



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES WINTER 1999

Happy Holidays!

from all of us,
including
Maggie the
Margay.



We apologize for this newsletter being a little late but we were not able to compile the financial information included in this issue until the certified audit was completed.

Cat Updates: Freddi, the male Amur Leopard we received from the Tallinn Zoo in Estonia, finally got it right. He had been placed with Tanya early last summer and after a few unsuccessful tries, he and Tanya produced a litter of cubs. Unfortunately one of the cubs was stillborn but one survived and mother and cub are doing fine. Although we do not know the sex of the baby, we have named the new cub "Sasha." We would like to thank Andrei and Masha Vernikov in Moscow, Russia, who are friends, EFBC/FCC members, and adoptive parents of Masha, our female Amur Leopard, for assisting us with naming the cub. Not knowing the sex of the cub but still wanting to give it a name caused somewhat of a quandary. We first thought that Nikita was a unisex name but after asking Andrei and Masha, we learned that this was not fact, that it was a man's name only. It seems the TV series "Le Femme Nikita" is a joke and laughed at in Russia. Of the 3 unisex names given to us we chose Sasha, the full name being Alexander if male and Alexandra if female.

This is an important birth as Freddi is genetically the #1 male in the U.S. PMP (Population Management Plan) for Amur leopards. Tanya is the #4 female. Freddi did so well with Tanya that we plan to introduce him to the # 1 female, also here, Aijka. Lucky guy! Sasha is the 8th surviving Amur leopard cub born at EFBC.

Hobbes (Clouded Leopard below) finally was sent to Osaka Zoological Gardens in Japan. He arrived safe and sound and eventually will be introduced to a female they have there. Hopefully the two will be compatible and produce offspring.

A new arrival is a male Ocelot named Fuzz. He was donated to us by a private owner. While we don't normally take in rescue cats, we thought to use him as a replacement cat for Peaches when she reaches a point where she cannot be on exhibit.. He seems to be settling down a bit, but he's certainly no Peaches (who is still doing well at nearly 21 years old).

November brought us another litter of Fishing Cats from Rocky and Shada. We won't delve into this but for a female that had undergone a tubal ligation, she seems quite prolific. The two cubs were pulled for hand raising and sold to different educational organizations. Both of the organizations are well established and have tremendous credibility or we would not have entertained the idea of selling the cubs to them. These organizations will be unique in that they will be the only ones (to our knowledge) to have working Fishing Cats in their programs.

NOT CATS BUT!!! About 2 months ago we received a fax from Moscow Zoo asking us if we could help them locate some animals. Not

thinking much about it we responded that we would assist them. Then came the another fax saying the would like to acquire 2 male and 4 female raccoons.

This was not only surprising, but also had us somewhat stymied. Raccoons are as common as mice in the U.S. - but, where could we get some? They are illegal to own in California, except by zoos, and because they are so common, very few zoos maintain them.

We knew that they had to come from the West Coast due to an extremely high incidence of rabies in raccoons throughout most of the Central and Eastern United States. We were not going to capture wild ones simply for the purposes of export. The first thing we did was to contact the California Department of Fish & Game and ask if they would permit us to obtain these animals for the purposes of exporting them to Russia, and if so, where would they suggest we try looking.

When contacted, Patrol Chief Patin, Chief in charge of the Department's Region 4, ask how many. When told 6, he responded, "is that all!." Chief Patin indicated that he would authorize this activity and then kindly pointed us in the direction where we might locate a few animals. He suggested rehabilitation stations. These facilities are home to injured wildlife or babies brought in by people who have good but misguided intentions. People that find these animals think the mother has abandoned their young which is not the case. Never pick up or disturb any wildlife you might see, be assured the mother is close. We located 5 animals, 2 males and 3 females, and proceeded to start the export process. We finally obtained approval from the many agencies who required it and shipped them out on the 24th of November. They arrived safely and everyone involved is quite happy.

Fundraisers/Donations:

Our second annual Cocktail Party fund-raiser was held 16 October at the home of board member Nicole Pearson and her husband Scott.

E-Commerce and On-Line Donations:

Another way to raise funds for your favorite felines is by shopping online - through our web site you can access either **Amazon.com** or **igive.com**, and a donation of up to 15% of your purchase price will come to us at no charge to you. Amazon carries books, videos, electronics, toys, and more, while **igive** has an entire mall full of merchants to choose from. Just go to **www.cathouse-fcc.org** first! For individuals that would like to donate with

credit cards online, we are affiliated with **charitableway.com**, an organization that screens non profit organizations to insure that they are in fact true registered organizations and makes available a secure site that accepts donations for the organization. The **charitableway.com** site lists the organizations in order of influence and provides information on each of the charities.

PROJECT TIGER:

We'd like to thank recent donors, **Pamela Gray** who sent in \$1500, **Rissy Nelson** who generously donated \$5000, and **Boris Livshitz** who sent \$1000 for Project Tiger. These donations have enabled us to lay the foundation for the building area. Photos of ongoing construction are posted to our web site to help keep you updated.

Lancaster Rotary West also donated another \$1500 for the beginning of the walkway that will take visitors from the existing exhibit area to the new Project Tiger area. These folks are one of our greatest supporters. They have continually assisted us for many years in funding walkways throughout the exhibit area that enable you, our visitors, to comfortably and safely navigate our facility to view our cats.

As things progress on the construction of this large exhibit more materials will be needed. If you have or know of anyone in construction that has materials such as roofing shingles, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood, electrical items, swimming pool pumps/filters or landscaping items that could be donated, please contact us at 661-256-3793.

We hope to have this exhibit completed by the end of next year but it will obviously depend on funding and acquiring the above materials.

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Times of India, 19 October 99:

There are 14 remaining species of wild cat species in India (down from 15), but the majority of attention and funding goes towards tiger conservation. Many of the lesser species are more endangered, and tiger conservation efforts do not necessarily also protect the smaller cats. As the smaller cats assist humans by keeping the rodent population down, more attention should be paid to their survival.

Associated Papers, 20 October 99:

A supposed conservation breeding center in China, Xiongsheng Bear and Tiger Mountain Village, culls some of their animals and profits from their body parts, such as selling Tiger Wine - wine fermented with tiger bones in the cask. Visitors can buy live chickens or ducklings and feed them to the cats; while twice a day pigs and calves are released into a bullring with tigers for a live feeding "show". While the park claims this teaches the cats how to hunt for themselves, these cats are obviously un-releasable as they associate humans and livestock with food.

Albuquerque Journal, 20 October 99

A hiker had a close encounter with a cougar on a trail in the Santa Fe National Forest, and did the right thing by yelling at the cat and NOT turning and running. The cat eventually left him alone. Some tips for if you encounter a cougar:

- Don't run
- Back away slowly
- Appear as large as possible - hold a jacket open above your head, for example
- Yell, make noise
- Maintain eye contact
- Pick up small children (they should always be within arm's length when hiking)

Environmental News Network, 27 October 99:

North American (Canadian) Lynx historically lived in 16 US states (plus Alaska), and were occasionally found in 6 others. Today, lynx are only found in small populations in 3 states: Maine, Montana, and Washington. Habitat loss is probably the greatest contributing factor to their decline.

The Sunday Telegraph, 1 November 99:

In Meru, Kenya, the park where the movie "Born Free" was filmed and Joy & George Adamson raised orphans lions has been plagued by poachers and bandits for years. The Kenyan Wildlife Service has recently driven out the bandits and is rebuilding the roads and tourist lodges, using men from local tribes to give them an incentive to keep the park safe.

New York Times, 2 November 99:

The "Florida panther" subspecies of cougar was first listed as endangered in 1967, when there were about 30 left. Evidence of inbreeding was seen in the population; many had kinked tails, cowlicks, heart abnormalities, and/or were cryptorchid. Dr. Stephen O'Brien of the National Cancer Institute's genomic diversity lab showed in the 1980's that all native cougars in the United States were a single population genetically, and that some of the Florida cats were descendants of released Costa Rican cougars. This led to the introduction of 8 West Texas cougars into Florida, which has revitalized the population; there are at least 7 second-generation hybrids, and a total population of 50 to 70 adults and young. Whether or not the 8 Texas cats will be recaptured and removed is still under debate, but it is recognized that to safeguard the survival of these cats the population needs to expand to at least 500 individuals and spread across a wider geographic distribution.

Agencia EFE, 3 November 99:

Bolivia is the world's 7th richest country in terms of wildlife diversity, with 49 endemic species. But illegal trafficking of animals over the past few years threatens ocelots and jaguars, and is the third most profitable trade in Bolivia after arms and drugs. The Bolivian government is not enforcing environmental protection legislation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Starting in January 2000, we will be raising our membership prices. This will affect only 3 categories as follows;

Friend - (U.S. Individual) will increase to \$20.00,
Family/Foreign individual - increase to \$30.00,
Walk of Honor - increase to \$150.00.

Although we were hesitant to initiate these increases, it is necessary due to increased postage and printing costs. Our membership prices have remained the same since EFBC/FCC opened its doors to the public in 1983. We hope that you, our supporters, will understand.

On January 2001 another change will go into effect. At that time an admission fee will be charged. We do not know yet what the fee will be but we will keep you updated throughout next year. One of the benefits of being a member will be free admission when the fee goes into effect.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2000:

We would like to invite you to participate in our "Membership Drive 2000" program.

Our membership program is our greatest area of support and we would like to try to increase our member base by at least 50% over the coming year. In this effort we thought that you, our current members, could help by enlisting friends and associates to join. As an added incentive, we have established a reward program that enables you to receive gifts for your efforts, 2 new members, you receive an 8x10 photo of the cat of your choice - 5 new members, you receive an EFBC/FCC T-shirt of your choice - 10 new members, you receive 1 year free membership for yourself - and 15 new members, you receive an EFBC sweatshirt of your choice.

All you have to do is copy the membership application in this newsletter, write your name on the application and give it to someone that is interested in joining EFBC/FCC. When the new membership is received we will compile the information and in December of 2000 we will notify each of the qualifying members and award the gifts to them. We hope that you join us in this effort to help support our feline residents.

Y2K Calendar of Events:

Our first Twilight Tour, the Spring Twilight Tour, will be on April 29th.

The Summer Twilight Tour will be June 17th.

Dates for the Fall Twilight Tour and the Fabulous Feline Follies will be published in our next newsletter.



WISH LIST

8x8x16 concrete block

Roofing material (composite shingles)

3 phase walk-in freezer

4/0 THHN electrical wire (copper)

Golf carts

¾ inch plywood

Landscaping materials (plants, trees)

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.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

as of October 1, 1999

Joseph W. Maynard	President
Larry Purcell	Vice President
Nicole Pearson, Esq.	Treasurer
Sandra A. Masek	Secretary
Steve Rendes	Director
Robert Slade	Director



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Audited financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999 are now on file.

EFBC/FCC saw a steady increase in total assets through last year. EFBC/FCC's attendance remained at last year's level which was down slightly. This is still due to the odd weather the valley has been experiencing since late 1997. 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 for postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, HCR 1, Box 84, Rosamond, CA. 93560.

Total assets:	\$727,750
Total liabilities:	\$ 22,416
Net assets:	\$699,184
Total liabilities and net assets:	\$727,750
Total support and revenue:	\$303,637
Total expenses:	\$281,221
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses:	\$ 22,416

Good-bye Susan and Randy Porter:

We would like to say good-bye to Susan & Randy Porter, long time volunteers here at EFBC/FCC. Randy is in the Airforce and was stationed at Edwards AFB for the last 6 years.



He had always managed to get out of transferring to another base but this time it caught up to him. He was forced to transfer to Ohio or lose his retirement (18 years). They were always volunteering to do what was necessary around the facility and we all depended on them very much. They will be sorely missed by all and we wish them the best in their new location

Merry Christmas Susan & Randy and thank you for all your help these past years!

FEATURE CAT: Gordon's Wildcat

(*Felis silvestris gordonii*)

If you've missed the past few newsletters, we're featuring all our cat species one by one, smallest to largest. You can download old newsletters online. After the margay and jaguarundi, our next smallest cat is the Arabian (Gordon's) wildcat. We are home to a male, Rikki, who has been patiently waiting for a mate to arrive. These small cats look a lot like an orange tabby house cat, causing visitors to wonder if we've made a mistake or if a house cat has slipped into an empty cage. There's a reason they look similar - it was the Arabian wildcat's cousin the African wildcat that was domesticated about 5000 years ago in Egypt. There are still wild African wildcats today. Other subspecies include the Indian desert cat and European wildcat. Despite their looks, these are not tame animals! One unique problem facing these cats' survival is hybridization. Feral house cats interbreed with the wildcats; in some areas, it is difficult to find a purebred wildcat. Hybrids and feral domestics are more likely to live in social groups, while pure wildcats are solitary.

