

# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center

FALL 2014



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## EFBC's First Black-footed Cat Born

### Inside:

<i>Donations</i>	2
<i>Cat of the Quarter</i>	3
<i>Feline Follies</i>	4
<i>Fishing Cat Baby</i>	5
<i>Felitarian Award</i>	6
<i>Follies Photos</i>	6
<i>Summer Interns</i>	7
<i>Stay Connected</i>	7
<i>Membership Form</i>	7
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	back page

In the Summer issue of *Spots & Stripes*, we reported on the arrival of four rare black-footed cats to the facility. We are happy to announce that one of the breeding pairs brought here, Gabby and Killa, went right to work! On Aug. 7, Gabby gave birth to a male black-footed cat.



*This tiny Black-footed male kitten born Aug. 7 is the first for EFBC-FCC.*

This is the first black-footed cat birth at EFBC-FCC. Mother and kitten are doing very well. Gabby is raising the baby however, they remain off public display.

Black-footed cats (*Felis nigripes*) are one of the world's smallest cats and the least known of the seven felid species native to South Africa (the others being lion, leopard, cheetah, caracal, serval, and African

wild cat). This cat only weighs 2-to-5 pounds and is only active at night. It is boldly patterned with blackish ob-long spots, and its legs are barred with thick dark stripes. The undersides of its feet are black, hence its name.

Some know how hot it can get out here at the Feline Conservation Cen-

ter and wonder how babies can survive in such extreme temperatures. For the black-footed cats (as well as the sand cat



*(Continues on page 5)*

## Upcoming Events: Twilight Tour and Kid's Day

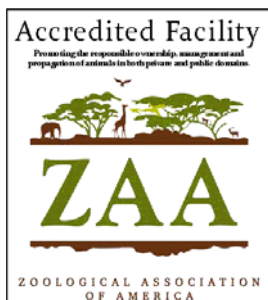
Fall is just around the corner and that means it's time for our last Twilight Tour of the year on Sept. 20 and our annual Kid's Day on Oct. 18. Both of these events raise important funds to get us through the winter months.

The Twilight Tour is for adults 18 and over and allows visitors to see areas of the facility

that are normally closed to the public. Admission is \$20 for this special event.

Kid's Day is catered to our young guests and includes crafts and games, an animal education show and a train ride to our tigers and jaguar enclosures. A special admission prices are \$10/adults and \$7/children.

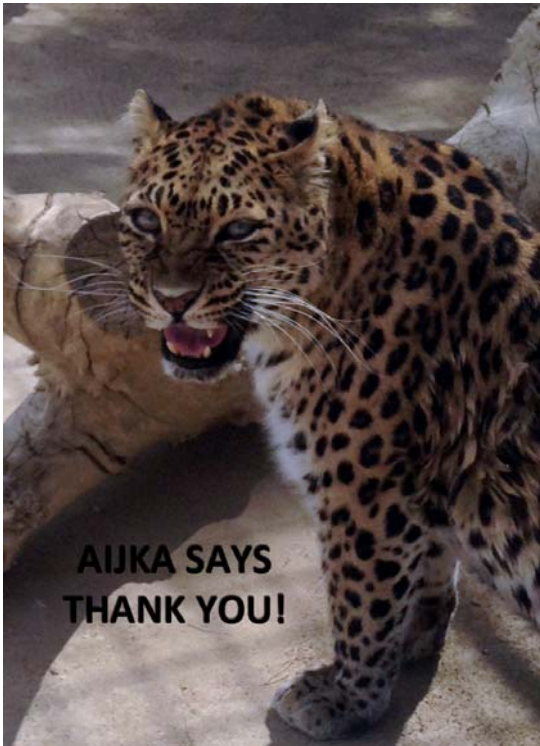
For more information on both events, visit our website at [cathouse-fcc.org](http://cathouse-fcc.org).



## Donations

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** We have been able to complete a lot of upgrades to the facility, and stay on top of those unexpected expenditures which always seem to occur thanks to donations received to our general operating fund. This quarter we would like to thank the following for their support: **Betsy Bainbridge, Sharon Bard, Anne Calabrese, Michele Carey, Vicki Collins, Critters in Need, Rod & Judy Ditzler, Jill Evensizer, Donna Farley, David Forward, David Gregory, Joan McClain, Mojave Library, Chris Tromborg, Rebekah & Wesley Ward, our Lifetime Members, Leo & Kathy Notenboom, Lee Turner, Linda L. Frank, and Carolyn Michels.**

**ROTARY CLUB OF LANCASTER:** This wonderful group of people have been providing the BBQ for our Twilight Tour patrons for many years. They always have smiles on their face, and work hard to provide a great meal. In addition, they support our passion for saving the World's Wild Felines and at our June Twilight Tour donated \$750 to help our programs. Thank you, all!



**AAZK-EFBC CHAPTER:** Our organization formed its own chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers many years ago. In addition to supporting the national organization, our dedicated AAZK members of staff and volunteers do a great deal to support EFBC. They provide the bake sales at our events, as well as make items for sale in our gift shop. Through their hard work they were a "Platinum" sponsor of our Feline Follies, and also donated \$1,000 as a restricted donation toward our desert landscaping project. They are doing a great job and we thank all their members.

**JETHAWKS NIGHT:** On July 19, the Lancaster Jethawks minor league baseball team sponsored a special night at their stadium to help support local organizations and bring their missions to the attention of their fans. Our own volunteer, Dave Hunsinger, threw out the first pitch of the evening and the event raised \$268 for EFBC. Thank you, Jethawks!

**A.V. VETERINARY CLINIC:** On Aug. 16 a new vet clinic established itself in Lancaster and we were invited to participate in their open house. Our volunteer Dave Hunsinger (who handles many of our outreach programs) attended the event, which had a great turnout. The veterinarians are very excited about what EFBC is doing, and have

expressed an interest in getting involved with the care of our animals. The event also generated \$141 to help support programs. Thank you for the invite and we wish you a long and successful practice.

**RESTROOM BUILDING FUND:** This quarter we added an additional \$258 to our restroom building fund bringing the total in public support to \$7896. Our goal is \$75,000. Thank you David & Catherine Walker (\$100), Diane Herriges (\$20) and Lisa Edmondson (\$25) for your restricted donations to this project. This is a hard project to raise funds for, as many do not see how this directly benefits our animals. Our long-term goals include increasing daily visitation, which will increase revenues for the construction of additional habitats and expand our breeding programs. To accomplish this, public restrooms are a necessity as porta-potties just do not enhance the visitor experience. Also, extra time has to be allotted by the schools for their field trips as we simply do not have sufficient restroom facilities available to service the children's needs. So often, there is a line waiting to use our limited resources before they get back on the bus.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:** During her visit to our June Twilight Tour, Susan Smith donated a Lynx fur cap to our museum and educational exhibits. The cap was made many years ago and still had the sale tag on it. Susan inherited this item and felt it was a good representation of how far the public's thinking has progressed. Like EFBC, Susan shares our belief that wearing the fur of animals is "JUST NOT COOL."

*(Continues on page 3)*

## Cat of the Quarter: Serrano

Serrano is a male California cougar who came to EFBC-FCC in 2012 when he was about two years old after being removed from the wild by California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers in Orange County. Serrano's 15 minutes of fame came when he was showing up on hiking trails and public areas in a mountain recreation area during the day and not showing any fear of those who encountered him.

Out of interest in protecting park visitors, as well as Serrano, the officers decided that trapping him and removing him from the area was the best thing to do. Serrano was brought to our veterinarian, Dr. Scott Weldy, whose vet clinic the Serrano Animal & Bird Hospital, is not far from where the cougar was living.

After a minor surgery and evaluation, it was determined that he could not be released back into the wild and was relocated to our facility. He was named Serrano, in honor of Dr. Weldy and the park area he was found. He can be seen in our public area in one of the large natural habitat cages.

A cat of many names, the mountain is also called puma, panther, painter, catamount, American lion, deer tiger, brown tiger and night screamer. It is a large cat of the family *Felidae* native to the Americas and found from the Canadian Yukon to the southern Andes of South America. It is the greatest range of any large wild terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. Mountain lions from



*Serrano the mountain lion was removed from the wild after exhibiting behavior that threatened his well-being and humans.*

colder regions are the largest, up to 200 pounds. Western state cougars, including those in California, are average-sized, about 150 pounds for males and 100 pounds for females. Mountain lion cubs are born with spots and blue eyes, both of which fade as they grow older as they transform into a tawny color, brown-eyed adult cat.

In the United States, the Florida panther and Eastern cougar are both listed as "critically endangered," all other subspecies in the country are listed as "least concern." Mountain lions west of the Rocky Mountains are much more numerous, with some states allowing hunting of the species.

### **DONATIONS**

*(Continued from page 2)*

**EXELON GENERATION AVSRI:** The Antelope Valley has seen an increase in alternative power plants throughout the desert landscape. When the Exelon Generation company finished the development of one of their sites, they decided to give back to the local community and very generously donated many items to EFBC including: an 18ft cu refrigerator; three 4-drawer metal file cabinets; a microwave oven; two 4-shelf metal bookcases; five folding metal tables; nine office chairs; and one Keurig coffee maker. We have already made great use of all these items and we are grateful for their support of EFBC.

**RALPH'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM:** On Sept 1, it became time again for our supporters to register with Ralphs Community to have a percentage of their purchases be donated directly to EFBC. Since this program began in Sept 2006, \$10,521 has been received by EFBC through this program. The best part is it's easy to do. Just go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com), click on Community, click on Community Contribution, click on For participant questions click [here](#) and follow the instructions to enroll. You can also email Ralphs at [community.programs@ralphs.com](mailto:community.programs@ralphs.com) and request they mail you a scan bar letter. Then you just need to take the letter into one of their markets to be scanned and processed.



# Annual Follies Fundraiser Focuses on California Cats

**M**ore than 200 EFBC-FCC supporters dined under the stars and enjoyed an evening of education and fun at the annual Fabulous Feline Follies dinner, which raised \$26,335 for the cathouse.

This year's theme celebrated California Cats, focusing on the two species still found in the state: the cougar (*Puma Concolor*), also commonly known as the mountain lion and puma, and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Information about these two species was featured in the Follies program, as well as on a display put together by volunteer and EFBC-FCC board member Nancy Vandermeij. The information highlighted some of the research and attention our native feline species have had, particularly in



David (L) and Ben (R) Pearson with a Zoo to You ambassador and a young female kangaroo.

Southern California. Guests also were able to catch peeks of our resident California cats, Serrano (cougar) and Willow (bobcat).

A highlight of the evening as always, was the interaction between guests and the animals from Zoo to You. This non-profit mobile educational organization has long been a supporter of EFBC-FCC and we are so appreciative for their continued presence at the Follies. This year's animal guests included a baby kangaroo (known as a joey); a four-day-old African crested porcupine; a bald eagle; and an alligator. Thank you Zoo to You and your Wildlife on Wheels and Conservation Ambassadors for providing a memorable experience—as well as an educational one—for our Follies guests.



Display featuring information on cougars and bobcats in California.

Over the years at the Follies, we have presented the Felitarian Award to a special person who has dedicated themselves in some way to EFBC-FCC and its mission. This year, we honored Los Angeles attorney Scott Pearson, who has provided *pro bono* legal work for the compound for close to two decades. [More information about Scott and his work for EFBC

-FCC can be found on page 6.] Congratulations Scott!

More Follies Photos on page 6

Throughout the evening, guests sipped on specialty drinks - Mystic Mountain Lion (Mai Tai) and Bubbly Bobcat (fruit juice and sparkling soda) - in hand-painted one-of-a-kind souvenir glasses created for the event by

former guest shop staff member Lori Hands. Though Lori left a few years back to move to Frazier Park, she still volunteers her time painting the glasses and working the gift shop for the event, and we thank her for her dedication!



Thank you to our Platinum donors!

Nancy Hoverman of Lancaster, California, was the lucky winner of the annual 50/50 Follies raffle drawing. This is the second time Nancy has won the \$1,000 first prize. She donated \$500 of her winnings back to EFBC and we thank her for her generosity. The second prize raffle winner was Elizabeth Hill & Bill Flocco of Studio City, California, who attended the event and went home with a new Kindle Fire. Third prize raffle winner of a \$50 Amazon gift card went to local resident William Bezanon of Rosamond, California. We also thank all the guests who bid on our silent auction, which included artwork, jewelry, and other fine items. Mark your calendar for next year's Fabulous Feline Follies, scheduled to take place on Aug. 8.

### **Black-footed cat**

*(Continued from page 1)*

kittens that were born several months ago), they are used to this type of weather. Their territory is restricted to the arid lands of Southern Africa. It is typically associated with open, sandy, grassy habitats with sparse shrub and tree cover, such as the Kalahari and Karoo regions. The northernmost records are from Namibia and Botswana although the species may occur in the south-western corner



Senior zookeeper Brittany Furr examines the tiny black-footed cat kitten, at age three weeks.



Mom Gabby with her baby at two weeks old.

of Angola.

This small cat is listed as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Their distribution appears to be restricted and patchy and the IUCN puts their population at fewer than 10,000 mature individuals. Major threats to the species include loss of prey base and persecution, as well as loss of habitat due to grazing and agriculture. Poison and other methods of pest control also threaten the population. Hunting of the black-footed cat is banned in Botswana and South Africa, according to the IUCN.



*Otis the fishing cat.*

## **Meet Otis, Our Newest Fishing Cat**

On July 24, April the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) gave birth to a male, which we have named Otis. The father is Chimlin, who was born at the facility in 2011 to parents Nemo and Kai.

Otis' birth is exciting news for the captive-bred gene pool of fishing cats. April, who came to EFBC-FCC May 2010, offers a whole new set of genes to our fishing cat population. Otis is being hand-reared by staff.

Fishing cats are considered endangered and are found in Southeast Asia.

The size of a very large house cat, fishing cats have partially webbed paws and a double layer of fur so when they go in the water, they don't get wet down to the skin.

Water pollution and forest clearance for settlement threaten the species through much of its range.

Our fishing cat breeding program has been extremely successful dating back to the early 1990s when our first baby, Precious, was born. Since then, we have had dozens born here and many have been sent to other facilities around the world.



# Pearson Honored with 2014 Felitarian Award



(L-R) EFBC-FCC Director Joe Maynard presents Scott Pearson with the 2014 Felitarian Award.

Los Angeles-based attorney Scott Pearson was honored with the 2014 Felitarian Award at the annual Fabulous Feline Follies for his *pro bono* legal work for the facility and his dedication to our mission at EFBC-FCC.

The honor was a surprise to Scott, who attended the Follies with his wife and EFBC-FCC board member, Nicole Pearson, and their sons Ben and David. The honor was presented to him by EFBC-FCC Director Joe Maynard, who spoke of Scott’s dedication to the organization and his tireless *pro bono* legal work for close to 20 years – most recently overseeing our legal victory against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (“EFBC-FCC Wins Case over Permit Regulations in CA”, *Spots & Stripes*, Spring 2014.) Joe noted this was the first Felitarian Award given in several years – an honor reserved for those who have dedicated so much time and energy to EFBC-FCC’s success.

The Pearson family have been long-time supporters of EFBC-FCC. Nicole and Scott first visited EFBC-FCC in 1995, on the advice of his former secretary who had visited the facility.

“We kind of fell in love with the place right away and offered to help in any way we could,” said Scott, a litigation partner and co-chair of Seyfarth Shaw’s Consumer Financial Services Litigation practice group in Los Angeles.

Nicole joined the board and Scott started doing legal work, becoming the “*de facto* general counsel” to EFBC-FCC, providing legal guidance and expertise to the facility. For several years, the two have hosted cocktail party fundraisers for the cathouse at their Los Angeles home.

“It’s a huge honor and extremely gratifying,” Scott said of becoming a Felitarian. “There are an awful lot of people who really ought to share it with me, especially Nicole who really is responsible for me being involved with EFBC in the first place, and the big team of lawyers and staff at Seyfarth Shaw who devoted literally hundreds of hours of their time to help fight the State of California in the litigation. There are very few firms willing to help organizations like EFBC in major lawsuits like this, so I’m really proud to be a partner at Seyfarth.”

## Follies Highlights

Zoo to You provided guests rare encounters with a variety of animal species, as well as an educational presentation.

(L-R) Great horned owl; female Gibbon; Screech owl; African Porcupine; guests hold a python.



## Students Intern at EFBC



EFBC-FCC played host to another group of interns this summer, visiting from as close by as Southern California to as far as Paris, France. Pictured (L-R) are Sarah Hernandez, Nancy Cheng, Ashley Quick and Pauline Van Leeuwen.

For information on the internship program, visit our volunteer page and scroll down to the Internship section at [cat-house-fcc.org/volunteer.html](http://cat-house-fcc.org/volunteer.html).

## Stay Connected!

Visit

[www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org)

for the latest on new arrivals, births and construction projects.

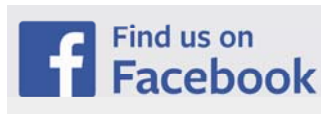


You can join our **Google Group** e-mail list at

[groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com)

and search "EFBC-FelineConservationCenter" (no spaces).

Our **Facebook Fan Page** is "EFBC's Feline Conservation Center." Like us today!



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- \$2,000.00 LIFETIME\*\*
- \$1,000.00 V.I.P.\*\*
- \$500.00 PATRON\*\*
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- \$75.00 SUPPORT
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- \$40.00 FOREIGN (Individual)
- \$25.00 INDIVIDUAL (U.S. Only)
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**\*\*Indicates payment plan: 50% down, balance of 50% due in 90 days.**

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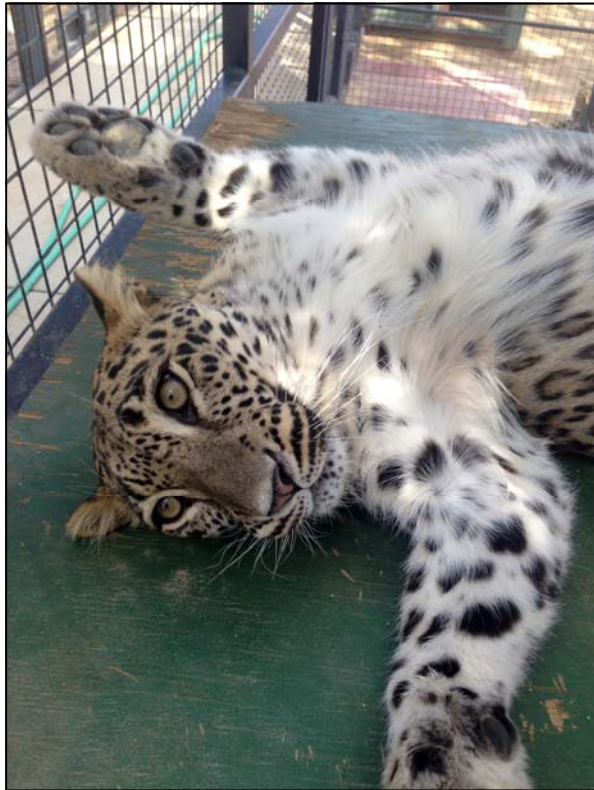
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Visit us at [www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org)



*Kiana the Persian leopard (Panthera pardus saxicolor).*



**SAVE THE DATES!**

Twilight Tour	Sept. 20
Kids Day	Oct. 18

**2015 Calendar:**

Twilight Tour	April 25
	June 20
	Sept. 26
Feline Follies	Aug. 8
Kids Day (2015)	Oct. 17

**2014 EVENTS CALENDAR**



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