

EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES WINTER 2001

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



2001 was filled with many positive results. We received good responses to our grant requests, which allowed us to install pathway lighting throughout the exhibit area, replace the worn clinic roof, and complete the upgrade of our electric service to 3 phase. The income generated by the new admission charge for non members helped us handle the higher rates being assessed by So. Cal Edison, and meet our never ending maintenance expenses.

We had to say good-bye to some of our feline family, age takes its toll on all, and welcomed the arrival of a new generation of Amur leopards. Jaguars, Fishing Cats, and Amur leopards we have placed on loan to other zoos are also producing litters and helping to insure the survival of their species. All in all, we had a good year thanks to the support and involvement of you, our members.

As we bid farewell to another year, I would like to share with you some of our future short and long term plans. Project Tiger is still under construction and additional funding is needed. Until this project is completed our work with tigers will be on hold.



Electric and water services have been extended to the west to accommodate the new exhibit area. This area includes Project Tiger along with 5 new small cat exhibits which will house Sand Cats, Pallas Cats, Margay, Black Footed Cats, etc.. Eventually a museum and educational center will also be built there.

We here at EFBC's Feline Conservation Center want to thank all our members and supporters for getting involved in our work to save all the species of endangered felines. We are grateful that you share our passion, and are willing to step up and make a difference.



## CAT UPDATE:

We have two new residents! First, meet Gregori (above), a male Amur leopard just under 2 years old, born at the Jungle Cat World Wildlife Park in Orono, Canada. Gregori is hand raised and being introduced to Lana (below), the female we've hand raised since she arrived here from the Audubon Zoo last year. We've already put them together and they get along fine. It may be a year or two until they're old enough to successfully mate. While Lana has started going into heat already, males usually don't begin breeding until they're 3 years old. We are now home to 13 of these rare leopards. There are just over 200 in captivity worldwide, and it is thought less than 50 remain in the wild.

Trapper (above) is our other new resident. Believe it or not. On 9/9 we received a call from CA. Dept. Fish & Game asking us to make room for a 10-12 week old baby lynx they confiscated. How could we refuse!!

At first we thought Trapper was a Siberian (Eurasian) Lynx as he had reddish tones along with the prominent black tip on his tail. As he grew his color changed to silver and white, and he developed characteristics more normally associated with Canadian lynx. Canadian lynx have shorter tails and flatter faces than what you would normally see in the Eurasian lynx. We will need to do a genetic work up to establish his species before determining his breeding status. In the meantime, he is just a sweetheart, and may be available for photos with our guests at the upcoming Twilight Tours.

Tara, the Amur leopard cub introduced last newsletter, is growing fast. She's already learned the standard cub trick of stealing Mom's food and then growling at Mom to back off from HER kill!! Left is Tara at 3.5 months old.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The dates have been set for next year's fund-raising events - mark your calendars! Twilight Tours will be held on April 20, June 22, and September 21. As usual these are Saturday evenings. The price will remain \$15 per person, 18 and older only. These very popular evenings

remain the only way to see the back breeding areas of the compound and have a chance to visit with a cat. Also, our Fabulous Feline Follies will be on August 24 featuring fine food, intriguing auction items, and big cats walking amongst the guests. This is a fun yearly event not to be missed!

## DONATIONS:

Nancy Vandermey, Altadena CA. - Various electronic items. Thanks Nancy!

Max and Margaret Brown, Westlake Village CA. - Kodak Carousel slide projector and trays. Thanks Max and Margaret!

Bob and Barbara McNaught, Rosamond CA. - HP computer monitor. Thanks Bob and Barbara!

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Klein, Palmdale CA. - A "first class" EZE-GO golf cart with all the extras. Thanks Mr. & Mrs. Klein!

We've finished installing the new pathway lighting (picture below) funded by a grant from Kern County Board of Trade. Project Tiger construction continues; the den building doors have been completed, and next is painting and electrical work inside the building.

Thanks to volunteers Nancy Vandermey (picture below), Leslie Simmons, Rob Hogenauer, and Pam Rose who worked at the San Bernardino Art Museum's Wildlife Art Festival, handing out flyers and raising more than \$100 in donations. Also, apologies to Tammy MacInnes who worked at the Hart Park Animal Fair whose name was accidentally left out of last issue.

Thanks to JoAnn Glass at Lamar Outdoor Advertising for designing the great billboard on Hwy. 14 that was sponsored by the Rosamond Chamber of Commerce.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Jeff Conrad is back! Jeff and his wife Ann (above, with Trapper) started volunteering at the compound back in 1994, but Jeff was tired of his aerospace job and decided to go to vet school. After acing his prerequisite classes at CSUN (Cal

State University - Northridge), they moved to Georgia in 1996. Jeff did an internship here in 2000 and then graduated with his D.V.M. from U. Georgia in spring 2001. He interviewed several places in Southern California and lucky for us, chose to work at the Palmdale Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Lynn McEwan. He and Ann are back volunteering. We've put Dr. Jeff to work, helping Dr. Scott with some recent cat checkups and spaying our newest resident house cat, Boots (photo below, with Leslie Simmons assisting). He and Ann adopt our bobcat Willow and are happy to be back in California.

## CAT NEWS

Detroit Free Press, November 1, 2001

New DNA evidence offers proof that cougars roam the woods of the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula, the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation reported. Cougars were supposed to have been killed off 95 years ago in Michigan. Sightings have been reported since then, but no scientific corroboration had been made. Field studies were conducted last spring and summer, and DNA analysis by the Wyoming Game and Fish laboratory confirmed that feces were found from seven cougars. Five were in the UP, two in the northern Lower Peninsula. In addition to DNA evidence, experts confirmed that plaster casts of

### WISH LIST

Wireless P.A. System

Landscape Materials

Golf Carts

Electrical and Plumbing Materials

Note: We are always appreciative of items used in our normal daily activities like Dawn dishwashing detergent, Comet, scrubbers, paper towels, and things like that.

paw prints found in the UP and near Mesick and Tower in the Lower Peninsula are cougar tracks.

Reuters, October 31, 2001

Lions could disappear from West and Central Africa in the next decade because their populations are fragmented and too small to survive. A new report by a group of animal experts said the largest concentrations of lions in these areas consist of two groups of 200 lions each in Cameroon and along the borders of Senegal, Mali and Guinea. Other populations are as small as 50. But in order for the animals to continue to exist without inbreeding at least 100 breeding pairs, or 500 to 1,000 animals, are needed. According to 1996 estimates by the group, there are between 30,000 and 100,000 lions throughout all of Africa.

Sun-Sentinel, October 27, 2001

The federal government is considering a vast expansion of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, in an attempt to prevent the endangered cat's habitat from turning into citrus groves, golf courses and housing developments. The refuge's managers have submitted a proposal to increase the 26,500 acre refuge by 370,000 acres, an ambitious plan that faces a host of financial and political obstacles. Some hunters already oppose it, fearing they will be shut out if the refuge expands. And the cattle ranchers, farmers and corporations that own the land may not agree to surrender the right to develop it, no matter how much money the government offers. Expanding the refuge is crucial to the panther's survival because about half of the 60-70 adult panthers left in South Florida live on private land rather than government-owned land.

Several sources, October 2001

Renewed ground fighting and air strikes have raised fears for the snow leopard, already on the edge of extinction in the mountains of Afghanistan. Only 150 are left in the region, part of an estimated total population of fewer than 5,000 spread across 12 countries in central Asia. Their numbers have been decimated by a combination of years of war, rapidly expanding

human encroachment on their habitats, and



hunting to sell their fur for fashion and their bones for eastern medicines. In Afghanistan, wildlife has suffered dreadfully during decades of warfare, making it increasingly hard for the snow leopards, living above the tree lines at 9,000 to 19,000 feet, to find their prey. Land mines have also been a major threat.

African Eye News Service, September 11, 2001

Mpumalanga Province in South Africa may be home to the first black leopard spotted in sub-Saharan Africa in 40 years. Parks Board spokesman Gary Sutter said that two confirmed sightings of a rare black leopard had been reported in mountains in Lydenburg in January and again in May. "It's an ordinary leopard, but it has a recessive gene that makes it come out



completely black," explained Sutter. "It's known as melanistic form." Sutter said MPB research scientist Gerrie Camacho planned to catch the leopard and put a radio collar on it as part of the Ingwe Leopard Project. The project is the first to conduct scientific research on leopards that live in the Lydenburg area. "Game farmers and hunters have always said there's a healthy leopard population in the area, but we've never collected scientific data," Sutter said. Black leopards are common in Malaysia.

Agence France Presse, 31 August 2001

Armed poachers shot a forester dead and injured three others in India's Jim Corbett national wildlife sanctuary where a survey has revealed an alarming fall in protected animal numbers. The killing was the first such incident in the park, which is named after fabled English hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett. Earlier this month eight forest guards were attacked and beaten by illegal hunters in the reserve. The overnight attacks have led to renewed calls to arm the guards who patrol the 1,000 square kilometer (386 square mile) complex which stretches from the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh to the mountains of Nepal. Recent figures reveal that in just two years the tiger population in Corbett has fallen from 130 to fewer than 100.

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD August 28, 2001

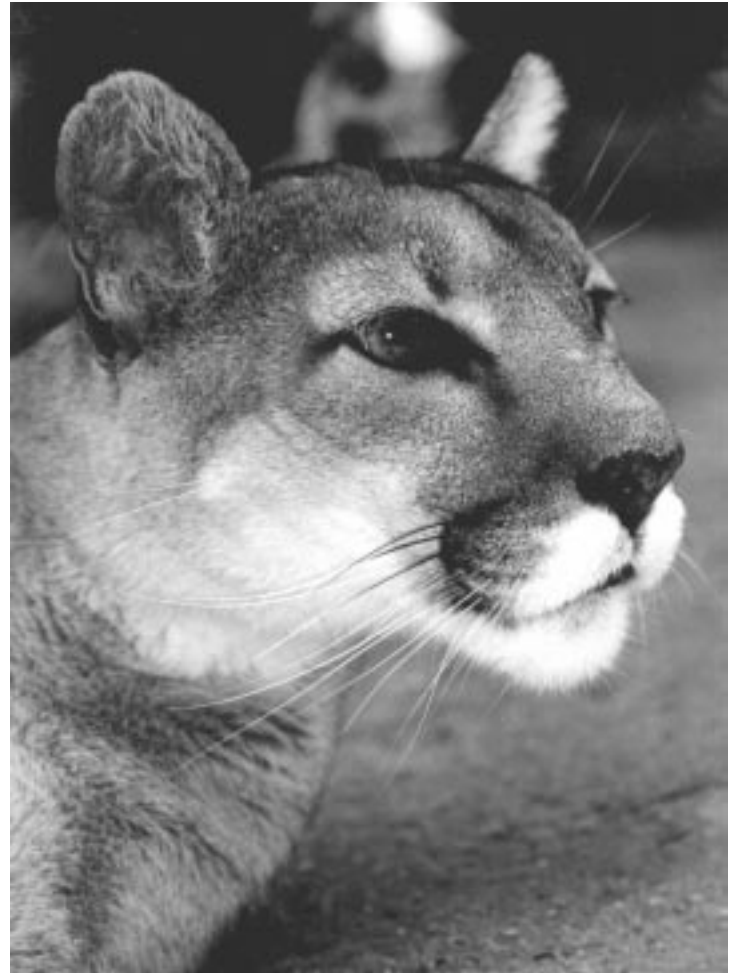
Harlan, Iowa - A full-grown mountain lion was killed by a vehicle this past weekend in what looks like the first confirmed mountain lion in the state since 1867. Shelby County Conservation officials spent Monday looking over the male cat, which weighed about 130 pounds, had a six-foot-long torso, two-inch claws and paws as big as a man's hands. Ed Weiner, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said more people have reported seeing mountain lions in the past two to three years with sightings in several areas south of Sioux City. Weiner wanted to alleviate fears people might have that such cats would pose a serious danger to people. Weiner said that if the animal found in Harlan were wild, it had avoided contact with people and probably kept itself

well-fed from area wildlife. He had not heard any reports of farmers losing livestock to the cat.

Many thanks to Guillaume Chapron, a PhD student at Laboratoire d'Ecologie CNRS in Paris, France, who has developed a new website where regular information on carnivore ecology and conservation is posted. You can visit it at [www.carnivoreconservation.org](http://www.carnivoreconservation.org)

## **FEATURE FELINE - COUGAR**

You don't have to go to Africa to see a cat in the wild. If you're lucky, you might see one in the hills and mountains around Los Angeles. The largest cat that lives in this area is the cougar. The cougar is known by many names. They are commonly called mountain lions or just lions in Western states, cougars in the Midwest, catamounts in the New England states, and panthers in Florida. They are also called pumas, léons, and other names south of the United States. Cougars are large cats, about 3 feet tall at the shoulder, and weigh up to 250 pounds in cold regions. California cats seldom reach over 150 pounds. Adult cats are solid colored, tan to reddish. Cougars from colder regions are larger and grayer colored. Young cubs have spots. Cougar populations are stable and even increasing in the Western states but declining over much of the rest of their range. In Florida, only about 30 cats remained a few years ago. Cougars from Texas were released in Florida to strengthen the native cat's population, and are doing well. As cougars in general are not endangered and are very common in captivity, we do not breed cougars at our facility.



## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Incorporated, Feline Conservation Center is a not for profit, 501 (c)(3) public Benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and propagation of rare and endangered felines through breeding, research, and education. EFBC/FCC is run by an active Board of Directors which governs policies, procedures, and the direction of the corporation. Directors and officers receive no compensation for their services, nor retain any personal interest in any portion of the assets of the corporation. Officers are elected at a meeting of the Board of Directors and serve a term of 3 years.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Audited financial statements for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Inc., Feline Conservation Center fiscal year ending September 30, 2001 are now on file. The following are highlights of our annual report. For copies of the complete financial statements, please send a self-addressed #10 envelope and a check for \$5.00 postage and handling to: EFBC/FCC, HCR 1, Box 84, Rosamond, CA. 93560.

Total assets:	\$860,199
Total liabilities:	\$ 57,616
Net assets:	\$802,583
Total liabilities and net assets:	\$860,199
Total support and revenue:	\$341,546
Program service expenses:	\$247,531
Administrative and fund raising expenses:	\$ 36,526
Total expenses:	\$284,057
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses:	\$ 57,489