow his workers to catch or shoot animals, take out any plants or disturb bird nests in his resort, as part of efforts to rehabilitate the surrounding area which had been scarred years ago by slash and burn farming methods.

"I think poachers and restaurant owners employ Orang Asli to catch these animals as they have the expertise and the right to trap animals for food. My workers have even found bullet casings in the project area's protected forests." The leopard was taken to the Temerloh Wildlife Department for treatment by Perhilitan rangers. The department would decide whether to release the animal into the wild or send it to a zoo after it was treated.

Reciprocal Zoo list

Included in this newsletter is the 2003 Reciprocal Zoo list. We hope you enjoy this benefit extended to EFBC/FCC members.

2003 Special Events Calendar

Twilight Tour dates:

Spring - April 26

Summer - June 21

Fall - September 20

Fabulous Feline Follies:

August 16

All of the above events are held on a Saturday so mark you calendars now!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Incorporated, Feline Conservation Center is a not for profit, 501 (c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and propagation of rare and endangered felines through breeding, research, and education. EFBC/FCC is run by an active Board of Directors which governs policies, procedures, and the direction of the corporation. Directors and officers receive no compensation for their services, nor retain any personal interest in any portion of the assets of the corporation. Officers are elected at a meeting of the Board of Directors and serve a term of 3 years. There are no limits to the amount of terms one can serve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph W. Maynard , President	Larry Purcell, Vice President
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30, 2002 are now on file. The following are highlights of our annual report. For copies of the complete financial statements, please send a self-addressed #10 envelope and a check for \$5.00 postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, HCR 1, Box 84, Rosamond, CA. 93560. During the last quarter of the 2002 fiscal year, one of our long time members passed away leaving EFBC/FCC as beneficiary. We received \$75,000 from the estate.

NOTE: Another source for information on EFBC/FCC, or, any legitimate non profit organization can be found at www.guidestar.org/. You should consider this or similar sources before donating any funds to any organization.

Total assets:	\$966,359
Total liabilities:	\$ 54,711
Net assets:	\$911,648
Total liabilities and net assets:	\$966,359
Total support and revenue:	\$397,210
Program service expenses:	\$240,472
Administrative and fund raising expenses:	\$ 47,666
Total expenses:	\$288,138
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses:	\$109,072