

SPRING 2014



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Pallas' Cat Joins Breeding Program

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For the last several years, EFBC's Feline Conservation Center has had a very successful breeding program for the rare and lesser-known small cat, the Pallas' cat or Manul (*Otocolobus manul*). Most recently, we celebrated the birth of two males (Garab and Yeshi) here in March 2013. In February, we welcomed our newest addition to the Pallas' cat breeding program, Vera, a female born on May 9, 2007, who came from the Cincinnati Zoo.



Vera is the newest addition to our Pallas' cat breeding program.

Vera has been paired with Pavel, who was born on June 11, 2010 at the Red River Zoo in North Dakota and is the father of Garab and Yeshi. Pavel has been at the cathouse since October 2012. The pair is located in the back area of the compound known as "The Lawn," which provides a stress-free environment, crucial for the breeding of this species.

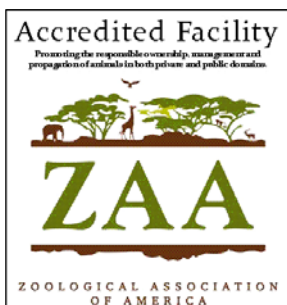
The Pallas's cat is named after the German naturalist Peter Simon Pallas, who first described the species in 1776 under the binomial *Felis manul*. It is listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as "near threatened," and is about the size of a large domestic cat.

Their range extends from Iran through southern Asia to parts of western China, however, researchers with the Annapurna Area Conservation Project studying the snow leopard recently pho-

tographed the Pallas' cat in the upper Manang area of Nepal. This is the first time the cat has been found in Nepal.

The cat was photographed through a camera trap installed to monitor movement of snow leopards in the area, first in December 2012 and again in December 2013. A team of three wildlife researchers studied what was believed to be a new-found species. Their research concluded the new animal was a Pallas' cat. Among the three entrusted to research the cat was Dr. Jim Sanderson, a specialist in the small wild cats of the world who has spoken at our Fabulous Feline Follies.

Visitors over the age of 18 will be able to see Vera on April 26 at our first Twilight Tour of the year.



## Donations

**ZOO RECIPROCAL LIST UPDATE:** Please add the Houston Zoo in Houston, Texas to your listing of zoos, which will provide free admission to our members. The Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, N.Y. now offers 50% discounted admission (previously it was free admission).

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:** A special thank you to **Janet Westbrook** of Ridgecrest, Calif. for her generous donation of a Sharp Digital Projector Notevision with carry case and remote control. Our projector was on its final days and we will make great use of this new one for our off-site and Feline Follies presentations. Thank you, Janet.



Our cats received a very special holiday gift from **Pete & Connie Bradish** of Titusville, Fla. They surprised us all when we received a shipment of 15 new 20" boomer balls, a large 30" boomer ball for one of our tigers, and 15 4.5" balls for our small cats. Thank you for thinking of our cats' playtime. They love their balls. This is not the first time Pete and Connie donated boomer balls and we are grateful for their continued support.

We want to thank **Jerry Gadwood** of Saugus, Calif. for his generous donation of shopping bags and washcloths to aid our AAZK Chapter's bake sales and service our patrons making gift shop purchases. Thank you, Jerry.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** We want to thank all the members of the **Antelope Valley Corvette Club** for once again showing their support of our programs with their generous donation of \$500. EFBC loves to have them visit as our other patrons really enjoy seeing their beautiful cars in our parking lot. Thank you all.

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** Support of gift donations to our general operating fund is crucial in helping our organization handle those day-to-day unexpected expenses and projects which always crop up. Our special thank you go to the following supporters of our general fund: **Toni Chancellor-Adams, Gerald Bandy, Linda Braun, Melissa Breeding, Norm Bruckman, Anne Calabrese, Vicki Collins, Mary Kate Crawford, Jeff & Susan Cristol, Jill Evenizer, David Forward, In honor of Carl Haney, Dell Hledik, Maureen McDonald, Carolyn Michels, Marcus & Mary Page, Pam Rose & Gene Bowan, Kevin Sinichko, Stephanie Stone, LaBeth Thompson, Chris Tromborg, Lee Turner, Denise Varado, Rebekah & Wesley Ward, Echelle Wysong and Tina Zeigler.**

A special thank you to all our staff and volunteers who are members of **EFBC's chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers**. Through their hard work, they donated \$1,500 to EFBC, as well as began a desert landscaping project in a section of our exhibit area. Volunteer **Eric Barkalow** is hard at work making the paw print walking stones which will be placed in the area to allow our visitors to transition from the walkways without damaging the grass and plants. They have also been able to purchase a variety of tools and other items to help continue our standard of providing excellent husbandry care for our feline family. Lastly, the chapter donated a Bushnell 8mp Trophy Cam to help us monitor breeding activity and newborns.

**PROJECT RESTROOM:** Our progress is slow as only \$99 was received this quarter bringing our total to \$7,198. (Goal is \$75,000.)

**RALPH'S PROGRAM:** In January, we received a check from the **Ralphs Community Contribution Program** in the amount of \$336.18. Thank you to all our members who shop at the Ralphs stores and signed up for a portion of their purchases to be donated to EFBC.

## Cat of the Quarter: Nacon the Jaguar

Nacon is a male jaguar (*Panthera onca*) who was born at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans in 2002. He arrived at EFBC-FCC in 2003 and was paired with Annie, a female jaguar born here in 1998.

The pair have successfully bred several times, producing five cubs. Two remain at EFBC-FCC, Poncho and Rosa.

Jaguars are the third largest cat in the world (after tigers and lions), and the largest western hemisphere cat. Males can reach up to 300 pounds in the Pantanal region of Brazil, but are more commonly 250 pounds, with females about 200 pounds. Jaguars in northern Mexico are only about 150 pounds for males, 100 for females.



Jaguars were considered extinct in the United States, however camera traps have recorded jaguars in Arizona, most recently this past summer where five photos of a male were captured. In Arizona and New Mexico, a state-led Jaguar Conservation Team works to protect and conserve the species and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to designate 858,137 acres in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico as critical habitat for the jaguar.

Jaguars are larger and stronger than their cousin the leopard. Their rosettes are larger and set farther apart, with enclosed spots more common than in the leopard. They are also more muscular, in particular in the neck region. They are one of only a few cats that enjoy water.



### WORK OF ART

Kim Lee, a N. Chinese leopard born here in 1996, was among the featured pieces shown by scratchboard artist Heather Lara at a recent art exhibit in Anaheim, Calif. focusing on nature and wildlife.

*Visions: Moments in Time and Nature* was a collaborative exhibit featuring scratchboard artworks by Lara (pictured with the Kim Lee piece) and photography by Ralf Willruth. The exhibit was held at the Carnegie Gallery in Anaheim, Calif. from Jan. 11 to Feb. 23.

Lara, who is based in Temecula, Calif., has been a long-time supporter of EFBC-FCC, donating several of her original artworks to us for our annual Fabulous Feline Follies and finding inspiration from our residents for her pieces. Not only does Lara donate to the Follies, she also donates \$100 from every sale of a select size of the Kim Lee artwork, as well as some other selections, to EFBC-FCC. Visit [www.heatherlara.com](http://www.heatherlara.com) to view – and pur-

## Vet's Corner: Healthy Teeth = Healthy Cats

By Dr. Kristi Krause

February was Pet Dental Awareness Month. Just like in our pets, dental care and diseases are very important aspects of health care for our non-domestic cats. Unfortunately, brushing their teeth is not an option!

As obligate carnivores, cats have teeth that are specifically designed for eating meat. They only have 30 teeth: 12 incisors, four canines, 10 premolars (6 on top and 4 on the bottom) and four molars. Dogs, which are considered omnivores, have 42. Opossums have 50! This is because cats do not have as many premolars and molars, which are used for grinding and chewing.

Just like in your pets, dental cleanings to remove plaque and tartar build up on the teeth and under the gum line is very important. Bacteria builds up under the gums and is disseminated in the bloodstream. Studies in both humans and pets have shown a link between dental disease and heart, kidney, liver and respiratory disease. During routine physical exams, the teeth are fully examined for cavities, abscesses, broken and/or worn teeth and loose teeth. The teeth are scaled and polished – just like when you go

to the dentist. Depending on the severity of the problem, cavities can be filled and root canals can be done on broken teeth to try to save them. Of course, filling cavities and root canals are also expensive, so expense must be considered versus the cat's true

need for that tooth to survive in captivity. Most of the time, the tooth is extracted and a "flap" is made from the surrounding gums to close the space where the tooth was removed.

Fortunately, there are many more options for prevention of dental disease in our pets. Brushing teeth regularly and special dental treats are some easy things you can do at home. Talk to your veterinarian about your cat's teeth. By law, all dental procedures, both with and without anesthesia, must be done either by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. It isn't about what the teeth look like, it is about the disease.



Dr. Kristi Krause (center) performs a dental check-up on Kandgi the N. Chinese leopard, with Jenny Weldy (L) and Dr. Scott Weldy (R).

Dr. Kristi Krause DVM is a member of the Board of Directors of EFBC-FCC. She also serves as the Fishing Cat and Jaguarundi Veteri-

nary Advisor for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Felid Taxon Advisory Group and the Cheetah Veterinary Advisor for the Zoological Association of America and has a special interest in Pallas' Cats.

## EFBC-FCC Wins Case over Permit Regulations in CA

The EFBC-FCC has won a lawsuit filed late last year in Kern County against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife over regulations and permits for housing and possessing wild animals. On March 10, Kern County Superior Court Judge Eric Bradshaw ordered the department to reconsider our waiver request regarding certain regulations in the law. Under state law, private persons or entities that possess wild animals are required to obtain approval from the department before transporting or breeding the animals. There are also other regulations the persons or entities are required to comply with, including micro-chipping or using some method to identify the animal by the department, as well as allowing inspections and paying certain fees. Those found in violation are subject to significant fines and the department may confiscate or euthanize animals when violations are established. However, there are exemptions to the law. Institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) are exempt from these requirements and non-AZA accredited facilities may apply for a waiver from the department. The department has the discretion to approve or deny the non-AZA accredited facility waiver request for “justified reasons” and those denied may appeal the decision, according to the law.

EFBC-FCC is an accredited facility through the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) and applied for a waiver in October 2011. However, the Department of Fish and Wildlife denied the request. The denial was based on a department policy that it would deny waiver requests until the California Fish and Game Commission adopted standards in the law to guide the department in determining when there are justified reasons to grant waiver requests.

We appealed the decision and since then has been meeting with representatives from the department in an attempt to resolve the matter. Despite these meetings, the department reaffirmed its policy and informed us that if all the required application materials for the permit, and provide unique identification information for each of the cats housed here, the department would enforce action against our facility. As a result, we filed suit against the department to stop any enforcement and protect our felines.

The court found that the department had a “duty to consider the EFBC’s waiver application and determine in good faith whether the reasons offered for the waiver were justified, but instead followed an illegal policy of denying all waiver requests regardless of whether or not ‘justified reasons’ have been shown.” Judge Bradshaw further found the department’s decision was “arbitrary, capricious, entirely lacking in evidentiary support, unlawful and procedurally unfair, and therefore an abuse of discretion.”

The court recognized the seriousness of the situation, in that EFBC-FCC’s appeal has still not been heard by the Commission and that it would not be heard in time to avoid criminal enforcement against us and potentially the confiscation and euthanization of our cats. Bradshaw also recognized one of the key elements to our waiver request, which has to do with the departments demand for us to immediately anesthetize and microchip or tattoo all of our animals. Our policy has always been that we will implant microchips in our cats only when they have to be anesthetized for medically necessary reasons. This is because putting a cat under anesthesia can be risky. Judge Bradshaw recognized this being detrimental to cats that are an endangered or threatened species in his order, writing “The loss of even one such speci-

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*“The loss of even one such specimen from complications of anesthesia would have a significant and irreparable environmental impact, which far outweighs the extremely limited benefit of implanting a microchip in a securely caged animal.”*

*- Judge Eric Bradshaw*

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# International Interns Study at EFBC-FCC

EFBC-FCC is currently playing host to two international students whose studies are focused on zoology and conservation.

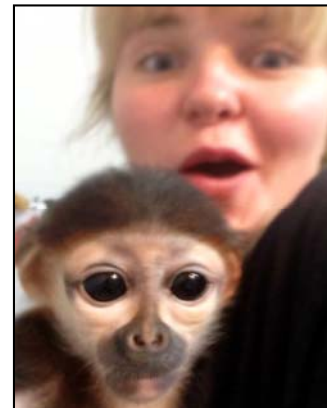


Intern Alessandra Corrado

**Alessandra “Allie” Corrado** is currently attending IE University in Spain and majoring in biology, with a focus on zoology.

**Tilly Blake** is from London and is a student at Plymouth University, studying Animal Science, concentrating on behavior and welfare.

Prior to interning at EFBC-FCC, Corrado did a three-month internship at Project Survival’s Cat Haven last summer and was involved in animal husbandry, cheetah training and neonatal care. She also spent a semester abroad at Michigan State University, taking a number of zoology classes.



Intern Tilly Blake

Blake received with distinction a diploma in Animal Management. In her first year of study at Plymouth, she did a summer exchange program in China. For her third year, she completed a three-month placement in Vietnam, working with Langur monkeys and Gibbons. Upon graduation, both students plan to use their education to work abroad on projects that involve community education and wildlife conservation.

## EFBC-FCC Wish List: How to Help

AS A NON-PROFIT, WE RELY ON THE PUBLIC’S SUPPORT THROUGH VARIOUS DONATIONS. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ON OUR 2014 WISH LIST.

- ✔ **Electric Golf Carts**
- ✔ **6-Line business phone system with phones**
- ✔ **Drought tolerant bushes and trees\*\***  
(Desert lavender, goldenbush, Indian ricegrass, desert needlegrass or in the alternative, gift cards to Lowes or Home Depot.)
- ✔ **New golf cart and auto batteries**
- ✔ **Garden hoses**



Questions?

Call us at (661) 256-3793

\*\* CALIFORNIA IS EXPERIENCING A CRITICAL DROUGHT. TO SAVE MONEY AND CURB OUR WATER BILL THIS SUMMER, WE'RE PLANTING DROUGHT RESISTANT PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

[Lawsuit, from Page 5]

men from complications of anesthesia would have a significant and irreparable environmental impact, which far outweighs the extremely limited benefit of implanting a microchip in a securely caged animal."



Bradshaw concluded, "Notably, the department has rejected EFBC's proposal for an alternative method of identification, despite the fact that it agreed to that method for at least one other facility, which has not challenged the department's wrongful conduct."

Bradshaw ordered the department vacate its previous decision to deny our waiver request; reconsider our request in good faith and determine whether we meet the criteria for a waiver under the law; and refrain from taking any action against us based on the absence of a permit until the department's decision to grant or deny a waiver is final.



# Stay Connected!

Visit

[www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org)

for the latest on new arrivals, births and construction projects.



You can join our **Google Group** e-mail list at

[groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com)

and search "EFBC-FelineConservationCenter" (no spaces).

Our **Facebook Fan Page** is "EFBC's Feline Conservation Center." Like us today!



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- \$25.00 INDIVIDUAL (U.S. Only)
- \$150.00 WALK OF HONOR

**\*\*Indicates payment plan: 50% down, balance of 50% due in 90 days.**

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Visit us at [www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org)



Thumper the Canadian Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*).



**SAVE THE DATES!**

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Twilight Tour</b>                       | April 26<br>June 21<br>Sept. 20 |
| <b>Feline Follies</b><br>(facility closed) | Aug. 9                          |
| <b>Kids Day</b>                            | Oct. 18                         |

## 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR



EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND'S

FELINE CONSERVATION CENTER

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