



EFBC/Feline Conservation

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES Winter 2007

Message from the president:



Another year has passed and it seems time is slipping away faster than ever. Last year was an interesting one to say the least. The effects of last winter's single digit temperatures on our lawns are still being felt and the high winds we receive in spring were devastating to trees and other plants.

We have managed to get most everything back up to snuff and even done a little more work on Project Tiger.

If no unseen events again play out, in spring we will begin to finish welding the last part of Project Tiger and hopefully move some animals into the exhibit by the end of next year.

Visitation was down slightly, due mainly to the wild weather, but overall it was a pretty good year. Our Twilight Tours are still well attended and our two newer events, the Kid's Day and the Big Cat Bazaar are gaining in popularity and attendance.

We are looking for suggestions on other events we can have during the time between December and April so if you think of something that may be interesting, drop us a line or email me at cathouse@qnet.com. We will certainly review any suggestion you submit.



JunJie was moved into a public enclosure. Visitors are enjoying seeing him play.

At our upcoming Fabulous Feline Follies we are thinking of changing the program. Watch for updates on this new program in our future newsletters.

We hope all of you have a safe and prosperous New Year and again extend our gratitude for all of the support you have given us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Janet W. Myers'.



Trapper: We lost Trapper, our Canada lynx, a couple of weeks ago. In late November he had undergone surgery to fix a condition of his spine that was causing him discomfort. Several months ago he began walking a little bit differently, and his coordination was off.

Dr. Scott Weldy explained his condition as this:

“His problem is called a “Chiari-1” like malformation, Syringomyelia C1-C3. That is pronounced a kee-r-ee type 1 (roman numeral 1).

Basically in the back of the skull the cerebellum is being squished (the cerebellum is responsible for coordinating intentional movement so you can do things smoothly). That is why he was “goose stepping” and misplacing his feet when he moved. It is also why he was staring up in the sky a lot and wobbling his head like Stevie Wonder. Because the cerebellum was being pushed against the back of his skull it was blocking the fluid drain down the spinal cord through the foramen magnum (the hole in the back of the skull). This also caused the neural tube (a tube in the center of the cord) to expand with fluid and over time slowly stretch and dilate in the first 3 vertebra, C1, C2 and C3. A syringomyelia means fluid filled room and Trapper’s is at C1-C3.

Over the years Trapper’s brain has pulsed with his heart beat and pushed in and out of the foramen magnum slowly expanding and causing this problem. It is a congenital defect (it is seen in the dog breed of cavalier king Charles spaniels and in humans. In humans it is a very bad disease with a poor prognosis, but in the spaniels it has been corrected with this surgery we did).

Basically, what was done is the back of Trapper’s skull was removed to allow the cerebellum to expand and push outward and also the top of C1 was removed to allow the fluid to escape and take the pressure off the brain so he would return to normal. Afterwards, Dr. Berry placed a titanium wire mesh basket molded over the back of the skull with titanium screws and methyl methacrylate over the basket to protect the brain (since he removed the back of the skull to relieve the pressure).”

In the middle of December we felt he was not improving as well as was expected and in some cases his balance was worsening so we decided to have another MRI done to see if there was still fluid pressure or possibly bleeding around the surgery area that was inhibiting his recovery. The MRI showed that the affected area was actually



Photo showing area of surgery

reduced and that there should have been a response to the original treatment. It was decided to increase the amount of steroid he was prescribed and continue to monitor.

Unfortunately, while he did recover from the sedation, his heart gave out and he passed away peacefully later that day.

The costs associated with the surgery had to be covered out of the EFBC-FCC general fund. We thank the surgeon, Dr. Berry, for donating his time and expertise, but the other costs were high. We are accepting donations to help us off-set the cost of the titanium basket & screws that had to be attached to his skull. The costs incurred to date exceed \$2,000.00. Donations toward this fund are appreciated.

Kid’s Day:

Our Kid’s Day event has continued to grow in popularity as can be attested by this year’s attendance with over five hundred paid participants. Yes, Kid’s Day was a hit! There were many people that pulled together to make it all work and the staff really appreciated the



efforts of all those that found the time to help out. Thank you to Ann LeShay for volunteering and taking photos!

There were many great events and contests along with train and pony rides. If you were not able to attend be sure to watch for the date of next year's event and add it to your calendar.



Amur Leopard News:

Science daily (Oct. 25, 2007) — A rare Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*), one of only an estimated 30 left in the wild has been captured and health-checked by experts from a consortium of conservation organizations, before being



Thanks to Wonders of Wildlife Inc., who donated the educational animal presentation. Cheryl fascinated the children. Thank you Cheryl!!

released. Representatives from a group of organizations, including the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Biology and Soils, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) captured the female in a remote location in south-west Primorye as part of their work to save the critically endangered leopard. The animal was tranquilized and an extensive and high-tech medical examination was undertaken by the veterinary team.

Alexei Kostyria, biologist from the Institute of Biology and Soils in Vladivostok and co-leader of the project, commented, "This capture represents a new benchmark in assessing health of wild animals in Russia. We have brought together top experts from Russia and around the world and taken state-of-the-art equipment deep into the taiga to conduct medical assessments of the Far Eastern leopard. We have an unprecedented level of collaboration and remarkable effort that is essential if we are to save this critically endangered leopard."

Kostyria's counterpart, John Goodrich of the Wildlife Conservation Society, commented, "Catching this female was a big step forward in our efforts to understand the status of this population, and to better define necessary

conservation actions needed to conserve this population.”

There are estimated to be between 24 and 32 Amur leopards living in the wild, making this population the rarest big cat on the planet. The animals are found in a corner of the Russian Far East on the Chinese border, in an area where their range is restricted by human activity. As the wild population is so small, it is likely that inbreeding (breeding between close relatives) is taking place and it is important to find out if this is having damaging effects on the cats in order to plan conservation action for the future.

The Wildlife Conservation Society and the Zoological Society of London are working with local organizations to initiate a wildlife health monitoring program involving leopards and other wildlife in the region.

Initial findings from the veterinary examination of the leopard include the presence of a heart murmur, which could be indicative of inbreeding depression. Remarkably given the remote location, the team was able to capture footage of the heart, using a portable sonogram device, which has already been sent out for review by heart specialists. Further results are expected once laboratory analysis has been carried out, which will provide more information about the reproductive condition of the leopard as well as any illnesses or parasites that she may have been suffering from.

We have noticed this condition in a couple of the cats born here at EFBC/FCC. Sevastian, an Amur leopard born at the EFBC in 2004 who was originally slated to go to the Granby zoo with Ktusha had it. He was kept here due to this heart murmur. Dimitri, born a year later, did not have this condition and was sent in his place. The PMP coordinator of the North American Amur leopard breeding program has since given Sevastian the green light to breed anyway, and a suitable mate will be found for him in the future.

Did you know?

The Amur Leopard is a species in need of worldwide support. The EFBC/FCC has been helping to spread awareness through the sale of the Amur leopard logo t-shirts, and the TIGRIS foundation asks those of you that have worn them proudly to send photos to them, so they can show the local residents proof that the world wants to save these animals.

If you wear one in your travels, send them a photo! All money from the sale of these shirts goes toward helping the effort to save these animals in the wild. A link to them can be found on our web site.



Eric Barkalow, a cathouse volunteer, wore the Amur logo on a recent trip to Africa. Here a guide and Canadian travel agent admire the striking logo. A trip report can be found on EFBC/FCC's website Look for South Africa/Botswana Trip October/November 2007 through the site map or through the obligatory author's (Nancy Vandermeij) home page..

Project tiger update:

We have been working on the inside of Project Tiger and have almost completed the south holding section pictured below. The north inside holding area has been completed and with the help of some great volunteers we have painted a good portion of the outside of the south cage. With general maintenance of the facility,





especially with the wind and freeze damage from last year, plus a limited amount of people to work on it, progress has been slow. We hope to be able to accomplish more in the coming year including landscaping thanks to a grant from the Healy Foundation.

Volunteer of the Quarter: Pam Rose

Volunteering at EFBC for close to ten years has taught me that the best way to get to know animals and to learn what is special about them is by taking care of them. Working with exotic cats, establishing relationships, and learning about each one has awakened a desire in me to get to know other species of animals.

Although exotic cats are my first love, my recent exploration took me to the tropical rain forest of Mefou National Park, in a poor and little known African country called Cameroon (near Nigeria), to work at a primate orphanage called CWF



Pam Rose

(CWF.org) *Editor's note: read Pam's story of her trip to Cameroon on our web site.*

Donations:

Special thanks go out to the following who helped support our general operating fund this quarter. There was lots of maintenance expenses including painting, redoing den boxes, landscaping, etc: The Estate of Peggy Farnan, David Forward, Vicki Collins, Sophie McIntosh, Animal Tails, Carol Forsythe, and Edwina Lu.

Much needed cleaning and cat supplies were donated this quarter by: Tina Zeigler, Betty Platero, Mike & Maryeann McMullen, Emily Biro, Gail Lyon, Ron Luna, and Richard & Dorothy Parker.

Thanks to Roger Scilly for donating an EZGO golf cart. We rely on golf carts to care for our feline family and we will make good use of his generous donation.

All of us at EFBC/FCC want to give a special thanks to Foster Parent, member, and volunteer Gail Lyon. Gail noticed that our benches in the exhibit area were looking rather worn and took the initiative to repair and renovate all the benches. She did an excellent job and we appreciate her hard work.



Gail Lyon refurbished many of the public benches in our display area. Thanks Gail!!!

The Alicia Marie Cox memorial fund was established here at EFBC/FCC by her family in tribute to Alicia's love of animals. Alicia was murdered in Lancaster on September 11th at the young age of 26. Our exhibit lost a 90' pine tree due to high winds and Alicia's family replaced

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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30 , 2007 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.

Total assets:	\$1,275,395
Total Liabilities:	\$ 51,989
Net assets:	\$1,223,406
Total support and revenue, including non-cash donation:	\$ 405,751
Program service expenses:	\$ 322,243
Administrative and fund raising expenses:	\$ 37,949 (9%)
Total expenses:	\$ 360,192
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses:	\$ 45,559

that tree through the memorial fund. A plaque honoring their daughter will also be placed there.



The new tree planted by Yanna & Li Ming's cage. Last year's high winds blew down the original one planted in 1985. The new tree was donated by the Cox family in memory of their daughter, Alicia Marie Cox.

Ralph's Community Contribution Program: In September it was required that everyone sign up again to have a portion of their purchases from

Ralphs and Cala/Bell markets go to EFBC/FCC. It is easy to do. Just go to our website and click on the Ralph's link. EFBC/FCC's NPO # 82845, should automatically be entered when you use our link. Thus far, we have received the following contributions from this program; 12/30/06 - \$270.34, 3/29/07 - \$218.93, 6/18/07 - \$250.00, and 9/30/07 - \$319.43. Thanks to all that have signed up and participated in this program.

Zoo Reciprocal List: Enclosed is the 2008 zoo reciprocal list. These facilities offer our members free or discounted admission. Remember to present your EFBC/FCC membership card and ID.

WISH LIST

Rakes, shovels, and other cleaning supplies and equipment

Golf carts (electric)

Later model laptop computer (XP compatible)



This leopard was photographed in Kruger National Park, South Africa by EFBC Board Member Nancy Vandermey. The whole story with photos is now on her page of the EFBC-FCC web site.

Photo at right - While in Botswana, Africa, Eric and Nancy visited the Cheetah Conservation Botswana project and the portable xray machine donated by the EFBC-FCC. Dr. Kyle Good (pictured) says she is quite impressed with the quality of the machine.

