



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES Winter 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

First I would like to thank our great friends and supporters for their continued belief that we are making a difference. The economy has all of us struggling and yet you, our friends, have helped us through these trying times.

We have had many people inquire as to the completion date of Project Tiger. We are as impatient as they are but there is one factor we have to take into consideration that many may forget. We have almost 80 mouths to feed. No matter what shape the economy is in, this is something that cannot be postponed. As such during lean times we must forgo construction to make absolutely sure we have the funds to continue to take care of our cats. This has extended the time of completion for many projects including the tiger complex.

The following are highlights of last year's accomplishments and goals for the new year: In 2011 we were able to complete our "Exhibit Beautification" project with the purchase of new benches, picnic tables, and trash cans for a cost of \$10,016. All the trees in our exhibit area were treated and trimmed for a cost of \$3,000. We were also able to replace the chain link public safety fencing in the exhibit area with stronger and better appearing welded wire for a cost of \$6,600. This new safety fencing will extend to Project Tiger. New walkways were also completed out to Project Tiger. We were able to add central heating and cooling capabilities to our gift shop at a cost of \$3,500.

For 2012 we will be concentrating our efforts

on trying to raise funds to build public restrooms. As our visitation increases, we cannot continue to rely on porta-potties. They are expensive to maintain and service each month, and let's face it, not very pleasant to use. Public visitation is important to EFBC's daily cash flow and ultimately helps pay the bills for providing food, water, and medical services for our animals.

The more visitors EFBC receives, the more income derived and the more money we can invest in our exhibits, breeding programs, and animals.

We hope to continue to grow and a silly thing like adequate restrooms will ultimately help us achieve that goal. It is however a big goal and with the current price of concrete and block we hope to raise \$75,000 to complete the project. Construction will commence only when we have raised all necessary funds to complete the project in a timely manner.

Again, thank you from all of us and we hope you have a joyous Holiday Season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane W. Wynn'.



New Arrivals:

Persian Leopard:

Our male Persian leopard from Denmark, Bam Bam, arrived September 7th. He is living off-exhibit next to his intended mate, Kiana. Kiana is the only female Persian leopard in the Americas! Persian leopards (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) are one of the subspecies of leopards native to western Asia. The Persian leopard is endangered through out its distribution area in the Middle East and is said to be the largest of all the leopard subspecies. It inhabits Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and northwestern Afghanistan. Habitat varies from mountain steppe to grasslands, or anywhere having a reasonable amount of cover and a supply of prey.



Sand Cats:

After a few years' absence, we are once again home to Sand Cats (*Felis margarita*). This raises our total species count to 19 (out of 36) wild cat species. However, both the sand cats and leopard cat we received earlier this year remain off display. Sand cats are tiny (3-11 pound) cats that live in sandy and stony deserts in northern Africa and the Middle East. They can live far from water sources by utilizing moisture from their prey (rodents, snakes, etc). They are a pale yellow color with a ringed tail. The sand cat's ears are large and set widely apart and low on the sides of the head. They are nocturnal in their native habitat. Our

current two are father (Naji) and son (Fath). We are looking for a female to mate with young Fath.



Cougar, Puma, Mountain Lion:



On September 21st we became home to two young orphan cougars from Oregon, Porter and Cheyenne. They have since moved on to the Orange County Zoo.

Amur Leopards:

In November/December we brought back three Amur leopard cubs born to a female of ours in Kansas. The female was born to Sergei and Sasha who are on loan to Audubon Zoo. The sire was related to Kishka and Gigant. They will be going to the San Diego Zoo on a loan. These three cubs are quite valuable to the breeding program, and we will likely bring one of the males back in the future to breed with Sahkar.



Temporary housing is found inside project tiger for these three adorable Amur Leopards.

Online News

We have an email list now! There is a link to sign up at the bottom right of our home page. Approximately monthly an update email will be sent with news of what's going on in Rosamond.

We are happy to announce that our Amazon affiliate program is back up and running! We've raised thousands of dollars just by our supporters starting at our home page before shopping online. In addition to Amazon, you can shop through Goodshop or Igive, or search through Goodsearch.

We have an official Facebook page and a cause that you can donate through. We also invite you to write reviews of us on TripAdvisor or Yelp. Links for all of these can be found on our front page at www.cathouse-fcc.org

Price Changes

Prices will be increasing for several membership levels on January 1. Individual memberships will rise from \$20 to \$25, family from \$30 to \$40, and support from \$50 to \$75. Twilight Tour admission will increase from \$15 to \$20. General admission will increase to \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 children 3-12 (free under 3). A family membership will still

pay for itself in 2 visits if you have 2 kids! For a list of benefits each level includes you can visit our website at www.cathouse-fcc.org

Four Wild Cat Species Spotted In Brazil

Volunteers Nancy Vandermey and Eric Barkalow spent two weeks in Brazil in September/October. They concentrated on the northern Pantanal region around Cuiaba/Caceres. This region is a person's best chance at seeing a wild jaguar as they come to the riverbanks in the afternoon in the dry season. In addition to seeing two jaguars along the Paraguay river, including the large male pictured, Nancy and Eric also spent time driving along the TransPantaneira highway with their guide, Douglas Trent of Focus Tours. This area is very rich in wildlife, with sightings of tapir, fox, otter, deer, anteater, capybara, caiman, monkeys, marmosets, lizards, anaconda, and hundreds of bird species in addition to the main attraction - cats! Three jaguarundi were seen crossing the roads during the day, while spotlighting at night gave views of another jaguar as well as a margay and ocelot. While not as simple to arrange as a trip to Africa, the wildlife of Brazil will fascinate the intrepid explorer, and having an English speaking guide with a lot of experience helps to find the felines!



This male was just outside the reserve. While jaguars are respected by many that live in the area, some fishermen are feeding them - which has been leading to human-predator conflict.

Cat News

Arizona Daily Star, 22 November 2011

A hunter photographed an adult male jaguar in Southeast Arizona after his dogs treed it. The sighting November 19 in Cochise County was the first confirmed report of a wild jaguar in the United States since the death of Macho B in Arizona in March 2009. It may have been the fifth wild jaguar - all males - seen in Arizona since 1996.

The jaguar is listed as an endangered species in the United States and Mexico. An experienced mountain lion hunter spotted the jaguar Saturday morning about 15 feet up a mesquite tree and reported it to Game and Fish. The hunter was led to the large cat by his dogs, who were baying and starting to pursue the animal as if on the trail of a lion, said Mark Hart, a Game and Fish spokesman. The hunter photographed and shot video of the jaguar, then left with his dogs and watched the animal from a distance. The jaguar stayed in the tree for 15 minutes before jumping down and heading south.

Based on the photos and video, Game and Fish officials described the jaguar as an adult male that appeared healthy and weighed about 200 pounds. Game and Fish biologists went to the sighting location to verify that the photos and videos were taken there. "It all checked out," Hart said. "We started at the exact same point where they (the photos and video) were shot. We saw tree branches where they were supposed to be, and they absolutely looked the same as in the photos. We counted about 10 marks of claws where a large animal had climbed the tree. "The biologists also collected hair samples from the area for possible DNA testing. The department hopes to compare the photos with those of other jaguars sighted in Arizona and of two jaguars photographed this year by remote cameras at a ranch in Sonora about 30 miles south of the border.

The last known jaguar in the United States, 15-year-old Macho B, was euthanized in March 2009 at the Phoenix Zoo after he was captured just north of Mexico, radio-collared and recaptured 12 days later after he slowed dramatically. Authorities determined he had unrecoverable kidney failure, but the death led to one state and two federal investigations, including a federal criminal investigation that ended last May. The state investigation is continuing. Environmental groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity have

said they believe Arizona jaguars could breed again with stronger recovery efforts, and their litigation forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to start to prepare a jaguar recovery plan last year.

Project Tiger:

This quarter Elizabeth Rogers donated \$100 and we have a very special thank you to the **M. Piuze Foundation** for the substantial donation of \$15,000. Thanks to Michael Piuze's donation (who has historically been a big supporter of this project) we now have sufficient funds in escrow to complete "Project Tiger." The walkways leading to the tiger exhibit are now completed and the safety railing is being installed.



All three fishing cat kittens born July 7 are doing well, and here Dara is interested in the camera.

Originally we planned on using half of the exhibit for the breeding of jaguars but due to changes in regulations which require those exhibits to have a closed top, we have elected to house only tigers in the exhibit. We have been working with a couple of zoos to acquire breeding pairs once completed. We still have to do the final coating on the pools, finish the landscaping and minor painting, install den furniture and hot wires. Once completed we will temporarily move our generic tigers into the exhibit while we wait for the breeding pairs to arrive.

One might wonder where does the money go? We are proud to say that our expenditures go 96% toward program services - which means only 4 cents of every dollar go towards fund-raising and administrative costs.

Dates to remember for 2012

Twilight Tours: April 7, June 23, September 15

These fun nights are for adults only, and are always well attended. You can buy your tickets now for one, two, or all three! Those that don't wait till the night of the event get in at 5 PM, others have to wait till 5:30, so try to buy early. For those of you that have not attended one yet, they are where the people and the cats get to have a little fun. You can walk on the grass, go in to the back breeding areas, and watch as the cats all get enrichments to play with. Jaguars and melons, what could be better? Perhaps Leopards and phone books or goldfish for fishing cats. The local Rotary always provides good burgers and dogs for a low price, and the raffle is also always a hit, so bring a little extra money. Tickets are \$20.

Kid's day October 20 - One Month Earlier!

With less chance of rain and perhaps a little warmer, we are going to try this event before Halloween this year. No advance tickets for this one, just show up and bring the extended family!

Feline Follies - 35 year celebration!!!

August 18 2011 - plan to be here, you don't want to miss this one! Tickets and sponsorships available now.



The new railings look great, and help to keep the little ones safer.

Grants:

With the birth of our three baby fishing cats on July 7, 2011, we found the need to expand our Fishing Cat breeding area. Thanks to the **Healey Foundation's** grant for \$6,800 we will be

constructing a new habitat to house two cats. The Healey Foundation has been a big supporter of our projects over the past few years and we thank them very much.



Snow Leopards Anny and Zach both loved the enrichments made by the Jr. Zookeepers!

General Donations:

Support of our general operating fund allows us to maintain the highest standards of care for our feline family and the visiting public. It also allows us to expand our programs and meet the challenges of unexpected expenses. Thanks to the following for their support this last quarter: Margaret Struncious, Lisa Hill, Paramount Giving, Louise Fry, Linda Frank, David Gregory, Nelson & Alice Bickers, Vicki Collins, Chris Tromborg, Ken & Sue Geissel, Leo Notenboom, Gerald Bandy, Carolyn Michels, Paulette Burgess, Barbara Fisher, Michael J. Stevens, Janet Weaver, Lisa Edmondson, Jim & Debbie Wenck, Tiffany & RJ Acito, Fabric of America, Squire & Freda Brown, Diane Citron.

The Rotary Club of Lancaster who provides the BBQ at our Twilight Tour events continued their support by presenting EFBC a \$750 check. Thanks to all the members of the Rotary.

The Antelope Valley Corvette Club presented a check for \$500 from their members to help support our projects. What a great group, thanks all!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Incorporated, Feline Conservation Center is a not for profit, 501 ©)(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, 2011 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 \$10.00 for postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, 3710 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA 93560-7779. Audits of EFBC/FCC's internal operation and the compiling of its financial statements and required Federal and State filings are completed by an independent, outside accounting agency.

Total support and revenue, including non-cash donations:	\$380,213
Program service expenses:	\$426,131
Administrative & fund raising expenses:	\$ 18,270 (4%)
Net support and revenue over (under) expenditures: (includes depreciation of \$79,564)	\$ -64,189
Total net assets:	\$1,113,809

A.J. Nolan of Grover, MO believes you are never too young to make a difference. He requested the guests who attended his 9th birthday party make donations to EFBC in lieu of giving him presents. A.J. loves cats and what EFBC is doing. His efforts raised \$200. Thanks A.J.!!

Members of our EFBC - AAZK (American Association of Zoo Keepers) chapter have been busy raising funds through their bake sales and paw print sales. They presented a check to EFBC for \$1,000 and will also be sending a check for

\$1,000 to the Snow Leopard Trust to help them in their efforts to save wild populations of Snow Leopards. Great job everyone and thank you!!

In-Kind and non cash donations:

Long time member Roxana Gerns donated 2.5 acres of land off Backus road in Rosamond to EFBC. Thank you Roxana!!

Nancy Vandermey and Eric Barkalow are always looking out for EFBC. During one of their outings

they came across a store who was liquidating inventory to prepare for a move. Eric and Nancy snatched up 3 large bronze cat statues which they donated to EFBC for placement in our exhibit area. Thanks Eric & Nancy!!

Cardinal Health Group in Ontario, CA has embraced our efforts to save wild felines. They donated 2 stainless steel tables, a 6 ft. stainless steel storage rack for our freezer, a programmable freezer, and 2 pallets full of medical supplies including new stethoscopes, surgery drapes, surgical gowns and many other supplies. Thank you Tahera Siddiqui for coordinating the donations on behalf of Cardinal Health.

Mike and Maryeann McMullen continue to provide us fresh meat bones as treats for the animals each month. The cats love their big bones and we thank you very much!!

Restricted donations:

If there is a project or something dear to your heart, you can request EFBC to restrict your donation to that purpose. This quarter Debbie & Bill Crosthwait wanted to help our feline family

get their special Christmas dinner. They donated \$300 toward helping us purchase whole turkeys and chickens. Many visitors come each year to watch the cats get their special Christmas dinners as they put on a great show.



Our local AAZK (American Association of Zookeepers) made some money with face painting. This money will go towards the center, and felines that live in the wild.

A special thank you to all the volunteers that came out for this year's "Kid's Day" including the

Kiwanis, Cheryl Rendes, Wonders of wildlife, Origami people.

A sad farewell goes out to the family and friends of Dennis Atwood. EFBC has for some time been seeking the volunteer services of a professional welder that could help with finishing the safety fencing throughout the exhibit area. Our prayers were answered by Dennis who came every weekday in good and bad weather to help complete the job. He always had a smile on his face and said he loved donating his time to EFBC. Dennis helped complete everything in the main exhibit area and was working his way out to Project Tiger. He was looking forward to finishing the safety fencing so he could start making welded wire panels to replace the few chain link caging still used in the main exhibit area.

Sadly Dennis passed away very unexpectedly on 12/23/2011. We will miss Dennis and his smile and extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

2012 Zoo Reciprocal list: Enclosed with this issue is the listing of zoos who will offer EFBC

members free or discounted admission during the 2012 calendar year. This is a great benefit to our members and we hope you enjoy all these facilities have to offer.

