

## Cat Tales

Volume 6

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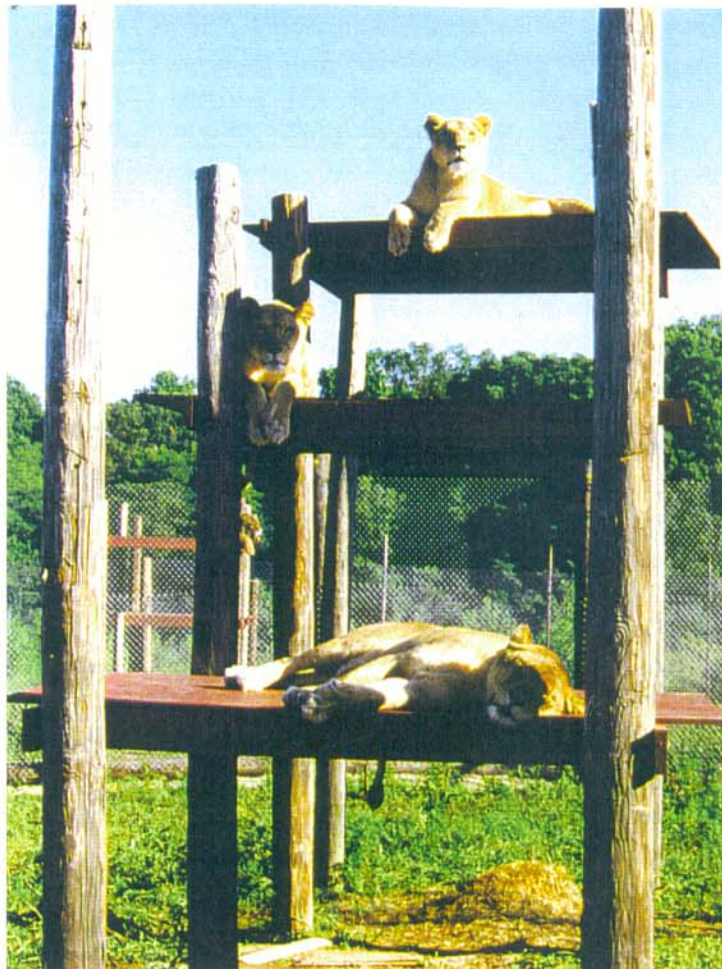
### Cage Completion Leads to Upgrade for 25 Cats

July was a busy month completing two new permanent habitats. The new areas are for five of the circus tigers who came to us in September 1997 and seven lionesses who arrived from Mississippi in December 1997. Each habitat encloses almost 20,000 square feet of rolling land and a three tier climbing tower. This allows a view of the entire center as well as providing a shaded area for mid-day naps. The tigers also have two large water tanks in which to lounge. The first group to move were the 5 circus tigers (Bombay, Moustafa, Goldie, Menelik & Mauza), who love to climb the tower and don't hesitate to leap from the top to the ground. With their old area vacant, Babe and Baby were soon moved into the 4,800 square feet enclosure (see story page 2). Next to move were the "Southern Belles", who quickly found their way to the top of the tower to view their surroundings. With their previous area available, Wedge and Rake then moved in the larger area followed by Lea, Nala, and Gabby, who have returned from their stay with Rich and Kim Kensel in Illinois. The most recent to join their young pride is a new male lion, who just arrived from Missouri (see story page 2). With Wedge and Rake's old area available, the five baby tigers were moved from the house allowing everyone, including Joe, more room.

#### Sebastian

Sebastian, a 7 year old male cougar, has also moved into a new enclosure. The new area is large and wooded with downed trees and underbrush. Room to run and places to hide, have produced marked changes in Sebastian's behavior and appetite. In his new home he has become more alert, energetic, and outgoing. It is wonderful to see such a change for the better in his life.

(See picture page 3)



Above: The "Southern Belles" relax on their new climbing tower.

#### Come Visit Us!

Visitors and Volunteers Always Welcome

Open Tuesday through Sunday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.



## *Special Profile* --- **RAPP**IE

Rappie, a female African lion, arrived at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in December, 1996, when she was about 4 to 6 months old. We were told by the Humane Society that she was an unhandleable cub that had been seized by authorities in Lima, Ohio, where she was found tied in a wood shed. Upon arrival Rappie was underweight, malnourished, had facial lacerations, and was terrified of people. That same day she was introduced to Koshka, a three month old tiger cub, who immediately became her best friend. Rappie now enjoys a large enclosure with her friend where she loves to rearrange the spools and eliminate trees. She frequently seeks attention from our volunteers and visitors.



Above: Rappie, enjoying a summer day in her large enclosure.

## *Newest Arrivals at the Center*

### *Babe & Baby*

Two of our newest arrivals come from a roadside zoo in Batavia, Illinois, that recently closed because of several citations and fines. Babe and Baby, nine and ten year old African lions, had spent their life in a corncrib with a concrete floor. Upon arrival Baby's mane was matted and dirty. Both lions suffered from malnutrition, obesity, arthritis, and lack muscular development especially in the front legs. These medical conditions along with living in such cramped quarters on concrete make it very difficult for them to walk on the ground. In July they moved into the area that previously housed the five circus tigers. These new surroundings, and larger enclosure is allowing them to gain strength and agility they previously lacked. We hope to see continued improvements in their health.

**Annual Membership and Board Meeting to be held at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center  
October 24, 1998 at 1:00 p.m.**

### *Young Male Lion Arrives at Center*

Our newest resident, (pictured below) a young male lion arrived in August from Missouri. He was seized in a drug raid in April 1998 and spent the past few months living at a veterinary clinic near Springfield, Missouri. This young lion, who is about 1 year old, is extremely friendly with people, but is very shy with the other lions. Hopefully, he will realize that he too has four legs and fur and will begin to identify with his new pride (Wedge, Rake, Lea, Nala, and Gabby).

Below: The young male lion enjoying his new home.





## *Since Last Time . . . .*

### **EFRC Has Second Site**

In April, 1998 Rich and Kim Kensell officially became site 2 for the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. Rich and Kim spent several months caring for three young lions (two who needed medical care at the University of Illinois), and they currently have a young cougar. Although their site will only allow homes for a few cats, their service is greatly needed and appreciated. Thanks Rich and Kim.

### ***Special Thank You!!!!***

We want to thank everyone who has given time and money to help care for these deserving cats. Without your help it would not be possible.

FOREST PRODUCTS GROUP INC. for the tractor/loader/backhoe and lumber donated to the Center. The new equipment certainly makes construction and daily care easier. A special thanks to Marc for services above and beyond the call of duty at the butcher stand.

Jeff and Diane Bowen for spearheading the light project. Thanks to them and their friends, we now have lights at all enclosures. Having night time access is vital to the care and safety of everyone.

Clark Charitable Trust for their continued support.

Gina LaGortte for the fax/copier machine.

### **Directions to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center**

*From I-70:*

4 ½ miles south of I-70 Exit 23, Brazil/Linton and  
2 ½ miles east of State Road 59.

(Turn left at the Ashboro Methodist Church)

*From Bloomington:*

Take 46 west through Spencer, three miles past  
Bowling Green. Turn right onto 200 E. Then turn  
right onto Ashboro Road

### **New Cougar at Site 2**

Achia, a young female cougar arrived in April 1998. She is one year old and extremely friendly. Achia was confiscated by the City of Champaign Animal Control where she was living with a family without the proper permits. Animal Control found she had been completely declawed and was eating a diet of cat food. Achia is now living with the Kensells where she is receiving a proper diet and care.

### ***Volunteers Needed:***

We constantly need volunteers to help at the center. Individuals and groups provide the needed labor to continue operation of the center. Some of our many needs include:

Construction

Lawn Care

Cleaning Cages

Preparing Food

Searching and Writing Grants

Writing stories for the newsletter

Giving Tours to Groups

Finding sources for materials

Below: Sebastian enjoying his new wooded surroundings.  
See story page 1.

