



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SUMMER 2001

CAT UPDATES:

We have another new arrival. A male Amur leopard from the Novosibirsk Zoo in Russia. Samson is a new bloodline in this country and very valuable for our breeding program.

FOLLIES FAST APPROACHING

Have you reserved the evening of Saturday August 25th yet? That's the date of the 2001 Fabulous Feline Follies, our main fund-raiser of the year. A catered dinner surrounded by your favorite felines - what could possibly beat that? Plus, great auction items! If you have something to donate as an auction item, give us a call at 661.256.3793 or email cathouse@qnet.com. Also, our last Twilight Tour for this year will be 22 September.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Last newsletter we enclosed a list of zoos with reciprocal membership agreements with our facility. Please add the Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton, Nevada to that list.

GUIDED TOURS

If you'd like a guided tour of our exhibit area, an informative walk-around with one of our volunteers, just call to obtain fee information and a schedule time. (Only a limited number are available per day.) We recently had a group of children out for a birthday party tour, complete with leopard cake (they supplied the cake).

Corporate & Foundation Grants & Donations :

EFBC is grateful to the following organizations and foundations for their grant support received between January 2001 and May 2001:

Lancaster Rotary Club West - \$1,000 restricted grant for "Project Walkway."

Employees Community Fund of Boeing, California - \$2000 unrestricted grant.

MaryAnn & William Bang Family Fund - through Ventura County Community Fund - \$500 unrestricted grant.

Kern County Department of Tourism - \$11,050 restricted grant for pathway lighting.

Boris Livshitz Philanthropic Fund, a donor advised fund of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund - \$100 unrestricted grant.

Kaiser Permanente's Volunteer Involvement Program - \$500 unrestricted donation in honor of their employee and our volunteer, Sue Harralson.

Individual Donations:

Charles & Diana Lohr, Sunland, CA. for a small refrigerator.

Holly McKnight, Brea, CA. for a microwave oven,

Michael Wayne, Integrated Turbo Machinery, Montebello, CA. for a gas golf cart.

Carol Dykes, Bakersfield, CA. for a microwave oven.

NMB Technologies Corporation, Chatsworth, CA. for a Minolta 8010 C/S Pro copier.

Mike & JoAnn Glass, Lancaster, CA. bought a brand new microwave oven for us.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generous donations. All are really appreciated!.

CAT NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

April 2001

Botswana Director of Wildlife, Joe Matlhare, introduced a ban on all hunting of lions, including trophy hunting, for one year with immediate effect. In addition, the Government announced a blanket ban on the killing of 'problem cats' - lions and other big cats such as leopard and cheetah which attack livestock. Compensation will be paid to the farmers instead.

April 2001- Ten Namibian Cheetahs to USA

Namibia is home to more free-ranging cheetahs than any other country in the world. It can claim nearly 20% of the world's remaining cheetah population, an animal protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [CITES]. The Cheetah Conservation Fund [CCF], founded by American

Laurie Marker in 1990, has been working over the past ten years to conserve the cheetah by protecting its habitat in Namibia. It has been necessary to find ways for the cheetah to continue to live in the wild in areas where the principal livelihood of Namibian farmers is the grazing of livestock, which in the past have frequently fallen prey to the cheetah. The efforts of the CCF and others has led to the cheetah population in Namibia stabilizing, and in recent years, increasing.

The CCF provides a home to young cheetahs, frequently orphans of adult animals, which have been killed on the farmlands. These animals, which otherwise would die along with their mother, are sheltered at CCF's Research and Education Centre outside Outjiwarongo, Namibia. However, once deprived of their mother, they no longer have the chance to acquire the skills necessary for life

in the wild. All ten of the cheetahs leaving Namibia for the United States (the Cincinnati Zoo and the White Oak Conservation Centre) are "non-releasable" animals. This is the first time since CCF was created that Namibian cheetahs have been approved for export to international breeding programs. As such, they represent the culmination of 10 years of effort on the part of CCF and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

April 2001, Environmental News Network

The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) has been listed as endangered since 1967. Once at home from eastern Texas and the lower Mississippi River Valley through the southeastern states, only about 60 adult panthers remain in the United States, all hidden in undeveloped patches of Florida. The ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) has been listed as endangered in the United States since 1972 and is also endangered in Mexico. Its historic range took in Arizona and Texas, south to Central and South America. Ocelots once prowled the dense, chaparral thickets of southern and eastern Texas and the Gulf Coast. Today they are found in a few small areas in southern Texas and are extirpated in Arizona. A new report from the National Wildlife Federation notes that not only panthers and ocelots but all wildcats are vanishing from the United States, Mexico and Canada. Left behind are natural ecosystems that are "imbalanced and vulnerable." The imbalances that remain when these top predators disappear are overpopulation and declines among other species that share their habitat. The eastern cougar, also called the puma (*Felis concolor cougar*), has been all but eliminated from the eastern United States and Canada and is presumed extinct, the National Wildlife Federation says. Cougars once ranged from eastern Canada southward into Tennessee and South Carolina, where their range merged with that of the Florida panther. "The remaining population of this species is extremely small; exact numbers are unknown," the Fish and Wildlife Service reports. The loss of cougars and other felines in the eastern United States has likely contributed to exploding numbers of white-tailed deer, resulting in everything from vegetation depletion to traffic accidents. Elimination of dominant carnivores can also lead

to large populations of small and midsize carnivores such as raccoons, opossums and skunks. Canada lynx are now rare in the southern parts of their historic range, although they still survive in western Canada. Even bobcats, which still range across most of the United States, have suffered local declines and extirpations in some areas. The largest species of cat native to the Western Hemisphere, the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), was listed as endangered in the United States in 1997. It is also listed as endangered in Mexico and Central and South America. Habitat loss is the single greatest factor in their decline, but American wildcats have died as a result of predator control programs and traps set to serve the fur trade. Roads pose a significant threat to wild cats because they not only place individual cats at risk, but they isolate cats into fragments of habitat, which can lead to inbreeding and territorial competition between cats. In some cases, such as that of the Canada lynx in Colorado, reintroducing cats to former habitat is crucial to their recovery. Successful reintroduction's will depend on adequate public education and conservation efforts. Because much cat habitat in the U.S., Canada and Mexico is privately owned, addressing the needs and concerns of private landowners is essential to successful conservation of endangered cats. It is important to incorporate habitat and wildlife corridor protection into development and transportation plans. This should include wildlife culverts, bridges and underpasses on new and existing roads, and no road alignments should be planned that directly threaten cat populations. The federation is working toward cross-border protection and habitat conservation for cats through national legislation, collaborative research and cooperative international efforts.

March 2001

A huge deforestation programme has begun to clear the way for Europe's largest dam in the Vale do Guadiana region of Portugal, considered to be the third most important nucleus for the country's tiny Iberian lynx population. In spite of strong opposition from environmental groups, including a new coalition called SOS Lynx, the first trees have already been felled in the 160 square mile area that will be occupied by the new reservoir in eastern Portugal. Only 43 to 53 Iberian lynx are

believed to remain in Portugal, a species entirely confined to the Iberian Peninsula and recognised by the IUCN as the world's most endangered cat.

Feature Cat - Eurasian Lynx

The Eurasian lynx is the largest of the lynxes. Adult males weigh on average 21.6 kg (47.6 lb), while females are slightly smaller at 18.1 kg (40 lb). The lynxes of eastern Siberia consistently reach the greatest size. The Eurasian lynx has relatively long legs, and large feet which provide a "snowshoe effect", allowing for more efficient travel through deep snow. In winter, the fur grows very densely on the bottom of the feet. The coat is grayish, with tint varying from rusty to yellowish. A bright reddish tint, with profuse spotting, is seen most frequently in the southwestern part of the lynx's range (southern Europe, Asia Minor and the Caucasus). There are three main coat patterns: predominantly spotted, predominantly striped, and unpatterned. Eurasian lynx have long, prominent black ear tufts, and short black-tipped tails.

Although the Eurasian lynx is often classified with the three other lynxes as a predator of lagomorphs, this is a major misconception. Small ungulates, particularly roe deer, chamois and musk deer, are the main prey, and lynx will generally only take small prey when ungulates are scarce. When young blue sheep are not available, lynx in China have been reported to prey on pikas, large rodents, and hares. In Finland, lynx tend to be in better condition in the southwest - where there is an introduced population of white-tailed deer from North America - than in the remainder of the country, where roe deer are very rare and hares are the main available prey. Similarly, lynx are found at lower densities in the northern parts of Siberia where there are hares but no ungulates; in these regions, arctic hares and lynx fluctuate cyclically, similarly to fluctuations described for the Canada lynx.

The stronghold of the Eurasian lynx is a broad strip of southern Siberian woodland stretching through Russia from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific. In China, lynx are found throughout much of the country, concentrated in the montane regions. Little information is available from the

remainder of the lynx's wide Asian range. In northern Europe (Finland, Norway, Sweden, north-eastern Poland and the European region of the former USSR), the population is stable and connected to the larger Siberian population. In central Europe, a relatively large but isolated population is found in the Carpathian Mountains (Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Ukraine). Small populations are found in the French Pyrenees and Vosges mountains; the Jura mountains (France, Switzerland); the Alps (Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland); the Balkans (Albania, Croatia and Slovenia); and the Bohemian forest (Czech Republic).

ECOTOURISM

If you love to travel, and love cats, why not combine the two? One way is to volunteer on a research project through Earthwatch (earthwatch.org). They have opportunities to help wild cougars, ocelots, Geoffrey's cats, and snow leopards. Another way is to go on safari. Africa, South America, and India all offer many locations where your tourist dollars help ensure the local populations value the wildlife alive, not just for their meat or skins. On a recent trip I took to South Africa, I not only had a great time and saw over 30 wild lions, 9 cheetahs, and 7 leopards, but the dollars I spent also helped make sure future generations will be able to make a similar trip. You can read a trip report on our web site at www.cathouse-fcc.org/southafrica01.html (I scanned about 70 out of 450 photos). Here are some of my favorite photos from this trip:

Membership expiration: Some of you may have noticed that there is a date (month/year) on the mailing label of your newsletter right after the zip code. This is your membership expiration date. We always send out renewal letters 1 month prior to a members expiration.

In some cases you may not receive it due to being lost somewhere in the postal system so if you have concerns about your renewal date, look at the label. This will alert you to of the fact that your membership may expire soon.

Remember, all memberships except lifetime are for one year only.

WISH LIST

Golf Carts

Landscape materials

2 Refrigerators

Electrical & Plumbing materials