



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES WINTER 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again! It seems it was just yesterday that our 2002-3 fiscal year ended and the Holidays were upon us.

Highlights of our FYE 9/30/04 financial statement are included in this edition of our newsletter. Our growth continues at a gradual pace which, according to some in this economy, is an achievement in its self. Depreciation of equipment and general maintenance on the facility along with infrastructure improvements are noticeable entries in our report this year.

Our animal population remained relatively stable with few movements this year. A couple of cats were loaned out to zoos and offspring from breeding loans returned.

We said goodbye to some of our older cats, and welcomed the arrival of some new births. Our talented staff and volunteers are continually thinking of new enrichments to keep our feline family happy, and we have completed our long term care unit in our hospital to continue providing the best medical care possible. The new Dietary Preparation Center will be up and running shortly and upon completion we will be able to concentrate on "Project Tiger" again.

We would like to again thank all of our supporters and wish the best for the coming new year.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Effective **IMMEDIATELY**, our mailing address has changed and the U.S. Postal Service has told us it will no longer deliver mail to us that is not addressed (according to them) properly.

The new address is: 3718 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA. 93560-7779



SPECIAL EVENTS

NEW!! - Big Cat Bazaar - on May 7 & 8 (Saturday and Sunday), we will hold a HUGE parking lot sale - instead of collecting items in your garage for a "some-day" yard sale, bring them to the compound and we will sell it all to raise money for the cats! We will store items here until May so you can donate them any time before then. If you would like to help with the organization of this event, please give us a call or email! Another new fund-raiser in 2005 will be a Holiday Kid's Day. We're looking at the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 26), and want to have games, educational presentations, face painting, and more! The planning for this will start early and we have a lot of work to do so please help out if you can. In addition to these fun new events we will still have our usual fund-raisers. 2005 Twilight Tours will be held on April 23, June 18, and September 17. The 16th Annual Fabulous Feline Follies dinner/auction will be August 20.

The new Dietary Preparation Center is nearly done! Recall that our old trailer we had used to prepare food in for nearly 30 years fell apart a few months ago. The new cement-block building will be a great help in the hard daily work of preparing individual diets for over 70 cats.

Research Projects

In mid November researchers from the Cincinnati Zoo were here conducting an in-vitro fertilization project on our fishing cats.

We are also collaborating on 2 fecal collection projects with Pallas' Cats and the Canada Lynx.

DONATIONS

Joe Beck, Antelope Valley Engineering, donated their services for the engineering calculations for the new DPC building.

Greg Hanes, owner of Hanes and Associates in Lancaster, CA. gave us a substantial discount on the trusses for the new DPC we are constructing and also donated a large air handler for Project Tiger for cooling in the summer.

Larry Purcell, Sav On Fence Company, Lancaster, CA donated a 1977 GMC 1 ton truck.

Lynda Smith, Saugus, CA. Donated light fixtures and electrical items for the new DPC.

Cindy Rustanius & Mary Anna Aynsworth, Gardena, CA donated a \$50.00 Albertson Gift Card.

The following people donated miscellaneous items for our Twilight Tours, Feline Follies and our upcoming Giant Garage Sale 7 May 2005;

Nancy Vandermeij, Altadena, CA. - Eric Barkalow, Burbank, CA. - Barbara McNaught, Rosamond, CA. - Helen Abughoush, Palmdale, CA. - Brandt & Lynn Bishop, Huntington Beach, CA. - Sue Scudder, Thousand Oaks, CA. - Pam Rose, Laguna Niguel, CA.

Thank you all for your continued support!!

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BANGKOK (AFP) 22 Oct 04 - Another 30 tigers have died from bird flu or been culled at the world's largest breeding farm in Thailand, taking the death toll from an outbreak there to 83. The tigers began dying October 14 at the private Sri Racha Tiger Zoo in an outbreak believed to have started when animals were fed raw infected chickens. Thailand's bird flu prevention centre reported that another five tigers were sick and being treated with human anti-virus drug therapy. Officials at the zoo, whose tiger population before the outbreak stood at 441, said the culled animals were put down by lethal injection. They were buried in pits behind the zoo that were covered with lime and concrete to prevent them

WISH LIST

Landscape materials, plants and trees

Construction equipment supplies

(8x8x16 concrete block, rebar, cement)

New electrical supplies

Water truck, Backhoe

People with arc welding experience for Project Tiger work

from being dug up. Tiger parts command high prices, notably for traditional Chinese medicines, and the zoo has previously been investigated by Thai officials over alleged tiger smuggling.

Arizona Daily Star, 19 Oct 04

At least two different healthy male jaguars have been caught on film by automated cameras south of Tucson since August. Based on comparisons of the cats' distinctive rosettes, one of the animals was also photographed in 2001 and 2003. A third cat photographed may be a female, but the photo was too dark to be certain. Without documentation of females, biologists feel these are just dispersing animals from a population located 135 miles south of the US-Mexico border. Like other endangered border cats such as ocelots and jaguarondi, these cats will have problems migrating between the two countries due to increasing Border Patrol activities.

Cheetah Conservation Botswana, October

A mother with five 6-month old cubs was collared, and she and all the cubs were captured for measurements and samples. Local farmers and veterinarians assisted in the work up. A community development officer has been hired to help make regular visits to the surrounding communities and assess the levels of cheetah conflicts with the local farmers. A micro light aircraft was obtained, which will help greatly in tracking the cheetahs that leave the game reserve in Jwaneng. A new research camp is being set up in Ghanzi in January, and we are looking into operating in the Tuli block area next year as well.

Paco's cubs - remember Paco, the male African lion that was staying here while we arranged permits to send him to Cambodia? He's a father now!

Touch the Jungle Margay Reserve in Ecuador

Ecotourism: a special form of tourism that meets three criteria: 1) it provides for environmental conservation 2) it includes meaningful community participation 3) it is profitable and can sustain itself.

Some so-called ecotourism companies are just using it as a buzzword, without meeting some or

any of the 3 goals of ecotourism. Touch the Jungle is true ecotourism, meeting all 3 goals dead-on. While the struggle goes on to protect endangered big cats, the steady eradication of smaller wildcat species continues almost unnoticed. That's why, in 1997, Earthways Foundation sponsored the development of the world's first margay reserve. The reserve - 25,000 acres of near-virgin rainforest in northwestern Ecuador - belongs to Playa de Oro, a tiny community which has no electricity, no phones, no mail service, no roads in. As it was when settled 500 years ago, Playa de Oro remains accessible only by river which only a few local men can navigate.

For all its remoteness, the community - and its forest and its wildlife - was under siege by timber companies which had already clear-cut much of the rainforest down river. When Earthways project director Rosa Jordan suggested that the logging companies might be fended off if the community designated its forest a protected area for neo-tropical felids, the people of Playa de Oro decided it was worth a try. Although jaguars and pumas are native to the region, these big cats have not been sighted in Playa de Oro's territory in a decade or more, so were probably hunted out before the reserve was established. What remains are four smaller neo-tropical felid species: ocelots, margay, oncillas, and the water-loving jaguarundi. "Tigrillo", or "little tiger", is the common Latin American name for all small spotted wildcats, so it was decided that this would be the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos, and that the rarest of these, the margay, would be its flagship species.

As part of the reserve project, Earthways Foundation raised funds so the community could recycle an abandoned military barracks into a comfortable jungle lodge. The lodge opened in 2000, and is now getting a steady trickle of visitors. Most come because they know their dollars support the reserve and protect habitat so essential to the survival of small neo-tropical felids, and generally leave having had what one visitor called "a quintessential rainforest experience."

Wildlife surveillance cameras have been placed along game trails where they can capture, on film, the various species which exist within the

reserve. Until now, data have been taken from "track traps", where it is nearly impossible to distinguish between margay and oncillas. There are occasional sightings as well, but these are rare. The smaller cats are nocturnal, and are believed to spend most of their time in the forest canopy, coming to ground only when absolutely necessary. Tracks and sightings may be inconclusive, but photographs will provide clear evidence of how many wildcat species are being protected at the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos.

For information on how to visit, contact Tracy Wilson at wildcat@ipa.net or Rosa Jordan at rosaj@look.ca. Several ocelots have been rescued from wildlife markets and released into the reserve. One ocelot, rescued at only a few days old, is being raised at the lodge and goes on walks in the jungle with guests. Trips are organized to a local waterfall, the village, to go gold panning - or one can lay on a hammock all day relaxing and listening to the sounds of the jungle.

Volunteer of the Quarter

Lisa Davis is the Volunteer of the Quarter for Fall 2004. She grew up in Owensboro, KY and moved to California 1.5 years ago after earning a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Southern Indiana. Her boyfriend of 8 years, Josh, works nearby at Edwards Air Force Base as a computer analyst. Her parents still live in Owensboro with the family cat Mr Kitty. Her younger sister Anne is in a masters degree program in physical therapy in Nashville, TN. Lisa started volunteering at the Cathouse because cats are royalty in her family.

She feels very lucky to have the opportunity, and is thrilled to be learning about preserving and caring for wild cats. She says, "Their individual personalities are a joy. If I had to name my favorite cats, I would eventually name every cat at the compound. At the top of the list would be Nikolai because he has gumption, Isaac because he's laid back, Ktusha because she reminds me of a cat I had, and Trapper because he's so friendly."

2005 Recipricol Zoo List

The new 2005 Reciprocal list is enclosed with this newsletter. Remember to carry your membership

card with you when you travel to any of these areas and be sure to visit these great facilities.

We would like to extend a special thank you to members; Linda Olds, Michael Sundquist, Brandt Bishop, Shelia Nix, Frank Tetnowski and Aimee Toth. Based on their recommendations, we received a grant for \$2,000.00 from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California, which will help us with our many ongoing projects.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS:

Thank you to all our members who provided us with the forms to have their donations matched by their employers matching gift programs.

Many corporations and businesses have a matching gift program available, however only a small percentage of their employees take advantage of this benefit. The extra funding EFBC receives from these plans really help our programs.

Thus far we have received matching gifts from; American Express, Microsoft, Oppenheimer Funds, Boeing, Callaway Golf Company, Oracle Corporation, Thomson Media, U.S. Borax Inc., The Prudential Foundation, J. Paul Getty Trust, Wal-Mart Foundation, 3Com Corporation, IBM, Network Associates, CIGNA, Marconi Integrated Systems Inc., Tellabs Operations, Inc., Southern California Edison, Cisco Systems, Inc., International Data Corporation, and U.S. West Foundation.

Please check with your company and see if they also offer a matching gift program.

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 regular meeting of the Board of Directors and serve a term of 3 years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Joseph W. Maynard | President |
| Larry Purcell | Vice President |
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| Bob Slade | Director |
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| Camille Gadwood | Director |
| Jeff Conrad, D.V.M. | Director |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 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, 3718 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA. 93560.

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| Total assets: | \$1,014,231 |
| Total liabilities: | \$ 55,429 |
| Net assets: | \$ 958,802 |
| Total Support and revenue: | \$ 367,132 |
| Program service expenses: | \$ 322,155 |
| Administrative and fund raising expenses: | \$ 39,670 |
| Total expenses: | \$ 361,825 |
| Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses: | \$ 5,307 |