



For Immediate Release

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WildCat Haven

Leo, four-month-old cougar cub



Cat Adoption Team Veterinarians Join Forces with Wild Cat Haven to Provide Care for Ailing Wild Cougar Cub

SHERWOOD, Ore., (Jan. 25, 2005) – The Cat Adoption Team (CAT), Oregon’s largest non-profit, no-kill cat shelter and hospital is known for the medical care it provides for abandoned, neglected and injured cats and kittens. Today the friends of the small cats will band together to help a big cat – a cougar cub from WildCat Haven – Sherwood’s safe, natural sanctuary for displaced, abused and homeless captive-born wildcats.

The media is invited to meet Leo, a four-month-old baby cougar on Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. in CAT's veterinary hospital at 14175 SW Galbreath Drive, in Sherwood. In addition to neutering Leo, Dr. Kris Otteman and Dr. Wendi Rekers, CAT veterinarians, will give him a full medical check-up, complete with x-rays and blood tests, to determine if he is on the road to health after an early history of abuse prior to landing in WildCat Haven. “Leo arrived at WildCat Haven emaciated, anemic and in pain from swollen joints due to a bad diet. This isn’t uncommon for exotic wild cats like Leo, who are born in captivity and sold to be house pets,” said Cheryl Tuller, co-founder of WildCat Haven. “In the few months that we’ve been caring for him, he is making a remarkable recovery – we just want to make sure he continues to grow healthy and strong.”

Leo was sold at an exotic animal auction at the age of three weeks, returned to the breeder and sold again to a family with four young children. As Leo grew, boarding a wild animal seemed less appealing and the family sought help. “Wild creatures like Leo aren’t meant by nature to be domesticated. Bringing a wild cat into a family with kids is an accident waiting to happen. Luckily Leo and his former family were spared from that,” Tuller said.

Leo wasn’t spared from severe malnutrition. “Exotic wild cats need special diets and people who buy them aren’t prepared to care for them. Leo was so sick, his hair was falling out and he weighed just over five pounds when he came to us. He’s doing much better now with the proper food and care. We want to be sure he stays that way.”

WildCat Haven’s cougars and other exotic cats have made the trip to CAT’s full veterinary hospital before. “I’m so grateful for everything CAT does for our wildcats,” Tuller said. “It really is a blessing to have such good friends like CAT. The animal rescue community is a small, tight group. It’s such a relief to be able to turn to one another when we need to.”

About CAT: The Cat Adoption Team is Oregon’s largest non-profit, no-kill cat shelter and hospital that rescues and rehabilitates the community’s, abandoned, neglected and injured cats and kittens. CAT not only partners with the community but with local county shelters, other rescue groups and veterinary offices to take in cats that might otherwise be euthanized due to medical problems or space constraints. CAT saves more than 2,000 lives per year and relies heavily on the support of the public and generous volunteers. More than 250 cats and kittens are looking for new families at any given time. CAT is located at 14175 SW Galbreath Drive, just off Tualatin-Sherwood Highway Road. For more information, call (503) 925-8803 or visit CAT’s Website at www.catadoptionteam.org.

About WildCat Haven: WildCat Haven is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a safe and natural sanctuary for displaced, abused and homeless captive-born wildcats. WildCat Haven is one of only a handful of similar facilities in the nation that work exclusively with smaller wildcats. WildCat Haven is committed to the prevention of cruelty to wild and/or captive-born wild felines, along with the preservation and conservation of these animals. For more information, call (503) 625-0812 or visit www.wildcathaven.org.

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