

Cat Tales

Volume 12

December 2001

King

(ANOTHER UNWANTED PET)

On July 22, 2001 King, a fourteen month old African lion, was housed in a small kennel in a barn surrounded by horses, dogs and a bear. He had been declawed and received very little attention or exercise. The owner stated the lion had a 7 p.m. deadline before her brother was to come shoot him and take him to the taxidermist. She claimed not to have enough money to feed him.

The cry to save King came from a good samaritan named Wendy who took it upon herself to feed him, borrow a horse trailer for temporary housing, and search for an experienced, legal, and qualified home.

After hearing about King we talked to Wendy and agreed to give him a permanent home. She left Mora, Minnesota at 12:30 p.m. and pulled into our driveway at 2:15 a.m. on July 24, it was a long drive with few stops. King did great on the drive and arrived safely. As we were unloading him later that day we found him to be an extremely friendly lion needing a good diet and a lot of attention.

Within a few days after taking King we found out about a lioness in Idaho who also needed a home. Since a new enclosure was being constructed for King we agreed to take Jasmine hoping they would like each other and become companions. On August 9 Jasmine arrived. The two were housed next to each other to get acquainted. Within a few days they were moved into their permanent habitat including numerous trees and a climbing tower.



King in his new enclosure.



Come visit one of our newest arrivals, India, a 21/2 year old white tiger from Kansas. India arrived September 28 along with Nona, a 10 year old tiger.

Since Last Time . . .

NEW LAND:

In the spring we received two generous donations and were able to purchase the 81.4 acres across the road from our existing facility. This property offers long-term security to the center. It provides plenty of area for wonderful habitats and a privacy barrier for the cats.

REQUEST FOR HOMES:

The request for homes for exotic felines comes from all over the United States. While we turn down far more than we accept, since June we have provided a home for eight new cats, built enclosures, and provided veterinary care.

NEW ARRIVALS:

Casey (tiger) 7/3/01 New Mexico
King (lion) 7/24/01 Minnesota
Tika (bobcat) 8/3/01 Indiana
Jasmine (lion) 8/9/01 Idaho
Nona (tiger) 9/28/01 Kansas
India (white tiger) 9/28/01 Kansas
Venus (tiger) 10/1/01 Indiana
Abby (tiger) 10/21/01 Pennsylvania

ENCLOSURES:

Three new permanent habitats have been constructed since June.

- First, Murphy (cougar) was moved into a spacious area with climbing tower, trees and underbrush. He is located near the path for our visitors and enjoys contact with people.
- King and Jasmine (lions) moved into a beautifully wooded area including climbing tower.
- Casey & the girls (Nyla, Jody and Cuddles) -tigers. Moving this group of young tigers into their permanent enclosure was very rewarding. They have rolling hills, climbing tower, large water tank for swimming and a lot of room to run and play.

MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

Medical care includes ongoing attention and medication for parasite control, infections, and vaccinations. While we don't list the many "little problems" we encounter on a regular basis we do list the more serious medical problems and surgeries.

Suma (tiger) neuter and dental surgery
Raja Boy (tiger) vasectomy
Venus (tiger) spay



Casey & Nyla in their new enclosure.

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 on to Ashboro Road.

WE WANT TO ASSURE ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS THAT WE DO NOT SHARE OUR MAILING LIST INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION WITH ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Tika

TWO TUFTS AND A RUFF. . . (or the Hiss and Spit of a New “Friend”)

by Tammy Davis

Just when you think you’ve had or seen it all at Hardy Lake’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, something new and challenging sneaks up on you - literally - an eighteen-month-old bobcat.

Tika (that’s her name) was someone’s “pet” in northern Indiana. The family said they researched bobcats for two years before deciding to buy one. When they felt they knew all they needed to know, they paid several hundred dollars for a 12-week-old kitten from a breeder in Wisconsin. After receiving their new little bundle of joy, they had her spayed and declawed and kept her in their house.

As fate would have it, her story did not end happily ever after. The husband began having health problems. So, they sold their farm and moved to a house in town. Apparently all of their research had not revealed that all big cats spray and scent mark their territory. Their new home was Tika’s new territory to be marked! As the house began to reek of bobcat urine the husband demanded that Tika find a new home.

We agreed to take the cat on a trial basis and see if we could calm her down enough to use for programming. It was agreed that if we could not find a way to use this animal, it would be transferred to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center who already houses a cougar and African lioness transferred from our center.

Although Tika was very friendly to the family who owned her, she is not quick to warm up to strangers. So, I have been hissed at, spat at, and swatted with her incredibly powerful front paws. What a feeling! I never truly appreciated the beauty, grace, and power of them until now. What a feeling to stand face-to-face with an animal like Tika. Although she was captive-born and raised, you can see and feel the wildness in her eyes and in every move she makes. There is an instinct there to be reckoned with...something that will never be bred out!

After several months of working with Tika it

was decided to take her to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center where she can just be Tika without any expectations to please the human population.



Tika

SPECIAL THANK YOU

We want to thank all of you who responded to our plea for money.

As we stated in our letter purchasing the land was wonderful but left us with a need to fund enclosures. We have completed two areas and have a good start on the third area that was desperately needed. We will continue to build as long as the weather cooperates and the money lasts.

We also want to thank our board members and volunteers who went the extra mile to help since late June when Joe had his heart attack and 5-artery by-pass surgery. The cats didn’t miss a meal although construction was drastically slowed for several weeks.

We sincerely appreciate all of you for your support to help provide for these deserving cats. Without your help providing for them would not be possible.

*We Wish All Of You
a Wonderful Holiday Season
and a
Happy New Year.*