

Cat Tales

Volume 9

July, 2000

TIGGER

Tigger the tiger arrived at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center December 28, 1999 when she was approximately seven months old. She had been rescued from a taxidermist in Missouri by a man who wanted only to save her life. Other concerned people affiliated with the University of Missouri and the Humane Society of Columbia, Missouri helped raise funds for Tigger and looked for a good home. Tigger's first stop on her way from Missouri to Indiana was the University of Illinois Veterinary School where she was found to have several health problems that needed to be addressed, including cataracts caused by poor nutrition and a draining abscess caused by a badly infected tooth. As soon as possible following her arrival, two of her teeth were extracted (baby teeth that have been replaced by permanent teeth). Because the drugs used in post surgical care for cataract surgery are immune suppressant she had to be fully recovered from the infection in her mouth before cataract surgery could be performed. This occurred on June 13, when Dr. Gerding from the University of Illinois Veterinary School performed surgery on Tigger's right eye. For 4 weeks she spent her time recuperating in an enclosure next to her friends: a larger space shared by Tres, Hannah, Bro and the newer tiger Alex. Tigger's recovery period is over and she has been reunited with her friends.

We plan to begin construction on their permanent enclosure within a few weeks. It will be one of our larger areas including several thousand square feet, a climbing tower, and water tanks for swimming

Story by Linda Sneed

ALEXANDER

Alexander (Alex for short) the tiger is the newest arrival to the center. Alex came to us on June 11, 2000 a mere two days after a call came from Louisville, Kentucky announcing that a tiger needed a home or he would be euthanized in a matter of hours. According to Joe Taft, EFRC director, Alex is "the most mistreated animal who's ever come to the center". Alex arrived with a swollen head and draining abscesses from severe and extensive dental infections. A veterinarian in Louisville had ground the points off all four of Alex's baby canine teeth exposing the pulp resulting in infection, decay, and pain. By the time Alex reached the Center, all four of his canines were so infected that it took Dr. Manfra of the University of Illinois Veterinary School more than four hours of surgery on June 15 to extract them. Now, Alex lives with Tres, Hannah, Bro and Tigger. His full integration into this group will take some time but his playfulness and even temper bode well for his new life here at the center.

Story by Linda Sneed



Alexander ready for surgery.

Photo by Rikki Eul.

Since Last Time

NEW ARRIVALS:

Since December five new cats have arrived:

- Tigger (tiger) - December 28, 1999
- Peshia (cougar) - March 29, 2000
- Jafar (tiger) April 6, 2000
- Sable (cougar) April 27, 2000
- Alexander (tiger) June 11, 2000

MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

- Neuter...
Tigers: Trace and Duke
- Spay...
Lion: Gabby
- Dental Surgery...
Tigers:
 Tigger - two canine teeth extracted
 Alexander - four canine teeth extracted
- Cataract Surgery
Tigger - right eye

ENCLOSURES:

- CHARLIE, the blind cougar, was moved into his permanent area when Caine (tiger) was introduced to a group of five tigers (Duke's group). This allows him room to play yet it is small enough that he feels comfortable.
- LEROY (cougar) moved into his newly rebuilt 2,500 square foot area. He enjoys playing with his neighbor Luke (cougar) through the fence and socializing with our visitors.
- We have expanded SAMPSON, SHEBA, and SKYLER'S (cougars) area. They are all more active with the extra room and enjoy their new box for napping.
- BOOMER AND DONNER, cougars born in Montana whose mother was killed by hunters, have moved into their permanent habitat. Thanks to all of you who have made donations for these special cougars, they now have over 6,000 square feet of densely vegetated habitat. This includes trees, tall grass and underbrush in which to hide and a climbing tower where they can view the surrounding area.

ZAVATA

Seventeen year old Zavata, eight of her adult children, and Kashka arrived at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center on September 7, 1997. They had been circus performers for the past several years, living in 40" x 90" cages when not in the ring. Zavata had four broken canine teeth requiring two trips to the University of Illinois for four root canals to correct her dental problems.

Adjusting to a large area and learning to share her enclosure with two of her children proved to be very stressful for Zavata. As a result she was moved to a more private area in the front yard where she learned to enjoy space and thrived on the attention.

With her continued progress, Zavata was moved into her permanent habitat in March of this year. Her new area is about 7,500 square feet of wooded habitat including two swimming tanks and a climbing tower that gives her a view from the top of the trees. She immediately seemed to love her new area.

Zavata's new habitat is dedicated to the memory of Ronna Adrian.



Zavata on her climbing tower.

Photo by Jean Herrberg

Special Thank You

We want to thank everyone who has given time, money, and materials to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible.

CLARK CHARITABLE TRUST for their continued financial support.

EXPRESS PRINT of Frankfort, Indiana for providing our printing needs.

FOREST PRODUCTS GROUP INC. of Frankfort, Indiana for the lumber and other construction supplies.

LEHIGH PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY and Ryan Enlow for the cement .

MAJESTIC BLOCK COMPANY INC. and Allen Tutewiler for the cement blocks.

ADMISSION FEE INCREASE

With the arrival of Alex the number of cats we are caring for hit 89 with enclosures stretching over ten acres and growing. For everyone's safety we require anyone with a child to be accompanied by one of our staff members. As a result of our growth and the need for more staff members to care for the animals beginning August 15 we will be increasing our admission fees.

Adults	\$8.00
Children under 12	\$5.00

DIRECTIONS:

FROM I-70:

4 1/2 miles south of I-70 Exit 23, Brazil/Linton on State Road 59 and 2 1/2 miles east of State Road 59. (Turn left at the Ashboro Methodist Church.)

FROM BLOOMINGTON:

Take State Road 46 west through Spencer, three miles past Bowling Green. Turn right onto 200 E. Then turn right onto Ashboro Road.

IN MEMORANDUM

Ronna Adrian. Ronna, an avid cat lover, dedicated many years of her life to rescuing ocelots and other small exotic felines. Zavata (tiger) is now living in her new habitat because of the generous donation from her family.

Pauline Marie Forbes. Pauline cared for people and animals until reoccurring cancer took her life at the age of 74. Duke's group of six young tigers will also benefit from Pauline's love. They will soon move into their new permanent area as the result of a generous donation from her estate.



Boomer in his new enclosure.

Photo by Rikki Eul.