

FELID TAG TIMES

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

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Happy Easter

February 2013

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

Felid TAG News

Save the Date: Felid TAG Conference

The 2013 Felid TAG Conference will be held from June 27 to 29 at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville, Florida. Prior to the conference, the Seventh Annual Felid TAG Husbandry Course will be held June 23 to 26, and SSP meetings will be held on June 25 and 26. The Pfaff Memorial Husbandry Course scholarship will once again be offered. Stay tuned for details on hotel, registration, and scholarship application, which will be posted soon on www.felidtag.org. Specific questions may be sent to felidtag2013@jacksonvillezoo.org.



Brazilian Ocelot Kitten Produced by Artificial Insemination at the Cincinnati Zoo

A healthy Brazilian ocelot kitten was born on December 31st, 2012 at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden following artificial insemination (AI) with freshly-collected semen from their resident male ocelot. The dam was treated with exogenous hormones to induce ovarian follicular growth and ovulation and then inseminated in both oviducts using a novel laparoscopic approach by scientists from the Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW). Pregnancy was diagnosed using fecal progesterone analysis at 60 days post-AI and the female gave birth naturally to a single kitten 23 days later. The 8-year-old, first-time mother, Sala, is the offspring of a founder pair imported from Brazil in 1999. The 14-year-old, first-time father, Monsieur, is the offspring of another Brazilian founder pair imported in 1997. At the recommendation of the Ocelot SSP, the male was transferred from the Granby Zoo to the Cincinnati Zoo in 2008 for pairing but behavioral incompatibilities prevented natural breeding. This birth represents the fifth pregnancy in ocelots resulting from AI and the second produced using this new laparoscopic oviductal AI method.



Sala with her newborn kitten
Photo by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Serval SSP Working to Program Servals

Now is a great time to plan for a program serval in your collection! The Serval SSP is working with breeding institutions on producing program servals.

Please consider the following recommendations before requesting a program serval:

1. Include it in your collection plan prior to acquisition.
2. Ensure appropriate housing can be provided that allows for species-appropriate space for exercise, privacy, and enrichment. Program servals will have sessions in their daily routine that will provide exercise and enrichment, which may allow you to justify reduced enclosure space. Check with state regulations to ensure appropriate enclosure sizes.
3. Train and evaluate your staff on training the serval(s) to be an appropriate program animal. Have training protocols that include adding new trainers into the program. Also ensure that your staff has the expertise for hand-raising servals, as you will most likely receive a very young animal.
4. Ensure enough staff time and resources to socialize and train the serval to maximize its program potential. Make a standard for the minimum time spent working with the serval(s).
5. Establish written protocols to address:
 - A. Guest, staff, and animal safety (compliance with AZA and USDA).
 - B. Proper use of training tools and equipment
 - C. Procedures for transport
 - D. What to do in case of injury or escape
 - E. Frequent evaluation of the serval as an appropriate program animal
 - F. The welfare of the serval(s). It is now an AZA standard to have a written policy on the use of live animals in programs to address any potentially perceived breach in animal welfare.
6. Develop ethical, educational messages for your programs that encourage conservation action and discourage ownership of non-domesticated cats as pets.
7. Make an alternative plan in case the serval does not work out as a program animal. The SSP is willing to work with institutions in these situations to try to accommodate their needs. However, we may not always be able to place servals that do not work out right away.
8. Contact the Serval SSP (Dan Dembiec dembiecd@jacksonvillezoo.org) with what is working and what is not working. The SSP may have a solution to your problems and communicating successes will allow the SSP to serve as an overall better resource to the population.
9. Plan to work with the SSP to evaluate the welfare of program servals and the impact the program may have on visitors' perceptions and actions.
10. Please consult with the Serval SSP before acquiring a serval from an outside source. Not doing so will negatively impact this population.

The Serval SSP is committed to encouraging success with this endeavor to make the serval population sustainable. Therefore, we would like to be viewed as a resource for serval management. To accommodate uncertainty and facilitate training in raising program servals the SSP is working on creating a document including case studies and helpful tips on how to raise a successful program serval. This will be a working document that will grow as our experience grows and will be made available to any Serval SSP cooperating institution.

Lastly, the Serval SSP would like to congratulate Emily Lutz of the Tautphaus Park Zoo on being elected as the Vice-Coordinator of the Serval SSP. The Tautphaus Park Zoo has had a lot of success breeding and managing servals (including a program serval) and Emily has been a big reason for their success. Congratulations!

Submitted by Dan Dembiec, Serval SSP Coordinator



Photo by Kathy Newton



Jaguar Cubs at Milwaukee County Zoo

After four long years of waiting, Milwaukee County Zoo is excited to announce the birth of two male jaguar cubs! Born early in the morning on November 13, 2012, this is the first litter for the dam, Stella, who was born in November of 2003 at Fort Worth Zoo. It is also the first birth for sire, Pat, that we are aware of (it is quite possible he fathered cubs in the wild in Belize). Pat is a wild-caught male that came to Milwaukee County Zoo in 2008 from the Belize Zoo. He is part of the Belize Zoo's Problem Jaguar Rehabilitation Program and was brought into the Belize Zoo in 2003. He is estimated to be approximately 15 years old and is quite the celebrity with his own song, book and website (www.patthegreatcat.com).



Cubs at 19 days old
Photo by Milwaukee County Zoo

Stella is proving to be an excellent mother and the cubs are growing fast. The cubs' eyes opened at seven days and by six weeks old they were already starting to sample mom's meat! The family is currently off exhibit until the cubs are old enough to navigate the exhibit safely but can be seen on a live webcam at www.milwaukeezoo.org/explore/webcams/jaguarcubs.php.



Cubs at 7 weeks old
Photo by Milwaukee County Zoo

Not only is the birth of the cubs significant because of the new wild genes that Pat brings to the population, but also due to the great amount of collaboration between institutions that resulted in the birth. Huge thanks are owed to the Belize Zoo for the time and effort they put into saving Pat and sending him to the Milwaukee County Zoo. In addition, we give huge thanks to a special friend of the Zoo for making his transfer possible. Also, we are extremely appreciative to all the zoos and the Jaguar SSP who helped with advice on breeding, birth plans and management. After years of no success with only introducing the pair when Stella was receptive, on the advice of Jaguar SSP, we began keeping the pair together every day. As they bonded, their breeding increased and they appeared more comfortable and calm on exhibit. We feel that the strong bond they formed was key to their success.

Submitted by Amanda Ista, Milwaukee County Zoo



Meet a Member: Amanda Ista

Amanda has been working in the zoo field for over a decade, interning at Minnesota Zoo, then working as a primary keeper at Utah's Hogle Zoo for five years. She then spent a year back at Minnesota Zoo as a temporary keeper before moving to Milwaukee County Zoo five years ago. Amanda is the primary keeper in Big Cat Country at Milwaukee where she works with lions, Amur tigers, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and hyenas. She has a passion for continually working to improve animal welfare, especially through enrichment and operant conditioning programs. Amanda is the studbook keeper for Canada lynx and one of the administrators for the Felid TAG Facebook page.

Like the Felid TAG on Facebook

The Felid TAG is pleased to announce our new [Facebook Page!](#)



We will use the page to provide:

- Meeting announcements and other relevant TAG news
- Links to cat-related online news articles, videos, photos, etc.
- Short profiles of “cat people” and “cat projects” within the TAG
- Fun “Did you Know?” features about cats
- “Meet the cat” profiles about specific zoo animals
- All sorts of other fun items we can think of!

If you have any items to share, please send them to Karen Povey at Karen.povey@pdza.org or Amanda Ista at Amandaista@hotmail.com
We'll also be soliciting items through the Felid TAG Listserv.

Other Felid News

Jaguar and Ocelot Activities in Arizona

A jaguar and ocelot have been photographed again in Arizona. They are the same males that have been previously photographed in the area, but these new pictures provide more information on their habitat usage, especially new places they had not been recorded before.

The pictures were acquired by the Jaguar Survey and Monitoring Project of the University of Arizona, which is funded by Homeland Security in order to manage and reduce the activities that border-patrolling may have on the area wildlife. See the photos on Flickr (<http://bit.ly/TapYhK>) or Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/TazSP9>).

Submitted by Tammy Sundquist, Lincoln Children's Zoo

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Happy Valentine's Day

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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

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. Submission deadline for the May issue is April 1.