



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Project Tiger Opens Malayan Tigers First Full-Time Residents

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*Bupati (L) and Tiga (R) warmed up to their new home right away.*



After a little more than a decade in the making, Project Tiger opened to the public with new residents: a pair of Malayan tigers siblings, who will begin a breeding program for this endangered subspecies of tiger.

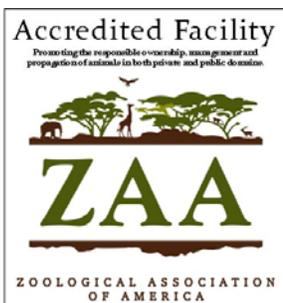
Bupati is a 10-year-old female, and Tiga is a 12-year-old male who came from Naples Zoo in Naples, Fla. A male Malayan tiger from the San Diego Zoo will soon join the population at EFBC-FCC with the hopes of breeding with Bupati.

The Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) inhabits the southern and central parts of the Malay Peninsula (which includes parts of Thailand and Malaysia). The wild population is estimated at 500.

In 1968, the Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) was newly designated and included into this subspecies of tigers of Malaysia and Singapore. However, in 2004, genetic analysis found these two subspecies were distinct and the Malayan tiger was recognized as a new subspecies. There is no clear difference between the Malayan and the Indochinese tiger when specimens from the two regions are compared by skull size or coat color & pattern.

Malayan tigers appear to be smaller than the Indian (aka Bengal) subspecies, but are similar in

*Continued on Page Three*



## Donations

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** We have been open to the public since May 1983 and some things are just wearing out. Donations to our general operating fund help us with the costs of general maintenance and keeping our equipment running. We thank the following for their donations this last quarter: **Thomas Abate, Gerald Bandy, Lula Burgoni, Bonnie Clark, Vicki Collins, Louise Fry, David Gregory, Kat Hannan, Steven Lang, Roberta Lotter, Edwina Lu, Carolyn Michels, Ann & Bill Naftel, NBC Universal, Leo & Kathy Notenboom, Deanna Sanchez, Kim Steadman, Michael J. Stevens, Jon Thomas, Chris Tromborg, Lee Turner, Nancy Vandermeij, Denise Vardaro and Dr. Scott Weldy.**



*Bowls filled with the cats' Christmas dinner ready to go.*

**CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Here at EFBC our cats get to enjoy a special holiday dinner, which includes turkeys stuffed with horse meat and gizzards for the tigers and jaguars, whole stuffed chickens for the other large and medium cats, turkey drumsticks, Cornish game hens and herring for the smaller cats, and of course — all served with love. We thank **Bill & Debbie Crosthwait** for donating \$500 and **Anna Helvie** for her donation of \$50 to help pay for this special feast.

**BEQUEST:** Our long-time member **Mary Sinclair** passed away in January 2012 and designated in her trust that EFBC-FCC receive 5% of her estate so we can continue our work. While her estate is not yet finalized, we did receive a preliminary check for \$16,500. We will miss Mary and thank her for her generosity.

**RESTROOM BUILDING FUND:** (Goal \$75,000) This quarter the following donated restricted funds for our new restrooms: **Helen Valenzuela** \$100, **Karen Bozarth** \$30 and **Michele Slade** \$30. These donations along with those received in our gift shop donation box, brings our total in the Rest-

room fund to \$5,186.00.

**2013 ZOO RECIPROCAL PROGRAM:** Enclosed in this newsletter is the brochure listing the zoos who will reciprocate with EFBC-FCC members. Bring it with you on your travels and enjoy this benefit.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:** Thank you **Leslie Simmons** (who also formats our newsletter) for donating three complete First Aid Preparedness Kits for the facility. EFBC has these kits at various locations of the premises to service possible needs.

Our long-time volunteer **Pam Rose** has gotten the ball rolling for 2013 by donating items for our Twilight tours and Follies event. Thank you Pam. It is never too early to start the donations coming in.

**DID YOU KNOW?** For every dollar donated, 91 cents goes toward our breeding, research, educational outreach programs as well as upkeep and improvements around the center.

## Arrivals

In October, we received three male Pallas' cats, also known as Manul (*Otocolobus manul*) from the Red River Zoo in North Dakota. The three — Alik, Luka and Pavel — were born at the zoo in June 2012 and are now part of our ongoing breeding program for these lesser-known species of small wild cats.

Each have been matched up with females who were born at EFBC-FCC. Alik is paired with Bella, while Pavel is with Bora and Luka is paired with Lina.

The Pallas's cat is about the size of a large domestic cat and covered with long course fur, sandy to grey in base color with white tips on the guard hairs which gives an overall "frosted" appearance. Their legs are short and stumpy compared to the overall body size. They have a small broad head with high-set eyes, and low-set hair-covered ears. The head has a striped facial ruff. The tail of the Manul cat is tipped with black and has darker rings toward the end, similar dark markings can also be faintly seen across the side of its back. The range of the Manul extends from Iran through southern Asia to parts of western China.



*Pallas' cat Alik (pictured) arrived with his brothers Pavel and Luka in October.*

### *Project Tiger continued from page one.*



*Bupati sits on top of her den box, located in an indoor holding area in the Project Tiger building.*

size to Sumatran tigers. Their body weight ranges from 52 to 195 pounds for females, 104 to 285 pounds for males.

Malayan tigers prey on sambar deer, barking deer, wild boar, Bornean bearded pigs and serow. Tigers in Taman Negara also prey on sun bear and elephant calves. Occasionally, livestock is also taken, however tiger predation reduces the numbers of wild boar which can become a serious pest in plantations and other croplands.

Studies indicate that in areas where large predators (tigers and leopards) are extinct, wild pigs 10 times more numerous than in areas where tigers and leopards are still present.

Tigers currently occur at very low densities in the rainforest as a result of low prey densities. Habitat fragmentation due to development projects and agriculture are serious threats. Commercial poaching occurs at varying levels in all tiger range states.

In Malaysia there is a substantial domestic market in recent years for tiger meat and manufactured tiger bone medicines.

## Vet's Corner: What Do I Feed My Cat?

by Dr. Kristi Krause

It seems as if there is a diet for everything now. I'm sure you can find a diet for a "senior-indoor-only-Persian-with-a-lion-cut-missing-7-teeth-that-sneezes-on-Tuesdays" on the third shelf to the right in most major pet stores. But, what is really best for your cat? Dry? Canned? Homemade? Raw?

Cats have fewer teeth than dogs and more limited motion of their jaws. Their teeth do not have the top, grooved surface for grinding like dogs and humans. This means that feeding dry food has very little effect on dental health in cats, as they do not truly chew their food effectively.

Our domestic cats are different than non-domestic cats in that their digestive tract is designed for small, frequent meals rather than large infrequent meals (think of a leopard hunting- it eats what it can, then stashes the rest until next time). The stomach of a domestic cat is not very well designed for storage. Fluids can easily pass into the small intestines. Solids must be broken down into 2-3 mm bits to pass. Anything larger or not as easy to digest stays in the stomach until it can be broken down.

The small intestine is just over 4 feet. The ratio of intestine to body length in cats is short compared to dogs and herbivores. They have a low number of enzymes that aid in carbohydrate metabolism, but are highly adapted for protein metabolism.

So, what is best for kitty? **Dry food** is certainly cheaper and easier to feed, especially if there are several cats in the house. It allows food to be out for cats to eat small, frequent meals. But, by nature, dry food is higher in carbohydrates than canned food. There are a number of higher protein, lower carbohydrate dry foods available. This is a good choice if dry food is the option that works best for you and your cat.

**Canned foods** are higher in water content and lower in carbohydrates- both positive things for cats. However, they are more expensive and cannot sit out all day. If you are able to feed canned food a few times a day to your cat, this is ideal.

What about **homemade diets**? This is an issue that comes up frequently. It is difficult to recommend a homemade diet with so many excellent diets that are scientifically formulated and guaranteed to meet nutritional standards. The biggest problem

with homemade diets is they are usually not 100% balanced. There are countless recipes available on the internet; most of them would not meet the nutritional standards that our commercial pet foods must pass. Not to mention, how easy it is to run out of an ingredient and forget to add it back into the diet, leading to a nutritional deficiency.

**Raw diets** are a big area of controversy. The American Veterinary Medical Association recently issued a policy statement against the feeding of raw meat to pets because of the risks of diseases. Cats can tolerate and deal with many bacteria like Salmonella much better than humans. However, there are many concerns with these bacteria. First, while a typical healthy cat can usually deal with most of them without any problems, if there is an excessive amount or, if the cat's immune system is compromised in any way (stress, sick, etc.), the cat can become ill. Second, humans have to prepare and handle the food, as well as clean up the stool from the cat eating the food, which is now loaded with the bacteria. If all of these are not done properly, the human is at risk for disease. If the human or another human in contact with the cat has a compromised immune system (chemotherapy, HIV, pregnancy, elderly, toddler, illness, etc.), they are at an increased risk of disease.

Feeding a commercially prepared diet does not eliminate the risk of disease, as has been demonstrated by the many recalls over the past few years. However, what these recalls do show is that the companies are screening, monitoring and being responsible for the diets that do get contaminated. Raw diets are almost guaranteed to be contaminated and a human health risk, as well as a potential risk to the cat.

So, what is best for your cat? Stick with one of the premium diets that is high in protein and low in carbohydrates. If your lifestyle and budget is such that you can feed canned food, that is the best. Even if you typically feed dry, it is a good idea to feed a little bit of canned food in case your cat ever has an illness that is treated with a canned diet. That way, your cat is used to and will accept a canned diet more readily. If you feed a homemade diet, have one formulated by a veterinary nutritionist and be very careful not to deviate from it. If you feed a raw diet, be aware of the risks of disease, both to humans and animals.

## Cat News

### New Clinic Caging Installed

The Healey Foundation generously funded our grant request for \$6,535 to convert the clinic entry area to a post care facility for our animals. The new caging (right) and has been installed and we are awaiting receipt of the custom cabinets. This design will allow us to continually monitor our animals before and after medical procedures. We thank The Healey Foundation for their continued support.



### Buyer Beware

On any given weekend, strolling through a big box store can include samples of assorted frozen foods and treats. And while the food may be yummy, what's being offered for sale here in the U.S. may directly contribute to habitat decimation overseas.

For example, the frozen shrimp or fish on sale at stores like Wal-Mart or Costco are usually imported from farms in Thailand or Indonesia. These farms used to be mangroves that were clear cut in order to build fish and shrimp ponds for farming.



*Fishing cat April.*

When these ponds become too contaminated (because there is no filtration system) they are abandoned – leaving the toxic waste behind – and the next mangrove area is clear cut to build more ponds. Reports indicate little is done by the corporations that buy this fish and shrimp to replenish the abandoned areas back to its once pristine mangrove. This not only creates environmental waste, it drives out many of the animals that rely on the mangroves and help sustain the ecosystem, including endangered fishing cats. Not to mention, the quality of the product is often contaminated, and that goes right on your kitchen table.

Mangroves also form natural protection of the coastal areas from erosion and storms, such as hurricanes and tsunamis. So, not only is the destruction of the mangroves bad for the animals that call them home – it's dangerous for the people who inhabit these areas where large seismic activity and tropical storms are active.

So the next time you're at the market – read the labels and remember that buying fresh and local not only is a healthy choice, it's lifesaving for our feline friends and their environment.

*More Cat News on Page 6*

### 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
Sandra Masek, Treasurer	Nancy Vandermey, Secretary
Camille Gadwood, Director of Public Relations	Jeff Conrad, D.V.M., Director
Kristi Krause, D.V.M., Director	Nicole Pearson, Esq., Director
Bob Slade, Director	Scott Weldy, D.V.M., Director

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Audited financial Statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30, 2012 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:	391,330
Program service expenses:	377,245
Administrative & fund raising expenses:	35,474
Net support and revenue over (under) expenditures:	(21,389)
(includes depreciation of \$75,569)	
Total net assets:	1,083,506

### Picture Purrfect

#### **Camera captures Persian leopard in Kurdistan**

A Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was pictured by a camera trap set up in the Kurdistan Mountains by Nature Iraq. The organization has been studying biodiversity of the area for six years, including the wild goat of the region.

Although evidence of leopard kills had been found, the camera trap photograph of the Persian leopard—a male in October 2011—was a first. Leopards were last reported by locals in the area in the 1980s. According to Nature Iraq, this evidence of the leopard’s presence could lead to more research on the species.

The Persian leopard is an endangered species whose presence in Iraq is uncertain.

#### **Snow Leopards Pictured in Siberia**

A camera equipped with motion sensors snapped shots of the elusive snow leopard in a remote mountain range in Siberia. Two snow leopards were caught on the camera trap as they walked along a ridge in the Altai Mountains along the Russia-Mongolia border. The photos were taken in 2011 at an altitude of about 13,000 feet. Snow leopard populations are threatened by poachers who hunt them for their coats, as well as retaliatory killings by herders and habitat loss to farmers. There are an estimated 4,500 to 7,500 snow leopards in the wild.

# President's Message

As we begin 2013, I would like to thank our wonderful supporters for your continued generosity in 2012, as well as the year to come. It is only with your support that our facility thrives and EFBC-FCC can continue its important work in protecting the wild cats of the world and ensuring their survival.

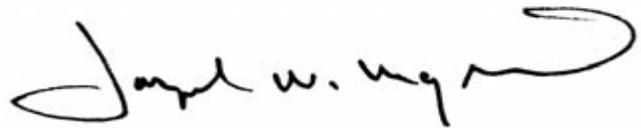
We achieved quite a milestone at the end of 2012 with the completion of Project Tiger and I hope you will come visit the facility soon – if you haven't already – to see these beautiful enclosures up close with our new residents, Bupati and Tiga. We are grateful to the financial support we received over the years as we worked to get Project Tiger completed and we thank each and every one of you for your patience as we worked to get this important new area of the facility completed.

If you have come up to visit us recently, you saw a couple of our smaller natural habitat cages were in the process of refurbishing. Rico the Ocelot and Thumper the Canadian Lynx were taken off display while their enclosures got some much-needed updates, including repairs to their den boxes, replacement of a shared wall between their two cages and fresh new painted scenes. We entered our 35th year

in 2012, and our facility has grown tremendously in its three + decades. With that, comes the upkeep and repairs due to normal wear and tear. Your donations help support these smaller projects.

The next big project on our plate is the building of public restrooms and a new septic system. As noted on *Page 2* of this newsletter, we have raised a little more than \$5,000 for the Restroom Building Fund. That is just about 6 percent of the funds needed to complete the project. Our goal is to raise the funds by the end of 2013 and begin construction in 2014. That goal can only be accomplished with your continued support. If you would like to make a donation to the Restroom Building Fund, please be sure to designate that on your check or let us know if you are making a donation in the gift shop. We also have a designated donation box near the register for cash donations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and the volunteers of EFBC-FCC, I thank you again for your support and look forward to seeing you in 2013.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal  Gift  
All memberships are Annual except Lifetime

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Gift For (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Walk of Honor Name \_\_\_\_\_

- \$2,000.00 LIFETIME\*\*
- \$1,000.00 V.I.P.\*\*
- \$500.00 PATRON\*\*
- \$100.00 ASSOCIATE
- \$75.00 SUPPORT
- \$40.00 FAMILY
- \$40.00 FOREIGN (Individual)
- \$25.00 INDIVIDUAL (U.S. Only)
- \$150.00 WALK OF HONOR

**\*\*Indicates payment plan: 50% down, balance of 50% due in 90 days.**

Mail your deductible contribution to  
EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND, INC.'S  
FELINE CONSERVATION CENTER  
3718 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA 93560

Phone (661) 256-3793 Fax (661) 256-6867 <<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/>>

Visit us at [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org)



*Zach the Snow Leopard*

### Shop online and raise money for EFBC-FCC

While direct donations to EFBC-FCC is the best way to support the facility, the public can also help by starting at our home page before shopping online. In addition to Amazon, shoppers can use Goodshop or Igive, or search through Goodsearch.

We invite you to visit our official Facebook page, and to write reviews of our facility at TripAdvisor.com or Yelp.com. Links to the above can be found on our website homepage.

## 2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Twilight Tours:** April 27

June 22

Sept. 21

**Follies:** August 17

**Kids Day:** Oct. 19

### 2013 Calendars Now Available!

Purchase yours today in our gift shop OR order online at:

[http://www.lulu.com/shop/nancy-vandermey/2013-cat-](http://www.lulu.com/shop/nancy-vandermey/2013-cat-house/calendar/product-20334117.html)

[house/calendar/product-20334117.html](http://www.lulu.com/shop/nancy-vandermey/2013-cat-house/calendar/product-20334117.html)

661.256.6867 fax

24 hours

661.256.3332 recorded directions and information,

(10 am-4 pm Thurs-Tues)

661.256.3793 voice, during operating hours

Rosamond, CA 93560

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