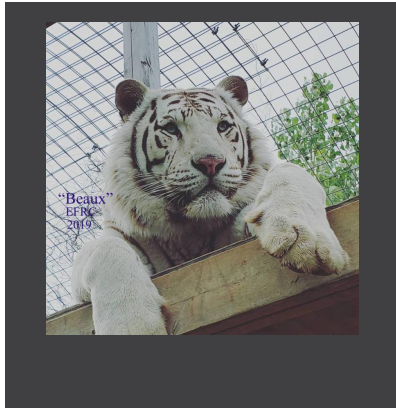


2019 EFRC NEWS

THE EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER

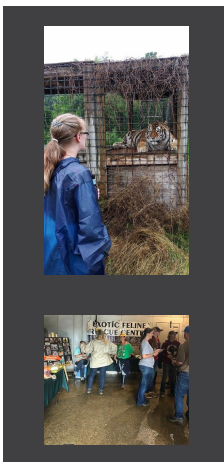


Giving Big Cats a Second Chance



Beaux

Beaux can be seen on the main tour and can often be seen playing with his barrel and swimming in his water tank. Watch Beaux climb and jump on his oversized tower. He came from a preacher in Virginia who was taking care of unwanted circus tigers. This youngster is very friendly and will most likely come up to say hi.



Evening Roar

The first Evening Roar of the summer was a hit even though the weather tried to dampen guests' spirits. Food and drinks were offered inside since the event started with showers. Luckily the weather held back for just enough time to see the cats enjoying a break in the rain. The second Evening Roar of the year is on September 7th. Click the link below to view more details and to sign up for this exciting kid free event.

[Evening Roar](#)

Featured Volunteer: Jason Heimbaugh

I was driving home one Saturday and in my local grocery store parking lot there were a bunch of kids selling burgers and hotdogs with a banner saying "Exotic Feline Rescue Center." I had never heard of it, went home, and found the website. It looked cool and I drove over the very next Saturday. I fell in love with the cats so I came back several more times and realized I needed to volunteer to do what I could for the rescue center (which ended up being almost every different type of task we have here giving my time and money, and serving on the board of directors).



The very first tour I ever did on my own had a bunch of kids wearing Camargo 4-H t-shirts. Camargo is the town immediately south of where I live in Illinois, but I didn't know if there is a Camargo, Indiana nearby. Before I could ask I heard the parents talking about how these kids had raised \$790 for the rescue center. So I asked if they had that fundraiser in the Villa Grove IGA parking lot; "Yes." "You are the exact reason why I am here today." The same kids that let me know the EFRC existed were the first tour I ever gave here.

I've been here almost every Saturday for over nine years now. What keeps me coming back every week is not our cats (that's a benefit of course) but our keepers. I've been incredibly lucky my entire life to keep

running into impressive teams in many different areas, but the hardest working group I've worked with are our keepers. Anything I can do to help them do the job they do (and they do that through the heat of August and the cold of February and every other day of the year) I will.

My most memorable experience with the center is attending the Great Cats of Indiana rescue. The owner voluntarily gave up the tigers Cesar and Sasha and the cougar Cheyenne; the two small cats both walked right into our transport cages and were easily loaded onto the truck. Cesar refused to move. He just sat in the middle of his enclosure so we put some food in the transport cage and walked away. Having nothing to do, I walked around the farm and into the barn. As soon as I walked in a cougar called out to me and started purring. I didn't even have to introduce myself slowly to him, he picked me. It looked like his enclosure hadn't been cleaned for a year or so—he was standing on about three inches of his own waste, his fur was all matted and and clumped, and he had no tail. He was desperate for attention, so I spent about 15 minutes with him before having to go back to work. He started crying as soon as I turned to walk away, and while that broke my heart, I had to keep going.

Six months later the Indiana DNR did a surprise inspection and revoked his license. They confiscated the remaining seven cats (including Raja Boy). Raja Boy looked rough (see photo below from the day of the rescue). The next day Rebecca, our head keeper, asked me if I could take the day off work and come over as she was short a couple of keepers. We had to do surgery on Raja Boy who had a lump in his abdomen. I showed up and she asked if I could help our vet, Dr. Fred Froderman, with whatever he needed during Raja Boy's surgery. Turns out Raja Boy did not have a tumor, which was good. He wasn't being fed at his former place, so he started eating straw which he couldn't digest and compacted in his stomach. Dr. Fred cleaned him out, sewed him up, and we transferred him into a transport cage to recover. I found out later Rebecca had lied to me about being short staffed—they feared the lump was a spleen tumor and if it was that large there really would not be anything we could do for him. Since he chose me, he was my boy, she wanted me to be there with him if that was the case. Raja Boy enjoyed several more healthy years living at EFRC.

Raja Boy before and after pictures



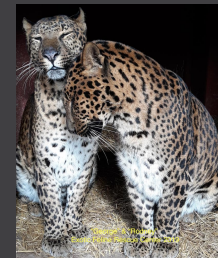
Camp Roar

The first of three Camp Roars for the summer started with a bang! Children enjoyed performing a big cat rescue simulation, enrichment creations, and learning about behavior and big cat husbandry. Click the link below to view future summer Camp Roar events and further details.

[Camp Roar](#)

Volunteer Orientation

Have you always had an interest in big cats? Well here's your chance to make a difference in their lives! Become an EFRC volunteer by attending orientation. We are always looking for help giving tours to educate guests about our wonderful cats!



[Volunteer Orientation](#)

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