



# Cat Tales

Volume 7

June, 1999

## JAKE

As Jake, the cougar, peers curiously out of his new wooded habitat he is unrecognizable as the frantic cougar we first met a year ago. He was brought to us from Terre Haute, Indiana. His previous owner had decided he didn't want Jake anymore and tried to starve him to death when we got the request to take him. With such an amazingly high demand we cannot take all the cats whom desperately need homes. We decided to take Jake primarily because he was blind. He is one of four cats that have come to us with cataracts. When cubs are fed inadequate diets cataracts often develop. It was estimated that Jake was about six or seven and had been blind for the majority of his life. Knowing we had the means to remove cataracts we took Jake aboard.

For about a year he was boarded in Rockville, Indiana. Last year he was moved to a better, yet still small cage at our facility. When Jake came to us, his behavior was disturbingly wild and frantic. Whenever anyone would approach the cage, Jake would bat at the air and cage in confusion and terror. In November, his new habitat was completed. At 5,000 square feet it is the biggest cougar cage we have. He has the first built in squeeze cage, a tightly confined area used for medical procedures such as vaccinations. Even in this wooded and spacious environment, his fear did not subside. After a month in this enclosure, he was taken to the University of Illinois, in Champaign, to Dr. Paul Gerding. Dr. Gerding has now performed three of the four cataract surgeries for us. Jake has been the most

successful, far more noticeable changes in his behavior than in any of the other cats that have undergone the same procedure. We are happy to have Jake with us and to see his progress as his life with restored vision continues.

We want to thank Paul Vrame, who donated the money for Jake's surgery. It is only through the help of concerned supporters like Mr. Vrame, that we are able to provide procedures like this for the animals in our care.

*Story by Katy Tyrrell*



*Jake in his new habitat*



## Since Last Time . . . .

Since our last newsletter, 1998 has come and gone and with it many new developments to the Rescue Center. We have 18 new cats with us, and with them, comes the ongoing necessity of new enclosures, improvements to old ones, and medical procedures.

### NEW ARRIVALS:

- Tigers, Bobbie Sue and Ty, from northern Indiana.
- Three cats from Texas:  
Black leopard, Sinbad  
Bobcat, Chika  
10 month old tiger, Caine
- Cougars, Achia and Leroy, have been moved from site 2 to our main facility.

### ENCLOSURES:

- Menelik, one of the five circus tigers to move earlier, decided she needed her own space, so we built an area just for her with a climbing tower and water tank.
- Cougar, Lilly, from Southern Indiana, moved into a larger space that includes a cornercrib with climbing areas.
- Tigers, Bobbie Sue and Ty, have a new 4,500 square foot area with a climbing tower and a water tank.
- Lions, Clyde and Ula, who were beginning to have trouble with their other three roommates, were moved to a new area with a climbing tower and squeeze cage all to themselves.
- Cougar, JoJo, that had been displaying anxiety, is now more at ease in his newly expanded enclosure. He is going to be the next cat to get a new permanent habitat that includes a wooded area with trees and underbrush in which to hide.
- Our first cougar, Kit, is enjoying an expanded enclosure in the front yard.
- Lions: Wedge, Rake, Gabby, Lea, Nala, and Cosmo have moved into their permanent enclosure with rolling hills and a large climbing tower that allows them a view of the entire compound.

- Tigers: Big Boy, Tuffy, Tora, Suma, and Layla moved into the area previously occupied by Rake's pride.
- Six month old tigers: Duke, Eleni, Mariah, Katerina, and Natasha are now enjoying the great outdoors in the area previously occupied by Big Boy's group.

The six new cats, three from Texas and three from the Chicago area, are all being housed in temporary areas until permanent enclosures can be built.

### MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

- Spays...  
Lions: Lea, Wedge, and Ula  
Tigers: Menelik and Goldie
- Vasectomies...  
Lions: Coco and Lester  
Tigers: Olaf and Caine
- Root Canals...  
Tiger: Princess (three teeth)
- Skin tumors...  
Tigers: Bombay (two surgeries), Moustafa, Goldie, and Mauzi

We have the need to continue our spay and neuter program as well as needing to take two more cats to have skin tumors removed. Even though the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine is very reasonable in their charges, each visit costs several hundred dollars. Anyone wishing to donate money to help with medical care may do so by contacting the center at 812-835-1130.



*Bombay ready for surgery*



## Special Thank You!!

We want to thank **EVERYONE** who has given time and money to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible.

**FOREST PRODUCTS GROUP INC.** for the lumber and other supplies donated for construction.

**EXPRESS PRINT** of Frankfort, Indiana for providing our printing needs.

**CLARK CHARITABLE TRUST** for their continued financial support.

## Volunteers Needed

We constantly need volunteers to help at the center. Individuals and groups provide the needed labor to continue operation. Some of our many needs include:

- Lawn care - We need someone to come on a regular basis to help with mowing and lawn work.
- Tours - We need people to give tours to visitors. We can train you to do this.
- Newsletter - writing stories
- Cleaning cages
- Feeding the animals
- Searching and writing grants
- Finding sources for materials

### DIRECTIONS:

#### FROM I-70:

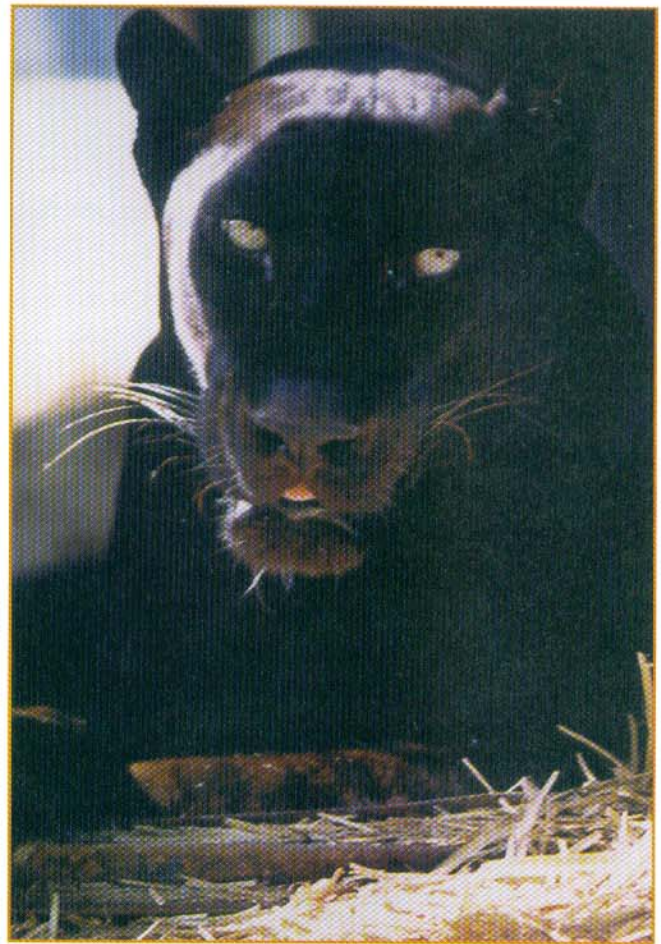
4 1/2 miles south of I-70 Exit 23, Brazil/Linton on State Road 59 and 2 1/2 miles east of State Road 59. (Turn left at the Ashboro Methodist Church.)

#### FROM BLOOMINGTON:

Take State Road 46 west through Spencer, three miles past Bowling Green. Turn right onto 200 E. Then turn right onto Ashboro Road.

## SPECIAL NEED FOR CHICKEN

Even though most of our food is provided by farmers in the area and road kill deer, there is still a need for about 4,000 pounds of chicken every month. We currently have a good price for chicken, but it still costs several hundred dollars monthly. If you would like to help provide this service for the center on a regular basis, please contact Joe.



*Photo of Sinbad, the new black leopard from Texas.*

### Come Visit Us

Visitors and Volunteers Always Welcome  
Open Tuesday through Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.