

EFBC's Feline Conservation Center

SPRING 2013



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

Inside this issue:

Donations 2

New Arrival 3

Action Alert 3

Vet's Corner 4

Cat News 5

Meet the Intern 7

Membership Form 7

Calendar of Events back page

Shop Online back page

A.I. Program Returns to EFBC-FCC

A team of animal research scientists from the Cincinnati Zoo's Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) traveled to EFBC-FCC in March to perform Oviductal artificial insemination (A.I.) on one of our female Pallas' cats, Lina.

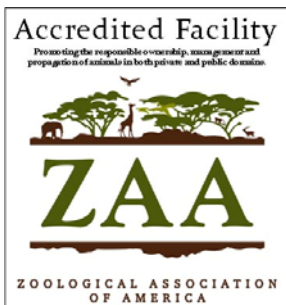
CREW Director Dr. William F. Swanson and Dr. Jason Herrick, a senior scientist with the National Foundation for

Fertility Research, collected sperm from two of the compound's male residents, Pavel and Luka, and then inseminated the viable samples in Lina. EFBC-FCC's veterinarians Dr. Scott Weldy and Dr. Kristi Krause assisted in the procedures.



(L-R) Dr. William Swanson collects semen from a male Pallas' cat as Dr. Scott Weldy and Dr. Kristi Krause assist.

Continued on Page Six



Twilight Tour Set for April 27

Our first Twilight Tour of the year is scheduled for April 27. This fun evening is for adults 18 and over only and is the only chance visitors have to see the "back area" of the facility, which is not open to the public during normal business hours.

Besides seeing our beautiful feline residents, visitors can buy hamburgers and hot-dogs from the Lancaster Rotary Club, and purchase raffle tickets for chances to win several great prizes, such as t-shirts, jewelry, calendars and more. Guests also get to watch as the cats receive enrichments – such as boxes, gourds and wheat grass.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (661) 256-3793 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or on the day of the tour. Advanced ticket purchase allows guests to arrive a half-hour early at 5 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for tickets purchased at the door via cash at the door.

Donations

GENERAL DONATIONS: Unrestricted donations to our general operating fund helps us meet those unexpected expenses that always pop up, and complete general maintenance as things wear out. We thank the following for their support: **R.J. & Tiffany Acito, In honor of John & Laura Baker, Gerald Bandy, Robert Barkalow, For Robert Barkalow from Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow, Linda Braun, Squire & Freda Brown, Norm Bruckman, Aubrey Clark, In Memory of Cleo, Vicki Collins, Kathryn Davis, Lisa Edmondson, Linda Frank, Roxana Gerns, Mike & Anne Green, Dell Hledik, Janice Howley, Steven Lane, Roberta Lotter, Susan Lozier & Ian MacLeod, Carolyn Michels, In Memory of Madison from Pam Rose, Stephanie Stone, Chris Tromborg, Rita Truderung, Denise Vardaro, and Jim & Debbie Wenck.**



Rico enjoys his newly refurbished cage.

RESTROOM BUILDING FUND: (Goal \$75,000) This quarter we received \$163 in additional donations bringing our total collected to \$5,349. **If you would like to help us reach our goal and build new bathrooms to support the growing number of visitors we get each year, please be sure to specify it with your donation.**

50/50 RAFFLE: Enclosed is your chance to enter our 50/50 Raffle which will be held at our summer Twilight Tour on June 22, 2013. Raffle tickets are \$20 and the lucky person who is the winner will win a cash prize of 50% of the net proceeds received. The winner need not be present to win, so fill out your ticket stub and help support our facility this fun way!

GRANTS:

We thank the **HEALEY FOUNDATION** for funding our grant request in the amount of \$7,200 for renovations to our "Trio Cages." The trio cages, built in 1996, are located in our exhibit area and currently house Thumper (Canadian Lynx), Rico (Ocelot) and Obi

(Serval). It is always nice to grow and build new enclosures; however it is equally important to maintain the functionality and visual acuity of our existing habitats. The renovations include new welded wire, plywood, den boxes, dirt and newly painted murals. Due to wear over time, the trio cages need to be updated and we thank the Healey Foundation for making this possible.

The **M. PIUZE FOUNDATION** continued their support of our organization with a generous donation of \$10,000 to replace some of the chain link enclosures in our exhibit area with welded wire habitats. The materials have already been received and the welded panels are being constructed off site. It is EFBC's goal to eventually replace all the chain link enclosures and this donation puts us well on the way to accomplishing that goal. A special thank you to the M. Piuze Foundation.

We thank the **GEORGE KARLSON FOUNDATION** for their generous unrestricted donation of \$5,000. Unrestricted support allows us to utilize the funds in varying ways as needed. The George Karlson Foundation started their support of our organization over two decades ago and we thank them for continuing that alliance.



The new cabinets in our clinic .

The renovations to our clinic care area are complete thanks to a grant received from the **Healey Foundation** in July 2012. The custom cabinetry is installed and they snug the new cage units perfectly.

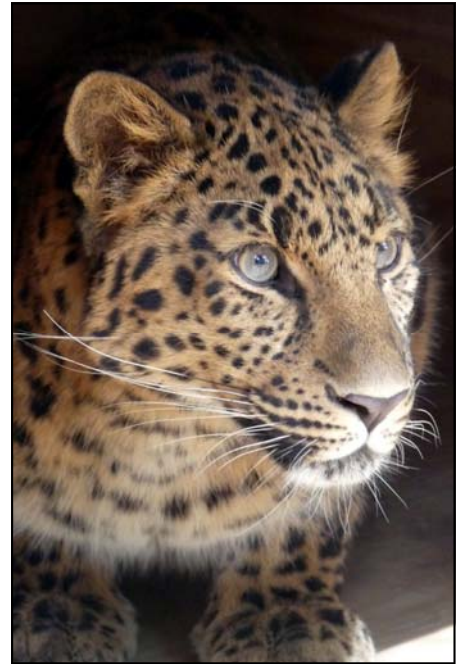
New Female Amur Leopard Arrives

In February, EFBC-FCC welcomed its newest resident Zeya, a female Amur leopard born May 14, 2011 at Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Kansas.

Zeya and her two brothers arrived at EFBC-FCC in late 2011/early 2012 from Kansas before moving to the San Diego Zoo. Now, back at EFBC-FCC, Zeya will be part of our work in preserving the Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*), which is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Critically Endangered Red list.

EFBC-FCC houses several adults brought in from European zoos (Tallin, Helsinki, Moscow and Berlin) to spread out the captive bloodlines. Zeya is a descendant of several cats who call or have called EFBC-FCC their home. Her grandparents on one side are Sergei (born here to Aijka and Gigant) and Sasha (born here to Tanya and Freddi), and on the other side from a pairing of Gigant and Kishka.

Zeya is on public display in the upper "L" area of the compound grounds, next to Gregori, a male Amur leopard.



Amur leopard Zeya is EFBC-FCC's newest resident.

CALIFORNIA ACTION ALERT: SB 132

EFBC-FCC has joined several other California wildlife organizations in supporting state legislation introduced by Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) to revise the policies of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in their handling of mountain lion incidents.

SB 132 proposes to authorize the DFW to partner with wildlife groups and nonprofits when responding to mountain lion incidents if there is no imminent threat to human life. The bill would require DFW to use nonlethal options when responding to incidents such as the one that led to the fatal shooting to two mountain lion cubs by a game warden in the backyard of a home in Half Moon Bay on Dec. 1, 2012.



EFBC-FCC resident Serrano is a male mountain lion who was removed from the wild in Orange County.

In a letter to Hill, EFBC-FCC Director Joe Maynard wrote that the facility has for years tried to work with DFW "to revise its policies in handling wayward or orphaned mountain lions. We feel your bill, as introduced, would further the chances of protecting California's mountain lion population and guide the department into a new era of cooperation with qualified organizations that can assist in the protection of these animals."

Supporters of the bill can sign a petition at the Mountain Lion Foundation's website, www.mountainlion.org.

Vet's Corner: A Farewell to Sevastian

by Dr. Kristi Krause

Sevastian, the Amur leopard born at EFBC-FCC in 2004, was first diagnosed with nasal lymphoma in August 2009. The keepers had noticed he had been having several episodes of a bloody nose over the period of a month. It appeared to be predominantly out of one nostril. When both nostrils are bleeding, it usually supports a chronic infection, dry environment, or clotting abnormalities. When only one nostril is bleeding, it is more suspicious for a foreign object, fungal infection or a tumor. It was decided to immobilize him for an exam, blood work, and to use a scope to look up his nose and take samples of anything abnormal.

Sevastian's laboratory work and exam was essentially normal. However, when his nasal passages were examined with the scope, an abnormal area was found in one side and biopsies were taken. These biopsies revealed he had nasal lymphoma. This is one of many types of lymphoma cancers that occur in all types of animals and in many areas of the body.

There are many chemotherapy protocols used to treat lymphoma. These protocols vary depending on the species and location of the cancer. With cancer, the more aggressive the protocol without compromising the quality of life, the better the success is in curing the animal or putting it into remission. In Sevastian's case, we had to develop a protocol that would maximize aggression toward eliminating the cancer, while at the same time minimizing the stress on an adult Amur leopard. Radiation coupled with chemotherapy would have been the best and most successful protocol, but was not done as it would have involved relocating him for 4-to-6 weeks with 12-to-15 anesthetic procedures, lasting more than an hour each. The most aggressive chemotherapy protocols require weekly intravenous injections for 16

weeks to start, meaning weekly anesthetic procedures. Again, this would not have been in his best interest for his quality of life.

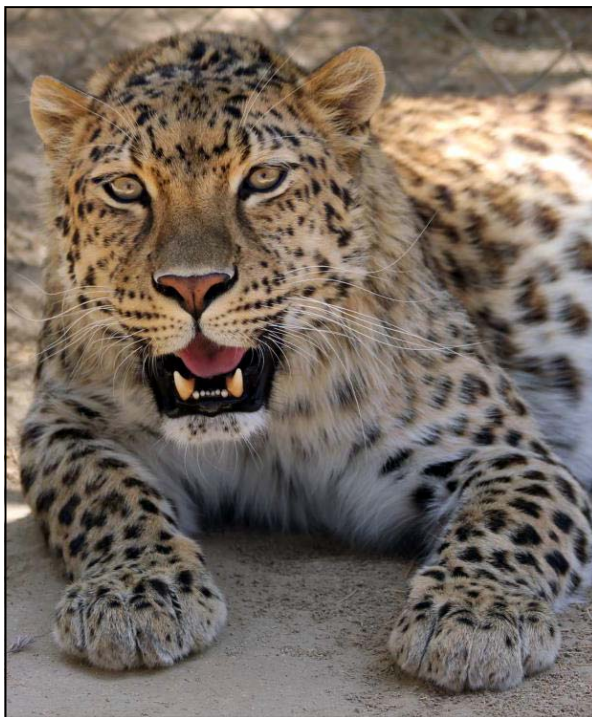
We are very fortunate to have a wonderful team of veterinary specialists with whom we are able to consult. Dr. Courtney Zwahlen, a veterinary oncologist, was able to

help us construct a chemotherapy protocol that would be as aggressive as possible, while allowing Sevastian to maintain the best quality of life possible. This included daily oral medications, as well as monthly injections. When the injections were given, we were able to do a physical examination and monitor his blood work for changes in his blood cell counts, as well as his organ function. He eventually graduated to injections every two months in combination with oral medications used less often. This was done for two years until he was considered to be in remission and treatment was discontinued.

Sevastian did well until December 2012, when the nose bleeds began to recur. After discussing our options with the oncologists, we immobilized him for evaluation and administration of what is con-

sidered a "rescue protocol" to try to put him back into remission. Unfortunately, during the days just prior to immobilization for examination and treatment, he began to deteriorate. Despite efforts to save him, Sevastian never recovered from his immobilization and treatment and he died in February.

Sevastian was a unique and special animal, both personally and scientifically. We would like to thank all of those who contributed to his care, both physically and monetarily, which allowed Sevastian to live a comfortable life, and longer than most domestic cats with the same type of cancer. The efforts and support of all the people who helped treat Sevastian will benefit not only the Amur leopards of the world, but all non-domestic cats.



Sevastian, 2004—2013

Cat News

Evidence of Persian Leopard Found in Azerbaijan

A baseline survey in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in Azerbaijan has captured a photo of a Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) at Zangezur National Park, approximately 1.5 kilometers from the Iranian border.

The leopard was captured by a camera trap on Sept. 9, 2012. The survey was conducted by researchers to determine the status of the Persian leopard, assess human attitudes toward the species and increase local capacity in wildlife monitoring techniques.

Cameras Capture Golden Cats in Uganda

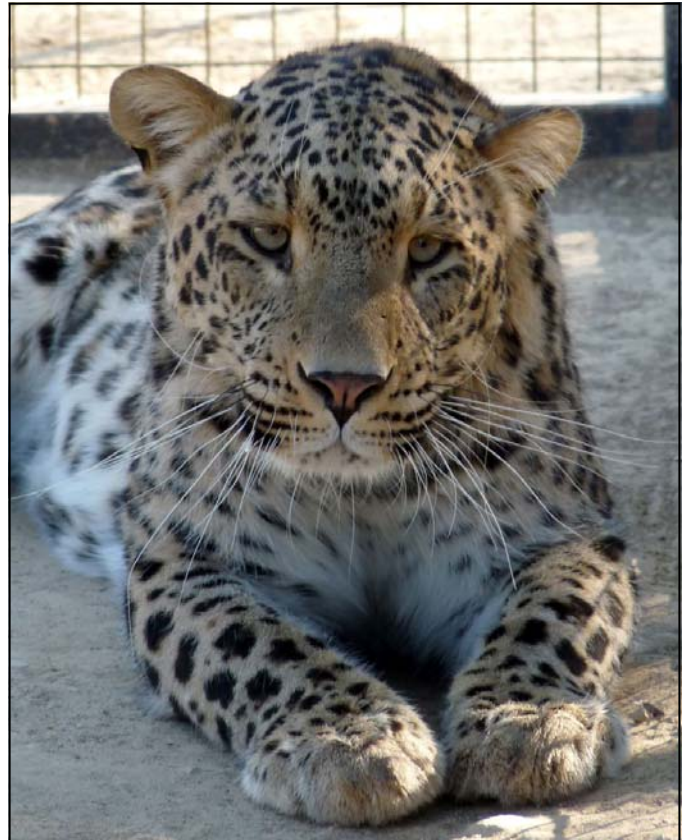
A study of the lesser-known African golden cat (*Profelis aurata*) in Uganda resulted in 63 photographic captures of the species last year. Three systematic camera traps were set up in Kibale National Park over a period of 100 days. Capture rates varied between sites, with the highest results coming from the research areas and the lowest in the tourist areas. The results will contribute to two related studies of the species in Uganda and Gabon, including its ecology in the role of apex predator, its interaction with other forest carnivores and the influence of humans to their habitat.

In the past, EFBC has been home to the African golden cat's "cousin" the Asian golden cat. Both species are listed by the IUCN as "near threatened." The African golden cat has never been the subject of intensive scientific research and its behavior and ecology are not well-known, according to the study.

One Carnivore Species Reduction Can Lead to Extinction of Others, Study Finds

A February study published in the journal *Ecology Letters*, shows that the reduction of a population size of one carnivore can indirectly cause a similar species to become extinct. The research found that a ripple effect in sensitive food webs is created when there are significant changes in population sizes, creating far-reaching consequences for many other animals. This indirect effect on a species indicates it can suffer just as much harm as the species that is under direct threat.

Though the study was done on insects – wasps and aphids – lead researcher Dr. Frank van Veen of the University of Exeter's Centre for Ecology and Conservation said "the same principles apply to any ecosystem, from mammals in the Serengeti to the fish in our seas. It clearly shows that we should have an ecosystem-based approach to conservation and to the management of fish stocks and other natural resources."



Bam Bam is a male Persian leopard who resides at the compound.

A.I. continued from Page One.

About the size of a large domestic cat, the Pallas's cat, also known as a Manul, is a lesser-known species found from Iran through southern Asia to parts of western China. Unlike some other cat species in captivity that will breed on and off throughout the year, Pallas' cat breed in captivity only in the winter, from around late December to mid-February. EFBC-FCC is one of the few facilities in the world to successfully breed this rare species. Lina was the only female who was not immediately paired with a male this year and was a good candidate to participate in the artificial insemination procedure.

One of the missions of EFBC's Feline Conservation Center is breeding and preservation of endangered felines and, over the years, research teams have come to the facility to conduct not only artificial insemination, but also in-vitro fertilization in our residents. It has been several years since the compound last did A.I. on its residents and this recent procedure is the first that the Oviductal technique has been used. In traditional A.I., the semen is deposited on the uterus. In Oviductal A.I., the semen is injected directly into the oviducts.



Dr. Jason Herrick checks a sample during the Oviductal A.I. procedure.



Oviductal A.I. was performed on Lina, an 8-year-old female Pallas' cat born at EFBC-FCC.

Swanson is one of the world's best experts in cat reproduction and has been successful in this technique. In 2011, he worked with the Beardsley Zoo in Connecticut in successfully impregnating a female Brazilian ocelot through Oviductal A.I. The kitten was the world's first born through the procedure.

At CREW, Swanson also provides supervision and advice to staff working in the Animal Conservation Division of CREW, as well as conducting his own groundbreaking research on small cat species.

During his visit to EFBC-FCC, Swanson also collected biological samples of the Pallas' cats for CREW's CryoBioBank to further research. The CryoBioBank is essential to CREW's goal of integrating the gene pool of wild and captive populations.

Meet the Intern

Shaina Cranson, a student from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Penn., spent the winter as an intern for EFBC-FCC.

The Parma, Mich. native is a Conservation and Wildlife Management major and is interested in working in exotic animal caretaking, preferably with carnivores, at a zoo or sanctuary. Her college is located in Doylestown, Penn.

“The internship program with EFBC is unlike any experience I have ever had,” Cranson said of her experience. “I gained a valuable working knowledge of how an exotic feline breeding facility operates, and just how much work goes into making it all possible.

“I was able to be a part of so many aspects of the compound, and learned more about exotic felines and how to care for them than I had ever imagined,” she added. “I am beyond grateful to have had the chance to meet so many amazing cats, and people as well.”



EFBC-FCC intern Shaina Cranson.

Internships are offered year-round for qualified interns. The program provides first-hand training and experience in maintaining wild felines in captivity. For more information, visit our website at www.cathouse-fcc.org.

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 - \$1,000.00 V.I.P.**
 - \$500.00 PATRON**
 - \$100.00 ASSOCIATE
 - \$75.00 SUPPORT
 - \$40.00 FAMILY
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 - \$150.00 WALK OF HONOR
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All memberships are Annual except Lifetime

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Phone (661) 256-3793 Fax (661) 256-6867 <<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/>>

Visit us at www.cathouse-fcc.org



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Shop online and raise money for EFBC-FCC

While direct donations to EFBC-FCC is the best way to support the facility, the public can also help 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.

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

Twilight Tours: April 27

June 22

Sept. 21

Follies: August 17

Kids Day: Oct. 19



SHOP ONLINE:

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