



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES FALL 2003

CAT UPDATE:

It continues to be a busy year! In June we imported 2 fishing cats from Cambodia which are litter mates born to wild parents, and received a female Pallas' cat from Moscow. In July we brought in a young male jaguar from the Audubon Zoo (a future mate for our female Annie) and imported 3 fishing cats from Singapore. The 3 cats from Singapore include two siblings and an unrelated female. All 3 are offspring of wild caught cats captured in Sri Lanka. All five fishing cats are important new founder blood for the captive population in the United States. In late August, a couple of weeks after the Singapore cats arrival, we were very surprised to find a cub in their cage. We determined it is the offspring of the male and the unrelated female. This cub, a male, is also very valuable to the fishing cat breeding programs and he will be staying at the compound. Shada and Rocky also had a cub in August. Long time members may recall that Shada had a tubal ligation back in 1998 and promptly had another litter the next year. She had not delivered any more since then so we thought we were safe. This cub, a female, went to the Cincinnati Zoo where she will be hand raised and used as an ambassador cat. In June we hosted a reproductive research team from the National Zoo. They worked with 4 of our fishing cats on an artificial insemination program. Two females (Sassy and Frisbee) received Norplant implants to regulate their estrus cycle prior to hormone injections. Precious and Madison did not receive the implants. All 4 were given a hormone to induce estrus and follicular growth at set time intervals then injected with another hormone to induce ovulation. Sassy scratched out her implant and Precious did not respond to the

hormone regimen. Madison and Frisbee both responded well to the hormone treatments, were inseminated, but unfortunately neither got pregnant.

We were also the temporary home to a young cougar cub confiscated by the California Department of Fish & Game. He eventually moved on to a new home at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

In summary, so far in 2003 we have imported 5 fishing cats and 5 Pallas' cats from overseas, received 2 Pallas' cats, a jaguar, and an ocelot from other U.S. Facilities and we were the temporary home to an African lion and a young cougar. In addition, 2 cats have given birth.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our final Twilight Tour of the year is September 20th. We hope that Rico, our ocelot cub, will pose for his first few pictures with visitors. This is a Saturday evening as usual. Admission 5 PM if prepaid, 5:30 PM if you pay at the gate. Cost is still \$15, **18 and older only please!** Director Nicole Pearson will once again be hosting a Cocktail Party on October 25th. This event will be held in Pasadena. Call us for more info. Rico will be there to entertain the guests. Thanks to everyone who attended our 14th annual Fabulous Feline Follies, held August 16. The weather cooperated once again, and over 130 guests enjoyed great food and bid on beautiful auction items. Guests were entertained by Rico along with David and Anita of "Zoo to You". David and Anita brought their fishing cat (born here!), a lemur, a slow loris, a porcupine, and a tiger. Our Felitarian award went to George and Joan

Paulikas who have been the adoptive parents of Gigant our Amur leopard since 1992. Another special event occurred on September 3rd, when our zookeeper Tammy MacInnes married Danny Leeson here on the compound. Danny also provided the music at our Follies this year.

THANKS AGAIN

Our Follies sponsors are key to making this fun event possible. Their donations helped us raise nearly \$20,000 at this year's event! Platinum sponsors (\$1000) were: **George & Joan Paulikas, Steven M. Crutchfield, Susan Lozier & Ian Macleod, Nancy Vandermey, and Scott & Nicole Pearson**. Gold sponsor (\$500) was **Subway of Bishop**. Silver sponsors (\$250) were **Larry Purcell, Scott Weldy, D.V.M., AAZK-EFBC chapter, and Antelope Valley Bank**. Bronze sponsors (\$150) were: **Hazel Martin Studio, The Rendes family** in memory of our past director **Steve Rendes, and Ron Wildermuth**. We are also thankful for our silent auction donations from many folks including **Betsy Bainbridge, Rinascere Studios, Mill Creek Gallery, and the Estate of Emily Sanford**. Other donations this quarter included

Pam Rose-Laguna Niguel, more auction & raffle items

Scott & Nicole Pearson-Los Angeles, a conferencing speaker phone

John Stearns-Manhattan Beach, a Panasonic DVD/VCR player for the giftshop

Donna Smith-Rosamond, computer accessories

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Volunteer of the Quarter - Brian Gehrish

Brian first came to the EFBC on an internship last summer while studying Zoology at Miami University in Ohio. He found the Cat House to be the perfect place to learn about conservation, captive breeding, and of course, exotic felines. Shortly after graduating in December, Brian said goodbye to his Midwest home and moved to Valencia California where he is training to be a Sales Manager for Hyatt Hotels and Resorts. He

continues working with the cats here as a volunteer. While he is fond of all of the animals at the compound, the jaguars are his clear favorites. In his free time he enjoys traveling, softball, and practicing foreign languages.

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

animalnewscenter.org August 19, 2003

A victory in the fight against extinction has been won for the North American jaguar. Naturalia, a non-profit company headquartered in Mexico City, recently purchased a ten thousand acre ranch in northern Mexico. The ranch will become a sanctuary and research center working to increase the numbers of the big cats. The jaguar is the largest cat native to North America. The destruction of its habitat as well as over hunting by man has led the jaguar to the brink of extinction. Of the seventy to one hundred North American jaguars that remained, all of which were located in the Mexican state of Sonora, one-third of the population, mostly females and cubs, were killed by poachers and ranchers pushing the big cat ever closer to extinction. The establishment of the jaguar preserve in Mexico gives hope to conservationists that the jaguar can one day be reintroduced to its native habitat.

Jefferson City, Mo, August 13, 2003

For the second time in 10 months, a Missouri motorist has struck a mountain lion on a major highway – growing proof that wild cougars may be making a comeback in Missouri. The 105-pound adult male mountain lion was hit August 11 on a four-lane stretch of U.S. Highway 54 near Fulton by an unidentified motorist who left the scene but later called the Callaway County Sheriff's Office saying she thought she had hit a dog that might still be alive. Law officers arrived to find a dead cougar on the southbound shoulder of the highway. Last October, another male mountain lion was struck on Interstate 35 in north Kansas City. Mountain lions, once indigenous to Missouri, were killed off by settlers in the 1800s and early 1900s. From 1927 to 1994, there were no confirmed mountain lion sightings in the state. But in the past nine years, the Missouri Department of Conservation has confirmed eight sightings of at least seven

different mountain lions, including the one killed Monday night. Dave Hamilton, a biologist with the Conservation Department, believes the wild mountain lions may be migrating from South Dakota, Colorado or Texas. A western origination seems most likely, because mountain lion populations are strong there and young males have been known to travel hundreds of miles to stake out their own territory. In Kansas, reports of mountain lion sightings have buzzed around Lawrence since one last week on Kansas University's west campus. After an account of the sighting appeared in Saturday's Journal-World, nearly a dozen people have called the newspaper to tell about their own close encounters with large, unidentified animals. Kansas state officials deny any cougars live in the wild there.

National geographic new, 7 August 2003

Decades of counting India's wild tiger population by studying pug (paw) marks in the earth have come to nil. Indian and United States researchers have concluded that the technique is misleading. The findings of the investigation has already spurred India's Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) to launch a new 1.1 million dollar (U.S.) hi-tech tiger habitat and population monitoring mechanism, which not only hopes to gather data by using India's remote-sensing satellites but also endeavors to prepare a geographical information system (GIS)-based tiger atlas for the entire country. Using the pugmark technique, the current official tiger population in the wild in India is placed at 3,624— not one more or less. The method used to count the numbers of this elusive, nocturnal animal that survives because of its brilliant camouflage, has always been controversial, but this is the first time a scientific paper establishes exact reasons for criticism. The authors of the paper say there is deficiency of science in the conservation practice in India, especially in the procedure for estimating tiger populations, which is the three-decade-old pugmark census approach. This approach involves taking plaster casts or tracings of pugmarks and then, based on data collation and analysis, exact tiger numbers are calculated. The investigating scientists say the pugmark approach is nonsense, since of the 300,000 square kilometers of tiger habitat in India only an "unknown fraction" is searched intensively. They

also say that pugmarks are very hard to locate in regions where the land is hard or rocky, while finding suitable pugmarks in an area rich in tigers like the Sunderbans is near impossible because of the squashy mangrove conditions. In an empirical study, the team took 32 tiger pugmark tracings from two different substrates of four captive tigers in the Mysore zoo. When shown to India's tiger census experts in a blind test, none of them was able to segregate the individuals, while the estimates of the total number of animals ranged from 8 to 23 individual tigers.

animalnewscenter.org, July 3 2003

Wildlife advocates have begun urging individuals to purchase wine and champagne bottled with real cork rather than synthetic stoppers in order to help prevent the Iberian lynx from becoming extinct. The lynx is indigenous only to forests in Spain and Portugal from which cork is obtained, so use of synthetic stoppers, which has been increasing in recent years, provides disincentive for the animal's natural habitat to be preserved. Clever propaganda by the manufacturers of screw tops and plastic corks has led many people to think that cork stoppers are bad for the environment when exactly the opposite is true. In 2002, the Iberian lynx became the first wild cat to be placed on the Red List of Threatened Species maintained by The World Conservation Union (WCU). There are only about 150 members of

WISH LIST

Wireless P.A. System

Landscape Materials- trees and bushes for Project Tiger and other places

X-ray Processor

DVD Recorder (not computer)

Construction equipment and supplies
(8x8x16 concrete block, re-bar,
backhoe, dozer, loader)

20,000+ gallon water storage tank

the species — and fewer than 30 females capable of reproduction — currently alive. “If the lynx does become extinct, it will be the first cat to die out since the sabre-toothed tiger disappeared 10,000 years ago,” said former WCU Cat Specialist Group Chairman Peter Jackson.

Environmental new service, 23 June 2003

A conflict is brewing between the government of Kenya and the Masai tribe who are threatening to kill all the lions at Nairobi National Park, some eight kilometers (five miles) south of the city of Nairobi, for killing their livestock. Ten lions already have been killed in the last two months by the Masai warriors, leaving just nine lions in the expansive park. The hunting of game has been banned in Kenya since the late 1970s. “The government should have all these lions returned to the park. But the moment they stray to our areas we will no doubt kill them,” says Godfrey Ntapaiya, a spokesman for the Masai. The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife has been studying proposals on how to fence the southern boundary as a permanent solution to the problem of lions attacking livestock. Officers from the National Security Intelligence Service, and staff from the Kenya Wildlife Service have been tracking down the lion killers, but no one has been arrested. “They should all be put behind bars. Nobody is above the law,” says the minister. The lions are believed to be preying on the Masai livestock following the migration of wildlife from the park. Experts say that zebras, gazelles, wildebeest and antelopes, the traditional prey for lions, have been forced out of the park by a new housing project on its southern edges. The Kenya Wildlife Service plan for the park will address issues such as loss of the migration corridor, decline of wildlife populations and human-wildlife conflicts, park pollution and poaching, lack of a buffer zone, and proximity of slum areas to the park.

SAVE THE DATES!!

Cocktail Party

October 25 2003

Twilight Tours

April 24, 2004

June 19, 2004

September 18, 2004

Feline Follies

August 21, 2004