

Carnivore Preservation Trust

Pittsboro, NC

PRESS RELEASE

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Carnivore Preservation Trust Finds Abandoned Serval on “Doorstep”

Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) Curator of Mammals, Kathryn Bertok, awoke to a strange sight Monday morning. While walking her dogs, she discovered that someone had left a full grown serval in an animal crate at the staff entrance to CPT. Pinned to his crate was a typed note, giving the serval’s name (Elvis) and a few details about his history. No other information was included, including contact information.

Bertok had Elvis serval examined late Monday morning by a local veterinarian. Elvis was determined to be about two years old and significantly undernourished, weighing a fraction of what he should have. He showed evidence of a collar having grown in to his skin at some point, permanent scarring on his forehead where he likely continually rubbed a cage or crate, and serious atrophy in his hind legs. Taken together, these findings suggest that Elvis has spent a great deal of his time caged in very confined quarters. Blood test results will not be available until later this week.

This case illustrates what often happens with private ownership of exotic cats like Elvis. Clearly the owner either seriously neglected his needs, or was not educated about the nutritional and territorial needs of a serval. In addition, proper veterinary care was either not provided at all, or not by someone educated about this species and their needs (or veterinary recommendations were ignored).

Executive Director Pam Fulk said, "CPT is not designed to be a "drop off" rescue facility like a domestic animal shelter. Our quarantine facility is currently occupied by the two tigers whom we rescued less than two weeks ago and will not be available for another two weeks. Dropping Elvis off at our doorstep has forced us to manage his quarantine care under less professional animal husbandry practices to avoid the more unwelcome choice of euthanizing him outright. I encourage those who wish to relinquish their exotic cats to contact CPT and request rescue through the proper arrangements to preserve the health and safety of both animals and staff."

Bertok says she is looking forward to seeing Elvis blossom as he is provided the healthy nutrition, sunshine, and large outdoor play space that servals need. He is expected to gain his healthy weight and regain good hind leg strength in the months to come, provided no surprises arise from his blood test results. Elvis's initial quarantine and veterinary expenses are expected to be around \$1,000, and CPT will continue to raise funds to support him for the rest of his life.

Those interested in donating to CPT may do so online by visiting www.cptigers.org and clicking on "Donations". To ensure the full donation goes to Elvis's rescue, donors can mail their checks made payable to CPT to 1940 Hanks Chapel Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312. Donors can designate their gift to "Elvis" for this rescue, or leave their gift undesignated to be used for the care of all of the animals at CPT. Any designated funds not expended for this rescue will be applied to the next CPT rescue.

Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) is a nonprofit located in Pittsboro, NC. The 55-acre sanctuary is home to 80 animals, including tigers, ocelots, binturongs, and more. CPT provides rescue and sanctuary for certain species of carnivores, primarily cats, as well as conservation

education to the public through public and private tours, specialty tours, birthday parties, and community presentations and exhibits.

For more information call 919-542-4684 or visit www.cptigers.org.

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1. Please ensure that “by reservation only” accompanies any mention of CPT’s tours.