



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES FALL 2007

Cat News:

Those of you that are very observant might have noticed a photo with Melany on the last page of our Summer 2007 issue. Just before that newsletter was sent off to the publisher, we had a new addition to our family. Kim Lee and Kandgi gave birth to a male cub on May 10th, 2007.

He was named Jun Jie by our guests at our summer Twilight Tour. We brought him out for people to see, expecting to return him to a tranquil environment when he showed some sign of stress. Well, he never did, and so everyone that attended that night event had as much time to see him as



Joe holds Jun Jie at 3 months of age.

they desired. He was also a hit at the Fabulous Feline Follies, where many guests received an up-close encounter with a North Chinese Leopard.

With no other facilities in North America aiding in the effort to save this subspecies of Leopard, Jun Jie may be the last of his line. While Kim Lee has

provided us with three healthy cubs, Yanna (F), Li Ming (F), and Jun Jie (M), there are no good candidates for them to breed with.



Yanna enjoys the summer sun.

We are considering altering Kim Lee or Kandgi so that they can once again enjoy each others company. As you know, we not only want our cats to be healthy, but we want them to be happy as well.

While we do still have hope that something will change the mind set of the other entities involved, we do realize that we alone can not save a species. It takes a world wide effort, and sadly for the North Chinese Leopard, that does not exist at this time.

This is not a decision that will be made lightly as this subspecies of leopard is also the closest relative to the Amur leopard. Since the Amur line of leopard is receiving the focus of the world's captive breeders, this may be a valuable line to

add genetic material from, should the captive line of Amur show serious signs of inbreeding.

The two Fishing Cat kittens born earlier this year have gone to their new home at the Omaha Zoo.

Clouded Leopard - On July 17th, 2007 we received Ted, a clouded leopard from Kansas. These leopards are the smallest members of the "big" cat family, topping out at around 50 lbs. We are making him as comfortable as we can, and hope he will be a good educational animal for our display area. This species is suffering in the wild as are all of these top predators.



Ted is a good looking cat

Pallas' Cat News:

In the last three years in North America, there have only been 3 litters born with a total of eight surviving kittens.

Seven of these births were at EFBC. Without your continued support, programs like this would not be successful. Two of the four kittens from this year's

litter will remain with us. They have been named Boke and Bora.

This is not a species we usually have on display. The best way for most of you to see these cats is on-line, or in our gift shops photo albums. If that is not good enough, try our Twilight Tours, or even better, dedicate some of your life, and become a volunteer.

Volunteer of the Quarter:

Richard West has been a valued addition to our volunteer staff, pitching in wherever he is



Kiowa is one of Richard's favorites. Richard is also one of Kiowa's favorites, in part due to the boiled egg enrichments he brings with him.

needed. At 65 years of age, he has retired from working as a FAA licensed mechanic.

While most of our volunteers come out through a love of our cats, Richard says that what keeps him coming out is the people. He credits our

keepers Marie and Melany for treating him so well, and they are always happy to have him around since he needs little direction and is meticulous in his duties.

One duty he truly enjoys is the care of our horses. As many of you know we take in horses that are on their way to the great unknown, and quarantine them up on the back hill. Often while many volunteers start the day chit chatting, Richard goes up to the horse corral and rakes, waters, and feeds these donations.

Richard believes that the care of exotic cats is best left to places like EFBC, due to the level of medical care that can be provided. He would know, since back in the 60's he bought an Ocelot out of the newspaper, and cared for it for five years! While he built it a fine outdoor enclosure and treated it well, family and neighbors encouraged him to find another home for Crea.

At that time it was legal to own an ocelot, and Crea was more like a dog than a cat. Laws have changed and the status of this cat changed to endangered in the USA. Now it is very difficult to own or breed one privately here. Crea went on to do educational shows, and was seen on TV.

Richard also enjoys many projects around his own house, and as a machinist he can fabricate many



This photo of a Chinese Mountain Cat is the first in the world of this species, and Jim shared it with those that attended the Follies.

things. His love of older T-Birds and vintage recordings help to keep him active.

Fabulous Feline Follies:

Double Felitarian awards!!!

We honored two very deserving people this year at our Follies event.

Dr. Jim Sanderson, PhD. of the Small Cat Conservation Alliance deserved recognition for his work in the field locating and acquiring the science on some of the most elusive animals on the planet.

Jim's work is supported not only by us, but also by: National Geographic Society, US Fish and Wildlife, Feline Conservation Federation and many others too numerous to mention here. Jim is a voting member of the IUCN cat specialist group, and we were all very interested in the information he shared with us. Some of that information will be published soon.



Dr. Jim Sanderson receives his award from Sandy and Joe

Dr. Scott Weldy, D.V.M. also deserved recognition for his work in keeping the captive lines of many animals healthy, through medical science. His presentation on raptors was enhanced by his son holding a red tailed hawk. Scott shared some of the experiences he has enjoyed being the director of the Orange County



Dr. Scott Weldy, Joe & Sandy presenting his Felitarian award.

Bird of Prey Center. Scott is also the exotic animal vet of choice for So. California. His private practice is Serrano Animal and Bird Hospital in Lake Forest where he treats many exotic animals, including turtles, ferrets, and of course cats. The life saving C-sections he performed on Twilight (Jaguar) captured the crowd's attention. Scott is



Anita Jackson with a bald eagle.



This caracal purred for our guests, and Teddy our mountain lion was adopted that night by Mark Mayer & Jennifer Mooney seen here on the right.

EFBC's veterinarian of record and it was our pleasure to include him as one of our two guest speakers.

Both of these individuals deserve the highest award EFBC can give, the Felitarian award. Both



Melany shows off Jun Jie to the guests at the follies.

have made a difference.

Zoo to You once again did a great job with animal emissaries for our guests to visit with. Thank you David and Anita!

Our Follies event was sponsored by:

Karl's Hardware in Rosamond, LaneScapes Design in Studio city, Diane M. Citron, In memory of Steve Rendes, AAZK-EFBC Chapter, Sandra Masek, Sav-On Fence Company, In memory of

Anna H. Harrington, Steven M Crutchfield, Susan Lozier and Ian MacLeod, and Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow.

Our winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing held on June 16th was Mary Mantle of Shannon, Illinois. Thank you Mary for donating \$500.00 of your \$1545.00 prize back to EFBC.

The \$1000.00 first prize winner in our Follies raffle held on August 18th was Felice Plain of Ridgecrest CA. Felice donated \$750.00 of her winnings back to EFBC, and mentioned she will donate the remaining \$250.00 to help feral cats in her area. Thanks Felice!!

Shoppers:

With the holidays coming up, and the expense involved with them, wouldn't it be nice if some of that money ended up helping our cats?

Gift memberships make a great stocking stuffer, and with our reciprocal zoos, even distant friends and relatives can gain free admission to a place near them.

Our online affiliate programs are a free way our members and friends can help out.

Already in 2007, our Amazon affiliate program has raised over \$400. Amazon offers many things in addition to books - DVD's, software, cameras, even computers! All you need to do is enter Amazon through the link on our front page - no special registration required! Always remember to start at our web site first!

Shoppers at our Cafepress web store have generated nearly \$600 for us this year. Cafepress is an online store where you can purchase merchandise with our cat's images, from shirts to coffee mugs to a spiffy 2008 calendar!

Another affiliate program is igit.com. You need to register through the link on our web site, and then you can shop at HUNDREDS of different online retailers and generate donations for us!

For some stores such as **Best Buy** you can purchase online and then pick it up at a local store. Online shopping is the way to go with gas prices so high, and you get the bonus good feeling



The new 2008 calendar.

that comes from helping the mission to save our cats!

Ralph's Shoppers:

In addition to these programs, the community contributions program that Ralph's grocery store has implemented allows non-profits to earn money when you grocery shop as well! Sign up now at www.ralphs.com.

NOTE! On September 1st it came time to re-register your Ralph's/Cala Foods/Bell Markets Club Card numbers to have a portion of your purchases go to EFBC. In the first 3/4 of 2007, we received \$739.32 from Ralph's CCP. To re-register, simply go online at www.ralphs.com. Click on "Community Contribution" then click on "Participant." Follow the enroll instructions. EFBC's NPO# is 82845.

Interns:

EFBC is proud to be a learning resource. Two interns from Germany have been staying with us, learning what it takes to give life care to felines. Heidi Pettit and Helen Sonnenberg study Biology and English at the University of Hannover. While looking for a place to volunteer, they stumbled upon the EFBC's website. The photos of the cats won their hearts immediately and they were thrilled when given the chance to work here for two months.

At this writing they are looking forward to the next month, and they are already sure they will miss their American friends once they have to leave.



Interns Heidi and Helen say "Working with the cats is a wonderful experience and it is nice to have hands on experience instead of studying all day."

Educational Area Upgraded:

The educational area has been improved, and now the shade covering combined with the cement base will make our school field trips safer, and more comfortable. The support of groups like the Boeing Employee's Community Fund and donations from our members make improvements like this possible. Thank you all!



Project Tiger Update:

With the heat of the summer upon us, the painting has stalled but will continue when the weather

improves. More concrete has been poured around the back side, and grants from organizations like the Healey foundation have helped us pay for some of the next stages.

Thank you to those who made special donations to our "Project Tiger" building fund in the 3rd quarter of 2007: Douglas & Kristine Rand \$1000, Roberto Garcia \$300, Arlene Valencia \$50.

Thank you also to those who made special donations to our general operating fund: EFBC's Lifetime members Leo & Kathy Noteboom, general members and supporters Vicki Collins, Tina Ziegler, Kathryn Davis, David Forward, Opportunities for Learning, Lauren O'Brien, Sandra Price, Diane Citron, Nancy Moore, and Leslie Ward.

Your money is what makes the center function and every dollar is considered precious. We have seen children empty their piggy banks for our cats and we know they valued each penny. Our staff and volunteers remember and respect that.

A special thank you is appropriate to the many schoolchildren that have brought family members out to learn what they did on a field trip. Your volunteering has helped. Thank you!!!

Up coming events:

KID'S Day - November 17th. - This special Saturday at EFBC has lots of events going on for kids. We have train rides, animal shows, lots of special games and projects that both entertain and educate, and prizes galore. The whole family will have a great time. Special admission fees apply on this day.

Tehachapi news - April 2nd 2007

Cougar hit on local road: A mountain lion had been killed on Highway 58 near the Keene area scales.

The Puma was a female, and weighed 140 lbs. It appeared to have been in good health, prior to its collision with an unknown vehicle.

Humans can coexist with these animal, but precautions such as those listed below should be followed.



Recommendations to keep your local area safe for these cats include protecting your children and animals from the possibility of an attack.

Removing brush and installing lighting around your animals will help to minimize conflicts.

If you hike in mountain lion country, go in groups. Always keep children close when any type of animal may be encountered. Talk with children about the local wildlife, which includes snakes, scorpions, and cougars. Teach them what to do should they have an encounter.

If you see a cougar, stay calm. Consider yourself lucky, most people will never see one in the wild. These cats are generally elusive and try to avoid confrontation.

Most sightings are made when the cat does not know people are near. If you speak in a firm voice and move slowly to allow the animal an escape route, it will likely go away. Also by speaking the animal will not confuse you with any other type of creature. Never show fear to any

animal, and do not turn your back. Humans are the dominant species.

If the cat is aware of your presence, and does not leave right away, don't panic. Raise your arms and band together with those in your party, making yourself appear larger. If you have small children with you, pick them up to calm them and stop them from showing fear or running.

Should the cougar behave aggressively, defend yourself with what you have. Avoid crouching down and do not "play dead."

Most people that are attacked never see the animal before the initial contact. Should this happen (It is very, very, very rare in California.) fight back. These animals won't survive if they are injured, so they will give up if they fear injury.

Recently an elderly woman fought a cougar off her husband, using a ball point pen and a stick. While he did receive some injuries, he is again able to mow lawns and is doing pretty good for a man over 70.

Should you encounter cubs, be assured that mom will be back, sooner or later. Often she will leave them for long periods of time, so do not think they need you to save them. The best rule for going into the wild is leave it alone. Take only photographs, leave only footprints.



Guests enjoyed the fine food catered by Tastees at the Fabulous Feline Follies.