



A 501(c)3 Organization

CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

JULY 2011

Three Weeks, Three Rescues

This spring has been busy at the EFRC, in 2011 we have taken in 14 cats from various situations. May was a particularly busy month with three rescues in three weeks.

The first week of May found us at the Indiana-Michigan border to take three tigers from the old Fun Spot Amusement Park. Fun Spot had housed 11 cats when the park was closed nearly three years ago. We agreed to take all 11 of those cats and, in May, we made our second trip to take three tigers, two brothers and a father, that Fun Spot had rescued from the former circus performer, Julius Van Uhl. In February 2010 we had removed 10 big cats from the Van Uhl barn in a federal seizure (see May 2010 newsletter).

The second week of May we were on the road again, traveling to Pennsylvania. In need of a new home were a white tiger and a black leopard (Blackie) taken from Lorenzo Pearson in a federal seizure in 2004 and a cougar (Munchie) coming from a federal seizure in Pennsylvania (see newsletter December 2000). These cats had been housed by a veterinarian in an animal rescue similar to ours. Because of personal health issues he was no longer able to maintain all of the animals in his care and he called us to provide a permanent home for his cats.



Blackie

The third week of May, driving a big truck through the storm that leveled Joplin, Missouri, we met with federal authorities in far western Missouri to take a tiger just confiscated by the USDA. With open sores on all of his feet, Charlie could not put weight on his left front or left rear feet. Weighing a mere 250 pounds Charlie also had lesions in his mouth and gums. We are happy to say the transition from concrete to grass has improved all of Charlie's feet. While the left front remains tender, he walks and stands on all four of his feet and with a minimal amount of dental work his mouth appears fine.



Munchie



Charlie

PEIVDF Cares for the Dental Needs of Our Cats



We have a large and aging population of 230 big cats coming mostly from abusive and neglectful backgrounds. Our most difficult medical challenge is dental in terms of the magnitude of our cats that require care, the particular expertise required and the cost associated with most treatments. Until now, many non-life threatening issues such as broken teeth, have gone untreated until they became visually symptomatic (i.e. facial swelling, draining tract, etc...).

Earlier this spring, our efforts in providing a high-level of dental care to our exotic felines was substantially bolstered thanks to the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation (think "Veterinary Dentists Without Borders"). This is a team of veterinary dentists with the experience and dedication to help animals from all over the world who are in need of dental care. They provide their services free of charge to nonprofit sanctuaries and other nonprofit organizations with limited income. A team of 11 veterinarians and two veterinary technicians arrived on Saturday morning March 26th and after organizing their massive supplies began to work on our first two cats; Brumby, a black leopard and Goldie, an 18 year old former circus tiger. While Brumby's broken canine was an "easy root canal", Goldie and all of the other cats each required several hours of treatment.

The first day ended at 7:00 pm with four cats (1 leopard, 1 puma and 2 tigers) being treated. Day two began with the plan of working on four cats but due to the extent of treatment required they had to stop after the first two tigers. These animals tend to mask symptoms and often it is difficult to tell when they are not feeling well. But, there is no mistaking when they feel better and these cats do. The team from PEIVDF currently plans to return in October to continue their good work.

The PEIVDF doctors with the assistance of a team of veterinarians from the University of Illinois, headed by Dr. Clark-Price, who provided the anesthesia including the large animal machines, were able to treat six cats while at the EFRC. From these procedures, a total of 13 root canals therapies, 16 extractions, two biopsies of gum tissue and one tumor were performed over the weekend.

The EFRC, its staff and Board are grateful for this rare and generous opportunity provided by the PEIVDF.



Brumby, a black leopard, benefitted from a root canal thanks to the PEIVDF.

The EFRC thanks the PEIVDF team of veterinary doctors, their support staff, Dr. Clark-Price, the anesthesiology department of the University of Illinois and our own veterinarian, Dr. Fred Froderman, DVM.

Steven Holmstrom, DVM, DAVDC

Clarence Sitzman, DVM DAVDC

Edward R. Eisner, DVM, DAVDC

Barron Hall, DVM, DAVDC, FAVD

Matt Lemmons, DVM

Curt Ritchie, DVM

Deborah Hodesson, DVM

John F. Huff, DVM DAVDC, FAVD

Brian Hewitt, DVM

Robert M. Baratt, DVM, FAVD

Sandy Manfra-Marretta, DVM, DAVCS, DAVDC

Kathy Pershing, CVT

Trudy Howerter, CVT



Tobette

Our newest Canada Lynx, Tobette, weighs approximately 25 pounds and like all lynx, has very distinctive elongated, curved ears with black tufts of fur. Reclusive by nature, Canada Lynx have large, padded feet adapted for walking on snow. Historically, this specie of cat has roamed from Alaska, across Canada and into the Northern United States.

Gary, Indiana “Roy Boy” Rescue Update

In our November 2010 edition of *Cat Tales* we chronicled the harrowing rescue of four tigers from a tattoo parlor located in Gary, Indiana.

Two of these rescued tigers are white, Storm and Pearl. Storm was reportedly once owned by Mike Tyson. Pearl is 13 years old and had a part of his tail bitten off by another tiger when he was younger.

We are pleased to report that all four cats are now in their permanent habitats and, as this spring photo demonstrates, are very much enjoying their new lives at the EFRC.



Storm and Pearl

2011 Special Events

July 30, 2011....Upland Brewery: Lions & Tigers & Beers (Bloomington, IN)

August 13, 2011....Evening Roar II (adults only)

September 17, 2011.....Fall Fest

September 18, 2011.....EFRC Rescue Ride

November 5, 2011.....Pumpkin Party

We have not set a date for Winter Wonderland 2011 and we hope to be adding other fundraisers. Watch our website for more information.

Fun Spot Amusement Park Rescue Photos (from P1 story)



Cash on the way to his new home



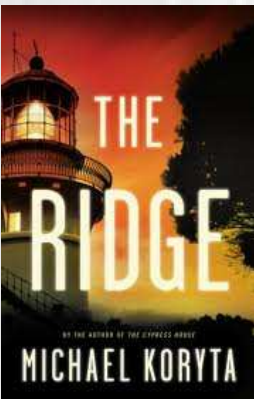
Father and son in their new home

Author Michael Koryta Draws Inspiration at the EFRC for *THE RIDGE*

Michael Koryta (pronounced ko-ree-ta) has written eight novels, praised by such authors as Stephen King, Dean Koontz, Michael Connelly and Dennis Lehane, and his most recent novel, *THE RIDGE*, was called "A freshly imagined and elegantly constructed variation on the dead-of-night ghost story," by the New York Times and "a chilling supernatural thriller by a rising literary star," by the Wall Street Journal. In addition to winning the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, his novel *ENVY THE NIGHT* was selected as a Reader's Digest condensed book. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages. A former private investigator and newspaper reporter, Koryta graduated from Indiana University with a degree in criminal justice. He currently lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Bloomington, Indiana.

My first encounter with the EFRC came as most do – I'd heard about the place, was curious to check it out, and went to take the tour. As is often the case with visitors, I found one tour was not enough. The EFRC quickly became a destination for me when I had out-of-town guests. Forget showing them the Indiana University campus or Lake Monroe near my Bloomington home, I wanted them to meet King and Big Boy and Kiki. At that point I'd published a few novels, and I began to think about using a preserve like the EFRC as the setting for a new book. The problem was that I write thrillers – detective novels, ghost stories, suspense and the like – and I didn't know how receptive Joe Taft would be to allowing me to set my twisted and disturbed imagination to work around his rescue center.

The answer, I learned quickly, was that Joe was very receptive. In fact, Joe might have a more twisted and disturbed mind than my own – as he gave me a tour of the incineration area for the inedible portions from the 3,500 pounds of freshly butchered meat the cats consume daily, he mentioned that he'd always thought his preserve would be a great place to hide a dead body. I knew right then that this guy and I were going to get along fine.



The novel that came out of this, *THE RIDGE*, generated a consistent question among people with my publisher: how did I come up with the idea for this amazing big cat rescue center in the rural woods? I had to admit that I didn't come up with anything; the real deal was out there, doing amazing work. My publicist was so fascinated with the rescue center that she came out from New York to visit this winter – wearing perfume. It is my understanding that she holds the all-time record for sprayings during a tour. Every time I mention the center to her, though, all she says is that she wants to go back. I suspect her dry cleaner would support this wholeheartedly.

I've been privileged to have a chance to go along on a rescue with Joe, the dynamic duo of staff members Rebecca Rizzo and Jennifer Hall, and three wonderful volunteers. It's one thing to hear or read about the rescue efforts, but another to see one in action. Watching Tango, Cash and Buddy arrive in their new home was a truly special experience. One of the volunteers, Larry Lewis, made the best observation of the day as he watched Tango roam the beautiful new enclosure and said, "That's the longest he's ever walked in a straight line in his life."

If you have any interest in suspense novels, I hope you'll have a chance to read *THE RIDGE*, and I'm deeply grateful to Joe and the rest of the staff for their help. If I got anything right, the credit is theirs. For the many things I surely got wrong, the blame is mine. I think *THE RIDGE* will keep you guessing and entertained, but I'm more certain of this: No fictional story can touch the real one that the EFRC is writing daily.

Michael Koryta

Volunteers Making a Big Difference at the EFRC!



Three teams of volunteers from Duke Energy visited the EFRC over three days during Duke's Global Service Event where employees volunteer time for organizations in the communities where they live and work. Duke's volunteers worked on new habitat construction and helped the EFRC staff with the daily tasks that go into effectively running the EFRC. We are grateful for Duke Energy's continued involvement with and support of the EFRC. We look forward to their continued support of our mission.

Appalachian State University "Alternative Spring Break" Comes to the EFRC



2008 was the first year we welcomed a group of eager students from Appalachian State University for their co-curricular program, Alternative Spring Break. Coming to the EFRC from Boone, North Carolina, the EFRC once again welcomed a terrific and genuinely excited group of students this spring.

The Appalachian State team spent the week hard at work by helping with habitats, assisting the staff and doing a lot of "dirty work". While many of their fellow students no doubt spent spring break in the sun, these great students truly made a difference at the EFRC!

Thank you to Chuck and Kathy Lennox who graciously provided housing for these great students.



King

In 2001, at the age of 14 months, King (lion) came to the EFRC from Minnesota. His owner could no longer afford to feed him and had arranged for him to be killed and mounted before a good-Samaritan neighbor intervened and called the EFRC. Hours from death, he was rescued and has had a great 10 years at the EFRC, even unexpectedly fathering a daughter, Lauren, with his habitat mate Jasmine.

A Legacy: The Benefits of Charitable Planning Through Your Estate

In a typical year in the United States, up to 70% of the people who pass away do so intestate (without a will). This means that all of your assets, from your home to your investments, will be distributed according to the laws of the state in which you reside. In addition to losing control of determining your own legacy, your estate may face avoidable tax liabilities.

In addition to taking care of family, friends and loved ones, your estate planning process can also benefit

charitable organizations that you believe in supporting. The EFRC has been fortunate through the years in that many of our friends have planned well and remembered the EFRC in their wills.

By remembering the EFRC through your will, you can establish a legacy of generosity for our big cats.

Your qualified estate planning attorney can provide you with the guidance that is best for your own situation. Many assets, such as IRA ac-

counts, 401(k)s and other tax-deferred instruments, are a smart choice for charitable planned gifts, since if left to heirs they may face a high-tax burden.

If you are thinking of a charitable gift for the EFRC through your estate plan and have any questions, please contact Jason Petrovich, EFRC Board of Directors. He can be reached at jpetrovich@depauw.edu. Thank you for thinking of the EFRC in this way and for all that all your generosity can make possible!

www.exoticfelinesrescuecenter.org/gift



Stay the night at the EFRC! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to spend the evening among lions, tigers and seven other exotic cat species!

The room includes touring the center both days of your stay and accompanying the keepers to restricted areas not open to the general public. The room has a private entrance, bathroom with shower and tub, queen size bed, microwave, refrigerator, satellite television and a coffee pot with coffee and tea provided.

The cost of this special adventure is \$150 for two adults (no children or pets allowed) per evening and advance reservations are required.



Annual Membership Levels

Pride Membership - \$10,000

Name Bearing Plaque, 2 unlimited passes
T-shirt or hat

Lion Membership - \$5,000

2 unlimited passes, 1 overnight, T-shirt or hat

White Tiger Membership - \$2,500

12 passes, T-shirt or hat

Tiger Membership - \$1,000

10 passes, T-shirt or hat

Leopard Membership - \$500

8 passes, T-shirt or hat

Cougar Membership - \$250

6 passes, T-shirt or Hat

Lynx Membership - \$150

4 passes, T-shirt or Hat

Serval Membership - \$50

2 passes

Bobcat Membership - \$25

1 pass

EFRC 2011-12 Gift and Merchandise Form

Thank you for your support of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. Your commitment to the ongoing care of our cats will help to provide them with the best possible life.

The EFRC is a 501c(3) organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and annual limitations. Please consult with your tax advisor.

If you are supporting the EFRC with a membership please specify the level:

_____ Membership.

If you are adopting or sponsoring a cat please note the species or the specific name of the cat you prefer: cat name: _____ ; species: _____.

My gift to the EFRC is: \$ _____

Adopt a Cat - \$1,500

8 x 10 color photo of your cat,
certificate of adoption, 10 passes,
newsletter

Sponsor a Cat - \$50

5 x 7 photo of your cat, certificate
of sponsorship, 1 pass, newsletter

**WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER FOR
ONLINE ORDERS AND ANNUAL GIFTS!
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Available Merchandise

SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT SIZE _____ (from child's small to XXXL) _____ @ \$22.00 _____

Tiger (gray _____ orange _____)

Lion (black) _____ Spotted Leopard (black) _____ White Tiger (lt. blue) _____

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT \$27.00 SWEATSHIRTS \$33.00 — Hoodie sweatshirts are available in Tiger (gray or orange) and in the spotted leopard (black)

Please check our website for a complete list of merchandise, including magnets and key chains featuring our cats! @ \$27 _____ @ \$33 _____

Tank Tops, Bobcat (green _____ burgundy _____ granite _____) Size Adult S—XL _____ @ \$25.00 _____

HATS _____ @ \$17.00 _____

Lion (green) _____ Cougar (black) _____ Tiger (tan & black) _____ White tiger (denim) _____ Paw Print (Orange) _____ Gold (black leopard) _____

2012 CALENDAR (2012 Calendar available September 1) _____ @ \$17.00 _____

Car Magnets: _____ Orange tail with tiger _____ Paw print _____ Ribbon with several cats _____ @ \$6.00 _____

NEW BOOK *Real Stories of Big Cat Rescues*: The Exotic Feline Rescue Center _____ @ \$23.00 _____

Book *Saving The Big Cats*: The Exotic Feline Rescue Center _____ @ \$43.00 _____

Total gift and merchandise enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

_____ phone: _____

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center
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