

Servals and caracals can catch prey (usually birds and small mammals) by leaping into the air.

“Ears” to Zepo (in front) and Bosco (center).

Servals are African wild cats weighing between 20 and 40 pounds. Caracals are found in Africa and Asia. They weigh between 29 and 42 pounds.

One Cool Cat Cedar, Minnesota

Sometimes animals can be just as mean as people when it comes to accepting others who are considered “different.” Zepo the wild cat didn’t fit in when he first came to live at the Wildcat Sanctuary. A serval and caracal mixed breed, Zepo looked different—and the other wild cats didn’t like it. “The full-breed servals and caracals couldn’t figure out what he was,” director Tammy Quist says. “They would hiss at him and run away.” An outcast, Zepo became sad and lonely.

Then came Bosco, a 12-week-old serval. Because he was a baby, the wild cat didn’t know that Zepo was “different.” Bosco just wanted a friend. Soon the two became inseparable, playfully wrestling each other or sleeping curled up together. Zepo even sat outside Bosco’s cage when the serval was recovering from surgery. And what do you think happened when Bosco, who was popular with the servals and caracals, introduced his friend to the other wild cats? They accepted Zepo, too! Maybe they learned what all party animals know: the more, the merrier! —Diane Williamson

Zepo and Bosco

Granny

Two-headed Tortoise