

Exotic Feline Rescue Center

Cat Tales

Volume 18

501 (c) 3 ORGANIZATION

Winter 2004

THE CENTER AT 13

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center has been able to accomplish many things in the past year to improve the quality of life for our nearly 170 residents. From the expansion of new habitat area, the improvement of existing enclosures, maintaining first-rate veterinary care and taking in new exotic felines when possible, the staff has had many reasons to smile and the cats, much to enjoy. What makes this all possible is the generosity that so many of you have demonstrated in the past year! Thank you for choosing to support these wonderful cats.

As most of you know, our residents come to us from a variety of backgrounds and from points all across the country. Without exception the one thing they all have in common is that they are in a better situation today than they were when we found them. Most every big cat comes to us from a lifelong trail of exploitation, abuse and malnutrition at the hands of humans. Every day we are reminded of just how loving and social these cats are when we see them playing in groups, sunning in the tall grass or tigers chuffing as they walk the fence line, hoping for a little affection. It is in these moments that we truly understand how rewarding and important this place has become.

If you have been able to visit with us recently, you have been able to witness what we describe on a first-hand basis. We know we are making a difference for these lovable cats and a great deal of our success is directly made possible by your gifts. Without your financial support, time spent volunteering, and word-of-mouth advertising we would not be the place we are today. We would like to do more as we have many great ideas, but seldom does an opportunity come along that does not require additional resources.

Did you know that for every exotic feline we rescue, we have to turn down approximately 40 more? While the EFRC owns approximately 110 acres of land, only about one fourth of it has been developed due to the cost of providing enclosed habitats. With every big cat we rescue, there are also veterinary, travel, and dietary expenses that are difficult to absorb on our limited budget. We thank you for your past support and all that it has made possible. We hope that you will respond favorably when thinking of us in the future and consider making the best gift possible. We know you receive many appeals throughout the year for a variety of causes and hope that you choose to support the EFRC and our wonderful big cats.



Aerial view of main facility taken by Mead Sargent

THE CHALLENGES OF AN AGING POPULATION

Zavata, one of many
(Zavata's history can be found on our website under featured felines. She is also in Summer 2000 newsletter.)

At 21 Zavata is one of the oldest animals here. Recent health problems have highlighted the need to address geriatric problems. Many of the cats living at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center are aging. In Zavata's case she developed great difficulty moving up and down on her climbing tower and box. An initial exam led to no firm conclusions and she was started on antibiotics. When she did not respond to that treatment she was immobilized for further testing. It was determined that she was suffering from arthritis. Appropriate medication was started and adaptations to her habitat were made. Stairs were built to help her get to the top of her box. Intermediate platforms were built to aid her mobility on her climbing tower. Within a week she was beginning to show signs of improvement.

The changes made in Zavata's habitat are the first of many adaptations that will be needed to accommodate our aging population.

MIRAGE

Our newest arrival

Out to enjoy the night life on the Las Vegas strip, Mirage, an African Servals time was cut short when apprehended by animal control officers. Thought to be an escaped pet no one came forward to claim him. We were offered an opportunity to provide a home when Dr. Leslie offered funding to build a habitat after hearing reports that the animal may be euthanized. We submitted appropriate credentials and were chosen by Clark County officials to bring him to Indiana. Mead Sargent, one of our supporters and volunteers, flew to Las Vegas to bring him back.

As this goes to press his enclosure is only a few days from completion.

CAGE COMPLETION

Cage completion improves the lives of 24 cats

The Munchkin cage was completed and the move was made shortly after our last news letter went out. It was a wonderful sight to see them running and enjoying their larger space.

With that enclosure finished and the Munchkins moved we were able to make improvements on their old cage and move Schmar's group of 8 tigers into the Munchkins old cage, giving them more space while they wait for their permanent enclosure. Then the 9 tigers that had been living near the front gate were moved to a larger area vacated by Schmar's group.



Photo of Munchkin new cage

FALL FEST

Fall Fest was a great success despite the rain early in the day. The weather cooperated and the rain stopped at 2:00 allowing tours to be done without the need for umbrellas. The food was served in the clinic area then the bonfire was started in the field. Thank you, Kathy and Jennifer, for planning another successful event. Food for the fall fest was donated by Baeslers grocery, Sams Club and employees and volunteers.

TWILIGHT TOURS

Plans are being made for twilight tours during the Holiday Season. Watch our website and listen to Crossroads Communications radio stations in Terre Haute for more information.

DIRECTIONS

FROM I-70:

41/2 miles south of I-70, exit 23 (Brazil/Linton) on State Road 59. Turn left at the Ashboro Church and go 21/2 miles east on Ashboro Road.

FROM BLOOMINGTON:

Take State Road 46 west about 35 miles. Three miles past Bowling Green turn right onto 200 E. Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Ashboro Road.

LANKY THE LYNX

Lanky the Lynx was one of a number of cats involved in a federal seizure. There was no history on him. He appeared old, ill, and neurologically impaired. He was in a wire cage on concrete with no water and no shade protecting him from the June sun. We weren't sure he would survive the day. Our keepers, who spotted his distress, provided him with temporary shade and water until we could load him in his transport cage and head for home.

Once here he had a complete medical evaluation. While blood work was rather good, determining the cause and extent of his neurological problems was not possible. Two abscessed molars were removed. Weighing only 18 pounds, fluid and proper food became paramount. He was quarantined near the clinic so that we could monitor his health very closely.

As we were building his permanent enclosure we couldn't help but wonder if we were wasting time and effort. Even if he survived would he be able to jump to the elevated platforms and enjoy the large tree stumps provided in his new home?

It was very rewarding to watch Lanky gain weight and get stronger. It was equally rewarding to watch him explore his new area including the top of his climbing platform. He wasted no time utilizing all of his space.

With winter approaching he has gained weight and developed a thick lighter colored winter coat. While not on public display he has become one of the favorites with our overnight guests.



Photo of Lanky

We want to assure all of our supporters that we do not share our mailing list including sponsorship and membership information with any other organizations.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who has given time, materials, and money to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible. Our existence is dependent upon your continued financial support. Please Help!

SPECIAL THANK YOU

CROSSROADS



CHARITIES

David Snapp for arranging donations for equipment and supplies from Union Hospital including a 15 passenger van that will be converted into an animal transport van.

Jeanne Carr, who initially arranged for the anesthesia machine, for her ongoing effort to procure medical equipment for the clinic.

Doctor David Nibel for arranging two very successful steak dinners to benefit the EFRC.

Bill Spangler and Linda Claybo for donating the golf cart.

Carrie Kanehl for managing the booth at the Gift and Hobby Show in Indianapolis.

QUEST QUARTERS

Come stay at the EFRC. Guest quarters accommodate 2 adults. No children and no pets are allowed. Watch tigers, a leopard and a cougar from your window. Call for more information and reservations.



Photo of Guest Quarters and Cats

2221 E. Ashboro Road
Center Point, IN 47840

Lion - Jasmine

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

Is a 501 (C) 3 Not-For-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

*We wish all of you a
wonderful holiday
season and
Happy New Year!*

CAT TALES

Cat Tales, is published by the
Exotic Feline Rescue Center,
a nonprofit sanctuary
for exotic cats.

EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER

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Visit our website:
www.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org

WISH LIST

Straw
Ladders
Winch
Golf Carts
Wheelbarrows
Radios
Backhoe
Fire Extinguisher
Scaffolds
Plywood
Copy Machine
Postage Stamps
*Please call before donating
any of these items.*

COME VISIT US

Visitors Always Welcome
OPEN:
Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
CLOSED MONDAYS

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