



A 501(c)3 Organization

# CAT TALES

## The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

July 2012

### Two Rescues Highlight the Spring

Late spring was busy for the EFRC as two rescues were conducted in the span of five weeks – one in eastern Kentucky and one in northern Indiana. Serandi and Singa, a pair of lions from near Lexington, Kentucky, were taken in from the Wolf Run Wildlife Refuge, which is home to a wide range of species. The big cats were becoming too much for their keepers and current situation, however, and they are now at home in Center Point, adjusting happily to their new quarters. Singa, the lioness, was originally used as a cute cub in photographs at a roadside zoo. Unfortunately, Singa continued to grow, and, like many of the cats we have rescued over the years, this proved to be a problem for her original owners. Serandi, her male companion, was neutered at a very young age and never developed his mane. The EFRC is home to both maneless male lions and lionesses with manes. Both lions are doing well and continue to enjoy one another's company.

May's rescue was more diverse – four tigers, one lion, one cougar, and one bobcat were taken in from a facility in north-central Indiana after the state's Department of Natural Resources deemed their conditions to have deteriorated to a point of serious health risk. Three of the tigers were grouped together and entered their transport cages without pause, apparently eager to head south. Assisting on this complex rescue were our own staff members and several volunteers, all supervised by Indiana Department of Natural Resources law enforcement due to the circumstances surrounding the rescue.



Porky, bobcat



Missy, lioness

Porky, the bobcat from the May trip, will be housed in the main portion of the center, and you might spot him on tours, although he tends to lay low at this point while he assesses the new situation. Raja Boy, the cougar taken from the same location, is nearby. Expect the staff to call him Jerry. Don't ask, just accept it.

We had a full load in the Penske truck between the five big cats and the cougar, but we also ran into a surprise on that rescue when two hybrid wolf dogs were discovered on the property, also without a home. Transport cages were purchased at a local farm store and the dogs were brought to the center for temporary care to avoid the possibility of euthanasia. They have now been transferred to Black Pine Animal Sanctuary who took in the rest of their pack at an earlier date, and although the staff and volunteers have already fallen in love with Nanook and Six, it is wonderful to see them reunited with their pack.

The cats rescued on this trip will see some familiar faces in Center Point – we have taken in numerous cats, on several rescues, from the facility that once housed the animals before losing first their USDA and then their state permits due to allegations of neglect.

## What Makes the EFRC So Very Special?



The field of non-profit animal welfare is wide and diverse. There are many excellent organizations across the country that meet the needs of animals who have been abused, displaced or through no fault of their own, need a place to call home. Many of these organizations are well known and many others quietly go about their work, drawing satisfaction from the impact they make in the lives of animals. The Exotic Feline Rescue Center is wholly unique as a non-profit organization working in the field of animal welfare for four primary reasons—focus, scope, accessibility and mission.

First, we rescue and work exclusively with exotic felines. There are very few organizations in the country that focus the totality of their work on rescuing and improving the lives of exotic cats. They can be challenging to work with, if for no other reason their size. The skills, experiences and precautions needed to successfully rescue and then properly care for a big cat are immense. While big cats share many feline characteristics with their housecat relatives, ease of handling is not one of them.

With 230 big cats from nine distinct species residing at the EFRC, the size of our facility is something else that distinguishes our work and speaks volumes to our professional success. We are, to the best of our knowledge, the second largest collection of exotic cats in the country. Growing rapidly since our founding in 1991, an operation of this scope requires resources, knowledge and a commitment from our staff and volunteers to the wellbeing of all our cats. We are fortunate to have plenty of commitment and knowledge, while managing our limited resources to insure all cats receive the very best in care.

Another defining aspect of the EFRC is that we are the largest exotic feline rescue facility in the country open to the public. For the general public to have the opportunity to see and learn, first-hand, about exotic cats is truly amazing. The knowledge gained by our visitors about our cats, their care and how they came to the EFRC also shines a bright light on the dark world of the black-market trade in exotic felines, which is at the root of so many of the problems our cats encounter before arriving at the EFRC.

Finally, the EFRC does not breed, buy or sell cats, as stated in our mission. Many of our cats have had difficult lives, including malnutrition, abuse, neglect and for-profit exploitation, such as photo booth operations. When our cats come to the EFRC, they come to the last and best home they will ever know. They receive a nutritionally proper diet, veterinary examinations and medicines, if needed, and enjoy ample grass-filled space within their habitats. Breeding and selling is not a part of the solution, as these actions only further serve to exploit the cats we have promised to protect, as well as exacerbate the problem of an overpopulation of exotic cats in private ownership.

As we stated at the beginning, there are many excellent animal welfare organizations in the country that meet the needs of all types of animals. The EFRC occupies a very narrow space in this landscape due to our focus of working exclusively with exotic cats. That by definition requires a very special skill set and very special people, whether they are staff, volunteers or donors. We are proud to be a national leader in what we do and hope you share in this feeling that is our reward for doing the right thing, 230 times over.



## Four Special Events Highlight Winter/Spring Activities

Since the calendar turned to 2012, our amazing group of dedicated volunteers, staff and friends of the EFRC have been busy in planning and executing great, well-attended special events.

In January, the annual Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction, located in Carmel, Indiana, was a sold-out affair that again exceeded our expectations. Thank you to all who planned and executed this extraordinary day for the EFRC! With warmer weather came April's Spring Fling, a terrific family-friendly event held at the EFRC. We literally ran into May with our largest turnout ever for our annual 5K Run Through the Jungle. Thank you to the Wabash Valley Road Runners for making this Indiana's most unique 5K course. Last month we began our summer events schedule with our first Evening Roar, a special event that allows guests into the EFRC during the twilight hours for a different look at the EFRC and our big cats. We hope to see you soon at an upcoming special event.



## Companies Supporting the EFRC



### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- July 14: Summer Safari
- August 11: Evening Roar 2
- September 15: Fall Fest
- November 3: Pumpkin Party

### THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Larry Meeks for providing such a generous amount of free gravel, which is a significant expense for the EFRC every year.

Thank you to Duke Energy for continuing to support the EFRC with new habitat construction through volunteer days and use of equipment.

## Higher Education Groups Make a Difference at the EFRC

Every year the many individuals and organizations who volunteer and support the EFRC collectively make an undeniably large impact. Among these special groups of people this year were students from Appalachian State University, who spent their spring break at the EFRC, and the members of the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology's varsity baseball team. The "alternative spring break" group from ASU, pictured to the right, was led by Chelsea Lineberger and Christin Holland.



We are also pleased to announce that the EFRC has renewed its for-credit internship program through the Indiana University Center to the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior. This mutually beneficial relationship has been in existence for over 10 years and allows college students to gain valuable field experience working with big cats, while helping the EFRC along the way. Thank you to IU, Rose Hulman and Appalachian State University for all they've done at the EFRC!

## Veterinary Dental Care Continues Thanks to the PEIVDF



In March, staff from the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation returned to the EFRC to continue their work with our exotic cats with dental problems. The PEIVDF staff originally visited the EFRC in March 2011 (Cat Tales, July 2011), providing veterinary dental care for six of our cats during that visit. Their latest visit this spring resulted in the following cats receiving the following care:

- Dusty (white tiger): Root canal therapies on 4 teeth;
- Misty (lioness): Root canal therapy on 1 tooth, hemi-section (perio disease), direct pulp cap;
- Lola (lioness): Root canal therapies on 2 teeth;
- Kiera (lioness): Root canal therapies on 2 teeth and one extraction;
- Cash (tiger): Root canal therapies on 4 teeth due to complicated crown fractures (CCF), 5 CCFs to be treated at a later date;
- Callisto (tiger): Root canal therapies on 4 teeth due to CCFs;
- Petey (lion): exam and biopsy.



Many of the cats who live at the EFRC experience dental problems based in both the neglect they endured prior to coming to the EFRC and later in life, due to old age. We thank the PEIVDF for all their work!

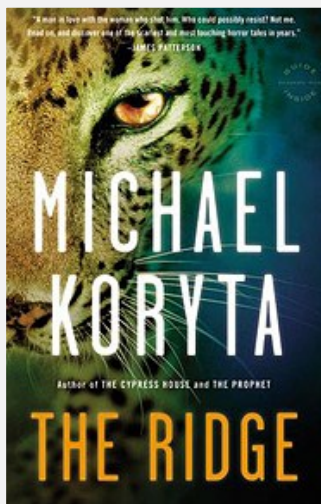
## Max and Kisa Update



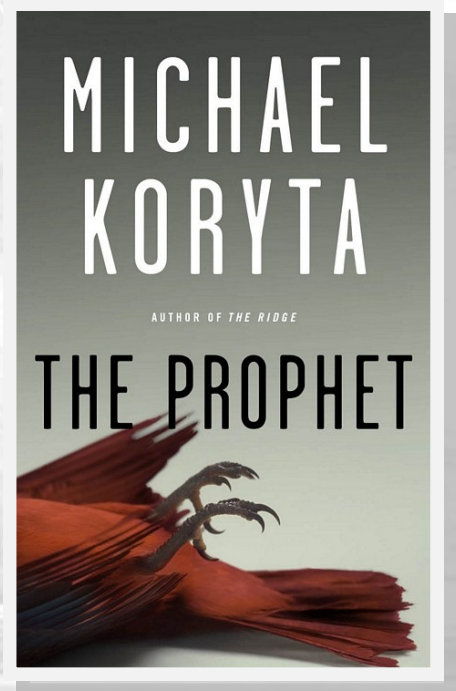
Max (tiger) and Kisa (lioness) are two of our more popular felines at the EFRC, as they arrived at the same time from poor situations and were successfully introduced at a young age. Max has grown into a rather large tiger and Kisa continues to do well with her neurologically-based balance issues through medication. As you can see, they enjoy each other's company and get along amazingly well together.

## Koryta's **THE RIDGE** In Paperback & **THE PROPHET** Released This Summer

September 4 will mark the release of EFRC volunteer Michael Koryta's novel **THE RIDGE** in a new paperback edition, including a bonus feature about the Center. The novel, which was a New York Times notable book and nominated for both national and international awards as the year's best thriller, is dedicated to Joe Taft and the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, and features a similar preserve in the mountains of Kentucky. In the new bonus material, the EFRC is profiled in non-fiction form, with accounts of last year's rescues and quotes from Joe Taft, Jean Herrberg, Rebecca Rizzo, and other staff members and volunteers. When purchased from the Center, 100% of proceeds go back to the cats.



Michael's latest novel, **THE PROPHET**, will release August 7 and again funds will go to help the cats. The Center is not a part of this story, but portions of it were written during last summer's rescue in Texas, and the book features a football team named the Angola Tigers in honor of other cats rescued during the course of its writing.



For more information please visit: [www.michaelkoryta.com](http://www.michaelkoryta.com)

## Charitable Planning With Tax-Deferred Assets

Retirement planning is about your future, but did you realize that many commonly used retirement investments can also be used as a tax-effective way to satisfy your charitable gift planning as well? For example, you can name the Exotic Feline Rescue Center as a beneficiary of your 401(k), 403(b) or IRA. The tax-deferred asset you choose will then, at your passing, flow to the EFRC completely tax free due to our status as a tax-exempt organization. If you were to leave a tax-deferred asset to a non-charitable beneficiary, income tax would be due.

In addition to thinking about gifts of specific assets, there are numerous other ways to achieve your philanthropic goals through judicious retirement and estate planning. Simple charitable bequests through your will, life insurance policies that may no longer be needed or gifts of real property are just a few ways that you can make a meaningful impact at the EFRC. We strongly encourage you to discuss your own situation with your financial advisor, accountant or legal counsel, as every situation is different. If you would like additional information about how to maximize your charitable giving at the EFRC and what options you may consider, please contact Jason Petrovich of the EFRC's Board of Directors at [jpetrovich@depauw.edu](mailto:jpetrovich@depauw.edu).

Thank you, again, for all that you make possible for our big cats.

[www.exoticfelinecenter.org/gift](http://www.exoticfelinecenter.org/gift)



A GREAT 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 \$175 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 & overnight

**Lion Membership - \$5,000**

8 passes & overnight

**White Tiger Membership - \$2,500**

8 passes & t-shirt or hat

**Tiger Membership - \$1,000**

6 passes & t-shirt or hat

**Leopard Membership - \$500**

6 passes

**Cougar Membership - \$250**

4 passes

**Lynx Membership - \$150**

2 passes

\_\_\_ This is a gift only, as I do not wish to receive any of the above items.

**EFRC 2012 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.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org](http://www.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org)

**Available Merchandise** (please visit our website for a more complete list of available items or to order online)

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

Tiger (gray \_\_\_\_\_ orange \_\_\_\_\_) Bobcat (light green) \_\_\_\_\_

Lion (black) \_\_\_\_\_ Spotted Leopard (black) \_\_\_\_\_ Cougar (cedar red \_\_\_\_\_ sage green \_\_\_\_\_)

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT \$27.00 SWEATSHIRTS \$33.00 – Please phone or email to check on availability of long sleeve t-shirts and hoodies

**HATS** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lion (green) \_\_\_\_\_ Cougar (black) \_\_\_\_\_ Tiger (tan & black) \_\_\_\_\_ White tiger (denim) \_\_\_\_\_ Paw Print (orange) \_\_\_\_\_ Black Leopard (gold) \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 CALENDAR** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Car Magnets:** \_\_\_\_\_ Paw print \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbon with several cats \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Books** *Real Stories of Big Cat Rescues: The Exotic Feline Rescue Center* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Saving The Big Cats: The Exotic Feline Rescue Center* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*The Ridge by Michael Koryta* **hardback @ \$27.00** \_\_\_\_\_ & **paperback @ \$16.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total gift and merchandise enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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*A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care*

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## THE EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER

