

SPOTS 'N' STRIPES

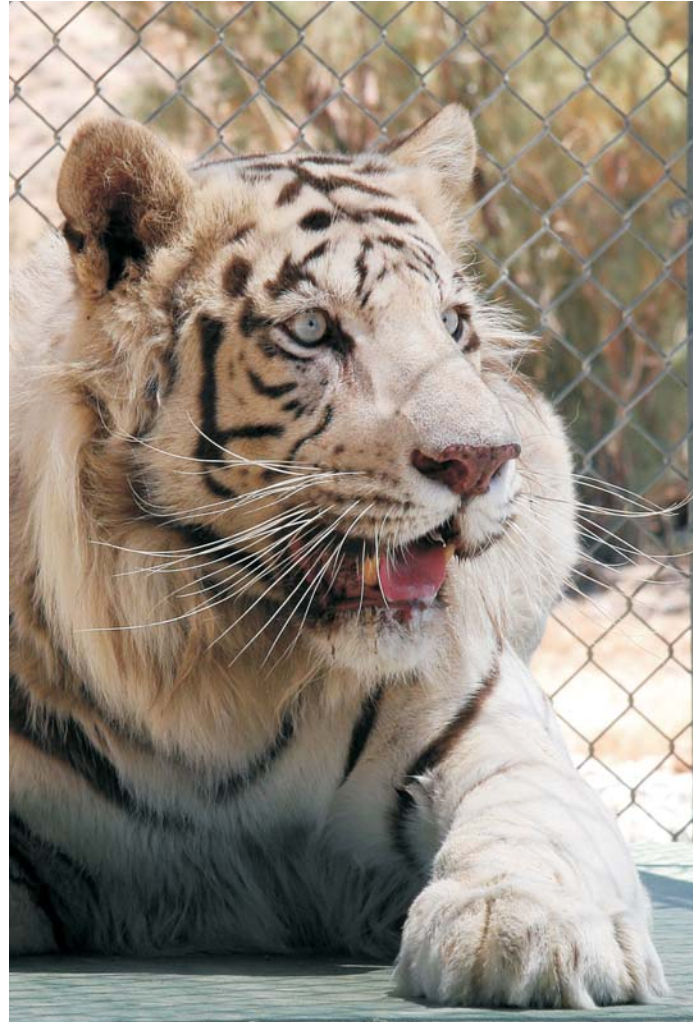
EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES SUMMER 2009



Zach and Annye investigate their new home, one of the large natural enclosures in the educational area.



Katmandu arrived in May. He is housed near Ceasar and shares the large enclosure on the back hill.

New arrivals: Zach and Annye: A breeding pair of Snow Leopards (*Uncia uncia*) arrived in May from the Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Kansas. The Snow Leopard is known as a textbook example of what can be accomplished through cooperation in the captive management of a rare

species. Thirty original founders have created a captive population that now exceeds 500. This pair is young, and will likely be permitted to breed one to three times, depending on available space. We are very happy to once again house these amazing felines.

Katmandu: White Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) from Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Kansas. Born on May 1, 02 and arrived at the EFBC-FCC in May 09.

White Tigers are not a separate sub-species. They are Bengal or Siberian-Bengal hybrids exhibiting a recessive color.

The correct term for these tigers is chinchilla albinistic: blue eyed, pale coated, but having a striped pattern. The chinchilla gene is recessive to the normal orange color gene. A separate "wide band" gene, also recessive, controls spacing and coloration of the stripes, resulting in "pure white", and "golden tabby" tigers.

In the 1950's, Mohan (The first captive white tiger successfully bred) was mated with Radha, one of his daughters. This produced four white cubs.

Typical signs of inbreeding include crossed eyes, curvature of the spine, twisted necks, and shortened tendons in the legs. As inbreeding



These adorable kittens are being hand raised, off display.

worsens, the number of miscarriages, stillbirths, and unexplained infant mortalities rise. Cubs that do survive become prone to mysterious illness.

Today White Tigers are so numerous in captivity that many are in sanctuaries for unwanted tigers.

It is hoped that Ceasar and Katmandu will enjoy each others company, since neither will be allowed to breed. Ceasar has been observed chuffing at his new companion, while Katmandu seems to desire human companionship more at this time.

Kelso, Poppy, and Sage: Three bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) kittens were orphaned in a Mojave house when a renovation project displaced them. These three were only a few weeks old and would not have survived if action had not been taken. These three are very lucky to have found a competent facility to grow up in. The best thing to do if bobcat kittens are found is leave them alone. While adorable, the best place for them is growing up with the mother. All of the kittens are doing well with the surrogate family that make up the EFBC -FCC.

They will likely make an appearance at the Twilight Tour in June, and the Follies in August, but as with most kittens, they need to remain stress free, so public viewing will be limited.

Katia, Amur Leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*)



Those of you that have supported us for a long time may remember Katia, who returns to us from Philadelphia where she was housed since 1998. She was born here at the EFBC in 1997. While in PA, she gave birth to Sakhar, who we now have on display, and hope to breed with Yoqui. We often retain ownership of the felines we send out on breeding loans, and we are happy to have Katia back in our care. This is the leopard sub-species that is considered the closest to extinction, with only 30 or so left living in the Amur river region of Russia.

Twilight Tour dates: June 20th and September 19: These are the only times adults (**18 and over only**) can come visit all of the cats, see the



Cesar is still king of his enclosure, but he will now share it with Katmandu.

breeding areas, and enjoy an evening with the felines. These events start at 5 PM for those willing to buy tickets in advance, everyone else waits till 5:30. Should there be any cats (Kittens) secure enough to visit with patrons, the line for close encounters is likely to be too long for those that arrive late. Tickets are \$15, and our adoptive parents get to come to the June event for free. There is a bake sale to benefit our local AAZK chapter, a raffle, and burgers and dogs are cooked up by the local Rotary club, so come hungry! Call the gift shop for tickets, 10am -4pm Thursday through Tuesday - (661)256-3793.

If this is the first you have heard of these events, they are very special. Evening hours bring cooler temperatures, and enrichments are given out. Ever see a leopard act like a kitten? Want to see a jaguar devour a watermelon? See a fishing cat fish? Get close to a white or orange tiger? Mark your calendar, and we'll see you there!

Fabulous Feline Follies - August 15, 2009

This year we celebrate the 20th annual Fabulous Feline Follies!!! Our theme this year is the "Lure of the Jungle". Join us! Tickets are \$75, 18 and over only please. Dr Jim Sanderson, wildlife field researcher, will be the speaker. Dress is casual. Collectible glasses will be sold with specialty Juicy Jungle drinks. A silent auction will offer fabulous items. A live animal show, raffle, and door prizes will add to the excitement. Raffle first prize is \$1,000, winner need not be present. Sponsors are being sought. An information package is available online, and we invite you to print it and

help us solicit sponsors. A Follies package will also be mailed to all members. If you are in the Los Angeles area, we can visit your facility and give a short talk if that would help. With the economy in its present state, we need help! We already know some of our regular sponsors will be unable to continue their support this year. The money raised at Follies is vital to supporting the cats over the winter months.

This all electric sports car should appeal to those of you that have visited on your way to Willow Springs. How fast is the acceleration? A trick



A supporter of the FCC has agreed to auction a ride in his Tesla roadster at this years Follies Event.

used at the Tesla motors showrooms is to invite the passenger to choose a radio station. At that moment, the accelerator is pressed, and the radio can no longer be reached. Who needs music when you are experiencing a symphony of motion?

Volunteer of the Quarter: Andre Poliakoff

My name is Andre Poliakoff. I recently retired from UPS to follow my passion - Working with endangered wildcats. I researched different volunteer programs and chose the EFBC/FCC because of the wonderful diversity of rare cats, along with their worldwide success in captive breeding of pure bloodlines. I admire and respect the diligent care and professional approach demonstrated by all of the staff and other docents. I graduated at Sonoma State University with a B.A. in video production and public relations.



Teddy the Puma is always a favorite of the volunteers and staff.

My journey began in Bolivia where my daily duties included walking an adult Puma along various jungle trails. I developed a close trust-bond with these rescued wildcats, and knew that I had “found my place”. I hope to gain an extensive education and intimate knowledge of the urgency needed to save these very special animals from possible extinction. I thank all of you who donate your merchandise and money needed to make all of us proud in sharing this common goal: Humans united in the protection of endangered wildcat species. See you all at the EFBC, and remember LONG LIVE THE CATS!

Dana Fredsti - Writer, Emcee, and feline lover was asked what compels her to drive five hours one way to emcee a three hour event. Here is her response:

Four years ago I moved from Los Angeles to San Francisco, making what used to be an hour and a half drive to EFBC into a five-hour trek. When I moved, I blithely assumed I'd be able to make it down at least once a month to work my usual Saturday at the Cathouse. This was not the case. Working full time, trying to build a career as a writer and facing the fact that I just wasn't resilient enough to deal with 10 hours of driving within a weekend...well, let's just say I have not made it down to visit EFBC and my beloved cats anywhere near as often as I'd hoped...and still want.

I have managed to work a couple of Saturdays in the last four years and have emcee'd at every Twilight Tour and several Feline Follies. The last two years, though, other than fund-raises, I haven't managed to work a full day at the cathouse. I miss it. I dream about it a lot too. The other night I dreamed that Meesha, one of the more ornery black Asian leopards, sat next to me in my car while I was trying to drive. Meesha wanted to sit in my lap. I needed to drive my car. We compromised and she curled up on the passenger seat, one paw draped across my leg as I pet her. I'm sure Freud would have a great deal to say about this dream, but I interpret it to mean I have to find a compromise between moving forward with my life while keeping EFBC as part of it too. I thought about a day at the



Dana is now a published author, and you can find her book through the amazon link on the wildcazoo.org web site. [Murder for Hire - The Case of the Peruvian Pigeon](#) by Dana Fredsti. Using the EFBC page for your Amazon purchases costs you nothing, but helps pay our bills!

Start at wildcazoo.org when you go online, and it will help our felines, while costing you nothing!

Affiliate programs at Ralph's/Cala Foods, Igive, Amazon, and cafepress, earn money for us while you shop.

Searching the Net? Use GoodSearch, and find online shops through GoodShop. On Facebook, join our group and cause "Save Endangered Cats" (and invite your friends to do the same). We have videos on YouTube and a page on MySpace as well.

cathouse as I walked to the Muni station today. Checked off a list in my head of all the things I used to do during a normal workday at EFBC. Thought about the heat of the summers out there, watering down the cages to make sure the cats stayed cool. And days in the winter when it was so cold, we'd wear rubber diving gloves to clean out the sinks. Thought about chopping up frozen chicken and horse meat, scrubbing stinky patches of fat from the sinks and wire cages, raking up exotic feline poop, wondering for the umpteenth time what geniuses Joe and Sandy are at managing to make people feel that picking up oversized cat poop is a reward rather than a chore. Did I mention I miss it?

Working at EFBC/FCC was a life-changing experience for me. I can't imagine what my life would be like without it. When people ask me why I continue to drive 5 hours on a Saturday to work three hours at a Twilight Tour and then drive back home immediately the next morning, I can't really put it into words they'll understand...unless they've visited the EFBC, seen the cats, held a baby



New caging is being constructed quickly where the old "main" enclosures once stood. The cage space is needed!

Amur leopard (About 200 left in the world) or been licked by a tiger. It's like a benevolent drug, one that never leaves your bloodstream once you've tasted it. I may not be able to be a part of it at the level I used to be (and I hope some day to have the time and money to make it down at LEAST once a month), but I could no more give up going to the cathouse than I could reading, breathing, or eating chocolate. In fact, EFBC rates in front of chocolate. It's just not as easy to supply the habit

these days. But when I do...it's the best feeling in the world.



AAZK had the best bake sale ever at this springs Twilight Tour! A big thank you to Camille Gadwood and Angela Burgess for working the tables, and a thank you to all the docents that donated baked goods!

Mountain Lion News: By Dana Bartholomew, Staff Writer, LA Daily News

THOUSAND OAKS — He was king of the Santa Monica Mountains, the baddest cat around Malibu. But the 11-year-old mountain lion known to ecologists as P-1 — as in puma one — may have met his end this week in a treetop scrap with a smaller, younger cat.

The irony: Last month, the suspected challenger was the first mountain lion ever monitored crossing the 101 Freeway — evidence local mountain lions are getting a better chance of survival by mixing with other large cat populations.

To better track their ability to cross the freeway, the National Park Service and Caltrans will install 20 video cameras this month at potential lion crossings from Thousand Oaks to Woodland Hills.

"It's really important, because we feel if the mountain lions are going to survive in the Santa

Monica Mountains, they need to have occasional animals come (in) from the north, both for genetic reasons and to replenish the population," said Seth Riley, wildlife ecologist for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the largest urban national park.

"The 101 is the barrier. If we are going to conserve mountain lions in this area, they're going to have to cross the freeway."

Biologists believe there are between five and 10 lions roaming the 153,000-acre mountain park between the Simi Hills and the Pacific Palisades. Since 2002, National Park Service officials have monitored a dozen of the big cats with radio collars and GPS tracking devices.

On Monday, ranch hands in Hidden Valley south of Thousand Oaks reported a bloody radio collar. In the tree overhead there were tufts of mountain lion hair. On the ground there was blood. And P-1's collar, but no lion.

For 11 years, P-1 had been the alpha male of the high chaparral, ranging hundreds of square miles from Point Mugu to Topanga State Park above Tarzana. Weighing in at between 140 and 150 pounds, he was the largest cat ever caught by the National Park Service in Thousand Oaks.

He was also known to have killed three other lions, including two offspring, among them a female with whom he'd mated.

But whether he's still king is the question, as park officials complete a forensic examination of the remains.

"We believe he was in a big fight, and may not have made it," said Riley, an assistant professor at UCLA. "But then again, he could still be alive."

Park biologists had been recently monitoring four male lions, including the pugnacious P-1. There's P-10, a 100-pound, 2-year-old lion that ranged from Cal State Channel Islands in Camarillo to the Pacific Palisades, where he was once trapped napping between two homes.

This week, P-10 was tracked near the J. Paul Getty Center. On Friday, park biologists were

trying to trap him in Topanga State Park to fix a defunct global positioning system signal.

There was P-11, a young male whose tracking collar died recently in the western Santa Monica's.

And there was P-12, first monitored in December, who created a park service sensation when he crossed the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon Road at 1 a.m. Feb. 24, venturing from the Simi Hills to the Santa Monica Mountains. It's not clear whether he skedaddled across the freeway or slunk beneath the underpass.

Now living near Zuma Beach, P-12 could possibly have taken down P-1, Riley said, making him the new lion king.

"We'll see," he said cautiously. "He could be P-12 ... a little bigger at 120 pounds. We'll see."

Mountain lions generally kill one large animal per week, mostly deer. While adult males generally range about 250 square miles, Riley said, females range much less. The animals mate year round.

Last year, Congress authorized a study to expand the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area to ensure more wildlife corridors. Conservationists believed linked habitats are crucial to healthy animal populations.

"It's very exciting," said Ron Sundergill, regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy group, who this week inspected the lion crossing site.

"What we want to do is make sure there are wildlife corridors. That's one corridor between the (Santa Monica Mountains) park and the larger Rim of the Valley - a 600,000-acre section that could potentially be the boundaries for the new national park."

Naturalist Dan Cooper said cats aren't the only animals on the move. "Even things that we thought were barriers are not," he said, adding he just learned of a bear being spotted at Stone Canyon Reservoir in Beverly Hills. "How do you get a bear across the 405 (Freeway)?"

Increased expenses: Spring and Summer is the time when EFBC has a lot of maintenance expenses, and when visitation tends to be low due to the hot weather. Our cat's den boxes are repaired with new plywood and paint, our landscaping requires more attention, the roofs on the trailers get fresh snow coating, etc. Although California has a high unemployment rate, that did not stop Workman's Compensation insurance from going up. Even though EFBC has never had a extended claim, (other than 2 sprained ankles and 1 cut arm) we just received notice that effective 7/1/09 our workman's compensation rate is going up 36%. It seems the Sate of California is working hard at eliminating small businesses and non-profit organizations. These situations are why EFBC is so appreciative of those who support our general fund with additional donations.

This quarter we thank the following for their generosity:

Nicole and Scott Pearson, Leslie Simmons, Crysti Park, Dorothy Bolt, Diane Citron, Lisa Edmondson, Kevin Sinichko, Bill & Kathy Childs,

John Whitson, Vicki Collins, Chris Tromborg, Toni Chancellor-Adams, Thomas Kite, Peter Beckham, Louis Pearson, Melissa Breeding, Luc-Adrien Noz, Louise Fry.

We would also like to thank Barbara Clifford for donating over \$900.00 worth of cleaning supplies to EFBC. We use tons of bleach, dawn, paper towels, scrubbing pads and various cleansers each year. So when shopping, please think of us!!



Save The Date!
20th Annual Fabulous Feline Follies
August 15 2009

*jungle theme * signature drinks * silent auction
animal entertainment * AND MORE!*

Sponsors Needed

**More Details to Follow in separate mailing,
available online NOW**

