



A 501(c)3 Organization

CAT TALES



The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

DECEMBER 2011

Texas Rescue Highlights a Busy 2011

The rescue miles continue to add up in 2011, with a 2,100-mile trip made to rescue four lions from a rural Texas location in July. Lily, Kitty, Lola, and d'Artagnan are now settled into new homes at the EFRC and doing well after the lengthy journey. The lions were joined by a number of cougars, loaded and transported by the EFRC team for a rescue center in New Jersey. It wasn't an ideal time to visit Texas – the heat indexes were well over 100 both there and back at the EFRC during the week of the rescue. To handle the trip and temperatures with maximum safety and minimal stress to the cats, a refrigerated semi truck was used, and the cats enjoyed a cool, comfortable ride during their multi-state journey. A long road trip always requires a snack, of course, and we turned some heads in an Arkansas Walmart with a substantial purchase of raw chicken, prompting the cashier to suggest that we were going to have one impressive barbecue. Not a bad idea, but the lions and cougars seemed content to dine without sauce.



d'Artagnan surveys his new home at the EFRC earlier this fall

All four lions are doing well in their new homes, although they did require extensive veterinary attention due to prior neglect. Both Lola and d'Artagnan (for those of you wondering, his name has its origins in "The Three Musketeers," though we aren't certain why and he has yet to volunteer the information) were taken to the University of Illinois for treatments, and both spent some time at our on-site clinic, as well. They are now settled into their new homes, doing well, and d'Artagnan, at an estimated age of 22 at the time of the rescue, is already among the oldest cats at the EFRC. He's much happier now that the team at the University of Illinois removed a badly infected tooth.

Although the Texas trip was the longest of the summer's rescues, it wasn't alone – multiple trips were made to Monticello and Angola, Indiana, and we've welcomed an assortment of tigers, leopards, and lions from those locations to new enclosures at the center, some of them featuring poured-concrete ponds that were quite popular with the cats in the summer heat. The leopards have a brand-new enclosure, as well, with additional climbing platforms and far more room to move than they've ever seen in the past, and they seem to be enjoying the results of that long construction process. In early fall, the Angola cats were featured when the EFRC was profiled in Parade Magazine, and the Texas contingent was referenced on national radio courtesy of NPR's Morning Edition show. The fame does not appear to have gone to their heads. Yet.

Charlie Couldn't Walk in May—See This White Tiger Jump Today!



Texas Rescue Veterinary Care



d'Artgnan's decayed tooth

It was apparent that Lola, one of the girls, had very bad teeth and an injured shoulder. The second week here we took her to the University of Illinois for dental work and an evaluation of her shoulder. Dr. Manfra-Marietta performed root canals on two of her canines leaving two others for the return of PEIVDF in October (see pg.4). d'Artgnan, the male, loved his new enclosure and while he never climbed on anything he loved his ball and hiding in the tall grass. After being here a month he suddenly became depressed and would not eat. We immobilized him, brought him into the clinic, did a through exam including his teeth and blood chemistry, but we found nothing. Over the next few days his condition worsened and we were considering his condition hopeless when a noticeable symptom occurred. The swelling in his face indicated a dental problem although earlier examinations had shown nothing.

We called the University of Illinois and scheduled an appointment for the first available date. During that time the swelling in his head and face had increased rapidly. At the U of I the visual exam of his teeth looked normal, the x-rays were questionable and the CAT scan indicated a problem with an upper canine tooth. At his advanced age and general poor condition it was questionable that he could survive the procedure. He survived and after six weeks of intense care in our clinic he began to recover. He was returned to his enclosure and is steadily gaining weight.

A Happy Ending for Our Angola Rescue Cats

During the summer we finished up the “Fun Spot cats”, from Angola, Indiana. In mid-July we made our third trip to Angola bringing back two lions (Katie and Leo). Their arrival was preceded by weeks of construction in building their large, new habitat. While Katie and Leo had never lived together they had lived next to each other all of their lives. Their new habitat was composed of two individual enclosures and a large common area, as we hoped to be able to put them together.

Upon their introduction to their new home they appeared delighted at the surroundings and to be together, as they followed each other around and lay together in the tall grass. We planned a return trip to Angola shortly thereafter for the remainder of the Fun Spot cats. Unfortunately, our plan was interrupted by the news of 20 stranded big cats in Texas. Three days after our return from Angola we headed for Texas again (see pg. 1).

With the Texas cats finally settled in we were able to devote full time to construction of three new habitats for the last Angola cats. In early October, a full year after committing to take these cats, we were finally ready. Magic, the male leopard, is a very aggressive animal, and we knew both of the leopards we were rescuing would have to be immobilized. The tiger, however, was friendly and ready to come on his own. During the move he was examined by our veterinarian and blood tests showed he had low thyroid function. He was immediately started on medication and is doing quite well today. He will continue to have routine check ups to insure his good health.

The final three cats from Angola are settling in their new home and are doing quite well.

Small Cats at a Big Place

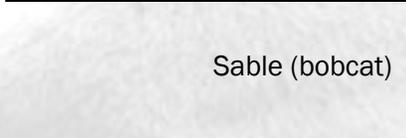
When people think of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center they think almost exclusively of lions and tigers, but we have nine species of cats, with five of those being small cats! This year we have taken in three bobcats, two lynx and one serval. While small, these wild cats require much of the same specialized care as their bigger cousins.

Temperamentally the little cats are more difficult to care for and often take longer to adjust to their new habitat. These were all pets whose owners were not prepared for the many challenges involved in caring for a wild predator.

The next time you are at the EFRC, we hope you note and pay special attention to these “little guys” who people often mistakenly think are suitable for their home!



Cleo (serval)



Sable (bobcat)



Vinniebob (bobcat)



Veterinary Dental Care Continues



We have stated many times that one of our most difficult and constant challenges remains providing quality dental care for our cats. In March 2011 a team of veterinary doctors from the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation was joined by a team of anesthesiologists from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and our own Dr. Fred Froderman, DVM, as they spent two days providing high-level dental care for our cats (see July 2011 Cat Tales). In October they returned for two additional days, performing procedures on seven different cats (4 tigers, 2 lions and a puma) during this follow up visit. Thank you to these terrific organizations who continue to make a difference for us!



Increased Veterinary Care

One of the defining aspects of the EFRC is the level of veterinary care we provide for our exotic felines. It begins with preventative care through diet, exercise, socialization with other cats and routine vaccinations. This has resulted in a largely healthy population of over 230 cats, including many who were in poor to dire condition upon arrival at the EFRC. We are proud of our lengthy track record of big cat rehabilitation, which leads to our having an aging population of cats.

This past year we have found it necessary to not only have our veterinarian on call but to have him on site two days a month for non-emergency veterinary care and monitoring. Much like people, when cats age they require an increased level of care. We will eventually need to expand the onsite visits to weekly. We

anticipate this need, and others, to continue to rise. We project an additional \$20,000 annually to be needed to meet the routine and emergency care needs of our cats going forward.

We Need Cedar Chips!

Yes, that's right—we need cedar chips! Why you ask? With the colder winter months coming to central Indiana our cats will depend upon the warmth of their den boxes and, in most cases, straw.

However, many of our cats are allergic to straw and it cannot be used in their habitats. Cedar chips, while more expensive, are the best answer.

The next time you are at your local hardware store or pet store, pickup a bag or two of cedar chips and throw them in your car when you come to the EFRC! Thank you for this simple act of kindness.

Pumpkin Party 2011: Our Biggest Yet!



Sometimes one pumpkin just isn't enough



Face-first looking for that treat



It was an exhausting day for guests and cats alike



Our tigers put on a great show

Every year, the first Saturday after Halloween, the EFRC hosts its annual Pumpkin Party. This year's event was our most successful to date, with over 500 guests in attendance! It was a beautiful day and our cats were thrilled to receive their meat-filled pumpkins, putting on quite a show in the process. Thank you to all who helped!

Upcoming Special Events

- December 31, 2011: Educational Presentation, 1:00 pm (Cool Creek Nature Park, Nature Center @ 2000 E. 151st Street, Carmel, IN.)
- January 21, 2012: 5th Annual Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction, Irsay Pavilion, Carmel, IN. 3-6 pm
- April 14, 2012: Spring Fling
- May 12, 2012: 5K Walk/Run Through the Jungle
- June 16, 2012: Evening Roar I — August 11, Evening Roar II
- July 14, 2012: Summer Safari
- September 15, 2012: Fall Fest

The Holidays Are Upon Us! A Time For Giving

The leaves are down, the cold weather has arrived in Central Indiana and the snow is undoubtedly not far behind! With the 2011 tax year coming to a close in the near future we hope you remember to make a special end-of-year gift to the EFRC.

Every season, the gifts that our friends make sustain our family of big cats by providing their needed habitats, food and veterinary care. Our need is as great as our commitment to these beautiful cats is firm

and we thank you for playing a meaningful role in their new lives at the EFRC.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a courtesy envelope for your convenience. In addition to knowing your support is helping our big cats, your charitable gift will earn a tax deduction to the full extent of the law. The EFRC accepts gifts of cash (check, Visa, MasterCard & Discover), publicly traded securities and approved tangible property items. If you are age 70.5 or older you may also be

able to direct a distribution from your IRA to the EFRC, avoiding the taxes due on a required minimum distribution. Please check with your financial advisor, as situations can vary.

We know that during the holidays lives get busy with family and friends. It is our best hope that during this season of giving that you remember our big cats, the lives they left behind and all that your philanthropy makes possible for their very bright futures.

www.exoticfelinesrescuecenter.org/gift

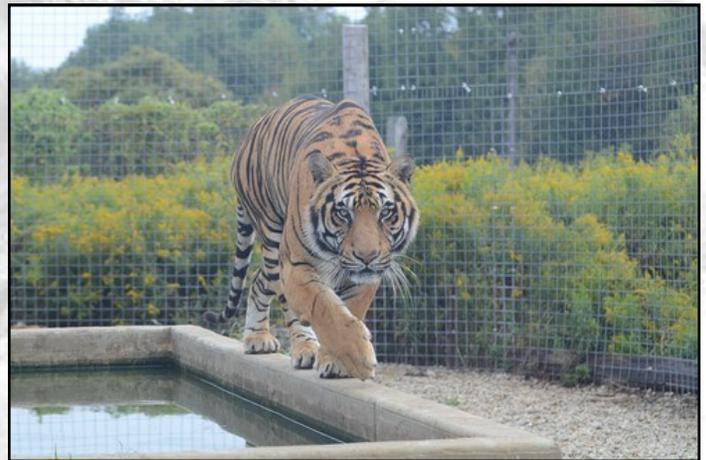


A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR YOUR CAT LOVER!

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!
WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG**

Available Merchandise

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

Tiger (gray _____ orange _____) Bobcat (green) _____

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 _____ @ \$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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