



A 501(c)3 Organization

CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

DECEMBER 2009

Ten Tigers Arrive at the EFRC From Traveling Animal Show



EFRC staff loads one of the tigers for transport



The new home of Lincoln, Kennedy and Killer

Ten tigers from a traveling animal show, three of whom were involved in the 2003 death of a young woman in Oklahoma, were rescued in early November. The animal show was closed by federal authorities after the “extraordinarily hungry” tigers, who had not been fed for four days, “ripped off and carried away her arm” in a “feeding like frenzy” when they reached through an 8” opening in the cage according to a USDA document. (USDA document: http://www.usda.gov/da/oaljdecisions/070322_AWA_04-A032.pdf)

After weeks of preparation, two EFRC staff members set off for Oklahoma accompanying a leased semi truck. Arriving in Oklahoma they found 10 hungry and thin tigers living in 9’ x 14’ cages in a barn. Again the animals appeared to have not been fed for several days. They were loaded without incident and began their 14-hour journey to their new home at the EFRC.

Housed temporarily in the meat processing building, they have been continually fed and they are all gaining weight. Mickey, the white tiger, is cross eyed and may face other medical challenges and Temple has obvious difficulties walking and

maintaining his balance. These animals will require medical attention as their conditions stabilize.

These 10 tigers comprise three social groups and two single, non-compatible individuals. Of the five permanent cages needed two of those are complete while a third and fourth are under construction. While construction is not complete and there are many upcoming expenses we know this rescue will cost many tens of thousands of dollars.

We had originally agreed to take 11 tigers, however one of them mysteriously disappeared or “died” suddenly, before we arrived. Their former owner gave them up voluntarily after losing all of his federal permits, facing opposition from local law enforcement and neighbors and being evicted from the property.

**SEE MORE PHOTOS OF THE
OKLAHOMA RESCUE
ON PAGE 5!**

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Research Group Has Successful Fall Semester at the EFRC

As the cold-weather months approach, a research project being conducted by the University Of Illinois College Of Veterinary Medicine has gone on hiatus until the spring. The researchers plan to complete the project by late spring of 2010. To date, over 30 tigers have participated in the study which includes evaluation of different methods of sedation and immobilization, ophthalmic exams, dental exams, routine blood work, general physical exams and vaccinations.

Thanks to the veterinarians and the veterinary students working in the study, the health status of many of the tigers has been determined and in a few cases, such as the tiger named Sampson III, significant dental disease has been identified so that future corrective dental work can be performed. We found cataracts in both eyes which will also require surgery. As this project moves forward, the researchers are confident that the data collected from this project will help other veterinarians around the world provide improved care for tigers.

Dr. Stuart Clark-Price, an anesthesiologist from Illinois stated "So far this has been a wonderful opportunity for us to learn from these magnificent cats. All of us at the University offer our sincere thanks to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center for allowing us to come in and perform this project. We can't wait to get started again in the spring!"

www.exoticfelinecenter.org

Sampson III

According to an article in the Chicago Tribune, Sampson III's first owner purchased him in the parking lot of a Steak-n-Shake for \$300. When that owner, Jim Hall, was unable to take care of him because of an illness, Sampson III was placed at Wesa-A-Geh-Ya Animal Park.

We agreed to take Sampson after a mauling resulting in the amputation of a volunteer's leg prompted authorities to close that facility. With a long and troubling history including lying to authorities, violations of the Animal Welfare Act, fines and probation they were asked to surrender their USDA license leaving 49 animals without a home. Sampson and another tiger, Conan, were the last ones to leave.

A major goal at the EFRC is to provide our cats with high-quality medical care ensuring them long, happy and pain-free lives. Many of the cats that come to our center have already endured great suffering, and unfortunately, some come to us in need of care for serious conditions. A common medical problem is severe dental disease and the most effective way to eliminate pain, chronic infection, and other difficulties in these cats is to provide root canal procedures. Sampson III needs root canal procedures for all four

canine teeth. We will need to transport Sampson III to the U of I for these procedures to be done by Dr. Sandy Manfra Marretta and staff. This part of his care will cost at least \$6,000 including transportation and staff costs. When he is recovered from these procedures we will need to schedule him for bilateral cataract surgery. We have had 21 cats arrive here needing cataract surgery. To date everyone has had successful surgeries except Sampson. We do not have a cost for this procedure but it will be done at U of I by Dr. Ralph Hamor and the ophthalmology staff.



Sampson III

Pumpkin Party 2009 Draws a Record 400+ Attendees !



On Saturday, November 7, over 400 visitors came to the EFRC's annual Pumpkin Party! This terrific annual event raised over \$9,000 for the EFRC and its exotic cats. Thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers for making this day so wonderful!



Every year the first Saturday after Halloween marks the date for our annual Pumpkin Party. All of our cats receive no-longer-needed Halloween pumpkins stuffed with meat treats! As you can see from these photos, Oti (tiger) played with her pumpkin, tossed it in the air and then eventually settled down to dig out her treats!

Upcoming Special Events

— 2009 —

Winter Wonderland is our last fundraiser for 2009. It will take place December 19th and 23rd at 4:00 pm. Please arrive at the front gate about 3:45. Refreshments will be served following the tour and you can browse our merchandise for those last minute gifts that you can't find anywhere else. Reservations are appreciated but not required. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

**VISIT
THE
EFRC**

— 2010 —

January 2: An educational power point presentation at Cool Creek Park and Nature Center in Carmel, Indiana - 1:00 pm.

January 23: Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction at the Robert Irsay Pavilion, Carmel, Indiana - 3:00 pm

March 6: Maggiano's Little Italy, Indianapolis Indiana. Cooking class benefitting the EFRC.

Check our website for more details!

18 New Cats Call the EFRC Home in 2009: Total Population at 205!

Every year the EFRC receives more requests to accept exotic felines than it can possibly meet. The year 2009 was no exception. Through a careful management of resources and a commitment to measured expansion, the EFRC was able to welcome 18 new cats this year. Thank you for your gifts and commitment to the EFRC, which played a role in every one of these cats getting a second chance for a better life.

2009 New Cats

January: Bob and Tom (tigers)

April: 5 tigers and 1 puma
(from Great Cats of Indiana)

November: 10 tigers from
Oklahoma

Veterinary Care

Veterinary care is ongoing, often several times per month. The problems range from tumors (cancerous or benign), dental problems, infections (viral and bacterial), conjunctivitis, spays, neuters and puncture wounds from rough play.

Our thanks to Clear Lake Veterinary Hospital for always being there for our cats!



Mickey, a white tiger from Oklahoma, is cross-eyed. He is awaiting a permanent habitat at the EFRC, but is now receiving a nutritionally proper diet.

The EFRC is now accepting applications for internship positions for the spring and summer of 2010. Please visit our website for more information on qualifications and how to apply!

New Habitats, Updates and Renovations

The EFRC operates in a continual mode of systematic renovation and construction of its habitat space. Occasionally groups of cats are moved into newly renovated habitats if that space will be a better fit for the group due to size or features.

Since our last newsletter, the volunteers and staff of the EFRC have constructed two new bobcat habitats and four new tiger habitats. One of the new

tiger habitats features a concrete pond and recirculating water pump—both firsts at the EFRC which represent a significant step forward in our habitat construction. We have also completed major renovations in two separate ocelot habitats.

We anticipate the majority of our construction time and resources, in the near term, to be focused on providing for the ten cats from Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Tiger Rescue Photos



Left: living conditions were concrete floors, no sunlight or grass.

Middle: One of the tigers loaded in our transport cage.

Top Right: Mickey, white tiger, being loaded into transport cage.

Bottom Right: Most of the ten tigers loaded in the semi for rescue.

MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE: WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG/GIFT

Annual Charity Auction: Saving the Big Cats - January 23, 2010



On January 23, 2010, big cat lovers will converge on the Robert Irsay Pavilion in Carmel, Indiana, for the third annual Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction.

The day will begin at 3:00 pm and feature two rings of silent auctions and a live auction of premium items. Last year's event drew over 200 attendees and raised nearly \$30,000 for the EFRC.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$20. Please visit our website for more information about the auction. We look forward to seeing you there in January!

Spend the Night!

This is the ultimate give for the cat lover in your family. With the holidays just around the corner a gift certificate for the overnight stay can be the perfect gift or treat yourself to this unique experience.

The room is available for two adults (no children or pets) for a one of a kind experience. You will get two all day passes to tour the main area as often as you like and the morning of your visit you get to go with the keepers to the

restricted areas to see the cats not on the regular tour. There are also cats in the front yard that you can watch from your window or from the picnic table in front of your room. Your room includes: a private entrance and bath, queen size bed, microwave, refrigerator, coffee pot with coffee and tea provided and direct TV.

Advance reservations are mandatory and the nightly rate is \$150.00 for two people.



Contact the EFRC to check room availability!

Who Will You Support This Winter at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center?



Make Your Gift Today.

Annual Membership Levels

Pride Membership - \$10,000

Name Bearing Plaque, 2 unlimited passes
T-shirt or hat

Lion Membership - \$5,000

2 unlimited passes, 1 overnight, T-shirt or hat

White Tiger Membership - \$2,500

12 passes, T-shirt or hat

Tiger Membership - \$1,000

10 passes, T-shirt or hat

Leopard Membership - \$500

8 passes, T-shirt or hat

Cougar Membership - \$250

6 passes, T-shirt or Hat

Lynx Membership - \$150

4 passes, T-shirt or Hat

Serval Membership - \$50

2 passes

Bobcat Membership - \$25

1 pass

EFRC 2009-10 Gift and Merchandise Form

Thank you for your support of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. Your commitment to the ongoing care of our cats will help to provide them with the best possible life.

The EFRC is a 501(c)3 organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and annual limitations. Please consult with your tax advisor.

If you are supporting the EFRC with a membership please specify the level:

_____ Membership.

If you are adopting or sponsoring a cat please note the species or the specific name of the cat you prefer: cat name: _____ ; species: _____.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

My gift to the EFRC is: \$ _____

WE DO NOT SHARE OUR MAILING OR DONOR LIST!

Adopt a Cat - \$1,500

8 x 10 color photo of your cat, certificate of adoption, 10 passes, newsletter

Sponsor a Cat - \$50

5 x 7 photo of your cat, certificate of sponsorship, 1 pass, newsletter

WE ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD FOR ONLINE ORDERS AND ANNUAL GIFTS!
WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG

Available Merchandise

SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT SIZE _____ (from child's small to XXXL) _____ @ \$22.00 _____

Cougar _____ (gray _____ cobblestone _____)

Lion _____ (brown _____ black _____) Spotted Leopard (black) _____ White Tiger (lt. blue) _____

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT \$27.00 SWEATSHIRTS \$33.00—Phone or email to check on availability of long sleeve T's and sweatshirts

Please check our website for a complete list of merchandise, including magnets and key chains featuring our cats!

HATS _____ @ \$17.00 _____

Lion (green) _____ Cougar (black) _____ Tiger (tan & black) _____

2010 CALENDAR _____ @ \$17.00 _____

Car Magnets: _____ Orange tail with tiger _____ Paw print _____ Ribbon with several cats _____ @ \$6.00 _____

BOOK MARK _____ @ \$4.00 _____

BOOK "Saving the Big Cats" The Exotic Feline Rescue Center _____ @ \$43.00 _____

DVD "The Tiger Next Door" featuring the EFRC _____ @ \$22.00 _____

Total gift and merchandise enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ email: _____

Address and Phone: _____

_____ phone: _____

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