



CAT TALES

The Exotic Feline Rescue Center A National Leader in Exotic Cat Rescue and Care

A 501(c)(3) Organization

April 2008

Five New Rescues! Dangerous Rescue in KY Saves Tiger Brothers Sumara and Sumira



Sumara and Sumira in the mud in Kentucky

We were relieved when he went down after being darted the second time. He was quickly examined, immunized and loaded for the trip home.

Because of the dilapidated and structurally unsound conditions, this is one of the most dangerous removals we have ever completed. Dangerous, not only for us, but for the tigers and the neighboring community.

While Sumara and Sumira are now safe they are in very temporary housing. It is our goal to build their new habitat as soon as funding is secured. We are hopeful that through the support of our friends and foundations, we can have them in their new enclosure this spring. They have had a rough life thus far and they deserve the very best that we can give them.

MEET THREE MORE CATS! ALEX, SHILOH AND ROCKY

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After two adult male tigers escaped from their enclosure twice in less than a week we were contacted by their panicked owner in Beaver Dam, Kentucky. Realizing the urgency of the situation we agreed to come for the cats immediately despite major snow and ice storms and the difficulties of assembling a crew with no notice. Preparing to leave the next morning we were halted by a broken lift gate on our rental truck. By the time the truck was replaced our trip was postponed for 24 hours and the tigers had escaped for the third time.

Upon arriving in Kentucky we found enclosures inadequate and dangerous. It came as no surprise to be told the tigers had escaped on previous occasions, where they had killed a cougar held by the same man. With residential houses visible this was a worst-case scenario for the owner, the community and the cats.

We were able to coax one of the tigers into the transport cage despite his agitation. The second tiger became more stressed once the first tiger was loaded and it finally became apparent he would need to be immobilized. With the impact of the first dart he charged the poorly built fence breaking the lumber supports.



The cracked support after the first dart

Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction a Roaring Success!



Max traveled to the Robert Irsay Pavilion for the Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction!

On Saturday, January 19, nearly 350 friends of the EFRC filled the Robert Irsay Pavilion in Carmel, Indiana, for the inaugural Saving the Big Cats Charity Auction.

The results of this afternoon event were exceptional, as our silent auctions and live auction, combined, raised \$24,664 for the EFRC.

The EFRC would like to thank the hard work of our volunteer committee who developed this, thoughtfully planned each part of the day and then orchestrated a great day for everyone! We also thank the countless number of individuals who contributed to the success of this event through their gifts, merchandise and volunteerism!

Thank You Volunteer Committee

Loretta Antony

Velda Boenitz

Melanie Bowlin

Lisa Devault

JoAnn Frogue

Lynne Goodin

Ann Hedderick

Kristen Kemp

Erin McMullen

Alex, Shiloh and Rocky—Three Recent Rescues

We recently went to New York state to pick up two smaller cats at the request of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Alex, a bobcat, and Shiloh, a serval.

Alex, had been purchased by a retired couple living in a motor home. He rapidly got too big and too energetic for the couple who gave him to an unlicensed person.

Also living in this unlicensed home was Shiloh. Her history is less clear. The owner implied that she too was previously owned, but specific information was impossible to ascertain. We do know that she has had a broken jaw, which may explain why she refuses to groom herself.

Rocky (bobcat) is our most recent resident, arriving in March. We were called by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and informed he had been removed from a family who had failed to get a permit. He had been illegally sold for \$2,500 by a breeder in Oklahoma to the family in Indiana. He lived with them for 10 months before he got out and bit or scratched a person trying to help catch him.

He has grown up in a loving home and has received good care. His previous owners are in the process of getting proper permits. Hopefully he will be reunited with his family soon.



Alex is a beautiful bobcat

Bobcat Facts: Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal. They roam throughout much of North America and adapt well to such diverse habitats as forests, swamps, deserts, and even suburban areas. Bobcats usually hunt small game such as birds, rabbits, mice and squirrels.

SINCE THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH WE HAVE TURNED DOWN
REQUESTS TO SAVE AN ADDITIONAL 10 CATS!
HELP US SAY YES!

No More Dead Cows at the Front Gate!

The food processing center is walking, but not quite running. For the past 17 years all of the food processing has been done outside and at the front gate. This made it difficult for the staff and at times unpleasant for the visitors. We feed 3,000 pounds of meat every day and, on most days, process more which is stored in the cooler and freezer for future use. In the last year multiple breakdowns of our old refrigeration has led to the loss of all of our surplus meat on repeated occasions.

We have now installed a large cooler and freezer which measures 30' x 20'. The cost of this unit, installed, topped \$40,000.

Projects still needing to be completed at the food processing center include:

- Running water/plumbing work
- Heating, cooling & ventilation
- Electrical
- Partitions
- Water proof interior partitions

We know it has been a long haul on this project, which began with the pouring of a concrete slab over a year ago. This is an important improvement that will help to bring reliability to our food preparation.

While the food center is operating right now and storing meat, we look forward to the future when all of the details on our punch list will be complete.

Feel like you can't make a difference at the EFRC? Visit our website to see our up-to-date wish list of items needed!

WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG/WISHLIST

A Tribute to BC



BC, the first rescue, and his life-long companions Kiki and Molly



Kiki



Molly

It is with a profound sense of loss that we share with you the passing of BC (Blind Cat) at the end of February. He would have been 18 in July.

BC was our first rescued tiger, arriving in 1990. He was only six months old, crippled, blinded by cataracts, and with most of his baby teeth rotted. He had been used in the photo booth business and when he became too large he was left caged in a Volkswagen van.

His sight was restored through surgery and he enjoyed a good quality of life becoming a beautiful animal. He will be greatly missed by the staff and his two companions, Molly (tiger) and Kiki (leopard).

Alternative Spring Break Comes to the EFRC; Appalachian State University

While many college students across the country spent their spring break relaxing on a beach, 11 Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina) students came to the EFRC for “alternative spring break” where they spent their time working and making a difference for our exotic cats.

The ASU team spent their week at the EFRC learning just what goes into making the EFRC run and helping prepare our enclosures for the spring. They got dirty and were no doubt exhausted by the time they went home.

We'd also like to thank Chuck and Kathy Lennox, who graciously allowed these students to live in his cabin for the duration of their stay. Thanks to everyone!



The Appalachian State University team moving gravel and posing for a nice group shot at the end of a work day!

Highlights of the 2007 EFRC Annual Report

The EFRC had a challenging year in 2007, but thanks to the support of our loyal friends, we were able to move forward in several key areas. While our income was down slightly over 2006, our expenditures fell in a similar manner. In 2007, we allocated over \$45,000 for construction supplies and new equipment, keeping our focus on finishing the food processing facility.

Of our nine represented species of cat, tigers remained the dominant population in 2007 with a combined 97 males and females.

In 2007 the EFRC enjoyed the support of seven major foundations and trusts.

To view our complete 2007 Annual Report please visit our website and look under “Cat Tales Newsletter”.

Expense/Income Comparison

2006 - 2007

Expenses

2006 = \$379,697

2007 = \$342,573

Income

2006 = \$395,246 *

2007 = \$353,457

* Included a one-time payment of \$22,951 from the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service.



Rake and Wedge on March 21, 2008



Navi and George on February 22, 2008

Cosmo Is Living It Up in Albuquerque

Cosmo, a male lion that fought continually with one of his cage mates is one of three cats on permanent exhibition loans to AZA zoos. He was taken to the Rio Grande Zoo, in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2002 in response to their search for a companion to their recently widowed lioness.



Cosmo, then a young male, is thriving at the zoo, as EFRC Board member Jason Petrovich recently learned on a visit and meeting with Cosmo's keepers.

Cosmo's habitat-mate is a 20 year old female lion, Sarah. The keepers say that Cosmo is much friendlier with Sarah than she would appreciate. While she tolerates most of his amorous behavior, she is not shy about occasionally whacking him in the face.

The Rio Grande keepers reported that Cosmo's weight is an estimated 340



pounds and that he is very healthy. Cosmo was originally seized in Missouri during a drug raid. We were subsequently contacted and agreed to take custody of him. We are pleased that he is thriving at the Rio Grande Zoo and thank them for taking such excellent care of him.

If you are ever in Albuquerque, please visit him!

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Upcoming Special Events

Spring & Summer 2008

April 19

Spring Fling at the EFRC

May 17

Run Through the Jungle 5K

June 21

Evening Roar I

July 19

Summer Safari

August 16

Evening Roar II

PLAN TO ATTEND!

Stay the Night at the EFRC!

Have you ever wondered what our cats do after dark? You can learn the answer to that question by booking our guest room for an overnight stay.

Our guest room "overnight experience" is a wildly popular experience among our friends and supporters. The cost of this extraordinary opportunity is \$120 per evening through the end of April. Beginning May 1 the price will increase to \$150 for any evening.

Our guest room features a private entrance, bathroom (shower and tub), a queen size bed, microwave, refrigerator and coffee pot.

During the evening our cats become more active and vocal than they are during the day. In addition to receiving a tour



Little B, an ocelot, who lives near the guest room

of our facility as a part of this package deal, you will also have access to many cats not usually exhibited to the public as you accompany our keepers to restricted areas of the EFRC to see an additional 80 cats!

For more information, please visit our website or call (812) 835-1130.

The overnight experience package is for adults only. We do not allow pets on site at any time.

Create a Legacy at the EFRC Which Costs Nothing Today

There's a relatively famous line about the only things being certain are death and taxes. While this rather grim view of our lives and finances is often the source of jokes, it also opens the conversation about charitable giving through your estate plan.

While the majority of people rightly think of their family as the primary beneficiary when it comes to estate planning, charitable organizations such as the EFRC can receive testamentary gifts of assets. These gifts are often much larger than a person could ever make during their lifetime and may carry positive tax benefits to the donor's estate. These gifts will shape the future of the EFRC.

Testamentary gifts (through your will) provide the donor with the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting a cause in which they believe. The benefits to the EFRC in such a case are substantial and represent a personal legacy of support

created by that donor and their family.

There are numerous ways to construct a charitable gift through your will. If you have not already done so the EFRC encourages you to seek competent estate planning counsel, as each situation is unique.

If you decide that the EFRC has earned your personal legacy of support, the simplest gift vehicle to think about is a charitable bequest, where at your death, a distribution will be made, free of tax, to the EFRC for the purpose you have indicated.

The two common scenarios for a donor are to either indicate a specific dollar amount as a bequest or a percentage of their gross estate as a means of fulfilling their intent. Simple wording in your will would accomplish either.

Beyond the good feeling of supporting the future welfare and lives of our exotic cats,

your gift might also generate tax savings for both your estate and your heirs.

Many of the aspects of charitable gift planning through your estate are too detailed to enjoy a thorough review in such a brief article. There are many good avenues to pursue involving a multitude of assets, such as tax-deferred accounts (IRA and 401K), life insurance policies, publicly traded securities and many other commonly owned assets.

The first question in this discussion which must be answered before any other is, would you consider creating a personal legacy at the EFRC? If the answer is "yes", then the opportunities to do good are many.

If you would like more information about this or have a specific question, please contact Jason Petrovich, EFRC Board of Directors, jpetrovich@depauw.edu.

Many thanks for all you do for the EFRC.

Spring and Summer Merchandise Is Here!



The EFRC online gift store is ready to receive your online gift order for great spring and summer merchandise.

Go to our website and browse our selection of EFRC t-shirts, books, hats and other items.

Shipping and handling is free!

We accept Visa, Mastercard and Pay Pal at our secure online gift store.

Please note that our selection of long sleeve and sweatshirt items are limited and not due to be restocked until August.

Thank you for shopping with the EFRC!

EFRC 2008 GIFT COMMITMENT and MERCHANDISE FORM

Annual Membership Levels

Pride Membership - \$10,000

Lion Membership - \$5,000

White Tiger Membership - \$2,500

* Adopt-A-Cat! - \$1,500

Tiger Membership - \$1,000

Leopard Membership - \$500

Cougar Membership - \$250

Lynx Membership - \$150

Serval Membership - \$50

* Sponsor-A-Cat! - \$50

Bobcat Membership - \$25

Thank you for your support of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. Your commitment will help to provide the best possible life for our exotic cats.

The EFRC is a 501(c)3 organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and annual limitations.

All checks should be made payable to the EFRC.

* If you are adopting or sponsoring a cat, please note the species or the specific name of the cat you prefer, if known.

Species or name: _____

Yes, I will support the EFRC with a gift of \$ _____

The EFRC does not share its mailing list under any circumstances!

Available EFRC Merchandise

Short Sleeve T-Shirts (\$20): Size _____

Cougar ___(gray/cobblestone) Lion ___(brown/black) Spotted Leopard ___(black) Tiger Eyes ___(forest green) White Tiger ___(lt blue)

Tri-Cat ___(lion, tiger & cougar on yellow)

A limited number of sweatshirts (\$30) and long sleeve t-shirts (\$25) are available on our website. We will restock in August!

Hats (\$15): Lion ___(green) Cougar ___(black) Tiger ___(tan and black) **2008 Calendar (\$15)** ___

Keychain (\$3): Spotted Leopard ___ Cougar ___ Lion (f) ___ Lion (m) ___ Lynx ___ Black Leopard ___ Tiger ___ White Tiger ___ Bobcat ___

Ocelot ___ Serval ___

Magnet (\$2): Spotted Leopard ___ Cougar ___ Lion (f) ___ Lion (m) ___ Lynx ___ Black Leopard ___ Tiger ___ White Tiger ___ Bobcat ___

Ocelot ___ Serval ___ Asian Leopard Cat ___

Max the Tiger Car Ribbon (\$5): white ___ orange ___ **EFRC Lion Iron-On Patch (\$3.50):** ___

Saving the Big Cats book by Stephen McCloud (\$39.95) ___

Shipping & Handling for mail/phone orders: \$4 book, \$3 shirts, hats & calendars, \$2 car ribbon & \$1 for all else. Mail and phone orders, checks only please. Online ordering is available with Visa, Mastercard and PayPal.

Name: _____ Total Enclosed: EFRC Gift \$ _____

Address: _____ Merchandise \$ _____

Shipping \$ _____

MERCHANDISE ORDERS FROM OUR WEBSITE SHIP FREE!

WE ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD FOR ONLINE ORDERS AND ANNUAL GIFTS!

WWW.EXOTICFELINERESCUECENTER.ORG

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