



CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

A 501(c)3 Organization

November 2015

25 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE—one cat at a time.....sometimes 10 or 15

It began in 1991...

Joe Taft started the center on 15 acres in Center Point, Indiana. The rural setting and a lack of close neighbors met Joe's immediate goal, which was to provide a quality home for Molly and BC, two tigers, and Kiki, a female leopard.

In 1990 Molly and BC, our first rescue tigers, had been used in a photo booth business until they got too large. The owner caged them both in the back of a Volkswagen Van until they were confiscated. Molly and BC suffered from severe neglect. Neither had received the proper nutrition or veterinary care they needed. Six-month-old BC was already crippled, blind due to cataracts, and the majority of his baby teeth had rotted. Surgery at Texas A & M restored his sight prior to moving to Indiana.



BC, Kiki and Molly

It wasn't long before BC and Molly, with the proper care, began to flourish in Indiana.

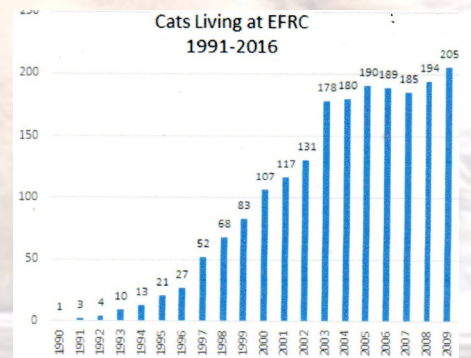
Getting started...Setting up a feline rescue center is no easy task. The "to do" list was extensive: build enclosures, acquire permits, get and process meat, and obtain experienced veterinary care. These were the immediate goals and needs.

The first few years...Everything was done at the entrance to the center. Cows were butchered, chest type freezers and plastic bags were used to preserve the meat, wheelbarrows were used to get the meat to the cat enclosures, empty milk jugs were filled with water every morning to take to the cats and the Center Point fire department would fill BC and Molly's water tank.

The long term goal seemed to be about 100 cats.

Veterinary care... Maggie, a lioness, was the second of many cats to arrive blind. Since BC's surgery at Texas A & M was so successful we looked for someone to do cataract surgery on Maggie. We contacted Purdue and The University of Illinois. U of I had people much more experienced with big cats and cataracts so we went there. This was the beginning of a 23 year relationship.

Finding a local veterinarian willing to work with big cats on a regular basis was another challenge. In 2001 Dr. Froderman came out to help us immobilize a tiger to take to U of I. That was when we started getting consistent local care that was needed to sustain the health of all the cats.



The Peter Emily Foundation, PEIVDF, came to the EFRC for the first time in 2011. This started another long term relationship benefiting the dental health care of the cats. The PEIVDF is a team of veterinary dentists dedicated to helping animals from all over the world who need dental care. While they do the dental work it requires coordination with Dr. Clark-Price from the U of I for anesthesia and Dr. Froderman. **The first visit: 13 root canals, 16 extractions, two gum biopsies and 1 tumor removed.**

10 New Cats all at once

When an officer from New York DEC called and spoke to us about placing 5 illegally owned animals from New York we readily agreed even though they are not quite what we usually care for. Four were Savannahs, a cross between African Servals and domestic cats, and one Geoffroy's cat, a small South American jungle cat. They had been confiscated by the DEC and housed at the SPCA facility after being found in a hoarding situation. While we have had several species of smaller cats, Little Dude is our first Geoffroy's cat. He is just a fraction of the size of his cage mates but he does rule. All five cats live together and are located about half way through the tour. They have a beautifully renovated enclosure with a fantastic climbing tower thanks to Women's Woodworking Guild of Indiana and their volunteers.

Just after agreeing to go to New York we received a telephone call from the Circle S Ranch (a petting zoo) in Greensburg, IN. They were closing and needed a place for 5 tigers—now. Again we agreed. On Monday we went to Greensburg to get four of the five tigers, New York on the following Monday then back to Greensburg a week later for the final tiger.

All of the tigers were living in less than desirable cages but they all seemed to be healthy and adequately fed. Layla, a white tiger and Belle, an orange tiger, are on tour.



Climbing tower built and provided by Women's Woodworking Guild. Thank you



Main tour area



1996—this became the main tour area east of the arrow above.



A part of the field area

In the last few months there have been many new cats move to the tour area.

Many of our cats have been here for years and years. Loosing an older cat is always a sad time for us but it leads to other cats moving into better enclosures. As this occurs the old enclosures are remodeled and improved. This may involve new poles, increased fence heights, new climbing towers, den boxes, new doors, new slide gates and improved entryways. As these are completed long time residents and some new residents are moved to the public area.

Zeus and Thor are two circus lions who arrived in 2010 from Peru, IN. These two had been locked in a barn in rusty old circus cages with 8 other cats and an elephant for 10 years. (newsletter May 2010) They have now moved to one of our premier enclosures on tour.

Raja was one of 18 cats arriving at EFRC in the fall of 2000. He was only 2 years old and had spent his life in a 5 x 5 cage in a dark basement with a strong stench of urine and feces. He was extremely malnourished and dehydrated. (newsletter December 2000 & June 2001)

He is again on tour living in an even better enclosure than before. He has a very large area and a new climbing tower.

As mentioned on page 2 Layla and Belle, two new tigers, have moved to the main tour.



Zeus and Thor in Peru



Zeus and Thor shortly after arrival.

Geoffroy's cats are native to South America. They weigh about 4 to 11 pounds. They are relatively common in many areas but since 1992 they have been listed and as Near Threatened.

Below is Little Dude. He weighs about 5 pounds and is very people friendly.



Savannahs were first bred in the 1990's and were accepted as a new registered breed in 2012. They are considered illegal in many states since they are part wild. They usually need to be 4 or 5 generations removed for legal pet ownership.



WISH LIST

- Cedar Chips for bedding
- Straw for bedding
- Golf cart
- Plywood and lumber
- Construction grade wheelbarrows
- Chicken leg quarters

Office supplies - stamps, HP Ink 61 or 61XL (black & tri-color), HP Ink 951 or 951XL (all colors), Epson Ink black & colors #98 or #99

Rubbermaid 18 gallon Roughneck totes/tubs

Cedar Chips for bedding are one of the most important items on our wish list. With the colder winter months coming our cats will need the warmth of their den boxes and in most cases straw.

However, many of our cats are allergic to straw and it can not be used. Cedar chips, while more expensive, are the best answer.

UNUSUAL RESCUE ... Follow up on Baby Bob

On April 24th some mushroom hunters heard a faint sound, followed it and found a baby bobcat that weighed just over 1/2 pound, eyes closed and half dead. They called then brought the baby to the EFRC where we had our veterinarian exam him. Dr. Froderman found a hernia that would eventually need surgery but until that time we contacted Wildcare in Bloomington, IN for help in rehabbing this native species for possible release. After getting him to eat it became apparent the hernia was much larger than first thought. Wildcare brought him back to our clinic and emergency surgery was done by our veterinarian, Dr. Froderman and Dr. Snyder from Wildcare to save his life. (see June 2014 newsletter). We last saw Baby Bob and Bob II in May. This was the time Wildcare discontinued human contact to begin the rehabilitation process for release back into the wild. The latest update reports the Bob boys are growing, hunting live prey and seem to be preparing for life in the wild come spring.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

OPEN

10 to 5 Tuesday to Sunday—closed Monday

\$10 adults & \$5 children 12 and under

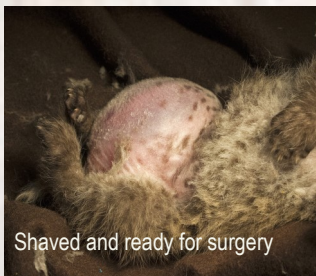
Special rates for groups—schools, camps, churches, scouts

You must schedule in advance for group rates.

Thank you to everyone who visits, gives time, material or money to help care for these deserving cats.

Without your help our mission would not be possible.

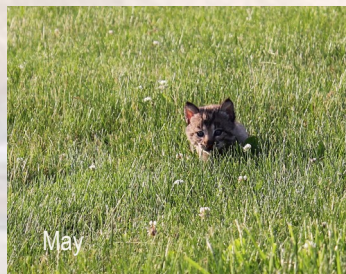
We want to assure all of our supporters that we do not share our mailing list including sponsorship and membership information with any other organization or business.



Shaved and ready for surgery



Immediately following surgery



May



September

To view Baby Bob's surgery go to:
Joe's Big Cat Kingdom episode 4 on ***Comcast Series***

2016 Special Events

9th Annual Auction	January 30
Spring Fling	April 23
5K Run/Walk	May 21
Evening Roar I	June 11
Camp Roar (children only)	July
Summer Safari	July 16
Evening Roar II	August 20
Fall Fest	September 24
Pumpkin Party	November 5
Masquerade Ball	November
Winter Wonderland	December 17

Last event for 2015

Don't miss our **Winter Wonderland** on December 19th at 3:00. There will be a tour of the main area decorated for the holidays, hot chocolate and cookies. You can also buy those last minute gifts for the whole family.

First event for 2016

The 9th Annual Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction

Saturday, January 30, 2016

The Palms

2353 E. Perry Rd Plainfield, IN

THANK YOU, TONY STEWART FOUNDATION

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Paws and Claws Masquerade

November 14th was our first Masquerade. A big Thank You to our keepers who organized this event.

Everyone had a great time! You can find photos on our website.

Join us next year for our 2nd Annual Paws and Claws Masquerade!



EXOTIC FELINE RESCUE CENTER YOUTUBE CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/channel/UC423QScgsCGCqaobeF_eeLA



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

See photos and videos of the cats on our website under Photos by Stephen

TIGERS IN AMERICA

Thank you for continuing your matching funds program

www.tigersinamerica.org/index.htm

The Perfect Gifts for the Cat Lover in Your Family!



New Book



Go to our website and browse our selection of EFRC t-shirts, hoodies, books, hats and other items to find the perfect gift.

www.exoticfelinerescuecenter.org/gift.html



A GREAT GIFT FOR YOUR CAT LOVER!

Brumby

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 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, Wi-Fi 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.



Tika

Annual Membership Levels

Pride Membership - \$10,000

Name Bearing Plaque & overnight, 10 passes

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

EFRC Newsletters included in all membership

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

EFRC 2015 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, 6 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!

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

New Book: *Tails from the Exotic Feline Rescue Center*

SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT

SIZE _____ (from child's small to XXXL)

Child.....19.00

Tiger (gray) _____ Bobcat (light green) _____ Lion (black) _____ Spotted Leopard (black) _____

Adult.....24.00

3 tigers—white, orange and tabby (teal) _____ African Serval (Boi Pello) blue _____ old gold _____

2X and 3X....26.00

SWEATSHIRTS \$33.00 and HOODIES \$38.00 (Please phone or email to check on availability .)

Hoodies: spotted leopard on black, tiger in gray or orange/Sweatshirts: bobcat green, lion black

New tiger design available in short sleeve T-shirt, sweat shirt and hoodie. New serval design available in short sleeve only.

FLIP BOOK—great for kids fun and educational. Three designs: Lion, Tiger and Puma \$7.00 each or group of any three \$20.00.

Lion _____ Tiger _____ Puma _____ @ \$20.00

HATS

Lion (green) _____ Cougar (pink) _____ Tiger (tan & black) _____ Black Leopard (gold) _____ @ \$18.50

2016 CALENDAR

@ \$18.00

Car Magnets: _____ Paw print _____ Ribbon with three tigers _____ 4 cat rectangle @ \$7.50

Total gift and merchandise enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

_____ phone: _____

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