

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB NEWSLETTER

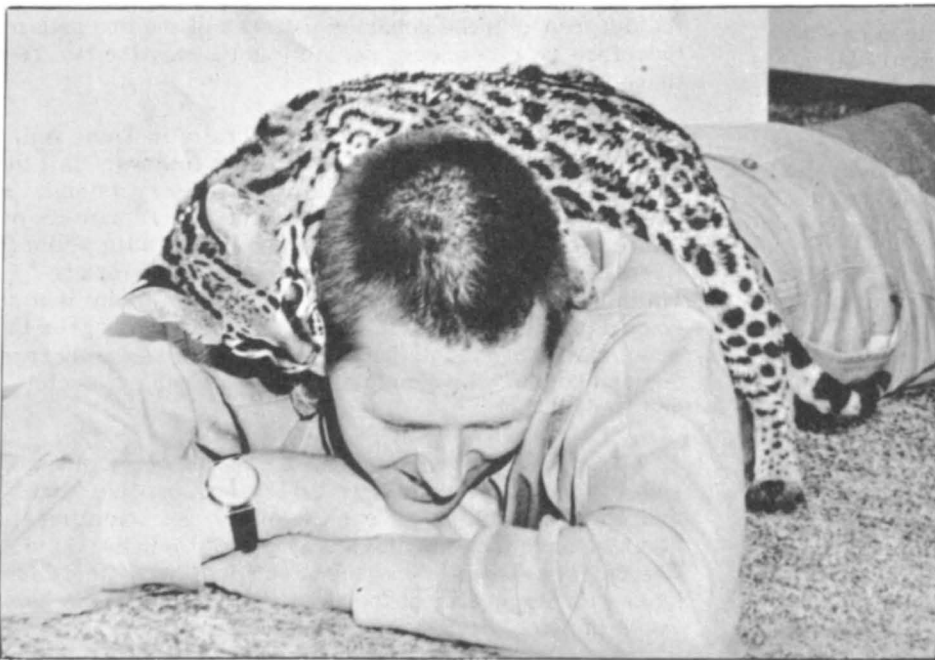
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PEPPER



Before buying Pepper, Elise and Bruce Denning of Hayward, California made a thorough investigation of the requirements he would make of them and found themselves prepared. Pepper was about six months old when he became a Denning. He is now approaching his first birthday.

While not engaged in nefarious ocelot activities he spends all his spare time organizing Northern California Ocelots.

That he is a happy cat and that his owners are happy with him, is evident from these photos.



A KISS

IS STILL A KISS



whether Pepper climbs over Bruce and slobbers in his ear, or whether he offers a gentlemanly pucker to Elise who he knows will reciprocate.

He shares his people with Mingo, a Siamese, and more recently with a young friend of Mingo's, a girl Siamese.

MIXED EMOTIONS

Jayne Murray

A decided conflict of opinions exists between zoo personnel and pet ocelot owners concerning the temperament and status of this pet. Such terms as wild, vicious and undomesticated are used by zoo personnel when speaking of our pets, based solely upon their experiences with caged ocelots (those bought by zoos for display purposes, or brought to them by people who failed in properly training the animal for domestication, or ocelots that have been left homeless for varying reasons) not from personal experiences with their own pet ocelot. One well known zoo in Chicago has a sign in front of its ocelot cage warning the public that ocelots and margays are "vicious animals unsuitable for pets." A Wisconsin pet ocelot owner, upon seeing that sign, clearly demonstrated the contrast in the opinions of the two factions when he said: "How wrong they are."

If zoo personnel were saying their caged ocelots are wild, vicious and undomesticated, we would all agree for these are older animals acquired beyond an age when they can be trained to accept people, or if kittens are brought in they are not handled and treated as pets, nor trained to live with people as in the case with individually owned ocelots. However, no such distinction is made and these terms are used for all ocelots despite their domestic status and training.

The pet ocelot is NOT a wonderful pet for everyone. Their behavior towards humans defies comparison with any other pet familiar to most of us, but does not necessarily mean this pet is wild, vicious or undomesticated. These same terms, except undomesticated, have been applied by some -- particularly to the Siamese, Persians, Burmese and Manx -- yet those who breed or own, love, and understand these cats emphatically deny these insinuations. The Doberman Pinscher and German Shepherd have also been targets for such accusations. While these dogs are most assuredly not wonderful pets for every dog lover, they are excellent companions and pets for those capable of controlling, training, handling and bringing out the best rather than the worst in these animals. Dobermans and Shepherds might very well be compared with other more easily handled dogs as the pet ocelot with the common cat.

The pet ocelot requires much more of the owner than the common cat: an ability to love its mystifying charm and uniqueness, great patience and gentleness when handling the kitten, capability to train with firmness absolutely devoid of cruelty. The ocelot must be taught everything expected of him and will tolerate just punishment, but never cruelty, but above all else, requires a master with the ability to understand his complex nature and willingness to give the time, attention and affection the pet ocelot requires. There can be no lukewarm attachment not detached attitude with these pets, as with the common cat. The personality of the ocelot does not permit it. They are extremely affectionate, intelligent, strong-willed animals whose behavior pattern deviates considerably from that of the common cat. Those who acquire an ocelot expecting it to conform to the behavior pattern set by the common cat will be frustrated, disappointed and unable to cope with situations that will inevitably arise. Such ownership will never be enjoyed and will result in a misunderstood, frustrated animal -- not a pet.

The presupposition may be raised here that the common cat has long been domesticated and its association with human beings for many thousands of generations has done much to contribute to its docility, while the ocelot is but a newcomer. Louis Robinson, M.D., in his book, "Wild Traits in Tame Animals", says of the common cat: "The physical structure and mental habits of the cat have been less influenced by domestication than any of the other domestic animals. We must remember that the cat has acquired no new instincts since it left its den in the wilds and came into our houses, and that all its present innate habits were primarily adjusted to a free life in the forest."

It is a known fact that first generation kittens, born to a domestic cat that has been left to fend for itself will be completely wild if they are not handled and cared for by humans early in life, despite the vast number of years the common cat has been living with us. Consequently, the common cat's docility and acceptance of humans does not depend upon associations in former generations, but is based solely upon each individual's own early handling and association with humans. The principal reason for the difference in the behavior patterns of the two pets must therefore lie elsewhere, possibly in the way the two regard those with whom they live.

Louis Robinson again in "Wild Traits in Tame Animals" describes the common cat's attitude as follows: "All the cat's habits show it to be by nature a solitary animal. It does not attribute to human beings like tastes with its own. Cats indeed appear to regard human beings with whom they live rather as part of the furniture than as comrades." While I do not agree with his particular viewpoint that cats regard us merely as part of the furniture, I do agree there is not the comradeship between cat and human as between dog and human, for example, or as between pet ocelot and human.

Certain habits commonly found in the pet ocelot would seem to indicate they do attribute to humans like tastes with their own and do accept the owner and sometimes other humans they may trust, as one of their own kind. The ocelot kitten, for instance, will instinctly fight his human for ownership of food, an indication that his human wants the food for himself. This same attitude is present in dogs. Only through patient training will either animal ever believe otherwise. Common kittens, while still with the litter will fight amongst themselves over food, but when alone with a human will show no anxiety or jealousy concern ing their meal.

Once the pet ocelot has established himself and is on friendly terms with his people, it is usually he who seeks them out and indicates his desire to play, while the common cat is perfectly content to play alone unless the owner takes it upon himself to enter the game. Those of us who have ocelots of breeding age have discovered the male will "fight off" the human during mating season, therefore we might very well conclude that he views us as competition. The female ocelot frequently develops an adverse attitude during the heat cycle, particularly toward the human male, which is in keeping with her attitude towards the male of her own species at such times. Both male and female ocelots without mates of their own kind, will make mating motions to their humans, the male giving the odd mating cry and biting in a manner peculiar to the mating ritual. Some of these habits are evident in dogs, but none are present in the common cat. All indications of comradeship and acceptance of humans as being of their own kind.

(Continued on Page 7)

GOOD MEDICINE

Mrs. Frances Tweet, Rt 1, Box 889, Charlotte, N. C., whose cattery, "St. Anthony's Inn," houses many feline species including cougar, bobcat, jaguarundi, ocelot and several siamese, burmese and "domestic short hairs," offers the following guidance in cat care.

* * *

After our baby jaguarundi, Tenzing, came to us, I was as careful as I knew how to be while I "sweated out" six weeks until he became -- by our estimate -- three months old and could be given the IFE vaccine. (He had had serum upon arrival in the U. S., but that gave protection for only about two weeks.) Whenever I came in from town I changed my shoes and clothing and, of course, carefully washed my hands before touching him.

Some owners of baby ocelots or other cats may not realize the many dangers to these new arrivals or that they, the owners, can take certain precautions to safeguard the fragile little creatures.

Several years ago we went to see a woman who had a number of cats. Almost as soon as we got there, she told us some of her cats had been very ill. . . . It was as if we were sitting on pins and needles, and I could hardly stay long enough not to seem very rude. . . . As soon as we left we went immediately to a drug store, got a disinfectant, and then to a service station where we made a solution to disinfect the soles of our shoes, our hands, the car door handles, steering wheel, etc.

I still remember my anxiety -- and this for "domestic" cats. If we had had any "wild" animals at that time, I would have been even more anxious.

Ocelot owners knowing of specific illnesses can avoid those places or if inadvertently caught in a situation can at least disinfect their shoes, etc. and take any other precautionary measures that seem advisable.

Health Safeguards for New Arrivals

I think it will be helpful to owners of baby ocelots if they are made to realize how susceptible these little creatures are to diseases prevalent in their new surroundings. "Domestic" cats develop some immunity to certain diseases. Kittens coming into a home where there has been illness may come down with the ailment even though adult cats in the home may be perfectly healthy. An ocelot or similar cat coming into such a locality would be even more susceptible because it wouldn't have had a chance to develop any immunity.

The most critical period is before the infectious feline gastro-enteritis vaccine is given and has had time to provide protection.

NEW CATS

OZZIE II -- reported by Mrs. Lorraine Rider, North Arlington, N. J.

"We picked up the new member of our clan May 10. He is a beautiful eight week old, four or five pound

ocelot. Marine and Petland Inc. of New York City got Ozzie II for us. Not only did they bend backwards to obtain Ozzie, but they exercised no persuasion whatsoever on us. Nice people to do business with.

"Our new baby is a beauty. Purrs like an alley cat, but what amazes me most is that Ozzie talks like an alley cat, -- doesn't growl or meow. His toilet habits are wonderful on board our cabin cruiser. He loves to go rowing in the dinghy with the boys. He dives over the side for short swims then comes in for a warm shower and a brisk rubdown before supper."

(Ozzie I, female margay, died on September 1, 1960 at about a year of age. The Riders knew eventually they would have to have another cat. Ozzie I had been purchased as an ocelot. The fact that she grew up to be a margay made no difference. She was loved by all, right down to the last little Rider.)

KOKO -- reported by Mrs. Nadine Smith, Shawnee Mission, Kansas

"Our baby arrived on schedule. He is all and much more than I expected. It took them so long to unload that plane and it was cold. I was so upset a man there finally went out personally to get our little margay.

"Wayne, my son, took him out of his case. Koko was never afraid, -- played with Wayne all the way home. He has been all over all of us and loves people. He also loves our dog, a German shepherd."

OBITUARY

The Long Island Ocelot Club was shocked to learn that Lillian Ward had succumbed to a heart attack on April 15th in Los Angeles. Bernard Slator of San Dimas first told us the sad news. Bernard is the owner of first-born Don Primo Jesus of Sheeba and Cheeta, Lillian's breeding ocelots. Newsletter readers will remember her picture with Don Primo Jesus in the January, 1958 letter.

Then came a letter from John Bishop of Los Angeles who had been Lillian's partner in Tropic Gardens Pet Shop. "Suffice it to say that I feel the loss of Lillian more deeply than anyone due to the fact that I knew her so well and had worked so closely with her. As a matter of fact it was my 'preaching' ocelots from 1952 on that aroused her interest in them. Now Cheeta and Sheeba have gone to live with Janet Giacinto in Tarzana. She is the only 'stranger' Sheeba would talk to. I was unable to give them the care they needed."

Don Segundo Jose, from their second litter, is now owned by Jayne Murray, Amawalk, New York. Jayne, who has been in close long-distance touch with Lillian, also keenly feels her loss.



News from Around the Jungle

PARADISE POINT, FLA.

Reported by Peg Freeman, hostess at Safari's Lair, April 8 and 9, Crystal River, Fla.

Well, it's over and I'll try to give a blow by blow account. Nine of the families we had expected had to cancel their plans at the last minute. Lydia Sporleder arrived from Wilson, N. Y. with Mrs. Willard Sporleder Friday afternoon. She took the disappointment about last minute cancellations in her stride. Later the Weatherbys and ocelot, Ting, arrived from Green Cove Springs, Fla. We had a cocktail party and toasted poor sick Carlotta who couldn't come. They had left Ting in the car and he kept blowing the horn.

Saturday broke sunny and beautiful. Eve and Ken Weatherby got here about 9, and we fixed breakfast. At 10:00 the Sporleders came over and at 10:30 our friend came and took them all for a boat trip down the river and out into the Gulf.

In the afternoon Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Mechana from Baton Rouge, La., arrived with two friends. We all went to Weeki-Wachee Springs to see the underwater show, and had dinner in Homasassa and were back at Paradise Point at about dark, just in time for Ken Weatherby to show movies of Ting and Safari. He also showed our pictures of the Putnam Valley Prowl last summer. Everyone enjoyed the show and the little prowl.

Many of the folks who couldn't get here for the prowl expect to come down to see Safari at a later date. Safari says he hopes to see you all soon!



On the Road Again

by CARLOTTA

I wasn't fully aware when my carrier was held open for me that mid-April afternoon exactly what was in store. I suspected we were going to my Brooklyn lair as usual, a mere 130 miles from my Amagansett lair. I knew it was much too late for the Florida Prowl. I had been so ill when that time approached I could just about drag myself out of bed.

I'll just hit the high points of my two week siege with a uterine infection. The highest was my temperature when Catherine, Harry and a man with a thermometer and a needle forced me into my squeeze box. (Another time when I'm sure my story won't be censored I'll comment on that obnoxious contraption!) Aforementioned temperature turned out to be 106.9 which seemed to be the signal for Dr. Duberman to shoot me with 3 cc of penicillin. As I returned to normal a week later my Catherine was no longer talking about having me "spayed", whatever that is. She seemed very disturbed about something she called "anesthesia" and let the whole matter drop.

Well, when we got in the car the next morning and headed south instead of east, I was sure. By the next night we were in Mt. Ephraim, N. J. visiting with Tiger the margay and Jose Gonzalez, the mexican ocelot. Don and Dee Wilson fixed their master bathroom for me. And I do mean "fixed". There just wasn't anything left

around to chew. They even took the knob off the cabinet door.

We continued south. The trees began to get leafier (nearly said greener, but then, I'm not supposed to know what "green" is.) I noticed the air conditioner was operating more often. My chauffeur turned it on whenever I sat up and panted for it. Soon I realized I was on my way to Paradise Point, Fla. to visit with Safari.

What wonderful people that Safari has, and what a paradise. I didn't really stay long enough to meet all his little animal friends, but while I walked Peg Freeman on my leash I discovered a blue heron and an alligator. It hurt me more than a little seeing the picnic site, not to have been on paw at the appointed time.

We put up at some very fancy motels in Florida's west and east coasts and down in the Keys. I never quite understood my Harry's performance at each new motel. It involved attaching a "burglar" chain to the bathroom door, which chain was carefully removed in the morning. They couldn't have been guarding me against burglars. After all as a guard, or as a burglar for that matter, I'm hard to top. And then there was the bit with the cake of soap filling in the screw holes before we departed. People are funny. At any rate, I enjoyed having the bathroom door partly open each night. I felt closer to my Catherine and my Harry.

In St. Augustine when the people gathered around my car (there were always people) I heard a woman ask: "What on earth are you going to do with that animal?" My Harry looked her straight in the eye and answered: "We'll eat her, I guess."

We stopped to see Alton Freeman in Miami. He's the man who imported me for Catherine. But he was not free at the time and we had to move on. I scarcely remember him anyway. I was so very young and it is six years since I saw him.

And then we went to see Frances and David Tweet in Charlotte, N. C. They have such a happy family: so many common cats, Tenzing the jaguarundi, an ocelot I never did get to meet, Marquita the bobcat, and Biendonada the puma. There is one happy place, quietly sitting up on the side of a hill overlooking a private lake. I heard Bien say H-H-i-i-i to Harry as he passed her house. (Good thing his "catish" is a little weak.) She had such beautiful teeth! For Catherine she had nothing but purrs and rubs. I couldn't take my eyes off a mysterious patch on her side where the fur seemed short. She was wearing five knotted wires. Frances said they were "sutures" from Bien's recent ovariectomy. Oh well.

After eighteen days of vacation I had logged another 3500 miles. I had gained back all the weight I lost during my illness. Perhaps I even took on a few extra pounds -- the food was not only superb, but it was plentiful.

The End.

Editor's note: Carlotta had just finished writing her account when this note arrived from Frances Tweet: "You may have noticed that the incision for the ovariectomy was on Bien's side. Usually an abdominal incision is used but the doctors decided a great deal of strain and weight would be taken off the incision if it were from the side. This is not uncommon practice. The doctor encountered considerable difficulty because of her many layers of fat. For a while he thought he might have to make another incision in the abdomen, but then he found the uterus and from that point of reference could find the ovaries."

News from Around the Jungle

REPORT OF MEETING, May 21, 1961

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Attendance: Jayne and Bill Murray, Amawalk, N. Y.
Jim Coan, Cranbury, New Jersey
Marvin and Marion Winter, Bronx, N. Y.
Sue and Peter Chisholm, Valley Stream
Catherine and Harry Cisin, Amagansett
Eight guests, Six ocelots: Sabu, Sabina,
Sumi-San, Sultan, Taboo & Shir-Kahn

The following topics were discussed at the meeting held at the home of Peter and Sue Chisholm in Valley Stream, N. Y.

1. The heading of the Newsletter should again be revised to read at the heading "Long Island Ocelot Club." with "Newsletter" beneath it. It was felt that just the word "Newsletter" wasn't really identifying us.
2. It was suggested by Catherine Cisin that a volunteer be appointed at each meeting to write the report for the following Newsletter. This was approved since it was believed to be a good way to have more members participate in contributing to the club and its Newsletter.
3. Members should ask their veterinarians to record operations or unusual medical happenings about ocelots or their immediate cousins. The club would like to have these reports to publish in the newsletter. It was also suggested a special newsletter or bulletin be published periodically whenever sufficient data is available. This bulletin would be sent to veterinarians on our mailing list, and to members. Neil Steuer of Sunland California wrote this question to club headquarters: "Do you think that it will ever be possible to get out a little guide for members to show their veterinarians?" This bulletin will be a step in this direction.
4. Neil Todd who is doing research on ocelots at Harvard University has sent a limited number of questionnaires to Club Headquarters, in the hope that members will answer the few simple questions Neil asks. Anyone wishing to participate, please contact Catherine Cisin at Amagansett, N. Y.
5. It is planned to skip the summer meeting which would fall on the second Sunday in July. Instead the next gathering will be at the annual picnic at Amagansett, N. Y., September 9th and 10th.

I should mention that Shir-Kahn (the ocelot hostess) very graciously sublet her night house to Jim Coan's cats, Sabu and Sabina. It was noted by all that the two lovers certainly got down to a little business on their own and since Sabu scooted out of "their" house a few minutes later with a somewhat smug look, it was decided that he definitely had won.

Flash romance --

Shir-Kahn and Sultan -----(both neutered!)

Volunteer reporter: Sue Chisholm



Still a new and different angle of the love life of ocelots. On Friday, May 12 at about 6:30 in the evening I noticed Rodan acting rather worried. Upon investigating her nest I discovered she had one male kitten. He seemed very small. Thinking she might have another as she had done with her first litter, I left her alone. But no new arrivals showed up and the little kitten seemed to be nursing well. **But three days later he was stiff and cold.** His mother had tried to cover him up in her nest. I took the little guy out, placed him in a paper sack and buried him in his mother's yard. He apparently was about one week premature, thus accounting for his small size. It sure breaks a person up to lose one so tiny.

But the strangest part of all, -- just ten days after the kitten was gone Rodan became violently in heat, so I left her with her mate, Simba, and for five days I couldn't handle either of them. But all is quiet and serene again now.

Is it possible the unused milk in the mother ocelot triggered the reproductive organs to function again so soon? We will have to wait until August 27th to find out.

This was Rodan's third litter. We attempted, unsuccessfully to mate Maja from her first litter with Bernard Slator's domestic born 'Sus.

We will keep Newsletter readers posted about any later developments.

Art Mathews, President
Southern California Ocelot Club

NEW JERSEY OCELOTS GO TO SCHOOL

Sabu and Sabina visited two science classes at the Cranbury, N. J. Grade school on May 8th and I lectured on ocelots, their habits, care, feeding and training as pets. The cats were very well behaved, Sabina quiet, but Sabu loveable. He invited the teacher and several students to pet him. During the question and answer period I led Sabu up and down the aisles of the classroom so the children could all get a close look at him.

The teacher and students were delighted. The science teacher had heard of my ocelots and came to see them. Then he invited me to bring them to school. They are creating a great deal of favorable attention in this area. Strange pets seem to be acceptable. **The science teacher,** a local resident, owns a boa constrictor as a pet.

J. E. Coan
Cranbury, New Jersey

FOR SALE

Because of moving difficulties, Peter and Sue Chisholm are forced to sell Shir-Kahn, their already popular ocelot. Shir-Kahn was hostess at the last 2 LIOC meetings and was pictured on May 22 in the Long Island Press.

She is amiable, docile, well adjusted, -- a real lady. Anyone interested in this 2-year old, declawed, dull fanged, spayed, and extremely playful baby, please contact club headquarters in Amagansett, N. Y. (516 AM7 3852)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

1. Howard Ackers of San Leandro has a new female ocelot kitten now about eleven weeks old. She will take Kovando's place as Zubeezi's mate when she reaches maturity. Object: breeding. She is very dark in color and her markings are almost solid black.
2. The day is fast approaching for the first meeting of local owners. Howard has nearly finished re-modelling of the cages, rooms, etc. We may be able to get together within the next two or three weeks. Mrs. Muriel Ackers has made contact with far more ocelot people in this area than we ever thought were interested.
3. Pepper, our own ocelot, is spending vacation with the Ackers cats. From what Mrs. Ackers tells me, he is having the time of his life. He spends most of his time with the kitten. I warned Mrs. Ackers he is a roughneck and it may not be wise to let them both loose at the same time.
4. I picked up a stray Siamese female at the airport and could not find her owner. She is now a member of our family and a playmate for Mingo. What a tiger she is! I was coming around the corner with Pepper on a lead. BAM! She socked him right between the eyes. He sat down and looked at her while he figured out what to do about that. I separated them before it went any further.
5. For the last item of my Northern California report you will find an explanation of the anesthetic Dr. Joseph Lorber used for de-clawing Roberta, Howard Ackers' South American mountain lion. This explanation is included in "FROM THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE" on page 8.

Bruce Denning
Northern California Ocelot Club

MASSACHUSETTS

RE: SAMANTHA (March, 1961 Newsletter cover)

"I hasten to report favorable re: Sam's claw-dectomy. We were miserable right up to the time and during the operation. In fact I slept very little the night before feeling much like a Benedict Arnold. I left Sam with the vet at 8 A.M. and phoned him at 11. I was told I could pick her up any time.

"The doctor was very pleased with her behavior and as the result, stating the cat was in about as excellent health as any cat he had seen -- condition of coat, gums, teeth and eyes. I now figure all those steaks I've been buying for Sam have not been in vain.

"Her paws were bandaged much like a boxer and I was instructed to remove them at a certain time. Knowing Sam I figured she would remove them by herself by that time. I was not far from being wrong. As to the condition of her feet or paws, they haven't seemed to bother her at any time after the operation and once the bandages were off she managed as if nothing had happened. She plays and acts more friendly than ever. For

the first time I have been able to fondle her and hold her in my arms without leather gloves and in my Bermuda Shorts. This would have been disastrous previously.

"I am convinced that ether is the only medium for putting these cats under for an efficient job and short-term. I believe Dr. Wolf did a beautiful job and I am more than pleased with the result. He has had previous experience with other ocelots and a lion, and recently a tiger. I believe he is to be complimented and I highly recommend him.

"Catherine Cisin's advice and that of Jayne Murray as well as that of Bruce Denning and Peg Kessler has been helpful and appreciated. I am grateful. Growing up with Sam is quite an experience."

R. A. Roberts
37 Forest Street
Needham 92, Mass.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Members of the Long Island Ocelot Club are indebted to many veterinarians who have so skillfully cared for our pets. We would like to offer space in the Newsletter to serve as a means of communication between veterinarians who have had experience treating or performing surgery on ocelots, margays, pumas or other "exotics" and those veterinarians who will be called on in the future to administer to these pets without benefit or previous experience. We would like reports written by veterinarians for veterinarians using the medical terms familiar to their profession. Won't all members therefore, explain our aims to their veterinarians and ask them to participate? (See Page 8, "From the Doctor's Office".)

DOMESTIC BORN OCELOTS

The January, 1961 Newsletter summarized domestic-born kits: "In the history of the club nine kittens have been born in five litters. Of these kittens, three are dead and two are unreported," leaving four still living.

Despite three suspected imminent births reported in the last Newsletter (Coan, Cranbury, N.J., Johnson, Bellevue, Washington and Mathews, Anaheim, Calif.) the figure has changed only slightly.

Eleven kittens have been born in seven litters. Five are dead. In addition to the five births listed in the January, 1961 Newsletter, Zubeezi and Kovando belonging to Howard Ackers had one female kitten born prematurely which lived three weeks in an incubator and two weeks after she was removed from it. Simba and Rodan, the Mathews cats, produced in their third litter, one kitten which was born prematurely and lived only three days.

THE NEXT MEETING (Amagansett, N. Y.)

will be the Annual Picnic. Remember the dates: September 9 and 10 (Weekend after Labor Day). Plan to be on hand -- full details in September Newsletter.

TRAINING YOUR OCELOT

By J. E. Coan

OCELOTS AND LEASHES

Ocelots, like other animals, will fight a leash and collar if the use of them is begun too late.

My pets are trained to follow anywhere at any time day or night, with or without a leash. It disturbs me very much to see these lovely animals restrained in pens or on leashes. However we must all admit that for their protection pens and leashes are necessary.

Sabu and Sabina wear their collars and leashes, ready for use against that strange noise or new something which may frighten them. Both my pets will take cover and hide when startled. They never go more than a few feet away, but are reluctant to come out when the situation has returned to normal. In this case the leash comes in handy.

As soon as the new kitten has had a few days to become acquainted with you and his new surroundings it is wise to introduce him to a collar. It will bother him at first, therefore it is wise to let it be very thin and light. You may have to let him see it and play with it, being careful not to let him chew it up. After a few days a stronger, heavier collar can be used with no problem. If he fights the collar attract his attention with a toy he loves or humor him with a bit of his favorite food. Do not try to keep it on him except for a short time the first time you collar him. The time can be extended every day for the first few days.

Care must be taken when the leash is first clipped to the collar. **DO NOT TUG ON IT.** Hold it up so as not to pull on him. Show him a toy or a bit of food and get him to follow you to get it. Your pet will soon learn to follow.

Teaching him to walk beside you is done by shortening the leash so he must walk along near you. His curious nature will keep him running ahead and from side to side, but when his curiosity is satisfied he will fall in beside you again.

If your situation so provides, take your ocelot to the woods after he is well trained to the leash. Ramble old foot paths with him. When he feels secure (and you do, too) drop the leash and let him pull it. Stay near enough to put your foot on it in case he gets the wanderlust. When he is at ease get ahead of him. Let him follow dragging his leash. After a few trips like this you will be able to experience the real thrill of owning an ocelot for you will be able to take him to the woods and take off his leash.

Do not turn him loose unless he follows well and comes to you when you call him during the time you test him by letting him drag his leash. It takes care and patience and trust but the reward will fill your heart. I ramble up old trails, climb trees, roam over rocks and bluffs for hours a time with two wonderful ocelots. Both Sabu and Sabina love to get into the car for they know they are going to the woods. They are allowed to ride free in the car. They look out the windows or curl up and sleep. A box for their personal use is provided -- somehow the motion of the car necessitates toilet facilities. The only problem is that the back window is not large enough to accommodate two nearly full-grown ocelots in comfort. The winner

gets the window and the other has the whole car in which to select a spot. This is usually my lap with head out the window. In the car or in the woods the leashes are always ready but now seldom used.

I sincerely hope you and your pets can learn to enjoy the freedom of the trail this summer. I apologize to my readers and friends for my long silence. One of the problems is not knowing what you want to know about. It will help a great deal if you will write to me at the address given at the beginning of this Newsletter (5 Bennett Pl. Cranbury, N. J.) or at club headquarters, suggesting the things which will help you. This will give me subject matter for future articles. Your letters, suggestions and questions will be greatly appreciated.

MIXED EMOTIONS(Continued from Page 2)

Because comradeship does exist between pet ocelot and owner, he is more dependent upon human companionship than the common cat, and shows pleasure at the return of his human after an absence in the only way he knows how, by giving a kiss if that is what he has been taught, or by charging, jumping, running, biting or any combination of these actions.

The pet ocelot has a habit of using his teeth quite freely which Jim Coan very aptly described in one of his training articles as "tooth talk", to carress, fondle and demonstrate affection. It is also his way of showing displeasure or desire for attention. He will hold a finger or piece of flesh gently in his teeth as a person would hold another person's hand. The extra little exertion of the teeth is like that extra little squeeze of the hand. Each animal, as an individual being, has its own way of showing desire for attention, perhaps by bringing a favorite toy to be thrown for retrieving, or by jumping or charging at the owner's legs, but if the message did not get through the first time it will be repeated, this time with added vigor and probably with a bite to put emphasis in it.

"Tooth Talk" is undoubtedly the major reason why the pet ocelot is misunderstood and referred to by some as vicious, but it is the ocelot method of communication, each type of bite having a meaning all its own. If you appreciate your pet ocelot, you comprehend his language and know whether he is expressing love or asking for attention. You also know he rarely shows displeasure unless he has been ignored or is frightened, just as you know he is not wild or vicious.

The realm of the pet ocelot is not one all are able to enter, but if you enjoy the companionship, understand and love your pet for his different behavior pattern, you have entered this interesting, vastly intriguing domain and are one of the clan. You may not have the spots to prove it, but ask your pet ocelot -- HE KNOWS!



From the DOCTOR'S OFFICE

from: Dr. Joseph H. Lorber
Lafayette Veterinary Hospital
3703 Mount Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, California
(Submitted by Bruce Denning, Hayward, Calif)

Report on fast recovery from anesthetic used on Roberta, South American mountain lion belonging to Howard Ackers.

Dr. Lorber first administered a new tranquilizer, PROPIOPROMAZINE HYDROCHLORIDE, soon to be marketed under the trade name "TRANVET". He followed this with a CURARE type muscle relaxant under the trade name QUELCIN. Automatic oxygen breathing apparatus must be available and ready to use. Dr. Lorber explained that this is a "must" as sometimes the breathing mechanism is paralyzed. If this happens the oxygen can be administered for a short time until the breathing returns to normal. This should take only a few minutes as these drugs are thrown off rapidly by the system. Recovery is very fast. In fact, Dr. Lorber had only five minutes or so to do the clawdectomy when Roberta started to come out of it. He stated that complete recovery should be twelve hours or less. He also advised that the drug can be boosted if the animal comes out of it too soon. He uses it quite often for thoracic and abdominal surgery for cats and dogs. I understand that some vets dislike drugs such as sodium pentothol due to the long time it takes to recover with the possibility of intestinal and other tissue breaking down.

from: Dr. Gerald J. Sacks
794 North Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, New York (MO6 3550)

A Method Used for Anesthesia and Declawing of Ocelots and Pumas

The patient should be vaccinated, free of internal parasites and in good physical condition or the operation should be delayed. The approach must be very gentle using the same techniques as for domestic cats but with more subtlety and caution. The animal's weight should be obtained by the subtraction method.

A preanesthetic dose of Sparine (Weyth) 1 to 3 mg. per lb. body weight is administered intramuscularly with the owner restraining the animal. The size of the dose is gauged to the temperament of the animal with 2 mg per lb. being average. Norepinephrine should be on hand if depression is too marked. After a waiting period of three quarters to one hour the animal is ready for the general anesthetic.

A nye tourniquet is used above the elbow and the cephalic vein is used to administer 2.5% Surital Sodium (Parke-Davis) to effect. This must be given very slowly and only enough to deaden the pedal reflex. The syringe should be left in place either held by the nye tourniquet (which can be conveniently moved down) or adhesive tape. If the patient becomes light, more anesthetic can then be easily given. It seems that ocelots and pumas are quite sensitive to barbiturates requiring less dosage and taking a longer recovery period.

The toes are washed with phisohex and soaked in Zephiran (Winthrop-Stearns) solution prior to surgery. To remove the claw on small cats use a sterile Resco nail clipper. Finish with a double acting bone rongeur. On larger cats the bone instruments are used exclusively. The excision should include some of the bone of the third phalanx below the level of the nail producing area.

After removal, Furacin (Eaton) or Keraspray (Massengill) powder is applied to the area. If there is much hemorrhage, suturing is advised with catgut, leaving space for drainage. A mild pressure bandage is applied to control oozing of blood after the paw is finished. Antibiotics may be given prophylactically. The patient is usually mobile in two or three hours and may be discharged if the owner desires. Bandages may be removed the following day. Complications are rare and there seems to be little evidence of suffering.

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest H. Braun, 360 Third Ave., New York 16, N.Y. own a new ocelot, Roxanne, who weighed 6 pounds when they bought her at 3-1/2 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Naylor, 1401 Wyndale, #24, Houston, Texas have a Costa Rican margay known as "O". Hope Naylor writes: "As you know so well, it is difficult to keep the fact that one has a pet ocelot or margay a secret, and the news media seem to appreciate their interest value. A reporter in Wichita Falls, Texas, insisted on spelling her name "OH H h h h" in his article!"

Mrs. Grace E. Schwing, 2540 Edgehill Road, Huntingdon Valley, Penna. does not expect to own an ocelot in the near future, but her interest in them has never dimmed.

Mrs. Olivia Sheppard, 2359 N.W. 99 Terrace, Miami, Fla. has the distinction of having the largest ocelot in the club record, "Billie" a Columbian Ocelot, who weighs 68 pounds at 22 months of age. He is well known in Miami, having been on TV and in the newspapers many times. "Billie" is not a fat cat, but a BIG one.

John G. Telford, M.D., Washburn, Wisconsin. "We bought Kim from a student in Northwestern University," writes Dr. Telford, "who was unable to keep her in the fraternity house where she had lived with 40 other boys. We have a 2 year old little girl and a one year old dog and they all get along fine. In fact the older Kim gets, the tamer and more docile she becomes."

Gene Vanden Boom, 121 East 70th, Kansas City, Missouri. His new margay, "Cindy Terry Margay" is slowly adjusting to her new surroundings, while he is learning to appreciate her.

Renewal Members

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Clarke, Urbana, Illinois
Dr. Gerard Nash, Farrell, Penna.
Mr. & Mrs. Neil B. Todd, Newtonville 60, Mass.
Mr. Anthony Palmisano, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Mollison, Denver, Colorado (Bimbo)
Rev. H. Thomas Morrell, Seaford, N. Y. (Pinta)
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rider, N. Arlington, N. J. (Ozzie II)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Scheid, Yonkers, N. Y. (Buddha)