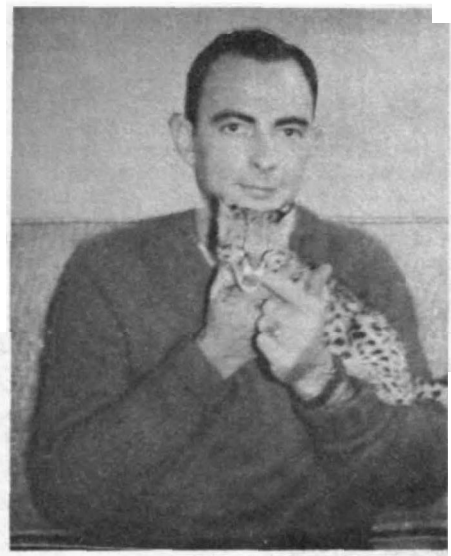
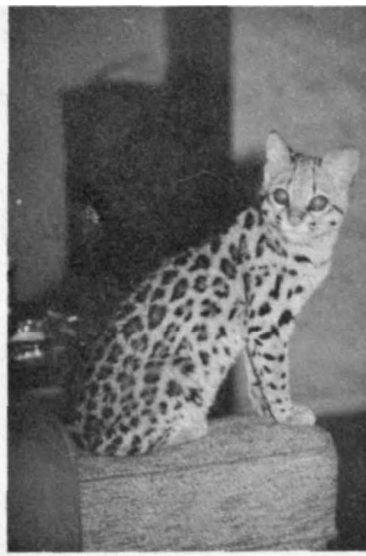


# LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

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Miss Shaney Brooks, 39 E 10th Street, New York 3, N.Y.  
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## MARI, MINIATURE MYSTERY



MARI and her owner, Dr. Thomas Griffith

Mari is truly a miniature mystery. Her weight is about four and a half pounds. Two veterinarians have estimated her age at "over five months". One suspected she might be considerably older, basing his conclusion on the accumulation of tartar on her well developed teeth.

She measures 12 inches from nose to tail, her thin tail adding another 8 inches. Her shoulder height is 7 inches. Her legs which are in length and thickness the size of her owners fingers, are tipped with pointed tiny feet, as dainty as those of a young siamese. Her fragile head is well proportioned by domestic short-hair standards. Her eyes are brown. She has been known to utter only two kinds of sound, -- a strong purr and the conventional growl.

Mari does not part her hair near the shoulders as ocelots do. It grows in the same direction (back) from her eyes right down her tail. Its texture is quite soft, yet it appears to be firm like an ocelot's. Her color is beige with brown rosettes, not quite as sharply in contrast as an ocelot's or margay's might be. The characteristic pattern at the shoulders is lacking: there are no stripes which bend vertically towards the legs. Her ears are round, with the usual white spots on their backs.

A margay owner who inspected Mari asserts she is definitely not a margay. An ocelot owner states she is unquestionably not an ocelot, but suspects she may be the product of an indiscretion between a margay and a domestic cat. Another ocelot owner

owner recalls having read an article in Pet Life magazine which describes the "fish cat" native to Thailand. The description could have fit Mari.

Thus far the Long Island Ocelot Club has not been able to classify little Mari.

WE NEED HELP ! ! !

Will any reader who can shed light on Mari's identity please communicate with her owner, Dr. Thomas Griffith, 191 Willoughby Street, Apt. 16H, Brooklyn 1, New York, and/or with Club Headquarters?

### THE NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1960, AT 2:00 P.M.  
at home of - **CHERIE AND BERNIE STARR**  
8450 BOULEVARD EAST  
NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

Bernie will show movies he has taken at the 1959 picnics in Amagansett and at New Market, and of Josè's first birthday party.

All Newsletter readers are invited. Cherie requests that all who expect to attend advise her either by letter or phone (UNion 9 0641) before the first Sunday in January.

TRAVEL: From Geo. Wash. Bridge: After toll booths, go under overpass then take first right. Turn right. Pass Ft. Lee Theatre to N.J. 67. - Jct. 5 East to Palisades Amusement Park. Continue straight. Turn left after Hearsh and Amoco Station. From Lincoln Tunnel: First right turn off ramp is Boulevard East.

# MIXED EMOTIONS

Experienced and Expressed by

Jayne Murray

It seems a shame, almost a crime, for a person to take an ocelot, or any other animal away from wild life, care for it until the animal has become attached to the individual, and then tear it away from the person and place it has grown to love and trust, because it later proves inconvenient to keep it.

Animals of this nature depend upon their adopted family far more than dogs or domestic cats. Transposition from wild life to domestic is very difficult. They endure hunger, heat, crowded and quite often dirty conditions on the way from their quiet, familiar jungle or plains, into the frightening noise and hugeness of civilization. Animals are lost every step of the way. Those that make the grade are desperately in need of love and attention. Far too frequently these frightened baby animals are purchased by people totally unprepared for such ownership simply because they are intrigued by their beauty, or the thought of owning such an unusual pet.

Since their behavior, in many ways, is dissimilar to that of dogs or cats, it would seem only fair that the prospective owner consider it his obligation to learn all he possibly can about the habits of the adult animal: they don't stay cute babies forever.

Ocelots are extremely affectionate, in some cases to many people, sometimes only to the owner. Margays are generally one person animals. Both are rough-necks when they play, -- demand a great deal of time and attention. These animals do not lie quietly and play only when you want them to. They demand and should get the attention they require, which goes a great deal further than just a clean place to live, nourishing food, and an occasional pat on the head. Unless the prospective owner is aware of this and willing to accept it, he should not take this type of animal into his home. Ownership of this kind is frustrating to both: the owner tends to lose his patience easily, the animal is confused and unhappy.

Many calls come into club headquarters offering ocelots for resale. One woman's son had "tired of the fad" so a four month old ocelot was to be cast aside like an old hat. How unkind and selfish can humans be? Naturally there are times, due to unexpected circumstances, when it is necessary to find a new home for a pet. More often however it is due to inability to handle the growing youngster. This sort of thing could be avoided if the prospective owner had been prepared, and had been able to weigh the pros and cons of such ownership before ordering the animal.

Sadly enough there are more offers than seekers, too few people willing or able to pay the high prices usually asked in these situations. Animals that really should not be in zoos are placed there just to have a place to put them. Others never find permanent homes and are transferred from one owner to another. This sort of mishandling causes the animal to be insecure, untrusting -- and usually unmanageable.

Those that do find homes have a trying period of readjustment. If it is necessary to find a new home for your pet, send as much information as possible with him, food preferences, toilet habits, likes, pet peeves, anything you feel the new owner should know to make this period a little easier. Some favorite toy or box that is familiar may make a world of difference in his new and strange surroundings.

Club members can help a great deal by cautioning those who feel they would like to have a pet of this kind to learn everything they can about these animals before they order one. Invite them to attend meetings and talk with owners, let them learn the unusual aspects of owning such a pet as well as the appealing ones. As ocelot owners, we dearly love our pets and are anxious to have others enjoy and love them too, but we want them to go into homes where they will be understood and loved not only as babies, but as adult animals as well. They make fascinating, affectionate pets for those with the ability to understand and handle them properly. Unfortunately, not everyone has the ability required for such ownership. It is better for the animal if the prospective owner finds out before instead of later that he has made a mistake and an informed owner will be better able to raise his pet.



## THE QUESTION: Declaw or Not

Mrs. Carrol Kirkendall of 15267 Linden Avenue, Seattle 33, Washington, owner of a pair of one and a half year old ocelots, Jade and Topaz, presents these provocative thoughts:

"I am surprised at the number of people who feel that they have to have their cats declawed or defanged. I am not criticizing, but think this would be a good topic for an interesting pro and con discussion.

"Jade uses her claws much more than Topaz, but even she is discreet when I remind her. Even when angry these cats are careful in the use of their teeth and claws. I don't mind spilling some blood to get an idea across and have found that if their biting or clawing doesn't put the fear of them into you as they mean it to, they become less apt to use them as weapons, especially if it brings retaliation.

"But of course different individuals require different handling. I believe that there is a more uniformly characteristic behavior in ocelots than any animal with which I have worked. Thus far I have worked with most of the domestic animals."

? ? ?

Surely Mrs. Kirkendall's sentiments will inspire some comments. Mrs. Jayne Murray has offered to act as moderator-coordinator of these comments. Won't you please let her have yours? Her address is: RFD 1, Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, N.Y.

# ★ TLALOCELOTL TIDBITS

Dictated by: EVE

Interpreted by: *Nank & Shavey*

*new york 3, n. y.*

## News from Around the Jungle

The November 8th meeting of the LIOC was held at Beautyland, Inc., 329 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. It was attended by ten ocelots, three margays and, including members and guests, approximately thirty-five people.

As usual, the reunions and social aspect of the afternoon left little time for business. However, the following was accomplished:

1. It was decided to rewrite the club membership application, omitting the corresponding membership classification. This was not intended in way to discourage correspondence between members and headquarters, or between members, but rather to equalize the features of each classification by combining them. (New form shown on page 4.)
2. A definite pattern for club meetings was established, providing six meetings (including the annual picnic) per year, these to be held the middle of the month following each issue of the Newsletter. They are to be held at the homes, or business locations, of members. Announcement of each meeting with travel directions, will appear in the Newsletter preceding it.
3. The treasury was transferred from Jerry Heywood to Club Headquarters. All members join in thanking Jerry who has served ably and generously as our treasurer since 1955.
4. A new regulation will suggest that all members keep their cats at meetings on a lead or otherwise restrained.

### List of attendants:

BABY (o)	Ann and Alf Eichelman, New Market, Va.
MONTEZUMA (m)	Meg and Si Merrill, New York, N.Y.
FURY (o)	Denise Pierron, Wantagh, N.Y.
ZORCH (m)	Dorothy Marchese, Floral Park, N.Y.
PIXIE (o)	Elaine and Russell Schroeder, Paramus, N.J.
GIBOY (m)	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Weiskopf, N.Y., N.Y.
QUITO (o)	Cherie and Bernie Starr, North Bergen, N.J.
CALI (o)	
BUDDAL (o)	Barbara Scheid, Mt. Vernon, New York (for Dr. Zimmerman)
BABY (o)	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Palmisano, Brooklyn
MITSU-KO (o)	Jayne and Wilbur Murray, Putnam
JOSE (o)	Valley, N.Y.
SABU II (o)	Jim Coan, Annandale, N.J.
	Shaney Brooks, N.Y., N.Y.
	Sherrie Zuckert, Great Neck, N.Y.
	Antrim Greer, New York, N.Y.
	Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Davis, Pleasant Valley, N.Y.
	Bertharose Lane, Benton, Penna.
	Jerry Heywood, Brooklyn, N.Y.
	Catherine and Harry Cisin, Amagansett

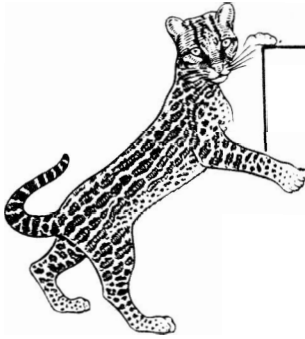
The press was represented by Mr. David Lyle of the New York Herald Tribune. His story, with pix appeared the following day. Two weeks later a letter came from New South Wales, Australia forwarding a clipping from the Sunday Mirror of Cronulla, N.S.W. reprinting the picture and rewriting the story. The wonder of all of this is that the letter was addressed simply: "The Secretary, Long Island Ocelot Club, Long Island, America" We still haven't discovered how the postal services found us!

The next meeting will be held on January 17th, as announced on page 1.

Tentative plans for the 1960 Picnic have been made for mid-July, at the Murray's in Putnam Valley, N.Y.



NOTE: Eve, who excuses herself by claiming to be "all wrote out" submits this picture of her holiday activities in place of her regular column. She sincerely hopes, her interpreters advise, that all of her feline cousins got as much out of the holiday season as she did.



# LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB

## Membership Application

The Long Island Ocelot Club is a non-profit organization devoted to the establishment of a working understanding between humans and pet felidae.

All are eligible for membership who own ocelots, who would like to own ocelots, or have a vital interest in the welfare of ocelots and allied felines.

Membership will bring you:

1. Six copies per year of the bi-monthly LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB NEWSLETTER. This contains news of club activities; information relating to care, training, handling and feeding; news of doings of cats and members throughout the country and abroad; listing of names and addresses of members; photographs; "columns".
2. Contact with owners of pet ocelots, margays, bobcats, cheetas and pumas from coast to coast.
3. Invitation to attend bi-monthly meetings and other functions of the club including the annual picnic.
4. Opportunity to draw from the club's pool of information should you have problems, and to contribute to it, information you wish to share.
5. Assistance in locating an ocelot when you wish to obtain one.

Membership will cost you \$5 per year.  
Make check payable to Long Island Ocelot Club  
and forward with completed application blank to:

Mrs. Harry G. Cisin, Pres.  
Long Island Ocelot Club  
Amagansett, L.I., N.Y.

Membership: \$5 per year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of cat \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ (If neutered, please indicate)

Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address where cat was purchased

Name and address of veterinarian

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## New Members

ROBERT O. HUNTER, 3439 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis 5, Indiana. This Policeman's pet margay is named Rex-Ann. "Rex" after the king of the Mardi-Gras in New Orleans (where the cat was purchased) and "-Ann" to rectify an error made before visiting the veterinarian.

MR. & MRS. PETER R. CHISHOLM, 169 Rockaway Parkway, Valley Stream, L.I., N.Y. Their cat, Nari (not to be confused with Mari mentioned on the first page) weighs five lbs. at six months of age.

MR. & MRS. EDWARD BUTLER, 34 Middletown Road, Old Saybrook, Conn. own a young ocelot they call Abou.

MRS. PAT BERGER, 11625 Ranchito, El Monte, California, owns 10-year old, blue-eyed Jo-Jo, who was brought home from the jungles of Peru to become a family pet. Mrs. Berger was active in the American Ocelot Club in Los Angeles.

MR & MRS. LAWRENCE MARRISH, 6 Charles Street, Hudson, N.Y. Their ocelot, Pyewacken is about six months old and weighs a little over ten pounds.

MR. & MRS. STUART JONES, 4309 Rugby Road, Baltimore 10, Md. Their first kitten died a few days after it arrived home, at about 8 weeks of age. She won their hearts so completely that another kitten soon joined the household,-- Jose Maria Pedulla. He very quickly made himself an inseparable part of the Jones family. He is reported to be perfectly housebroken, equally comfortable with all members of the family, and an accomplished ballet artist. This latter attribute he demonstrates not only by the conventional leaping, but by walking up a highly polished banister with greater ease than his humans climb the stairs. It hasn't been reported as yet whether he slides down!

MR. & MRS. RAY OVINGTON, 70 Park Terrace East, New York 34, N.Y. Their young ocelot Souza weighed 9 pounds at 8 months of age. She has recently had her claws removed. She is very gentle and is the companion of the Ovingtons' three year old son.

SHERRIE ZUCKERT, 150 S. Middleneck Road, Great Neck, N.Y. Sherrie has had a margay. She is now catless and is hoping to get one. In the meantime, she offers her services as an ocelot sitter.

MR. M. BRADLY TONKIN, 517 East 77 Street, Apt 1-D, New York 21, N.Y. has a newly acquired cat weighing 7 lbs. He calls her Octavia.

MR. & MRS. R. R. MAC MAHON, #126-2--6 Southern Hills Apartments, Carbondale, Illinois. Have no cat at present.

MRS. GENEVIEVE D. EVANS, 51 Claremont Avenue, Kenmore 23, N.Y. Her six-month old Cleopatra, is one of four member ocelots in the Buffalo, N.Y. area.

DR. THOMAS GRIFFITH, 191 Willoughby Steet, Apt 16H, Brooklyn, N.Y., whose introduction to our fancy felines has been unusual. He purchased his young "ocelot" from a young man. One evening early in November, Dr. Griffith

was visited by two New York City Detectives, accompanied by a representative of the Prospect Park (Brooklyn) Zoo. They demanded the return of the margay which had been stolen from their margay cage. They had no evidence to prove the animal belonged to them, nor was Dr. Griffith able to produce the young man from whom his purchase had been made, since he had left for Florida two days previously. The stolen cat's keeper was unable to identify Dr. Griffith's cat. The little cat showed no evidence of having been a cage animal, but rather proved herself an experienced pet, being housebroken and a lap-sitter, even choosing to sleep with her master. The matter was dropped. Mari continues to live a happy home life.

## Renewal Members

MRS. DAVID MILLAR, 460 West 24 Street, New York, N.Y.  
MR. & MRS. NEIL TODD, 26 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Mass. (Sebena, female ocelot)  
MR. & MRS. ANTHONY PALMISANO, 2028 W 10 Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Baby, ocelot kit)  
1/Lt BOBBY D. HAYTER, 01937404, Hq. USAGAR (RCC) Fort Carson, Colorado  
MR. & MRS. STAN YALOF, Rt. 1, Box 719, Escondido, California (Putzah, margay)

## Ocelots in Print

CALI, GIBOY, MONTEZUMA, BUDDAH and QUITO, "Ten Ocelots with owners at Prowl in Beauty Shop", N.Y. Herald Tribune, 11/9/59

GIBOY, MONTEZUMA, BUDDAH and QUITO, "All Start From Scratch" Sunday Mirror, Cronulla, N.S.W., Australia

REX-ANN, "Illegal Entry", Indianapolis Times, 11/11/59 (Hunter)

TINKER-BELLE (Malyszka), "Cheektowaga Girl has Two Ocelot Playmates", Buffalo Courier-Express, 11/29/59

### ON TELEVISION

CALIGULA (McDonald), Capt. Kangaroo (CBS) 11/19/59

## What You're Saying

Lydia Sporleder, Wilson, N.Y.: "Everybody has been so interested in seeing so many ocelots at once and together in the last noteworthy Newsletter."

Jerrie Hollenbeck, Dearborn, Michigan: "I couldn't help the tears I felt after reading Jim's letter about Sabu... it summed up the total of all the grief I've felt for all the animals I have loved and lost."

Carrol Kirkendall, Seattle, Washington: "We have laughed and laughed with people to whom we have read Tlalocelotl Tidbits, by Eve. Wonderful writing! Wept at the account of Sabu's passing."

Frances Tweet, Signal Mountain, Tennessee: "The picture in the November Newsletter of members and pets was about the best ever! We are certainly looking forward to the time when we can have an ocelot." (In addition to their cattery, the Tweets now have a puma, a bobcat and a jaguarundi.)

## News from Around the Jungle (Cont'd.)

Don Segundo Jose, our native born (L.A.) ocelot, celebrated his first birthday the Sunday following November 17th. Many friends came to visit him and his "wife", Mitsu-ko, in his large house which nestles in the spacious quiet of Putnam Valley, N.Y. His humans, Jayne and Bill Murray and son, Michael, also house two dogs, a siamese and a domestic short-hair.

Pixie came with Elaine and Russell Schroeder from Paramus, N.J. While Elaine has been one of us since Pixie was a kit, we learn only now that she has an aversion to cats. She has never felt it towards ocelots which she thinks act and feel more like dogs than cats.

Quito and his child-bride Cali, came with Cherie and Bernie Starr from North Bergen, N.J. Carlotta, from Amagansett, N.Y., brought Catherine and Harry Cisin. Because of her size and superior equipment she was isolated from the other cats in a spacious play-pen, in the same room with the festivities.

When it became time to open his presents and officiate at his "Happy Birthday" beef heart, Jose forgot his manners and jumped up on the table. He took the beef heart firmly in his mouth, ignoring the burning one-year candle, and started to carry it away to his lair. Fortunately someone had the presence of mind to blow out his candle!

Motion pictures taken by Bernie Starr will be shown at the next Club Meeting on January 17th.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Yalof of Escondido, California report as follows: "It has been months since you heard anything about our margays. The reason is that in May we moved to a 360 acre ranch and since then have not had a spare minute.

"Now for some sad news. The very first night we spent on the ranch, our little Rosencranz ran away. She was never as friendly or interested in us as Guildenstern, and she apparently decided that the free life was for her. Since then, she was seen several times in the vicinity, but always at a distance. The mountains around our house are alive with birds, mice, rabbits, squirrels, etc. so she undoubtedly has no trouble finding food.

"After R's disappearance, we were concerned about what Guildenstern would do. Would he follow her? Would he pine away from loneliness? Should we keep him locked up all the time? We decided the decision would be his to make and gave him the run of the ranch. He immediately set a pattern of living which he has maintained ever since. All day he sleeps in the house. When we get home at night we let him out and off he goes prowling. Sometimes he returns for a petting session before we go to bed, -- sometimes afterwards. Sometimes he doesn't come home all night. He has been known to stay away as long as a week. But eventually he always comes home, starved for affection.

"Whether he is in contact with Rosencranz is a subject for conjecture. At any rate, we think he is the happiest margay anywhere. He loves the mountains, climbs trees, catches mice, and plays at being a wild cat with gusto. On yes, -- without Rosencranz there could be no Guildenstern. So now our margay is called Putzah."

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Milla Fischer of 6427 Brooks Lane, Washington D.C., is offering her half grown ocelot, Mitza for \$50. "Mitza is not vicious, but is terrified by people. She is healthy, has never bit or scratched me, is paper and bath tub broken. She is quite happy with my dog, a huge hound." Please contact Mrs. Fischer if interested.

Mrs. Daniel Weiskopf reports the sad news that they have lost Giboy, their seven pound year-old margay. He squeezed through a partly open window and dropped six stories to the street below. Fifteen minutes after his 2:00 A.M. misadventure, Giboy was being examined by his veterinarian. No bones were broken, but the cat died two days later. He had become personally known to all who attended the November 8th meeting, and was pictured in the New York Tribune story about that meeting.

From the depths of her grief, Mrs. Weiskopf begs all margay and ocelot owners to take every precaution possible to protect their charges from the pitfalls of civilization.

\* \* \* \*

Jerrie Hollenbeck, 3951 Zeigler Street, Dearborn, Michigan, who has been trying to activate a mid-west section of the LIOC, has put the question: "Just how many ocelots are active members, and what is the total of ocelots registered in the club?" The following represents the currently active feline membership:

Ocelots:	Male 30	Female 28
Margays:	7	9
Jaguarundi:	1	1
Puma:		1
Bobcat:		1
Cheetah:	1	

Just how many "Catnicks" (Jerrie's term for owners) are associated with these felines has not been accurately determined, but the best estimate (probably low) is 150. These numbers are constantly changing and relate only to December, 1959. What will 1960 bring? Probably growth, since the club has grown steadily since it began in 1955 with three ocelots and six humans, and since there are so many who share Jerrie's sentiments: "The world may be going to the dogs, but I've been going to the cats for a long time and I don't mind it a bit!" The youngest animal is Cali (female ocelot) two months old, belonging to Cherie and Bernie Starr of North Bergen, N.J., and oldest is Jo-Jo (blue-eyed neutered male ocelot) ten years old, belonging to Mrs. Pat Berger of El Monte, California.

\* \* \* \*

From Rio de Janiero, we have the following report of the growing menage of our Belgian members, Baron and Baroness van der Elst. Leon and Ariane write:

"Our little zoological garden is growing slowly but surely. We now have a pair of exotic and curly-feathered canaries, four parakeets, our two ocelots, Eulalie and Clyde (which so far still fail to produce any lawful heirs), a pair of animals called Cotias here, which are a sort of rodent, a little larger than rabbits and looking like a strange mixture of guinea pig and a squirrel. We also have a pair of miniature wild pigs, whose name in English I do not yet know. Furthermore, needless to say we have a dog which is a non-descript mongrel of medium size and is full of friendly feelings. To this collection I have added two house kittens of unascertained origin and of questionable beauty, but who are very pleasant. This is just a beginning of what we intend to do in a not too distant future."

\* \* \* \*

\* As this Newsletter goes to press, a \*  
\* phone call from Dr. Tom Griffith re- \*  
\* ports that Mari has died after having \*  
\* had her claws removed. After five \*  
\* days, she failed to recover from the \*  
\* anesthesia.