

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

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PICNIC! PICNIC! PICNIC! PICNIC!

And you're invited!

BRING YOUR CAT! CAMERA!

Date: August 25 -- Sunday

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Hostess: CARLOTTA who will be delighted to meet all her friends, feline and two-leggers. She will be well prepared for frolic and festivities. She grooms herself often: is letting her whiskers grow.

Location: Carlotta's private jungle at the home of her owners, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Cisin, at Amagansett, N. York.

The map below gives a general idea of the location. Please let us know, by letter to Mrs. Harry G. Cisin, Amagansett, New York, if you plan to attend. Let us know at once, and we will send you automobile routes, train and plane schedule, etc. etc.

PLEASE LET US KNOW AT ONCE!

Long Island



THE NEXT ISSUE

will carry a description, with illustration, of the "squeeze box".

This device is in use on the west coast where ocelot owners have found it invaluable in caring for their pets. It serves both as ambulance and pre-op stretchers for the cat needing injection or other attention where it is desirable to immobilize the cat.



OCELOT vs. MARGAY

In order to help in distinguishing the ocelot kitten from the margay kitten, the following table was compiled after consultation with animal suppliers, veterinarians, and ocelot and margay owners. We have also drawn on the experience of other ocelot clubs.

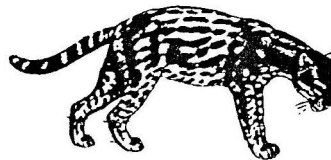
THE MAMMAL GUIDE by Ralph S. Palmer, describes the margay (felis wiedi) as: "a diminutive long-tailed ocelot (felis pardalis) in shape and pattern". In usage the two are referred to as "true" ocelot and margay. The most obvious key to identity is the tail length described in item "1" below.

There are several sub-species in existence, but these two are the most commonly imported and offered for sale. Unlike sub-species, or species will not mate.

	TRUE OCELOT	MARGAY
1. Tail	short - drops to heel or to touch floor when standing. Sometimes carried over back. In young kitten, like house cat.	Long - touches floor when standing erect and trails two to four inches along floor.
2. Head	Round, with oval chin	Triangular, with pointed face
3. Nose	Broad - with snout as wide or wider than eyes, rounding well back into fur on nose	Narrow, with snout more resembling that of domestic cat
4. Legs	stocky	Slender and angular
5. Feet	broad, clumsy, with appearance of being very oversized, heavy toes.	Slender with dainty appearance of good proportion to the body.

Coloration varies greatly in both ocelot and margay. In general kitten is quite a bit darker than the adult.

OCELOT (adult)



MARGAY (adult)



Findings about vocalization as between the two cats are incomplete. Ocelots, from kittenhood, have a deep throated, slightly hoarse "maouw" and sometimes "maouw-aouw", as well as long rolling growl. Most of our margays have never been known to "maouw", but only to growl with an occasional sharp cry. Late reports indicate that this may not be conclusive.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE JUNGLE

Mr. Alf. B. Eichelman, New Market, Virginia member, has kindly given us an insight as to what happens to ocelot kittens between the time of their capture and the time they are sold to the final owner. Mr. Eichelman owned and operated THE FUR PARADE, an animal farm at New Market. He has had wide experience both direct and through his vast acquaintanceship, with animal importation. He writes:

"The larger importers have compounds in the jungle countries. They are then transported from the jungle to the compound where the kitten gets its first change of diet. They are herded together and kept in the compound until enough animals are collected to justify shipment. They are then crated and taken to an airport for flying in, or to a ship. Their diet again undergoes a change.

"After they arrive in this country, the importers display the kittens to animal pet shop dealers etc., who are shopping for kittens for resale. The kittens usually are without 'shots' of any kind, -- wild animals, not even in most cases acclimated to domestic feeding. Assuming the pet dealer buys the six to eight week old kitten, he again has his own feeding method. The kitten is subject to a third or fourth change of diet and environment.

"Next the pet dealer sells the cat as quickly as possible. Every day he keeps it, his investment is in jeopardy. Every meal reduces the dealer's profit. If he keeps the kitten, it must be given shots. The biggest factor is the high mortality. Kittens are lost every step along the way. The further they travel along the road from their jungle, the lesser their chances for survival."

Mr. Eichelman's report will certainly impress upon all ocelot owners, particularly inexperienced owners, the importance of exercising extreme care in handling their rare and valuable pets.

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ED AND JOAN MARYNIAK of Bensenville, Illinois, have opened the JEM ARCHERY shop at 18 E. Green St. in Bensenville. We wonder if they'll call their next ocelot "Robin"!

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Mr. Douglas Gruber advises that "We had Muriel White's ocelot on CAPTAIN KANGAROO (CBS-TV) on Saturday morning, May 25th. I believe Se-Ahm looked quite handsome. We had him in a circus wagon which has plexiglass sides for easy viewing."

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ON JUNE 17th, Pamela and Duke Stock returned home to learn their 1-year old margay, Nykky, had fallen from the window of their fifth floor apartment. After landing, Nykky found her way to the lobby of the next door apartment building. She was then "captured" by ASPCA attendants at the request of the police, and taken to the society shelter, where she was kept pending Duke's appearance at the local magistrates court to answer the charge brought against him by the police. A \$2 fine was levied which Duke promptly paid. Pamela was notified by phone that Nykky had died at the ASPCA shelter two days after she was taken there. The Stocks lost their first ocelot, Speedy Gonzalez, a year ago when he died from enteritis at the age of about 1 year.

NEW MEMBERS

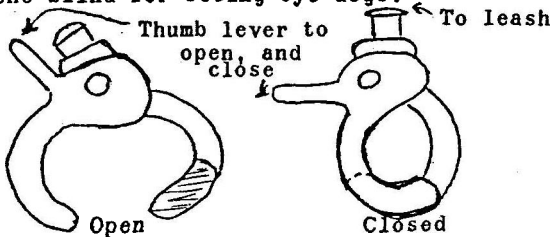
1/Lt Bob D. Hayter, "I" Co., 60th Inf. Regt., Fort Carson, Colorado, has an ocelot kitten on order, and is impatiently awaiting delivery. He asks: "Can you give me names for males?" Mr. Hayter would very much appreciate the suggestions of the members, as well as any information anyone might think would be of help to him. We have suggested something military inasmuch as his kitty will have plenty of stripes! The Hayter family lives in Colorado Springs.

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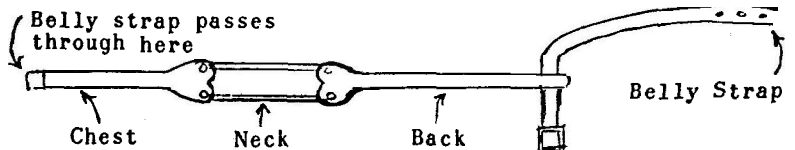
ART FORD, master of ceremonies at Radio Station WNEW's MAKE-BELIEVE BALLROOM, who is widely identified with unusual pets, has also been caught by the ocelot's peculiar appeal. He has a 15-week old kitten, "Pandora" who is frequently mentioned in his radio broadcasts.

GADGETS

Most ocelots fight restraint. To minimize struggle in attaching a leash to your pet's collar or harness, or clumsiness in extricating the leash, we suggest the clip pictured below. It is obtainable at any pet supply shop, and identified as the type of clip used by the blind for seeing-eye dogs.



And the "harness" itself: -- Mrs. Jewel Carr of L.A., recommends a "martingale". The dictionary describes martingale: "A strap from a horse's head to the girth under his belly and passing between his fore-legs, to prevent him from rearing." Mrs. Carr pictures her version below.



Rivets let the collar straps move so that when the cat pulls back, his head cannot pull through. Only one buckle on the belly strap. No leg binding.