

Cat Tales

Volume 8

December, 1999

BOOMER AND DONNER

Two of our most recent arrivals are Boomer and Donner, cougar cubs who are now fourteen months old. As many of you know, these cubs were born in Montana, where they were captured by Fish and Game Officer, Kevin Fry, following their mother's death. Fry hoped and planned to release the cubs back into the wild, but when his plan proved unworkable, Fry began looking for a good home for them in captivity.

As soon as we heard about these homeless cougar cubs, we built temporary housing for them and sent two volunteers, Martha Bean and Debbie Butler, to northern Wyoming to pick up the cubs and bring them back to Indiana. Thanks to generous donations from many of you, Boomer and Donner will move into an enclosure designed especially for them: it will be spacious, secure, and perhaps most importantly for them...secluded.

Because these sibling cubs were born in the wild, they are most comfortable and relaxed when people are at a distance and they have only each other for company. In spite of their shyness, Boomer and Donner seem to be adapting well to their new surroundings. They eat well and are growing quickly. We have no doubt that once their new habitat is ready, they will settle in and be comfortable in their new permanent home.



Boomer and Donner in Wyoming ready for their journey to Indiana.



Kevin Fry, Fish & Game Officer & Harry Whitney whose hounds helped track & rescue the orphaned cubs.

Reduced Winter Hours: Jan. - Feb., Wednesday - Sunday 12:00 - 5:00pm

Since Last Time

NEW ARRIVALS:

Since June seven new cougars have arrived:

- Murphy
- Monica, Ben and Granny
- Charlie
- Boomer and Donner

ENCLOSURES:

Three new permanent areas have been constructed since June.

First, Monica, Ben and Granny moved into a 7,000 square foot permanent enclosure. It was built in a wooded area with a lot of trees and bushes in which to hide and play.

Prince and Princess, two former circus tigers got a new home with climbing tower and swimming tank away from close contact with other cats. They are much happier with more space and privacy.

Big Boy's group of young tigers recently moved into their new enclosure. It is about 15,000 square feet, constructed on rolling hills, including a climbing tower and swimming tank. With their former area empty we were able to again play musical cages and improve the quality of life for several other cats.

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:

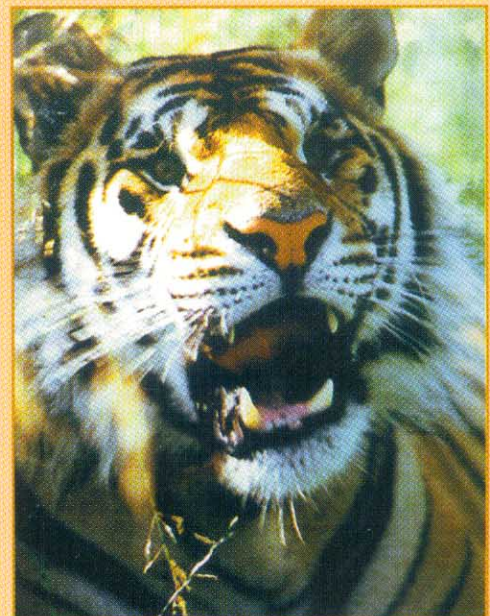
- Moving gravel, poles and other material into areas for construction
- Sign Painters
- Cleaning cages
- Food preparation and feeding the cats
- Give tours to visitors
- Finding sources for materials
- Newsletter - writing stories

If you plan to work, please come prepared:

- Work clothes
- Gloves (work and rubber)
- Bottled Water

SPECIAL PROFILE

B.C. (Blind Cat) is a 450 pound tiger who was born on July 3, 1990. He came to us when he was just six months old, crippled, blinded by cataracts, and with most of his baby teeth rotted. His owner had used him and his partner Molly in photo booths and housed them in the back of a Volkswagen van not caring for their health needs. His sight has since been restored through surgery and his strength and mobility greatly improved through the use of proper diet and exercise allowing B.C. to become a beautiful animal. He now shares his enclosure with Molly and a spotted leopard named Kiki. B.C. and Molly were the first cats to be rescued and they began the effort behind the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.



Charlie

Charlie's glowing eyes are a reminder of what years of neglect can inflict upon an innocent cat. He was found at a home in Jennings County sleeping in a bare rusted metal barrel, and grass was growing in his water with inches of mud in the bottom. Charlie's face was scarred, he was terrified of people, and his owner didn't even know he was blind.

He was in such poor health that when taken to the University of Illinois Veterinary school they felt they could not anesthetize him for a complete evaluation without undue risk to his life. They could tell us that nothing could be done for his sight, that he has damage to his throat from a choke chain, and that he has severe nutritional deficiencies. So, Charlie came to the rescue center to be fed, cared for, and made comfortable for the rest of his life.

Since his arrival in July Charlie has surprised all of us. He has eaten well, gained weight, developed play behavior, and he enjoys the company of our regular staff and volunteers.

Last week we again took Charlie to the U of I for medical care. He had stopped eating and drinking causing concern. This time anesthesia was no problem. Nutritionally, Charlie is in much better health. His blood work was normal, his collar was removed, and with a course of antibiotics he is better than ever. He likes being hand fed little pieces of beef even if they do contain medicine.

Come Visit Us

Visitors and Volunteers Always Welcome

Open Tuesday through Sunday

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Reduced Winter Hours:

Jan. - Feb.. 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

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 building supplies.

EXPRESS PRINT of Frankfort, Indiana for providing our printing needs, including our 2000 Calendars.

All of you who have given extra donations to help Boomer and Donner.



Photo of Charlie

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.