



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES WINTER 2000

Message from the President:

Another year has quickly passed and I would like to take a moment to personally thank all of our supporters for their continued generosity. Your support has allowed the Feline Conservation Center to maintain its growth and expand its programs.

As we have alluded to in the last couple of newsletters, January 1, 2000 we will begin to charge an admission fee. After many reflections on this issue we have decided that it is only fair to implement this charge. We felt that since the facility is visited by a growing number of people that are not members nor who purchase a membership, an admission charge was the only way we could insure that everyone who visited also helped support the facility and the burden of support would not fall exclusively on our members.

We also felt that it would increase membership due to the fact that part of the benefits of membership would be free admission as long as their membership was current.

Other benefits of membership still include a 10% discount in our gift shop and our quarterly newsletter, the Spots 'N Stripes. We are also working on a reciprocal agreement with other facilities which would allow our members free or reduced rate admission to other wildlife facilities and zoos that are open to the public on a regular basis. We will publish this list as soon as it is compiled.

The new admission rates are; adults \$3.00, children \$1.50. (under 3 free). School groups and youth organizations will remain the same at \$1.00 per person, minimum \$25.00 per group. For more

information regarding group rates you can call our office weekdays (except Wednesday) between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM at 661-256-3793.

When visiting please remember to bring your membership card with you.

As this is the first newsletter of our new fiscal year, we have included in this issue our "Statement of Purpose", current list of the Board of Directors, and a summary of our Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000.

Thanks from all of us here at EFBC/FCC for your understanding and continued support. We hope your holidays are enjoyable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph W. Maynard'.



Joseph W. Maynard, President



CAT UPDATES

We have another new resident - Angara, a female Eurasian lynx. She was born on May 31, and was hand-raised at the San Diego Zoo. Arriving here at 4.5 months old, we are working with her daily to see if she has the right "purrsonality" to be an educational outreach cat. We'd like to use her for photos with our Twilight Tour guests, and for educational programs. So far, so good - she goes for a walk every day on a leash (weather permitting), as lunch-time visitors to the compound can attest. She's calming down as she matures as well. She is blind in her left eye, as this cross-eyed photo of her at 6 months old shows. We go cross-eyed too when we look at her!

Eurasian lynxes are the largest members of the lynx family, which includes Canadian lynxes and bobcats. Angara should reach about 40 pounds full-grown. Our male lynx, Kiowa, is about 60 pounds.

The bobcat we introduced last issue, Willow, is doing very well. She's recovered from the calcium deficiency she arrived with, and is pretty well-behaved with the volunteers for a wild-born cat. She has a beautiful pattern of rosettes in her fur, as you can see below. Many people aren't aware that bobcats often have rosettes. It's more common in cats from warmer climates.

Lana, the Amur leopard cub from Audubon Zoo, is also doing well. We've noticed all our hand-raised female Amur leopards have similar personalities - namely, not very good ones! Compared to both male and female Chinese or Asian leopards we've hand-raised, the female Amurs get snotty temperaments with everyone but "Mom" at just a few months age. We're hoping to hand-raise a male Amur leopard in the future so we can see if the same holds true. We only hand-raise cubs if the mother doesn't take care of them herself.

Sasha, Tanya's daughter, is a year old already! This is a female mother-raised Amur leopard, born here in 1999. Below is her smiling face:

We have another male Amur leopard coming in from Russia. This is a 3 year old cat from the Novosibirsk Zoo, unrelated to any animals currently in the U.S.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Scott and Nicole Pearson still plan to host another fun Cocktail Party fund-raiser, but the date has been moved to February 24, 2001. Check the website for more details.

Dates have been set for all of the 2001 Events - Twilight Tours will be 21 April, 16 June, and 22 September. Feline Follies will be 25 August. Mark your calendars now! Follies will be held on the compound again, this year's set-up was very popular.

SAD NEWS

We here at EFBC have suffered a loss in the passing of Mr. Kay Munsey on August 28th, 2000 at the age of 78. In his seven years as a volunteer here, Mr. Kay had been the most asked-for and memorable tour guide. He was a cheerful, generous, kind man and will be missed very much by his coworkers. His adopted cougar, Natani, was a special part of his life and will always be "Mr. Kay's boy." Mr. Kay was an asset to EFBC and was well known for his public relations efforts and genuine enthusiasm for the compound. He was always prepared to show photos and brochures and brag about the cats he loved so much. The lives of many people were touched by him and we count ourselves fortunate to have known him for those 7 years here at EFBC. In his honor we have established the Kay E. Munsey Memorial Fund to endure that his caring concern for the cats will continue.

DONATIONS

With construction of Phase 1 our new tiger/jaguar exhibit nearing completion, we want to thank the following individuals for their generous donations to our Project Tiger building fund in the last fiscal year through today:

Rizzy Nelson, \$5000;
Boris Livshitz, \$1000;
Karen & Russell James, \$500;
Allan & Karlene Hill, \$1640;
Pamela Gray, \$6500;
George & Joan Paulikas, \$2000;
Vivienne J. Jolles, \$1000;
Phil D. Pitchford, \$5000;

Joanie & Gary Nordvall, \$1000;
"Kay E Munsey" Memorial Fund, \$2024

Our next goal is to raise \$4200 for the building slab and \$21800 for the pools and pump system.

We also want to thank the following organizations for their restricted donations: Lancaster Rotary West - \$1500 for "Project Walkway" Patricia C. Brown Foundation - \$5880 for "Facility Electrical Upgrade" Community Fund of Boeing, California - \$2000 for "Facility Electrical Upgrade"

We also have several non-cash donations to acknowledge. Many thanks to Jeffrey A. Reichmann of "Reichmann Safety Services" for donating his expertise and time helping us insure we have a safe place for our staff, volunteers, and visitors. Jeff updated our MSDS file, completed a chemical inventory, developed a hazard communication program, emergency plan, injury and illness prevention program, and conducted a safety meeting with our staff and volunteers. Jeff has made a long-term commitment to EFBC to review and update these programs yearly.

Our thanks again to Davis Lewis and Adrienne Ayres for donating additional computer equipment and a brand-new digital camera. If it wasn't for these wonderful people, we would be operating with outdated computer hardware and software. Thank you for helping us greet the new millennium.

Special thanks to Clinton and Jeralyn Crawford for donating a 1979 Chevrolet pickup for yard use around the compound.

Also, Alan and Linda Andrews of Inyokern donated a small pickup. This one's in good enough shape to drive on the road!

And, Herb Sulsky generously donated an Apple Power Macintosh computer.

Finally, thanks to Edwards Air Force Base 412th and 450th F-16 Test Squadrons for coming out and doing hard labor on some cleanup work.

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

One story receiving a lot of press in the past month has been about two lion cubs born in Russia that kept getting described as being "the extinct Cape lion." The news stories did a poor job of explaining the whole issue, so here's some background:

Originally there were several subspecies of lions ranging across the African continent, as well as lions in Asia and in Europe. In Africa, the Barbary lion was found along the northern coast, the Cape lion down at the southern tip, and perhaps there were variations within the plains as well. Today, all lions surviving in the wild in Africa live south of the Saharan desert and are considered the same subspecies. The Barbary and Cape lion are considered extinct. One physical feature often described as only being found in Barbary and Cape lions is a long, thick black mane (as opposed to a blond mane), that extends down the length of the lion's belly. One problem with using this physical description as a subspecies identifier is that MANY lions kept in captivity in colder climates develop long, black manes! There are any number of zoos in the U.S. today claiming their cats are members of the 'extinct' Barbary lions, based solely on physical appearance. There is one group in South Africa (Hoedspruit Breeding Resource Center) attempting to locate descendants of Barbary lions though genetic testing (DNA samples of true Barbaries were obtained from museum pelts). A group of lions found in an Ethiopian zoo were tested this way.

The cubs born in Russia have black ear tips, which led one African zoo director to say that they looked like Cape lions. He exported them from Russia to Africa to form a breeding program to recreate the look of the Cape lion. Unfortunately most of the news stories implied that the cubs actually were Cape lions, instead of just resembling them in one way. There is no way a purebred Cape lion could exist today, without 100 years of inbreeding going on in some isolated zoo.

It's hard enough to educate people about saving endangered species, without the media misleading them in major stories like this!

MORE ONLINE AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Don't forget, if you shop online using the Internet, you can make a donation to your favorite cats at no cost to you! We are affiliated with iGive.com, Amazon.com, and PetSmart.com. To make your donation count, just start from our home page www.cathouse-fcc.org before you go to the Amazon or PetSmart site. For iGive, you need to sign up with them as one of our supporters. Through the iGive shopping mall you can make your purchases work for us from nearly all the major web shopping sites!

FEATURE FELINE - BOBCAT

Bobcats are one of the rare success stories in the world of wild felines. There are as many as 1 million in the wild today, mainly in the United States, with a few in southern Canada and northern Mexico. Named for its short tail, the bobcat is a medium-sized feline with a ruff of fur around its head and black ear tips. The largest bobcats are found in the northern end of their range, in open habitats. Their background color can be gray, brownish, yellowish, or reddish. Both melanistic and albinistic specimens have been recorded. Bobcats mainly subsist on rabbits but can also kill larger prey such as deer. In the last 20 years the bobcat has been the most heavily harvested species for cat pelts. As many as 100,000 a year were killed in the 80's, but with the European Union banning imports of bobcat fur in 1996, the market has declined.

Our bobcat Willow is a rescue cat, as described last issue. Someone picked her up in the wild as a kitten and tried to make a pet out of her. Needless to say, it didn't work. At right is a photo of her at about 7 months old.

WISH LIST

Electric Golf Carts

4/0 THHN copper wire

Landscape materials

8x8x16 concrete block



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to All of us here at the Feline
Conservation Center!!**



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.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of October 1, 2000

Joseph W. Maynard	President
Larry Purcell	Vice President
Nicole Pearson, Esq.	Treasurer
Sandra A. Masek	Secretary
Steve Rendes	Director
Robert Slade	Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 are now on file.

EFBC/FCC saw a steady increase in total assets through last year. EFBC/FCC's attendance remained steady with a slight increase over prior year. 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 \$5.00 for postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, HCR 1, Box 84, Rosamond, CA. 93560.

Total assets:	\$767,896
Total liabilities:	\$ 22,809
Net assets:	\$745,087
Total liabilities and net assets:	\$767,896
Total support and revenue:	\$309,457
Total expenses:	\$264,164
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses:	\$ 45,293