



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SUMMER 2007



*Dr. Kyle Good, with two cheetah that live at the Mokolodi Nature Preserve in Botswana, Africa*

### **EFBC-FCC donates portable X-ray machine to Botswana.**

The following is a letter from Dr. Kyle Good, D.V.M., veterinarian for Cheetah Conservation Botswana to FCC:

Cheetah Conservation Botswana is very grateful to the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc. for its generous donation of a portable DynaRad X-ray machine. There was much excitement when we discovered our dream of finally acquiring this machine was becoming a reality!

The next question was how to get this 50 (or is it closer to 70?) kg "portable" machine to Africa! Although there was talk of Eric Barkalow and Nancy Vandermey bringing it with them on their next trip to CCB, this idea seemed a bit ambitious and a long way off.

Sethunya Botshabelo, the Botswana DHL global forwarding co-ordinator, came to the rescue.

Kevin Botha of DHL in Gaborone, also helped organize for DHL to ship it to us at no cost. In the states, EFBC-FCC president Joe Maynard organized with Lancaster Rotary and Lancaster Moving and Storage to have the machine packed in a way it could have been thrown out of the plane and not be damaged. In the past we have had to rely on local veterinarians and the private human hospitals for the use of X-ray machines which were not always available and in the case of our young orphaned cheetah cub Lyra, we had to disguise her by anesthetizing her and wrapping her up like a baby to sneak her in to the human clinic. Not something the hospital was keen to get involved with too many times.



*Thabang and Wabothle, community and education officers, and Dr. Kyle Good pose with the X-ray machine donated to CCB by the EFBC-FCC.*

The machine has been helpful not only to CCB but to our community. We share a clinic and the use of the machine with Mokolodi Nature Reserve, a not for profit organization which among other endeavors such as environmental education, is involved in wildlife rehabilitation.

The machine, being portable, has even helped out our local veterinary hospital who has in the past helped CCB on numerous occasions with radiographs. CCB was able to return the favor by allowing them to borrow our "new" machine when their machine was in for repair. They are very jealous and reluctant to see it go "home". Thank you all for this generous gift! Dr. Kyle Good, CCB.



*Masha, (Amur leopard) enjoyed her toy at the last Twilight Tour. Thank you for all who donated phone books but please do not bring any more, we have enough to last for many years.*

We thank the Lancaster Rotary and Lancaster Moving and Storage for donating the wrapping of the machine for the long trip. They did a great job, and although it was not thrown out of a plane, it did arrive safe and sound.

### **Cat News:**

Dimitri and Ktusha have gone to the great white north! Granby Zoo in Montreal, Canada received this pair in May. Granby hopes to help with the world wide effort to save this species through captive breeding. Some of you may recall that Sevastian was the original choice to go with Ktusha. Medical diagnosis determined that although the bloodline of Dimitri and Sevastian are the same, Dimitri is the healthier animal, and so he got the go ahead.

The pair arrived with no troubles, and should have settled in to their new home by the time you read this. This is the most critically endangered sub-species of leopard on earth. There are 71 in

the North American managed population, twelve of which have been born here at the EFBC-FCC. The two we have on public display are Yoqui, and Sakhar.

The most recent count published by the World Wildlife Fund on the Amur, or Far eastern leopard put the total wild population at nine males, seven females without cubs, four females with cubs, six cubs in all, and eight undefined tracks. That makes thirty four at best count, and the world should mourn for the loss of each and every one that dies.

Recently, on April 20, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reported the loss of one female. The 77 pound cat was healthy and of age to breed, yet her life was cut short. Two gunshot wounds to the back, and marks of a blunt object were found on her body. It is reported that this is the third such death in the last five years. From the reports, it sounds as if this was not poaching, just senseless killing. The body was found about two miles away from the village of Bamburovo, near Vladivostok.

News such as this is truly disturbing. EFBC/FCC raised over \$1500 through the sale of Amur leopard t-shirts to help save this leopard in the wild, but will it ever be enough? While proud to house some Amur's that will never know that cruel fate, our staff still mourn the loss of the elderly (17) Gigant, Dimitri and Sevastian's father. While he passed away last summer, we should all take some comfort from knowing his genes live on through our efforts.

**Pallas's cat gives birth!** Seven kittens were born to Yuri and Princess on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Although one died at birth, six were alive. After a few weeks, two of the smaller kittens were pulled for hand raising which allowed the other four more of Princess's milk. Sadly, both of the kittens pulled did not survive.

None of this species of cat are on display to the general public. They can however be seen during our Twilight Tours. Photos of all of the cats here can be found in the gift shop, or on-line.

The Pallas's cat is also known as the Rock cat, Steppe cat, or Manul cat. Its numbers in the wild



are difficult to discern, but it is feared that they are in rapid decline. Encroaching human populations have waged war on the rodent like Pika, the main prey species of this cat. Poison kills up the food chain. One of the only indicators of how well these animals are doing in the wild comes from the fur trade.



*Princess and kittens at 3 weeks. See them on our web cam, follow the link on our home page.*

The Small Cat Conservation Alliance has been working to change that, and Dr. Jim Sanderson is the field researcher for that alliance. Adults can meet him, and hear about his efforts in person if you attend the Fabulous Feline Follies, this August 18<sup>th</sup>. Jim has been collecting data on 22 small cat species, including some of those at our compound. He visited the center last year, and expressed a desire to attend the Follies. He will be one of our guest speakers.

### **Fabulous Feline Follies:**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, the EFBC will host its 18th annual Feline Follies. Our theme this year is In-Situ Conservation. Saving these apex predators is imperative to the ecology of our planet, and this year we salute those that are in the field trying to make a difference.

Attendance to this event is by reservation only. The cost is \$60. per person. It does sell out, so get your tickets early. Tickets must be purchased no later than August 11.

This year's event will feature:

Dinner - vegetarian and meat options, no-host cocktails, silent auction, a \$1000 raffle, and live animals to get up close and personal with.

There will be presentations by Dr. Jim Sanderson and our Veterinarian Dr. Scott Weldy. Look for the Follies pack to be mailed out to all of you soon.

If you have a business or are an individual that would like to sponsor this event, please ask for a sponsorship packet by calling (661) 256-3793 or e-mailing [cathouse@qnet.com](mailto:cathouse@qnet.com).



*These two fishing cats were born on February 27th. Mylai and Bandit are the parents.*

### **Cat History:**

Twilight (Jaguar) is currently our oldest cat. She was born on May 31<sup>st</sup> of 1988, and came to our facility in 1991. Her first litter of cubs was in 1994, but none of them survived. In 1995 she gave us Casey (F), Butch (M), and Bear (M). In 1996 she gave us Calamity (F). In 1997 BJ (M), and Cody (M) were born and in 1998 she gave us Annie (F), Doc (M), and Cisco (M). Twilight is housed between her two sons Cisco and Doc, and is still alert and active. While her breeding days are behind her, her genetic line is well represented in the captive breeding world.

Jaguars are a difficult cat to house, due to the strength they possess. With the third strongest jaws in the world, any enclosure they are in must be strong. Anything within the enclosure can be destroyed, and the bowling ball on display in the ashtray in front of Doc is a great example of this. Look closely and you will see why bowling balls

are not safe enrichments for a cat with this kind of power. Finding institutions capable of housing these great felines is also always difficult.



*Doc, Twilight's son, plays with a Boomer ball.*

Our last newsletter told the emotional tale of one wild jaguar. If you missed any of the newsletters, you can view recent ones on-line, some with color photos! Go through the site map link, and check it out.

While you may cherish each newsletter, they can also be used in another way. If you take your newsletters to work with you, or to your dentist's waiting room, doctor's office, etc. when you are finished with it, others will get a chance to read it and may get involved like yourself. As many of you know, the money you donate goes to the cats, not advertising. Volunteers like yourself are our best source of new members and supporters.

One local business stepped up for us recently, and we want to say thanks to Tina Bonsall and everyone at Tinitas Home Style Salsa of Lancaster, CA who raised funds and awareness about the Feline Conservation Center. From February 1st through March 31st, they donated a portion of salsa sales to the center, and accepted cash donations as well as supply donations. Tinitas was able to raise \$145.00 from Salsa sales, received over \$80 in cash donations, and gathered several bottles of cleaning supplies (bleach & liquid cleaner).

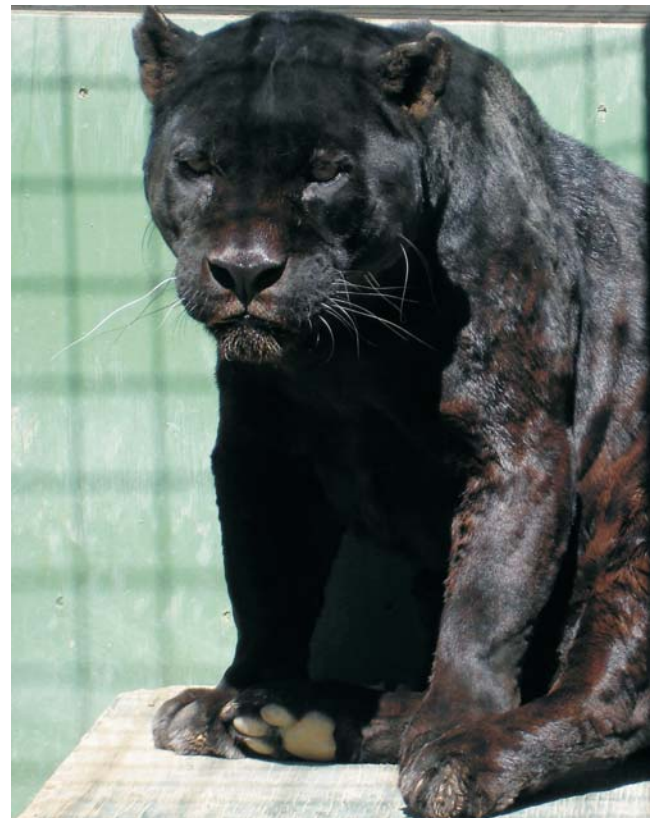
Tinitas had a lot of fun with their first fund-raiser for the EFBC. The positive response from their customers has inspired them to hold another

fund-raiser from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of 2007. The Tinitas Home style Salsa store is located at 47904 90th Street West in Lancaster, California. Salsa may be purchased from their Lancaster store or from a variety of locations in and around the Antelope Valley. Also on the web at: [www.tinitas.com](http://www.tinitas.com) or call (661) 728-0188

Please ask about the EFBC-FCC fund-raising effort when ordering. Perhaps your company can also take on the challenge of helping us advertise in some way.

### **Twilight Tour:**

Guests enjoyed the evening, with the raffle being quite popular. A gopher snake made the rounds (Uninvited) scaring our tiger Caesar but delighting some of our guests. Other guests were not as amused, but as many of you know, the compound is something of an oasis in the desert. The gopher control that this healthy snake provides is needed. He was "relocated" for the night over near project tiger by our volunteer Kim Blaquera. The snake was sighted again the next day near Sakhar, so he was not



*Twilight turned 19 years old on May 31st 2007.*



overly traumatized by his adventure. Also sighted but not photographed was a Western Tanager. Many guests enjoyed watching this colorful bird.

### Big Cat Bazaar!

Our big cat bazaar was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May and was another success! We netted over \$3100.00. Thanks to all that donated their items for this sale.

### Work Day:



*Melany, our lead Keeper, making sure all items are in good shape for use.*

Our first “work day” was on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Deb. Humphrey, Christina Watson, Bill Galley, Cattie McGuire, Christopher Corbie, and Erin Corbie, all deserve special thanks for donating the time, sweat, and energy required to get a large portion of Project Tiger painted. Deb. and Christina awoke very early to get there at 7 am, since they live in Orange County.

Eric Barkalow, Kim Blaquera and Nancy Vandermey also pitched in, and are regular volunteers at the EFBC.

Lilliana Coddington, a new cathouse volunteer, receives a special thanks for coming back to do detail painting on Sunday, in addition to helping out on Saturday.

Our next **Twilight Tour** is **June 16<sup>th</sup>**, and with all of our cats adopted, we expect a big turn out. Why? Our adoptive parents get in free! If you want



*Some of the “work day” crew posing by their handy work.*

to come mingle with some of the best supporting cast of the “cathouse”, don’t miss this event.

Our last Twilight Tour of the year will be on 15 September. As always, these events are for adults only (18 or over) and are \$15. If you purchase tickets in advance, you can get in early at 5 PM, whereas those paying at the gate have to wait until 5:30PM. This may seem like a small amount of time, but if we have any cats willing to pose for photos, it becomes a big difference. The decision to do photos with a cat is always a call made at the time of the event. After all, it is up to the cat.

### Volunteer of the Quarter:

Megan Smith is our choice for Volunteer of the Quarter. Megan has brought an enthusiasm with her that is vital to this organization. She has only been volunteering a short time but has raised the bar for new volunteers.

Megan has started a “My Space” page for EFBC-FCC ([www.myspace.com/efbcfcc](http://www.myspace.com/efbcfcc)).

Megan says “Never in a million years did I ever think I’d be given the chance to work around such amazing animals at such a young age. It’s definitely a dream come true.”

Megan volunteered at the Burbank animal shelter for almost four years, then took the job as keeper there. More recently she has started working for a veterinarian, an occupation she is returning to



*Megan with Angara, our Eurasian lynx.*

school to pursue. Her youth (under 21) has not prevented her from becoming a trusted member of the EFBC-FCC volunteer staff. She describes herself as a people person, and loves Disney.

### **Cathouse News:**

Out went the cold, and in came the wind. Wind storms forced the facility to close one day in April, also forcing a school tour to turn around and go back home. Then in early May another wind storm toppled a large tree in the planter near Yanna and LiMing's enclosure. Nothing (Cats, enclosures, or people) was hurt except the tree. Mother Nature is a force difficult to ignore. If the weather is severe, please realize the cats will be in the den boxes, so there would be little point in coming out to see them.

### **Activist effort:**

The WWF, whose efforts to save the tiger in the wild are still on-going, started a fun way to help with a web site that people could add their face to a mosaic. They hope to make it the largest in the world. It will be completed and released around June 15.

Go to [Http://www.worldwildlife.org/tigers/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/tigers/) - then look near the bottom of the page to find the link.

See if you can find anyone you know!

China's consideration of ending the ban on the use of tiger parts could be a death sentence for the last remaining wild tigers.

### **Donations:**

The first half of 2007 presented us with some unforeseen challenges. The freezing temperatures (1-2 degrees for 3 days) caused many of our pipes and valves to break, and we lost several trees to the cold and high winds. One afternoon winds gusts were clocked at 106 MPH, 2 weeks later gusts again were at 90 MPH. Expenses such as these really add up so we especially want to thank those who provided additional financial support to our general operating budget. A special thanks to: Brent Prindle & Vicki Haneckow, Vicki Collins, Michael Franconi, Catherine Horan, Phil & Terry Hamory, Susan Lozier & Ian MacLeod, Harriet Cawford, David Gregory, Sandra Price, Bonnie Clark, Toni Chancellor-Adams, David Conrad, Melissa Breeding, Lynn & Brandt Bishop, Carolyn Michels, and Mickey Manoram.

Thanks to a grant received from the Boeing Employees Community Fund, we were able to complete the concrete in the Lecture staging area for our group tours. Now when the children and adults gather in our bleachers, they no longer have to endure dirt blowing on them, and it provides for a much nicer experience. Our next goal is to raise an additional \$4,600.00 for the construction of a shade system over the lecture area. The challenge is that it must be able to withstand wind gusts in excess of 100MPH.



Also in the first six months of 2007, we received the following restricted donations to our "Project



Tiger” building fund; M. Piuze Foundation \$5,000, Hugh & Janet Carnes \$1,000, Samuel & Louise Fry, \$100, Marion Landsgaard \$60, Diana Thielen \$50, and Linda Braun \$25. Thank you all!!

Larry Purcell, Sav-On Fence Company in Lancaster, CA. again deserves thanks. His continued donation of fencing material and his monetary support makes life much easier for us.

EFBC sincerely appreciates the wonderful support of **all those people** who donated items for our Big Cat Bazaar, cleaning supplies, cat enrichment items, maintenance materials, and items for our Twilight Tour raffles and Follies silent auction. Unfortunately limited space in our newsletter prevents us from listing all your names, but please know your donations mean a lot to us and we thank you.



*Teddy enjoys a flat of wheatgrass brought up on most Sundays for him. Robek's Juice in Burbank donates these discards as enrichments for many of the cats.*

### WISH LIST

Landscape materials, plants and trees  
(8x8x16 concrete block, re-bar, cement)

New electrical supplies

Golf carts (electric)



*Above, Teshi (serval) playing in his paper bag. Right, Melany feeding the new North Chinese leopard cub.*

