



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

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Ocelot Kit Born in California

It happens very rarely, but on December 7th, 1957 at 2:00 P.M. in Los Angeles, it did happen. An ocelot kitten was born to Sheba (3 year old 35 pound female) and Cheeta (4 year old 30 pound male), a pair of happy, well-adjusted ocelots belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kirk, and living with them at 2007 W. 6th Street, in Los Angeles. The parent cats have been treated like children since they joined the Kirks at six and eight months of age, having their own room in the Kirk household. They were raised together as members of the family.



Mrs. Lillian Ward Kirk holding
12 day old ocelot kit.



Don Primo Jesús Sheeba Y
Cheeta Del Andes

Two California members (Mrs. Jewel Carr and Mrs. Martha Giuffre) who visited the Kirks and junior, report about him as follows. At four days of age the kit measured eight inches long with a two inch tail, making a total length of ten inches. His eyes were still closed and his ears were so tiny it was almost impossible to see them. His markings were clearly defined. At eight days, his eyes started to open, and at nine days, were open. He weighed 21½ ounces at nine days, and 23 ounces when he was twelve days old.

Mrs. Kirk is very proud of her ocelots and their accomplishment. They were tractable pets before mating and the experience has not changed the nature of either cat. They were not isolated from people during mating. Mrs. Kirk estimates gestation to have been 67 days

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THE LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB held its Fall Meeting at the Brooklyn, New York apartment of its treasurer, Mrs. Jerry Heywood, on Sunday, November 17th. Henry and Virginia Weidner attended without their Quito who was recovering from his second enteritis shot. Mr. Thomas Lane of Berwick, Pennsylvania, attended with his eight month old Felix. This cat has the advantage of deluxe transportation. By land he rides either with his master on horseback, or in his rolling motel, in the form of a small truck equipped with his bed, his water reservoir, restaurant and "sand box". Needless to say he spends most of his travel time balancing himself between Mr. Lane's lap and shoulder. By air, his quarters, by his own selection are forward in the nose of his privately chauffeured plane, where the cowl provides a cozy perch. In spite of his easy way of life, or perhaps because of it, Felix has never outgrown his early habit of sucking his tail.

Shaney Brooks and Hank Frey attended with Eve, the Greenwich Village ocelot. Hank Frey and Mr. Bernard Starr are planning experiments to establish the ocelot's position on the philo-genetic scale. Mr. Starr, who is a builder of theatrical scenery, is building the maze through which ocelots and other animals will be put in an effort to compare their responses and thereby their relative intelligence. Findings of the experiments will be authenticated through the association of the club members conducting them with Queens College, N.Y.

Tiger, six month old margay from Mt. Ephraim, N.J., wore a diamond (well, rhinestone) studded collar with matching leash. Don & Dee Wilson reported that his jaw which had been broken was healing nicely. He was able to close his mouth. His carrier, described in the November Newsletter, had been fitted with a foam rubber cushion which Dolores had carefully covered with corduroy.

At the meeting, plans were discussed for the forthcoming book on ocelot care and handling which has been written by Mrs. Catherine Cisin, president. It is expected publication will be made in February. Shany Brooks who is an artist, has offered to do some illustrations for the book.

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, Los Angeles ocelot owners won a temporary victory in their lengthy tooth and claw battle for the legal right to keep their pets. L.A. City Council members voted down a proposed law banning all "wild" animals in residential and retail store zones. Residents will be permitted to keep monkeys, pandas, peacocks, seals, ocelots and cheetahs.

The next hearing of the Council will decide on which proposed regulations to accept. The Board of Animal Regulations proposed rules would give them (the board) opportunity to make rules pertaining to the keeping of "wild" animals as they see fit. One of the current proposed rules would take the wild animals out of the house and put them in a cage 25 feet from the house. This is hardly the place for a house pet! Some owners might well move out of their houses to their pets' cage. It could happen!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE it is hoped to present a letter from Dr. Richard L. Stride of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Stride will explain the problems involved in anesthetizing felines.

PRONUNCIATION of the word "ocelot" has many variations. Those who wonder how to pronounce it are probably right no matter how they do it.

- ō-sē-lot -- the pronunciation given by one dictionary. There are other pronunciations in other dictionaries.
- ō-sa-lot -- used on the west coast
- ō-sa-lot -- east coast
- ōz-lut -- Pennsylvania (Dutch areas)

Club emblem pins are still available at 50¢ each. To get one, or more, send money and order to LIOC, Amagansett, N.Y. If check, make payable to Jerry Heywood, Treasurer. The emblem is about 3/4" long and 1/2" high, gold colored.



NEW MEMBERS

MR & MRS. HENRY WEIDNER, 60-37 - 70th Street, Maspeth 78, N.Y., became members late in October when they acquired Quito. Ever since the little fellow has been working his way into their hearts, deeper and deeper. In early December Quito suffered a broken leg while at the veterinarian's office. After castration, it is suspected that he caught his foot in the wire mesh of the cage to which he was confined, and that he twisted his leg until it broke in the struggle to free himself. Four weeks later, he is prancing around with a pin through his hip as though nothing were out of order. The pin will soon be removed.

MR & MRS BERNARD SLATOR, 157 W. Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, California, have a justly famed 3½ year 27 lb. ocelot called Junga. He and Butch, a 20 lb. black cat, are pals. They sleep together and seem quite fond of each other. Butch is always watchful as Junga plays too rough for him at times. Junga has had his share of fame, having become a hero in a \$100,000 church fire. When the fire started, Junga, disturbed, called his master who, in turn, called the fire department. Junga again appeared in the newspapers in a feature picture story about his happy life in the Slator home. The Slators send greetings "to all oceloteers" in the East.

MR. BERNARD STARR, 64-14 - 184th Street, New York, N.Y., has a partly grown, 15 pound female ocelot named Ginger. She is not the Starrs' first ocelot. A previously owned cat, Adam, moved from the Starr household to that of the popular entertainer, Art Ford, also a club member.

MRS JEWEL CARR, 9023 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, California, is secretary of the American Ocelot Club. Mrs. Carr has a minimum of two ocelots, but at any time, visitors to her house will find a variety of ocelots and allied felines, the largest of which will probably be a Cheetah. She is active in finding homes for displaced ocelots, margays, and others, on the West Coast.

MR. LYMAN E. WOODARD, Owosso, Michigan, has a 16 month old 26 lb. Mexican ocelot. He is called Sr. Gato. The Mexican officials had difficulty understanding that Mr. Woodard wanted to bring an ocelot out of the country. When he finally got through to them, they said: "Oh, gato!". Sr. Gato was nursed on a domestic cat before he was weaned. He has never had a sick day in his life. "We have children in the family, and their friends are often in the house and go up and pet our ocelot, and even pick him up without any danger." While Sr. Gato has been neutered, Mr. Woodard is interested in the possibility of breeding ocelots in captivity.

MRS. MARTY GIUFFRE, 14805 Valerio, Van Nuys, California, now has two ocelots and a cheetah in her feline family. Zorro, three year old cheetah, is a popular animal on the Coast. He is very tame and shares his home with Maizie, 30 lb. 3½ year old ocelot. Maizie has recently acquired a "husband", 45 lb. 2 year old Thumper, who formerly lived in Mrs. Jewel Carr's house.

MRS. ANN EICHELMAN, New Market Virginia, has renewed her membership for a year. Her 3-year old "Baby" is also one of "those so-called Banana snatchers. He even goes so far as to snatch anything new that's brought into the house."