



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

Staff: Mrs. Harry G. Cisin, Editor, Amagansett, N.Y.
Mrs. Pamela Stock, Associate, 2166-33rd Road,
Astoria, N.Y.

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AND HOW DO YOU "TRAIN" YOUR OCELOT?

This question was asked of Mr. Volney Phifer who is a veteran animal trainer, specializing in felines. His Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer lion is familiar to everyone who goes to the movies. This lion, who still majestically looks out from every movie screen in the country is buried on his old home grounds, at Mr. Phifer's farm.

Mr. Phifer has kindly offered his advise to ocelot owners, in the letter reproduced at the right.



Oce-LOT-POURRI

Those white spots on the backs of every ocelot's ears: One theory which has been advanced sounds very plausible. In his jungle, the nocturnal ocelot expects his enemy to attack from the rear. He attacks his prey from the same direction. The white spots on the backs of his ears represent "eyes" to confuse an enemy stalking him in the semi-darkness from behind. Whatever whim caused nature to put them there, they certainly add to the ocelot's distinctive beauty.

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Based on the reports which continue to come from several sources, we concur with the findings of many owners. As the ocelot matures, he becomes "tamer". The flightiness of kittenhood is gone and he stabilizes, contrary to the often voiced belief that it is possible to keep the kitten only until he grows up.

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Phifer's Animal Farm

WILD AND DOMESTIC

ANIMALS - BIRDS - REPTILES

GILLETTE, NEW JERSEY

PHONE
Millington 7-0382

Mrs. Harry G. Cisin,
L. Is. Ocelot Club,
Amagansett N. Y.

March 7th. 1957.

Dear Mrs. Cisin:

Pardon delayed answer to your letter of 2/16, but have just returned from a Picture job, on the Coast, and just received it, on arrival.

I wish it were possible for me (re your suggestions) to write a letter, telling your members exactly how to train their Ocelots, but candidly, if there is a hard and fast rule, in any animal training, I've yet to find it. In fact that, to me, is one of the reasons animals never lose interest, for each is an individual challenge, and no two react exactly alike.

In professional training, selection plays as important a part, as it does in providing Human workers for a given job, and it is just as impossible to get a good performance from an animal, that must be arbitrarily forced, as it is to get good work from a Human who dislikes what he is doing. We many times select an animal from dozens, for one type of role.

The average person, keeping one or two Unusual Pets, is not in a position to make this selection, so must simply take a chance, on getting one that will react, as desired. and from that point, a simple application of good old fashioned common sense, plus the necessary affection and physical care, is about all that is possible, and there will doubtless be as many disappointments, as successes, but, for the Human so adepted, its fun.

Ocelots are capable of intensive training (The right ones) we have used them many times in Motion and Still Pictures, and many years ago (in the twenties) trained a group of twenty, and played Fairs for two falls, with them, thru The Central and Far West, this was I believe, the largest group ever trained, tho many smaller groups have been presented, by various Trainers.

Good Luck To You And Your Members, *Volney Phifer*

The geographical origin of the ocelot has direct bearing on his coloring. Dark red, brown and orange-red ocelots are usually found in dense jungle country. Orange and yellow cats inhabit light forest and grass lands. Gray and yellow-gray come from brush, rock and desert country. For this information we are indebted to the American Ocelot Club, Los Angeles, California, who have made careful studies over the past six years.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE JUNGLE

Mr. Frank Napier, Naturalist at Frick Park Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa., who is associated with QED, Channel 13, in that city, has been hoping to include an ocelot among the animals in his children's "zoo" there. He writes: "Last November I purchased a young ocelot and the nice cub lived all of five days. It had no indications of illness prior to the day of its death. The loss left me in a daze since I have been expending a lot of money on other animals as well as on animal film which I plan to show to schools in the eastern states. If all goes well in the next two months, I plan to buy another kitten. A nice ocelot would be a lovely animal for me to use in my school and television work."

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Inquiries about ocelots and membership in the Long Island Ocelot Club are coming from widely scattered points as a result of the brief mention that was made in a National Steel Corporation ad appearing currently in NEWSWEEK, TIME and similar publications, by Mr. Frank Dittrich, publisher of ALL-PETS MAGAZINE. Colorado Springs, Elizabeth, N.J., Hialeah, Fla., Wilson, New York, Washington, D.C., and many other cities are represented in club correspondence. Even Dresden, Germany voices interest in our Club and in the ocelot. Mr. Johannes Pautsch, who heard about us through the American Feline Society, wishes us good luck and would like to be one of us.

* * * *

Dr. Gerard K. Nash, Ohio member, offers the following suggestions for the guidance of new ocelot owners.

Dr. Nash also writes: "As a service to ocelot owners and prospective owners I would like to see the NEWSLETTER outline or picture the difference between the true ocelot and the margay, which is sometimes mistakenly purchased for an ocelot."

The club has been working on this project and an early Newsletter will carry its findings.

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Speaking of Margays, Kim, belonging to Jean and Chester Massey of Eastport, N.Y., had four duck eggs one morning in April, served well beaten. Of course Kim lives on a duck farm and the ducks are laying in April. Nevertheless, it's a big breakfast for a margay.

* * *

Mrs. Ann Eichelman of New Market Virginia writes: "Sultan has a new hobby: balloons. We keep them in a special drawer to which he frequently goes, begging my husband to blow one up for him."

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Suddenly Carlotta, ocelot owned by the founder of the club, Mrs. Cisin, has taken a liking to raw spinach, -- but just the stems, not the leaves.

BAY VIEW HOSPITAL

MEMBER AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

23200 LAKE ROAD

BAY VILLAGE, OHIO

It appears that all imported wild cats have intestinal parasites to some degree. In their natural habitat they are better able, in many instances, to ward off the ill affects from such infections. However, the trauma of capture, shipping, change of diet, etc. lowers their resistance a great deal and the net result is a very high mortality.

I would suggest that anyone purchasing a new Ocelot should have it quarantined at a veterinarian's who is sympathetic to the problem. During the term of confinement tests should be run on the stools, etc. to determine the presence of any parasites, etc. I believe the Ocelot should be treated for any parasites found, whether or not there are any outward appearing signs or symptoms.

I also believe that the diet should be fortified with vitamins and minerals as most of the imports seem to be in a state of malnutrition on arrival. Any changes in diet should be brought about slowly, that is a new food in the diet should be introduced in very small amounts and then gradually increased. Dietary upsets easily weaken the Ocelot to where it is very susceptible to disease.

Respectfully,
H.K. Nash, M.D.

Dr. Gerard K. Nash

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Lydia Sporleder, East Lake Road, Wilson, New York, owns a neutered male, Moje (name given him in his native Brazil, meaning No. 1 Boy) who weighs in at 50 lbs. Moje is two years old. "He is getting tamer all the time" writes Mrs. Sporleder, "and obeys me when I call him. He is very playful and loves to retrieve things and have me toss them for him!" Since he is the largest cat in the LIOC, we show his picture at right, with Mrs. Sporleder.

* * *

Mr. James Neary, 836 Adams Avenue, Elizabeth 4, N.J. is expecting to get an ocelot kitten. Any suggestions regarding either source, care or handling, that any member may wish to make to Mr. Neary will be happily received.



"Moje"

