

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center
2221 E. Ashboro Road
Center Point, IN 47840



Ocelot:Paris

*The Exotic Feline
Rescue Center*

The EFRC is a **501 (C) 3** Organization that was founded in 1991 dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. Our **MISSION** is to provide permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused abandoned, or for some reason have nowhere to live out their lives, while educating the public about these beautiful cats.

The EFRC:

- Neither buys nor sells cats
- Gives animals a home for life
- Provides stable social groups
- Provides enhanced environments
- Provides the best veterinary care

CAT TALES

Cat Tales, is published by the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, a nonprofit sanctuary for exotic cats.

EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER

2221 E. Ashboro Road
Center Point, IN 47840
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Visit our website:
www.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org

WISH LIST

- Straw
- Golf Cart
- Gator
- Ladders
- Cement
- Gravel
- Plywood
- Lumber
- Telephone Poles
- Postage Scale
- Lap Top Computer
- (for power point presentations)
- Colored paper 20 or 24 wt.
- 18 gal. Rubbermaid tubs

COME VISIT US

Visitors Always Welcome
OPEN:
Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
CLOSED MONDAYS

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Exotic Feline Rescue Center
Cat Tales

Volume 21 501 (c) 3 ORGANIZATION Summer 2006

OPERATION SNOWPLOW

In the late 1990's federal agents infiltrated a criminal organization which transported lions, tigers and other big cats to Chicago where they were shot in their cages, skinned and their meat sold through a Chicago area butcher store. After a lengthily undercover investigation known as Operation Snowplow a number of people were arrested and convicted on a wide variety of criminal charges resulting in federal prison time ranging up to 5 years and fines of up to \$125,000.00 for the man who ran Czimers, a meat market that distributed the carcass. Czimers meats was subsequently burned to the ground.

During the course of the federal investigation several animals were rescued by US Fish and Wildlife Service from slaughter. After all of the prosecutions were completed we were asked to provide a life long home for the 10 surviving animals. We have received a grant from USF & W that covers about 25% of the money needed to construct, house and care for the 10 cats.

By mid December the first enclosure was ready. Picking up the first cat provided us with a glimpse of the problems we would have moving the remaining nine. The second trip, moving the next four, was fairly easy and straight forward. The last five was to be a tremendous challenge.

Five large adult males in a one acre wooded enclosure with no shift cage, no perimeter fence and four of the five being non approachable. They would all have to be darted from a great distance and all five would have to be down at the same time. Then they would have to be carried to the truck by hand, possibly great distances.

By the end of March we had assembled a team of 15 people. We arrived at the site early in the morning. The first cat was darted at 7:20 local time, by 11:30 all five tigers were immobilized, vaccinated, treated for parasites, crated and loaded in the truck.

After a several hour drive they were unloaded and taken to their new enclosure. This new area is twice as big as any of our other habitats. It has a large pond, woods, grass lands, and a large shift cage with a two level box and a climbing tower. Because these animals have never had human interaction, they are not approachable, not manageable and are difficult to care for. Providing livelong care for these five tigers is one of the biggest challenges we have ever accepted.



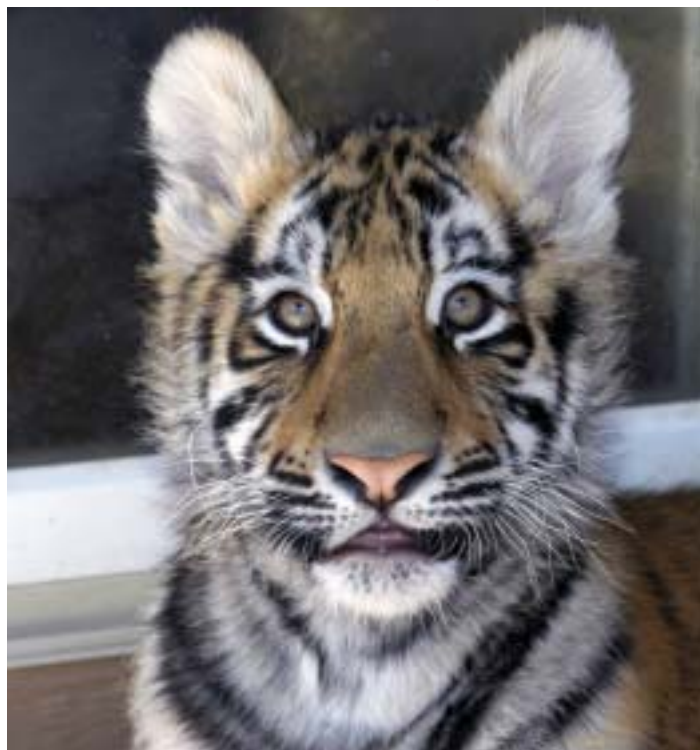
Unloading the first of the Wild Bunch

Educational Opportunities

Check our website for more information:

- Fieldtrips
- Internships
- Slide presentation for classroom or adult groups

Max The Tiger



Max

Max was the last cat to come from Flatrock. (See Volume 20 Newsletter) He was five weeks old when he arrived and weighed only 7 pounds. As he grew and his eyesight developed it was apparent to us that something was wrong. Feline cataracts are a problem we are well acquainted with having had several corrective procedures successfully performed by Dr. Gerding, a veterinary ophthalmologist, previously with the University of Illinois. Because of his expertise we wanted him to evaluate Max's eyes. We were able to locate Dr. Gerding now with Eyecare for Animals in Chicago. Arrangements were made and Max was taken on the 5 hour drive for his evaluation. While the examination did show some cataract impairment it is not bad enough for surgery at this time. Future exams will be needed to monitor the progression of the disease.

GUEST QUARTERS

Come stay at the EFRC. Guest quarters accommodate 2 adults. No children and no pets are allowed. Watch MAX the tiger, a leopard and a cougar from your window. See other cats that are not on the regular tour. Have access to the grounds during times normally closed to the general public.

Want more information? Call: 812-835-1130 NEW CONSTRUCTION

Work continues on our new area. It is located across the road and is only open to the public on special occasions. It houses not only our newer animals but some of our more aggressive cats. Jagger, a tiger who had killed his trainer, was one of the first cats to be moved to the new area. This area also houses several of the cats from Flatrock and Tell City (see winter 2005 newsletter), the Operation Snowplow cats and the nine tigers previously housed in the front yard.

Like the 5 wild tigers the 9 have a very large area including a pond, two shift cages, and a two story box and climbing tower. They are frequently seen playing or lounging in their pond.

We still need a well in that area. We currently have to transport needed water by hand. We also hope to make progress in moving our food preparation area from the main entrance. We are in need of a walk in refrigerator and freezer to complete this move.



Rose: one of the nine tigers previously in the front yard.

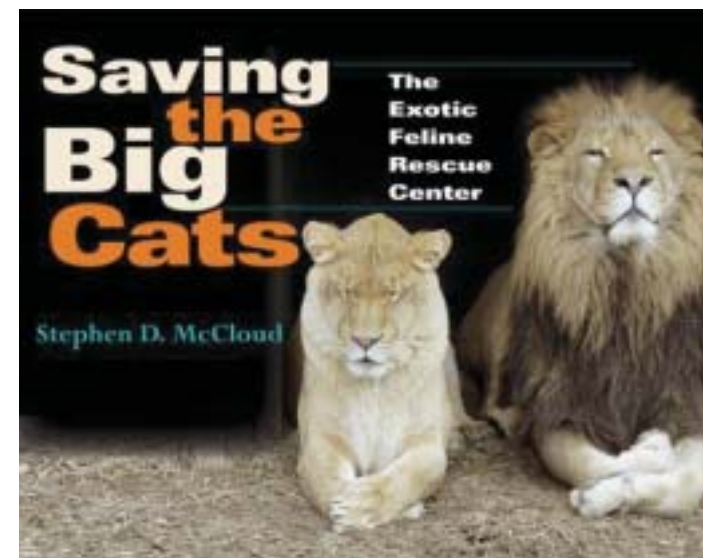
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We want to assure all of our supporters that we do not share our mailing list including sponsorship and membership information with any other organization.
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EFRC BOOK Saving the Big Cats: The Exotic Feline Rescue Center By Stephen McCloud

This exciting book of over 100 color photographs of your favorite exotic felines at EFRC is published by Indiana University Press and is now available. The beautiful photographs are accompanied by facts and anecdotal material written by Stephen McCloud, volunteer photographer for the Center, and all of the photographs in the book are in a stunning large landscape hardcover format.

The book is available for purchase at EFRC. A portion of the proceeds from each book sold will benefit EFRC.

Thank you Stephen for publishing this beautiful book!



THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who has given time, materials, and money to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible. Our existence is dependent upon your continued financial support.

A special thank you to our 15 staff and volunteers, the US Fish and Wildlife agents and state and county law enforcement officers for their help in safely and successfully moving the Wild Bunch.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch our website for details on the following special events that will occur throughout 2006.

MAY 13 – Run Through the Jungle

JUNE 24 – Evening Roar (adults only)

JULY 22 & 23 - Summer Safari

AUGUST 19 – Evening Roar (adults only)

SEPTEMBER –

OCTOBER

- October 7 - EFRC Membership Meeting
- October 21 – Fall Fest

NOVEMBER 4 – Pumpkin Party for the Cats

DECEMBER 16,22,23,30 – Winter Wonderland



DIRECTIONS

FROM I-70:

4.5 miles south of I-70, exit 23 (Brazil/Linton) on State Road 59. Turn left at the Ashboro Church and go 2.5 miles east on Ashboro Road.

FROM BLOOMINGTON:

Take State Road 46 west about 35 miles. Three miles past Bowling Green turn right onto 200 E. Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Ashboro Road.