

# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center



SUMMER 2012

Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Save the Date! 2012 Feline Follies

### Inside this issue:

<i>Donations</i>	2
<i>Meet the Intern</i>	2
<i>Twilight Tour</i>	3
<i>Vet's Corner</i>	4-5
<i>Membership Form</i>	7
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	7
<i>Shop Online</i>	7

Mark your calendars for August 18, 2012 and the annual Fabulous Feline Follies. This 23<sup>rd</sup> annual event is one of the EFBC-FCC's major fundraisers and includes dinner, silent auction, multimedia presentation and lots of fun. This year's festivities celebrate EFBC-FCC's "35 Years of Conservation."

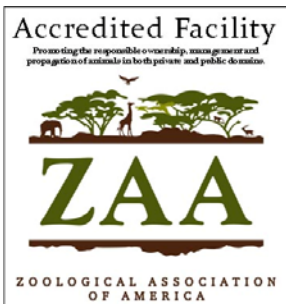
We are always looking for the generous donations of our supporters for the silent auction. If you would like to donate to the

silent auction, please contact (661) 256-3793.

The generous support of sponsors - individuals and/or businesses - contribute immensely to the success of the evening. Sponsors receive recognition in the Follies program, including a business card-sized ad.

**Be sure to check your mail for the 2012 Feline Follies package arriving soon!**

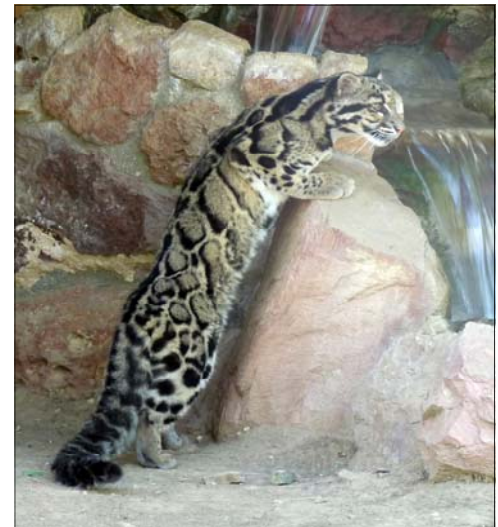
## Meet Our New Residents: Ky & Tate



On April 29, we received an unrelated breeding pair of young Clouded Leopards from a facility in Kansas.

Kyoke (*aka Ky*) and Tate are both one year of age and are housed in one of the natural habitat enclosures in the public area of the facility.

The pair thoroughly enjoy their new home and exploring all it has to offer, from the pond and waterfall to the special heavy-duty cat hammock and tree trunks.



Kyoke checks out the waterfall in her enclosure.

*Continued to page 3*



Li Ming, North Chinese Leopard

## Donations

**PUBLIC RESTROOMS:** We want to thank **C. Joy Treverton** and **Roxana Gerns** who each donated \$100 toward our efforts to build public restrooms. Our visitors also contributed to our project display in the gift shop raising an additional \$522. This brings our total to \$1,098. Our goal is \$75,000.

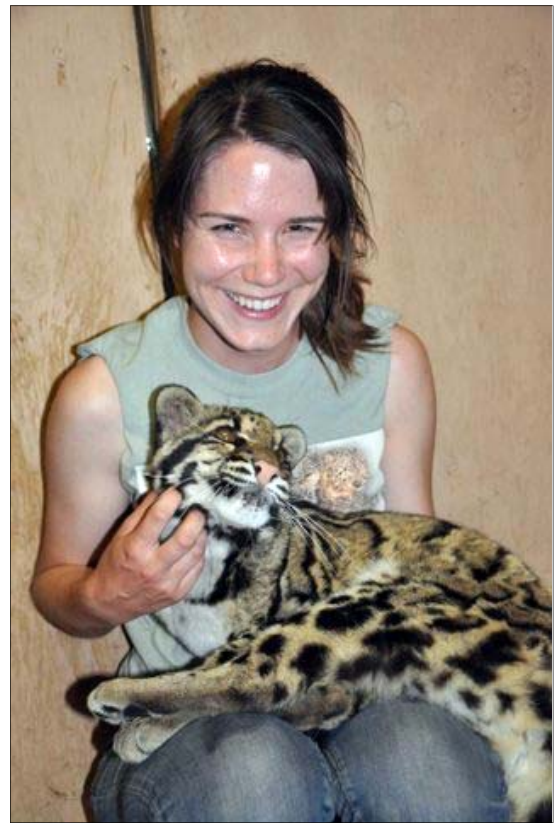
**GENERAL DONATIONS:** Donations to our general fund helps us handle those unexpected expenses as well as complete minor projects. Thanks to the following for their support of our general fund:

**Toni Chancellor-Adams, Cord Alexander Vaughn, Vicki Collins, David Forward, Bonnie C. Clark, Lisa Hill, Lisa Edmondson, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Roese-ner, Lynne & Buddy Borderre, Chris Tromborg, Carolyn Michels, Gerald Bandy, Thomas & Marjorie Wilson, David Gregory, Lee Turner, Melissa Breeding, Leslie Ward, Betty Ann Jones and Denise Vardaro.**

## Meet the Intern: Nicole Bryson

My name is Nicole Bryson and I am currently a senior in the Veterinary Technology program at Mount Ida College in Boston. I was born and raised in Los Angeles but moved to Massachusetts for school and have resided there for the past six years. I discovered my passion with animals at a young age and am finally pursuing a career with them. Once I finish my final internship, I hope to work towards a zoo specialty in veterinary technology. With that, I would like to become a zoo veterinary technician.

I heard about the EFBC-FCC through a previous intern who also attended the program at my school. She spoke so highly of it that I had no choice but to apply for an internship and have loved every minute of it. Working with exotic felines has always been a dream of mine and having the chance to be up close to such amazing animals every day constantly humbles me. I especially enjoy the time I get to spend with Masha, the Amur leopard, and try to take some time every day to visit her. I am so proud to be a part of a place that works so hard to save these felines and will be very sad to say good bye to all of the amazing people that I work with every day, and, of course, these beautiful cats.



Nicole with Ky the Clouded Leopard.



## Twilight Tour Kicks Off Spring Next Evening Tour Set for June 23

The first Twilight Tour of the year took place on April 7.

More than 330 guests attended the event. The facility raised funds not only from ticket sales, but also gift shop purchases, and various fundraisers. The event also gave the EFBC-FCC American Association of Zookeepers Chapter (through their bake sale) and the Rotary Club of Lancaster (through their BBQ) the opportunity to raise funds for their groups.

**The second Twilight Tour will take place on Saturday, June 23, 2012 on Father's Day weekend.** This is our Foster Parent's Night and adoptive parents are invited to attend as our guests. If you can attend, please call Sandy Masek at (661) 256-3793 so she can add your name to our list.



Rosa the jaguar plays with a watermelon for visitors during the Spring Twilight Tour.



North Chinese Leopard Kim Lee checks out her "elephant" enrichment



From left: Animal and environmental advocate Joan Embery with EFBC-FCC Director Joe Maynard.

### Clouded Leopards (cont.)

Clouded Leopards are known as the smallest "big" cat, weighing only 30-50 pounds full-grown. A tree-dweller, they have short legs, big feet and long tails to help their balance and climbing skills.

Listed as "Vulnerable" in the wild, they have a wide range in tropical Asia, but are threatened

by high rates of deforestation and continued hunting for their pelts.

They get their name from their unusual pattern of spots. They also have the longest canine teeth relative to body size of any cat. They are difficult to breed in captivity, partly because the male often accidentally kills the female while breeding.

## Vet's Corner: To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate ... and What to Vaccinate For?

by Dr. Kristi Krause

As a cat owner, it is difficult enough to know which vaccinations our furry friends need. Our exotic cats are not any different. These are some of the things we consider when vaccinating the cats here at EFBC-FCC, and you should consider and discuss with your veterinarian about your own pet cat. This will walk through vaccines, diseases, prevention and the basics you need to know to best protect your felids.

The most important things to remember about vaccines are:

1. Vaccination is not a benign procedure.
2. No vaccine is 100% effective 100% of the time to 100% of the animals vaccinated.



*It is important to have open discussions about diseases, risks, and preventative medicine with your veterinarian.*

Giving a vaccine is injecting a biological product in a formulation made to induce a response from the immune system. In theory, it will produce a specific response from the immune system to teach it how to protect the animal against the diseases it is introducing. However, there is always the potential for other immune system effects. Cats are very good at developing inflammatory responses and abnormal excessive immune responses, especially anaphylaxis and other allergic reactions. Tumors associated with vaccines have been reported in approximately 1:10,000 domestic cats. None have been reported in non-domestic cats, but there are a number of theories on that, none of which eliminate the possibility of it happening or having happened and not been reported. Vomiting, diarrhea,

head and neck edema (swelling) and anaphylaxis are all reported reactions to vaccines in felids.

Vaccines are developed to work to the best of their ability in the most number of average animals. However, animals are biological systems that are not always working as perfectly as they should be, and we cannot always tell what is perfect and what is not. Some animals just will not develop an immune response, regardless of how good a vaccine is, how

many times it is vaccinated or how healthy the animal is otherwise. This is not a vaccine failure, this is a failure on the animal's immune system's part. Can there also be a vaccine failure? Absolutely. Whether something occurs in the manufacturing process, transport,

storage, administration or within the infection itself (more virulent strain, different strain than what the vaccine was developed to protect against, etc.), is sometimes difficult to determine, but all possible.

Now that you are terrified to ever vaccinate your cats again, let's look at what the vaccines are, what they protect against, and why you should or should not vaccinate.

**FVRCP:** *Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis Calicivirus Panleukopenia.*

This is also known as the "upper respiratory" vaccine, although panleukopenia is not an upper respiratory virus. Rhinotracheitis is the Feline Herpesvirus. While not as common in non-domestic cats, approximately 98% of domestic cats are infected with this virus. It is endemic in the cheetah population.

*Continued on Page 5*

Pallas' cats are very susceptible to infection with this virus and it will kill kittens if infected. Calicivirus is not as common as herpesvirus, but is found more in high density situations, such as shelters and group-housed cats. Feline panleukopenia is also known as feline parvo, as it is genetically very similar and from the same family as canine parvo. In fact, canine parvo tests are often used in clinics to test for feline panleukopenia. This vaccine has been proven to protect against both feline and canine parvo.

#### **FELV:** *Feline Leukemia Virus*

Feline leukemia virus is found mostly among younger cats, as there has been shown to be some age related resistance. It can be passed from mother to offspring. It is usually passed through direct, prolonged contact- social activities, such as eating and drinking together and grooming.

#### **FIV:** *Feline Immunodeficiency Virus*

This is the HIV of the cat world. It is spread through direct contact, usually through a bite. Cats that have been in fights, especially intact males, are the highest risk. Outdoor and feral cats are the most common carriers of this disease. In non-domestic cats, each species has their own strain, which appears to not have any particular health concern. However, if infected with another species' strain, it can cause clinical disease.

#### **FIP:** *Feline Infectious Peritonitis*

FIP is the result of a very common intestinal corona virus mutating in certain individual cats. It is the most common in high density and breeding facilities. It mainly affects very young and older cats.

#### **Canine Distemper**

Canine distemper has been reported in members of the species *Panthera* only. The "little guys" and domestic cats do not seem to be at risk.

#### **So, what to vaccinate against?**

These guidelines are based on recommendations from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians,

AZA Felid TAG, American Association of Feline Practitioners, International Society of Feline Medicine and veterinary colleges around the country.

**FVRCP:** Every felid should be vaccinated with this vaccine. These diseases are endemic in the felid population. A non-domestic cat is at a higher risk if it comes in contact with domestic cats. One of the most important ways of protecting non-domestic cats is to protect them from wildlife. This may mean additional barriers or smaller gauge wiring to cages. Removing contact with skunks, foxes, raccoons, and weasels, as well as their urine and feces will virtually eliminate the risk of panleukopenia and canine parvo in these cats.

Strict sanitation when handling babies and keeping them as isolated from other cats (other than mom) is essential. Using footbaths, covering or changing shoes, and wearing gowns or other protective clothing when handling babies decreases the risk of tracking and spreading disease, as it is easily transmitted on shoes, in dirt, and on clothing.

In non-domestic cats, a killed virus vaccine should always be given. The only one available at this time is Fel-O-Vax by Fort Dodge/Boehringer Ingelheim. Modified live vaccines (MLV) have been used frequently on hybrids and appear to be safe, but it is up to you and your veterinarian as to which type to use. In domestic cats, it is highly recommended to use a non-adjuvanted vaccine to reduce the risk of inflammatory induced reactions, such as vaccine sarcomas (tumors).

**FELV:** Cats that are exposed to other cats that are known to be positive or with unknown status, especially if they are allowed outdoors and may come in contact with other cats, should be vaccinated. All kittens should be vaccinated, as this is when they are the most susceptible to the virus. Even though people may try to keep them indoors, if a kitten slips outside and is exposed to a FELV positive cat, it has a high risk of contracting the virus. Again, a non-adjuvanted vaccine is recommended. Currently, the only one available is <sup>®</sup>PUREVAX by Merial.



*Continued from page 5*

that mutates within individuals. Sanitation and decreasing crowding situations is the best way to prevent.

**Canine Distemper:** Not recommended for routine use. Again, only members of *Panthera* have been diagnosed with this disease, so none of the other felids need to be vaccinated. This is not even considered in domestic cats. Preventing exposure is the best way to decrease the risk of disease. Just like with panleukopenia and parvo, protecting from wildlife, especially skunks, raccoons, coyotes, foxes, and weasels, is the best way to prevent exposure. This is a much better and safer guarantee than vaccination. If the decision to vaccinate is made, a recombinant canarypox vaccine should be used, not the regular canine distemper (DHPP) vaccine.

**Rabies:** This is governed by local laws. All felids should be vaccinated. It is recommended to use a recombinant, non-adjuvanted vaccine as mentioned with the FELV vaccine. There is currently only one on the market, again by Merial. It is only licensed for 1 year, so regardless of how often your laws say to vaccinate, this vaccine needs to be given yearly. However, it has been determined that the reaction to this vaccine in cats is safer, even given yearly, than giving a regular, killed, adjuvanted rabies vaccine every 2-3 years. The adjuvanted rabies is the most highly implicated vaccine in all of the tumors (sarcomas), so it is strongly recommended to use the recombinant vaccine. It is a bit more expensive and yearly, but worth the health risk/benefit to the cat.

How often you give vaccines is a discussion you should have with your veterinarian. We currently do not have any duration of immunity (DOI) studies, how long a vaccine gives protection against a disease, in any of our non-domestic cats. We do have some in domestic

cats, however. In domestic cats, these are the current recommendations:

**FVRCP:** 8wks., 12 wks., 16wks., 1 year and every 3 years thereafter.

**FELV:** 12 wks., 16wks., 1 year then continue if needed based on risk assessment, every 3 years.

**Rabies:** Governed by local law, but typically between 12-16 wks., 1 year, every year if given feline rabies and every 3 years if given regular rabies.

It is important to have open discussions about diseases, risks, and preventative medicine with your veterinarian. If you have a hybrid or some type of non-domestic cat and your veterinarian is not very experienced in non-domestic cat medicine, make sure you make him/her feel comfortable contacting another veterinarian who is, as well as encourage them to do so.

There are plenty of experienced veterinarians who are willing to help others gain knowledge and contribute to the health and well-being of as many of our feline friends as possible.

*Dr. Kristi Krause DVM is a member of the Board of Directors of EFBC-FCC. She received her BA in Zoology and Rhetoric and Communications in 1993 and her DVM in 1997 from the University of California at Davis. She became board certified in feline medicine by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in 2005. Dr. Krause serves as the Fishing Cat and Jaguarundi Veterinary Advisor for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Felid Taxon Advisory Group and the Cheetah Veterinary Advisor for the Zoological Association of America and has a special interest in Pallas' Cats. She teaches the veterinary medical section of the AZA Felid TAG Husbandry Course and lectures on feline, wildlife, and exotic medicine. She is owned by 5 cats, an African Grey parrot, and an assortment of reptiles and amphibians.*



Romulus, Pallas' Cat

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

Supporters can help EFBC-FCC by starting at our home page before shopping online. In addition to Amazon, shoppers can use Goodshop or Igive, or search through Goodsearch.

We also have an official Facebook page and a cause that you can donate through. We also invite you to write reviews of us on TripAdvisor or Yelp. Links for all of these can be found on our homepage at [www.cathouse-fcc.org](http://www.cathouse-fcc.org).

**2012 EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Twilight Tour:**

June 23

September 15

**23rd Annual**

**Fabulous Feline Follies:**

August 18

**Kids' Day**

October 20

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

- \$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.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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/>>

**Save the Date!**  
**23rd annual Fabulous Feline Follies**  
**August 18 2012**

silent auction \* raffle \* signature drinks  
animal entertainment \* **AND MORE!**

Sponsors Needed

**Ticket/sponsor form in separate mailing,  
available online NOW**



---

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

---

3718 60th Street West  
Rosamond, CA 93560  
661.256.3793 voice, during operating hours  
(10 am-4 pm Thurs-Tues)  
661.256.3332 recorded directions and information,  
24 hours  
661.256.6867 fax

**EFBC's Feline Conservation Center**