

NEWSLETTER

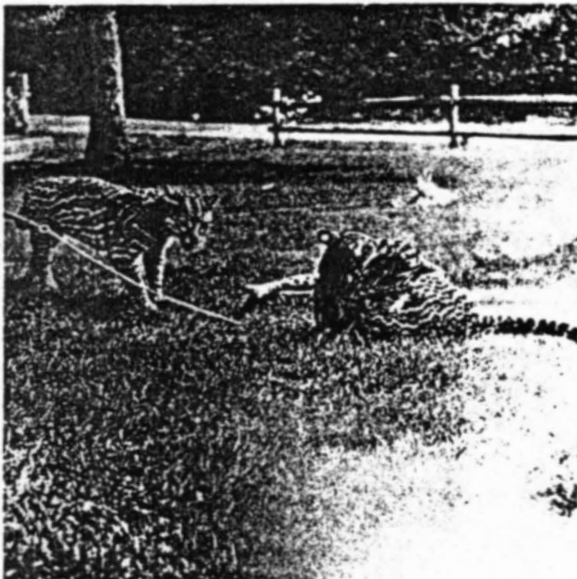
CONTENTS:

We Call Him Skeets	Page 3
Legal Fund Update.	Page 3
Ken's Korner - State of the Union.	Page 4
Notes on the Florida Cougar.	Page 5
Reprint - Volume 1, Number 1	Page 6
Editorial.	Page 8
Branch Reports	Page 9
Book Report - Starting From Scratch.	Page 11
Melanistic Felidae in Captivity.	Page 11
Convention '76	Page 12

Long Island Ocelot Club
 1454 Fleetwood Drive E.
 Mobile, Alabama 36605

Volume 20 - Number 1
 January - February 1976

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



The "first meeting of L.I.O.C." It was, of course the cats which were important. Left is Carlotta and mixing it up at right are "Baby", then named "Sultan" and Kim. All have since passed on, although their humans never allowed them to be forgotten: but there is no way they can be relegated to the past - they are always with us.

Perfect attendance - the original three cats and their owners: Jean Massey with Kim, left - Catherine Cisin with Carlotta, center and Denise Pierron with Sultan, right. Location: Amagansett, New York, on Carlotta's front lawn. Date: approximately June, 1953. We must have done something right to produce such a giant oak from such three feline acorns.



HAPPY 20th BIRTHDAY!



**LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Published Bi-Monthly by Long Island Ocelot Club, 1454 Fleetwood Drive East, Mobile, Alabama 36605. The Long Island Ocelot Club is a non-profit, non-commercial club, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of ocelots and other exotic felines. Reproduction of the material in this Newsletter may not be made without written permission of the authors and/or the copyright owner L.I.O.C.

Branch Representatives:

A.C.E.C. - Bob Smith, President, 5321 Townsend Ave, Los Angeles, Ca. 90041 Ginny Story, Secretary 2475 Las Palomas, La Habra Heights, Ca. 90631
CANADA - Terry Foreman, Coordinator, R.R. #12 Dawson Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7B 5E3
CANADA WEST - Doug Fletcher, Coordinator, 11431 73rd Ave., Delta, B.C. OR Evelyn Dyck, 4911 Union St. N. Burnaby, B.C.
CASCADE - Terry Starns, Coordinator, Shelley Starns Secretary, P.O.Box 99542, Tacoma, Wa. 98499 (206) 458-5533
EXOTIC ANIMALS, LTD. - Gene Wilson, President, 10437 Escadara Drive, Lakeside, Ca. 92040
LIOC OF CALIFORNIA - Chris Dalri, President, 32912 Lake Huron, Fremont, Ca. 94536. Lora Vigne, Secretary, 22 Isis St., San Francisco, Ca. (415) 552-3748.
FLORIDA - Ken Hatfield, President, 1991 S.W. 136th Ave. Davie, Fla. 33325. Anne Davis, Corresponding Secretary, 980 E. 27th St., Hialeah, Fla. 33013
GREATER NEW YORK - Arthur Human, 32 Lockwood Ave., Norwalk, Conn. 06851 (203) 866-0484
MID-ATLANTIC STATES - Deanna Stevenson, 430 Radnor Ave., Pine Beach, N.J. 08741 (201) 244-3556
PACIFIC NORTHWEST - Lidean McCracken, Coordinator, P.O.Box 94, Kalama, Wa. 98625. Gayle Schaecher, Secretary, 10715 S.E. Orient Dr., Boring, Ore. 97009 (503) 633-4673
SOUTHWESTERN - Danny Treanor, President, 1454 Fleetwood, Mobile, Al. 36605 (205) 478-8962. Rebecca Duke, Secretary, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton, Texas 75006 (214) 241-6440

LIOC Officers

Ken Hatfield, President, 1991 S.W. 136 Avenue, Davie, Florida (305) 472-7276
Roger Harmon, Vice President, 405-C East Pinecrest Drive, Marshall, Texas 75670 (214) 938-6689
Shelley Starns, Secretary/Treasurer, P.O.Box 99542, Tacoma, Washington 98499 (206) 458-5533
Shirley Treanor, Editor, 1454 Fleetwood Dr. E., Mobile, Alabama 36605 (478-8962)

LIFE DIRECTORS

Catherine Cisin, Founder, Amagansett, New York, 11930 (516) 267-3852
Ken Hatfield, (see above)
Michael Balbo, 21-01 46th Street, Long Island City, New York 11105
Bill Engler, Rt. 5, Box 130A, Orlando, Florida 32807 (305) 273-4697

TERM DIRECTORS

William Boyle, Legal Advisor, 611 N. Carr Street, Tacoma, Washington 98045
Charles Douglas, Rt. 5, Box 130A, Orlando, Fla. 32807 (305) 273-4697
Ethel Hauser, 5131 S.E. 86th, Portland, Oregon 97266
Shirley Treanor, see address above

Submitting Material for Publication

Material for publication in the Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter should be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding Newsletter publication, i.e. by the 10th of the even numbered months. Local groups are advised that, if convenient, the holding of meetings during the odd numbered months will ensure the earliest publication time of their meeting reports due to the above deadline.

Please

I NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE NEWSLETTER GREAT!

Send those cards & letters to:

Long Island Ocelot Club
1454 Fleetwood Dr. E.
Mobile, Alabama 36605

We'd love to hear from you.

Shirley

Moving?

To avoid any interruption of service and Newsletter delivery if you should move, send as soon as you know the details, your name, new address, old address and the date of the move to our Membership Secretary:

Shelley Starns
P.O.Box 99542
Tacoma, Wa. 98499

Please send all applications & membership renewals directly to Shelley for fast service.

Send all Newsletter and related material to the Editor.

WE CALL HIM SKEETS

By Gayle Schaecher

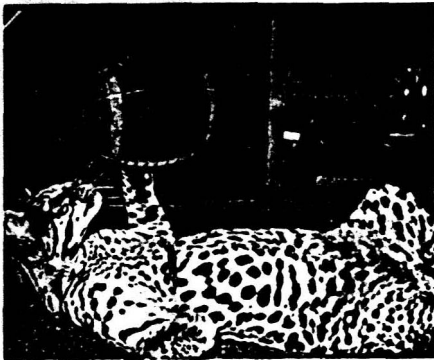
For the last year or so, we have had an ocelot kitten, a loving son, a spoiled brat and a clown, all rolled into one living with us - and we call him Skeets.

We brought Skeeter home when he was just five weeks old. He is one of the Hauser's kittens, born in Portland in May, 1974. Since that day our home has not been the same.

At five weeks old he was such a little mite with big, "Dumbo" ears. His only needs seemed to be his bottle and me. He would fall asleep in your arms and stay asleep while you put him down in his bed. But as you left the room on tip-toes, you could hear a "wa-wa" and look down by your feet and there he was with a grin on that tiny face and a look in his eyes that said, "Look at me, aren't I cute?" He sure had our number as we were and still are wrapped around that look.

At four months, we had Skeeter declawed. I brought him home from the Vet's while he was still sleeping. When he woke up the "wa'wa" and the purrs started. He was so very good and trusting. He accepted that this was something that was done and just wanted our love and kind fondling.

At seven months Skeeter knew something was wrong in the house. His friend Tajha was no longer there to play with him. (Tajha, neutered male ocelot, about seven years old, had died). There were no more fun and games with the people he knew. No one was paying very much attention to him and his cute acts of purr, purr, roll over, purr, sit up, purr attack from a doorway to make people jump and play. Then one night very late it was over. Skeets knew Taj was gone. He also knew that "Mom" needed him more than ever before. For the next couple of weeks anytime I went to sit down, there he was, jumping in lap wanting to be loved. The great pain that was caused by losing Taj was made easier to bear because Skeets was there.



At nine months Skeeter got sick. We were all down with the flu at the time. Dr. Orchards treated him for a bowel infection, and soon he was well. But while he was sick, he just wanted to lay on my bed with me next to him. He laid with one paw on each side of my face, his wet nose pressed ever so close to my cheek. For three days we went through him wanting me beside him constantly. If I moved, the paws pressed tighter and he would give a loud growl. I would say "It's okay boy" then purr, purr and back to sleep he went.

Skeets is older now; we still get plenty of "wa'wa" and purr-purr, but we now have a problem. He now knows he is reaching adulthood. Sheba, our 5 year old female is now home. For the last few months she had been at the Olympic Game Farm. Skeets knows she is home. He wants to stay with her and he wants to be with the family. He is torn between the love of humans and his natural instinct of being a male ocelot and is so undecided as to which way he should go.

The choice is mine. I will let go. Skeets will move out of the house to the cat pens. I can only hope that

with the outside pens and the other cats he will be happy. As happy as he has been living in the house with us.

He has filled hours of each day with laughter, joy pleasure and with tears. Watching this kitten grow big and strong has truly been a pleasure to each member of the family. To each of us he has given something different and joyful. He grew to be that "happy-go-lucky" cat. When you call him you will hear the "wa-wa" and the purr, purr as you hear him run down the hall to find you. He is always talking. This, with the move outside, we hope he does not lose. We hope that he and Sheba produce healthy, strong and loving kittens. This last year has been a wonderful year having Skeets around - we pray for many, many more to come.

Legal Fund Update

The following folks have contributed to the Legal Fund since the last report. We know there are lots more of you out there - why haven't we heard from you? Times are rough - but if we don't all pitch in they're going to get worse - for you and your cat!

Roger Harmon in memory of Ron Jacobson and Shirley Nelson "Both of these individuals were solid LIOC and a great loss to SouthWestern Branch"

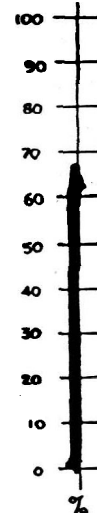
SouthWestern Branch in memory of Ron Jacobson - "A dear friend and one of our Founding Members"

EVERY DIME
WILL HELP

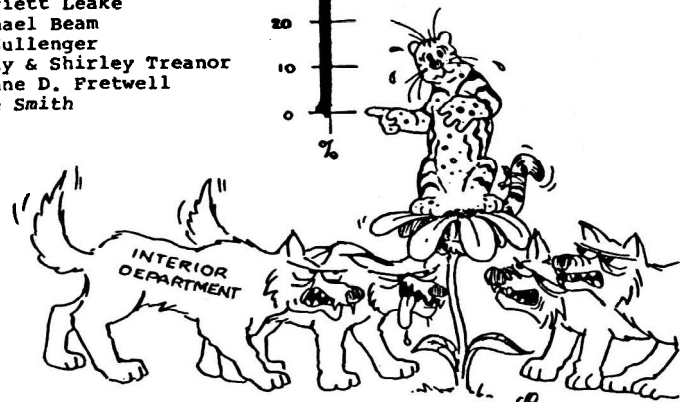
PLEASE TRY
HARDER

Randy & Judy Cannon
Corrine Goodman
Mrs. George Vash
Barbara Smith
Marie Purdy
Chuck & Susie Kindt
Paul Albert
Dan Meier
Audrey Khadikin
Ginger Sawyer
Peter & Jan Cumming
Grayce McCoy
Deryl Bear
Dealana Sweatte
Richard & Monalu Orrin
Robert Gair, Jr.
George Dillman
Ginny Story
Dr. & Mrs. Smith
Harriett Leake
Michael Beam
Jo Sullenger
Danny & Shirley Treanor
Jeanne D. Pretwell
Mike Smith

\$5,000.



We've got a way to go before we can even start



KORNER

by Ken Hatfield

N,
S

State of the Union



I thought this might be the proper time for a "State of the Union" article, only in this case it is a very particular part of the Union we are concerned with, the ownership of exotic felines.

In the years following the publishing of the Newsletter #1, Issue #1, it frequently contained articles on how to handle, how to "tame" and how to medically treat your new ocelot kitten so as to get it to live past the first few months, or even weeks. We were all concerned by the statements that, of the kittens taken from their mother in the wild only one in seven survived. Now, all that has changed - or has it? The mothers are still being slaughtered for furs, which are going to Europe by the bales. And, unless someone in South America happens to want an ocelot kitten - none of the seven survive. I am not for the open importing and sale through pet shops as it used to be, but I also am not naive enough to think this ban has changed the situation for the kittens.

Another big change is the vastly improved medical care available for our felines, as well as for all animals. For an animal twenty years ago, to get an infection, or cystitis, or even to be declawed was a very risky thing. Now we have competent medical care, vastly improved antibiotics, improved anesthesia and even have kittens born (unheard of then) and born by Caesarian section with both mother and kitten surviving. Not always, but the chances are far better than in the beginning.

Another major change, of course, is the record of the private owner in the field of breeding. Ocelots, leopard cats, little spotted cats, Geoffroy cats, margays, panthers, cougars, leopards, clouded leopards, golden cats, jaguarundis, bobcats, black leopards, the list goes on and on. All by the private individuals that either have one or possibly two pairs or have a collection on a breeding farm. I had occasion, a year ago, to try to gather data on how many ocelots had been born over the years to cats in the Club. As best I could determine then - we, all private owners - had had at least 270 kittens, which I believe is a minimum figure. That is some record, considering the firm belief of years ago that it couldn't be done.

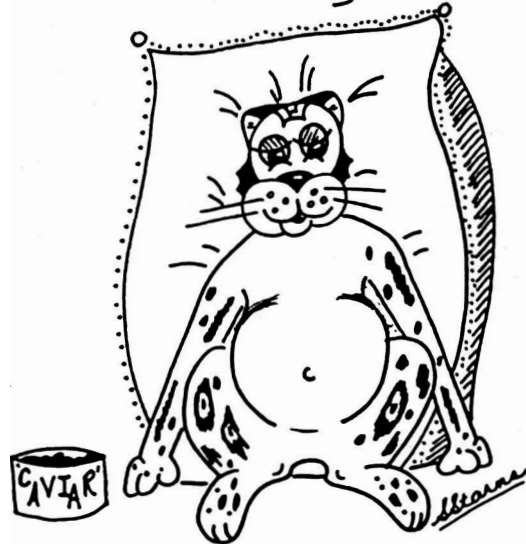
And then, of course, we have the Endangered Species Act and its many ramifications. Many of us have exotic felines that are not Endangered Species, but are still nevertheless affected by these laws, or rather by the regulations of bureaucratic enforcers of the laws see fit to pile on us. By the little catch all known as the "similarity of appearance" clause, by the conservationists who want every species to be placed on the list regardless of whether or not they are in fact endangered of extinction, and by States one after the other passing more and more laws, because if they do, that proves that they are conservation oriented and deserving of some of the money being passed out under the Federal act.

And then, when we complain, what do we get? Ah, there is a solution on the horizon for "captive self-sustained populations", a Threatened Species category, they tell us. And our Senators and our Representatives. But, even if we could get the ocelot listed as "Threatened", which is extremely remote, and which will never happen with the margay, note this: Say, for the sake of argument, that the ocelot was downlisted to the threatened category, what then? Why permits are required of course! Wait, they say, we have a provision for being able to sell the animals in this category - a certified licensed breeder of that species only could sell to - another certified licensed breeder. Now who or what - do you suppose is going to be a "certified licensed breeder", a private individual??? In fairness to the zoos, they don't even do this; every zoo would have to be a licensed breeder of every species that is threatened. No, the only answer to our dilemma is either an amendment to the Act to

allow free movement of the captive born animals, regardless of who or what is involved, or a legal court case in which we challenge this bureaucratic take-over of our personal possessions - our animals.

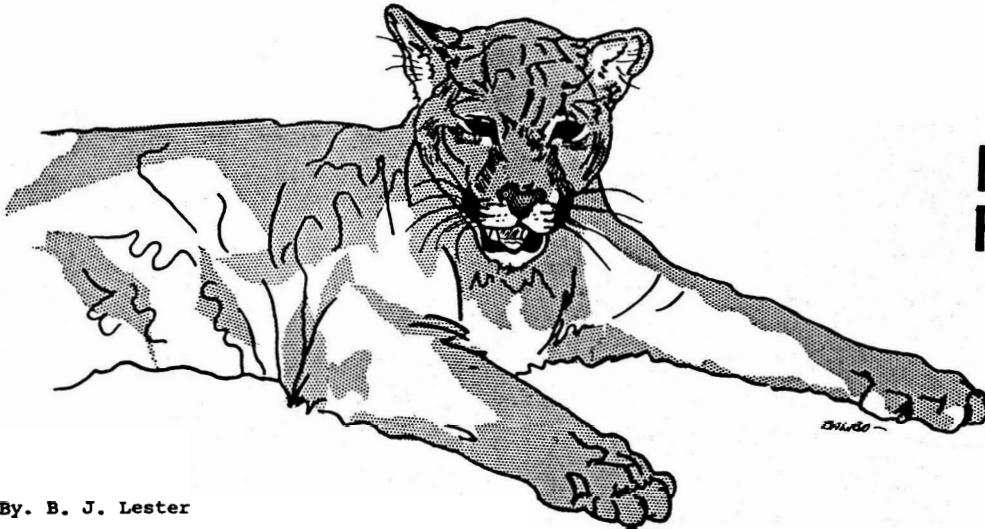
We feel that many parts of this law are unconstitutional; for instance, the assumption that any exotic owner has committed an illegal act unless he can prove he has not. However, as some of our members are already finding out, protecting and insisting on one's Constitutional rights is a long and costly proposition. Consider the Stevenson and Neuhaus families for example. I don't know for sure, but I would estimate they have spent (or owe) around \$1,500.00 for the court costs, transcripts, legal fees, loss of pay at work, etc. - and they haven't even gotten into the first Appeals Court yet! I haven't been in touch with Ginny Story lately, but I imagine she too is right on up there with her legal and court costs. Therefore, when you read the pleas for donations to the Legal Fund and then don't read of any action, it is because we know just how costly an undertaking this will be. And we dare not start something and then not finish it - by appeals all the way up to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Funny... I Don't
FEEL Endangered!



We have one other slight possibility that you could help with by - you guessed it - letter writing, telegram sending, etc. There is a new Representative as Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, replacing Representative Dingle. Chairman Leggett and his committee were instrumental in stopping the new regulations of the Lacey Act last year which would have stopped the importation of just about everything (known as injurious wildlife). He was quoted as saying that it was like "swatting a fly with a sledge hammer". Therefore, we sincerely hope he will be as open to reason regarding the free movement of any captive born offspring. Again, this would probably mean an amendment to the Act, but perhaps he could find a quicker solution if he really tried. Consider this theory: are the offspring, which are born in the United States, actually an Endangered Species? The International Convention which our government signed, says no. Only the animals in the wild are considered by them to be endangered. So, if everyone would write Chairman Leggett of the House Sub-committee above, requesting action on the part of his Committee, to force the U.S.D.I. to allow freedom from controls of all captive born offspring, with copies to your Senators and Representatives, who knows perhaps something good would come of it. We can but try.

Yes, there have been vast changes since Volume 1, Number 1. Please God, we'll be here twenty years from now, still reading the Newsletter and having the pleasure - and the right - to enjoy our beloved felines, whatever the species may be.



Notes on the Florida Cougar

By. B. J. Lester

A recent article in the LIOC Newsletter on the "Eastern Cougar" prompted me to investigate further the status of the FLORIDA PANTHER, a race of the Eastern Cougar. There seems to be discrepancies in the count of this species, *Felis concolor coryi*, in the state of Florida. The World Wildlife Fund "Special Report, Summer of 1974" states... "the lithe and beautiful Florida panther is on the very verge of extinction...there are no more than 10 to 20 at most in Florida from Lake Okeechobee southward." The WWF has contributed \$4,000. in the last few years for the panther study by Dr. R. M. Nowak and Roy McBride in the scrub forests and marshlands of the Big Cypress Swamp and northern parts of the Everglades National Park which was determined to be the prime range of this cougar. WWF further said that "because of its secretive nature, small numbers and remote habitat, little reliable information on the Florida Panther has been obtained for many years...information necessary for any meaningful conservation program to protect it from extinction."

According to World Wildlife Fund, the Florida Game and Fish Commission cooperated in this study so I wrote to the FGFC in Tallahassee and received this reply from Lovett E. Williams, Jr., Wildlife Biologist:

"We do not make a systematic count of panthers in Florida. They are far too scarce to permit accurate enumeration. My estimate of the State's population at this time (January, 1975) is 30 panthers." Mr. Williams says this count is based on... "not much more than a gut feeling." He says there are at least a few in the state with at least five authenticated specimens killed on highways or by ranchers, etc. during the past 10 years.

Sightings have come from all parts of Florida, including the panhandle section west of Tallahassee, but most were in the central and southern parts of Florida. The most recent highway fatality was about two years ago west of Lake Okeechobee; the specimen was donated to the Florida State museum, according to Mr. William's letter.

In January, 1975, a Jacksonville, Florida newspaper columnist, Charles Waterman, wrote in his column OUTDOORS "Florida Panthers Stay in Hiding". He related a story about a young panther who made off with five peacocks along the edge of a St. Johns River swamp near Jacksonville. The cat was chased away rather than killed, by the bird breeder because he believed "panthers are more interesting than peacocks and a lot scarcer." Mr. Waterman thinks the Florida panther is coming back a little due to official protection, but they are still considered "varmits" and killed by any means - usually treed by dogs. He says if panthers had a different outlook on things they could be real man-killers as they're tremendously strong and can walk off with a dead deer several times their weight. "Anyway," says Mr. Waterman, "a swamp is better with a big cat in 't."

When I wrote to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Everglades National Park in Homestead, Florida, I received a reply from Park Ranger O. Frank Wilson, Jr. on the status of the Florida Panther. He stated that no recent enumeration of panthers had been made in the

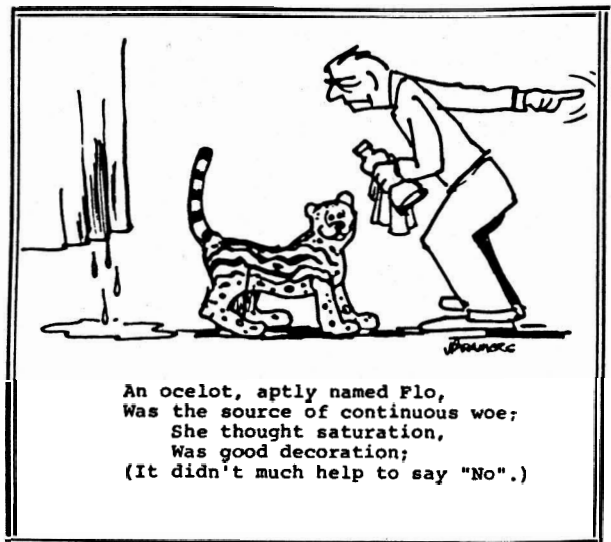
Everglades Park, however, the wife of a park employee sighted one about a mile and a half from Park headquarters during January, 1975. Also, a park employee observed a panther recently about 5 miles from the park headquarters.

Mr. Wilson sent me information on *Felis concolor coryi* from a publication edited and compiled in November of 1974, by Patrick J. Gleason entitled ENVIRONMENTS OF SOUTH FLORIDA: PAST & PRESENT. It is available from Miami Geological Society, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida 33149.

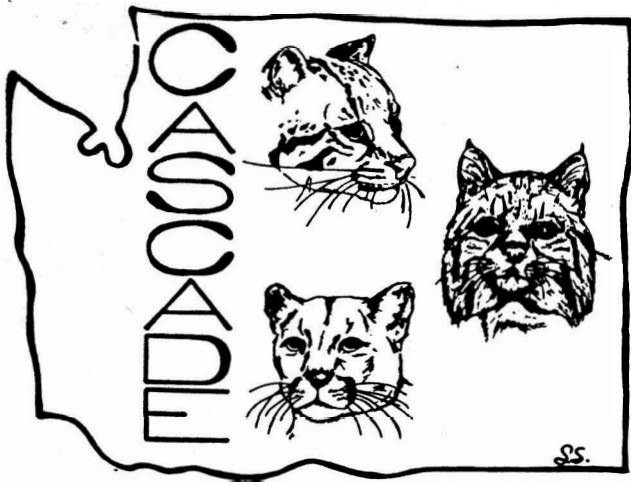
The information contained in this publication discusses range, count, sightings, habitat, etc. of the Florida panther. It states that Randall L. Eaton (author of The World's Cats) carried on preliminary work on the panther in the summers of 1970-71 and concluded that little could be decided on its population status, citing estimates ranging from 50 to 300. The WWF's Nowak and McBride, according to the above publication, conducted a search in February & March of 1973 and concluded that the population in the entire state of Florida and other parts of the southeast was less than 50 or 60 individuals.

In researching Mr. Eaton's book (Volume I on the North American Cats) it was found that he discusses his study on the Florida panther, its description and its distribution in Florida, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina and as far north as Tennessee and west of the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Mr. Eaton states that

Continued - Page 8



An ocelot, aptly named Flo,
Was the source of continuous woe;
She thought saturation,
Was good decoration;
(It didn't much help to say "No".)



MEETING REPORT
December, 1976

Our December meeting (combination Christmas get together) was on December 5th in the meeting room at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma.

We kept our business to a minimum since we were all anxious to get to the pot luck and open our gifts.

We briefly discussed the on-going action of the State Department of Game in regard to our cats. It was hoped that a decision would be reached prior to our January meeting with the Game Commission.

Members were asked for their input regarding speakers at our meetings. Quite a few good suggestions were given and we will attempt to have a good educational program at each meeting.

Final bit of business was a review of branch finances and election of officers for 1977. It was unanimously decided that dues would be raised a bit - the are now \$10.00 yearly for single members and \$10.00 yearly for families.

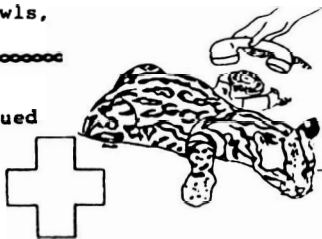
Election results were as follows: Coordinator - Terry Starns; Secretary/Treasurer - Shelley Starns, H.E.L.P. Committee - Richard Dyck, Henry Sauer, Sandy Bauer and Ed Smith.

Members joining in the holiday mood were: Richard & Evelyn Dyck, Ed Smith, Sandy & Joe Bauer, Henry & Judy Sauer, Liz Ghent and guest Mary Hilleck, and Terry and I.

Our January meeting was scheduled for Liz Ghent's in Seattle.

Amidst Holiday Purrs and Growls,
Shelley Starns, Secretary

EMERGENCY & FIRST AID Continued



Directed

Fright is a major factor in dealing with any ill or injured animal. There is no point to increasing the cat's fear by introducing strange equipment or motions in a difficult situation. For this reason, it is desirable to turn emergency situation equipment into toys through play. For example, cages make delightful hiding places and gloves are fine for chewing. Duplicate motions used for handling or examining the cat during play sessions and always scratch and play with the cat after giving medicines or force feedings. Try to make total experience as pleasant as possible.

This is the first installment of "Emergency Procedures and First Aid for Exotic Cats". There will be five subsequent installments. Part 2 will relate to "Your Relationship to a Veterinarian". Please READ, ABSORB, AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.



Nominations Sought

In accordance with our Constitution, its time to start election of National Officers of LIOC. Those presently holding office are automatically nominated unless they decline the nomination in writing.

Nominations for National office are solicited from the membership. In order to be valid a nomination must bear the signatures of two (2) Long Island Ocelot Club members and a statement of acceptance from the nominee. Such nominations must be received by the President of the club no later than March 20th.

Mail your nominations to: Ken Hatfield
1991 S.W. 136 Ave
Davie, Fla. 33325



Those offices to be filled are: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and the four (4) Term Directors.

These nominations are for the 1978-1979 term of office.



TRAGEDY IN ST. CROIX

The following is an account of the tragic and needless death of Puyo who lived with owner Robert Trafton in the Virgin Islands. Robert has asked that anyone who might be able to advise him with regards to taking legal action against the authorities contact him as soon as possible.

When the "turkey shoot" was over a rare and extremely beautiful 6½ pound South American margay had been summarily executed by the Department of Public Safety. The cat, usually kept at the owner's home, had wandered a half a block from its owners house near Gallows bay where it was said to have been harrasing chickens... chickens are illegal within the town limits of Christiansted.

The Department of Public Safety was informed by Dr. Crago a veterinarian, that the cat belonged to a local resident and that it was well known to him. The cat was also known to practically every child in the neighborhood because of its visable living quarters in a large cage on the front porch of the owner's home. Not too much investigation could have taken place, not was the Humane Society informed as they surely would have made the effort to rescue her.

Dr. Crago told me that Darel Groves of the Department of Public Safety had asked him "to save them any further trouble" by instructing the Chief of Police to let them shoot the cat immediately. Dr. Crago of course refused to condone such action or give such advise. However, with or without the Chief's instructions that is what they did.

The five officers kept the cat sitting in a tree for some 45 minutes before they, judge and jury, executed this wonderful animal. Puyo had been a pet for six years - surely our animals have a right to expect better treatment from "public servant".

Robert Trafton
Box 3066
Christiansted
St Croix, USVI 00820



MEETING REPORT
October 10, 1976

A social meeting was held at the home of John & Robin Perry in Stratford, Connecticut. Since Stratford is in central Connecticut, notices were sent with maps to known New England members in addition to those of the Greater New York group.

A total of about 25 members and guests were present. The exotics included Geoffroy cats, Margays from kitten to adult, two young bobcats and a pair of very tame and friendly hybrid wolves. The family domestic cat investigated several of the smaller exotics but wasn't seen for the rest of the meeting after the wolves arrived.

Seven domestic births of margays have occurred in New England this year, with three surviving. Hopefully there is a learning process underway with the non-member who owns them and the survival rate will improve. Willing breeders that are not disturbed by either the public or the neighboring larger cats seems to more than make up for the cooler climate that southern members said would preclude domestic births.

Copies of the State laws and some local ordinances were given out to those who needed them. The meeting notice said that legal exotics were welcome and the Northeast area doesn't need any more confiscations or court cases.

The smaller exotics got along well with each other and the members but, they too were cautious about the wolves, even though the wolves never entered the house.

The Wildmans attended without their ocelot which is being kept for them. There are no charges against it and a year after confiscation they don't even know it is. Their legal fees to date must make theirs the most expensive ocelot ever.

Danny Treanor once wrote of his herd of oncillas; Perrys say two Geoffroys and one domestic constitute a herd in their stampeding around the house. The mini-exotics seem very adept at properly training their owners.

This first meeting in many years North of New York City brought out many new faces, most from New England. Socializing and discussions together with food provided by our hosts kept the group together until after ten o'clock.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late winter at Demarest's "Highbank Game Farm". This is even further north, but worth the trip from New York and may bring out more of the old-timers from New England who didn't show this time.

Submitted by:
Arthur Human



home, and promised to attend our future meetings. We all learned a little from each other and we all certainly could not help but enjoy his wit and English humor. A very memorable speaker who may still be in this country when we have our convention. If so look forward to a treat. He is teaching in this country at Cabrillo College and is also doing research on the mountain lion in California.....the series Daktari was based on his compound.

The evening was over all too soon and we left wishing each other a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be sometime in 1977 - attend when needed.

Felinely,
Lora Vigine



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

MEETING REPORT
December 4, 1976

The Cafe de Nord on Market Street in San Francisco is an old world restaurant and the scene of our dinner meeting. We started by lingering up at the antique bar until we swelled innumbers and began to gather in the dining hall. Each place was set with a festively wrapped gift which turned out to be an enameled keychain with an ocelot and the initials LIOC on it. A large sculptured leopard sat at a nearby table waiting to be auctioned off and definitely created the proper feeling for our cat club. One after the other the dishes came and were consumed amidst much conversation until the finale of creme caramel ended the gastronomical part of our affair.

Then came the dinner meeting. We started by discussing our need for everyone to help get our convention hosting responsibilities off to a good start. A brief but lively auction ensued with Chris Dalri presiding and soon gave our a nice \$100. Some folks renewed early and others gave some donations making our end of the year treasury \$310.00. Next meeting we will be expecting the rest of you to renew. Altogether we should have no trouble affording some frills for our Labor Day convention. The Dates of September 1st thru 4th are scheduled for the convention at the International Inn in Sough San Francisco. This place will be a good one for bringing animals. The folks that run it are very receptive and it should be put on everyone's list to attend. Details will be sent soon for early sign up.

A sad note: our newly elected secretary could not show up as she was recovering from an operation and was incarcerated in the hospital. A happy note was that the Robinsons who recently were involved in a fiasco when their pet lion escaped got their cat back without too much of a problem. The story is one of an innocent cat being held at an animal shelter just for getting out and being a little confused. Nothing took place after the lion found his way through the garage door which opened and closed automatically behind him leaving him exposed to the rather hostile outside world. He went right back home without much prompting but the Fish & Game decided to confiscate him anyway. Still after a trial the cat was happily returned to the Robinsons' thankful home. During their time of need the publicity captured the interest of a wonderfully fascinating fellow...Paul Lyons by name and who accompanied the Robinsons to our dinner meeting. We scheduled him to speak and he graciously accepted and held us spellbound for awhile with tales of Africa from whence he comes, and where he has lived and studied animals since he was seven. He has owned not only cheetahs but lions and other creatures of the bush who roam freely around his acreage wandering in and out of his home which has no doors or windows. He advocates keeping our animals totally whole. A discussion pro and con erupted to be continued at one of our following meetings. Dr. Lyons main thrust however is that although he does not approve of people having exotic pets he qualifies his stand by noting that some people do have a beautiful rapport with their animals and if they spend time and really get into the animal's world then perhaps it can be a good situation. He praised the Robinsons for their care of the pet lion that they give a place in their

Editorial

What About the Next 20?

our President, Ken Hatfield points out in his State of the Union message, LIOC and its members have accomplished a lot in the twenty years the Newsletter has been in existence. Of course, LIOC is older than that, the first meeting taking place the summer of 1953 in Amagansett, New York.

As our country celebrates its Bicentennial, touting the freedom of the American people, those owning exotics are having their doubts as to this freedom. It seems nowadays you are only as free as Washington will let you be. However, it is a premise of the American way of life that each of us has a say in running the country - have you voiced yours? Those letters if in numbers enough do count for something. As much as we moan and groan, are we really doing enough about it? I don't think so. Judging from how many of you have contributed to the legal fund, most of you really don't care whether you'll be allowed the freedom of choice in your pets. It has been two years now since the fund was initiated and we are only about half way to our goal - which is a minor one and will only cover the initial court action. Of course it must be kept in mind that prices go up and at this rate we'll never realize our goal. Let us, as our Country celebrates its 200th birthday and LIOC its 20th, put forth that little bit extra and get the show on the road - an organization is only as good as its members - and that puts the burden on each and every one of you.

In a very large sense, LIOC is the Newsletter. I get feedback that the Newsletter is too technical and on the other side that there aren't enough beginner's articles and again that there are too many cute, basic type stories. It is difficult to walk that perfect center line. I ask each member's help in his own way - a picture and a few lines about your cat, a story on any topic related to exotics, a copy of an article you found interesting. You can have something to contribute - I can correct spelling and grammar - that's the job of an editor - you supply the material. If I had more material it would be a lot easier to get the Newsletter out on time and back on schedule. I am at a distinct disadvantage in Mobile by not having access to a large library. Have you ever wondered about certain things - why not check your library and see if they have the answer and then forward it to us to share with everyone? Sure it's a little work and maybe a little inconvenience - but it would be worth it to say "I did my part - I am involved and helping, I gave as well as took".

With the price of kittens so high, and the problems of availability being what they are, our membership is suffering. Lots of folks aren't replacing their cats and lots of potential members are discouraged. We need each and every one of you to really pitch in and let's get all the stumbling blocks out of the way of exotic ownership. The "I've got mine" attitude won't make it - it's up to us to try in every way possible to keep this area of freedom available to others - that's the American way and the only way we can survive to celebrate our 40th birthday.

Especially Ocelots & Saga Notes

Are available for the benefit of the Legal Fund:
Saga Notes (10) \$1.50 plus .25 postage
Especially Ocelots - \$3.95 plus .25 postage.
Send order to:

LIOC
1454 Fleetwood Dr.
Mobile, Al. 36605

▷ Florida Cougar - continued

although it has been protected by State Law in Florida, the panther is still being killed with many killings going unrecorded. He mentions cases of Game Wardens who have shot at panthers and a sheriff's posse that went out in 1971 to kill a reported panther in Georgia; in 1948 a similar posse killed a panther in Southern Alabama.

Mr. Eaton sums up the chapter on the Florida panther by saying that..."it is a great problem trying to reach the public and inform them about the laws, or better yet to educate them so they realize the panther is rare and needs protection." He gives some sound methods in this book by which the American lion can be conserved.

As I compiled all the above material, it seemed ironic to me that this big cat can be protected by both State and Federal laws and listed on the U.S.D.I.'s "endangered species list" YET IT IS STILL BEING SLAUGHTERED. Perhaps there should be open season on cougar killers!



HAZEL

Orders being taken.....

THE WORLDS CATS, VOLUME III, NUMBER 2 is scheduled to be published about May, 1976 if sufficient orders are received by 15 March 1976. If not, checks will be returned no later than April 1st. Cost: \$8.00

Contents of this edition are:

The Fossil History of Living Felidae by Helmut Hemmer
Cytogenetics of the Felidae by Roy Robinson
Activity Rhythms of a Free-ranging Lion Population by Judith Rudnai
The Leopard in Eastern Zambia by Vivian Wilson
The behavior of the Margay by Michael Petersen
Why Felids Copulate so Frequently by Randall Eaton
The Evolution of Sociality in Felids by Randall Eaton
Diet & Other Factors Affecting the Development of Young Felids by Patricia Scott
Gestation Period and Postnatal Development of Young Felidae by Helmut Hemmer

Make checks payable to World's Cats Publication Fund and send to R. L. Eaton, Department of Zoology, University of Washhinton, Seattle, Wa. 98195

NOTE: Volume I is sold out; Volume II is nearly sold out. A few copies of Volume III, No. 1 are still available at \$4.25. Announcement of Volume III Number 3 will be made with the publication of Number 2.



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



MEETING REPORT
January 25, 1976

The First gathering of the New Year took place in Niles Community Center in Fremont. This place affords natural surroundings, a lake and a carpet of grass for romping. Each corner was taken up by a different species of feline. The north by an African lion, the South by a puma, the East by a margay and the west with an ocelot or two.

Prevalent on our minds was the rejection of a young couple by their community because they chose to have a pet African Lion. Some of us had attended a meeting by the community in which they live. The residents were so violently adamant that order was hard to find and indeed they acted like wild animals when some of us "foreigners" tried to reason with them. It has since been learned that they had been denied the permit they needed to build the cage they had in mind. They Fish & Game Department had approved the design saying the plans would make a perfectly adequate and safe cage.

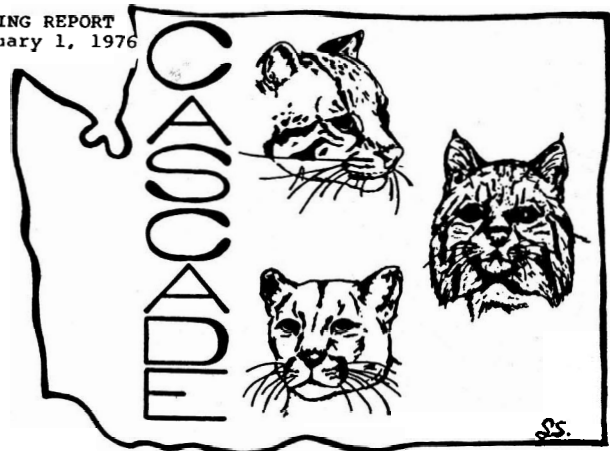
This whole incident caused tongues to wag further in Gentry Park and they decided to get after other exotic owners living there. They began to turn their attention to the President of our Chapter, Chris Dalri, who has a puma and now they are threatening him with revocation of his license. A lawyer had to be obtained and a fight will no doubt ensue. This has been a difficult time for lion owners. Another of our members who has a african lion had to place it in a kennel while moving to a spot that will accept his cat. A third person called me to say he was having difficulty keeping his pet lion in Chico. They were threatening to remove the cat from his premises at once - he to was talking about obtaining a lawyer.

At the meeting, one of our members who owns a large jaguar was having trouble with her neighbors and when they threatened to petition the animal out of existance she countered by threatening to sue for invasion of privacy and they begged off. It seems a suit can be brought against people who are trying to harrass without good cause.

A guest at our meeting, Virginia Handly, with the animal switchboard in San Francisco, spoke to us. She is interested in the inequities of the new laws and is staying on top of things by trying to assist in more humane treatment of animals in every aspect. It is interesting to note that there are many other groups deeply involved in the problems and the flaws in the new laws for an assortment of different reasons. We spoke about the one year moratorium on the hunting of cougar which barely passed as it has been stated by Fish & Game that the cougar is on the rise in California again - last count 2,600.

A treasury report brought to light the addition of \$100 as a donation brought about by the sale of the painting of one of our members. We are now in good financial shape for the new year and some extras like membership cards are in the future. Speaking of membership, we are hoping more of you out there will join us in the fight to keep the feline of our choice and come out from hiding.

MEETING REPORT
February 1, 1976



Our February meeting was held at the home of Liz Ghent in Seattle. We had a number of guests attending, among them were: Pat & Len Parker, Barbara Wilton and Ethel Hauser all of the Oregon Educational Exotic Feline Club from Portland Oregon. Other guests were Marry Hilleck, Vonda Hodge and Glen Bagley's friend Cecelia (I'm sorry I didn't get her last name) Members attending were: Richard & Evelyn Dyck, Steve Johnson, Ed Smith, Glenn Bagley, Henry & Judy Sauer, Liz Ghent, Terry & Shelley Starns, John & Linda Paramore, Natasha Labinsky and Ron Provost. We had a few furry friends, attending: Mandy serval who resides with the Parkers, Liz's puma Loki and golden cats Flower and W.B. and their son Chi-Chi-Be. Chi-Chi is getting more and more beautiful each time we see him.

When the meeting finally got under way we discussed the King County ordinance that went into effect a couple of months back. It is very explicit but all in all quite liveable. We decided it would be a good idea if we had such laws in all counties in the state and will proceed to have a similar ordinance implimented in Pierce county.

In an effort to educate the public a bit more about our cats we are starting a program to display information about LIOC, photos of the cats, etc. at domestic cat shows in the area. To enlarge on this idea a bit more, we have scheduled a "showing" of our cats for May this year. We hops to have a number of species present and the Oregon Educational Exotic Feline Club has agreed to appear with us.

It was announced that we, as a branch of LIOC, have been asked to donate one nice item for the auction at the 1976 Convention. Everyone was asked to keep their eyes peeled for any items we might consider.

Since its always nice to have a little bit of money in the treasury, we scheduled a garage sale for the Tacoma area on March 21st. We may decide to have this at a swap meet rather than a garage tho!

A copy of "The World's Cats" by Randall Eaton was displayed and is for sale through the National Club. This is a reporting of the proceedings that took place at the Symposium on cats that was held in Seattle a couple of years back.

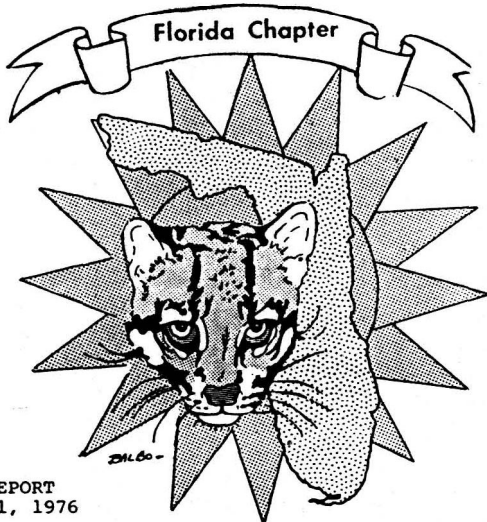
It was reported that the action on having the New State Game ruling changed which outlaws cougars in Washington has not been going well. For the present, the outlook isn't too good, but lets hope the situation changes.

To continue with the "not so good" news, we learned that Wally bordwell is in the hospital. Get well quick Wally- from all of us! It was also mentioned that long time member Sampson cougar, belonging to Chip DiJulio passed away this past month. Many of our happy times and meetings were centered around Sam and he will be greatly missed and dearly remembered by each of us.

After adjourning the meeting we held our usual raffle. The winners of cougar birthday cards, cheetah poster "Exotic Rock" and book on ocelots and margays were: Ron Provost, Ethel Hauser, Natasha Labinsky and Linda Paramore.

Amidst Purrs and Growls:
Shelley Starns, Secretary

Continued - page 10



MEETING REPORT
January 11, 1976

Howdy Y'All, as our corresponding Secretary wasn't at our January get-together, Here I am. Florida Chapter members had decided at the November meeting to occasionally have a meeting combined with an exhibition, providing the locale and the circumstances were satisfactory. The theory being that it is only by education of the non-exotic owning public will we ever be even grudgingly tolerated, if not wholeheartedly accepted. Herman and Annette Brooks have an alligator breeding farm and tourist attraction, so this was an ideal place to give it a try. We had good weather, lots of members, lots of customers - but hardly any cats! Well, I guess everyone sort of wanting to see how it was going to go, each feeling that his one cat wouldn't make any difference. We do hope that a few folks were interested enough to join in and go to schools or wherever we can get invited, but together a little talk, and really try to show our good side to the general public.

Folks started arriving at Gator World about noon. We really had a good turnout, 10 felines and about 47 members and guests; some "regulars" some folks that haven't been able to attend recently and some new members and even a guest from another organization. Those members attending were: Peter & Jan Cumming, John & Flo Carruthers, Kathy Conlon, Bill Engler, Ward & Barbara Price, Arthur Freeman, Bob & Sandy Markopf, Art & Carol Van Vlck, Kim & Janie Baetjer, Delores Tiktin, Laura Cox, Charles & Sadie Douglas, B.J. Lester, Don Piechocki, Jean Hatfield and our hosts, Herman & Annette Brooks. We gathered in groups or just walked around greeting old friends, talking to strangers and looking at the Brooks animals (he has cougars, monkeys, various birds, snakes and other creatures, not just alligators). While this was going on, Herman was tending the barbecue wagon and before too long he & Annette called us all to their back yard for a delicious "Chicken & fixins" lunch, which was consumed while still talking about our favorite subject.

Briefly, (more or less) some of the items of interest, Ward & Barbara Price still have Kay, cougar and also a young male. They're mating, but so far no babies. (She got hormones last time; it's his turn next). Delores was there and said beautiful Shawna the cheetah is doing just fine, as are her two ocelots, Ozzie & Tao. Charles Douglas said that due to the legal situation and the ban on interstate commerce, he has separated his breeding pairs of ocelots (what a sad commentary!) Don's margay, Tonya is "Sassy as ever" and B.J. Lester is back home in Jacksonville with most of her margays. Janie & Kim Baetjer's growing compound of felines were all OK; they are trying to find a method of checking their producing pair of leopard cats to find the reason for the physical defects in the babies. They feel it could be just a problem with that particular pair. Which creates a problem - the two are inseparable! So you neuter one - which one? You have our sympathy folks. By the way, Janie was wearing a neck brace as a result of an auto accident; she has our sympathy too. Arthur Freeman drove from Crystal River; his margay Safari, now 19½ years old, resides with Charles & Sadie Douglas since Peg's death last year, and is still doing fine. Bob & Sandy said King, ocelot is about the same, a homebody, and the last they heard the jaguarundi female they sent to be with John Paramore's male is doing just great.

haven't heard from John much lately, tho; guess becoming a papa for the first time must be quite an experience (that's human type, not feline). By the way, a note of congratulations to Bob, I don't know how many pounds he has taken off and kept off, these past couple of years, but it must be quite a few.

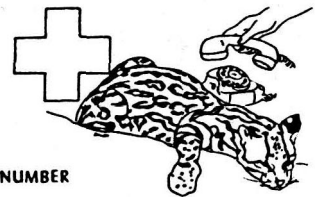
Bill Engler was there with some of his pretty Bengal Cats, Safari hat and all. He told me that Sadie brought him a plate of barbeque so full he could "hardly eat it all". Now Bill, we know better than that! Peter and Jan Cumming had four month old Chip ocelot with them and siad all was well except he liked to bite too much. Well, it's my observation that ocelots don't "like to bite" they love it! It is meat and drink, the very joy of life. Then comes fun, convincing them that human anatomy can't be handled (mouthed?) like that of other felines. Luck to you folks, and remember, patience and persistence. Art & Carol told me they had recently acquired another exotic (note: another) If you aren't careful you too are going to be acquiring a few acres in the sticks and wondering how on earth you got there. It's like having - you should excuse the expression - a tiger by the tail; you can't let go.

Well, as I said somewhere back there, we had out lunch served in the backyard and although we didn't have a business meeting, as promised, Don did ask B.J. to introduce the guest she had brought. He was Mr. Bill Propper, Chapter Advisor of the North Florida Chapter 36, Simian Society of America. He told the group that as his organization's members are also affected by the costly fee of the New Florida Personal Pet Law, his members wished to contribute toward the Florida LIOG Legal Fund. For which they have our sincere thanks, expressed by our Vice President, Don Piechocki, on behalf of the Florida Chapter. B.J. also mentioned two encyclopedias she brought with her one about as thick as Websters Unabridged (sorry I didn't get the names) In them the experts classified the margay as "leopardus weidi" instead of "felis", and so naturally I had to check this out. It seems as though, as usual the experts don't agree and many of the "felis" species have "alternative generic names" including the ocelot, margay, leopard cat, geoffryst cat, etc. (Big cats of the World; Badino) which I might add had some beautiful photography in it.

Afterwards, we resumed our gathering and wandering, not too hampered by the sprinkle or two of rain. By this time, an ex-LIOG member, Bob Steele had a friend bring his young cougar over. His litter mate had been there earlier in the afternoon, bought by Herb Sullivan, and it seems they were the ones B.J. had bottle raised when working at a zoo for a while. As they say, it's a small world. By 5 o'clock most folks were heading back home and everyone agreed it was a most pleasant afternoon.

By the way, the March meeting was spoken for by Art & Carol of the Orlando area, but the next one in May will also be "up" so they have kindly consented to postpone theirs until a later date.

NEXT MEETING: March 14th at the home of Jim & Lynn Craft in Ft. Lauderdale.



KNOW YOUR VET'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

California Branch - continued ←

We are hoping to have at our next meeting Senator Peter Behr who wrote the animal bill which has become controversial in the hands of Fish & Game. Captain Zobel of Fish & Game will also attend. Perhaps together we can truly iron out all the wrinkles that seem to be disturbing various animal organizations. It would be hoped that every members will attend this important meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Lora Vigne



Books

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

By Jeannette Travers

Taplinger Publishing Company
200 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10003

Cost: \$9.45 postpaid

Starting from Scratch is written by one of our own - a LIOC member from England and breeder of the first ocelot kitten there.

It is a heartwarming and amusing story of how Tony and Jeannette became interested and acquired their first exotic soon to be followed by another and another as if often the case. Jeannette has done a wonderful job relating the trials and tribulations of those first experiences we all share when we get our first cat and then the continuous learning experience thereafter.

It isn't often we can recommend a book about people and their pets - but when they're as enjoyable as Starting From Scratch, it's worth the wait.

Reviewed by:
Shirley Treanor

Jeannette & Poppet



OBITUARY

Long time LIOC member, Mary Ballard, died on January 7, 1976. Although Mary did not own an exotic she loved them dearly and with her passing they all lose a good friend.

Necrology

iki, male ocelot belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Donald Pursell, died October 31st, 1975 at the age of 10. They write, "iki came in the house for an evening snack like he always did and we closed the glass sliding door. After he got a bite to eat he ran out the door, except it was closed and broke." He died of injuries inflicted by the glass.

MELANISTIC PHASES OF FELIDAE IN CAPTIVITY

By Loren E. Coleman

Reprinted from INTERNATIONAL ZOO NEWS,

The literature on melanistic (black) forms of the Felidae is filled with inaccuracies and gaps, but the zoological park collections serve as a natural library to extract important data on the infrequent appearance of these forms in the wild. The extent of black felids in captivity has generally remained relatively unknown because the black forms were often not listed separately or otherwise specially indicated. Only in recent years have some of the melanistic cats other than the black leopard or black jaguar been specifically noted. Thus, the first step in compiling information on the questions of degree of rarity, success in breeding, distribution in the wild, and so forth, depends in large part on establishing firm knowledge of where the melanistic Felidae have been, or now are, in the zoos of the world. This report will focus on the Felids locations according to survey results of 15 June 1974.

Needless to say, the black leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is by no means uncommon, and most medium sized zoos have one or a pair. In the majority of cases, accurate information is available on black leopards (sometimes referred to as "black panthers"). The capture origin of most black leopards appears to be Asian, with only one record noted of an African melanistic leopard. This animal was captured by the Hunts of International Animal Exchange at 7,000 feet in Kenya and sent to Zurich in 1970.

Both Arnold Stillman of Tampa's Busch Gardens and Roy Robinson of Carnivore Research Centre have collected extensive information on black leopards in captivity, and with the final results of this survey, a clearer genetic flow chart of the breeding and trading taking place can be constructed.

Melanistic jaguars (*Panthera onca*) are rare compared to black leopards. In 1942, famed animal trainer Alfred Court was said to own the only pair of black jaguars in America, but within thirty years, thirteen were in captivity, according to the Cincinnati Zoological Society. This increase seems mainly due to breeding at Philadelphia and Center Hill, but as these sources have not responded to this survey, we lack recent data on them. However, Philadelphia did have these black jaguar births: 1.0 in 1968 and 1.1 in 1970. Center Hill (Robert Baudy, Rare Feline Breeding Compound) had a birth of two females in 1971 and Rio De Janeiro had a birth of one, sex unknown in 1970. More information is needed on the parentage of these offspring. Data from Cincinnati indicates that they had a male of three months arrive on November 27, 1972 that is still present. Jacksonville obtained a male adult from Columbia in August 1967. This male sired a black male cub at Jacksonville but the cub lived only a month. Jacksonville's male is mating with a spotted female, and there are hopes for further births.

Although Frankfurt had a black Geoffroy's cat (*Felis geoffroyi*) in 103, responses to the survey indicate only recent cases of these cats. Chicago now has a male that arrived as an adult in 1972 from Jardin Zoologico, Cordoba, Argentina. Cincinnati's male and female arrived in 1969 and died a month later. No births were recorded. Memphis' male and female arrivals of February 1970 never mated either, so during 1973, the black female was placed with a spotted Geoffroy's cat. Viable births were recorded in July and December, 1973. Memphis traded out their non-breeding (for them) black male to Sacramento in September 1973. Therefore, Memphis now has three spotted males, two black males, one spotted female and one black female Geoffroy's cats.



more ⇨

CONVENTION 76

the past; melanistic forms of Temminck's golden cat, *Profelis temmincki* were apparently more common in zoos. *Profelis* had one in 1937, and Leipzig had an example in 1938, but information for both is sketchy. London had a black Golden cat from November 1930 until June 1941. The melanistic Golden cat went from Bremerhaven to Berlin in December 1939 and then was sent to Vienna in 1943. The dates of birth and death of this well-travelled individual are unknown. Likewise unknown are any recent cases of black Temminck's Golden cats.

Black servals (*Felis serval*) supposedly not uncommon in the wild, have turned up in only two zoos. London had a black Serval of the race "hindei" in 1911 and a "kempi" from Mt. Elgon from October 1945 until April, 1950. Philadelphia had an example, possibly a "hindei", from East Africa from July 1953 to July 1963.

Philadelphia has had quite a few melanistic felids. From April to August 1939, Philadelphia had a male, black bobcat (*Lynx rufus floridanus*). Another melanistic bobcat, a female was located at New York (Bronx) in 1940 but the date of death is unknown. Both New York's and Philadelphia's bobcats were captured in Martin County, Florida.

Like Philadelphia, Cincinnati has specialized in melanistic forms of felidae, and apparently is the only zoo ever to have Black Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus prateri*) and black Pampas cat (*Velis colocolo*). Their Pampas cat, a male arrived from Paraguay in January, 1966. Recently, Edward J. Maruska, Cincinnati's Director, communicated the interesting information that a new-born dead Pampas cat - with black pelage - was discovered by the Head Keeper on 14 April 1974.

Cincinnati's black Jungle cats started with a nucleus from Pakistan of 0.2 arriving May, 1969 and 1.0 arriving April, 1971. One female died May, 1973 and the other in March, 1974. However, the latter did breed with the male producing a black male in 1972 that died within a month, and a February 1973 litter of 1.2 black, 1.0 tan. Thus, Cincinnati now has two black males and two black females.

Perhaps the rarest melanistic felid to be in captivity is the caracal (*Felis caracal*), with only one ever recorded. The Taronga Zoo of Sydney had a black caracal from January, 1947 to July, 1956. Unfortunately, the officials informed this survey they believe the body was burned and no photographs were taken of this rare animal.

That is the body of information gathered thus far on all known black felids in zoos. Further progress reports will be forthcoming, as the data accumulates on other aspects of the captive melanistic cat issue. Thanks to Marvin L. Jones for his helpful historical information, and to the various park personnel for their informative replies.

Anyone with additional data, or critical comments, please forward them to: Loren Coleman, 1469 Green Street, San Francisco, Cal. 94109

REGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT!

Rebecca Duke, our Registrar, reports that the registration is going slow. Although at the start the registration of your cats may seem unimportant, we feel it is. With the breeding of domestic born cats, someday it will be very necessary to trace the ancestry of a cat. We also feel that this will give us credence with the powers that be - that we are keeping track of our own. If we ever win the war - that Certificate of Domestic Birth and pedigree could make all the difference in a legal cat and an illegal one. When you are looking at a kitten, ask to see its Certificate - or register it when you get it.

If you need registration forms ask your Branch Representative or write:

Rebecca Duke
P.O. Box 144
Carrollton, Tex. 75006

We in the SouthWest Branch are looking forward to hosting the 5th Annual Convention in Houston this year. As our Country celebrates the Bicentennial, we in LIOC are celebrating our 20th birthday - and we are extra glad to be hosts as we started the ball rolling five years ago in Dallas.

We do enjoy the title of the "Friendship Branch". Here in SouthWest we point out that we just don't meet for a couple of hours and then go home, but because we enjoy each other so much, usually make a weekend affair out of a meeting - we travel much greater distances to make our meetings and we think its worth it. We're working very hard on making Convention 1976 worth your time and money.

Texas is known to have the biggest and best of everything, or so we like to brag! Houston certainly comes close to that description and we'd like to show it to you. There will be plenty time to sample southern hospitality and old friends as well as new ones. We'd like to show you a part of Houston, the Astrodome, Astroworld, shopping highlights - Neiman-Marcus and a shopping center that boasts an indoor ice skating rink in the center. The food is something to look forward to also and we'll steer you to whatever you enjoy most, foreign cuisine, steaks, seafood fresh from the Gulf, or whatever your heart desires.



Of course there will be a few speakers - we're aiming at quality not quantity and both the general meeting and the Executive meeting. Here we ask that if you have a subject you feel needs discussion you write Ken Hatfield so he can place it on the agenda. And please let us know if your Branch is sending a Representative and who that might be so we can expect them.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your registration form. We need time to plan things so please return it as soon as possible with your check. To encourage early registration the Fee prior to July 1st will be \$20. after that it will be \$25. The Marriott Inn needs to know your plans no later than July 15th to insure you a room. Please mail them the enclosed registration card as soon as you can. Please take the time to fill in your registration form so we can know what you want to see and plan accordingly to make necessary arrangements. As you can imagine, there's still a lot of work that needs to be done and plans will change here and there before its all over. But we plan on providing a good time and seeing to it that you enjoy yourself as much as we'll enjoy having you. If you have any suggestions please let us know. We're looking forward to a repeat of the auction held in Orlando last year - it was a lot of fun so bring a few extra dollars and take something home with you. Every dollar over our expenses is going to the legal fund so plan on being generous.

HOUSTON GET READY!