



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SPRING 2002

## CAT UPDATE:

We've welcomed several new residents in a few weeks time. First, two male fishing cats (brothers born in March 2000) arrived from the Baton Rouge Zoo on February 7. They are HUGE and beautiful. We named one Casper, who is being introduced to Sassy, and the other one we named Mieko, who will be introduced to Madison. Both of these females were born here (Sassy in 1997 and Madison in 1999) and have been ready for a boyfriend for some time!

In late February, a female Margay (Diedra, born October 1995) arrived from Utica Zoo in New York. She is related to our male Rustin, so we may have another male on the way in from Cincinnati to be Diedra's mate.

In the middle of March we are expecting 3 Sand Cats (*Felis margarita*) to arrive from SOS Care near San Diego. This will be a new species at our facility and we're very excited about it! SOS Care is run by Pat Quillen, known worldwide for her expertise with small wild cats.

## Special Events

Our first evening Twilight Tour will be on April 20th. This will be your first chance this year to go behind the scenes and see our tigers and leopard breeding areas, which aren't open to the public during the day. Twilight Tours are \$15 per person, 18 and older only. Other event dates are: Twilight Tours 22 June and 21 September, and the Fabulous Feline Follies August 24th. Reserve this date now, this fun event sold out last year! Check the web site for more details or call 661.256.3793.

## Donations

A Wal-Mart associate presents General Manager Sandy Masek with a check for \$250 at the grand opening of the new East Lancaster store. Thanks Wal-Mart!

Donations continued - Bill Huth of Willow Springs Raceway donated a pickup truck, 25KW generator, and scaffolding. Thanks Bill!

The Kern County Fire Department donated 500 ft. of fire hoses & nozzles. These will be placed by our fire hydrants for emergency use. Thanks KCFD!

Continued thanks to AJ Engraving for donating our plexiglass adoption plates displayed on our enclosures.

Jerry Gadwood donates many of the cleaning items we use every day, like bleach and dish soap. Thanks Jerry!

Jeff Reichmann, a safety expert, donates his time as a consultant to EFBC. Thanks Jeff!

Larry Purcell and Laura Maluccio of Sav-On Fence in Lancaster donated more chain link panels, always very useful, Thanks Sav-On Fence!

Chuck Hueber of Rosamond donated an Aleppo pine tree. Thanks Chuck!

## Reciprocal Zoo list

Please add the following two zoos as participating in our Reciprocal program: Knoxville Zoo, Tennessee - free admission, and Chahinkapa Zoo, Wahpeton, North Dakota - free admission.

## Volunteer of the Quarter

Renee Searles, pictured right with Trapper the Canadian Lynx, is our Volunteer of the Quarter. Renee began volunteering at EFBC in April 1987. She first learned about the compound in 1986 when she attended a Fourth of July celebration at a local nature camp. It was there that she met our ambassador at the time, Peaches the ocelot. That experience and Renee's love for cats drew her to the compound. In her 15 years of volunteering Renee has helped in the office as well as assisted in the raising of at least 20 babies born here-including tigers, leopards, jaguars, fishing cats, bobcats, and clouded leopards. She still has a close bond with one of those babies, Tai Chi, a North Chinese leopard. When she started here, the compound was mostly dirt, without grass or sidewalks. She has "fond" memories of raking



### WISH LIST

Wireless P.A. System

Landscape Materials

Golf Carts

Electrical and Plumbing Materials

PC based laptop computer

NOTE: Our Twilight Tours and Feline Follies will be soon approaching and items are needed for auctions and door prizes!

many piles of rocks and watering the dirt to keep the dust down. Renee is proud of the progress the facility has made over the years and looks forward to the completion of Project Tiger.

## Cat News from Around the World

### The East African (Nairobi) February 18, 2002

The number of lions in the Serengeti National Park in northern Tanzania has been increasing steadily since an outbreak of the canine distemper virus killed up to 1,000 lions in 1999. The quick replenishment of the lions was attributed to the fact that lionesses can have as many as four to five cubs at a time every two years, rather than any treatment administered to fight the virus.

### Los Angeles Times, 13 Feb 2002

Environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit to stop an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife study that would kill 50% of the cougar populations in 2 areas to study the effect on elk herds.

### Arizona Daily Star, 5 Feb 2002

An elusive jaguar has been caught on film south of Tucson, offering fresh evidence that the endangered cat visits - and maybe resides - in Southern Arizona. Jaguars were last documented in Arizona in 1996. They have been known to travel 500 miles in search of food or a mate. The photograph was taken in early December by a remote, motion-activated camera that was set out to monitor potential jaguar corridors near the border. Such cameras have been in place since 1997, but until now none had recorded a jaguar. Biologists believe the two 1996 photos and the one shot in December captured three separate cats. The most recent photo shows a young male jaguar weighing around 175 pounds. It was taken at about 5,000 feet in elevation in an oak woodland.

#### **ITAR/TASS News Agency 01/30/2002**

The Far Eastern (Amur) leopard has attacked domestic reindeer at a farm in Khasan district of Russia's Maritime Territory. The Tigris foundation, in conjunction with other environmentalist organizations, compensates for damage done to farmers in the event of attacks on their animals by tigers or leopards. The program helps man and the rare beasts to co-exist peacefully, make up for the farmers' material losses and overcome their negative attitude to tigers and leopards. Over the past three years, more than 5,000 US dollars was paid to farmers in compensation.

#### **Knoxville News-Sentinel January 9, 2002**

Cougars observed in California face what resembles a real-life video game just to move from habitat to habitat. First, they must avoid man-made obstacles like highways and houses. Although many reserves now include special overpasses for the animals to cross roads, the cougars will travel to them only by the darkest routes - not an easy task. "On (one cougar's) initial encounter with a well-lit sand factory ... he took two hours and four attempts to select a route that skirted the facility," wrote Paul Beier in a 1995 paper about cougar migration for the University of California-Berkeley. "(And) his consistent movements in the direction of the darkest horizon caused him to miss the only bridged under crossing of Interstate 15."

Along the Texas-Mexico border, a dwindling band of ocelots hunt at night, take care of their young at night and mate at night, all against the backdrop of giant border floodlights to reveal illegal aliens. Researchers hope that by sharing research, they can begin to develop firm data on just what keeping the lights on does to animals

#### **Various sources, January and February 2002**

A grown lioness baffled experts in Kenya by adopting a baby oryx, a kind of antelope Africa's top predator likes to eat. The lioness came across the 2 week old oryx in Samburu National Park. Defying nature, the lioness quickly adopted the oryx, giving it affection and protection from other predators as if it were her own cub, though strangely still allowing the mother oryx to come and feed her calf occasionally before scaring her away. A male lion killed that baby oryx after 2 weeks with the lioness. The lioness then adopted another baby oryx on Valentine's Day, but this one was only 1 week old and could not survive without milk from it's mother. Park staff took the oryx away while the lioness was hunting. Since then the lioness has been seen trailing oryx herds.

#### **AP Online : 01/02/2002**

Several people have been arrested for bringing 4 tigers from Arkansas to the 5-H Ranch exotic animal preserve in Missouri, where they were shot the next day without ever being freed from their trailer. While other exotic animals roamed the open-to-the-public preserve, the tigers were gutted and their carcasses shipped off to a black market, more valuable dead than alive. Hides, meat, skulls and teeth of tigers, leopards and other big cats can fetch \$5,000 to \$20,000 from collectors.

#### **12/23/2001 Albuquerque Journal**

Linda Sweanor and Kenneth Logan spent a decade studying cougars on White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo. They recently published a book about their research, "Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore." (available in our gift shop or on our website) They caught and tagged more than 200 cats over a 10-year period, putting

radio transmitters on some. Pumas are considered a “keystone species.” Although the big cats are relatively rare (perhaps four adults in 100 square miles) they have a big impact on the ecosystem. For example, they regulate the numbers of deer which, in turn, have a big impact on grasslands.

### Feature Cat - Canadian Lynx

The Canadian lynx has a flared facial ruff, black ear tufts, and long hind legs. Their coloring is reddish-brown to grey; the hairs are tipped with white which gives the fur a frosted appearance. The Canadian lynx’s large spreading feet act like snowshoes, and are twice as effective at supporting its weight on snow as those of the bobcat.

Whereas the larger Eurasian lynx preys mainly on ungulates, the Canadian lynx relies almost exclusively on snowshoe hares. The lynx-hare cycle was first discovered from harvest records of the Hudson’s Bay Company dating back to the 1800s. Numbers of snowshoe hares peak approximately every ten years, and lynx numbers follow the same pattern with a short lag, typically one to two years. The amplitude of the lynx population cycle is greater than that of any other predator, and lynx density during cyclic highs and lows can differ by up to 15-fold. As hares decline, fewer lynx breed, producing smaller litters with few, if any, surviving kits.

Lynx are distributed throughout the broad boreal forest belt of North America and south into the American Rocky Mountains. The historic range is largely intact, although it has shrunk in the south due to human settlement and forest clearance. Lynx will inhabit farming country, but only if it is interrupted by sufficient areas of woodland. Bobcats appear to be expanding northwards, and have displaced lynx in some areas.

In Canada, the lynx is considered endangered only in New Brunswick, and has been extirpated from Prince Edward Island and mainland Nova Scotia. The main US lynx population is found in Alaska. Elsewhere, they are more sparsely distributed, occurring in low numbers in the states of Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York (reintroduced), Vermont, New Hampshire,

and Maine, with the largest populations in the Rocky Mountains.

(Thanks to IUCN/CSG web site [lynx.uio.no/catfolk/](http://lynx.uio.no/catfolk/) for this info).

Our Canadian lynx Trapper is now 9 months old. He lives in the public exhibit area so you don’t have to wait for a Twilight Tour to see him.

Meet Princess, our resident house cat/mouser. She showed up one day about 2 years ago and we can’t believe what a great cat she is for having been a stray. We trap any domestic cats we see around to make sure they’re vaccinated and healthy, as the exotic cats can catch diseases from domestics.

Many of our visitors have met Princess as she often sleeps in the stuffed animal pile in the gift shop. It’s funny to hear them gasp when they realize one is alive! Princess puts up with most kids petting her and even sits on their laps.

Speaking of the gift shop, we have several new books about wild felines available, such as “The Way of the Tiger” by K. Ullas Karanth (below). Remember you can also order other big cat books from our web site through Amazon.com. If you use the special links on our books page we get 15% of the purchase price as a donation (no cost to you). Also all your other Amazon purchases are a 5% donation to us if you start at our web site.

