



FELID TAG TIMES

A quarterly publication of the Felid Taxon Advisory Group of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums

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AUGUST 2008,
Felids of the Americas

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

Welcome to the first issue of the Felid TAG Times!

Look here for the latest news about Felid TAG activities. Regular features include Calendar, News, Conservation Program Updates (each issue focuses on a particular geographical region), Opportunities, Meet Our Cats, and Meet a Member. If you have comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please send them to Shasta Bray at Shasta.bray@cincinnati-zoo.org.

News

Felid TAG Web Site

The Felid TAG education team is hard at work constructing the new web site so check in periodically to <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/conservationandscience/AZA/FelidTAG/> to see what's going on. (You will still be able to access the site through www.felidtag.org.) Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress and any questions / comments / criticisms can be sent to site administrator, Craig Saffoe, at saffoec@si.edu and he will try to help.

Conference Wrap-up

Hosted by the Cincinnati Zoo, the annual Felid TAG Conference took place on April 11-13, 2008. The meeting focused on Felids of the Americas, with invited speakers talking about conservation efforts with jaguars, pumas, ocelots, and Canada lynx. The meeting was attended by about 100 individuals representing more than 50 zoos and affiliated institutions. The proceedings will be published and distributed this summer. In conjunction with the conference, large and small cat husbandry courses and SSP meetings for the fishing cat, lion, and ocelot were held.

Calendar

July 23

- Snow Leopard SSP meeting, Toledo

July 24-26

- Tiger SSP meeting, Toledo

August 10-12

- Lion SSP meeting, Idaho Falls

September 15

- Jaguar SSP meeting, Milwaukee
- Tiger SSP meeting, Milwaukee
- Cheetah SSP meeting, Milwaukee

April 27-May 3, 2009 TENTATIVE

- Felid TAG Annual Conference, Tacoma



Meet Our Cats: Reno

Born in Colorado in 1985, Reno was the oldest living mountain lion in captivity in North America when he passed away at the age of 22 in 2007. He lived at The Living Desert since 1993. Reno had a people-friendly attitude and enjoyed lounging in front of his large glass window and watching the visitors pass by.

The longevity of Reno is a tribute to the love, care, and attention that he has received for over 20 years at The Living Desert.+

- Michelle Schireman, Puma Population Manager

Conservation Program Updates

Jaguar SSP

Master Plan

Completed last May, the 2007-09 Master Plan is available on the AZA website. Currently, 123 total animals reside in 50 participating institutions. A sustainable number of pedigreed pairings will be recommended every three years. Eight transfers and 16 pairings were recommended for the period 2007. 2009. The population requires additional imports to maintain 90% genetic diversity. Milwaukee County Zoo and Warner Park Zoo are expecting imports, and San Diego and Nashville Zoos are considering import projects.



Studbook

Institutions holding jaguars will be contacted over the summer for studbook updates.

Husbandry Manual

Chris Law, Philadelphia Zoo, should have a draft of the revised jaguar husbandry manual ready for management group review at the AZA annual conference in September.

Ocelot SSP

Wildlife Research Expeditions

Dallas Zoo's semi-annual Wildlife Research Expeditions (WREs) continue to supply volunteer field assistants for Arturo Casco's study on ocelot and jaguarundi spatial distribution and habitat use in Tamaulipas, Mexico. For more information on future WREs, contact Sue Booth-Binczik at sue.boothbinczik@dallascityhall.com.

Texas Study

This past winter Kerri Slifka, Nutritionist, and Sue Booth-Binczik, Research Technician, both of the Dallas Zoo, began a collaboration with Jody Mays of U.S. Fish and Wildlife to evaluate the nutritional status of the ocelot population on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.



Master Plan

A master plan was completed in February, 2008. Currently, there are 88 generic ocelots in 51 institutions, and 25 Brazilian ocelots in 13 institutions. All nine unrelated Brazilian ocelot pairs were recommended for breeding. In addition, we adopted a strategy of pairing lone Brazilian males with generic females on deslorelin to give the males some socialization experience. One of the Brazilian ocelot pairs imported in 2006 by the Oklahoma City Zoo produced their first kitten in July 2008. Since the Brazilian population is growing very slowly and the demand for ocelots to exhibit has increased, we made 15 breeding recommendations of generic ocelots.

Steering Committee

We recently formed a new steering committee. This committee includes Nanette Bragin (Denver Zoo), Ann Konopik (Salisbury Zoo), Keith Lovett (Palm Beach Zoo), Tina Hughes (Zoo Boise), Farashid Mehrdadfar (San Diego Zoo), Steve Wing (Louisville Zoo), Suzanne Merner (Santa Ana Zoo) with Danelle Okeson DVM (Rolling Hills Zoo) as Veterinary Advisor and Stacy McReynolds (San Antonio Zoo) as Education Advisor.

Ocelot Recovery Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ocelot Recovery Plan should be published in the Federal Register this fall. The Implementation Subcommittee of the Recovery Team, which has representatives from AZA zoos, nongovernmental organizations, federal and state governmental organizations, private citizens, and land owners, will begin enacting the action items. The Ocelot SSP will be looking for more assistance from zoos and individuals in the future.

Brazilian Ocelot Consortium (BOC)

The 2007 BOC Report is available from either Ken Kaemmerer or Bill Swanson. We have formally finished 5 years of the original agreement, but we have not met all of our goals, including the importation of 8-10 founder pairs. We expect permits from IBAMA in Brazil to import the two pairs to the Salisbury Zoo and Naples Zoo by the end of the year. We want to continue to support the excellent *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts of our Brazilian partners. We will be asking the original 10 zoos to renew their commitment, and encourage additional zoos to join us. See the May issue of *AZA Connect*, for an overview of the BOC written by Bill Swanson.





Canada lynx PMP

Don Goff, Assistant Director and General Curator of Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, is now the Canada Lynx PMP Coordinator. If you are holding or are interested in holding Canada lynx, please contact him at (203) 394-6564 or dgoff@beardsleyzoo.org.

Puma PMP

PMP Update

Currently, there are 140 pumas in the AZA collection, 80 of which are 10 years old or younger. The breeding moratorium is still in place and while we had no births again this year, we did take in 24 wild-born, orphaned cubs. Many of our pumas are aging (at least 15 years old). If you have an aging cat that may need to be replaced in the near future, please contact Michelle Schireman, PMP Manager, prior to the cat's death. This will shorten your wait for a replacement as well as facilitate quick placement of cubs from state agencies that have little or no holding space. Also, if you are contacted by a local game agent trying to place cubs and you can't take them, feel free to give out my contact information. Thanks to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Joe Maynard at the Exotic Feline Breeding Center for holding cubs on very short notice this year. Please contact Michelle if you are able to hold cubs for a 3-6 month period when needed.

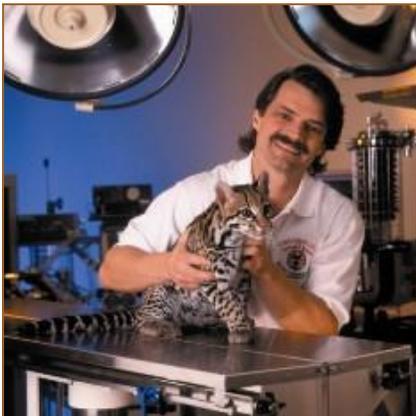


There once was a man from Yuma,
Who told an elephant joke to a puma,
Now his body lies,
Under the hot desert skies,
For the puma had no sense of huma.
- Author unknown

Opportunities

Make a Big Impact with Small Cats

Small cats make wonderful exhibit animals when the design enhances their natural behaviors. At the same time, you'll be contributing to the conservation of these charismatic, pint-sized predators. In 2001, the AZA created Species Survival Plans (SSP) for five small cat species- the fishing cat, the Southern Brazilian ocelot, the black-footed cat, the sand cat, and the Pallascat. To succeed, more institutions need to get involved. For specific information on how you can integrate one or all of these species into your collection, please contact the appropriate SSP coordinator (see back cover).



Meet a Member: Dr. William Swanson

Dr. William Swanson is the Director of Animal Research at the Center for Conservation and Reproduction of Wildlife (CREW), based at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. As one of the world's experts on cat reproduction, Dr. Swanson's research focuses on the reproductive physiology of domestic and endangered wild cat species. Dr. Swanson is Co-chair of the Felid TAG and the Fishing Cat SSP Coordinator. When he's not transferring frozen-thawed embryos, Dr. Swanson can be found practicing his karaoke rendition of "What's New, Pallascat?" with hopes of winning the next Karaoke for Cats competition.

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Submissions

Felid TAG Times is edited by Shasta Bray, Felid TAG Education Co-Liaison. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to Shasta.bray@cincinnatiatizoo.org. Submission deadline for the November newsletter, highlighting Felids of Africa, is October 1.