

# Exotic Feline Rescue Center

# Cat Tales

Volume 2

Fall 1997

## EFRC saves 10 tigers from death

Retired circus tigers, destined for euthanasia, find a home at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center

Zavata had spent most of her 14 years in a 40" by 90" cage. The only time she, and nine other tigers, were allowed out of the cage was when the group performed in the circus rink. But recently, when the cats' time at the circus was through, euthanasia was to be the final show.

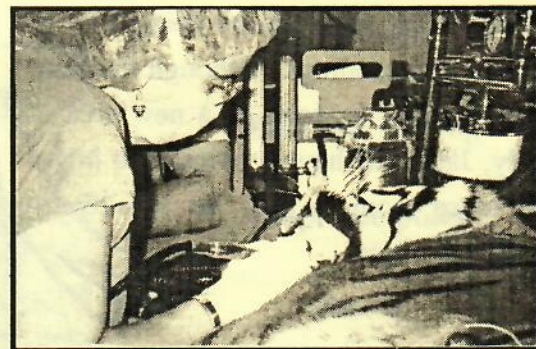
When the Exotic Feline Rescue Center became aware of the tigers, who range in age from three to 14 years, we did not hesitate to take them in and provide a good, safe home.

The circus experience, however, took its toll on a few of the cats. All of Zavata's canines had been cut off causing severe infections. As a result, the tigress had to be transported to the University of Illinois twice during early October for four root canal operations. Zavata had to be anesthetized for more than 13 hours over the course of both procedures.

The operations appear to have been successful, although now it looks as though Kashka,

another 14-year-old female, will also need serious dental attention; her canines have had deep grooves cut into them.

Nevertheless, the tigers are much more at ease now that they are in a newly-constructed 40' by 80' area equipped with a large swim tank. Now their only job is to adjust to being free of their small cages, getting used to the water and learning to get along.



Zavata during her root canal

## Mistreated lions waiting for new home at EFRC

Seven lions, mistreated in the past, are waiting in Mississippi for the completion of their new home at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.

The cats were part of a group of close to eighty lions, tigers, cougars and ligers (a cross between a lion and a tiger) who were featured on *Dateline NBC* on January 24 of this year.

According to the program, the animals were living in substandard conditions, packed tightly in small cages filled with feces and rotten bones. Many of the cats had festering sores on

their skins.

After bitter court battles, the animals were taken from their former owner. Now they are living with much better care, but at a facility that simply cannot house them all.

We have agreed to provide a home for seven of the lions. Recently work began on a new area for the cats and, as soon as it's finished, we will welcome them to Center Point.

### Come Visit Us!

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

We are located 4 1/2 miles south of I-70, Exit 23, Brazil/Linton, and 2 1/2 miles east of State Road 59.

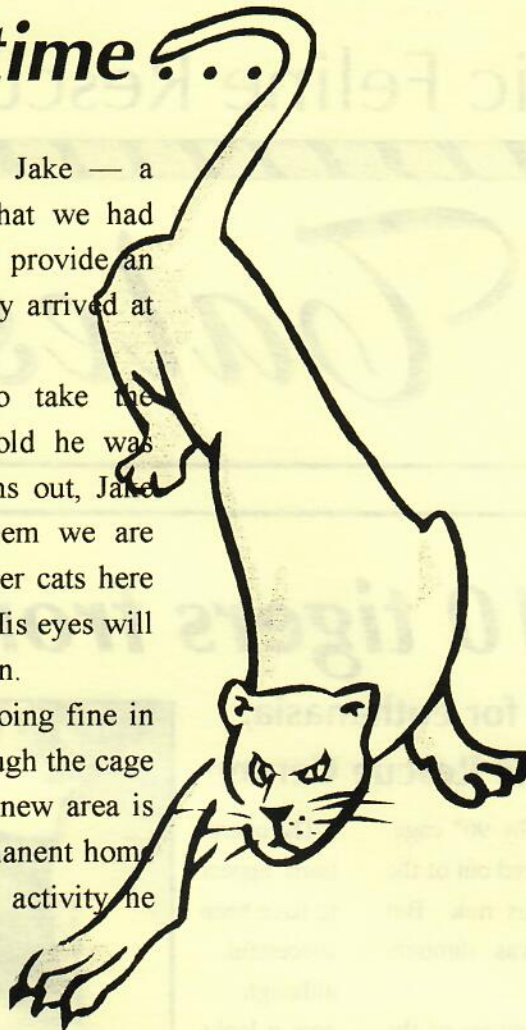
Turn left at the Ashboro Methodist Church.

## Since last time . . .

Since the last newsletter, Jake — a cougar from Terre Haute that we had had boarded until we could provide an adequate home — has finally arrived at the EFRC.

We originally agreed to take the cougar because we were told he was visually impaired. As it turns out, Jake has cataracts, an eye problem we are familiar with since three other cats here have had cataracts surgery. His eyes will receive medical attention soon.

The cougar seems to be doing fine in his new surroundings, although the cage is temporary. As soon as a new area is ready, Jake will have a permanent home and more room to play, an activity he appears to enjoy.



## The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation that:

Neither buys nor sells cats

Gives animals a home for life

Provides stable social groups

Provides enhanced environments

Provides the best veterinary care

Is USDA licensed

### Special Profile

## Coco: Surviving a rough start

When Coco arrived at the EFRC in April of 1995, not yet two years old, his short life had already been filled with pain and neglect. He was 100 lbs. underweight with a bad attitude.

Severely malnourished, Coco had been sold to a family in Marengo, Ohio, by a man who assured that the animal "loves children."

Prior to that, Coco had suffered a broken leg and two fractured toes



*Coco poses for the camera*

as a result of a being beaten with a baseball bat. He now walks with a pin in his left hind leg.

Most of Coco's physical wounds have healed and he now shares a large area with Maggie, a lioness who came to the EFRC blind.

He appears to be in good health and he is definitely in good spirits, although a recent blood test indicated the possibility of a kidney malfunction. A veterinary exam will pinpoint the problem, and will determine if medical attention is necessary.

## EFRC to host LIOC convention

We will be hosting the 1998 convention of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.

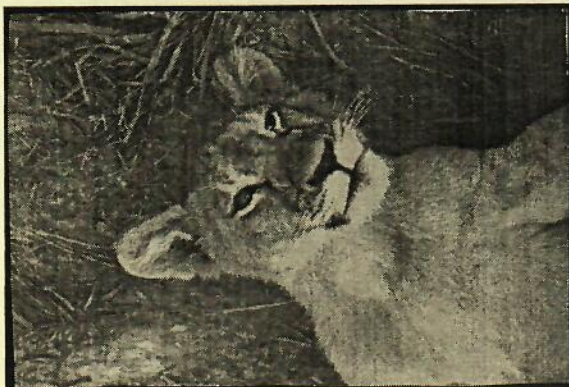
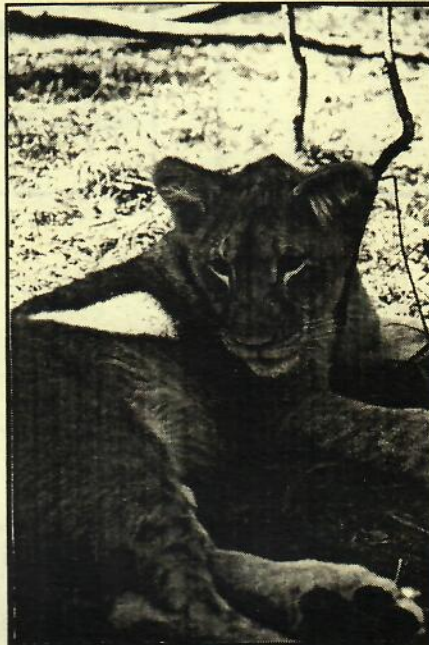
The LIOC is a non-profit, non-commercial organization devoted to the welfare of exotic cats. The organization, which has members from all over the world, is probably

the largest group of private exotic feline-owners in the nation.

The convention will be held in Indianapolis in August of next year. In addition to the events scheduled for the LIOC at the state capitol, the members present are planning to take a tour of the EFRC.

## WEDGE & RAKE

Wedge and Rake, the cubs featured in the last issue of *Cat Tales*, are growing up fast. The pair are now seven months old and getting bigger every day. Rake is starting to get his mane; he has a thin mohawk on top of his head and the fur on his face is becoming thick. Wedge is also growing into a young lady, although she seems to be much more playful than her brother.



*Wedge (above) relaxes in the shade on an early fall afternoon, while Rake (left) rolls in the dirt.*

## Wish List

The following items are needed by the cats this fall:

used motor oil

livestock tanks

blender

baby scale

bird seed

chain link fencing

telephone poles

bleach

steel pipes

lattice board

spools

ladders

fire extinguisher

electric stove

halogen lights

shade netting

privacy screening

# Notes

## A Note from the Center

Things were getting a little depressing around here this summer. Building seemed stalled and we had to turn away six lions and four cougars.

Then things changed fast. Ten new tigers at once! Needless to say, there hasn't been time to sit down since. We now have one new tiger pen complete and six more under construction.

I want to thank all the people and organizations that have provided support. Without them these tigers would have had no hope. Thank you.

— Joe Taft

p.s. Sorry this is so short, but I've got to get back to building.

## A Note of Special Thanks

success. We have added 12 acres of wooded land to the Center.

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To Forrest Products of Frankfort who sent much lumber and labor to save the tigers, thank you.

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To Wiese Catterpillar for the electric cart, a tool that will expand our capacity and make life easier, thank you.

### **Cat Tales**

Is published by The Exotic Feline Rescue Center, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt sanctuary for exotic cats. We welcome your anecdotes, photos and drawings for inclusion in *Cat Tales*.

Submit these to:

EFRC Cat Tales

c/o Ann Mester and Kathy Tongue

809 W. Daniel St.

Champaign, IL 61820

If you wish submitted items to be returned to you, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Address all other correspondence to:

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Visit the Exotic Feline Rescue Center homepage at:

[http://www.IQUEST.NET/~lord\\_julius/efrc.htm](http://www.IQUEST.NET/~lord_julius/efrc.htm)