

SEPTEMBER 2018 EFRC NEWS

THE EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER



Giving Big Cats a Second Chance

[Visit the EFRC Website](#)

Events

FALL FEST is scheduled for October 6 at 4:00 pm. Guests will enjoy seeing cats that are not on the public tour along with a bonfire where one can roast a hotdog and/or marshmallows. Children will also have games to play as they wait their turn to roast hotdogs. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under.

[Fall Fest Details](#)



Public Tour Cats

Seminole, male tiger, arrived from Ohio in 2007 along with his sister, Santasia. Although Santasia has passed away, folks can still visit with Seminole. If he is up moving around, he will come to the fence to speak to our guests. His expectation is that our visitors stop and listen. Keepers report that Seminole can have a bad attitude but that is not believed by all EFRC staff. When you meet him, let the tour guide know what you think. Is he sweet or does he have a bad attitude?



Off tour Cats

Pauli Ann, female puma, has resided at the rescue center for many years. Her story is one of careless thought. She was given to a lady as a Christmas present. Fortunately, the woman realized she could not provide a home for Pauli Ann. Pauli Ann now lives with Brumby, black leopard, up near the overnight room. Overnight guests can observe Pauli Ann instructing Brumby on what he needs to be doing.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

PHIL in his own words: "In spring 2002 I was feeling down and didn't have anything going on. On a whim I drove to Indiana to see the tigers. I'd visited EFRC a time or two before but it hadn't made much an impression, but this time I really wished I could spend more time with the cats. I talked to Jean (EFRC assistant director) about how I'd like to volunteer but it's so far away (**it's an hour and 40 minutes, more or less, each way**) that I didn't think I could be there enough to be much help. Jean said that even a couple of hours would be a big help, so I said I'd come back the next Saturday. This was when we carried meat to the animals and waste away in wheelbarrows, no utility vehicles, so I was pushing wheelbarrows. I never felt comfortable being responsible for the safety of a group of strangers (I still don't), so I just became a guy who helps with feeding and cleaning.



A lot of people come to visit and say they're excited and want to volunteer; most of them don't show up more than a couple of times. I kept coming out reliably, week after week, and I started getting up earlier on my Saturday mornings to be there longer. (I am very much not a morning person so this is a real measure of commitment.) At some point, whoever was in charge told me that they usually have more volunteers Saturdays than Sundays so it became my routine to come out on Sundays.

During my first summer volunteering, Rajah in Mau's group on the far west (aka Raja Baby) was about a year old. He adopted me as his human and whenever I would come around he would lie against the fence to see me.

I have lots of special memories but one that I particularly like to relate is one winter, before we got heated water buckets, everything was frozen. I had broken up the ice in Sophie's (female tiger) water tank with a pick ax. She clearly knew there was water under the ice and was eager to get to it when I opened her slide gate. She slowed down and chuffed at me as she hurried over to the tank to drink. I swear she was saying thank you."



Rajah up close.

We cannot thank Phil enough for all of his service to the rescue center. We have many volunteers behind the scenes that come no matter the weather or no matter how far they have to travel. If you ever have the chance to meet Phil, please thank him for his service but we bet he will be working so hard he won't have time to say hi.



