



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB Newsletter

Staff: Mrs. Harry G. Cisin, Editor, Amagansett, L.I., N.Y.
Shaney (Mrs. Hank Frey), 39 E 10th Street, New York 3, N.Y.
Mrs. Wilbur Murray, RFD 1, Peekskill Hollow Rd., Putnam Valley, N.Y.
Jim Coan, Box 19, Clinton, N.J

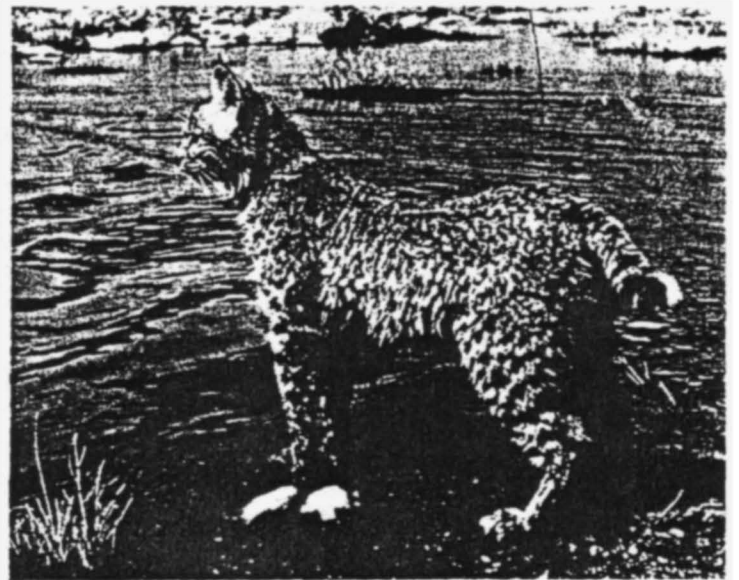
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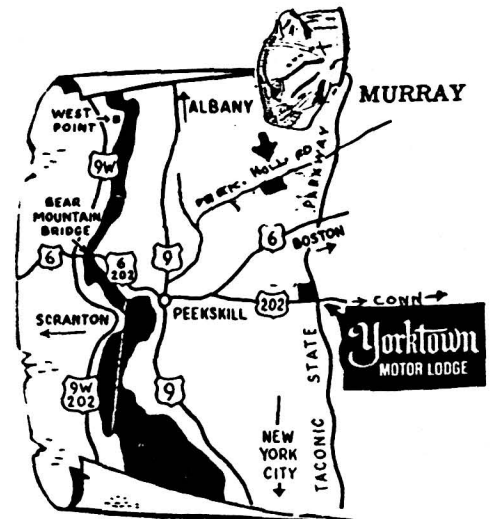
This is RUFUS

named after his zoological classification, *FELIS RUFUS*. This pet bobcat, owned by Jim Yoakum, began life near Vale, Oregon, where his master was stationed.



Rufus is now under contract to Disney Studios and is summering in California. "His first assignment was to chase a fox and steal a chicken. He chased the fox right out of the county, then stole his chicken and immediately ate it," reports his master who is now living in Ely, Nevada and eagerly awaiting the end of his cat's contract. These two pictures show him in a formal pose at the age of nine months, (photo by Jess Barker) and at the right, informally wet in the process of pursuing one of his favorite pastimes. Close inspection will disclose his catch beside his front paws. (Photo by Jim Yoakum)

There's Still Time! PLAN TO COME TO THE **PICNIC** in Putnam Valley, N.Y., Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, at the home of Jayne and Bill Murray, (Lakeland 8 6444). A record attendance both feline and human, is expected. Please contact Jayne Murray, RFD 1, Peekskill Hollow Road, or club headquarters at once and tell us you're coming! Anyone wishing transportation from the Metropolitan New York Area, or from Long Island, please call Sue and Peter Chisholm any evening after 6:00 -- CONgress 2 0256 -- to make arrangements. Refer to the last Newsletter for complete program details. Those staying overnight will be at the Yorktown Heights Motor Lodge. Travel directions are given briefly in the little map at the right.



MIXED EMOTIONS

Jayne Murray

BACHELOR OR PAIR: WHICH SHALL IT BE?

Few things in this world are more appealing than baby animals. Ocelots and margays certainly are not exceptions. Often when one of these babies is introduced into a home, the new "parents" think it would be nice to have a playmate for their spotted bundle. There are advantages as well as disadvantages in having a pair. Because these animals are adults far longer than they are babies, and because their actions as adults are a great deal different, this is an important consideration.

Having a mate or companion gives these jungle babies a chance to play normally. They can jump, run, leap at each other, bite or wrestle with no holds barred. If the family goes out, there is always company, and at night a fellow prowler. From the ocelot's point of view this must be a very satisfactory arrangement.

Any time there are two animals of like species living together, they are very interested in each other. They do not ignore their humans, but look for each other to play with and are not as dependent upon human companionship as one alone would be. With a pair the owner is most often an on-looker rather than a participant.

If a young pair is brought home at the same time they will be quite difficult to train. They have each other and therefore have no need for the human touch. It is best to acquire one ocelot first. Train it, have it become accustomed to its new family and learn to rely on human companionship, then when the mate is introduced the first pet will put the newcomer at ease. It is amazing the way the new one will watch and take lessons from the first one. It will probably, unless it is very young and without fear, hide under a chair or sofa and watch the activity then seeing no harm is being done to the other fellow, will want to play, too. Some separation is a good thing, until the new one gets to know and rely on the family too. This can be accomplished by playing with each one separately every day. Hand feeding always is the best way to assure the newcomer that life with the human race is not such a bad deal after all. Playing with both at the same time will include the first pet and show him you still care. This will also help avoid any fights that might start over what food belongs to whom.

A pair of baby ocelots requires a great deal of personal attention and handling, also time for watching. Hours and hours can be spent watching these fascinating babies roll, charge or race pell mell after each other in a mad confusion of play. They are funnier than any TV comedians as they practice their prowess with each other, or wrestle precariously on the edge of a chair, then fall in a heap on the floor. Their concern is always evident as they wash each other with fastidious care. Where one is, the other is too, for they are seldom apart for any length of time. They sleep curled up in a fuzzy, spotted, mixed-up ball so that it is hard to tell where one starts and ends. Waking or sleeping, everything they do is cute. Two are truly twice as much fun.

As babies it is really no more difficult to have two than one. They do not require extra space. They are excellent travelling companions and require no special arrangements in the car. Two will run and play around the house more than a single one, but when they are young this does not present much of a problem. As the animals grow their play naturally becomes rougher, requires more space, and two will get into twice as much mischief. If they are a mating pair (and this is the extent of my experience) they

must have a room by themselves. They do play hard and it is impossible to allow them free run of the house all the time. When they are breeding they are more active than at any other time and should be left alone, except to be fed and have their quarters cleaned. Travelling takes special arrangements. Two cannot wander freely about a car. One person cannot handle two at the same time with much success. The adult pair does not travel very often.

Playing with a pair of fully grown ocelots keeps you on your toes. Undoubtedly they will both decide to wrap themselves around your legs at the same time. This makes mobility almost impossible and takes on all the aspects of a Chinese puzzle. Which one to loosen first? They will vie for your attention. Your entrance into their part of the house will bring them both running to greet you. They will play ball, or retrieve toys (in our house it is a stalk of celery) one racing the other to get at it first. Jose will run as hard as he can, then wait for Mitsu-ko and either let her bring it to me, or help her carry it.

Adult ocelots are just as much fun as babies, but because they cannot live right with you all the time, they become more attached to each other. With this separation from you it is not possible to have the same kind of companionship with two that you have when there is only one. This is the aspect of having a pair that has been most disconcerting to me. I missed having an ocelot about the house so much that when the opportunity presented itself, a third one was adopted. Once again I have a shadow, a travelling companion and a mischievous little old ocelot helping me around the house.

Jose and Mitsu-ko are a wonderful pair of ocelots. Both are affectionate and friendly, always glad to see us and happy to have us play with them. They are in a way like married children who have grown up and now have their own living to do. They still love us, and we love them, but they have each other and the relationship is not as it once was. Sumi-san is the bachelor, wholly dependent upon us for companionship and we, as it has been discovered, are just as dependent upon him.

Declaw or Not

Part 3 (Jayne Murray)

Two letters were received just after the last Newsletter went to the printer, one from Bernard Slator of San Dimas, California; the other from Earle and Michell of Crystal River, Florida. Both letters contain points that had not been covered previously and because of their importance should not be omitted from the discussion.

Mildred and Bernard Slator share their home with two mature, male ocelots: 6 year old Junga and 2-1/2 year old, domestic-born 'Sus, both of whom have their claws. Bernard writes that this same topic came up for discussion when the American Ocelot Club was active. He feels the only sensible way to do it is to have the animal declawed while it is young, for those who claim they can teach these animals not to claw furniture or inflict scratches on their person are being optimists. The chief argument against declawing is the danger involved because of the anesthetic. He points out the importance of knowing the animals TRUE weight. Too many people guess the weight to be heavier than it is, resulting in overdose and death.

Safari, the Crystal River margay who lives with Earle and Michell, almost died because of anesthetic administered for clawectomy. He was "out" eight days after the operation and during that time seven trips were made to the veterinarian where he was put under oxygen and fed intravenously. Three months later it was discovered that his claws were growing back in, one coming through the top forming an abscess. Healing process was slow.

CONCLUSIONS will appear in the September Newsletter.

TRAINING YOUR OCELOT

By J. E. Coan

MENTAL CONDITIONING -- (Part II)

In addition to the two thoughts in the first article: (1) do not cause your pet alarm or fear and (2) he can be domesticated as a house pet, there are other areas of mental conditioning to be considered.

Because he is an ocelot he cannot be trained to react in a manner similar to other pets. He will never learn to think as we do. The important factor here to get into our minds is that we must learn to think as an ocelot. You will find that your pet will soon accept you as he would another ocelot. He will express his feelings to you in the same manner he would to another of his own kind. Ocelots will use their vocal chords to make known what they want only when they are locked away from you. When they are with you their medium of expression is their teeth. Once our minds are conditioned to understand this, there is little or no danger to us. Not understanding it and trying to make the animal stop biting is first of all frustrating to the animal and secondly, could mean a serious bite for he may get tired of trying to tell you something which you refuse to understand. There is also the danger that our lack of understanding will create a fear in us causing us to jerk away from the bite (tooth talk) and tear our flesh on his teeth.

To be a little more specific, if you teach your ocelot to be affectionate, you will discover that he will kiss you on the cheek but that kiss will be a little nip with his front teeth. It will be gentle as long as you do not pull away from him. If you try to pull away he will apply pressure and could break the skin. He uses only the tiny front teeth, not the canines.

When he romps he will open his mouth wide and take your flesh or clothing as though he were really going to take a big bite. He will be gentle as long as you are the same. When he is hungry he will lightly mouth you. When he wants you to follow him he will take your finger behind his canines and close his mouth firmly enough to pull you in his intended direction but will not bite unless you refuse to go. If you do not accede to his wish, he will apply pressure. When he is angry with you he will grab at you with a full set of teeth but rarely will apply pressure.

You will discover many other things he has to say to you by the use of his teeth. If you are a very tender-skinned person you more than likely will carry the punctuation marks of the conversation. If you do get a serious bite, you can be sure that it was your reaction more than the intent of the cat which caused it.

You must also condition yourself to understand that until you can train him not to use his claws you are going to be scratched. When he is young he will use his claws until he begins to know you or until he is no longer afraid of you; he will also hiss at you when he uses his claws this way. When he knows you and begins to love and to trust you the hissing will stop and he will stop lashing with his claws. After this the only time he will use his claws is when he is excited or playing.

Your ocelot can be trained not to use his claws. This will be in another article. For now, be conditioned to the fact that he will use his teeth and his claws on you.

..... TO BE CONTINUED

News from Around the Jungle

THE MAY 8TH MEETING was a very memorable one at Jim Coan's home in Clinton, New Jersey. The following eight cats and nineteen people attended.

Elaine and Russell Schroeder, Paramus, N.J. with PIXIE
Dan and Edith Cronin, N.Y.C., with SHADRACK
Meg Merrill and son, Michael, N.Y.C.
Tom Griffith with MR. PEPYS and Bill Fuchs, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Peter and Sue Chisholm, Valley Stream, N.Y. with NARI
Barbara and Otto Albanesius, N.Y.C.
Bernie and Cherie Starr, Basking Ridge, N.J. with their new infant, and with QUITO
Norma Timmone, Bronx, N.Y., with SHEBA-DU
Catherine and Harry Cisin, Amagansett, N.Y. with CARLOTTA
Jim Coan -- and SABU

Jim provided a guide who met the visitors at a predetermined point in Clinton and led them in two caravans from this point to Jim's location high in the woods at the end of a long narrow road. It was difficult to withdraw from the consuming beauty of the tall trees reaching upwards for the warmth of the erstwhile spring sun, from the many wild flowers, and from the green quiet of the spring-fed pool at the bottom of Jim's lawn. But we were there, after all, to hold a meeting.

Business included discussion of a proposed questionnaire which would be circulated to all ocelot owners in an attempt to gather statistics relating to the health and welfare of ocelots. The questionnaire in its present form will be submitted to Dr. Patricia O'Connor of Staten Island Zoo, and to several veterinarians who have treated our cats, for review and criticism. In the meantime, it is requested that all members submit questions they feel should be included. If the matter suggested is not already included, it will be added. (Write club headquarters) It is planned that the questionnaire will appear as part of the September issue of the Newsletter.

Dr. Tom Griffith reported that he had obtained some Librium, a tranquillizing drug which had been reported effective in subduing wild animals for treatment at San Diego Zoo. (Life Magazine) Tom, after first taking some himself with no appreciable effect, tried some on Mr. Pepys, his young margay. There was little reaction, but Mr. Pepys is one of the gentlest animals in the club.

Bernie and Cherie Starr's new offspring slept through the afternoon. When discussion ended, Bernie showed movies he had taken at the 1959 picnic in Amagansett, and at Jose's (Murray) first birthday party November 23 in Putnam Valley, N.Y. A very clever bit of editing and titling made the show very entertaining -- especially so, since so many of the "stars" were present. Bernie plans to show the film again on June 25th at the picnic.

Sad note at the meeting was that Sabu's mate, Sebina, had gone off into the woods the week previous, and had not returned. Sad, too, was the imminent temporary separation of Quito from the Starrs. He will live nearby with Volney Phifer, famous animal trainer, and friend of everything that breathes.

After the meeting Jim served a chicken buffet dinner which he himself had masterfully prepared, right down through the delicious cherry pie. After dinner the caravan of enchanted members moved down the mountainside, Meg Merrill taking home with her a young dogwood tree, her son Michael having been persuaded to return his captured frog to its family in the pool.

The next meeting will be part of the picnic program at Putnam Valley, N.Y., June 25th.

More News from Around the Jungle

ART MATTHEWS announces that Simba and Rodan have done it again. On May 2nd Rodan gave birth to a pair of healthy young ocelots. This is their second litter. Maja, from the first, is living at home with the Matthews.

TWO DEATHS have been reported: Nancy and Ray Kaiser's GILDA, and Robert Hunter's REX-ANN.

PHILOSOPHY from the typewriter of Meg Merrill: "I have come to accept a very simple conclusion. Things that break GET BROKEN. As much as I love beautiful things, and am attached to my possessions, they can all be replaced or thrown out with less heartbreak than can a living thing. I refuse to live in a dungeon just because something may be destroyed. I just do the best I can and hope my margay won't do the best he can." Meg and Si Merrill have another margay kitten who now weighs 3 lbs. While Montoo is quite different from their first Mont, he is loved equally as much.

MORE "PANTHER SCREAMS" are reported from the striped throats of ocelots. Jewel Carr writes: "I put Hey Boy and Hi Girl (two of her ocelots) together and although she is half his size, she is the boss. You should hear them give miniature panther screams over their food. They are a riot to watch and hear."

BABY BOBCATS (like Rufus) are reported to be available at \$40 or \$50 each to club members at Marine and Petland, 116 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Write or speak to Earl Schneider.

MR. C. GUYETTE, New York City, writes: "I wonder if all members realize that a stuffed toy means a lot to an ocelot? My cats sleep on them, carry them around. It makes them feel that they are not alone. The toy should be at least half the size of the cat." (Editors note: The toy should also be as indestructible as it is possible to make it, with no detachable members the cat can break off and swallow.)

AND Mr. Guyette has made available to all members the opportunity to read BORN FREE, Joy Adamson's touching book about Elsa, founding lioness, who spent the first three years of her life as the Adamson's pet and was later educated in the art of killing her own food and then returned to her wild state. Mr. Guyette has deposited a copy of the book with club headquarters. Any member wishing to borrow it, simply write and ask for it.

WEDDING BELLS rang June 4th in New York City for Shaney Brooks and Hank Frey. LIOC was represented at the wedding and at the reception by: Jim McDonald, "Apple" and Tom Lane, Cherie and Bernie Starr and Catherine and Harry Cisin. Ocelots (Caligula, Felix, Quílo and Carlotta, respectively) stayed home, much to Eve's dismay. Eve was annoyed with her secretaries (Shaney and Hank) for being unavailable at the time when she was ready to dictate her July column (Tlalocelotl Tidbits). Eve was fairly bursting with news, but she will contain herself until Shaney and Hank are back on the job. Secretly Eve is happy to be able to postpone telling of her rival's courtship and imminent marriage. She and Carlotta have been feuding over Felix (Lane) since their visit together to him last summer. Now the way is clear for Eve since Carlotta and Fury (Pierron) are "that way".....

New Members

HOWARD ACKERS, 572 Beverly Avenue, San Leandro, Cal. owns four ocelots, Eta Chu, 6 yrs, Eta Tan, 6 mos., Zubezi, 2 yrs, and one female, Korvando, 1 yr. Mrs. Muriel Ackers, Howard's mother, would like to start a club in the Bay Area (San Francisco, Oakland, San Leandro, Burlingame and San Jose.)

MR & MRS EDWIN JUSTMAN, 765 E. Greendale, Detroit, Michigan, have found their young male, King has inspired friends on the path to ocelot ownership.

MARION H. RYAN, 77-14 - 113 Street, Forest Hills 75, N. Y. has long considered having an ocelot, and now expects her dream will soon be realized.

JULES PENN, 845 Broadway, Bayonne, N. J., is another prospective owner. He plans to bring his family to the picnic to meet some ocelots and their owners.

RICK STAFFORD, The Biological Laboratories (Harvard), 16 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge 38, Mass. describes his household: "Samantha, she's an ocelot of about six months; Philip and Elizabeth are a pair of Coatis; Ditto is a Kinkajou; Dorothy is the old lady Rhesus monkey; Blush a Cockateel; Sinbad the blacksnake ... and me. I'm an animal man (almost extinct form of ape now being supplanted with biotechnicians.) I did have a wife and two nice kids but she ran off with a banjo player and it's been just us furry ones in the house for a while. We all'd like to hear from other animal people."

MR & MRS MARLIN R. KOCH, Box 14, Point Arena Air Force Station, Point Arena, Calif. have recently become the proud owners of Napoleon, a young ocelot. "Our three little girls get along just fine with Napoleon," Helen writes. "Everything seems to be working out fine."

IRENE MARTIN, 2126 Vyse Avenue, Bronx 60, N. Y. has had many ocelots. She was unable to resist her current Cheeto: "One kiss on my nose and that was it".

MR & MRS NEIL STEUER, 62 E. 22nd Street, San Angelo, Texas, have recently returned from Brazil, where they knew ocelots intimately. Their first, Beelzebub was given them by a native near Manaus, raised near the jungle with complete freedom. He showed no desire to return to his natural home and grew to be 45 pounds. He was given to friends when Neil left the area since he was too big to be taken to Belem in the small plane. Subsequently an ocelot kitten and a margay kitten were given to them, Simba and Mara. These kittens died at the age of 6 and 5 months, after having been shipped to a Miami Kennel to await their owner's return from South America. Pat and Neil are now looking for a maracaja assu, as the ocelot is called in Brazil, or for a maracaja (margay). It is quite possible that an early Newsletter will carry first-hand information about the Brazilian ocelot, thanks to Pat and Neil.

MRS QUINN BAIRD, and son Spencer, CENTERVILLE, CAPE COD, MASS. have a nine month old cat, Maharajah, and a very active interest in his welfare. It is suspected he is a margay.

Renewal Members

CAROLE AND BILL WESTERVELT, 99 Gillette Avenue, Bayport, N. Y. (NOAH)
DEE & DON WILSON, 614 Idora Avenue, Mt. Ephraim, N. J. (TIGER)
DOROTHY JOLLEY, 679 S. Arch, Alliance, Ohio.