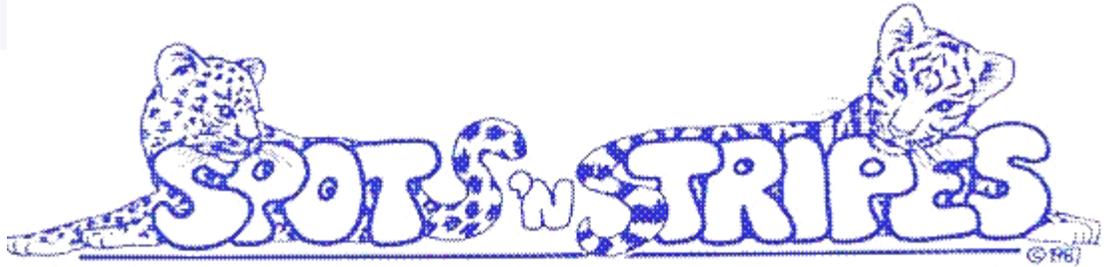


WINTER 2013



Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Felines

## Africa Diary: Finding the Black-Footed Cat

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*In November, volunteers Eric Barkalow and Nancy Vandermeij traveled to South Africa for five weeks, where they saw many wild cats, including more than 100 lions, 14 cheetah, 9 leopards and 4 African wild cats.*

*Among their travels was a visit to De Aar, South Africa, where they visited researchers of the black-footed cats (Felis nigripes). Eric and Nancy chronicled their trip with many photos and a diary that can be found on the cat-*

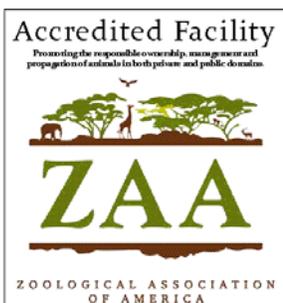
*house's website at <http://www.wildcatzoo.org/africa13.html>. The following is part of their trip report involving the work they did with Black Footed Cat Working Group in De Aar, South Africa and their study of the elusive and relatively unknown small black-footed cats.*



*A radio-collared female black-footed cat emerges from her den in De Aar, South Africa.*

**B**lack-footed cats are the seventh felid species native to South Africa (the others are lion, leopard, cheetah, caracal, serval and African wild cat), and by far the least known. We made a habit of asking all the South Africans we encountered if they had ever heard of this cat, and the only

*Continued on page 5*



### Kids Enjoy Educational and Fun Day with Cats

On Oct. 19, EFBC-FCC hosted its annual Kids Day, featuring crafts and games, an animal education show and train ride. A total of 145 children under 12 attended, as well as 245 adults and young adults. We thank Christy Cregut for providing the train again this year,

which raised \$714. The train is always a popular feature, bringing children to the back area to see the tigers and jaguars that are not on display to the public. We also thank the Kiwanis Young Professionals of the Antelope

*Continued on page 3*

## Donations



**GENERAL DONATIONS:** Each quarter we like to recognize those individuals that made donations to our general operating fund. These donations are important as they allow EFBC to meet the unexpected expenses that seem to always come up. Like your home, things just seem to break for no reason. A cat may become ill and EFBC provides whatever medical needs may be warranted. Thank you to the following: **Toni Chancellor-Adams, Amazon.com, Harold Atwater, Gerald Bandy, Pete Bradish, James & Barbara Bradley, Cafepress.com, Anne Calabrese, Vicki Collins, Kathryn Davis, Lisa Edmondson, Jill Evensizer, David Gregory, Kathryn Killinger, Liz Koven, Sandy Masek, Laura McHolm, Carolyn Michels, Michael J. Stevens, Robert Templeton, Chris Tromborg, Rita A. Truderung, Lee Turner, Cheryl Watson, Echelle Wysong and Vicki Younker.**

**RESTRICTED DONATIONS:** Another way to help is by making a donation for a specific purpose. We thank **Nicole & Scott Pearson** for their donation of \$500 to plant two trees by the walkway in front of our new tiger exhibit. The trees will be planted at the beginning of spring and within a couple of years, our visitors will have nice shade when viewing the tigers.

Thank you **Bill & Debbie Crosthwait** for their donation of \$700, **Gertrude Myneer** for her donation of \$50 and **Steve and Patti Shepherd** for a donation of \$25 for the purchase of the cats' Christmas dinner. The larger cats all receive a holiday feast of turkeys and whole chickens stuffed with horse meat and pork. The smaller cats receive turkey legs or stuffed game hens. The dinner was served on Tuesday, Dec 24.

**PROJECT RESTROOM:** This quarter we received \$180 in donations to our restroom building fund bringing our total raised to \$7,099. We are still a long way from our target of \$75,000 but we are already in the planning stages thanks to a portion of the bequest from the **Sinclair Family Trust** being earmarked for this project.

**BEQUESTS:** Our long-time member **Dianne Berard** passed away and listed EFBC as the beneficiary of one of her accounts. As a result of her kindness, EFBC received \$4,787. Please consider remembering EFBC when you make your estate planning as this generosity will help us continue our efforts to help save the world's wild felines.

**GRANTS: The Healey Foundation** has been a long-timer supporter of our organization and we are grateful that they have again funded our grant request in the amount of \$10,000 for renovations to the fishing cat natural habitat in our exhibit area. Time has taken its toll of this exhibit. It has been home to the birth of many fishing cats and basically launched our success in this captive-breeding program. The exhibit will receive new walls, den, pond and waterfalls, paint and landscaping. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all the members of the board of the Healey Foundation.

**The M. Piuze Foundation** has continued its support of EFBC's efforts with its generous donation of \$3,000 to finish replacing the chain link cages in the exhibit area, plus an additional \$10,000 for general purposes needed to care for our feline family. This donation comes at a much needed time and we want to give a special thank you to **Michael Piuze, Esq.** for his generosity.

We also want to express our appreciation to **Roger A. Karlson**, trustee of the **George C. Karlson Foundation** for their unrestricted gift donation of \$5,000. The Karlson Foundation has been a long-time supporter of EFBC's programs and we are grateful that they continue to share in our efforts to help preserve the world's wild felines for future generations.

**2014 ZOO RECIPROCAL PROGRAM:** Enclosed is a listing of those zoos participating in a reciprocal program with EFBC. These zoos offer free or discounted admission to EFBC members!

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Qnet.com's continued donation of hosting our web site. They have done this for many years.

# Cat of the Quarter

One of our newest arrivals, Freta the sand cat (*Felis margarita*), is our Cat of the Quarter.

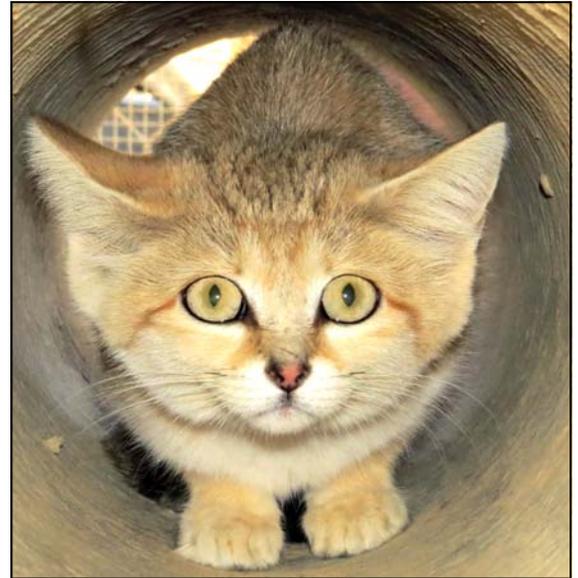
Freta arrived at EFBC-FCC on Oct. 9 from the Tallin Zoo in Estonia where she was born in 2011.

EFBC-FCC members may remember reading in the Winter 2011 issue of *Spots & Stripes* that after a few years of absence, we welcomed to the facility two male sand cats - a father and son named Naji and Fath. Our goal was to bring in a female mate for the young Fath and Freta's arrival does just that!

All three of our sand cats remain off display.

Sand cats are tiny (3-11 pounds) felines that live in sandy and stony deserts in northern Africa and the Middle East. They can live far from water sources by utilizing moisture from their prey (rodents, snakes, etc). They are a pale yellow color with a ringed tail. The sand cat's ears are large and set widely apart and low on the sides of the head. They are nocturnal in their native habitat.

Freta has adjusted well to her new surroundings and neighbor, Fath. We hope to introduce them to each other in the hopes of breeding this species, classified as "near threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, an international organization dedicated to the conservation of species.



*Freta is our newest member of the EFBC-FCC Sand Cat family.*

# 2013 Kid's Day Highlights

*Continued from Page 1*

Valley, which sold popcorn and raised \$124.

Longtime supporter Cheryl Rendes once again provided an animal education program - introducing our young visitors to a variety of animals from reptiles to mammals. Crafts included making special enrichment toys for the cats out of boxes and other hefty paper products, rosemary, wheatgrass and more.



*Face painting was among the fun activities featured.*



*Cheryl Rendes presented an educational wildlife program for Kids Day visitors.*

This year's Kids Day raised a total of \$4,303 to help us get through the slow winter months.

Mark your calendar for next year's Kids Day, Oct. 18, 2014!

## Cat News

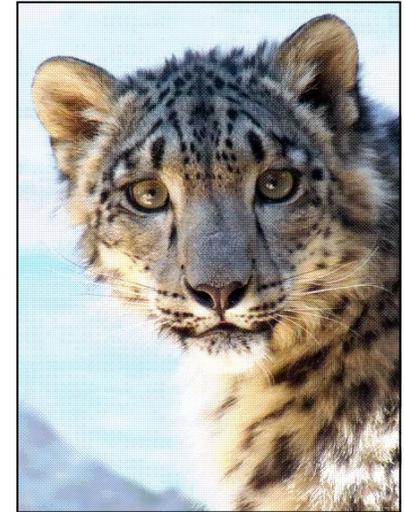
### Oldest Big Cat Fossil Found in Tibet

A nearly complete skull of a 44-million-year-old relative of the snow leopard was unearthed by scientists in Tibet. The skull is older than the big cat fossil previously recovered from Tanzania, which was estimated to be 3.7 million years old.

The new specimen was recovered in 2010 during a fossil hunting expedition to the Himalayas by a team from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. While hiking on a mountaintop, scattered bones were discovered and the team started digging, uncovering the cat skull that is about the size of a grapefruit.

The fossil has a broad forehead like snow leopards and its front teeth were heavily worn. Its size was small for a big cat - closer to the clouded leopard, found in Southeast Asia.

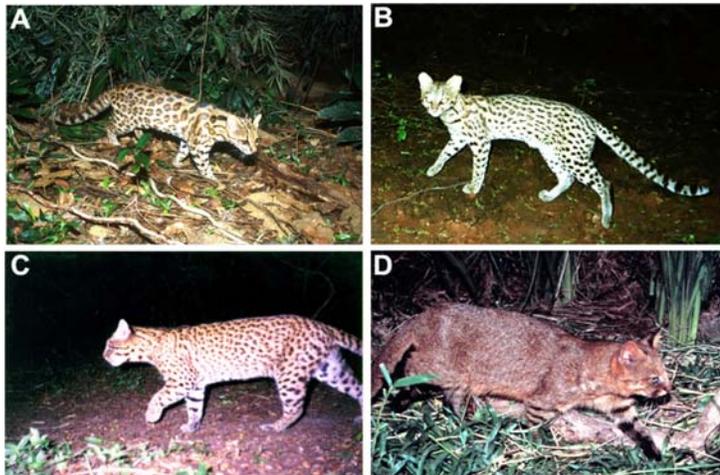
The new species was named *Panthera blytheae* after Blythe Haaga, whose parents are donors of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.



*Anny the Snow Leopard*

### Study Finds Tigrinas in Brazil May Be Two Separate Breeds

Scientists in Brazil have discovered that two populations of tigrina found in the northern and southern parts of the country and previously thought to be one species are actually two distinct breeds, according to the study published in *Current Biology*.



Top-Left: A) SSE Brazilian tigrina; B) NE Brazilian tigrina; C) Geoffroy's cat; D) Pampas cat. Photo: Projeto Gatos doMoto.

The discovery was a result of a study into the evolutionary history of what were thought to be three species of small cats in South America classified with the genus *Leopardus*: the Pampas cat (*Leopardus colocolo*), found in the grasslands and scrublands of South America; the Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*) found in scrublands throughout Argentina; and the tigrina (*Leopardus tigrinus*), also known as the oncilla, found in montane and tropical rain forests in Central and South America.

The study took DNA samples from 216 different *Leopardus* cats. Researchers found that mitochondria revealed ancient interbreeding between the Pampas cat and the northeastern tigrina. The analysis found through the mitochondrial history that the two species mated together often before they split into two separate species.

For the southern tigrina, the study found it paired with the Geoffroy's cat in the areas of southern Brazil and Bolivia where their habitats overlap. Further, researchers found genes were not moving between the northeastern and southern tigrinas, indicating no interbreeding between the two. The discovery may have implications for conservation efforts for the species.

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## Volunteers assist black-footed cat researchers

*Black-footed cat continued from page 1.*

ones who had were the rangers who had field guide training. Not too surprising, as this cat only weighs 2-5 pounds (1-2.5 kilo) and is only active at night. The majority of Americans can't name all the cats native to our country either (bobcat, cougar, Canada lynx, ocelot, jaguarundi, jaguar).

The Black-footed Cat Research Group (BFCG) is an international, interdisciplinary team of biologists, zoologists and veterinarians. They radio collar the cats to learn about distribution, territory sizes, hunting patterns, prey species and denning behavior. The veterinarians collect samples to assess overall health and exposure to diseases from the local semi-feral cats.

The research team headed out to look for cats while we napped. At 1 a.m. on Nov. 6 they came



Dr. Alex Sliwa searches for a radio collar signal.

back with a black-footed cat in a carrier! They had already radio collared her, but she was slow to wake up from the anesthesia so they brought her back to the farm. She was much more alert so we headed out with four of the team to release her back in the den she was caught in. The team named her "Mozi" because

the mosquitoes attacked them as they were capturing the cat.

The AAZK chapter of EFBC's Feline Conservation Center was donating a Reconyx trail camera to the BFCG to aid in their research. It caught great pic-

tures of Mozi leaving her den as soon as we left the area.

We then did a night drive on the research site, Nuwarsfontein farm. We found an aardwolf and also saw steenbok, springhares, and cape hares. Then we



"Mozi" a black-footed cat is captured on a camera trap donated by EFBC-s AAZK Chapter leaving her den area.

used tracking equipment to locate a previously collared cat known as Ilsa. She has had a collar for a few years, so she is used to being followed. However, tonight was a first as we followed her on foot rather than in the vehicle. Dr. Alex Sliwa and the two of us walked in circles in a field from 2 to 3 a.m. as we watched her hunt. Our lightweight handheld spotlight was a big hit, everyone on the team wanted one! On our way back to the farm we checked on Mozi and she had moved 400m. We returned to Tai Boschpoort at 4 a.m., Eric and I then drove back to our lodge and slept for a few hours. At 2 p.m. we returned, the team had caught several semi-feral cats to check for diseases and vaccinate them. The plan had been to recapture Ilsa to replace her collar as the battery was low, but she was deep in a den somewhere – no signal could be found. We hung out and talked for a few hours, admiring the BFCG photo display.

We could have gone out again that night with the team but we had a long drive the next day, so we said goodbye and had a nice dinner at the lodge.

For more information on BFCG, visit <http://black-footed-cat.wild-cat.org/>.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Incorporated, Feline Conservation Center is a not for profit, 501 (c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and propagation of rare and endangered felines through breeding, research, and education. EFBC/FCC is run by an active Board of Directors which governs policies, procedures, and the direction of the corporation. Directors and officers receive no compensation for their services, nor retain any personal interest in any portion of the assets of the corporation. Officers are elected at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors and serve a term of 3 years.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- |   |                                |
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| Joseph W. Maynard, President                  | Larry Purcell, Vice President  |
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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Financial Statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 are now on file. The following are highlights of our annual report. For copies of the complete financial statements, please send a self addressed #10 envelope and a check for \$10.00 for postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, 3710 60th Street West, Rosamond, CA 93560-7779. Audits of EFBC/FCC’s internal operation and the compiling of its financial statements and required Federal and State filings are completed by an independent, outside accounting agency.

Total support and revenue, including non-cash donations:	466,924
Program service expenses:	405,273
Administrative & fund raising expenses:	35,046
Net support and revenue over (under) expenditures: (includes depreciation of \$55,827)	26,605
Total net assets:	1,109,123



Our 2014 EFBC's Feline Conservation Center calendar is in stock and features 12 of our residents, including Julian the margay, Tiga the Malayan tiger, and Obi the serval. We also have a new line of t-shirts available and much more!

You can pick up the latest EFBC-FCC gear in our gift shop, which is open during normal business hours.

**Remember members get a 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!



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- \$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.**

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)



*Fishing cat babies born Sept. 14.*

## 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Twilight Tour** ..... April 26  
June 21  
Sept. 20

**Feline Follies** ..... Aug. 9  
(facility closed)

**Kids Day** ..... Oct. 18

### Shop online and raise money for EFBC-FCC

While direct donations to EFBC-FCC is the best way to support the facility, the public can also help by starting at our home page before shopping online. In addition to Amazon, shoppers can use Goodshop or Igive, or search through Goodsearch.

We also have an official Facebook page and a cause that you can donate through. We also invite you to write reviews of us on TripAdvisor or Yelp. Links for all of these can be found on our home page at [www.wildcatzoo.org](http://www.wildcatzoo.org).



Shop Online:

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