

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab \_\_\_\_\_

# Cat House Visit

## Feline Conservation Center (FCC)

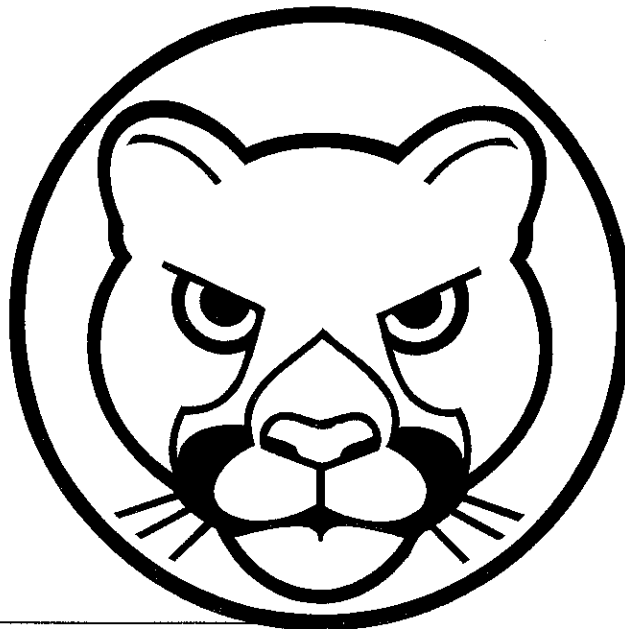
Open Thursday – Tuesday 10 AM to 4 PM

(661) 256-3793

(Revised July 25, 2009)

### Directions from Bakersfield:

- Head east on Hwy-58 towards Tehachapi
- Take the Mojave exit
- Go through the town of Mojave and stay on the main road.
- This will turn into Hwy-14
- Take the Rosamond exit
- Go west (Stay to the right)
- Go approximately 4 miles to Mojave Tropico Rd. (Look for the FCC green sign)
- Turn right and drive about 0.5 miles
- Turn left on Rhyolite
- This will turn into a dirt road
- Park in the large dirt parking lot.
- Driving distance from BC is about 80 miles.



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# Cat House Visit

## Feline Conservation Center (FCC)

The Feline Conservation Center (FCC) is home to over 70 of the world's most endangered felines. The FCC is a breeding zoo. Funds received are used for the care and support of the compound's animals and long-term goals, which include a natural history museum and public education programs. The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound's (EFBC) Feline Conservation Center is part of a worldwide network of zoos and facilities dedicated to the preservation of endangered cats, acting as a modern-day ark in the face of human overpopulation and mass extinction of animal species. They are involved in cooperative breeding projects with other zoos and facilities throughout the world. The majority of FCC's cats are not abandoned pets, as you would find at rescue facilities. They are purebred animals that are registered within ISIS and the Species Survival Plan (SSP) or Population Management Plan (PMP) for each cat species. Cubs born at the FCC are often sent to other zoos for their breeding programs.

Answer the following questions concerning some of the most beautiful, graceful and endangered animals in the world.

### Endangered

1. What does 'endangered' mean in terms of the preservation of animals.
2. What are the two main reasons for the disappearance of wild cats?
3. With few wild cats in the wild, one problem that wild life conservationists have to deal with is a genetic variability. Why is this important?
4. How do breeding facilities (like the FCC) and zoos deal with genetic variability?



Specific Cats at FCC

5. What adaptation allows the Amur Leopard to live in Northern USSR?

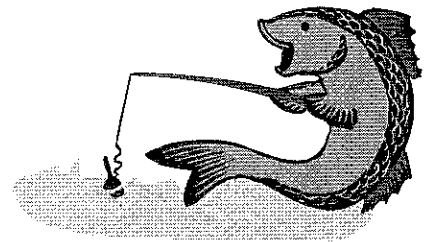
6. What is unique about the leg structure of the Caracal and how does it help it capture its prey?

7. The Fishing Cat is well adapted for catching fish. Describe how the following anatomical features allow the Fishing Cat to succeed:

a) Feet

b) Claws

c) Teeth



8. What are the only two true plain colored big cats?

9. What should you never do if you confront a Mountain Lion? Why?

10. What should you do if you confront a Mountain Lion?

### Coat Color/Patterns

11. How would stripes help a cat survive? What does its habitat look like?



12. How would spots help a cat survive? What does its habitat look like?

13. What is a melanistic cat? What is an example of a melanistic cat at FCC?

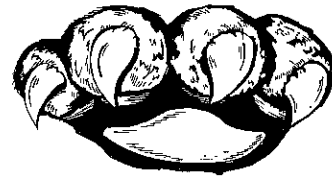
### Territories

14. How do wild cats mark their territories?

15. How are male cat's territories used in natural selection and evolution of wild cats?

Claws

16. Why do cats normally keep their claws retracted?



17. Which cats never retract their claws?

Senses: Eyes

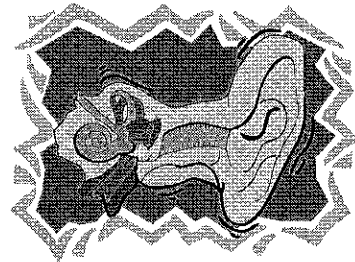
18. Many cats hunt at night. How are their eyes adapted for better night vision than humans with regards to:

- a) Pupil
- b) Tapetum lucidum
- c) Horizontal band of light receptor cells in the eye

Senses: Ears

19. How are cats ability to hear better adapted for hunting than humans with regards to;

- a) Frequency
- b) Movement of ears

Senses: Whiskers

20. Where are the three groups of whiskers found on cats?

21. What is the main function of whiskers?

*Killing Techniques*

22. Below are two techniques that are used by cats to catch their prey. Describe the technique and one cat that would use the particular technique.

a) Stalk, run and pounce.

b) Ambush.

23. Cats will often bite their prey in one of three different locations. Describe how each bite location will kill their prey:

a) Nape (back of the neck)

b) Throat

c) Muzzle

*Domestic Cats*

24. List some behaviors that domestic cats and wild cats have in common?

