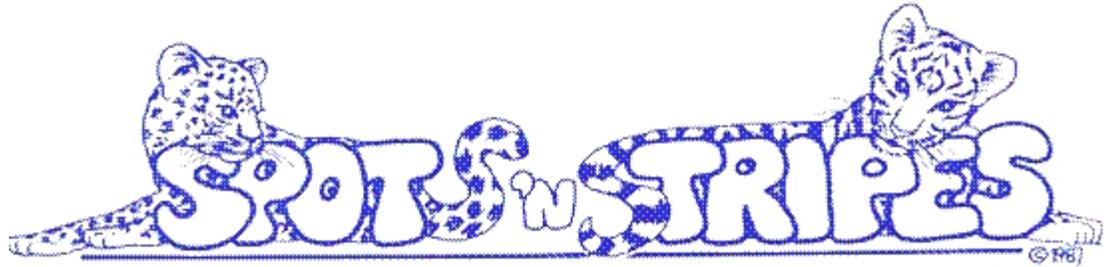


# EFBC's Feline Conservation Center

Spring 2015



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Sponsors Bring New Cats to EFBC-FCC

In our last newsletter we asked for sponsors to cover the import expenses of three Snow Leopards and two Sand Cats from Europe. We are happy to advise that:

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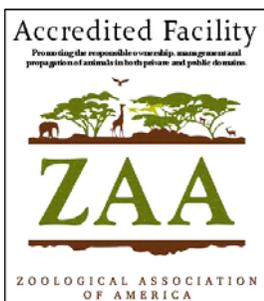
*The shipping of Athos the Sand Cat from France was sponsored by long-time member George Radda.*

Our long-time member and adoptive parent, **George Radda** generously donated \$1,200 to sponsor a Sand Cat. On Jan. 23, Athos, a male Sand Cat arrived from Le Parc des Félin in France. He now resides next to his intended mate, Margo, who was born here at EFBC last year and they will soon be introduced for breeding. Upon learning of Athos's arrival, George also decided to become his adoptive parent and continue his sponsorship. Thank you, George, for your generous support. The **M. Piuze Foundation** also answered our request with a very generous donation of \$12,000 to sponsor two Snow Leopards. On Feb. 24, Thalia, a female, arrived from Zoo de Servion in Switzerland,

and on March 4, Karim, a male, arrived from Wilhelma Zoo in Germany. The two are currently residing next to each other in our upper "1" area. We are extremely grateful to the M. Piuze Foundation for its long-term support of our organization, and for helping our efforts and commitment to participate in the Snow Leopard captive breeding program.

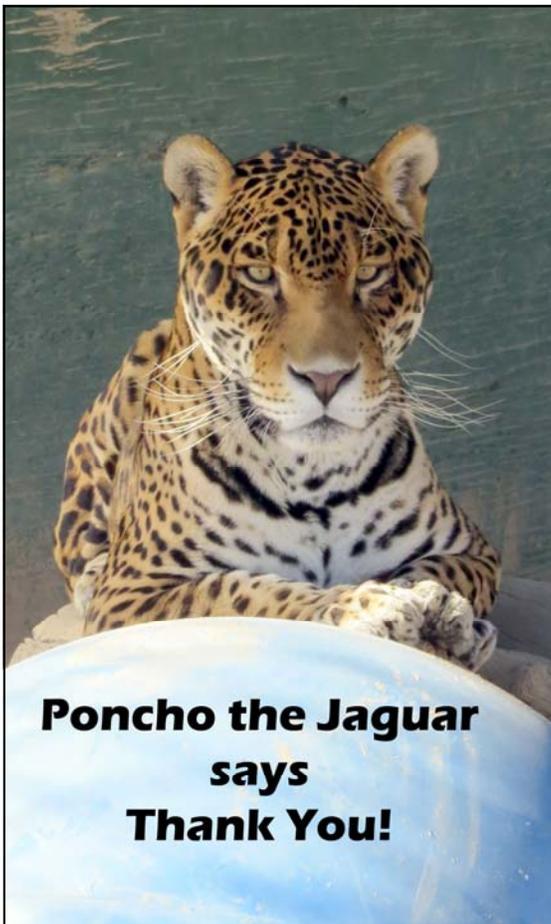
We also received restricted donations of \$40 from **Bruce McNeilly** and \$100 from **Ron Constable** to help with importing expenses. Thank you, Bruce and Ron.

A third snow leopard, Sanjiv, arrived from Norden's Ark in Sweden. **Check out pictures of the new Snow Leopards on page 5.**



## Donations

**GENERAL DONATIONS:** With the new 36'x60' modular office project completed (*see Page 4*), we now have to renovate the trailers we were previously using. One trailer needs major renovations so it can be used as a dormitory for incoming interns who live on the property for 12 weeks and learn the ins-and-outs of animal husbandry and maintaining wild felines in captivity. Donations to our general operating fund helps with projects such as this and those unexpended expenses for repairs to equipment that always seems to break down.



A special thank you to: **RJ & Tiffany Acito, Linda Braun, Squire & Freda Brown, Norm Bruckman, Anne Calabrese, Bonnie C. Clark, Vicki Collins, Nena Connor, Susan & Jeff Cristol, Julian & Katharine Donahue, Jill Evensizer, David Forward, Linda Frank, Louise Fry, Mike & Anne Green, Sharon Hathaway, Dell Hledik, Paul Hutzenbiler, Richard & Beverly Kerns, Karen Kiteley, Sandy Masek, Ian MacLeod & Susan Lozier, Patricia Moore, Michael Rodriguez, Phillip Roberts, Cynthia Rustanius, Stephanie Stone, Synopsys Foundation, LaBeth Thompson, Chris Tromborg, Rita Truderung, Lee Turner, Catherine Walker, Rebekah & Wesley Ward, Paul Zerella & Martha Jones, and our "Lifetime" members, Toni Chancellor-Adams, Charlotte Chinovsky, Kathryn S. Davis, Lisa Edmondson and Jack & Judy Zelter.**

We want to extend a very special thank you to **The Cutler Foundation** for its very generous unrestricted donation of \$10,000 in support of our programs. When large donations such as this are unrestricted, it gives EFBC the flexibility to use those funds to address immediate needs that arise. Obamacare not only affected human medicine, but also animal care. We are seeing a huge increase in the cost of medications and even things as basic as fluids. Some commonly used medications and supplements are now costing over 400% more than they did just last year. Increases in the minimum wage, payroll taxes, workman's compen-

sation, insurance coverage, license permitting fees both federal and state, food and utility expenses are getting harder to keep up with and unrestricted donations help us meet this challenge. Thank you again to The Cutler Foundation.

Thank you also to the **Margin M. Good Foundation** for its generous unrestricted donation of \$500 in support of our organization. Your generosity helps us continue our work and is greatly appreciated.

**RESTROOM BUILDING FUND:** Our fund to build new public restrooms is at \$8,305. It's a long way from our goal of \$75,000 but we will keep striving to make progress.

## Cat of the Quarter: Xeno the Geoffroy's Cat

Xeno is a male Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*) who arrived at EFBC-FCC in March 2008 from a private owner. He was illegally owned as permits are difficult to come by in California and dropped off with a note reading "Five-year-old neutered male, de-clawed front. Bites."

He's certainly a spit-fire and very quick – as most small cats are. Visitors can find Xeno in his favorite spot – atop a log inside his cage, sunbathing and napping, and, like most cats, ignoring his adoring public.

Geoffroy's are small cats, uniformly patterned with small black spots of nearly equal size and spacing found from southeastern Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina east of the Andes and southern Brazil, as well as Uruguay all the way to the Strait of Magellan in Chile – from sea level to 3,300 meters above. Their coats color can be red to gray, with melanistic specimens common. Their weight generally ranges from 8-to-12 pounds.

They are listed as "near threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with a decreasing population. Although they are considered to be relatively common in the areas found, the Geoffroy's cat status is not fully known. In Chile, they are considered endangered, while in Brazil and Argentina, it is near threatened. In Bolivia, they are the second most abundant wild cat, after the ocelot.

Their status and decreasing population is due to heavy commercial hunting of the species from the 1960s to the late 1980s, with nearly 350,000 skins exported from Argentina alone between 1976 and 1979. Trade volumes remained high into the 1980s as trade in ocelot pelts declined, averaging 55,000 per year from 1980-1984. Paraguay and Bolivia were the main exporters (in contravention of national legislation) during this time, although it is believed that the bulk of these skins were smuggled in from Brazil and Argentina. International trade has since declined - no significant trade has been reported since 1988.



*Xeno is a 12-year-old the Geoffroy's Cat.*

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Habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as retaliatory killing remain the main threats for these cats. However, a health evaluation conducted within the last 10 years at two different protected areas in Argentina revealed exposure to common domestic carnivore diseases, which could be a potential risk to their populations.

Geoffroy's cats are fully protected across their range. Hunting and trade is prohibited in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

(Source: IUCN, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/summary/15310/0>)

## Compound Upgrades Office Space



*The main area of the office features a large conference space that will be used for regular meetings of EFBC staff, volunteers, and directors..*

After years of staff working out of two donated mobile home trailers, EFBC-FCC now has a new modular office space!

Located near the gift shop in the spot where the previous mobile home offices were located, this new 36'x60' office includes a large center space for EFBC-FCC meetings, and is surrounded by staff offices, a nursery area, kitchen, as well as space for files, office equipment and storage.

With the addition of the new office, the previous main office mobile home has now been moved behind our gift shop and is the new volunteer headquarters, replacing a small trailer that had been used for decades.

The second mobile home unit that was used as our zookeeper office and intern housing has been moved further up the property and is currently going through upgrades to create a dormitory-

style housing unit for interns. As indicated in the *Donations* section (see page 2), we are seeking donations to our general fund to assist in the upgrade to the unit. Each year, EFBC-FCC hosts interns from around the world. The new dormitory is much-needed and will provide comfortable housing for our student guests.



*The exterior of our new modular office.*



*Operations manager Christy Cregut enjoys her new office.*

## New Enclosures Open

Recently, we moved our Jaguarundi sisters, Maya and Aztec, as well as Willow the Bobcat back into new enclosures. The two new enclosures are upgrades to the ones these cats were housed in previously in the same area.



*The new enclosures located in "The L."*



*Volunteer Trey visits with Willow in her new enclosure.*

These enclosures are located in the upper part of the public area, known as "The L." These enclosures were previously funded by the M. Piuze Foundation, as well as two additional enclosures currently under construction.



Our three new Snow leopards are settling into their new homes at EFBC-FCC.

Female Thalia (*top left*) is from the Zoo de Servion in Switzerland.

Male Karim (*center*), is from Wilhelma Zoo in Germany.

Sanjiv, a male, (*bottom right*) is from Norden's Ark in Sweden.

To learn more about Snow leopards, visit our website at [www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org) and the Snow Leopard Trust at [www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org).



## Cat Briefs

### Wild Amur Leopard Population Increases

According to a census released in February by scientists in Russia, the number of Amur leopards (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) in Russia has nearly doubled since 2007. The census utilized camera traps that collected 10,000 photographs within the Land of the Leopard National Park, where the majority of the Amur leopard's habitat is located. Leopards photographed were able to be identified by their unique spot pattern, which is the equivalent to a human fingerprint. Researchers credit the uptick in the population with the establishment of the national park in 2012, which banned human activity within 12,000 hectares of the leopard's prime habitat. Though ideally, a species has a better chance of survival if the wild population is 100 or more, conservationists are hopeful this increase in population will continue. The census did not include their habitat in China, where researchers believe at least eight to 12 Amur leopards live in the wild, boosting the population to more than 70. To learn more about in-situ conservation efforts, visit the Amur Leopard & Tiger Alliance (ALTA) at [www.altaconservation.org](http://www.altaconservation.org). EFBC-FCC has had one of the most successful captive breeding programs for Amur leopards since the 1990s. And for several years, we have sold ALTA t-shirts in our gift shop to support the non-profit organization and their work in saving Amur leopards in the wild. Next time you're out at the compound, consider purchasing one to show your support.

### India has Majority of World's Wild Tigers

A recent census indicates the majority of the world's wild tiger population is found in India and has increased over the last five years. According to the study, *Status of Tigers in India 2014*, an estimated 2,226 tigers are found in the country, an increase of 30 percent from 1,706 in 2010. The largest increase

was found in the Western Ghats Landscape, which holds the world's single largest population with 776 tigers – up from 402 in 2006. The study used camera traps, which captured 1,540 photos of individual tigers over 18 months, to estimate the distribution of tigers in 47 reserves in 18 states. Researchers credit the fight against tiger poaching as a reason for the increase. Other programs such as the Periyar Tiger Reserve's work with the local communities living around its reserve, as well as eco-development programs and community-based eco-tourism, help educate the public on the importance of conservation.

### Young Cougar Crosses Busy Freeway

A 16-month-old female California cougar (*Puma concolor*) known as P-33 has safely crossed the treacherous eight-lane Ventura (101) Freeway near Camarillo, researchers reported in March. The crossing by P-33, who only recently left her mother, has raised hope for the survival of cougars – also known as Puma and Mountain Lion – in the area. This is only the second time National Park Service scientists have documented a successful freeway crossing by a cougar since they began studying the wild felines in 2002. The other cat, a male known as P-12, crossed in 2009 from the opposite direction, north to south. Coincidentally, P-12 is the father of P-33. The hope is that P-33 will find a genetically unrelated male to mate. The freeway, along with habitat encroachment, has created a genetic "bubble" for cougars living in the Santa Monica Mountain region, isolating the population and creating an increase of in-breeding. Proposals for a planned wildlife crossing across the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon will assist in maintaining the cat's long-term genetic health.

**Cat Brief Sources:** *WorldWildlife.org*, the Amur Leopard & Tiger Alliance, *The Hindu newspaper* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

# New Zoo Discounts

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING ZOOS TO YOUR LIST OF RECRIPROCATING ZOOS:

### CHARLES PADDOCK ZOO

Atascadero, CA  
Free admission

### SAN ANTONIO AQUARIUM

San Antonio, Texas  
50% discount

### AUSTIN AQUARIUM

Austin, Texas  
50% discount

### PORTLAND AQUARIUM

Milwaukie, Oregon  
50% discount



# 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!



- \$2,000.00 LIFETIME\*\*
- \$1,000.00 V.I.P.\*\*
- \$500.00 PATRON\*\*
- \$100.00 ASSOCIATE
- \$75.00 SUPPORT
- \$40.00 FAMILY
- \$40.00 FOREIGN (Individual)
- \$25.00 INDIVIDUAL (U.S. Only)
- \$150.00 WALK OF HONOR

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

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal  Gift  
All memberships are Annual except Lifetime

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



*Obi the Serval enjoys a pineapple!*



**SAVE THE DATES!**

<b>Twilight Tours</b>	April 25 June 20 Sept. 26
<b>Feline Follies</b>	Aug. 8
<b>Kids Day (2015)</b>	Oct. 17

### 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR



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