



A 501(c)3 Organization

CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

May 2010

EFRC Rescues Eight Former Circus Cats From Cramped and Dirty Conditions

On a snowy morning in February a call came in from the USDA asking us to take 5 tigers, 3 lions and assist in the removal of two more exotic felines and the question “can you do that today?” Ten big cats in dirty, rusted old circus carts locked in a barn in northern Indiana were to be confiscated. Being one of the only organizations in the country capable of taking 10 large predators with no advance notice we headed north, crawling through a blinding snow storm at 15 mph arriving at the rendezvous point late. There we were met by a large turnout of federal and state officials and promptly escorted to the site.

Federal and state agents kept the owner at a distance as we surveyed the situation with USDA officials and our staff began unloading three truckloads of equipment. Some of the animals loaded readily. One lion required immobilization and another had to be taken in her cage, afraid of leaving the tightly confined space (about 7’ square) where she had always been kept.



Samo’s condition upon arrival

By dark all of the cats were loaded and on their way to a new and better life. The day after their arrival all of the animals were examined by Dr. Fred Froderman, our veterinarian, We then scheduled a procedure for the following morning for Princess who had two claws grown back into her pad and caused difficulty walking.

walking.

Samo, one of the male tigers, was missing large portions of his coat and had sores and lacerations on both of his legs and tail. Sanitation, antibiotics, proper diet and a large enclosure have provided Samo with a chance to recover.

The first cats to be put in permanent cages were Zeus and Thor, two male lions who were barely able to walk. After being in their enclosure for a month they ran for the first time, although not very well. All of the animals are now out in bigger enclosures.

All of these animals have made an amazing transformation and are doing well. We are often highly critical of the USDA-APHIS policies and actions concerning the welfare of big cats. This time however, we were gratified by a large and determined APHIS presence.



The confined living space of one of the tigers

Rescue Photos From Miami County Circus Cats



The interior of the facility housing these cats



One of the ingrown claws on Princess



Cages designed for transportation used as permanent homes



Zoe



The staff prepares to load a rescued tiger



Headed to the EFRC

Remember Mickey From Oklahoma?



Mickey, a white tiger, one of a group rescued from Oklahoma in November shows a remarkable transformation in a few short months (see photos at left). All of the tigers were severely underweight and some of them suffered from other medical problems.

Thanks to the generous outpouring of support from our loyal friends, within 21 days of their arrival at the EFRC all 10 of the Oklahoma cats were in permanent habitats where they will spend the rest of their lives. They are all receiving a nutritionally proper diet, clean and spacious habitats and strong activity enrichment opportunities thanks to our well-trained staff.

Stories such as Mickey's and his friends remind us all as to why we do what we do at the EFRC!

Thank You!

To Pat Moore and Continental Welding
Supply Corporation
for the design and construction of
vastly improved steel doors and slide gates
on our new enclosures!

Upcoming Special Events

EVENING ROAR

June 19 & August 14, 5:30 pm

Our most popular event for adults age 21 and older, Evening Roar begins as the EFRC closes for the day. Guests will enjoy a long tour through the grounds and facilities just as over 200 big cats start their evening roar.

Finish the tour with wine and appetizers!

Please visit our website for more details on Evening Roar—reservations are mandatory!

**VISIT
THE
EFRC**

SUMMER SAFARI

July 17, 10 am & 2 pm

A fun-filled day for the family awaits at Summer Safari 2010! With two tours to accommodate everyone. Guests will enjoy the jungle-like feeling of the EFRC as our exotic felines lay in the tall grass of summer.

A popular family event not to be missed!

Please visit our website for more details on Summer Safari!

New (and familiar) Cats, New Homes

The last several months have seen the completion, construction and renovation of many enclosures. Permanent enclosures have been constructed and occupied by all of the Oklahoma cats.

After years of construction "The Eights" new enclosure featuring our first large concrete pond was completed and the tigers moved in. Their old cage underwent extensive renovation and JB, TJ and Tank moved there from a smaller cage. That cage in turn was upgraded for Thor and Zeus (new male lions).

Tahoe and Raja Girl, tigers from northern Indiana, were moved to a larger and nicer enclosure and their old cage was substantially upgraded for Simba (another new lion).

Sampson III's first dental appointment is scheduled for June 8th. This is the first of several steps needed before cataract surgery can be performed to restore his sight (see Sampson III in Cat Tales December 2009).



Photos of new habitat for Tahoe and Raja Girl!

Thank You to our 2009 Corporate and Foundation Supporters!

The year 2009 was difficult for many non-profit organizations as most organizations were forced to operate under constricted economic conditions that reflected the general state of the economy. We would like to thank both our friends who made individual gifts to the EFRC as well as those corporations and foundations who made significant differences in our ability to care for our exotic cats!

- The Tony Stewart Foundation
- The Allerton Foundation

- MAH Foundation
- Frederick Davis Charitable Trust
- Clark Charitable Trust
- Duke Energy Foundation
- PETCO Foundation
- Wal-Mart Foundation

Thank you for your generous support in 2009 and we look forward to a rewarding relationship in 2010!

EFRC Featured on Animal Planet!

We were recently featured on Animal Planet in an abbreviated showing of *The Tiger Next Door*.

This independent documentary film portrays a sharp look and perspective into the Flat Rock, Indiana, facility which lost its USDA license and was eventually compelled by the state Department of Natural Resources to find homes for all but three of its exotic felines. The EFRC is prominently featured in the film as the primary organization asked to respond to this crisis situation in finding homes for the vacated big cats.

While the Animal Planet aired an abbreviated version of *The Tiger Next Door*, the full-length documentary film version is available for sale in DVD format through our website.



Welcome Dakota: New Lynx!



The new year was ushered in by the arrival of a new cat. Dakota is a 10 year old Lynx, a former privately owned pet. She was brought to the EFRC voluntarily by her previous owners on New Years day.

WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG

Annual Charity Auction Enjoys a Record Year!

Max enjoying his favorite perch!



On January 23, 2010, big cat lovers from all around the country came to the Robert Irsay Pavilion in Carmel, Indiana for a terrific day celebrating the work of the EFRC. With over 300 attendees this year our silent and live auctions raised in excess of \$30,000 for our big cats!

Thank you to all who attended and for our hardworking and dedicated Auction Committee, led this year by Velda Boenitz. We appreciate all that you and all that the committee members do for the EFRC every day and every year! Thank you!

Spend the Night!

This is the ultimate gift for the cat lover in your family. With the arrival of spring and summer being just around the corner our overnight guest experience will fill up quickly with reservations! Don't miss out on this truly unique opportunity!

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 a television.

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



Contact the EFRC to check room availability!

Who Will You Support This Summer at the EFRC?



Please 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 2010 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: _____.

My gift to the EFRC is: \$ _____

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 Lion (green) _____ Cougar (black) _____ Tiger (tan & black) _____ @ \$17.00 _____

MAX HOODIE SWEATSHIRT (orange & gray) _____ @ \$38.00 _____

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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