

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

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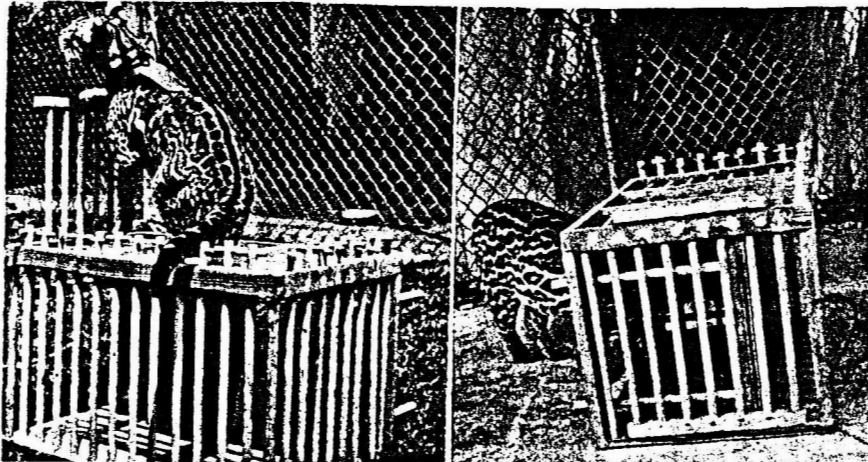
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THE SQUEEZE BOX

Indispensible to owners of ocelots is the "squeeze box". This device serves as an ambulance for the cat needing transportation to hospital or veterinarian where he will need restraint for the administration of injection, or for treatment. The box is adjustable from one side so that it is possible to immobilize the animal, and it is further adjustable so that it is possible to isolate any given part of the body by the removal of one or more bars.

The squeeze box shown in the photograph was designed by Mr. J. S. Berger of El Monte, California. "It is the third one I've had built and I keep improving it as I go along," writes Mr. Berger. "You will notice that some of the front bars are raggedy. This denotes that the box is being used right along and the bars are being chewed. Next step is padding the back board with foam rubber and heavy leatherette."



JO JO and
squeeze box.

GORDO and
squeeze box.

(Both cats are owned by Mr. & Mrs. Berger.) Left picture shows entrance gate opened at left end of box. View at right shows back board (which squeezes animal against individually removable bars) pushed as far "closed" as possible. Were GORDO in the box for treatment, he would be shown at the right side of the back board, between it and the bars, instead of investigating the open area which remains after the back board has been pushed closed.

"The cat is put in through the door or gate on one side like a regular cage," Mr. Berger explains. "As a matter of fact, it looks just like one except that the back wall pushes in towards the front wall on a ratchet type lock which is easily opened to retract the back. The front bars and bars on one side are removable for easy access to the animal. We have found it invaluable for giving shots, anesthesia and claw clipping. Nothing comes down from the top; however the animals are quite easily and quickly handled from the front or side. The box is solid hardwood with 5/8" hardwood dowel bars. The cats nearly always bite the bars and with metal bars they could break their teeth or jaws.

"To have three or four people try to hold the animal down is very bad inasmuch as the cat will lose its trust in people or it can burst a blood vessel, or have a heart attack, or, if low in calcium (as many of them seem to be when first arriving in the country) can break bones easily during its struggle which always takes at least five minutes. With the cage, we put JO JO in and he had four shots and was out again in about a minute to a minute and a half. It happens too fast for them to know what is actually happening."



For answers to any questions about the
squeeze box, please write directly to
Mr. J. S. Berger, 11625 E. Ranchito,
El Monte, California

NEWS FROM AROUND THE JUNGLE

THE PICNIC held on August 25th at Club Headquarters in Amagansett, N.Y., was a wet one, but having been rained out didn't dampen enthusiasm. A torrential rainfall from very early morning to mid-afternoon, held down attendance. Those who would have started by car during the time when the rain fell did not come. The ocelots paid little attention to the rain, most of them enjoying water in any form. The owners were so busy meeting the club members personally that the weather was overlooked.

DOLORES AND DON WILSON of Mt. Ephraim, N.J. (near Philadelphia) drove up with their margay kitten, TIGER. TIGER had a picnic investigating all the new things and people, but was kept at a respectful distance from the adult cats.

JILL AND RAY MALYSZKA, together with their two year old ocelot, TINKER-BELLE, their two year old daughter Marla, son Charles, and Mr. Malyszka's mother, drove from Buffalo, N.Y. to attend. The Malyszkas had just returned from a visit to Los Angeles and its neighboring cities where they made a tour of many homes and met many ocelots, cheetas, bob-cats, and their friendly owners. TINKER was purchased in Los Angeles last year. She might be called a trans-continental commuter, having crossed our continent at least three times, in addition to her many "side" trips.

PHOTOGRAPHERS, both amateur and professional, had a busy day. Their flashes illuminated the cloudy afternoon. Both ocelots and owners "hammed" extensively providing a happy afternoon for everyone. It is planned to hold next year's picnic earlier in the summer.

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DOES SOMEONE WANT a well-adjusted, friendly, healthy, neutered, small adult ocelot? Jean and Chester Massey are anxious to find a good home for their KIM. Their daughter is just beginning to walk. She is not old enough to be able to understand when are the proper times to play with KIM. KIM is about two years old and weighs slightly under 20 pounds. He is beautifully marked -- but no one has to tell a NEWSLETTER reader that an ocelot is beautiful! If you want him, please phone or write Mr. Chester Massey, Jr., Eastport, New York. (Eastport 5 0794 J)

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A PRESENT of two army coat lapel emblems in the form of little metal ocelots, has been given to the Club by Mrs. Charles F. Wright of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Wright is the widow of Master Sgt. Chas. F. Wright who retired from the 65th Coast Artillery, Battery C, Fort Randolph, Panama Canal Zone, in September 1937. His army group used the ocelot as their emblem. Mr. Wright completed 59 years in the Army and was 80 years old at death. "In looking over his things," says Mrs. Wright, "I came across two emblems he wore on his uniform. It is a strange idea of mine, but I hate to throw them away. Let me know if you would care to have these two little ocelots."

The Club is very grateful to Mrs. Wright for her thoughtful gift. Strangely enough, the position of the cat in the emblems is similar to that of our ocelot on the first page of this NEWSLETTER.

NEW MEMBERS

MRS. LEE D. CAMERON, Box 334, Valparaiso, Florida, does not own an ocelot at the present time. She and her husband have one cat and several birds. The Camerons would like very much to have an ocelot and are preparing for him by investigating the animal's habits and requirements. "I have always been entranced with all members of the feline family" Mrs. Cameron says, "and would happily adopt an even larger one, if it would not be a danger to neighbors and if we had the space to care for it properly."

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DOLORES AND DON WILSON, 810 Market Street, Mt. Ephraim, N.J., have become foster-parents to a margay kitten called TIGER. This little bundle of energy was given to Mrs. Wilson by her husband as an anniversary present in June, and ever since has been master of the Wilson household. He is their constant source of amusement and amazement. "Tiger's toys consist of a plastic bag knotted up in a ball, an empty tooth paste box, a cat-nip mouse (which he doesn't like and never plays with) old socks, the hair brush we use for his fur, four pecans, and other odds and ends he drags in."

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JACK DEUSER AND RICHARD TOCZEK, 1233 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, New York. Their "baby", TIMBA was seven months old in July. She enjoyed a writeup as an unusual pet in a Buffalo paper.

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SHANEY BROOKS, 38 E. 10th St., New York 3, N.Y., and HANK FREY, 87-10 - 34th Avenue, Jackson Heights, N.Y., are joint owners of EVE, a 4½ month old, 6 pound ocelot kitten. "Eve is sweet, affectionate and very obedient. I also have a 10 month old female Siamese cat named Nirvana. Eve and Nirvana adore each other, Nirvana acting much as if Eve were her kitten, though Eve is as big as she. They play, eat and sleep together, and Nirvana washes Eve behind the ears. Eve returns the favor occasionally."