



# LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

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Published by: LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB at Amagansett, N.Y.

Vol. 1, No. 2

March, 1957

BLUE CROSS ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
DANIEL DUBERMAN, D. V. M.  
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK  
SOUTHAMPTON 1-1094

January 17, 1957

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cisin,

One supplier of wild animals reports an unfortunate circumstance concerning the importing of ocelots. Due to an unrecognizable feline ailment their loss was up to 90 percent of their kittens during last year. Unless it can be controlled before importation, they plan to discontinue ocelots this year. They are experimenting with a new method of treatment which will keep the kittens in quarantine longer.

This figure has been substantiated by the American Ocelot Club of Los Angeles, California which sponsored extensive research "on autopsies, laboratory analysis of stool, urine and blood to help find the causes of death and to prevent more death by the same causes. U.C.L.A. and the Department of Agriculture have helped in the classification of little known or formerly unknown, intestinal parasites which enables the veterinarian to prescribe proper treatment. This has been of great help to us as 90% of the ocelots arrive here with intestinal parasites and die if not treated in time."

At present we may not be able to help these kittens at their sources, but we certainly can and must help the ten percent which become ours. Our club mortality rate now approaches 50%. This means that your cat is one of five or six out of one hundred which survived the journey from the jungle to domestication. We certainly owe it to them to watch their health carefully.

One indication of irregularity is deviation from the normal temperature of 101 degrees. Because so many cats are more readily handled by their owners than "that giant in the white tunic" we have asked Dr. Daniel Duberman to explain the proper procedure for taking a cat's temperature. He has kindly given us the letter reproduced at the right.

Please see your veterinarian at the slightest suspicion that your cat needs attention.

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IF YOU WANT additional copies of the newsletter, past, present or future, we will be happy to send them to you. Just let us know.

IN THE LONELY HEARTS DEPARTMENT: There are three mature 30 lb. female ocelots in the club who would be interested in perpetuating the species. We have had definite word that breeding in captivity has been accomplished. The adult males in our acquaintance have all been altered. Should you know of any who are fully equipped, won't you please let us know where they are?

I'd be very happy to advise you about taking a cat's temperature. As you say, it seems simple enough to us, but I can easily see (and know, from experience) that it presents almost insurmountable problems for some people. Perhaps a step-by-step procedure would be most helpful:

1. Be calm and confident. Remember at all times that you're not hurting the cat in any way, tho all the evidence may point the other way. Don't get rattled and you'll eliminate 90% of the cause of trouble.
2. Have at least three "rectal" or "stubby" thermometers (never "oral") on hand. Get them from your veterinarian or drugstore (same as for humans).
3. Shake down to 97 degrees or lower, and place the lowest half-inch of thermometer in a small jar of vaseline (or any ointment or fat), rotating it til you get a tiny amount on the thermometer.
4. It's easiest with two people: one grasps two legs in each hand (or the scruff of the neck and two legs -- depends on the cat), the other lifts the tail and quickly insets the thermometer for half its length. With a gentle cat, one person can do it by just lifting the tail, etc. With a very sensitive cat, you might need three people: one for the scruff of the neck, another for the four feet, and the third to insert the thermometer. In a pinch, you could roll the cat quickly and snugly in a thick blanket, lean on him gently with one elbow while inserting the thermometer with the other hand; but these desperate measures are rarely necessary if you act surely, firmly, and quickly.
5. Hold the thermometer in for a minimum of four minutes (over five minutes is never necessary). Most cats will be happiest if you release all restraint the instant you get the thermometer in, and then hold them in your arms (one hand on the thermometer), talking to them and petting them.
6. Remove thermometer, wipe with cotton or toilet tissue, read temperature. Normal cat temperature is usually 100-101 degrees, but may vary due to many factors. Over 102 degrees is usually suspicious, however, and would call for a consultation with your veterinarian; if there are any other symptoms, call if temperature is over 101.

Sincerely yours,

*Daniel Duberman, D.V.M.*



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE JUNGLE

Mr. Frank Dittrich, publisher of All-Pets Magazine, has been kind enough to mention our Club in the next of an ad for National Steel Corporation, which is appearing currently in such publications as TIME, NEWSWEEK, etc. The ad read: "Want to join an ocelot club? It's easy -- just get yourself an ocelot and you're in! (In the Amagansett, L.I. Ocelot Club, that is. Very exclusive.) ....."

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UP IN WILSON, NEW YORK, Mrs. Lydia Sporleder who read about the club in the above mentioned ad has become very interested. Her ocelot Moje (whose name meaning #1 Boy was given him in his native Brazil) has been her pet for a year and a half. He reigns over a 2½ acre domain where he thoroughly enjoys life, paddling in water in the summer and acting as watch-cat at all times. He is known to have frightened prowlers away on one occasion when they tried to break into her house thinking it was empty. Mrs. Sporleder also has four Siamese cats. She advises that a "state of armed neutrality exists between the cats and Moje."

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THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SULTAN are reported by his owner, Mrs. Ann Eichelman, New Market, Virginia, who left him in the care of her sister while she and Mr. Eichelman travelled in Florida. She writes: "Sultan is having a unique experience while visiting my sister. So far, he has been petted, pampered, attended school (Sis is a teacher) had his picture in the paper, been visited by half the population in the city, and now a professional photographer is having his students take pictures to enter in an International photographic contest."

Mrs. Eichelman further reports that Sultan is soon to have a new playmate. She has placed an order for a puma cub. She hopes no one will ask her why she ordered the cub, because she feels she couldn't give a logical explanation.

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TOO MANY MEMBERS know the disappointment and grief experienced by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Baum of Chicago. Their first ocelot kitten died soon after it arrived at their home. Mr. Baum writes: "I called the veterinarian and he came right over, but it was too late. We all felt so helpless. There was nothing we could do."

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FROM CONVENT, NEW JERSEY, Mrs. Ruth Jeanne Ladd writes that the Ladd family has found it necessary to part with their feline members. Mr. Ladd has been suffering from asthma and has been found extremely allergic to cat's fur. Their cats (one Siamese, one Persian and a Short hair) who are six or seven years old have found good homes. Mrs Ladd hoped she would not have to part with Amanda, her 16 month old ocelot. She tried keeping her isolated. "If it does not work out well" Mrs. Ladd wrote, "I would give her to someone -- preferably someone with experience with big cats. I would not want to ship her anywhere as I think she is old for such a nerve-racking experience. A new home would be difficult enough for her."

During the last week of February, Jerry Heywood of Brooklyn, N.Y., took Amanda into her care.

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"JUST YESTERDAY we heard of another ocelot about to be homeless. This one lives in a pet shop about 25 miles from here (Bensenville, Illinois). The shop has had the ocelot for a year and can't get rid of it, hence one kitty-cat is getting bigger, eating more, and getting out of hand. That is really a shame because it will probably end up in a zoo somewhere." Anyone who is interested, please contact Mrs. Ed Maryniak, Route 1, Box 103, Bensenville, Illinois.

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### NEW MEMBERS

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DR. GERARD NASH, P.O. Box 4714, Cleveland 26, Ohio, has had two ocelot kittens, both males. Both died following clawdectomy. Dr. Nash expects soon to have another kitten. He is interested in learning the effects of tranquilizing drugs on temperament and breeding.

JOAN AND ED MARYNIAK, Box 103, Route 1, Bensenville, Illinois, have no ocelot at the present time. They have two domestic short hairs, Brandy and Scotch. They hope to get another ocelot to replace the two ocelots they lost last year, but not until business permits them to discontinue travelling.

JILL AND RAY MALYSZKA, 2 Verdun Place, Buffalo, New York, have a 25 lb. 1½ year old female: "Tinker Belle". She is their third ocelot, obtained while vacationing in California last year. Their first cat died at the age of one year of enteritis; their second, who also succumbed to enteritis, shared his home for the last month of his life with Tinker. She contracted the disease after vaccination, but had the good fortune to be one of the few cats to pull through. "She is as playful as a kitten and just romps all over and tears the house up as if a hurricane hit. But we still love her more than ever and grant her the privilege of doing this. At least she doesn't allow us to keep knick-knacks and lamps long enough for us to tire of them. Tinker is now well along to the process of learning to sit up for her food. She also derives great pleasure in jumping in and out of the bath tub whenever we try to take our baths."

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

JUNGLE & WORLD, INC., (Mr. Eduardo E. Simoni, Pres.) P O Box 947, Miami International Airport, Miami 48, Florida. Mr. Simoni writes: "We are always very much interested in the health and well-being of our ocelots, and note the services your organization offers all of us who are in some way connected with their proper handling." \* \* \* \*

VICTOR A. HEAPS, 865 Starin Avenue, Buffalo 23, N.Y. brought his ocelot, Felicia, back from Yucatan in February 1956. Felicia made news when she was "lost" late last summer for two days. "It seems almost impossible that she would be able to unhitch her leash the way she did, but it did happen. There actually was very little to her being lost: she was right here in the neighborhood, but the reporters of course had a field day with the situation. The article apparently was picked up by the AP because I heard about it from all over the country." When Felicia was 11 months old, she participated in the ninth annual show of the Buffalo Cat Fanciers, Inc., and again had mention in the newspapers.

Mr. Heaps plans to go to British Guiana and several other places along the northeast coast of South America for a month. He intends to try to bring back a jaguar kitten and a two toed sloth.

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NANCY AND LOMAX LITTLEJOHN, Norwood Avenue, Northport, New York play erstwhile providers for an errant racoon, Wollcott, who is now away on his "honeymoon". "Our acquaintance with the ocelot is scant, but that should not deter us", writes Mr. Littlejohn who wishes to learn more both about the ocelot and the club.



A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF A BUFFALO AMATEUR'S TV DEBUT  
as described by her "master," RAY MALYSZKA

"Tinker Belle" appeared on two TV shows in single week during February. The first show is a color broadcast and I understand that she looked quite beautiful. Jill (Mrs. Malyszka) made her a collar studded with bright sparkling Kelly green sequins and it looked very nice on her judging from the compliments at the show.

Tinker behaved pretty well at the first show even though she was extremely frightened by the bright lights and all the activity at the studio, with cameras and people moving all over the place. The show was 30 minutes long and Tinker got the spotlight of about half of it, although she did manage to pull a few unwanted stunts. First of all, I was to walk her on the set but as I was given the cue to come on, she balked and tried to back out of the leash and, of course, just refused to walk. So naturally I had to carry her on. Then about half way through the show, she leaned forward on my lap to an end table before us, (we sat on a sofa) and grabbed a flower out of a vase and proceeded to chew it with vigor. Then a pussy willow got the same treatment.

Towards the end of the interview, Tinker decided she would explore further and leaped over the back of the sofa to another table where she knocked over a vase with a loud crash. Fortunately the vase was plastic. When I brought her home Tinker slept the rest of the day and evening, completely exhausted.

The second show came off not too badly, except that we didn't come on until the end of the show and had to sit the first part out while the orchestra played. This annoyed Tinker tremendously. Every few minutes she would let out a loud squawk which could be plainly heard and the band leader made several joking comments about her singing throughout the show. The vocalist also had to compete with her yowls. Midway through the show the man announced the newscast, while Tinker still competed. He finally signed off by saying that he had better go because the ocelot wanted to give the newscast.

When we finally got on, things went pretty well although the MC was afraid to come near Tinker after all her vicious howling.

The grand finale came when I got ready to walk Tinker off the set. Instead of coming forward she insisted on going backward and promptly climbed the curtain as the show signed off. As before, she spent the rest of the day sleeping.

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Tinker Belle participated in the Frontier Feline Fanciers' show at Memorial Auditorium in Buffalo. The cat show went well and a great many people were attracted to it by seeing the TV shows and her picture in the paper. We were extremely amazed to learn how many people came to the show just to see the ocelot. At the show we kept her in a large cage and only took her out once in a while. Of course she detested the cage, not being used to being locked up. For the first hour of each day she paced up and down like a jungle beast in a zoo, and even rubbed two raw spots on her head from the cage on the last day.

Quite a few people seemed genuinely interested in obtaining a pet as nice as Tinker. Of course there were also those people who came to the show who wouldn't think of having such a "wild jungle animal" in their homes. However, I think we accomplished a great deal in creating new friends for our poorly understood ocelots.

