



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SUMMER 2004

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS:

You may have noticed in the header above, our web site address is different: wildcatzoo.org vs. the previous cathouse-fcc.org. There is no need to update any bookmarks, the old address will continue to work. The new address points to the exact same web site. The new name is much easier to remember and less prone to typos. It's also easier to describe to someone verbally! Test it yourself and pass the word on about us to a friend. We depend on word-of-mouth support. Remember to go through our web site before heading to Amazon.com to direct a percentage donation our way, and check out our CafeShops store regularly for added items.

CAT UPDATE:

Amur leopards Aijka and Gigant became parents for the 4th time on May 5th. The cub is being mother raised as Aijka has always been a good mother. We think it may be a male. On a sadder note, Chinese leopards Kim Lee and Kandgi had a cub April 21st which died at 4 weeks of age. These cats have bred several times but never successfully raised a cub. As our breeding program focuses on Amur leopards, we are very happy with Aijka's new cub. One of her previous daughters, Katia, lives at the Philadelphia Zoo and is a mother herself. In fact her daughter (Aijka's granddaughter) is returning to our facility soon and may be bred to our male Yoqui.

We are currently holding 2 young bobcats in our quarantine area awaiting CITES permits for export to Zoo Ostrava in the Czech Republic. Both of these cats originated in the wild here in Southern

California but for various reasons were not able to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Our Spring Twilight Tour was a big success. We hope to see you at a future event. The Summer Twilight Tour is June 19, while the Fall event is September 18. Also, our 15th annual Fabulous Feline Follies will be held August 21. More information about the Follies will be mailed to members when it is ready. Remember we always need silent auction items, so start thinking now about what you may be able to contribute.

DONATIONS:

The World Wildlife Preservation Society, formally know as The World Pet Society officially dissolved as an organization earlier this year and as a final act they chose us and one other organization to be the recipients of their excess funds. Below, members of the club came up for a visit and presented Joe Maynard with a check. Thanks Jan and all of the members for your kind consideration.

We would also like to thank David Myles of Night Stars Karoake for providing the P.A. System for the last Twilight Tour in April.

A special thank you to Girl Scout Troop #446 from Porterville CA. EFBC was chosen as one of the organizations to support as part of their Silver Project. They raised \$150.00 for the purchase of a brick in our Walk of Honor, and also brought in lots and lots of cleaning supplies. They also

recognized our staff and volunteers with a special basket of Girl Scout Goodies!!

Chris Coyne, Rosamond for a used computer for us to sell to raise money. Thanks Chris!

The following people have generously donated cleaning and enrichment items to us to help offset our operating costs:

John & Carole Lindsey, Saugus; Renee Freiwirth, Palmdale and Sue Scudder, Thousand Oaks. Thank you very much.

The following people have donated auction and door prize items for our fund raisers:

Pam Rose, Laguna Nigel; Lara Gearhart, Burbank; Linda Braun, Anaheim - Stephanie Huth, Willow Springs International Raceway and Chris & Ruth Gage, West Hollywood. Thanks all, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Zoo Reciprocal list: Add the following zoo to your list. The Potter Park Zoo in Lansing Michigan will offer free admission to our members. Remember to carry your EFBC membership card with you when you take trips. There are a lot of great zoos you can enjoy visiting throughout the U.S. at a discount or free.

CATS NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

Project Survival, the Sierra Endangered Cat Haven and Wild Wonders are hosting an event at UCLA in California on the 17th of July, 2004. The Wild Cat Conservation Learning Experience will be a fund-raiser for cat conservation. The speakers will be Rod Jackson, Snow Leopard Conservancy, Jim Sanderson, Small Cat Conservation Alliance, Vanessa Bouwer, De Wildt, and Ronaldo Morato Pro-Carnivoros. For information go to the web site cathaven.com

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) May 15, 2004

There was more to the "funky-looking house cat" rescued by a good Samaritan this week along a highway. The unidentified rescuer picked up the dazed feline Tuesday afternoon after it had apparently been struck by a car near Wilder Ranch State Park. It was fortunate the cat was too stunned to move. The nearly 10-pound "funky"

kitty turned out to be a bobcat with sharp claws and 3/4-inch fangs. Dave Shuman, owner of Westside Animal Hospital, said the woman brought the female cat to his facility and he knocked it out with anesthesia and gave it fluids and medicine to reduce brain swelling. The rescuer was surprised when she found out exactly what she'd put in her car. "She said, 'I thought it looked kinda strange,'" Shuman said. "I don't think she quite understood that if it had woken up in her car, she would have had to run out of her car." Shuman said the cat has no broken bones, "just a big whack on the noggin." It had a 50 percent chance of survival, he said.

Associated Press May 14, 2004

A finger was found outside the jaguar exhibit at the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque a day after a groundskeeper spotted a frequent visitor running out with blood on his pants. The man ran into a bathroom at the zoo Tuesday, said Director Ray Darnell. The groundskeeper followed the man and asked if he was OK, but the man turned and ran out of the zoo. The man believed to be injured is in his 50s and is known to them as one of about 15 or so people who visit the zoo every day. He has a New Mexico Zoological Society pass, which enabled zoo officials to call him. "Are you missing any fingers?" the man was asked. "Oh no, there's nothing wrong with me, you have the wrong guy," the man responded, according to Darnell. The man who said he didn't lose his fingers was seemingly entranced with the cats and particularly with Manchas, the jaguar. "He'd be seen talking to him, sitting in front of his exhibit" every day for about the past year and a half to two years - except this Wednesday and Thursday. Police went to his house later and confirmed he only has 9 fingers. He has been banned from the zoo for life.

Various sources, late April 2004

The city of Los Angeles will post warning signs in Griffith Park after several people, including park officials and equestrians, reported seeing a mountain lion there in a northwest section of the park, near some trails designated for horseback riding, said Jane Kolb, parks spokeswoman. The trails are also used by hikers. Rangers say they found evidence of a lion bedding down in the higher reaches of the park. They said they also

found the partially eaten leg of a deer nearby. "If there's not an attack, there's not going to be any killing" of a lion, said Tom Cotter, the senior park ranger for Griffith Park and the San Fernando Valley. Biologists are surprised it made it to the park from other nearby open areas, as it would have had to cross through highly developed areas to get to the park. The 4,100-acre Griffith Park is the largest municipal park and urban wilderness area in the United States, located 8 miles north of downtown LA.

Email from Jim Sanderson, Conservation International, 21 April 04

First Time Ever: At Khastor Lagoon, Bolivia we captured and radio-collared an adult female Andean mountain cat. She was fully recovered in 2 hours and successfully released, running from the trap at full speed. Moments later we observed an adult male but did not capture him.

Associated Press, 5 April 2004

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK, Calif. For the past three years, 20 mountain lions in and around San Diego County's Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were outfitted with \$5,000 Global Positioning System collars that allowed researchers to trace their nocturnal travels. The results surprised researchers. Mountain lions - also known as cougars or pumas - were crossing interstate highways and skirting clusters of homes without being seen. People were sometimes unaware that their goats and other livestock were silently dragged off and devoured by lions in the middle of the night. A separate Southern California study in the Santa Monica mountains captured a puma moving through a graffiti-lined underpass. "What surprised me the most is the degree of adaptability to what I consider to be high human activity in puma habitat," said Ken Logan, one of the researchers on the study. "Depending on the size as well as the home location of the GPS-collared lions we studied, there were literally hundreds to a thousand people living in the area." The UC Davis team is studying how the lions behave around people. Researchers eventually want to understand whether lion behavior changes as they get used to us. It's a question that's key to the cougar's continued existence in the fast-growing West since lions often pay the ultimate price when they come too close. In

California, where a voter initiative outlawed trophy hunting of mountain lions, more than 700 pumas have been killed over the past decade for threatening or harming people.

National Geographic News, 25 March 2004

An innovative program that provides guard dogs to livestock farmers at a modest cost may be helping to save wild cheetahs in southern Africa. The decade-old effort is the brainchild of Laurie Marker. The U.S. biologist moved to Namibia in 1990 to help prevent livestock losses that spurred ranchers to shoot and kill hundreds of cheetahs each year. Since 1994 the Livestock Guarding Dog Program has trained more than 200 Anatolian shepherds to protect farmed sheep and goats in Namibia. The powerful shepherds weigh 110 to 150 pounds (50 to 68 kilograms). Unlike most other breeds used to herd sheep and goats, the dogs instinctively challenge predators and scare them off with their loud, booming bark. Local governments in Namibia allow farmers to trap and kill predators, including protected species like cheetahs, if livestock is threatened. Farmers say such steps are necessary since cheetahs can quickly kill dozens of sheep in unguarded pens known as kraals. Twenty years ago farmers in Namibia shot as many as 800 to 900 cheetahs annually, according to Marker. Today she estimates just 200 cheetahs are shot and killed each year in the country, thanks in part to her guard-dog program and related educational efforts.

WCS news release, March 9, 2004

Scientists from the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society and other groups working in the Russian Far East released a Siberian tiger last week, after rescuing it from a snare set out by poachers. The eight-to-ten-year-old male tiger, estimated to weigh almost 400 pounds, was discovered by two Russian students hiking in the woods after they heard it roaring in distress. After they found the snare wrapped around the tiger's body, they quickly notified forest guards staying in a cabin a few miles away. A team of experts arrived on the scene and anesthetized the tiger so it could be removed from the snare. The tiger had numerous abrasions from the snare, but overall appeared healthy. Officials believe poachers set the snare specifically to catch

tigers, which would have been killed and sold for its skin and body parts. Of the estimated 400 remaining Siberian tigers living in the wild, most are killed by people. After the tiger was given a clean bill of health, it was fitted with a radio collar, where it will be tracked by scientists as part of a long-term study to better understand and ultimately protect these magnificent big cats. "The release went well," said WCS scientist John Goodrich, who participated in the animal's rescue and release. "The tiger leapt from his cage about a minute after the door was opened. He then bounded about 20 meters into the forest, stopped, turned, and growled, before walking calmly away."

FAREWELL TO NATASHA

Longtime visitors to our facility always remember our Siberian tiger dynasty. This family started with the enormous gentle giant Sing Sing and his mate Panda Bear, and their many offspring including Tedi Bear, Max, and Natasha. Unfortunately the last of their line at our facility has passed on. Natasha, just a few weeks shy of her 20th birthday, left us in mid-May. The bloodlines of this family are well represented in the captive population, which is why we never bred Natasha or her siblings. If anyone would like to send a donation in Natasha's memory we will put it towards Project Tiger, where we hope to breed tigers in the future. All tigers are endangered in the wild. Siberian tigers, also called Amur tigers, live in the Russian Far East where 400-500 survive.

DPC DISASTER

As with everything age takes its toll. Our DPC (Dietary Preparation Center), almost 30 years old, finally gave out. This building was originally a mobile home type trailer altered to serve as our kitchen and diet prep center. With the continued cleaning and washing of dishes and food thawing cabinets, water damage could not be avoided. We were beginning to have problems with the entrance door and upon an attempt to replace the door and frame we discovered that water damage had progressed into the sub-floor and walls to the point that repairs would not be feasible.

One thing that doesn't change is that our feline family needs to eat. Emergency measures were taken and again the Project Tiger building came to

the rescue. Everything (sinks, freezers, uprights, utensils and supplies) was moved to this building so as to avoid any long term disruption of the cat's feeding routine. Unfortunately there is no hot water in the building so washing and sanitizing takes a little longer and the food must now be transported clear across the facility from the walk-in freezer twice a day.

We need your help to build a new DPC. Time is critical and a new DPC must be built and be operational in as short a time as possible. We have elected to build a fixed or permanent building out of concrete block similar to Project Tiger building. It will be built on a concrete slab designed with proper drainage of excess water and should last 40-50 years.

EFBC needs to raise \$30,000 dollars for the construction of this new building and is asking for our member's help in making a donation of any size.

We are looking for an architect to donate their services so we can get plans drawn up for the building permit.

We are also looking for donations of new concrete block, 1/2" plywood, roofing materials, and electrical materials.

If you can help, please send cash donations c/o EFBC's emergency DPC fund. Your continued support of our programs and special projects is greatly appreciated.

MORE CAT NEWS

Tucson Weekly - February 2004

If you have seen a jaguar, the state of Arizona wants to hear from you.

Bill Van Pelt, of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, says every purported sighting of the scarce cat is being investigated. Between July and December 2003, nine reports of jaguars were checked out, including several in mountain ranges near Tucson. During the same period, New Mexico's game officials looked into two alleged sightings in that state.

There has been no documented appearance of a wild jaguar in the United States since last August, when a surveillance camera south of Tucson near the Mexican border caught a male jaguar on film as the animal tripped a sensor. The same cat was photographed in December 2001, although it's not thought to be a resident.

"At this point," says Van Pelt, "we believe that jaguars seen in Arizona are probably transients coming up from home ranges in Sonora." The elusive felines are hard to study, but some experts believe they may roam as widely as mountain lions, which can travel hundreds of miles in the course of a few weeks.

POISON WARNING:

An article was sent to us by one of our members warning about the increased and incorrect use of rodent poisons such as D-Con, Talon and Havoc.

These poisons are designed to be used only inside a structure, however lately they are being put outside by homeowners, condo associations and sports playing fields. This incorrect use has had a disastrous effect on wildlife such as bobcats, coyotes, and raptor species such as hawks and owls. The ingredients used in these poisons is Brodifacoum, and it is basically an anticoagulant and death usually occurs through gastric hemorrhage. The problem is that this is a slow acting poison and when rodents ingest it they can still be active for up to 10 days. These wandering "time bombs" are easy prey and when caught and consumed by carnivores secondary poisoning occurs. Since the fall of 2001 the National Parks service has found 19 bobcats confirmed to have died from secondary poisoning and these are only the ones found by people.

Diphacinone is another common rodenticide and is an ingredient in products such as Diphacine, Ditrac, Gold Crest, Kill Ko, P.C.Q., Promar, Ramik, Rat killer, Rodent Cake, and Tom Cat. It is similar to Brodifacoum.

These poisons can also have the same effect on your domestic cat and dog if ingested. Basically do not use poisons, even indoors. Use traditional mouse and rat traps, glue traps or live capture boxes if you have rodent problems. Clean up

outside areas, cover trash they can eat and seal up holes and crawl spaces around your home.

Remember the animal's life you save might be your own!!