



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES FALL 2008



Rocco spends his nights indoors, but during the day he can be seen in the newly refurbished enclosure next to Rico.

Births: Jaguar: On June 8th, 2008 Annie and Nacon became parents to Rocco, a healthy male jaguar! It seemed Annie was not up to raising another cub this time (She mothered both Poncho and Rosa, born June 3rd, 2005), since Nacon scruffed Rocco and carried him gently to the top of the den box shortly after birth. While Nacon may have wanted the job, the decision was made to pull and hand raise Rocco. Unhurt from his

short time in daddy's mouth, Rocco has been growing steadily. The Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield Park, AZ has the need for a well adjusted jaguar, and should provide him with a good home sometime in the near future. Our visitors and patrons have been enjoying his playful antics - especially those that attended our Fabulous Feline Follies.

Fishing cat: Born on July 31, 2008, Tamil and Tamara gave birth to a healthy female cub. At the time this goes to print a name has not been chosen. This female represents an important genetic line for the captive population. Tamil and Tamara both have wild born parents, so this kitten



represents an entirely new genetic code to the captive line. While this pairing has produced two male kittens (Bullet, August 18, 2003 now at San Diego Zoo, and Nemo July 1, 2004), this is their first female.

New arrivals: Thumper, Canadian Lynx

This playful kitten arrived at the EFBC-FCC on June 29, 2008 at 7.5 weeks of age. While he has been out in the educational area on occasion, his attitude is not as bold as Rocco's, and so his



forays into the public eye may be sporadic. Hopefully we can acclimate him to the caring lifestyle of the center. While we can never replace Trapper (Please see December 2007 newsletter for his story), Thumper will eventually provide the same type of learning experience so many patrons have enjoyed through the years.



The ability to show patrons the difference between separate lynx species makes Thumper a welcome addition to the facility.

A **Serval** cat named Obi is now in quarantine at the compound. Not a lot is known about him but he was declawed and was once owned as a pet. He is believed to be about a year old. He has been pampered by the staff and volunteers, and may make a good educational animal someday. Our resident serval (Teshi) has been with us since 1991, and is still in pretty good shape, considering he was born in February of 1990.

Volunteer of the quarter: Misty Hailstone

I am a recent graduate from Humboldt State University and now work as a biologist on Edwards Air Force Base. I started volunteering at EFBC on my summer vacations from college about 5 years ago and became hooked. I love working with the cats! I mean how many people can say they've been snuffed at by a tiger, licked by a jaguar and have played with a baby leopard



Misty was part of the Feline Follies committee. She stuffed envelopes, painted collectable glasses, and helped out in ways to numerous to mention here.

all in one day? I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this organization. The thing I like most about EFBC, however, is the feeling of hope. In a world whose natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate and whose large carnivores (unless something drastic changes) are rapidly going to become a thing of the past, there are few instances where a person can say I not only want change but I am going to help do something about it. I might not be able to buy enough land for a bio-preserve or find a way to stop global

warming, but I can buy a t-shirt that supports Amur leopard conservation, spread the word about the need to preserve what's left of the world's amazing creatures, and inspire others to become aware and involved. I can offer some of my time to help out an organization that works to conserve exotic felines, many of which are threatened or on the brink of extinction. Aldo Leopold once wrote, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." I believe what EFBC does is right and I like knowing that I am a part of that.

Follies!!! This years Fabulous Feline Follies sold out, and was one of the most successful held at the compound. The continued support of so many inspires us all.

We especially want to thank our Follies Committee. Our Chairman was Larry Purcell, a name often thanked in our newsletters and linked with the Sav-On fence company. Our Co-chair was Kim Blaquera, an involved volunteer that also runs a company called Chem Dry in Santa Clarita. These two had a lot of help, and Nancy Vandermey, Camille Gadwood (EFBC Board members), Melany Marotta, (Head Keeper) Misty Hailstone (Volunteer of the Quarter), and Gail Lyon all deserve a big thank you as well. They did receive help, and so we also need to thank Jeff and Ann Conrad, Joe Maynard, Sandy Masek, and Donna Turman.

Our sponsors for this event were:

Titanium - \$2500

Diamond Jim's Casino, Rosamond
Eric Barkalow and Nancy Vandermey

Platinum - \$1000

Complete Packaging Supplies - Burbank
Steven M. Crutchfield
Susan Lozier and Ian MacLeod
George and Joan Paulikas
Scott and Nicole Pearson
AAZK-EFBC Chapter

Gold - \$500

David Seal
Rotary Club of Lancaster
Benz Construction Services

Silver - \$300

Charles and Shiela Binkley
In Memory of Steve Rendes, former Director
Chem-Dry of Santa Clarita
Larry Purcell

Bronze \$200

Landscape Designs - Studio City, CA
Westside Collision - Lancaster, CA
Willow Springs Motorsports Park, Rosamond
Lumber4U - Altadena CA
Flewelling and Moody - Lancaster, CA
Chris and Ruth Gage

Our 1st prize winner of \$1,000.00 in our Follies raffle went to Chris Tromborg of Davis, CA. Chris is an animal behaviorist and also donated the \$1,000.00 back to EFBC to help support our programs. We cannot say enough about how great our members are!!!

To everyone that contributed items to sell or give away as door prizes, and to those that attended and gave us time and money, we extend our sincere thanks. Items were donated by:

Pam Rose & Gene Bowman, Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow, Camille & Jerry Gadwood, Costco, Black Angus, Steer & Stein, Domingo's, Sandy Masek, Sea World, Jim Rice, Misty Hailstone, Laura Maluccio-Patterson, Judith Zar, Gail Lyon, Chris Keene, Antelope Valley Fair, Zulu Nyala, Kim Blaquera, Don Patterson, Gigi Levangie Grazer, Antelope Valley Country Club, Larry Purcell, Eilene Maluccio, Elaine Heitman,



The folks from Diamond Jim's Casino got into the spirit of the evening, donating a spur of the moment raffle prize! Here they are accepting a titanium sponsor plaque. Thanks again for the local support!

Antelope Valley Florist, Michelle & Tom Hanagan, Hemme Hay, Janilyn Rose, Bettye Kozlowski, Howard & Wanda Laire, Leslie Simmons, Pumpkin Cary, The Cat Dr. Tracy Mc Farland & Friends.



Our guests at this years Fabulous Follies shared the sidewalk with a alligator, and other animals from Zoo to You.

WCN Conference:

The EFBC-FCC will be hosting a booth at the upcoming Wildlife Conservation Expo in San Francisco! Details about this event can be found on the web: <http://www.wildnet.org>
 Saturday, October 4th, 2008 - 10am-6pm
 Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco
 Meet conservation heroes from around the world and hear about the challenges and successes of working on the front lines of conservation. Visit the exhibits of local and international conservation organizations and purchase wildlife art and crafts from around the world.

The Wildlife Conservation Network is dedicated to protecting endangered species and preserving their natural habitats. They partner with independent conservationists around the world who live and work with local communities and are

exploring new ways to resolve the conflicts between people and wildlife. Some of the speakers at the conference this year will include:

Andean Cat Alliance - Rocío Palacios
 Cheetah Conservation Botswana - Rebecca Klein
 (This effort recently received a portable x-ray machine from the EFBC-FCC.)

Cheetah Conservation Fund - Dr. Laurie Marker

Snow Leopard Conservancy - Dr. Rodney Jackson

Small Cat Conservation Alliance - Dr. James Sanderson (Guest speaker, Felitarian, at the EFBC-FCC's 2007 Feline Follies)

Dr. Dale Miquel
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 (Amur tiger and leopard) The EFBC-FCC sells t-shirts with the Amur Leopard logo to aid this effort.

We hope to see you there!

Kid's Day: November 22

This is not just a children's event, as many of the parents have found out in years past. Like our twilight tours the cats get toys to play with, and some of them are decorated and designed by the children in attendance!

With educational presentations that include a variety of animals the value of this day is immeasurable. The admission price is only \$7.00 an Adult and \$5.00 a Child. (Sorry, membership does not get you in free on this day.) While we don't open up the back areas, we do have a train ride that takes visitors into the back where a volunteer gives an educational tour for those that partake of this optional adventure.

The center has always had an active interest in educating young people about its preservation programs, the importance of conservation efforts, and the benefits of housing species in a captive environment. Through the years, thousands of students have visited the center with their schools, youth-oriented organizations, family, and friends. Although many children want to help at the center or become a volunteer it is simply too



New Signs: The educational area has been updated. These new signs feature photos of our very own cats, and include the most up to date information we could find on each species. Come out and see them soon!

dangerous for us to allow them. More than a few have come out shortly after their eighteenth birthday, and some have even been inspired enough to seek out a career in the fields of conservation, in part due to this center.

Twilight tour: September 20th, 2008 - This is the last twilight tour of 2008!

Have you ever wondered what the cats do after hours? Want to see what they are like when they are given a toy to play with? Interested in seeing a Fishing Cat fish? Many times these events allow for all of that, and occasionally more. With the heat of the day dissipating, the cats often get active. If any cats are willing to pose for photos with guests, this is when it might happen.

These (**adults only 18 and up**) events all start at 5PM for those that pre-pay for their tickets, and 5:30 for those that come to the door. The admission price for everyone is \$15. These three dates are the only times the back areas are open for public display. Enrichments for all the cats offset the stress derived from having our breeding and off display felines share their homes, and the adults-only rule is strictly enforced to ensure safety for all that are involved.

At all of these events our American Association of Zookeeper's (AAZK) chapter raises money through a bake sale, and the local Rotary Club offers up burgers and hot dogs as refreshments at a reasonable price. Both of these great

organizations can be seen in the sponsor list for our follies this year. Come help them help us.

Our 50/50 raffle drawing was held at our June 14th Twilight Tour and the lucky winner of the \$1,385.00 prize was Edna Redden of Santa Maria, CA. Edna and her husband have been members of EFBC since January 2002 and continued their generosity by donating \$1,000.00 of their winnings back to EFBC's general fund. Wow!!! Thanks Edna.



The Rotary Club of Lancaster is always ready to support the EFBC-FCC, and here Elaine Heitman presented Larry Purcell with a check to add to the sponsor list for this years follies.

New Dates for 2009:

April 25th, June 20th, and the 19th of September should be reserved on your calendars for the twilight tours. Our Fabulous Feline Follies will be held on August 15, and next years kid's day will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 21.

The Big Cat Bazaar has been discontinued for now, but we encourage our members to save up items. Last years donations were appreciated, but not as numerous as in years past. Perhaps this event will be held again in 2010, or 2011. If members are so inclined local rummage sales in our honor are always appreciated. If this idea interests you, or your group, please let us know so we can help with advertising and promotions.

AAZK News:

So what exactly is AAZK? It is the acronym for the American Association of Zoo Keepers, of

which many of our volunteers and staff belong. Being a part of a national organization allows the members to expand their knowledge of captive husbandry beyond our own facility, and felines. Each month the Animal Keepers' forum arrives to: "Provide a resource and a forum of continuing education for the animal care professional, and to support zoo and aquarium personnel in their roles as animal care givers, scientific researchers, public educators, and conservationists. To promote zoos and aquariums as cultural establishments dedicated to the enrichment of human and natural resources; to foster the exchange of research materials, enrichment options, and husbandry information through publications and conferences which will lead to a greater understanding of the needs and requirements of all animals."

The local AAZK chapter has raised almost \$10,000 for the EFBC-FCC through its face painting, bake sale, and other fund raising.

Founded early in the 1980's, it wasn't long before our local chapter received the Meritorious Achievement Award (1990). This award was bestowed upon EFBC's all-volunteer Staff in recognition of their outstanding service. As many

of you know, 18 years ago there was no paid staff, and the award was well deserved for those



volunteers that stepped up the efforts, and became AAZK members. It is the continued effort to stay the best that drives us to find out all we can to aid the animals in our care.

Our current AAZK members include:

Melany Marotta, President - Nancy Vandermey, Vice. President & Secretary - Camille Gadwood, Treasurer - Eric Barkalow - Misty Hailstone - Mark McConnell - Kim Blaquera - Sandy Masek - Marie Reeves.

All of our volunteers are encouraged to join this organization. If you are over eighteen, perhaps you too will join the proud ranks of AAZK through our local chapter.

Donations:



Eagle Scout Chandler Giles, top second from left, from Lancaster, CA took on one of the messier jobs at the compound for his required community project repainting the safety aisle behind the natural enclosures. They did a great job and we extend or thanks to Chandler and his group!!

General gift donations allow EFBC to accomplish things that are above and beyond our yearly budgeted activities. Things like running down and buying pools for more of the cats in hot weather,

buying extra toys and food treats, doing repairs in the office trailers to make life a little easier on the staff and volunteers, etc. Thank you to: Vicki Haneckow & Brint Prindle, Vicki Collins, Herbert Packard, Erin Lamphere, David Gregory, M. Joan

Southard, and Helen Ahoney for your extra contributions.

Thanks to Mike & Maryeann McMullen for providing our felines with fresh meat bones each month, They love them!

Grants:

On July 24, 2008 the Employee Community Fund of Boeing California presented us with a check for \$5,000.00. EFBC supports conservation in all areas and the funds will be used to upgrade our landscaping and watering systems to be more efficient in water conservation. Thank you to all of the employees of Boeing who participate in this wonderful program.

On August 23, 2008 the June Irene Chiltern Healey Foundation continued their support by presenting us a check for \$6,000.00 for our Project Tiger Building Fund. A member of the Board was able to attend our Follies event and

see first hand what their support has helped us accomplish. We were so excited that she was able to attend. In February 2007 this wonderful foundation also contributed \$10,300.00 for our Project Tiger, and you will see landscaping and finishing touches being done this fall.

Project Tiger Donors:

Scott & Nicole Pearson \$2500.00, Solveig Christiansen \$501.00, Cindy Campbell & Steve Hickner \$100.00, and Wendy Elwell \$80.00. Thank you all!!

New Addition:

A new species will be welcoming visitors as they enter EFBC's facility. A Blue and Gold macaw named Charger and a Harlequin macaw named Frank. Thank you to Lou Allred Sr. for donating the macaws and their habitat. Once they settle in you may hear varied greetings so don't take it personally.



Charger on the left, Frank on the right



Supporters at the follies enjoyed beverages in "hand painted" collectable glasses. The specialty drinks were Margay Mimosas and Caracal Coolers!