



A 501(c)3 Organization

CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center

A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

November 2010

39 New Exotic Cats Rescued In the Past 12 Months!

In the past 12 months we have taken in 39 cats, a record number for the EFRC, with 20 of those having arrived since our last newsletter.

One of our more hair-raising rescues was the removal of four tigers from Roy Boys tattoo parlor in downtown Gary, Indiana. Roy Boy was a nationally renowned tattoo artist who had kept tigers for years. He was also known for walking his tigers on leashes through the streets and in the alley behind the shop in the middle of the night neighbors report.

The work itself was simple enough. Four tigers in chute like cages in the back of a tattoo parlor could shift into our transport cages without much problem, so it wasn't the job. It was everything else.

With only two state troopers and two USDA enforcement personnel as security we were forced to quickly anesthetize and remove four tigers as crowds built on the street. While onlookers screamed from the sidewalk the sleeping tigers were whisked away to their new home at the EFRC. Two of the tigers are white. Storm, whom reportedly came from Mike Tyson, and Pearl a 13 year-old whose tail had been bitten off by another tiger. Three of the four tigers were kept in dog run type enclosures inside the tattoo parlor while the fourth was kept in the parking lot.

In contrast the easiest rescue was Swizzle, a bobcat from



Storm, a white tiger rescued from Gary, Indiana, was reportedly once owned by former boxer Mike Tyson

New Mexico. She was driven here by two volunteers from The Wildlife Center. An enclosure was recently vacated when Dakota, a lynx, was moved into a new habitat. With renovations and improvements already done a new home was waiting for Swizzle. Within a week she was eating well and playing in her new enclosure including spending a lot of time in the water. Her origin is unclear, but she was illegally owned in New Mexico.

13 Tigers Transported to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center

The sanctuary business is a tough business. It is full of people with good intentions and no experience, scammers, frauds, as well as hard-working people who tirelessly strive to provide quality care for their animals often in very adverse conditions. The failure of a large sanctuary, whether legitimate or scam, carries a greater impact than the closure of an animal show, illegal pet owner, or any other animal venue.

There had been rumors of Wildlife Animal Orphanage's (WAO) pending closure for a while, but the call to come take cats was bad news. Of the 70-plus cats needing relocation, we were hard pressed to take 13, which would bring our total to 39 new cats this year, and increase an already lengthy waiting list.

A 2,500-mile trip for 13 tigers and with little help on the ground in Texas meant taking a large crew and a lot of equipment. A semi truck with two drivers was loaded with 13 transport cages, plywood, game fencing, a generator, extension cords, fans and 1,500 pounds of meat for the cats that still reminded at WAO. In addition, two drivers and a pickup truck loaded with tools, caging materials, chains and locks, and a driver in a van loaded with veterinary supplies including fluids, IV sets, vaccines, immobilization drugs, pole syringe and darts left Indiana. Along the way, we were met by another car with keepers from the Louisville Zoo and they brought their dart gun.

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Thirteen Tigers Rescued, continued from page 1.

We arrived in Texas with a total staff of nine people, and met USDA personnel and together we made a site visit and prepared a plan for the next day. It took all morning and afternoon to load the first six tigers. By late in the afternoon we resorted to tranquilizing drugs. Seven tigers were immobilized quickly and without incident. Once immobilized, they were examined, blood was drawn and each cat was given three liters of fluid. In a state of exhaustion, we stopped for the night not yet to Dallas. After a brief sleep we drove non-stop for home.

We returned late Thursday evening and by noon on Friday, six of the tigers were safely released into their newly built enclosure. The enclosure includes a 15-foot by 15-foot in-ground cement pool. Several of our tiger compounds have these pools now. Another feature in the habitat is a four deck climbing tower. There are two large covered shift cages with multiple den boxes and loafing platforms built inside this habitat as well.

The remainder of the tigers were moved into temporary holding cages inside the meat processing building, where they stayed until their new enclosures were completed.

The moving of a large group of tigers is a complex and costly endeavor. It took nine people four days and cost over \$6,000 to move these cats. Keeping the cost to a minimum was only possible because of people volunteering their time, and Kenworth of Indianapolis for donating the truck for the trip. A \$1,000 transportation grant from the FCF Wildcat Safety Net Fund also helped make this rescue possible.



New habitat for 6 of the 13 Texas tigers



Pumpkin Party 2010 Was a Great Day!



The 2010 Pumpkin Party, like all of our fundraisers this year, was a huge success. We had approximately 300 people in attendance, many with pumpkins in hand to watch the cats do their thing with the pumpkins filled with meat. As always they were unpredictable and you must go to the photo page on our website to view all of the photos taken that day.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us this year!

www.exoticfelinerescuecenter.org/photos.html



Rescue Update: Remember the Miami County Circus Cats?

This was our front page story in the May 2010 *Cat Tales*. On a snowy February morning, state and federal agents, filthy cramped cages, one cat too afraid to leave her cramped quarters, veterinary problems etc.....

Since one photo is worth a thousand words we have two to share with you!



Thor and Zeus on rescue day



Thor and Zeus at the EFRC this fall



2010-11 Special Events

The year always begins with our Auction at the Irsay Pavillion!

Save the date January 22, 2011.

It is a terrific day with all of the proceeds going to support our 223 and increasing population of big cats.

April 16, 2011.....Spring Fling

May 14, 2011.....5K Run

June 18, 2011.....Evening Roar 1 (adults only)

July 16, 2011.....Summer Safari

August 13, 2011.....Evening Roar II (adults only)

September 17, 2011.....Fall Fest

November 5, 2011.....Pumpkin Party

We have not set a date for Winter Wonderland 2011 and we hope to be adding other fundraisers. Watch our website for more information.

LAST EVENT FOR 2010!

WINTER WONDERLAND, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Fall Fest 2010



Our annual event, Fall Fest, was a tremendous success this year as families enjoyed a beautiful Indiana fall day while touring the EFRC, getting plenty to eat, enjoying the bonfire and, as the photo above shows, many kids even got a unique tour of our facility by riding around in circus cages!

Sampson III: Several Surgeries Later and Making Progress

Sampson III has been included in our newsletters since December 2009 when he arrived from Missouri. To recap his history, according to the Chicago Tribune his first owner purchased him in the Steak -n- Shake parking lot for \$300.00. When that owner was unable to take care of him because of illness Sampson was placed at Wesa-A-Geh-Ya Animal Park. We agreed to take him after a mauling there resulted in the amputation of a volunteer's leg and the facility was closed.

Many cats come to us with severe veterinary problems. We have had 21 cats arrive with cataracts. All of them have had cataract surgery except for Sampson. When Sampson's surgery is complete all of them will have had their eye sight restored. Upon his arrival we were aware that he had dental problems and that his sight was impaired but it wasn't until he was immobilized for a complete examination that we realized how extensive the dental problems were and that his eye sight was much worse than we suspected.

Before cataract surgery the dental problems and any other medical procedures needed to be corrected. The possibility of contaminating the eyes and complicating the cataract surgery is always a risk.

On June 8, 2010 Sampson had his first appointment at the University of Illinois. All four canine teeth were fractured with pulp exposure as well as exposed root tip on a premolar and severe wear of all incisors with pulp exposure on five incisors. Upon general examination it was discovered that his toes had draining tracts secondary to fragments of nails from a previous declaw procedure. A surgical consult was requested, X rays were done on all four feet to determine the extent of the problem. The draining toes were thoroughly flushed and scrubbed, antibiotics were given and surgery to remove the fragments was to be pursued at Sampson's next visit.

Root canal therapy was then performed by Dr. Manfra Marretta on the upper right canine, the third incisor and lower right canine. The right first and second incisors were extracted as well as the right third premolar.

On July 13, Sampson had his second visit to the University of Illinois. Two incisors were extracted, root canal therapy was performed on the upper and lower left canine teeth and a final filling was placed in the root canal of the lower right canine tooth. Surgery was performed to remove the ingrown nails and fragments of three toes.

On September 23, Sampson was again back at the University of Illinois with two extractions of incisors and a root canal on another incisor. Surgery was performed on his remaining two toes.

It is amazing how much better Sampson felt even after the first appointment. We are all eager for his eyesight to be restored. That surgery is scheduled for December 2, 2010.

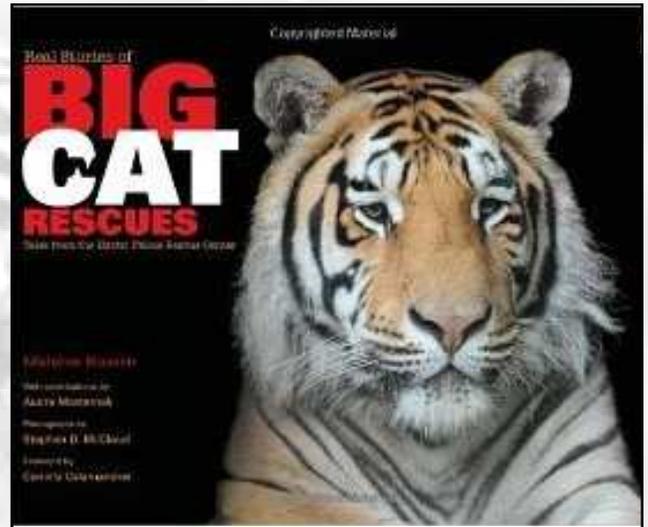


Real Stories of Big Cat Rescues: A New Book In Time For the Holidays!

Stephen McCloud's follow up of *Saving the Big Cats; The Exotic Feline Rescue Center, Real Stories of Big Cat Rescues* has 100 beautiful photos. Each cat's story is compellingly recounted by volunteer Melanie Bowlin with the help of Audra Masternak, who blogged about her unforgettable experience as an intern at the EFRC.

Visit our gift store or our merchandise page to purchase our new book or sponsor a cat from the pages of this book. You can also adopt a cat, purchase memberships, gift certificates, gift passes, merchandise (including our 2011 calendar) and make arrangements for an overnight stay.

Give a gift that gives this holiday season.



What's a Golden Tabby Tiger? Meet Sahib!



Meet Sahib a golden tabby tiger, who like the white tiger, is a variation in color and not a separate species of tiger. They are believed to be mainly of Bengal decent but most likely have some Amur (Siberian) genes too. Their color is extremely rare and caused by a recessive gene, the wide band gene, unlike the white tiger that is due to the color inhibitor (chinchilla) gene. Their coats are white with large golden patches while their stripes are much paler than other tigers, even fading into spots. It is believed there are about 30 golden tabby tigers in the world.

Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction

Please join with other friends of the EFRC on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the Robert Irsay Pavilion in Carmel, Indiana, for our third annual Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction. Last year over 300 big cat enthusiasts came out for a great day that raised nearly \$38,000 for the EFRC. We hope to aim a bit higher this year, as there are so many more cats to care for!

This year's event will feature another "feline ambassador", as last year Max (tiger) came out for the day. We will have music and offer complimentary food and drinks as a part of the day's festivities. Featuring several rounds of silent auctions, culminating with

a live auction of premium items, you won't want to miss this fun, educational and philanthropic day!

Tickets are \$40 at the door (if available) and \$30 in advance on our website. Reserved VIP seating is available for \$50 on a first-come basis. Please contact Velda Boenitz, event chair, with any questions, savingthebigcats@earthlink.net or (317) 846-5628.

We look forward to seeing you on January 22, 2011!

www.efrcfundraising.org/index.html

Meeting the Needs of Our Cats This Holiday Season

The holidays are nearly upon us and there is much to rejoice about at the EFRC as we've been able to accomplish a lot of terrific work in 2010. However, our success is also your success, as our ability to run a first-rate rescue organization is made possible through your generosity.

Just when we think we have a year fairly well projected in terms of equipment needs, cat rescues, meat and fuel, the unpredictable becomes reality and we are forced to act. Our recent rescue of 13 tigers from Texas is a prime example of how unpredictable our days can become. It also demonstrates that the EFRC is one of the few rescue organizations in the country equipped to step in on short notice and

effectively mount a large-scale rescue operation.

With an annual budget that now approaches \$400,000 the EFRC has built a loyal base of caring supporters on the simple rule that we place above all others: we act in the best interest of our cats. Gifts are not allocated for things that detract from that guiding principal. If you put the cats' welfare first, you will always make a good decision.

With the holidays quickly approaching our thoughts often turn toward family and friends. In this time of the year we ask that our friends remember the EFRC and our family of loving big cats. It doesn't

take much to make a big cat happy - food, shelter, space and a little compassion. With your tax-deductible gift you can spread some holiday cheer and make a big impact.

We ask that you make the gift that is right for you before January 1. Whether that is \$10, \$100 or \$1,000, every single gift that we receive is important and it is greatly appreciated.

So as you prepare for what will hopefully be a fun-filled holiday season, take a moment to remember the EFRC and our exotic cats. Your generosity, your support and your love of cats, big and small, will make the EFRC a better place.

Thank you and best wishes!

www.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org/gift



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. Please check our website for more information about this unique opportunity.

Our overnight experience also makes a wonderful holiday gift for the big-cat lover in your family!



Visit our online gift shop to
get in the Holiday spirit!

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 2010-11 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 _____

Cougar _____ (gray _____ cobblestone_____) Tiger (gray _____ orange_____)

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 _____

HATS _____ @ \$17.00 _____

Lion (green) _____ Cougar (black) _____ Tiger (tan & black) _____ White tiger (denim) _____ Paw Print (Orange) _____ Gold (black leopard) _____

2011 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 and Phone: _____

_____ phone: _____

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center
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