

# FELID TAG TIMES

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

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## Calendar

AZA Annual Conference, Phoenix Zoo, Sept 9 - 13, 2012

- Cheetah SSP, Sept 9, 9:00AM - 1:00PM
- Felid TAG Meeting, Sept 10, 8:00AM - 10:30AM
- Tiger SSP & Tiger Conservation Campaign, Sept 10, 1:00PM - 2:00PM
- Jaguar SSP, Sept 10, 3:00PM - 4:00PM
- Amur Leopard SSP Management Group-Exhibit Hall Roundtable, Sept 11, 12:15PM - 1:45PM
- Providing for Predators: Innovations in Husbandry, Design and Enrichment, Sept 11, 2:00PM - 3:30PM

## Felid TAG News

### Amur Leopard SSP Updates

The Amur leopard SSP is pleased to announce the birth of five cubs so far in 2012. A male cub, Makar, was born at the Denver Zoo on April 25<sup>th</sup> and was the first offspring of 10-year-old female, Dazma. Three cubs were born at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with two cubs surviving. Both are males and doing well. Two cubs were also born on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Minnesota Zoo and are not yet sexed. This gives a real boost to the Amur leopard population, which has not had many births in the last few years.



Several other pairs have also been recommended to breed by the SSP in the coming months. The resulting offspring will be very important to the program, since there is a significant number of aging animals in the population that will need to be replaced over the next few years.

The program is also actively seeking additional zoos to exhibit these highly endangered cats to make it possible to expand the population. This will enable the target population to be increased, which will in turn help the long term gene diversity for this fragile species. Amur leopards are the most endangered cat in the world, which makes them an excellent animal to focus on in sending a strong conservation message. They are also wonderful exhibit animals, being very active and having very few health issues. If you need more information or think that your zoo would be interested in exhibiting these great cats, please contact the Amur leopard program leader, Cynthia Kreider, at the Erie Zoo by calling (814) 864-4091 or (814) 434-2632 (cell), or e-mail [ckreider@eriezoo.org](mailto:ckreider@eriezoo.org).

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AQUARIUMS

## Felid TAG Conference and Husbandry Course Wrap-up



As always, the Felid TAG Conference and Husbandry Courses were a great success. Hosted by Utah's Hogle Zoo, the Conference welcomed 146 attendees.

Kathleen Milk (pictured above with BJ Schoeberl) from Zoo Miami was the 2012 recipient of Denver Zoo's Pfaff Memorial Scholarship. She attended the husbandry course as well as the TAG meetings and seemed thrilled to have been selected. She gave a short presentation on the last day of the meetings, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

This was the first year the Tiger SSP and Snow Leopard SSP master planning meetings happened in conjunction with the Felid TAG conference and it worked out really well. Other meetings took place for Clouded Leopard, Jaguarundi, Pallas' Cat, Serval, Black footed Cat, Fishing Cat, Ocelot, African Lion, and Amur Leopard programs.

The conference itself focused on identifying opportunities for Global Species Management Plans (GSMPs). All regional coordinators from AZA and EAZA programs for the Amur tiger, Amur leopard, Pallas' cat and black-footed cat attended and participated in discussions and plans to initiate GSMP processes. Also present were Kathy Traylor-Holzer, CBSG; Sarah Long, Director of the Population Management Center (PMC); Katelyn Marti and Melissa Theis, PMC Population Biologists; and Candice Dorsey, AZA's Director of Animal Conservation.

Hogle Zoo staff hosted six outings before, in between, and after the meetings. We sighted a moose mom and calf as well as burrowing owl and barn owl nestlings. The extraordinary Colossus wooden roller coaster, the only one of its kind still in operation, was also a big hit.

We tried something new at the Zoo day dinner and auction, an endeavor we called "Take a Shot for Conservation". For \$5 you got a choice of one shot of whiskey or herbal liquor (both uniquely made in Utah). The attendees emptied three bottles, amounting to more than \$500 raised. The auction itself brought in over \$5,000. Great job!

We also celebrated Bill Swanson's and Norah Fletchall's 10 years of dedication as the Vice/Co Chair positions on the TAG, as well as Bonnie Breitbeil's 1996 to 2012 long standing Secretary position. They were awarded with original pieces of art from Hogle Zoo's resident Director of Art, Jameson Weston, as well as 2012 commemorative Felid TAG pottery mugs by Richard Barker. Thanks for all of your hard work!

A very special thanks also goes out to this year's sponsors: Service Systems Associates (SSA), Sustainable Swine Resources (formerly known as Johnsonville), P&G Pet Care, CLR, SIRQ, Nebraska Brand, Cincinnati Zoo, and Mazuri. These sponsors allowed the Felid TAG to host an extraordinary conference, bringing together our international colleagues for collective work.

- Kim Davidson, Local Host, 2012 Felid TAG Conference



### Snow Leopard Cubs Born at Akron Zoo

The Akron Zoological Park recently experienced their first ever snow leopard birth. On May 14, 2012 first time mother Shanti gave birth to two healthy males. The animal care and vet staff are very pleased to announce that Shanti, an almost four year old and hand raised female, has shown excellent maternal care and is rearing both cubs without assistance. This litter marks the first successful breeding for both Shanti and Roscoe, a nine year old male.

The keepers were able to train Shanti to allow the veterinarian to perform ultrasound without anesthesia. Pregnancy was confirmed during her first ultrasound at day 60. This proved to be a valuable behavior and great way to track her pregnancy. Voluntary ultrasounds were done about once a week to monitor the growth and development of the cubs.

Both cubs are doing extremely well. They have distinct personalities and are growing fast. At five days old both cubs weighed just over 900 grams and at four weeks they hit five pounds.



### Snow Leopard Trust 2012 Natural Partnership Program

Join the Natural Partnerships Program this year and turn inspiration into action!

Over 160 zoos worldwide have snow leopards on exhibit, with 71 zoos exhibiting snow leopards in Europe and 68 zoos in North America. **Currently 72** zoos are participating in the Snow Leopard Trust's Natural Partnerships Program. Participation directly impacts snow leopard conservation in the field. Millions of individuals watch these snow leopards in awe and amazement every year. The Natural Partnerships Program bridges these inspiring moments with powerful contributions to snow leopard conservation in the field. Imagine the impact on snow leopard conservation if all 160 zoos joined together to support the Snow Leopard Trust conservation, education and applied research efforts. What a huge difference each zoo makes.

Whether you make a financial contribution, purchase product for your gift shop, host a "Snow Leopard Day" at your Zoo, or all of the above, there are so many ways to be involved, which are described on our new web site at [www.snowleopard.org/about/partners/zoo-partners](http://www.snowleopard.org/about/partners/zoo-partners).

Questions? Call Marissa B. Niranjani, Zoo Programs Manager, Snow Leopard Trust, at (206)632-2421.

### Clouded Leopard Cubs on Exhibit at Nashville Zoo

Guests at Nashville Zoo can now enjoy the chasing, climbing and exploring activities of Indira, Drupada, Tarak, Tula and Nuri, the Zoo's five clouded leopard cubs. Indira (female) and Drupada (male) were born Feb. 13, and Tarak (female) and Tula (male) were born March 11. A fifth cub, named Nuri (female), was born March 8 at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. and joined Nashville Zoo's foursome in May.

Guests can see them until the end of the summer when they will be moved off exhibit and paired with potential breeding mates. Since 2009, 12 cubs have been born at Nashville Zoo's off-exhibit facility. (Photo: Aimee Stubbs)



### Fishing Cat Kittens in Washington

The Smithsonian's National Zoological Park (NZIP) had 1.1 fishing cat kittens born on June 18<sup>th</sup>. They're doing great with mom, Electra, and have received their first vaccines. The first surviving fishing cat kittens born at NZIP, they will become valuable breeders because their genes are not well represented in the captive population.



### Cat Canyon Opens at Cincinnati Zoo

In June, the Cincinnati Zoo unveiled its renovation of the old cat grottoes. Cat Canyon links up Night Hunters (which opened in May 2011) with new outdoor cougar, white tiger, Malayan tiger, and snow leopard enclosures. The exhibit features waterfalls, new rockwork, a wooden bridge, eye-to-eye viewing panes, and lush play spaces for its residents. Cat Canyon provides an exciting, sensory adventure into the world of these great predators while strengthening the Zoo's commitment to the conservation of threatened species through education and scientific research in the wild and at the Zoo.



Photo: Connie Lempferle



Photo: Connie Lempferle



Photo: Connie Lempferle



Photo: Kathy Newton

### Sustainable Shopper App: Download the Power to Protect Tigers in the Palm of your Hand

As consumers, we can do our part to protect tigers and their rainforest habitat by choosing products made with certified sustainable palm oil. The Cincinnati Zoo has developed a Sustainable Shopper app, which connects you with more than 500 products manufactured by companies certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. Simply download the app onto your Smartphone and take it with you when you go shopping.



From your web-enabled phone, go to [cincinnatizoo.org/sustainable-shopper](http://cincinnatizoo.org/sustainable-shopper) OR scan this QR code with your preferred QR code reader.

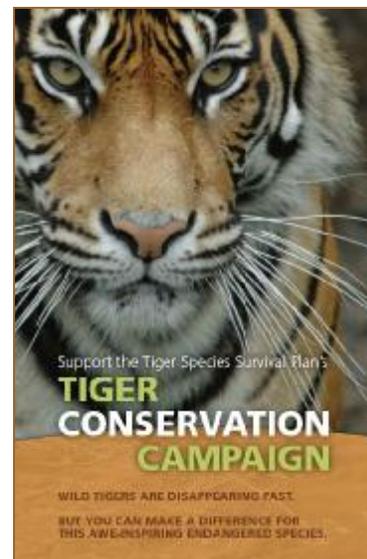


### Zoo Partners with Cincinnati Bengals

The Cincinnati Zoo has teamed up with the Cincinnati Bengals to offer a one-of-a-kind Cat Canyon **A.D.O.P.T.** ([cincinnatizoo.org/support/adopt/](http://cincinnatizoo.org/support/adopt/)). This special \$65 **A.D.O.P.T.** helps to provide food, toys and enrichment items for the Zoo's tigers. The package includes a custom certificate, tiger fact sheet, tiger plush toy and Cincinnati Bengals decal, PLUS you are automatically eligible to win an exclusive Cincinnati Bengals Experience, which includes an exclusive tour of Paul Brown Stadium, an autographed football, and more.

### Tiger Conservation Campaign Going Strong

The Tiger SSP's Tiger Conservation Campaign is excited to announce that our supporters raised over \$28,500 for wild tiger conservation efforts in the first six months of the campaign! Thanks to everyone who made a donation or held a fundraiser. We'd especially like to thank our major supporters (\$500 or more): Minnesota Zoo, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, The Toledo Zoo, AZUL, Phoenix Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Potawatomi Zoo, Toro Giving Program, and Detroit AAZK. Thanks as well to the several other zoos that are currently raising funds or have pledged support. Learn more about the Tiger Conservation Campaign at [www.mnzoo.org/tigerssp/campaign](http://www.mnzoo.org/tigerssp/campaign) and [www.facebook.com/tigercampaign](http://www.facebook.com/tigercampaign) and help us spread the word!



**New Felid TAG Poster**

A new Felid TAG poster, sponsored by Nebraska Brand, debuted at this year's annual conference. It presents captive felid body condition guidelines for five species (lion, tiger, jaguar, cheetah, ocelot). Posters will be available for pick up at the AZA conference in September.

Thanks to all who provided reference photos and review of the poster. Special thanks to contributors Nikki Nastold/Cincinnati Zoo (layout & design), Shasta Bray/Cincinnati Zoo (coordination & content), Catherine Vallance (illustrations), and Ellen Dierenfeld (coordination & veterinary expertise).



**Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation in Wild Cat Conservation Applications Due August 15**

Each year, Panthera will give a prize in the amount of \$15,000 to a special individual who has already made a significant contribution to conserving wild cats, and who represents the next generation of scientists, conservationists, policy makers, politicians and planners who will pave the future of wild cat conservation. This person has and will continue to work tirelessly to contribute, in a significant way, to the conservation of wild cats. Applications will be reviewed by the Cat Advisory Council, who will determine the final award recipient. The prize is to be used at the discretion of the recipient.

Panthera is now accepting applications for the Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation. Applications will be accepted through August 15, 2012, at [www.panthera.org](http://www.panthera.org).



**Government of Costa Rica and Panthera Make Crucial Commitment to Protect Jaguars**

On July 5, Panthera and Costa Rica's Minister of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that officially recognizes the country's Jaguar Corridor.

"Both groups commit to carrying out rigorous scientific and conservation initiatives that will help in securing protected wild lands linking jaguar populations in Costa Rica and beyond, as well as ensure that the development of land around these protected areas is done in a way to benefit both wildlife and local communities." - Panthera

**Other Felid News**

**Spotless Cheetah Spotted in Kenya**

In 2010, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)'s Director Mary Wykstra received reports that a spotless cheetah was seen on several ranches in the area. Wykstra believes that the last documented account of a spotless cheetah was in 1921. In August, ACK staff had a brief glimpse of the 10-month-old cub with its mother. Since then, ACK has taken steps in an effort to research what is believed to be the result of a mutant or recessive gene. ACK hopes to obtain hair and fecal material for subsequent genetic analysis.



Photo: Guy Combes





### Cincinnati Zoo Cheetah Sets New World Speed Record

Sarah, the Cincinnati Zoo's 11-year-old cheetah, set a new world speed record! She first earned the title of world's fastest of all land mammals in 2009 when she covered 100 meters in 6.13 seconds, breaking the previous mark of 6.19 seconds set by a male South African cheetah named Nyana in 2001. This year, Sarah shattered all 100-meter times when she posted 5.95 seconds. By comparison, Sarah's 100-meter run was nearly four seconds faster than the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt of Jamaica, whose fastest time for the same distance is 9.58 seconds. Sarah's top speed was clocked at 61 mph.

Sarah and the Cincinnati Zoo's other four cheetahs in the Cat Ambassador Program were at the Zoo's Regional Cheetah Breeding Facility as part of a project that will be featured in the November issue of National Geographic Magazine, which will include never-before-seen high speed photographs of cheetah movement. The documentation of the run was also supported by National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative, a long-term effort to halt the decline of big cats in the wild through assessment efforts, on-the-ground conservation projects, education, economic incentive programs and a global public-awareness campaign.

### **Felid TAG Steering Committee Members**

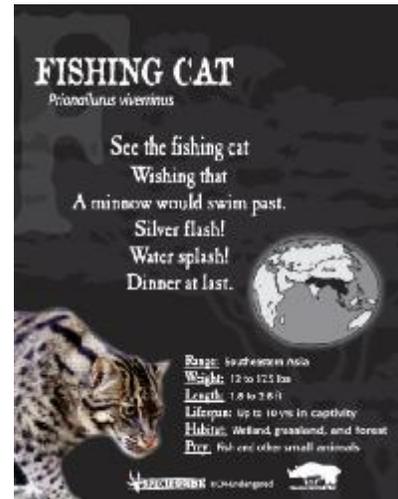
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### **Submissions**

Felid TAG Times is edited by Shasta Bray, Felid TAG Education Co-Liaison. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to [Shasta.bray@cincinnati.org](mailto:Shasta.bray@cincinnati.org). Submission deadline for the November 2012 issue is October 1.



Cat Canyon/Cincinnati Zoo/Shasta Bray

- Jaguarundi Phase-in
- Caracal Yellow SSP
- Serval Yellow SSP
- Fishing cat Red Program
- Amur leopard Yellow SSP
- Canada lynx Yellow SSP
- Lion Green SSP
- Cheetah Yellow SSP
- Snow leopard Yellow SSP
- Sand cat Red Program
- Ocelot Yellow SSP
- Pallas' cat Red Program
- Puma Yellow SSP
- Clouded leopard Yellow SSP
- Bobcat Yellow SSP
- Tiger Green SSP
- Jaguar Yellow SSP
- Black-footed cat Yellow SSP