

# NEWSLETTER

## STAFF:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peraner, Editors, 24 Partridge Avenue,  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, 617-623-0444

Mrs. Daniel Treanor, Sec-Treas., 1454 Fleetwood Drive E.,  
Mobile, Alabama 36605, 205-478-8962

Mr. William Engler, Felidology, General Delivery,  
Springdale, Utah 84767, 801-772-3909

Mrs. Harry Cisin, LIOC Founder and Advisor, Amagansett,  
New York 11930, 516-267-3852

Long Island Ocelot Club,  
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## LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



### ZAPATA with Brenda Duprey,

of Lenox, Massachusetts. Zapata, known affectionately as "Zip" is the model for the coveted "Lotty Award", presented each year by the Long Island Ocelot Club, to a member who has, in some way, worked "beyond the call of duty" for the benefit of exotic cats everywhere.

Brenda, the originator and sculptress of the Lotty itself, provides each year one of these truly beautiful bronzed ocelot head statues. More about Zippy, and his life with Stan and Brenda on Page three.



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB  
NEWSLETTER

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BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES  
JANUARY, 1972

- CANADA - Mrs. Janet Thomas, R.R. 1 Box 602,  
Manotick, Ontario, 613-692-4095, 613-692-3728
- ACEC - Mrs. Leonard Lucafo, 28319 Hazelridge Drive,  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, California, 90274  
213-377-3629
- CASCADE - (Washington State) John Paramore, 21620  
Second, So., Bothell, Wash. 98011, 206-486-0302
- EXOTIC CATS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA -  
Mrs. Lisa Zaslove, Sec - Treas., 132 Ridge Rd,  
Fairfax, Marin Co., California 94930
- EXOTICAT OF SAN DIEGO - Wanita Floyd, 1631 Harbison  
Canyon Road, El Cajon, California 92021
- CENTRAL STATES - Nina Lois Clark, Route 1, Box 163,  
Desoto, Kans. 66018, 913-585-1600
- FLORIDA - Ken Hatfield, Pres. and Jean (Sec), 1991 SW136  
Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33314, 305-587-5976
- MID-ATLANTIC STATES - Ellen and Jim Nolan, 842  
Jackson Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J. 07201
- MIDWEST - Dave Shifley, Columbus, Ohio, and Bonnie  
McGhee, 1637 Ashland, Columbus, Ohio
- NEW ENGLAND - Bob and Babs Peraner, 24 Partridge  
Avenue, Somerville, Mass. 02144, 617-623-0444
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST - Mrs. Wilbur Linton Tracy,  
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Hooker Street, Westminster, Colorado 80030
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401 E. Pinecrest Dr., Marshall, Texas, 214-938-  
6113
- GREATER NEW YORK - Mrs. Barbara Stager,  
444 Atlantic Avenue, Oceanside, N.Y. 11572  
516-536-5023 Evenings
- MINNEAPOLIS - Mrs. Betty Eriksen, Route 1,  
Bethel, Minnesota 55005

LIOC Advisory Staff:

Mrs. Harry Cisin, Amagansett, New York 11930  
Mr. and Mrs. John Brill, 51 Claremont Avenue,  
Kenmore, New York 14223  
Dr. Michael Balbo, 21-01 46th Street, Long Island  
City, New York 11100

## EDITORIAL

A unique writing - an editorial about an editorial, or more accurately, about an Editors' Statement.

In the preceding issue (15-6) we published an Editorial concerned with the captive ocelot - does he belong in the home? Taking what we thought to be the minority opinion, we were surprised to find that many people (primarily telephone conversations) agreed with our position.

As the new editors of the Long Island Ocelot Club, we felt it necessary to write an Editors' Statement to introduce ourselves and tell the members about the change. This, we wrote obviously without great thought; for what was to be an innocent statement has showered us with angry protests, some of which can be read in the Readers Write column in this Newsletter.

A misunderstanding has occurred, we believe, concerning the following paragraph: "Since no two people think exactly alike, some changes are sure to occur. **Editorial policy and Newsletter form will gradually be molded to our basic thoughts, centering on the Editorial position presented in this editorial...**".

Firstly, by Newsletter form, we mean the actual Newsletter itself. Examples are: glossy stock, more halftones, different columns, elimination of listing renewal members - branch leaders will be notified directly by Sec. - Treas. Shirley Treanor of all pertinent renewals, cancellations, etc.

One of our ideas is to eliminate much of the "chit-chat" of the meeting reports. We were to begin with the **present edition**. Branches were notified of this change by Shirley. In response, some branch leaders and members feel that the informal talk serves the important purpose of keeping the group a unit, even though the members may live distances of hundreds of miles apart, and can not attend each meeting. **This does seem reasonable and the present Newsletter contains the entire received reports.** No decision has been made on this, and we would welcome your ideas and opinions. Communications from members is the only manner by which we can tell if a change is satisfactory or not. **Never hesitate to write to us.**

Secondly, the idea we believe misunderstood, because of careless writing, is the new Editorial Policy. Your possible impressions:

(1) The Newsletter will be devoted to the idea that no one should have an exotic; and, henceforth, all articles and material published will be censored (not edited) to the point of becoming meaningless.

(Editorial Continued on Pg. 16)

# ZAPATA!

by: Stan Duprey  
Lenox, Mass.

Zapata was born about October 31, 1963, somewhere in the jungles of South America. He came to the Berkshires and was purchased December 3, from a local department store in Pittsfield, Mass. He was twelve inches long, weighed 1 1/2 pounds, and his Veterinarian, Dr. Leonard Perry, estimated his age at five weeks.

Zapata's first year as a captive was not easy for him, or Brenda and I. He was sickly, with constant bowel troubles. Rickets took hold, and he was off his feet for over a week. Then, when he started to recover and get around, a fall caused a Green Stick fracture of his right rear leg. He also had pneumonitis, and numerous other ailments. But, with a little luck, a lot of love, and a good vet, Zapata developed into the beauty he is today; a strong, healthy, 35 pound, 40 inch long ocelot.

We always waited for him to lose his baby fur, but it never happened. He has the longest and thickest fur of any ocelot we have ever seen.

His dark color, broad chest, and large paws lead us to believe he comes from the deep jungle. We wonder today what he would look like if he had been given the chance to fully develop with his mother in the jungle.

Zapata loves Brenda very much, and I believe he would give up his life to protect her from harm. One day I thought I would have some fun, and I walked into the house like Frankenstein, with a paper bag over my head. Zapata hightailed it for a good hiding place, but when Brenda screamed, in flew Zap., all teeth and claws, and got between Brenda and "the monster". He was ready to fight! Off came the bag!

Zapata's day consists of a walk in the woods if the weather permits, and at least an hours play time in the house. He has always had the run of the place, but at night he is confined in a 9x10 cage.

He has learned to adjust to us, and we to him. He has taught us that an animal's love and trust is deeper than man's; but, nights when the moon is full, or a dog comes close to a window, the look in his eyes tells us there is something missing. - something stronger than his love for us - his freedom!



## MEETING REPORT

Report of Alliance to Conserve Exotic Cats (ACEC)  
November Meeting 1971

Our November meeting was held at the home of Bob and Corren Morgan. We had quite a nice turn-out; about forty people showed up.

One of our members, Ami Amitai, was nice enough to bring a film comprised of domestic cats only. There were some very good shots of the cats. I thought a great job was done on the editing and the narration. Some of Morgan's cats and Ruthie Miner's cats were in the film.

## BUSINESS MEETING

The finance committee proposed that we raise our annual dues from \$5 to \$10 a year. The reason: the increased benefits the club has provided its membership. We put it to a vote and the members present overwhelmingly accepted the motion to raise our dues. We also decided to have a special membership rate for college students: \$5 per year.

Our Finance Committee sent a notice to members asking for a \$5 assessment for 1971. Our answering service is quite costly and the funds are needed to pay for the service.

In my next report I will outline the services the club has provided for the membership; and the dollar amount paid for these benefits.

We sold some of our Christmas cards at this meeting; but were disappointed because we didn't sell nearly enough to make the venture pay for itself.

That's all for now. Our next report will have several items of interest in it.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lucafo  
Secretary

## First National LIOC CONVENTION

is to be held in Dallas, Texas sometime this September, 1972. The Southwestern Branch has very kindly offered help in the making of reservation, planning activities, etc. This will give the entire LIOC membership a chance to meet together and connect faces with all the names we've read of in the Newsletter. Plan now to attend. Full details in next Newsletter.

SOME ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR PERPETUATION  
OF ENDANGERED WILD FELIDS

by

Michael K. Petersen, Assistant Professor  
Fisheries and Wildlife Section  
Department of Zoology and Entomology  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa

Reproduced from Proceedings of a Symposium on "The Native Cats of North America: Their Status and Management", Held at the 36th N. Amer. Wildl. and Nat. Res. Conf., Portland, Ore., March 9, 1971. Pp. 132-137

We are all aware that there has been a general worldwide decline in many populations of wild felids. This decline can be attributed to four major factors: (1) the fur trade; (2) pet trade; (3) habitat destruction; and (4) predator control.

Moves to counteract these population decreases include the Endangered Species Conservation Act (1969) which prohibits the importation of certain live felids or their parts (i. e. fur) into the United States; and hunting and trapping regulations in certain areas. **Little has been done to prevent destruction of these cats' habitats.**

Obviously, these regulations will not prevent habitat destruction. What alternatives are there for maintaining existing wildcat populations in North America?

This paper will discuss (1) some effects of the pet industry on wild felids; (2) breeding wildcats in captivity; and (3) regional control of and/or guidance of the pet industry, of wild feline breeding centers, and of ownership of wild felids as pets. **It is hoped that these proposals might serve as possible guidelines for thought on alternatives in the management and perpetuation of North American felids.**

#### Effects of the Pet Industry

The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife estimates that the following numbers of wildcats were imported into the United States in 1968 for various live animal industries:

Ocelot ( <u>Felis pardalis</u> )	635*
Margay ( <u>Felis wiedii</u> )	72*
Jaguarundi ( <u>Felis jagouarundi</u> )	133
Puma ( <u>Felis concolor</u> )	27
Bobcat ( <u>Lynx rufus</u> )	16**
Lynx ( <u>Lynx canadensis</u> )	
Jaguar ( <u>Felis onca</u> )	11

\*These figures may be somewhat misleading, since margays and ocelots as kittens are difficult to distinguish.

\*\*This figure represents both species of Lynx.

These figures probably represent minimum estimates, since many wildcats are also captured within the United States or are imported by private interests. It is obvious from these statistics that ocelots and margays are the two most popular species, particularly in the pet trade.

The Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1966 currently recognizes the jaguar, jaguarundi, ocelot, and margay as peripheral mammals--those whose occurrences in the United States are at the margin of their

geographic range. These species may not be endangered elsewhere, although they are probably scarce within the United States.

Many subspecies, then, are not protected by the Act. Consequently, they are open to exploitation from **both the fur and pet industries**. Since it is obvious that many cats will be captured for the pet trade in the near future, an attempt must be made to minimize the mortality factors associated with this industry.

An estimated 75 to 90 percent of the ocelots and margays trapped for the pet trade will never survive the trip to the exotic cat owner (Baudy and others, pers. comm.). No doubt similar mortality rates exist for the other wild felids.

At this time I will briefly describe a large exotic cat club, since portions of the remaining discussion will reflect certain aspects of this organization.

It is an organization which has the potential to be instrumental in reduction of mortality factors associated with the pet trade. It also has the potential to become involved in captive breeding programs.

This club is international in membership, containing at least 1,000 members. Many of these people have **more than one pet feline**. The club's primary function is devoted to the welfare and proper care of pet exotic cats. In North America, the organization is divided into 14 regions or branches.

Information on care, meetings of interest, conservation, and veterinary care, etc., is published in a bimonthly newsletter. The club also circulates a list of veterinarians who have had experience in the treatment of various exotic felines. Conservationists are occasionally invited to give talks at regional branch meetings.

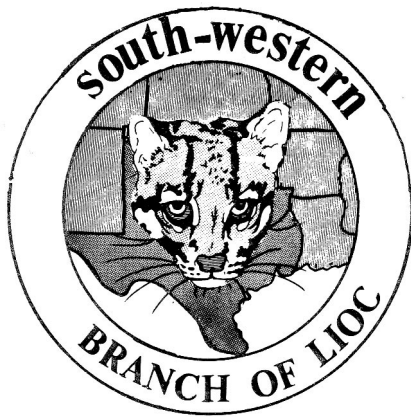
An example of conservation concern by a member of this club was stated as a guest editorial in the Newsletter. In essence, this member felt that the club should state its purposes to the Secretary of the Interior. He was of the opinion that **one of the club's purposes should include active and properly supervised breeding and/or repopulation programs.**

At about this time a staff position of Director of Conservation was created in the club. This indicates that the club is openly concerned about conservation of wild felids.

One regional club branch has recently begun discussion of setting up standards for proper care of exotic felines during air shipment. Another branch has organized a group which will buy and care for pet exotic felines in the event that their original owners die or become unable to properly care for them.

In summary, this large exotic cat club is not merely an organization of status-conscious cat fanciers, but rather is one which is concerned for the welfare and conservation of all exotic felines. I submit that this group be considered as a possible ally among forces for conservation of wild felids.

(Cont. on Pg. 6)



### MEETING REPORT

Southwestern Branch (Friendship)  
Meeting: October 9, 1971

We met at the very beautiful HERMAN PARK ZOO in Houston, Texas for our Autumn meeting. We began our tour in the cat nursery where Myre Mertins, the "Den Mother of the Children's Zoo" introduced us to baby tigers, jaguars, lions, and a leopard. It was great hearing of her experiences and seeing her "wards." Next Mr. Richard Quick, who is mammal curator at the Zoo, took us for a private and very informative cat by cat trip through the feline section of the Zoo. He, also, was full of information regarding each cat.

Later we met with our cats at the home of Carl and Jean Hamil on the banks of the beautiful San Jacinto River just outside of Houston. It was really a beautiful place for such a gathering, with lots of grass for the cats to romp in, plenty of sea gulls for them to watch, and spreading trees for members to visit with each other under, in the comfortable shade. There was a variety of feline members present, notably Allen and Tina Moore's bobcat, Jerry and Susan Neal's ward (a nine week old cougar) "Cochese," Walter and Lois Marshall's five month old cougar "Sam", John and Rebecca Duke's five month old cougar "Duchess", Chuck and Harriet Leake's leopard cat "Marcus," Shirley and Dan Treanor's margay "Critter" and oncilla "Meewa," (all the way from Mobile, Alabama), George and Lois Storey's ocelot "Max," Rick and Clare LeBlanc's bobcat "Frankie", and Carl and Jean Hamil's ocelot "Serena" who was there in spirit if not in scent, but was physically located at the veterinarians.

Approximately 45 members and guests enjoyed the great food prepared by the Hamils and Jacobsons. After much conversation, and cat play, Dr. Harmon called the business meeting to order. He told of how much he enjoyed himself at the LIOC picnic at Amagansett, and of the new national officers - Bob and Babs Peraner as Editors. The most important aspect of business session of this meeting, was the announcement that it had been decided at the Amagansett business meeting that the entire Long Island Ocelot Club, would hold its FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN 1972 in DALLAS, TEXAS!!!! This meeting is to be held near the middle of September or October 1972. At this meeting, the Southwestern Branch is to host representatives and members from every Branch in the organization. **Dallas was chosen** because of its geographical location most central to the entire nation, where we have active members that can work to make this a most memorable event. He then

appointed new branch State Representatives - Walter and Lois Marshall for Texas and Lois Storey for Louisiana. Next, we had a door prize and raffle to build up our sagging branch treasury, and we were successful. Then, the Christmas cards, by Jan Thomas of O. U. C. H. were shown and members ordered the ones that they wanted. This card profit will be used to help endangered cats in our area. Next, Cat Fanciers Assn. registration blanks were passed out. These certificates, upon which are recorded the family trees of our cats, helped the leopard cat become a recognized breed. The Cat Fanciers Assn. can do the same for our other cats.

Then the meeting was adjourned with all of us attacking the local restaurants. A real good time was had by all. We are most grateful to our wonderful hosts Carl and Jean Hamil and Ron and Ann Jacobson for arranging such a great tour and meeting for us.

Respectfully,  
Spence Dillon



### MEETING REPORT

#### CENTRAL STATES BRANCH

The halloween meeting of Central States Branch-LIOC was held October 23 at the home of Kenneth and Nelda Ebling. For true halloween spirit, there was Debbie Hartung in costume, looking like a big, lovable lion. Then later, there was a fire, with hot dogs and marshmallows to be roasted and an old-fashioned apple-bob for the children. Even the Eblings' two solid black domestic cats seemed friendlier than usual.

The Eblings' cougar (Sasquatch), entertained everyone in the basement. As each new person came in to visit him, he calmly greeted them, examining - but not biting - legs, hands and purses. Sasquatch has acquired a permanent set of fangs that are really admirable, but he doesn't seem at all interested in biting anyone. He seems to be a very tame cat and gets along amazingly well, even with strangers.

Jay and Joy McEntee were present at this meeting. We were all happy to see how well Joy is looking after her stay in the hospital when she had rubella. They did not bring their Choppy (ocelot) to the meeting, but did bring some new pictures of Choppy and the other members and cats. They also brought a copy of the Ft. Gateway Daily Guide, containing a large article about them and their "unusual" pet. The article was interes-

(Alternative Approaches continued)

### Breeding in Captivity

Mr. William Engler, a person who has had considerable and varied experience with many species of felids, recently told me (pers. comm.) he feels that the only way to perpetuate these cats is through breeding in captivity.

Erickson (1968) described a Federal research program for endangered species. He more aptly stated that captive breeding cannot be "a substitute for the study, preservation, or management of natural ecosystems . . ." Rather, captive breeding should be used only as one of several means to continue the species.

The breeding of exotic felines in captivity is experiencing limited success in several locations.

Mr. Robert E. Baudy, president of the Rare Feline Breeding Compound in Center Hill, Florida, is perhaps one of the more successful persons involved with this activity.

He has been responsible for propagation of cats ranging in size from margays, servals (Felis serval), and ocelots to Siberian tigers (Panthera tigris altaica). He is currently preparing a book on techniques for breeding wildcats in captivity. Ironically, Mr. Baudy has made an offer to the Florida State Game Commission to breed the Florida puma (Felis concolor coryi) at no cost. This gesture has largely been ignored (Baudy, pers. comm.).

Zoos, such as those at Cincinnati, San Diego and the Como Zoo (at St. Paul, Minnesota), are also experimenting with, and have had some success in, breeding wild felines in captivity. They, as well as certain members of the exotic cat club, have found that simulation of the natural habitat, extreme "privacy," or artificial insemination may increase the chances of successful propagation in captivity.

Others have discovered that although the cats would mate and give birth without difficulty, the females would often kill or abandon the young in captivity. This would then necessitate hand-raising the new litters with special formulas, etc., (Cisin, 1967; Van Horn, pers. comm.).

I would now like to turn attention to the possibility of establishment of regional wild feline breeding centers. These centers could be formulated in several manners. One possibility would be for the regions to roughly correspond with some of those in the large exotic cat club. One center could be located in each of these regions.

Each center would be supervised by competent and interested zoologists, conservationists, and exotic cat club members. Ideally, the purposes of the centers would be threefold:

1. to acquire adequate genetic stock for breeding;
2. to supplement (and possibly meet) the demand for pet exotic cats;
3. to provide stock for repopulation of depleted natural areas.

Since ocelots and margays have fairly low reproductive capacities (one to two young per litter and up to three litters per year--Cisin, 1967), it is not expected that the total pet demand could be met. However, I believe that such establishments would at least reduce current exploitative pressures upon wildcat populations.

Genetic stock could be obtained from wild-caught individuals, from zoos, and from private owners interested in perpetuating these animals. Private

owners would be discouraged from neutering their cats--- a practice which sometimes reduces the habit of "spraying" urine.

The amount of adequate genetic stock would depend upon how large a demand was in existence. Perhaps 10-20 pairs each of successful breeding ocelots and margays per region might be a logical starting point. The problem of inbreeding could be eliminated by use of a pedigree paper system similar to that used by the American Kennel Club.

Baudy (pers. comm.) indicates that regional breeding centers would certainly be feasible for the smaller cats. The large cats would require more expensive cages. He says his investment in cages over the past five years has cost \$105,000 and that his animals in inventory are worth \$210,000. The 75 cats (19 species) consume 400 pounds of food daily.

I would estimate that a small-cat breeding compound might cost from \$200,000 to \$500,000 including the initial building and equipment investment. Annual upkeep could range from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

### Control Guidelines

Importation of all exotic felines, whether endangered or not, should be controlled by the Dept. of the Interior. This control should be extended throughout the importation trip, including the time when trapped, when held in foreign cities for exportation, during possession by the animal importer, while in pet stores, and through determination of proper prospective owners of exotic felines.

All trappers, animal importers, and pet store owners who sell exotic cats could be listed, contacted, and educated with respect to proper care of these animals in captivity. Items such as proper nutrition, handling techniques, and veterinary precautions (necessary vaccinations, etc.) would be stressed and enforced.

The hunting technique, whereby the adult female cat is killed by trappers for the fur market while the young are sold as pets, would also be prohibited.

Foreign trappers not adhering to the suggested guidelines and regulations could be reported to the proper authorities in their respective countries. Economic boycott of these trappers might also be an effective method of enforcement. Animal importers and pet store owners violating such regulations in the United States could be heavily penalized.

Many people who purchase exotic cats for pets are uninformed of the tremendous responsibility which is incurred if proper care is to be given these animals in captivity.

These cats are frequently purchased as curiosity items, for their beauty alone, or for status symbols. They are then given up, often to poorer conditions, which may result in death of the animal.

I suggest, therefore, that regional control and/or guidelines be established to determine which prospective owners are truly qualified to have exotic felines as pets and/or for breeding purposes. Realization of such control may be accomplished in several steps:

1. Application to the proper sources (breeding centers, pet stores, private owners, etc.) for possible ownership of an exotic cat.
2. Examination and evaluation of prospective owners' desires, philosophies, and attitudes toward possession and care of pet wildcats. This would be achieved by use of questionnaires and interviews with persons knowledgeable on the care of exotic felines.

3. Arrangement for visits by prospective owners to the homes of successful and committed exotic cat owners.
4. Courses of instruction and evaluation on care of captive wildcats.
5. Raising the commercial prices for pet exotic felines (i. e. for margays and ocelots--from the current average of \$300 to at least \$600 or more).
6. Inspections to ensure that exotic cat owners are "living up" to the suggested guidelines and regulations.

The use of such guidelines would discourage many people from prospective ownership, once they became aware of the duties involved in sharing a household with one of these cats. Those who were chosen as meeting such requirements would probably have a sincere desire (plus the proper knowledge) to adequately care for pet wildcats.

Once qualified, prospective owners were chosen, a method of random selection or selection by order of receipt of application could be utilized to decide which persons would obtain cats from a limited supply (from breeding centers, zoos, private owners, or from pet stores) in each established region.

The task of enforcing such control measures and guidelines seems formidable. However, if conducted on a regional basis, under proper coordination, I feel that competent zoologists, veterinarians, conservation organizations, and concerned members of the previously mentioned exotic cat club could accomplish such a feat.

Some educational methods with respect to wildcats have already been mentioned.

Leopold (1959) indicates that the common Mexican people who live in areas where many species of exotic cats thrive can be educated and convinced of conservation principles. Speeches and printed material alone are not sufficient. He feels that movies, slides, and other demonstration materials would be quite effective if shown beginning at the primary school level. He also suggested coordinated use of Mexican personnel and sportsmen groups with conservation training.

I might suggest also that such groups as missionaries, the Peace Corps, and others be educated with respect to wildcats and, in turn, they could pass this knowledge on to the natives in inaccessible areas. In this manner, many more people could be reached than before.

The cost for implementing the proposals as presented in this paper would be great. Possible sources of revenue for such a program might include the United States government, State governments, foreign governments, many conservation organizations, private donors, and the large exotic cat club.

In summary, this paper has dealt with the realization that certain species and subspecies of wild felids are not protected by the Endangered Species Conservation Act with respect to importation for the pet industry, or to depletion in numbers because of habitat destruction.

The proposals for regional breeding centers, for regional control of the wildcat pet trade and prospective ownership, for cooperation by and between present exotic cat owners, and for proper educational methods are viewed as possible alternatives for perpetuation of wild felids. Perpetuation will be accomplished by reducing wildcat mortality associated with the pet industry and by creating a source of supply for the pet industry and for possible repopulation programs.

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## AMONG THE NEWCOMERS

### OCELOTS

Mister, a South American cat lives with Sam Peterson. Patti & Pusfella a pair owned by R.J. DeLea. Krisi prefers life with Doug Paxton than roaming free. His attempts to convert her to a wild life have been in vain. Ginger, a young female resides with Ken Hetrick. And Lancelot who claims D'A.K. Bancroft.

### PUMAS

Geronimo, Ginger, Sugar, Cochese and Tisho all belong to Jack Parish. Dax, born at the Plymouth Zoo in England and his harem, Margot, Taiga and Bonnie live with Jeff Wheeler who uses them for film work.

### LEOPARDS

In addition to the herd of Puma, Jeff Wheeler also claims Che' & Tara, both were born at the Southam Zoo. Aladdin, a black leopard from Kenya lives with Diamond the German Shepard and Human Ron Holiday.

### OTHERS

Poco, a leopard cat, has recently moved from the Lovell's home to that of Melanie Rudolph. Bobbie, a male Jaguarundi resides with Mrs. Dennis Remeta.

# Readers Write

Dear Sirs,

First of all, congratulations on your new editorship. Your first letter was interesting and informative, and right up to Catherine Cisin's standards.

I read with interest, your editorial and certainly cannot argue with any of the things that you have stated. However, it would appear to me that you have oversimplified the situation by concluding that exotic felines do not make good pets, and do not fit into our way of life. I have had my ocelots for almost four years now and consider them to be happy, well adjusted animals, in spite of the fact that they are declawed and defanged, and live a large part of their life in an enclosure. Hazel and Henry are both lovable and tractable, and bring a great deal of joy into my life. Certainly they are not "pets" in the same manner as a dog or domestic cat, and certainly they require lots of attention and understanding, but to me, it has been well worth the effort. **In my opinion at least, no domestic animal is capable of the relationship that an exotic cat can bring to the proper owner.**

We all, as members of LIOC, have been greatly concerned during the past few years over the mistreatment, etc, of our exotic cats, and I do believe the situation has been blown out of proportion. We must remember the tremendous amount of neglect and mistreatment that is suffered by our domestic dogs and cats, probably to a greater extent than is suffered by the exotics. I fully agree that "most" people should not own exotic cats, and that LIOC should discourage the pet store trade and work affirmatively toward legislation to **protect these animals.** However, I do not believe that proper owners should be deprived of the joy of owning an exotic cat. **I think that our approach as exotic cat owners, should be one of discouraging casual purchases of exotics and try to educate thoroughly the determined perspective buyer. It would appear also that our domestic breeding program, as small as it is now, should be increased and developed so that domestic born exotics are available to responsible club members.**

With reference to the risks of alterations: The new anesthetics that are available on the market today, in the hands of a responsible veterinarian, have greatly reduced the risks of cardiac arrests and are now considered minor problems by qualified exotic veterinarians. Also, the proper procedure in claw and fang removal can almost guarantee the lack of regrowth and/or infection. Of course, there is always some risk in any surgery, whether it be on a human or an animal, and we see evidence every day of the declawing of domestic cats in order to improve their appearance, etc. I think that each owner must decide for himself, after careful thought, whether or not their exotic should be declawed and/or defanged. **If their decision is to have this surgery done, they should make every effort to obtain the services of an experienced, qualified veterinarian.**

William Boyle  
Washington

Dear Sirs,

Your Editorial expresses our ideas exactly. We love Cleo, our ocelot, so much; and I think she loves us too, but I have always felt guilty about her unnatural life. **How would we like to live under similar circum-**

stances? Of course IF she lived in her natural surroundings she would not probably have reached the ripe old age of 13 and IF I went on a diet maybe my life would be extended a few years, but to me, enjoying living is much more important than extending it. As secretary of the Club for six years, I came into contact with too many of the wrong types of owners - the show-offs who want to get rid of the cat after the novelty wears off. I could write a book about the nutty letters and phone calls I received. **Most of them weren't even interested in getting good homes for the cats, just in getting their money back.**

I am all for laws against importing exotics except for zoos where the animals can frun free and breeding farms for animals threatened by extinction. Cleo is one of the lucky ones who survived the traumatic experience of capture, has had the best of medical care without which she would have been dead years ago. She is loved dearly but selfishly. She has given us so much pleasure, and because of her we have met many wonderful people, but outside of food, shelter and health care, what have we given her - frustration of all her natural instincts. She has the freedom of our home which is a poor substitute for her natural environment - of course, she has some grass and bushes in our backyard which she can enjoy at the end of a leash. **I hope your article will help potential exotic cat buyers become people "who love the exotic cat too much to buy one," thus ending the market and profits for the two legged monsters who capture them and make those who own an exotic examine their consciences and realize the truths you have stated.**

John and Gene Brill  
New York

Dear Sirs,

Should an ocelot be brought into the home? That was the question in your Editorial; the answer was no. Why don't you ask yourself: **If an ocelot enjoys captivity; Does he like a good meal and a full belly; Does he love to sit in the warmth of the family hearth; Does he love to play and romp with you; Does he love you. The answer usually is yes. In the jungle is he always seeking food? Is he in danger of parasites? Is he a prey for men to kill for his beautiful coat? Is he always in fear? The answer is yes.**

Why do the ocelot and all other animals live in a wild state? Because man has not domesticated them. Man, who was once a wild creature himself, now domesticates animals such as the dog, cat, horse, etc. Should these creatures have been left in the wild state? We do not question the motives of the owners of dogs and cats. For the most part they are responsible and loving to their animals. **The pet and vet industry is a very big business and it is all based on the love we have for our pets. The ocelot can make a very fine pet for the adventurous pet lover. Usually we start out with a common house cat. Many of us still have our cats. Loving cats, we seek more experiences with the larger species, and discover even more mystery and beauty than we knew before with our domestic cats. We see the jungle nature that is deeply imbedded in the animals we love and protect. We see them grow calm and contented, as they realize that in captivity with all the comforts of civilization they are safe.**



True, many perish as a result of stupidity by their unsuspecting owners. But that is what LIOC is all about. One of the first things a new owner needs is help and advice. With Catherine's book, Especially Ocelots, and the Newsletter and friends in the vicinity, who are willing to share their experience, the exotic pet is off to a good start. Therefore, we must make an even greater effort to spread the word, and make certain that all new owners are well informed about the welfare and care of their new pets.

As an ocelot owner for many years, I have had many experiences with the species and feel qualified to talk on the subject. I have often adopted other peoples cats. - Usually defanged and declawed. The pair I own now had been altered by their previous owners - the female having her back teeth and claws and the male being totally defenseless with every tooth in his mouth removed and all claws as well. **Everyone said they would never breed.** But they did. They have had two litters now. I have kept the first born, Omar, who is now a year old. **He has never known the jungle.** The sounds of civilization are the one with which he is familiar. **A car is a friendly beast to ride in for him.** He will never have his teeth and claws removed because I had the opportunity to train him since he was a tiny one pound baby not to use them. He still fears strangers because of the fears all jungle animals have even though he has had no bad experiences. **Eventually,** in a few more generations, this fear may be removed entirely and a truly domestic ocelot may emerge.

Some may say that you don't want a docile ocelot. **That wouldn't be nature's way.** But think! Would you rather have a wild dog snapping at your heels or a true friend sitting in your lap. **As the jungles get smaller,** the only way for the animals to survive will be domestication. Now probably we would not be willing to have wart hogs and hippos around the house; but those animals such as margays, ocelots, and mountain lions are we animals such as margays, ocelots, and mountain lions are well suited to be with us here on this ever populated landscape.

Loralee Vigne  
California

Dear Sirs,

Everybody here was quite distressed with things initially, but at this time rage seems to have been replaced by reason. **Generally the feeling of members** here can be expressed as follows; they feel that while you are, as editors, entitled to state any opinion you desire in an editorial or article, you must not remake the Newsletter in the image of your last editorial and editorial statement. **Their reasoning is that the Newsletter should maintain a neutral course in general in order to serve the majority of the members.** Any extreme used as the backbone of the Newsletter be it the total rejection of exotic pets, or the total backing of known and proven atrocities of some importers fails to represent the membership as a whole, and would result in the sort of dissent which generally tears well intended groups to bits. The majority here feel that the Newsletter was very good as it was, and are quite resentful of a policy change as radical as has been proposed. **They feel that a strong push for conservation** and articles devoted to information on breeding, reliable dealers, methods of discouraging unreliable sorts, and

putting the finger on unscrupulous dealers would be welcome, but, in general, the Newsletter should remain the same bright and breezy friend it's been for so long. I should also point out here that if things are as they appear at this point, and if some members here carry our their threats, **such a change as proposed will leave us very low on members here.** I personally find such comments as "It looks like a good time to start a new club" and "I didn't put up five bucks to be insulted" as a more than fair indication of intent.

Official reaction to 15-6 Editorial,  
of Cascade Branch, as reported by  
John Paramore, Washington

Dear Sirs,

I read with interest your editorial in the latest LIOC Nesletter regarding the domestication of exotic felines, and am in agreement with you that most people **should not become owners of such animals.** However, since only certain subspecies ( not the entire species) of both ocelots and margays are considered to be endangered, it follows that capture of these animals for the pet industry will continue.

In this connection, as a wildlife biologist, I presented a paper entitled "Some Alternative Approaches for Perpetuation of Endangered Wild Felids" at the 1971 North American Wildlife Conference during a symposium on "The Native Cats of North America: Their Status and Management." I have included a copy for your consideration to publish parts or all of this article in the LIOC Newsletter. (Ed. Note: Reprint of this article is in this Newsletter.)

I realize that these proposals will not "stamp out" the pet trade for wild felines by 100%. Rather, it is my hope that this industry be greatly curtailed in what **amounts to wholesale slaughter of wild animals.** If only a restricted number were permitted on the pet market under very strict regulations, it is my belief that these cats would find homes with people who love them for what they are; who derive an intangible joy of experiencing close contact with a wild creature.

Michael K. Petersen  
Assistant Professor  
Iowa State University

Dear Sirs,

Generally I must agree with the other members here (Cascade Branch), although I am inclined to think that a more conservation oriented Newsletter is certainly worth the effort. I also feel that while I can understand and appreciate your feelings, I can also appreciate the feelings of the average member, who took the policy change in the same personal sort of way as a passenger on a hijacked airliner. **The very suddenness of the change** was plenty, the abrupt course change was taken as some sort of treachery. **I must admit to a terrific fright at my first view of the Newsletter.** I know you both mean well, but I'm afraid the course you're on will do more harm than good; and I am really quite worried that a good part of Catherine's life's work may go down the tube if some change isn't made. **I certainly don't wish to see that,** and I'm sure you don't wish this either.

(Continued on Pg. 10)

I'm afraid I'll also have to agree with the members here in the feeling that an article or editorial statement is one thing, but any extreme view should be kept at the level of those forms, and must not be allowed to become policy. Since the Newsletter is literally the voice of LIOC, it is imperative that this voice does not take sides but instead gets one heck of a grip on the extreme middle and allows each side to try putting across it's point. My view of the average member is of a fellow who got his cat without really knowing what he was getting into, keeps it as a pet, and really couldn't care about such things as breeding. He's disturbed about the atrocities committed on these animals, but isn't inclined to go out of his way to work on the problem or even look for the facts. He reads the Newsletter looking for bits of news, gossip maybe, on what's happening around the country, word of new products or suggestions which may help him and his cat, and news of new situations which may affect him or his cat in some way. He is in no way looking for a sixteen page dressing down, and a steady diet of this is very likely to make him so uncomfortable that he'll leave; and all the best intentions won't help when it's just a half dozen of us against a thousand. I think that be feeding him facts and statistics, and suggesting reasonable conservation methods in a way calculated not to be offensive, but rather insistant just the same, he'll be happy to help, any way he can.

I am also not willing to concede that breeding programs were worthy of the sort of pounding given in your editorial. To put my feelings on breeding as simply as possible, I feel that the best way to save these animals is to produce so many domestically that the value of killing a wild cat can be measured in negative units. Simply washing one's hands of these animals will not stop cruel owners, murderous importation practices or the fur industry from destroying the cats we treasure. Passing laws here will only move operations of this sort under the table and will not stop such practices elsewhere. As a matter of fact, the fur industry didn't even miss a stroke over the federal endangered species bill . . . . Take a squint through the Hamburg fur market sometime.

As to the taking of these cats from the wild, I feel that the biggest problem exists in the club's not having some type of standards or rating system for importers and dealers. These kittens are usually taken from the wilds as a result of a pelt hunt; and while I do not approve of this I must still admit that a 10% survival chance as a pet has to beat the 0% chance of a kitten left to die. Assuming you don't believe this, I suggest you write to John Fouse, our Anchorage member, who is currently trying to work a deal of sorts with the area Indians to save lynx kittens which are at this time slaughtered by these people when they kill the mother for her skin. I also do not feel that the "pet" industry does remotely near the harm that the fur industry and land clearing do. Even sports hunting, considered by many experts to be relatively harmless (not my opinion though) does far more damage than we do. As an example, about 500 of the approximate 2000 leopards killed in Kenya were killed by these "sportsmen" . . . . That's just one country. There's no way that many could have been brought in as pets. Anyway, if we were working seriously at breeding programs, and had any real success, we could easily offset what little damage we do; and if nothing else, we could at least maintain living examples to be re-adapted should the need arise, as has been done with Chinchilla and Blackbuck. The poor breeding rate which now plagues us is, I believe more a matter of bad organization and

information exchange rather than sexual indifferences on the cats' part. The Newsletts could be of real assistance to breeders, in that regard, by laying down a common ground for the exchange of information, and acting as a coordinating agent for those interest in breeding. I am working an odd tack, artificial insemination. If it can be made to work practically, we should be able to produce reasonable numbers of any type of cat. Of course this is no final answer, but the method should serve to keep a species going until a natural system can be devised which can sustain itself independently. At this time we have obtained several sperm samples from our ocelot, Cholo, and we are working with Dr. Foster and using the females at the Woodland Park Zoo. Also, Dr. Thuline feels that we may be able to separate sperm samples into X and Y chromosomes - in order to produce litters of males or females only. In any case, I really feel that sound breeding programs are our best hope for the salvation of our cats.

I could go on here a great deal more, but I've already gotten pretty carried away. I don't want you to feel that I'm down on you, I know it must seem that way from what I've said, but I'm trying to think of the club and the membership as a whole; and I'm trying to keep my emotions out of it. I hope all this jazz has been helpful.

John Paramore  
Washington

In the LIOC Newsletter, 15-5, Sept. -Oct., 1971, Marian Allen reported of a physiological - historical correlative reproductive tract study being done by Dr. Eaton, of the University of Georgia. Part of this article is reprinted here:

"Dr. Eaton informs me: In the future, the best use to put any cat's remains - is to send it or at least part of it, to him at the "University". If you could just have the reproductive tract of any exotic - male, female, young, or old, no matter, sent in a jar in 10% formalin solution, they can make important headway into the reproductive biology of these animals. Along with tracts (removed by your veterinarian) they have to know (if possible) the cat's age and origin. Experience in breeding? Every mated? How many times? When? Any births? Any believed pregnancies? When and for how long in heat? Any males kept with the females? How many males mated with the female? Size of litters? Age of mothers at birth?

He remarked, "By correlating physiological information from historical analysis of tracts with this additional information, we can surely improve breeding success."

All tracts and data should be sent to:

The University of Georgia  
School Of Forest Resources  
Attention: Dr. Randall L. Eaton,  
Instructor  
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Sirs,

I wish to extend my and my colleagues personal gratitude to the LIOC for its cooperation in our feline research program. As you know, we are establishing behavioral/breeding programs for several smaller cats, as well as reproductive biology studies.



## MEETING REPORT

Cascade Branch  
Meeting: December 5, 1971

The Cascade Branch met at Chip DiJulio's on 5 December 1971. The meeting started a bit late due to the foul weather, which slowed most arrivals. Because of the season and limited space, there were few cats at this meeting. The host cat was Chip's recently acquired cougar, Samson. Sam is about nine years old, and had been raised and cared for by his former owners, the Crinklaws, since birth. Unfortunately, problems arose which forced them to find Sam a new home. Sam is quite large, and has excellent manners; though he has only been living with Chip a bit more than a month, he's already settled down happily to his new surroundings. Chip has done a great job in setting up secure and comfortable facilities for Sam, and in particular has put forth an outstanding effort in making Sam feel secure in his new home. Other cats attending were Missy bobcat, brought by Bea Lloyd and Mary Seyersdahl, Teddy cougar with Larry Palmer and Linda Morse, Toby margay with Glenn Bagley, and Mister, Sam Peterson's ocelot. Sam and Glenn are new members, and we welcome them to the branch.

Business was begun at about 2:00 P. M. and consisted of four major items and related discussion.

The first item was a discussion of the new Newsletter policy, and it was decided that a letter stating the members' views would be sent to the Editors.

Number two was an explanation of the formation of a branch O. U. C. H. fund, a discussion of projects to raise money for the fund, and the selection of a treasurer. Several money raising projects were discussed and several of good potential were put forward by Linda Morse, the new coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Branch. Primarily these were based around our making better use of our time at the cat shows etc. which we usually attend in hopes of turning up exotics in the area we didn't know of, and discouraging general ownership of exotics. In this area a show of this type generally draws about four to ten thousand people per day. **This provides adequate potential for the maintenance of a fund.** Chip DiJulio couldn't get out the door fast enough, and is now our new treasurer.

Item three concerned reading material: A Grosset series book, "Wildcats", and a pamphlet on **Hyperparathyroidism**. The Grosset book is probably not as complete as most of us might like; but it's handy, and as many like it, contains many bits and pieces worth knowing. The pamphlet, by G. N. Rowland, C. C.

Capen, and L. A. Nagode of the Dept. of Veterinary Pathology, Ohio State University, is a series of articles on the cause, management, and prevention of the disease. It is not known at this time if this pamphlet is generally available, the one copy on hand is Sam Peterson's, but we are attempting to locate more of these.

The last item was the display of available Christmas cards from O. U. C. H. and A. C. E. C. (Cal-Val), and the latest Ouchstuff, Jan's beautiful new Pepper notes.

One additional item was discussed: Cheaper food supply sources for our cats. Linda Morse and Larry Palmer told us of several sources in the Portland area for beef, chicken, horsemeat, and venison, and indicated several ways we might be able to find these things here.

Glenn Bagley, who works for the Jefferson County engineer's said that they pick up about ten deer per week, and said he would see if a way could be found to acquire these. **It was also suggested that we consider operating a sort of community food storage operation, employing the thought that if we purchased in quantity the savings might be quite beneficial.**

Following business, a spaghetti and salad lunch was served; and we spent the rest of the afternoon talking about and enjoying our cats. **Our next meeting should be in February, the place is undetermined at this time.**

(Central States Report Continued)

ting and intelligently written, and the photographs really captured the sweet nature of Choppy.

Nina Clark got a beautiful black eye while transferring her leopard cat (Pumi) into his mate's cage. But she says all turned out well; Pumi and Chimy are now expecting and Nina should be reporting a litter of leopard cat kittens in about a month.

Salty Hartung (ocelot) is looking for a mate. Anyone who is interested and has a 35-40 pound female ocelot, please contact Donna Hartung, 6544 Taurome, Kansas City, Kansas, 66112.

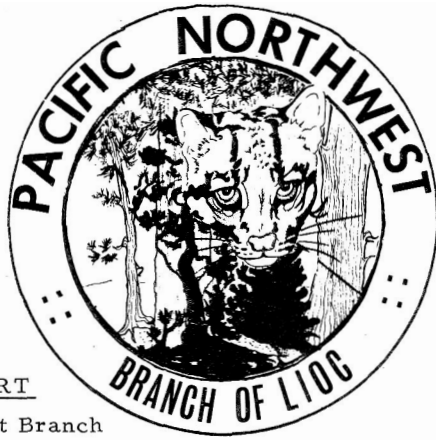
Ilene Massey's ocelot (Tosha) is recovering very nicely from his illness. Apparently, he had an argument with Kim, her female ocelot. An infection, resulting from puncture wounds caused great hunks of fur to fall out of his coat.

Suzanne Carver's margay (Roseta) is looking much better too. About two months ago it was discovered that she had an ulcer. Then, about a month later she got hookworms. The treatments have worked well and she is a much happier cat.

During the business section of the meeting, three main topics were discussed and voted on: It was decided that starting in 1972, dues would be paid at the first of the year. That pleased Donna Hartung, our treasurer, who has been doing an admirable job of keeping track of whose dues are to be paid in what month. Secondly, we voted that our regular day for meetings would be the second Saturday of each month. This gives not only our regular out-of-town members a chance to plan their activities ahead, but also any of the rest of you who may wish to visit us. Finally, we discussed incorporating. Nina Clark had consulted a lawyer for us and we decided that since we intend to continue showing our exotics, we should have the protection this would give us.

As usual we had visitors at this meeting who were interested in owning exotics. The members are always happy to tell them all about their wonderful cats!

Jo Sullenger



MEETING REPORT

Pacific Northwest Branch

The Pacific Northwest Branch of LIOC met at Linda Morse's, Sunday November 14, 1971.

At this meeting, we elected new officers. Our coordinator, Mary Ellen Tracy was unable to attend; so conducting a meeting was new to all of us. **Officers are:** President - Linda Morse, Sec. Treas. - Diane Spreen, Public Relations - Larry Palmer and Herb Wilton. **Club Photographer** - Ethel Hauser, and assistant - Edward Smith. Sanford Director was again put in charge of mailing.

Our meeting was quite lengthy but informative:

1. Formulation of club roster to be available to all members.
2. **Ethel Hauser** is starting a photo album of cats and owners. We hope other branches will do the same.
3. We have a list of different foods available to exotic owners: venison, beef, chicken, horse meat, at quite a savings - purchased in large quantities.
4. **\$2 for "Kitty" per member per meeting.**
5. We discussed several ways of making money for our treasury to cover future expenses.
6. We talked over giving our pets shots ourselves. Some didn't know where to obtain supplies. **One place** in Portland is, Stocklands Veterinary Supply, 43 SE Salmon - 234-0897.
7. We decided to send a letter to the new editors letting them know our feelings toward their new editing policy.
8. **George Kirkpatrick** would like to start a breeding program. He has 10 acres and will have all facilities for large and small exotics. Anyone who is unable to keep their cat, please contact George thru this branch.

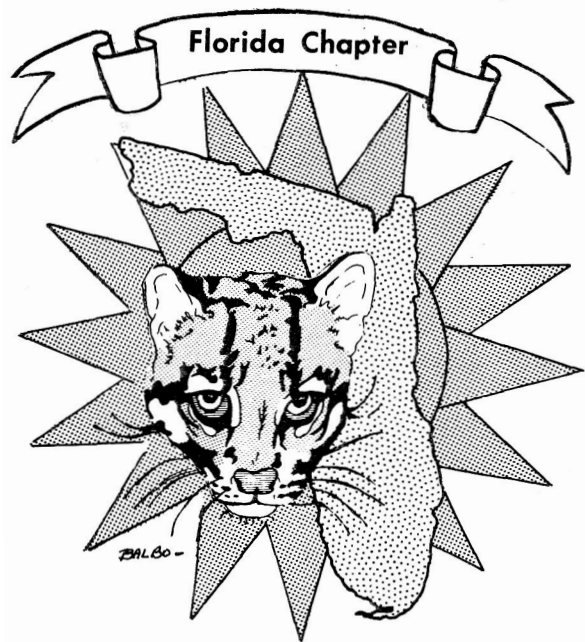
The lunch was pot luck and quite a delicious assortment. Thank you all for bringing food.

The meeting was adjourned by the new president, Linda Morse.

**Members present were:** Ethel Hauser and guest - margay - Solomon, Gil Mier and Eldean (sp. ?) - cougar Sandy, Mr. and Mrs. George Kirkpatrick - cougar - Yogi, Herb Wilton, Dan and Diane Spreen - chaus - Dusty, Linda Morse and Larry Palmer - cougar Teddy Bear, Liz Ghent - Cougar - Loki, Edward Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Hoppel and daughter - Ocelot Sammy, Special guests; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Palmer, Mr. Brown and friend with cougar - Mr. Berber.

Next meeting will be in January.

Linda Morse  
2310 SE 112th  
Portland, Oregon 97216



MEETING REPORT

Florida Chapter

The November meeting was held on the 14th at the home of Ken and Jean Hatfield in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Members and guests numbered around 48 with an assortment of felines.

The Hatfields had a house full of domestic born "babies" (5 ocelots, 3 pumas and a darling margay). Just to help out a little, the Douglasses brought their two domestic born ocelot kittens. There is a weeks difference in ages, so everyone that never had seen young kittens really enjoyed watching them nurse their bottles. Seems like the Nursery was always full of people.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the last Newsletter. It will be continued at the January meeting.

Members voted on local decals. They will be light in color and sell for one dollar. Donations were received to help cover the cost. Auto tags are again available, but Don must have an order for four - price is twelve dollars each.

Members voted to make up a list of people who could take in homeless or unwanted cats on a moments notice, **Ken will keep the list and members will be notified** when a cat is available. Please help keep the list up to date by removing your name when you can no longer take a cat.

Bob and Sandy Hartkopf lost their baby jag and were **really heart-broken**. Chuck and Susie Kindt insisted they take another one - they looked really happy when they left with their new baby. **Good luck folks.**

The next meeting will be in Orlando at "Gator Jungle" hosted by Herman and Annette Brooks - felines are welcome !

Members who forgot to pay their membership dues of \$1.50 please do so as soon as possible.

The meeting over, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.

(Continued on Pg. 13)

# Midwest Branch

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 26 in Columbus Ohio. Bonnie McGhee will host. Please try to attend. For further information, contact:

Bonnie McGhee or Corrine Goodman  
1637 Ashland 4670 Dalebridge Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43212 Warrensville Hts.  
Ohio 44128

## MEETING REPORT

Midwest Branch

Meeting: Sunday November 14

Hosting the meeting was Marshall Bobcat. Dave Shifley was kind enough to offer his domain as shelter for us. It was a great afternoon for a drive to Columbus. I was surprised at the small turn-out, weather definitely was in our favor. Come on people - what's wrong with you? Is it such a chore to attend a meeting one Sunday out of eight!

We would like to thank Bill Minnick in Ft. Wayne for being kind enough to offer his home for the September meeting. There are no minutes from that meeting since Bonnie McGhee was the only person to attend.

The Midwest Branch would like to offer congratulations to the Don Schavones. Bonnie gave birth to twins in September. Since it's difficult to raise one baby and an ocelot, it was even harder with two babies and an ocelot. Because of this, the Schavones decided to part with their beautiful Tiki. Instead of putting a price on Tiki's head they decided to send her to a breeding compound. We all know what a difficult decision it must have been for them to make.

Those attending the November meeting were: Linda and Harold Harrah from Buckeye Lake, Ohio, no cat at present. They had a female margay but sent her off to a breeding farm to find a mate; Donna Hendrickson and her room mate, both from Michigan. Donna has no cat, but is interested in obtaining one; Bonnie McGhee who is from Columbus and is a female human owned by Marshall Bobcat; Corrine and Ben Goodman from Cleveland who are also humans owned by Paco Maca, male margay. Paco did not attend the meeting, and of course our coordinator, Dave Shifley.

We spent most of the afternoon telling Donna what it's like to own an exotic. The recent editorial, "Domestic Ocelot - At What Cost" by Bob and Barbara Peraner should be required reading for anyone interested in becoming parents of an exotic. Most of us know how very true the article is. I, for one, am in complete agreement with the Peraners, and I realize how much courage it must have taken to print your editorial. Not everyone at the meeting felt the same about it. We had some very stimulating conversation over it. Poor Donna! I hope we were of some help to her.

The Christmas Cards from A. C. E. C were passed around along with the cards from O. U. C. H. Orders were taken, we hope everyone will receive their cards in time for the holidays.

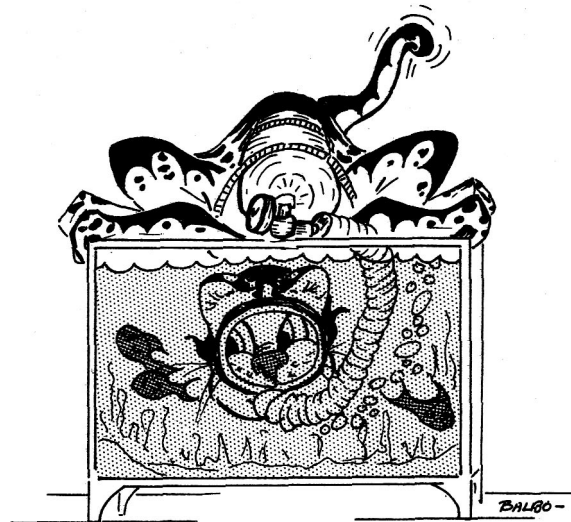
We have some extra money in our treasury and would like to make a contribution to one of the conservation funds. We can't contribute to all of the different groups we read about in the Newsletter, so perhaps someone could guide us as to where money is needed most.

There has been talk that if interest in the Midwest Branch does not perk up and members continue not to attend meetings, we will dissolve this chapter of LIOC. I hope this doesn't happen - but only you can prevent it. Be at the next meeting.

We hope the New Year will see peace and love for all.

Spots and Stripes Forever,

Corrine Goodman  
Recording Secretary



Never underestimate an Ocelot.

(Florida Report Continued)

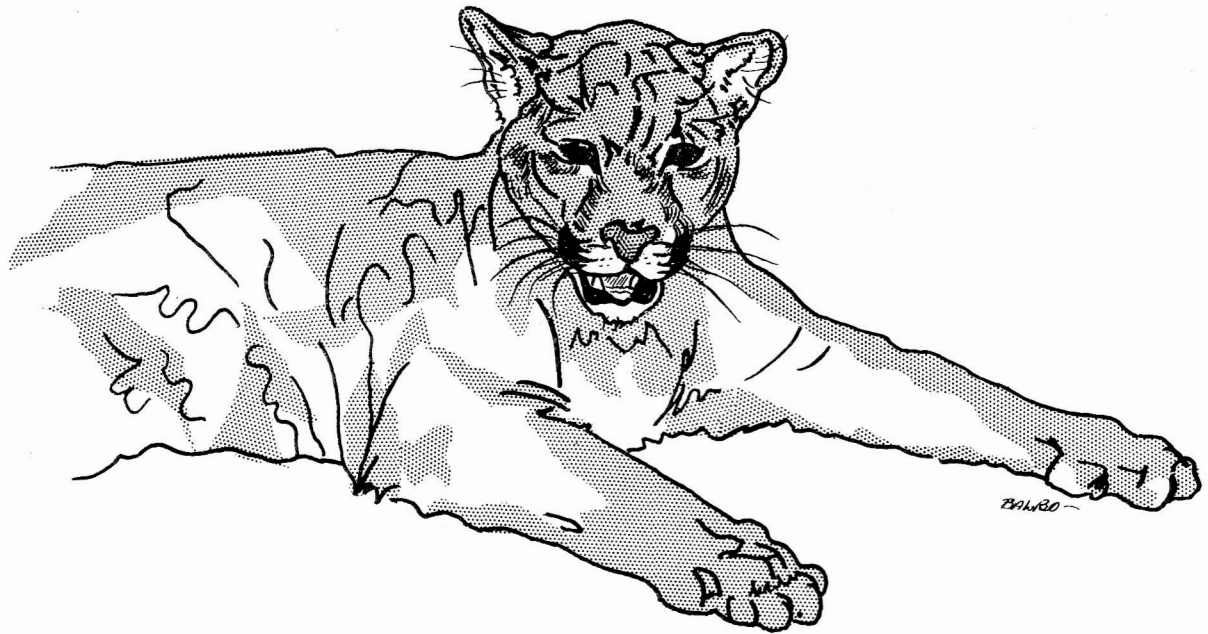
Our thanks to Ken and Jean for hosting our meeting. It's quite a job when you have so many animals to take care of.

We are happy to know than Zon (puma) is back home and doing fine. Seems like he didn't care for life in a zoo.

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and may the New Year be happy for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sadie Douglas  
Corr. Secretary



## Domestic Pumas Mating

by Dave Salisbury  
Florida

After what we have heard and been lead to believe, what we witness last night was the most astounding thing we have ever seen. We were presented a role in nature that is seldom witnessed I am sure. **Both pumas ignored** the fact that we were watching, and yet occasionally would chirp or make a sound to us.

- Sunday** Princess in heat. Put Prince in with her at 5 PM and removed him at 9 PM. She would not scream while he was in the cage with her, would not allow him near her, would hiss and spit at him, drive him away. **They had two fights.**
- Monday** Repeat of Sunday's action. Princess did let out a couple of small screams, but would not allow Prince near her. Two more fights. Prince a little more aggressive with her tonight.
- Tues.** Basic repeat of first 2 days. Princess in full cycle this time, more and louder than at any time during the last year.
- Wed.** I did not put Prince in with her tonight; Princess screamed long and loud, till late in the night, at 4 and 5 AM.
- Thurs.** Princess screamed all during the day, long and loud. I put Prince in with her at 6 PM with an amazing turn of events. Princess does not seem afraid of Prince as she has always been; nor does she hiss or spit at him. **Now a tender scene.** She begins to squat and thrash her tail. Prince very gently follows her, and keeps taking the skin of her neck in his mouth - very gently holding her. **After several unsuccessful attempts** and very gentle moving around on both their parts, Prince makes several attempts to mount her. **During this first two hours her attitude** has been a complete reversal of all that has ever been.

During this 2 hour period, from 6 - 8 PM, as darkness came on, it appears that Prince mounted Princess, with her complete approval and help, four times. In this period, the astounding thing has been the complete co-operation on both their parts. It was a very gentle thing, no hissing or spitting, fighting or rough behavior. **Princess** moving around, allowing Prince to follow her and straddle her, take her neck in his mouth and mount her, ever so careful, just like he was in fear of hurting her. **He was very careful in moving** around and mounting her. He went to great effort to be gentle and careful. The actual sex act never lasted more than one minute each time.

Four or five times during the night, when the act had been finished, Prince would leap back away from her, doing a kind of dance and hiss at her! This was the first time he had ever hissed at her!!

This strange behavior indicated to me that he was proving himself a man at last! He was showing his male authority. **After the 4th mounting, which took place at 8 PM, they both hissed.** By this time it had become so dark that we could hardly see, but they remained apart and hissed at each other. It was not a hiss of violence, rather a little lovers' spat.

The last 2 hours have been an astounding thing to us. We expected and have been told that the actual sex act would be a violent and bloody thing. What we have seen was very gentle and touching to watch. We never dreamed of seeing such a performance from either of them.

The action of Prince, as he approached, maneuvered, and mounted Princess, and her complete acceptance of him, was a beautiful thing to watch.

(Continued on Pg. 15)

# Exotic Cats of Northern California

## MEETING REPORT

Exotic Cats of Northern California  
Temporary Address: 22 Isis St.  
San Francisco, California 94103

Meeting: September 1971 - Lleona Lodge

Since the Exotic Cats of Northern California is in between elections, I have been called upon to write a brief description of our last meeting.

This meeting saw a small turnout with several highlights. A new member with a very tame margay and the visit of a photographer who had photographed many of our cats. **Some of these photos will appear as posters in the near future.** Those of us who participated were awarded with a beautiful big photo of our cats in gorgeous color. **It was pointed out that a good way to photograph an active cat is to play with him until he is very tired and then it is easy to pose him among the foliage or against the surroundings desired. We found this out the hard way after wasting much film.**

Our annual dinner meeting was put off until the new year and the formation of a new concept. It would seem that most of the branches of LIOC are tending toward a new direction: that of a more ecological nature. It concerns more interest in breeding cats and more work in the general conservation of animals in the wild state. Most of us believe that to secure the ocelot and other species of the feline family, one can work in both directions. Therefore, those without cats who are interested in the subject of preservation as well as domestication might be interested in joining our group.

Consequently, at our dinner meeting, when it is announced, our group may have a whole new look: with proposals for a new name, new members who perhaps do not have cats but are interested in the conservation of jungle animals, and new ideas on how to get meaningful things accomplished during our regular meetings.

We will be announcing our activities in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Loralee Vigne



BALBO-

(Domestic Pumas Mating - from  
Pg. 14)

After 8 PM, when they both hissed a little at each other, the thought occurred that this was the first time he has hissed at her. **This in itself proved to me that it was part of the love act with them.**

At 8:15 PM we turned on the outside cage light so we could see. At 8:30 she started squalling again very lightly and Prince mounted her for the 5th time. After a minute he leaped back away and spit at her, doing a little dance while hissing at her.

At 8:40 PM Princess again started squalling. Prince again started to mount her, only this time they got into a violent fight; the attitude of the last 2 1/2 hours did not now prevail.

By 9:30 PM she had allowed Prince to mount her 3 times more for a total of 8. Again both were very gentle and loving. The one spat was quickly forgotten.

During the 4 hour period from 6 - 10 PM Princess had not squalled nearly as loud as she did during the 4 1/2 days of her season which preceded the actual mating tonight. By 10 PM Prince had mounted her 2 more times - a total of 10.

Between 10 and 11 PM Princess continued to squall in a subdued tone. Numerous times Prince went to her, gently rubbing and holding her neck in his mouth. On 2 occasions Princess walked right by him, rubbing her rear in his face. **When this occurred, Prince gently laid his paw on her back as if he was forcing her to lay down.** She at once squatted, and he straddled her again, mouthing her neck.

We took Prince out at 11:30 PM in order to feed them as it now appeared that all was over. Princess would sit on her perch; and Prince laid on top of his house. There never was any change of attitude toward me by Prince, something which I wanted to test.

What we saw last night has cleared away many doubts and proved many people wrong. The lovemaking up to the time of actual mating might well be a violent and noisy occurrence; but the actual sex act itself proved to be a very touching thing. **I have never been so astounded in my life.** Princess has always been very jealous and violent toward Prince. If someone had told me it would have happened the way it did, I could never have believed it.

It would appear that Princess herself, with her female intuition, knew when the exact time had come for her to mate. **She actually enticed Prince and led him on.** She surrendered to him, seeming to sense that this also was his first time. **He himself was guided by natural instinct and seemed to know exactly what to do.**

(Ed. Note: This particular mating experience occurred in 1968. Since, Dave has had other successes with Puma reproduction.)

## INFORMATION REQUEST

Victor Huddleston, Jr. is planning to acquire a pair of Golden Cats, and would appreciate receiving any information about this species. **Victor's address is 17165 Old Jamestown Road, Florissant, Miss. 63034.**

(Editorial Continued)

(2) We, ourselves, will write voluminously, in every issue, articles condemning owners and completely discouraging exotic cat domestication.

We meant none of these ideas. This type of dictatorship does not belong in any organization. By "molded editorial policy", we referred to our frequently writing Editorials (not in every issue), many discouraging ownership, most trying to eliminate the factors causing these cats unhappiness, accidents, poor health, and needless deaths. Even these remarks are to be confined to the single Editorial column.

All articles, letters, and material for publication will be printed, after the straight forward editing necessary, with their original ideas and opinions intact. We will, of course, not publish what might be described as personal revenge type writings - no editor would. Additionally, we encourage you to send us material. Articles, ideas, information of all types are not only welcomed, but needed. The Newsletter can only be what you make it, through your contributions.

We sincerely hope that the preceding has corrected any unmeant implications of the Editors' Statement.

One idea, however, must be made clear. The actual editorial as presented in the previous Newsletter does reflect our actual beliefs. Just as we will always print other opinions, we will also publish our own. If the Editors' opinions are taken as insults by some members, we can not, with sincerity, feel sorry. The entire subject is controversial; and each aspect should be presented for anyone to derive accurate conclusions. To the people who are insulted and who do not wish to read opinions other than their own, there is nothing we can say.

The Editors

(READERS WRITE Continued)

Thanks to the LIOC Newsletter, We have already received a reproductive tract of margay and a leopard cat. These animals were pets that died in captivity and their owners conscientiously prepared notes on their cats' previous mating behavior, heats, etc., when they mailed the tracts to us.

I would encourage the LIOC members to continue to spread the word so that a dead cat will not be wasted. Instead, its reproductive tract will aid us in solving breeding problems, a must for conservation.

Randall L. Eaton  
Instructor  
The University of Georgia

Dear Sirs,

I received Shirley's letter asking for deletion of "Chit-Chat" from the Branch Newsletter Reports and brought it before our membership for discussion at our last meeting.

Our members feel our wasted space in "Chit-Chat" is minimal and is more than made up for by the pleasure derived by our members that are not able to attend the meeting. Our Chapter covers the entire state of Florida which often makes it impossible for Northern members to attend Southern meetings and vice-versa. The meeting report is the only way absentee people have of keeping up with the club, friends, and pets.

Our members suggested that the LIOC Membership dues be increased rather than a drastic reduction in size and format of Branch Reports.

We hope you will consider our opinion.  
(Ed. Note: See current Editorial.)

Kenneth I. Hatfield  
President  
Florida Chapter

## New Members

- 1556-1171 D' A.K. Bancroft, The Pas, Manitoba, Canada  
1570-1171 Roger & Janet Conner, Miramar, Fla.  
1560-1171 Mrs. R.J. DeLea, Fullerton, Calif.  
1559-1171 John & Rebecca Duke, Tyler, Texas  
1568-1171 Hardison J. Geer, New York, N.Y.  
1569-1171 Kenneth Hetrick, Walbridge, Ohio  
1554-1171 Ron Holiday, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
1574-1171 Randy Kovenetsky, Syosset, N.Y.  
1561-1171 Kenneth H. Macauley, Vancouver, B.C. Canada  
1555-1171 R.L. McDermott, Fishkill, N.Y.  
1558-1171 Walter & Lois Marshall, Angleton, Texas  
1575-1171 Mrs. Si Merrill, New York, N.Y.  
1572-1171 Jack C. Parish, Tishomingo, Okla.  
1571-1171 Douglas R. Paxton, Ventura, Cal.  
1557-1171 Sam Peterson, Alderwood Manor, Washington  
1566-1171 Mrs. Dennis Remeta, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
1565-1171 Melanie R. Rudolph, Phoenix, Ariz.  
1567-1171 Zeb Strickland, McLean, Virginia  
1564-1171 Marilyn Tomasetti, Duryea, Pa.  
1573-1171 David Williams, Kansas City, Kan.  
1562-1171 Jeff Wheeler, Sutton, Surrey England  
1563-1171 Grover E. Wroe, Lafayette, Ind.

## Available Exotics

- MARGAY - Male, 3-1/2 Yrs., Declawed, Defanged, One person cat. Charlie Foote, Jr., 51 Kensington Ave., Merrick, N. Y. 11566, 516-Fr 8-2791.  
Male, 3 Months. Jean Hatfield, 1991 S. W. 136th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33314
- OCELOT - Female, Whole, 1 yr., Declawed, Defanged, \$300, Butch Gomez, 5178 Franklin Ave., New Orleans, La. 70122, 504-288-5475.  
Female, 3 months. Male, 2 months, See Jean Hatfield listed under MARGAY.
- PUMA - Female, 4 months, See Jean Hatfield listed under MARGAY.