



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES

Spring 2011



Boris, Pallas' Cat, is on display in the educational area now, sharing his enclosure with Olga & Princess.

Pallas's Cat Buster sent to the Cincinnati Zoo:

He has been sent there on breeding loan. They have two females for him so let's hope for a plethora of Pallas' Cat kittens this spring!

New articles:

Did you see the article on us in the February "Cat Fancy" magazine which featured EFBC/FCC? If not, you can purchase PDF's of old issues online. Edwards Air Force Base also featured us in a recent article. We are very appreciative of the publicity! We rely on articles like this and word-of-mouth praise to bring in new visitors. Our Facebook page and positive reviews on sites like tripadvisor.com and yelp.com also help get the word out.

Exhibit Beautification: In our December 2010 newsletter we mentioned several projects we hope



New benches and tables above.

to accomplish. This project is well under way and will be completed by August 2011. Thus far we have replaced all of our worn out benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles with new commercial grade products. They look great and will last a long time. The following support was received to help us accomplish this goal: The Karlson Foundation \$5000, Mary Marlowe \$1600, Kim Blaquera \$1000, Roxana Gerns \$1000, Diamond Jim's Casino "in

Memory of Bob Burgum" \$2000. In addition, a very generous unrestricted donation of \$25,000 was received from the Michael Piuze Foundation. With Michael's help, we were able to finally trim, shape



and treat all of our trees in the exhibit and lawn area. This has never been done since they were planted back in 1995. This service cost \$150 per tree and you don't realize how many trees we have until you count them one-by-one. We were also able to purchase all the steel needed to replace the chain link safety fencing in our exhibit area with

the welded wire fencing that you currently see in front of our natural exhibits. The top portions of the chain link has been bent and torn over the years and some areas became sharp to the touch. Several of the support poles have also been broken. It will take a little time to install all the new safety fencing, but upon its completion the new area will have a much more uniform appearance, as well as insure our visitor's and animal's safety.

Our cages are also continuing to receive new shade tarps as quickly as we can have them manufactured thanks to a grant we previously received from the Healey Foundation.

Project Tiger: We are still on track to have this project completed this year and recently completed the cement pathways leading to the exhibit. A donation of \$1000 was received from Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow, and Mike and Maryeann McMullen had their matching gift donation of \$1100 through the Boeing Corporation designated for this project. Funds from the Michael Piuze Foundation have also been set aside to complete the final tasks.



New walkways have been poured, and we are getting excited to see this project almost complete!

Matching Gifts:

Many employers have a matching gifts program to help support their employee's interests and encourage charitable giving. We want to thank all our members who take advantage of these programs. They are usually simple to access. You can send the matching gift form with your contribution, or register online at your employer's website. All support to EFBC/FCC in the form of memberships, cat adoptions, general donations and restricted donations will be matched. Even your attendance to our Twilight Tours can be matched by your employer.

Currently we are receiving matching gifts from Boeing, Microsoft, Chevron, JP Morgan Chase, Oppenheimer Funds, Global Impact, Symantec, and Verizon but there are plenty more companies out there offering this benefit. Please check with your employer to see if they have a matching gifts program as the extra support does make a difference to our organization.

General Donations:

Donations received to support those day to day expenditures that always arise are greatly appreciated and we thank the following for their support this last quicki Collins, Jay & Dianne Escbach, Rita Truarter: Lisa Hill, Simcha Kuritzky, Ralph Williams, Viderung, Cindy Campbell & Steve

Hickner, Dell Hledik, Louise Fry, Animal Welfare League, Mauricio Lara, Susan Lozier & Ian MacLeod, Chris Tromborg, Barbara Allen, Karen & Russ James, Mia Turmore, Gerald Bandy, Mary Kate Crawford, David Gregory, Mary Duque, David Forward, and Rotary Club of Lancaster.

In-Kind and Restricted Donations:

Thank you to our volunteer Trey Alcazar for donating \$200 toward the purchase of new batteries for our radios. Each month Mike & Maryeann McMullen deliver two boxes of fresh meat bones as a special treat for our feline family. They love them and Joe and Sandy get to spend all night listening to the cats on the lawn banging them around in their boxes. Nagin Cox donated a vacuum cleaner to help keep our offices neat and tidy. Thank you Nagin. A special thank you to Jeffery and Michele Novic who donated a 1992 Mountain Aire Motor home. It is huge, in great condition and has extremely low mileage.

Sevastian Update:

We are happy to say that Sevastian is continuing to do well with his chemotherapy treatments. He has had no nasal bleeds since last summer, is eating well, enjoying life. He has acclimated to the routine which requires an oral or infusion treatment



Rico, Ocelot, had a kidney infection but with a little care he is back to feeling fine.

administered every 4 weeks. His treatment is supplemented daily with a low dose of a steroid.

Blood tests are done each time an injectable treatment occurs and are monitored closely. We want to thank Doug & Kristine Rand for donating \$280 toward his medical expenses. They are considerable.

2012 Price Changes:

It goes without saying that each year our expenses go up. (Utilities, insurances, gas, cleaning and building supplies, printing, etc.) For many years EFBC/FCC has attempted to absorb these increases and not pass them along to our supporters but the time is upon us to make some adjustments. Effective January 1, 2012 we will be making the following changes: Admission to non-members: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children 3-12 \$5. Kids under 3 years old will remain free. Membership levels: Individual \$25, Family \$40, Support \$75. Associate, Walk of Honor, Patron, VIP, and Lifetime will remain the same. For a list of benefits each level includes you can visit our website at www.cathouse-fcc.org. Admission to our Twilight Tours events will increase to \$20.00 per adult.

Kid's Day: Admission adults \$10 and all kids \$7.

Feline Follies:

Our Feline Follies is fast approaching. It will be held on August 14th and we are now soliciting sponsors and auction items. Auction items don't have to be cat related. Items that do good in our silent auction include weekend getaways with hotel and restaurant certificates, event tickets, unique experiences like hot air balloon rides, and custom art and jewelry items. Please help us ensure the success of our 2011 Fabulous Feline Follies fund raiser by donating auction items and becoming a sponsor.

50/50 Raffle:

The drawing for our 50/50 raffle to help raise funds for our programs will be held at our June 19th Twilight Tour. Entry is \$20 per ticket and the winner will receive a cash prize of 50% of the net proceeds

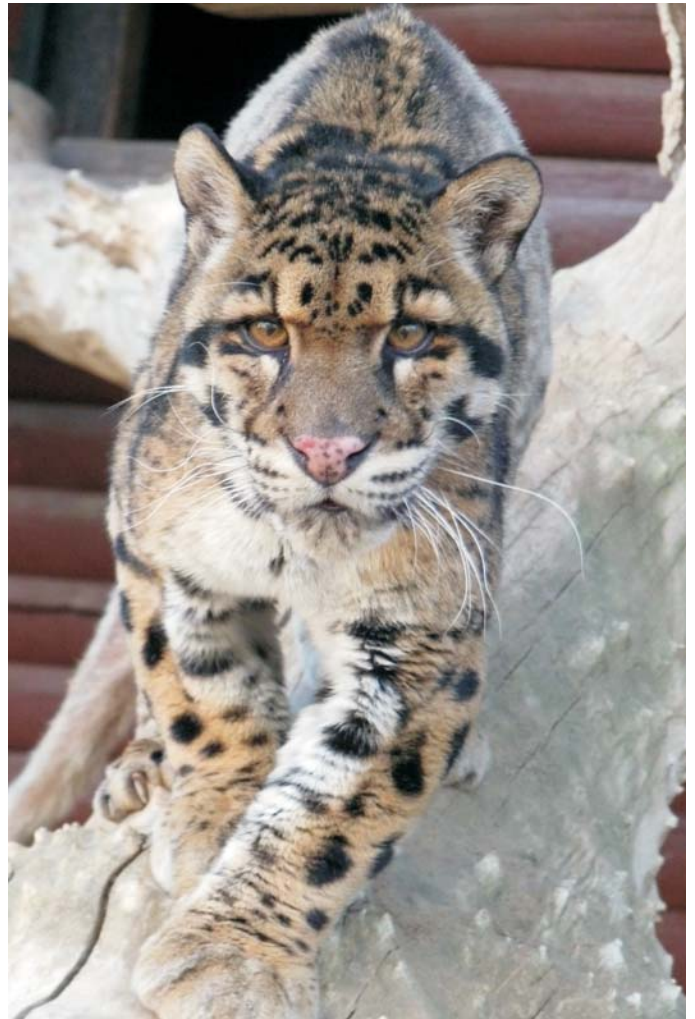
received. Winner need not be present to win. Please support our efforts by returning the ticket stub along with your check for \$20. Remember to enter your contact information on the ticket stub. If you would like additional tickets, just let us know.

Cat News Around The World: Colorado man gets 27 months in federal prison for illegal trade in bobcats.

Pleading guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey act, and one felony count of possession of a firearm by a felon, Jeffery M. Bodnar admitted using leg hold traps, and trying to sell pelts in Montana and Kansas. His wife was also charged and found guilty of crimes, receiving a 5 year probation sentence. *Eds note: it wasn't enough!!*



Poppy, Lynx rufus, common name Bobcat.



Ted, our Clouded Leopard, seems to be getting more comfortable here finally allowing more visitors to see him than ever before.

Tigers in the Sundarbans may now have the distinction of being the world's smallest tigers:

While the Sumatran Tiger was previously thought to be the smallest Sub-species of Tiger, new data suggests the Sunderban tigers are. In a joint initiative, the Bangladesh Forest Department, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Zoological Society of London, and the University of Minnesota recently carried out a study where they found the average weight of the tigers living in the Sundarbans was almost half that of the other wild Bengal tigers. At just 76.7 kg. they are about ten kg lighter than the Sumatran line (86.7kg). The new study is funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Tiger

and Rhino Fund and was published in the journal Mammalia.

The Sundarbans is the world's largest mangrove forest, with 6,000km square on the Bangladesh side, and another 4,000km square on the India side. There are about 325 tigers that call this wetland home. Elsewhere in India the Tiger is vanishing, with even the best protected park - Kaziranga - losing twelve tigers in the last two years. No proper assessment of the Tiger populations has been done in Kaziranga, but it is believed there are less than a hundred tigers in the forest called Assam (1164 square km), and the security of this region is difficult to say the very least. Elsewhere - at an undisclosed location in the Bhutan Himalayans - tigers have been found living at altitudes higher than the tree line. The BBCOne Programme, "Lost Land of the Tiger" highlighted the findings of a small population of tigers sharing habitat with snow leopards and leopards, at elevations as high as 4000 meters.

Javan leopard killed in school:

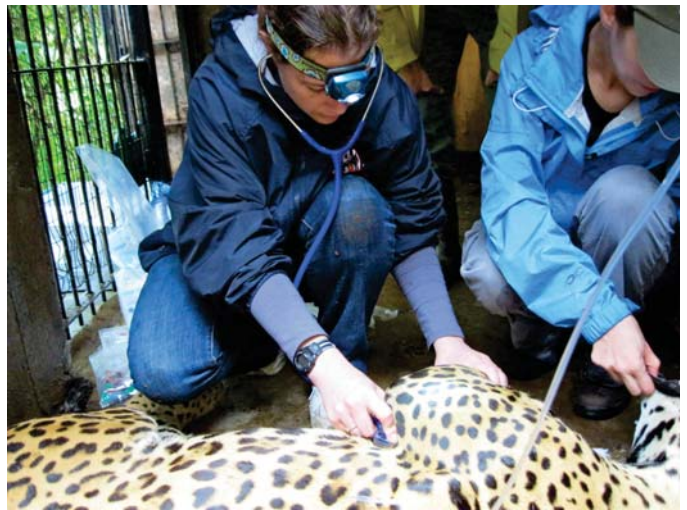
People in Sukaburni city, in West Java province had a rare encounter with a black leopard. Villagers chased the animal into a police school, where it was shot when it sought refuge in a classroom. Conservation official Didi Wuryanto said police should have sought help from the forestry officials, rather than killing the animal. He also stated that no record of a Javan Leopard biting a human exists. The IUCN lists the number of mature Javan leopards at less than 250, and it is also listed as critically endangered. Java once had a species of Tiger that is now extinct.

Costa Rica:

Our director and veterinarian, Kristi Krause, spent 10 days at La Marina Wildlife Rescue Center in central Costa Rica helping them with some medical issues. The following is a summary of her visit: There are so many things in life that we take for granted every day. We have access to so many things so easily here in the USA - anesthetics, medications, medical supplies, laboratory testing,

and experts in every field. Costa Rica is very advanced in many areas, but is still so far behind us when it comes to wildlife care. Only the National Zoo has a gas anesthetic machine, which is a bumpy two and a half hour drive away. The anesthetics we use everyday to anesthetize and reverse animals are not available. Commonly used medications are expensive or not routinely available.

Costa Rica is very proud of their rich ecology, basing much of their national income on eco-tourism. While it is only 0.1% of the world's landmass, it holds 5% of the biodiversity. They are very protective of their wildlife, making it illegal to own any of their native wildlife, including macaws, parrots, ocelots, and capuchins. This results in a double-edged sword. Some citizens are overly concerned and take animals they believed are orphaned (when this is rarely the case) to rescue centers and some citizens continue to poach animals and try to keep them as pets. These animals are then confiscated and are turned over to rescue centers.



Dr. Krause checking the vitals on this jaguar.

La Marina Wildlife Rescue Center is in the heart of Costa Rica. It is not in a major tourist area, which is difficult for a facility that relies heavily on donations and public visits. They have a number of permanent animals, including scarlet macaws, Amazon parrots, spectacled caimans, tapirs, spider monkeys, capuchins, white throat and collared peccaries, jaguars, ocelots, margays, jaguarundi,

African lions, various snakes and raptors - just to name a few.

The rescue center was unofficially started 2 generations ago by the grandparents of the owner, Juan Jose Rojas, affectionately known as Juanjo. They are dairy farmers, which is what supports most of their rescue efforts. People began bringing injured and orphaned animals to the grandparents, knowing their compassion for animals. Their work blossomed into a full center, which now not only takes in injured animals from local citizens, but also works with the national wildlife agencies to care for confiscated and injured animals. They have successfully been able to return many of these animals back to their natural homes.

We helped the center to do exams, TB test, and bloodwork on three spider monkeys they are preparing to release. We also did exams and microchipped a number of their other animals, including another spider monkey, tapirs, capybara, margay, lions, parrots, aracarí, and scarlet macaws.

La Marina Wildlife Rescue Center has become involved with the IUCN/SCC Tapir Specialist Group and is very successful in breeding tapirs. They exported a tapir to the Nashville Zoo in 2008 - a major accomplishment since anything exported from Costa Rica must be third generation captive born. Now, they are trying to breed jaguars, which are endangered in Costa Rica. Currently, no one else is attempting to breed jaguars. It was actually very sad to see how little even their national "experts" knew about jaguar breeding, medicine, and anesthesia. We were able to anesthetize, examine, take a blood sample, and microchip the male jaguar. They had just bred, so we did not want to risk anesthetizing the female in case she had conceived. They did not have ultrasound or the ability to measure hormone levels, so the risk to the potential baby versus how much we would learn was too high. Everything went so smoothly with the male, the local veterinarian, biologist, and the Costa Rican head of wildlife and CITES (Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species) were all impressed.

We left La Marina Wildlife Center with their shelves stocked with medical supplies, anesthetics, medicine, and hope. They have asked us to return when their female jaguar is ready to give birth to assist if there are any complications. We are also working with them and a neighboring facility to make regular visits to assist with routine care and breeding of their felids. We plan to help both facilities design basic clinic areas for treatments and surgery. This trip was a wonderful experience. It reminded me of how good I have it as a veterinarian here in California. I met many wonderful people who really have a passion to help the animals and do what is best for them. They want the help and are willing to make the changes necessary to improve the quality of life and breeding potential for all of the animals in their care. I am looking forward to a long relationship with La Marina Wildlife Foundation.

Rotary Club of Lancaster:

On March 10th Sandy and Joe had the opportunity to speak at the monthly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lancaster. The Rotary has always been very supportive of EFBC/FCC over the years, and provide the BBQ at our evening Twilight Tour events. After the talk, they were presented with a check for \$750.00 as an unrestricted donation to assist our programs. A special thank you to all the members of the Rotary Club of Lancaster.



Sandy receiving the check from the Rotary.

Winter snow:

January brought us some unusual weather this year. While snow is not unknown here in the Antelope Valley, we have not had any significant amounts in close to 25 years. In some parts of the valley they saw close to a foot on the valley floors. Of course around us in the mountain areas, depths

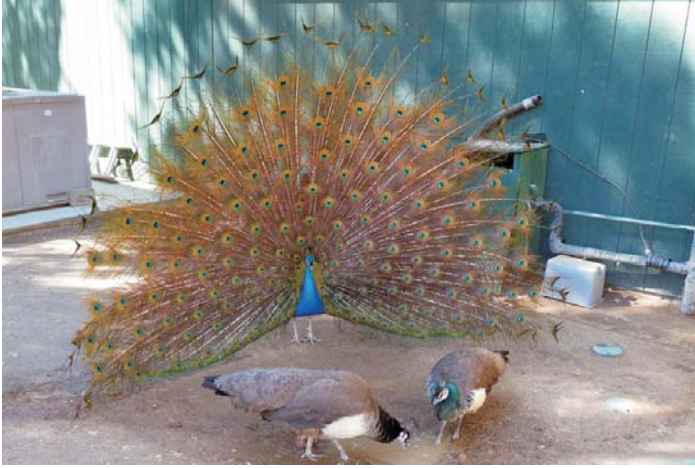


ranged to 5 feet and up. Some of the cats that have not experienced snow were taken back but after a few minutes became quite interested and in some cases really enjoyed playing in it.

Discovery Channel:

On March 14th & 15th a film crew from 3D NetCo was here at EFBC/FCC to do filming for the Discovery Channel. They plan on airing 10 - 2

minute segments highlighting our work here at EFBC/FCC. Each segment is filmed in 3D and will highlight a different cat species. We hope their viewing audience will elect to support our programs.



It's that time of year again!!

Above, one of our resident peacocks is trying to impress a female. In this case the female (on the left) is with her young male offspring from last year and it does not look like she is very impressed. Surprisingly, many of our visitors spend a lot of time

trying to photograph these birds and seem to enjoy them as much as they enjoy looking at the cats

Jaguars get some help:

The government of Belize has declared a 7000 acre area between Belize and Belmopan as a protected area. Calling the area the Labouring Creek Jaguar Corridor Wildlife Sanctuary, Howard Quigley (Panthera's Jaguar Program Executive Director), said that the jaguar has become a national symbol for Belize. This is believed to be a vital link in the Central Belize Corridor to allow biological connectivity.

<<<< WANTED ITEMS >>>>

Electric golf carts

Large stainless steel food prep table

Cleaning supplies