

# Species Link

The Journal of Interspecies Telepathic Communication

Spring 2010 Issue 78

## Sanctuary Spotlight Panther Ridge Conservation Center

Alexandra Blantyre

### Big Cats & Horses

Panther Ridge Conservation Center started from Judy Beren's lifelong love of big cats. Set on ten acres in Wellington, Florida, the center is currently



Charlie & Judy

home to 21 big cats, many of whom are endangered. Wellington is classic equestrian country, full of polo clubs and fancy stables. It's not exactly where you would expect to find clouded leopards, ocelots, cheetahs, caracals, servals, bobcats, pumas and a black leopard.

Beren is a picture of refinement and elegance. As a child she was not allowed to keep pets but loved playing in the woods. She grew up in Minnesota and moved to Florida in 1971 to get her MBA. Twice married and divorced, she once showed horses and was an avid equestrian. In the early nineties, she got her first cat, an ocelot. From there she took on a sickly cougar and soon she realized she needed a farm. Panther Ridge was a horse farm when Beren purchased the property and she had it converted to a sanctuary for cats with enclosures and fields.

"The cheetahs prefer to stay out in their big field," Beren says. She entices them to come inside from their three-acre enclosure to eat horsemeat with salmon oil and vitamins. The two cheetahs, Matt and Charlie, are from an ambassador cat program in South

Africa that focuses on saving endangered species. Beren met Matt and Charlie when they were six-month-old babies in Africa and saw them next as two-year-olds when they got off their Delta Airlines flight in Atlanta before coming to stay with her.

### **Predators on Our Shoulders**

Animal communicator and Reiki Master, Kumari, first came to Panther Ridge on a tour with her family about a year ago. Her sister is an equine vet and knew about the pristine sanctuary that is little known, even amongst its neighbors. On their visit, Kumari stopped and sat in front of CJ's cage for about an hour. CJ is a mountain lion who was resting in his igloo at the back of his cage. As Kumari sat, she began to receive imagery from him as CJ streamed information to her about ancient Egypt and a time when cats and humans walked safely in peace with each other.

CJ told Kumari "Humans have lost their reverence for cats." He went on to tell her how they were revered and how they used to assist men with catching smaller prey. There was a time, he declared, "when we were carried on the shoulders of men and would go out into the desert and hunt."

The "spiritual patriarch" of the conservancy, CJ is the "wise sage of the group," Kumari affirmed. "He is the philosopher and king." Not all of the cats are so interested in his stories. Kumari said the cat in the next cage was rather bored by CJ's stories and told her he just wanted to know where his food was and why it was taking so long! Isabella at 8 weeks

CJ's story and the connection made between him and Kumari is what inspired her to talk to Beren about joining up with Panther Ridge. She went to Beren and told her what CJ had said about the cats in Egypt being carried on the shoulders of men. She thought to herself that Beren would either think she was crazy or she would be intrigued. Beren was very intrigued and shortly after Kumari started holding workshops at the center.

### **Overcoming Grief**

There was a time when CJ was very depressed. His cage-mate of fifteen years, Coco, had been suffering from inflammatory bowel disease and had transitioned from his earthly form. During a workshop, Kumari asked CJ, "What are you missing?" He came out of his igloo and sat about a foot away from her. He replied, "I miss the touch and being groomed." Shortly after that class, Beren, who had been apprehensive about brushing CJ, felt inspired to do so and began brushing him by hand. Then Kumari told Beren that is exactly what CJ said he was missing.

Beren is thrilled with the work Kumari has done with the cats. She says CJ is more of a "people pet" now and is much happier.

### **All You Need is Love**

Matti, a clouded leopard who used to live at the Audubon Zoo, would often get upset when Beren went to leave the enclosure. Matti would claw and bite at Beren's ankles when she went to the gate, which made Beren feel that Matti was upset with her for not being able to stay and play. Through communication work, Kumari was able to uncover that Matti wasn't mad at all; she just needed to know she was loved. Her biting and clawing was her trying to say, "Please don't go."

Kumari taught Beren to connect with her heart chakra and to send only love to Matti when she left the enclosure and not guilt for leaving or worry that Matti was upset. "When we shift our energy, our intentions and thoughts, the animals will feel it and respond accordingly. Consciously sending love fills the long hours of physical separation," Kumari counseled.

"Beren began sending love instead of guilt and sadness at not being able to play more, and we all watched as Matti shifted too. When I felt that Matti was calmer, I asked Beren to begin to stand up and move slowly toward the gate, sending love, love, love. Matti came toward Beren, but not with the same gusto. She grabbed at Beren's legs with her paws, but didn't bite, and I asked Beren to stand still, and again beam love. Matti instantly rolled over on her back, and let go of her legs." Kumari explained, "She is used to chasing your legs when you head out. It's habit, not anger." This new understanding changed Beren's entire emotional response.

Kumari instructed Beren, "Send more love, and wait." Matti slowly got up and calmly retreated to the back of her cage. "Now, begin to walk toward the gate without changing your energy."

Beren did this beautifully. As she closed the gate, Matti just watched serenely from a distance. "In this space of love, there is no leaving," Kumari concluded.



Isabella at 8 weeks

### **Clouded Leopards**

Panther Ridge is currently home to several clouded leopards. Pei and Matti are from the Audubon Zoo's breeding program and needed to find a home after the devastation of

Hurricane Katrina. They were twelve years old when they came to Beren and were compulsive over-groomers.

Pei was very fearful of humans before Kumari began to work with him. His memories from the breeding program were that "humans would show up with a tranquilizer and take his sperm while he was asleep." He did not want to come out of his enclosure. But with a lot of love, nurture and a quiet atmosphere, he has calmed down and lost his distrust of humans. Now, at seventeen years old, he is a very happy cat and Beren is able to dip his nails and talk with him.

## Species Link/Spring 2010

---

Ming and Suki are the spirited youngsters of the clouded leopards. They are brother and sister and are very playful and love attention from visitors.

### Cat Chats

Kumari has been holding Reiki and communication workshops at Panther Ridge and working with the cats for the past year. Beren said she has noticed a big difference in the animals with whom Kumari has worked. They generally engage her to work with older animals that are suffering from arthritic issues or who are out of alignment.

Maya, a jaguar, had been suffering for years from a claw removal surgery that was botched by the veterinarian. She was left basically crippled and was spiritually stuck in needing to know "why." Kumari helped her to understand that humans make mistakes too and that she needed to accept this in order to transcend her pain and begin healing. Maya was able to free up the spiritual space that was blocked and a feeling of newfound wholeness began.

### Clean & Full of Love

Kumari says she has never seen a more pristine sanctuary. She was amazed that in "90 degree temperatures there was no odor from the 21 cats' feces and urine." With only one employee and four volunteers, Beren does a lot of the work herself. A labor of love, she has a deep level of trust and communication with the animals.

### A Home at Risk

In hard economic times, the conservation center is struggling like so many other non-profits. The operating costs are about \$14,000 a month. Beren has used much of her own income to support the center, but this has become more of a challenge. "We go through about 100 lbs of meat a day to feed the cats," says Beren. The annual food costs alone exceed \$40,000.

The property where Panther Ridge is currently housed is up for sale and Beren is looking for something smaller, though her needs are actually for something bigger.

"Because so many of the animals are endangered, it's really important to make sure they stay around so they can be great ambassadors and people will be able to see them. We don't know how many years from now they won't be around. It is estimated by the year 2040 or 2050, all of the great predators of the world will be gone. It's a pretty sad thought," Beren ponders.

Donations of any amount are taken on the website through PayPal, <http://www.pantherridgesanctuary.org>. They also have a plaque recognition program. A \$500 donation buys a nameplate that goes on the cat enclosure of your choice for one year.

### Tours & Visits

Beren is happy to have guests and loves to give tours. Wellington is about seventeen miles west of Palm Beach. Please call in advance.

Panther Ridge Conservation Center, 14755 Palm Beach Point Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414; Phone 561-795-8914; Fax: 561-333-8245

---

