

# NEWSLETTER

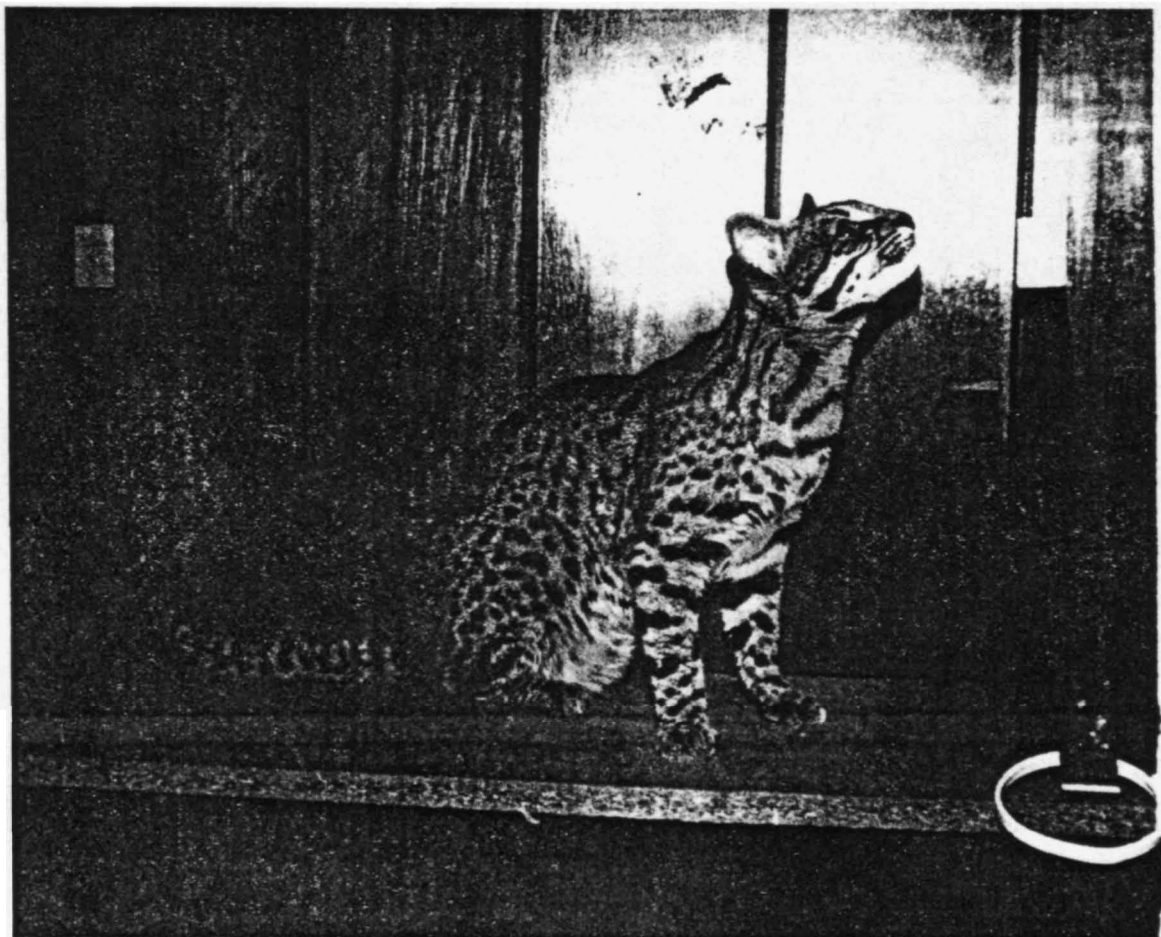
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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB  
1454 Fleetwood Dr. East  
Mobile, Al. 36605

Volume 25 - Number 2  
March - April 1980

## LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



TIGGER, a male Geoffroy's Cat is shown here at 14 months of age and weighing 10 pounds. He's a domestic bred cat, born at the Hatfield's compound but living now with the photographer Art Human. See story on page 3



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## L.I.O.C. OFFICERS

**KEN HATFIELD, PRESIDENT:** 1991 S.W. 136 Ave. Davie, Fla. 33325  
(305) 472-7276

**HEL HAUSER, VICE PRESIDENT:** 14622 N.E. 99 St. Vancouver, Wash. 98662 (206) 892-9994

**JACKIE VANDERWALL, SECRETARY/TREASURER:** 17824 SE Morrison Ct., Portland, Ore. 97233 (503) 665-9488

### LIFE DIRECTORS

**CATHERINE CISIN, FOUNDER:** Amagansett, N.Y. 11930 (516) 267-3852

**KEN HATFIELD** (See above)

**MICHAEL BALBO,** 21-01 46th St. Long Island City, N.Y. 11105

**ROGER HARMON,** 405-C East Pinecrest, Marshall, TX 75670 (214) 938-6113

### TERM DIRECTORS

**JON DYER,** 0322 S.W. Whitaker, Portland, Oregon 97201  
(503) 224-5713

**ELMER MORGAN,** P.O.Box 144, Carrollton, Tx. 75006  
(214) 241-6440

**JEAN TOWNES,** P.O.Box 523, Fremont, CA 94537  
(408) 241-5565

**SHIRLEY TREANOR,** 1454 Fleetwood Dr. E. Mobile, Al. 36605 (205) 478-8962 (Emergency-days-433-5418)

## STAFF

**EDITOR:** Shirley Treanor, 1454 Fleetwood Dr. E., Mobile, Al. 36605  
(205) 478-8962 Days 433-5418

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** Jackie Vanderwall, 17824 S.E. Morrison Ct., Portland Ore. 97233 (503) 665-9488

**REGISTRAR:** Rebecca Morgan, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton, TX 75006  
(214) 241-6440

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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.

## BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

**CASCADE:** Shelley Starns, Rt.1, Box 1623, Yelm, WA 98597 (206) 894-2684

**FLORIDA:** Danny Treanor, 5151 Glasgow, Orlando, FL. 32805 (305) 357-3058

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** Pat Quillen, P.O.Box 7535, San Diego, CA 92107 (714) 224-4261

**SOUTHWESTERN:** Rebecca Morgan, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton, TX. 75006 (214) 241-6440

**OREGON EDUCATIONAL EXOTIC FELINE CLUB:** Coordinators:

Jon Dyer (See Term Directors) Herb Wilton: 7800

SE Luther Rd., Portland, Ore. 97206 (503) 774-1657

**GRATER NEW YORK:** Art Human, 32 Lockwood Ave. Norwalk Ct. 06851 (203) 866-0484

## AFFILIATES

**EXOTICS UNLTD.,** P.O.Box 523, Fremont, CA 94537

**LEOPARD CAT SOCIETY,** P.O.Box 7535, San Diego, CA. 92107

**NATIONAL ASSOC. FOR SOUND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS,** 2455 N.E. 184th Terrace, Miami, FL. 33160

**WORLD PET SOCIETY:** P.O.Box 343, Tarzana, CA 91356

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Jackie Vanderwall  
17824 S.E. Morrison Ct.  
Portland, Ore. 97233

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**L.I.O.C. NEEDS**  
**YOU!**

# the Geoffrey's Cat...

By Patricia Nell Warren

Condensed from an article in ALL CATS

For centuries, the Geoffrey's cat has had the dubious honor of being one of the smallest and most ignored wildcats in the world. But these days, this fairly gentle wildcat is a little better known - in a good news/bad news sort of way.

First the good news. American cat folks are becoming aware of the beauty and fascination of the smaller wildcats. Examples: A recent Cats Magazine article celebrated the Pallas Cat. The leopard cat enjoys a long-standing appreciation. Last year the Western Reserve Cat Club (a midwest CFA Club) held a benefit show in order to purchase a pair of captive born Geoffrey's for the Cleveland Zoo. The club is proud of "their" cats and eager to educate the public about them.

Now for the bad news. Though never fashionable in its own right, the gentle Geoffrey's is hunted for its pelt, as a legal substitute for the now illegal ocelot.

At a recent Empire cat show in New York City, a visiting spectator drew indignant stares from exhibitors. She was wearing a midi-length coat made of real spotted cat.

Because of the new restriction on the import of endangered species one doesn't see many ocelot or cheetah or leopard coats walking around Manhattan these days. This lady however, had a coat that was made unmistakably from Geoffrey pelt. And the Geoffrey's cat is not currently listed as endangered. To make the coat, the furrier had used only the backs. These are the choice portions because the markings are arranged in neat rows along the spine. An exhibitor who knew something about the furrier business sadly estimated that around 100 cats had been killed to provide a few moments of chic for one uncaring New Yorker.

Just what is this good tempered little cat with the funny name? I don't own any Geoffrey cats but I know a number of people who do. Thus I have had the opportunity to visit them and their cats.

The Geoffrey's cat - fondly called "G cat" by some of its admirers is native to the southern half of South America. Its scientific name, *leopardus geoffroyi*, derives from the name of a 19th century French biologist - Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire - who traveled Latin America. Actually however, the first Europeans to note the cat's description for scientific posterity were d'Orbigny and Gervais in 1843.

Long before the Europeans of course, the Indians knew the Geoffrey's cat at close hand. A number of ancient South American textiles have startling designs of small spotted cat with long tails. Some of these could be Geoffrey's cats. The pre-Columbian Indians stood in awe of cats. They worshipped the big ones - jaguars, cougars - they also respected the little ones. The gentler of the small species were semidomesticated - kept as pets or for rodent control. If the Spanish Conquest hadn't destroyed Indian culture, it might have developed its own domestic cat.

Geoffrey's cats are among the tiniest wildcats on earth. A grown Geoffrey's male might tip the scales at 9-12 pounds. The mature female runs as small as 6 pounds. Thus they compare in size to the domestic cat.

They have a wide distribution in the southern hemisphere - over more than 30 degrees of latitude, which is nearly 2500 miles. The cat has been recorded north of 20 degrees latitude, in Bolivia. In between, it frequents parts of Uruguay and southwestern Brazil. And it has been seen south of 50 degrees on the Rio Gallegos in Patagonia.

Apparently the Geoffrey's cat is found only on the east side of the Andes. West of the continental divide, in Chile, is found the rare kodkod. For a long time, the kodkod was confused with the Geoffrey's cat. But now it is recognized as a distinct species.

The Geoffrey's is a rugged little cat. It has to be. It thrives in some of the most forbidding terrain on earth.

In Bolivia, for instance, it is found at 12,000 feet on the antiplano. This is a vast, barren, windswept plateau glittering with salt flats. Poverty stricken Indians scratch out a living growing potatoes in the poor soil.

In northwestern Argentina, the cat is found right in the Andes. Many Geoffrey's cats are found in the Gran Chaco. This is a vast central lowland lying along the eastern slope of the Andes, mainly in northwestern Argentina. Part of the Chaco is known as "the green hell". It is swampy and forested. There, the Geoffrey's cat has to contend with swarms of stinging insects, summer flooding and the hottest temperatures in all of South America. Other parts of the Chaco are dry. There is open rolling bush country, alkalai flats and little forests of quebracha trees. There, the Geoffrey's cat is at home amid the thorn bushes giant cactus and low grasses.

But the most intriguing haunt of this cat is Patagonia, that vast and sparsely inhabited southern quarter of Argentina.

In Patagonia, powerful and cold winds are always blowing. Dust storms drift along the horizons. Stretches of the dry prairie support lonely estancias, or sheep ranches. A last handful of aboriginal Indians, the Tehuelches, live there.

For a living, the Geoffrey's cat can hunt little desert rodents - such as the cuis or the murine opossum. Or he can try to catch rare birds like the tinamou and the tawny throated dotterel.

In the southern hemisphere, the Geoffrey's cat, the cougar and the pampas cat are the only felines found south of 50 degrees. All three species range down to the Strait. And both the pampas cat and the cougar have longer, or heavier coats.

That leaves the Geoffrey's cat as the only truly short-haired cat to thrive so far from the equator - how does he manage?



MISSY - 18 months of age  
Nervous and messed up  
from her plane ride.

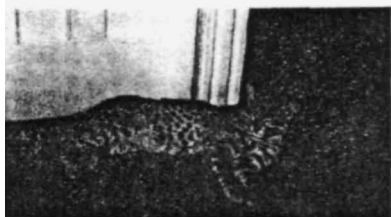
Because of their wide north-south range, the Geoffrey cats obey some basic rules of wild animal genetics.

The bigger specimens are found near the poles. Their larger size evolved as a thermodynamic trick to help conserve body heat. The smaller specimens get along better toward the equator. Thus, the biggest Geoffrey's are found in Patagonia and the smallest in the Gran Chaco.

The Geoffrey's has also improved his chances of survival by evolving a special type of short coat. Closer to the equator, the coarse coat does lie close to the body to help fight the heat. But down toward the South Pole, the coat becomes longer and bristly - its resilient, waterproof like a seal's pelt. The stiff guard hairs are very shiny. The undercoat is plush and dense.

Finally, the Geoffrey's cat tints his coat to blend with the geography where he lives. The big cats from Patagonia have a ghostly pale look - light tan or silvery gray. This gives them more camouflage in the dusty desert, or in snow and fog.

By contrast, the little Geoffrey's from the sub-tropical Chaco have a burnt orange or egg-yolk color. This helps them blend in among trees and grasses. In the wooded reaches of the cats range one also finds a goodly number of the rare melanistic specimens. These cats have a dark brown ground color. The spots show only when sunlight strikes one at a certain angle. One of the two animals donated to the Cleveland zoo was such a "black".



COFFEE at about 15 months  
Weighing about 14 lbs.

Dots are the theme of the Geoffroy's markings. By contrast the ocelot or oncollas usually wear some type of rosettes. And the margay wears large egg shaped spots.

The body of the Geoffroy cat is covered by small dots, evenly spaces. The dots travel down his legs, shrinking in size size to pin-sized dots on his toes. Sometimes the dots cluster into loose rosettes. There may be a few tabby barrings on the lower shoulder and haunch. The head is attractively streaked and dotted.

The tail is dotted and ringed. Even each whisker sprouts from a tiny black dot.

Of special interest are three white dots - one is found on the very tip of the tail and the other two are found on the backs of the neat rounded ears. The dots are found on most of wildcat species, both large and small and are called ocelli.



SHERE KAHN at 7 years.  
Female, only 4 lbs.  
Owned by Art Human

The paw pads are usually dark. Eye color ranges from clear gold to smokey amber. The nose leather is usually brick red. On a Geoffroy's that carries the melanistic recessive, these markings are usually very heavy and dark. the nose leather may even be black.

To date, as far as I know, the "new biologists" have not dignified this cat with a formal and long term study in the wild. But we do have quite a bit of knowledge about the cat thanks to his sojourns in captivity.

Most of the original imports came in by mistake, passed off as ocelots by ignorant or dishonest animal dealers. This was during the great "ocelot craze" of the 50's when everybody wanted to walk down Fifth Avenue with their pet ocelot on a leash.

In the wild, the Geoffroy's cat is not a creature of wide open spaces. He likes to keep cover handy. He stays in the rocks or the brush. As a pet in the home, he doesn't cross a large room directly, but zigzags happily from beneath one chair to another.

Though they don't mind climbing trees, they are mainly terrestrial. They are bold hunters and will try totake a prey far bigger than themselves. I once heard of a pet geoffroy's who got loose and grabbed a turkey gobbler by the neck!

During mating the male sometimes carries the female around by the scruff like a kitten.

Litters are small, two or three kits. The babies are born with their plushy undercoats fully spotted. Like most wildcats, the mother probably rears them on her own without help from the male. Sexual maturity usually comes at about 1 1/2 years although I heard of one precocious male who sired at 10 months.

Geoffroy's cats breed fairly easily in captivity. One man I know has a wildborn female who is quite tame and nests casually in his closet or bureau drawer. She lets him handle the kittens from birth.

Many of the Geoffroy's cats now in the U.S. are second and third generation domestic. There are enough unrelated bloodlines to maintain genetic vigor.

Private owners who hand raise them as pets swear that they have the kindest disposition of all the wildcats. In fact, in recent years, there has been a kind of "trend" toward Geoffroy's cats, (of course when not hand raised they show the same wariness as any wildcat).

If a male Geoffroy's has been raised with a domestic female he will mate her readily. The result: a striking hybrid with all the Geoffroy markings including the spots on their ears.

The pet Geoffroy's responds to his human in many ways uniquely his own. The Geoffroy's cat has a very loud purr

for his size. He also likes to pump heads gently against his owner's and give him little "kisses". One has to watch for quick little love-bites at the nose. A light tap on the head and a firm "no" and the cat quickly learn that these love bites are not good manners.

The Geoffroy's talks a lot in his hoarse, cirring, complaining little voice. People who know the different species tell me that the Geoffroy's voice is different from that of the other leopardi. For instance, the oncolla utters a sharp, bird-like dry. The ocelot has a deep, loud harsh call.

The tame Geoffroy's cat can be aggressively curious and affectionate and not at all shy. One little female pattered straight to the door to greet me. She stood on her back legs and tapped my hand gently with a paw to make sure I noticed her. (Geoffroy's cats, at least the hand raised ones, seem to be curiously polite with their claws and don't bare them unless they mean business)

The intelligence and sensitivity of these little cats is worth noting. Not long ago, a male Geoffroy's got hung up by the buckle of his flea collar as he darted through his swinging cat door into his outdoor run. By the time the owner noticed, the struggling cat was half choked to death. When this kind of a pickle occurs, most wildcats don't recognize their owners and go bananas if you try to help them.



COFFEE & MISSY'S kits  
6 weeks of age  
owned by John Perry

However, this cat did not scratch or bite while his owner extricated him. He was drenched with sweat, and so weak with terror he could hardly walk. Nevertheless, he staggered and flopped over to his owner. There, he purred weakly, kissed him and pumped heads with him.

From that day on, he was more affectionate and demonstrative. Clearly he knew, and remembered, that his human had saved him.

Geoffroy's cats have some other curious traits too. They like toys and they like to carry things. One Geoffroy always carries pine cones into the house from his outdoor run so that he can bat them around the house. Several owners report that Geoffroys are fond of sucking on their owners ear lobes. They adore the smell of good leather, purses and shoes send them into ecstasie of chin rubbing.

They trot with an arched back and a tuck up like a greyhound, but they run with a curious supple side-winding motion like a galloping otter. Sometimes they sit straight up on their hocks, like a chipmunk so they can see better.

When it comes to ankle-rubbing, the Geoffroy's cat is not content with the mere sedate rub of the domestic. He enthusiastically flings his haunches sideways against your ankle - something like the disco step called the Bump.

Like most wildcats, the Geoffroy's cats are very clean and very predictable. If litter trained they will use a pan. If they have an outdoor run, they will pick a single spot where they will build up a neat little mound of hard, whitish pellets.

Both males & females spray when grown. This is territorial behaviour. One connoisseur tells me that he can distinguish the smell of Geoffroy's from that of the other small wildcats.

They like raw chicken necks or wings. One owner has a commercial meat grinder and makes a special "hamburger" for his four Geoffroy's. It consists of raw beef hearts, chicken necks and Vionate. A few cats can be conned into eating Zupreem or other commercial calcium rich diets.

- Continued on page 5

# ADJUSTING KITTEN FORMULA

by Pat Quillen

\*Society of Scientific Care, Inc.

P.O.Box 7535

San Diego, CA. 92107

## BASIC INGREDIENTS

1 can Miracle brand evaporated goats' milk (12½ oz)  
equal parts distilled water.

## BASIC ADJUSTABLE INGREDIENTS

Until the kitten is through the initial teething stage and stabilized the following ingredients may be added at the time of feeding for each individual animal. This method saves time and material since requirements may change from one feeding to the next.

**NUTRI-CAL** (Evsco) This is an excellent dietary supplement and also stimulates appetite while serving as a stool softener. Dosage may vary from ¼cc per 1 oz of formula to 1cc per 1 oz of formula depending on the appetite and condition of the kitten.

**FRE AMINO #2** (amino acid injection 8.5% - McGraw Labs.) 2 to 5 drops added to each oz of formula. Suggested low dosage to begin, increase to firm stool. More than 4 drops per ounce is not suggested for firming stools, instead use one of the following anti-diarrheals. This ingredient has proven an excellent aid for digestive problems.

**MYLANTA** Can be added to settle bubbles which occur in blending ingredients at time of feeding. 2 or 3 drops (also has soothing effect for infants making the adjustment from dam's milk to formula. If digestive problem has occurred it may be necessary to increase to as much as 10 drops per ounce. In the event of inadequate burping following feeding distress may occur. Mylanta or Digel may be administered without dilution for relief in the liquid forms.

**LACTATED RINGERS** (Injectable) When infant is running deficit in hydration, a few drops are added to the formula at feeding time. When hydration is extreme or does not return to normal within two feedings (usually 8 hours) the environmental temperature should be checked. Also the body temperature of the kitten should be checked for a low grade infection may exist. In some cases, dehydration may occur in only one kitten in a litter of four. There are a number of reasons possible responsible, but our suggestion is that the dehydrated kitten be isolated and if needed fluids be administered by injection subcutaneously, and closely monitored.

**KAOPECTATE** Used as needed as anti-diarrheal and to soothe & **PARGEL** when stool is showing excess bile (dark green in color) Excess bile most often occurs when there is inadequate food or food bulk or when flushing occurs.

**AMOXI DROPS** (Beecham Labs.) can be used on newborn infants in most cases, and given prior to, or mixed with formula. **USE ONLY DISTILLED WATER WHEN MIXING.** This is the safest, broadest all purpose antibiotic we have found for use in the **VERY** young, if intestinal bacterial infection or there has been possible exposure to upper respiratory infection. We have not had any negative reaction to the use of this product when used in moderate amounts and have had amazing recoveries from various clinical indications with its use.

## INGREDIENTS FOR KITTENS BEYOND TEETHING

Above ingredients used as required combined with the following:



**CALCIUM CARROT POWDER** (phosphorus free calcium made from raw carrots) about 1 tablespoon per batch of formula.

**C-D-V Tablets** Starting with one or two per batch of formula and increasing to 6 - 8 per batch.

**HI PROTAMINO** (Schiff) High protein food source supplying essential amino acids. one tablespoon average per batch varried with the kittens requirements

**GERBER STRAINED MEATS** Preferable chicken or lamb. 1 or 2 jars per blending as needed for bulk. This also makes transition to solid food much easier and gives an excellent medium for administering RX to the animal in later life since they seem to retain a taste for it.

Other products of calcium/mineral supplements are used from time to time and a good vitamin supplement is advised at the time the kitten begins to eat solids. In the case of Zupreem we add only vitamin B supplement (generally brewer's yeast) and C supplements in the form of natural rose hip capsules (more readily tolerated by cats) If an occasional case of calcium deficiency does occur I do not hesitate to administer **CALFOSAN** subcutaneously (Carlton) ¼cc to tiny infants to 1 cc for larger (older) infants.

We have not yet had any bad reactions to any of the above combinations but without experience it might be a bit confusing.

\*Society of Scientific Care, Inc. is a non-profit, scientific organization gathering research on the smaller species of cats with focus on the oncilla and margays at this time. Contributions are tax deductible and are needed to gather and distribute this valuable information.



## GEOFFROYS Cont.

Like all wildcats they adore greens. They like to chew coarse grass and have a healthy vomit - nature's way of ridding them of hairballs and some parasites.

The Geoffroy's cat in the wild pits his ten pounds and his bristles against some of the most rugged terrain on earth. He is truly a stormy little petrel among the cats. He makes his home where the gales of the Roaring Forties sweep across the bottom of the world.

We could do worse than link our own future survival as a species with that of this fascinating little cat.

# Readers Write



Working as a zoo volunteer, or attending exotic cat gatherings, I have become increasingly aware of a strange phenomenon...what is it about the wild cats that makes otherwise reasonable people lose their senses? (Or are they really coming to their senses?) From the tiniest ocelot to the biggest Siberian Tiger, I have seen people display awe, tears, admiration, joy, and the overpowering desire to touch these creatures. I must confess that I am one of those similarly affected. Nor is this strange reaction confined to the female of the human species; I have seen plenty of men overcome by the same symptoms.

Although it is shown for all the wild cats, this feeling reaches it's apex when one is eye-to-eye with a tiger. First comes the utter amazement that anything so incredibly beautiful could exist. Then comes the dread, aching feeling that anyone in his right mind could possibly do harm to this glorious creature. There comes an intense desire to reach out and touch such beauty, with a child-like longing that the great cat will purr and return our love, as a kitten would. Fortunately for us, and the cat, this stage is soon replaced by an awareness of and proper respect for the cat's size and strength.

Before tearing ourselves away, we wonder how man, in his ignorance, can take these wonderful animals and make them perform incredibly silly tricks, like jumping through hoops and dancing before a cracking whip. But as we feel the intense feline gaze upon us, we realize that it is we who are the underlings and that these noble beasts we persecute, cage and try to tame will remain forever above us.

Jean Morton  
Portland, Ore.

## EXTINCT IS FOREVER!

Don't spay or neuter

## Another Tax

A seven percent, across the board head tax on imported wildlife may soon be proposed by Congressman Mike Lowry (7th District, Washington). The proposal would tax most imported wildlife, in and out of the pet industry, as well as animal parts, skins, corals, shells and other items.

"We began on the premise that expanding populations in every country will damage wild animal habitats, increasing pressures on wild creatures. Our tax would create a fund that could be used to protect both the habitat and the animals," a spokesman for Representative Lowry said.

The Lowry proposal would tax all imported wildlife except those captive bred abroad. The tax would be levied on retail sales. The basic elements of Lowry's idea include:

1. The fund would be administered by the Department of the Interior, Dept. of Agriculture or the Smithsonian Institution.
2. Foreign nations seeking grants would be required to write a letter requesting funds, outlining how the money would be used.
3. A panel of US specialists would review all applications.
4. Nations receiving grants would be required to some small matching funds.
5. While only governments could receive a grant, the money could be passed on to private societies or other groups.

## Surprise?

Researchers at the National Zoo in Washington D.C. have released a report stating that inbreeding leads to higher death rates and other complications, a problem that many wildlife specialists have been ignoring they say.

According to an extensive check of records it clearly shows a significantly higher infant deathrate among inbred hoofed stock than with the offspring of nonrelated animals. The Report will be published in Science Magazine.

This study has major implications not only for the management of zoo breeding programs, but also for conservation and wildlife specialists who are responsible for managing small populations of animals said Katherine Ralls, director of the study.

John Eisenberg, acting director of the Smithsonian Institute said his organization's study results are applicable to other species as well with particular importance to the endangered species.

"This problem of inbreeding is an old one that has suddenly resurfaced," Eisenberg said in the interview by the Associated Press. "From 1909 to 1921 the literature is filled with analyses of the dangers of inbreeding, but the problem has lain dormant for some time."

"There is a new generation of people who have to be awakened to it" he added. The report by Ms. Ralls, Kristin Brugger and Jonathan Ballou said many animal experts of late have ignored or even denied the deleterious effects in inbreeding.

## HANDICRAFTS



Regular & hi-lo acrylic var adds extra dimension of touch tempting texture to this wall hanging of a cougar. True to life colors & inspired design bring this magnificent animal to life on a 24x36 canvas. Made of washable polyester.

Order from Lee Wards, 1200 St. Charles Rd. Elgin 111 60120- Order# A26429 Cougar Kit, \$33.50 plus \$2.75 postage & handling

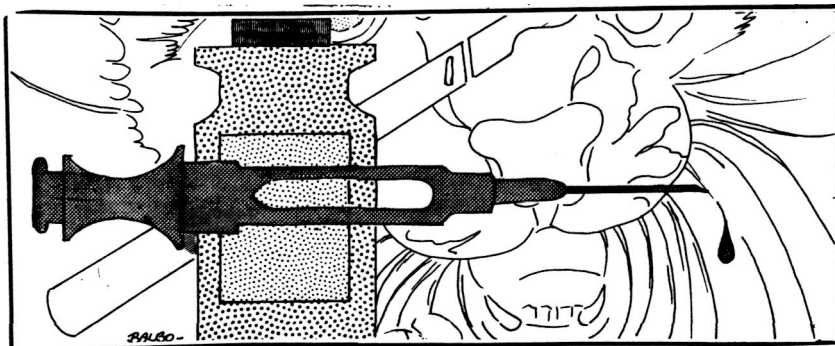
## ART

From the Frame House Gallery : BAMBOO TIGER by Ikki Matsumoto...two piercing eyes gleam from behind a bamboo curtain of green as a Bengal Tiger peers through the jungle's colors, stripes and shadows. 750 signed & numbered 20"x30", \$80.





# F. U. S.



## DEFINITION OF FUS

In medicine, a disease is an illness identifiable by a clearcut succession of signs or symptoms. However, there are certain illnesses that are accompanied by sets of signs which may appear all together, or singly, or in less than full sets. These sets are called syndromes.

The major signs that make up the Feline Urological Syndrome (FUS) are: cystitis, urolithiasis, urethral obstruction and uremia.

**Cystitis.** Cystitis is an acute or chronic inflammation of the bladder. This inflammation damages the bladder wall and causes mucus, blood and other organic debris to accumulate in the bladder.

**Urolithiasis.** Urine, if held too long, or if the bladder is inflamed, or if certain foods are fed, changes from the normal acid condition for a cat to alkaline. This allows salts that are soluble in acid urine to precipitate out as crystals.

**Urethral blockage.** These crystals often block the urethral passage in the male cat. The female's urethra is wider and will dilate more readily to permit outward passage of these crystals under pressure from the bladder, though females do occasionally suffer from very large "stones" (calculi). (Ed. note - Dr. Kovsky pointed out that for whatever reason, perhaps their increased size, exotics male or female, rarely became totally blocked)

**Uremia.** When blockage occurs, the cat is unable to urinate, the kidneys can no longer do their work of eliminating poisonous wastes from the body via the urine, and a condition known as uremia results. Unless the blockage is relieved quickly, the cat will die a painful death.

## CAUSE AND INCIDENCE

The exact cause of FUS is still the subject of extensive research and much scientific speculation in veterinary medicine today.

Many bacteria- and recently viruses - have been isolated from cases. Also incriminated are metabolic imbalance neglected infections elsewhere in the body, contamination from the vagina or from the male cat licking the penis, and many other possible causes. To date, none of these has been proven to be the sole cause. It may well be that there is no single cause for cystitis in cats, but a combination of several factors which leads to the disease.

Cystitis is seen in cats of all ages. Male cats appear to be more prone, but this may be due to the fact that the signs are more dramatic in the male and hence more male cats with FUS are seen by veterinarians.

Recent evidence suggests that FUS may be contagious in that veterinarians often see cases in what appear to be epidemic cycles; additionally, cats in the same household are often affected. There is also evidence that it is more prevalent in the colder months.

## PREDISPOSING FACTORS

These are conditions or situations that predispose cats to FUS. These factors in themselves do not cause it, but they encourage its onset or recurrence:

**Stagnation of urine:** Holding urine too long.

**Lack of Fluids:** Many owners have the erroneous idea at cats do not need water.

**Lack of vitamin A:** This vitamin is necessary to keep the bladder wall healthy and infection resistant.

**Stress:** Cold, dampness and a struggle for survival have the same effects on cats as humans - a weakening of the body's defenses against infection.

**Injury to the bladder**

**Limited exercise**

**Small penis** a small penis has a smaller opening and therefore will block more readily.

**Castration:** It has recently been found that the size of the urethral opening is not affected by castration. However, too early castration (before 6 months) can lead to adhesions of the penis to the prepuce and predisposes the cat to infection when debris collects in pockets caused by the adhesions, although there is no proof that this problem is related to FUS. To avoid these adhesions, castration should not be done before eight months of age, unless the cat matures earlier.

**Heredity:** There is evidence that certain families of cats have a higher incidence of FUS, indicating heredity may play a role in the disease.

**Foods:** Foods high in ash should be avoided in cats with this condition because this ash has to be excreted by the kidneys and may precipitate out in the urine as crystals. Worst offenders in this respect are canned fish foods, or poor quality meat-type canned foods. Dry food can even be more dangerous, because many cats do not drink enough water to make up for the low water content of these foods, resulting in higher crystal content in the urine.

## SIGNS

There are certain danger signals which an owner must watch for if there is some suspicion that his cat may have FUS. Owners of cats which have come through a bout with FUS must be particularly vigilant for these indicators. The signs also show how far the condition has advanced before being noticed.

**Early:** These signs are listed herein order of increasing urgency:

\*A housebroken cat that suddenly changes its habits and urinates in a bathtub, on the floor or in the sink.

\*Frequent urination in small quantities, or attempts to urinate which result in nothing, or in just a few drops. Cats at this stage will squat and strain in a characteristic position. Unfortunately, too many people mistake this for constipation and give a laxative. Laxatives can kill a cat whose urethral passage is blocked by causing spasms which can burst an distended bladder.

\*Traces of blood in the urine, which may be accompanied by a strong, ammonia-like smell. This is caused by damage to the lining of the bladder by the crystals.

\*Listlessness and poor appetite in the cat, and/or an excessive thirst.

\*Excessive licking of the penis

**Later.** If the infection becomes severe, or if the urethra is blocked by "stones", the cat will become uremic and the signs will be:

• Vomiting

• Depression

\*Dehydration, shown by sunken eyes & loss of elasticity of the skin.

\*A urine-like odor to the breath and mouth.

\*On feeling the cat's abdomen, the bladder can be felt to be hard and distended with a size ranging from that of an egg to that of an orange. That the cat is in pain will become evident from his reaction to this exploration. (Dr. Kovsky pointed out that in handling the cat while well you

should be familiar with its basic anatomy - the bladder is the only "mass" you should be able to feel in the cat's abdomen)

**Dangerous:** Once the urethra becomes blocked and the cat cannot urinate, coma convulsions, and death will follow within about 48 hours. It should also be realized that the cat suffers pain from the time the blockage begins until coma sets in, and the acuteness of the pain increases hourly.

Time is critical, and veterinary aid must begin quickly after blockage occurs, if the cat is to have a reasonable chance of survival. If the case is not brought for treatment until the cat is comatose the medical chances of saving his life are low, since the damage done from uremia and kidney damage by this stage are usually both irreversible. Another hazard is that the distended bladder may rupture and this is usually fatal since the cat in uremic condition seldom survives the surgical repair.

#### TREATMENT IN THE HOSPITAL

**Relief of blockage:** If the urethra is blocked, relief is absolutely essential. This usually requires anesthesia (unless the cat is already in a coma) and although this does involve danger because of the cat's poor condition, there is no alternative. Most of these blockages yield to flushing by catheterization (passing a fine tube) of the urethral passage. The catheter may be sewn in place for a few days and a restraint collar put on the cat to prevent him from removing the catheter. Again, the chances of success are directly proportional to how quickly the cat has been brought to the veterinarian.

**Laboratory Work:** Urine analysis, to determine the severity of the cystitis, plus blood analysis to measure the condition of the cat and the extent of the uremia present, together give the veterinarian the facts needed for an accurate prognosis (medical forecast) for the patient.

Culture and sensitivity testing of a sterile urine sample will show what bacteria - if any - are present, and indicate the precise antibiotic to be used in treatment.

Dr. Kovsky pointed out that litmus paper that can be purchased without prescription at a drug store is useful in testing the acidity of your cat's urine if it can be trained to go into an empty box or the urine collected in some other manner.

#### HYDRATION AND NUTRITION

Fluid therapy is indicated when the cat is dehydrated or has been vomiting extensively, since most uremic cats will not eat and usually cannot keep food or water down even after surgical relief of the blockage. This consists of intravenous or subcutaneous injections of large volumes of special fluids at regular and frequent intervals.

Force feeding is frequently used, once the cat can keep food down. This is done either orally or by an ultra-fine tube inserted into the stomach by way of a nostril or mouth.

The cat will be put on a special diet. The primary objective will be to ensure the lowest possible ash content with the highest available nutritional value for the cat.

Vitamins - especially the A & B vitamins are used to aid restoration of the bladder's damaged lining. Vitamin C is useful as a urinary acidifier.

Antibiotic therapy will be started, not only to hit any bacteria identified by culture, but also to take care of other infections that may flare up in the cat's weakened condition.

Drugs called acidifiers will be used to make the urine acid. Antispasmodic drugs are often used to relieve painful spasms of the urethra. Painkillers may be used, although unfortunately many cats do not react favorably to these drugs and seem to cope better without them. Stimulants such as cortisone may be used to treat shock or stimulate the appetite.

#### HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

The following are general care instructions, to which may be added special instructions for individual cases.

- Make sure the cat is urinating. Inspect his sand-box daily, or develop some other effective check system of your own. This is vital. The box should be kept clean and changed daily.

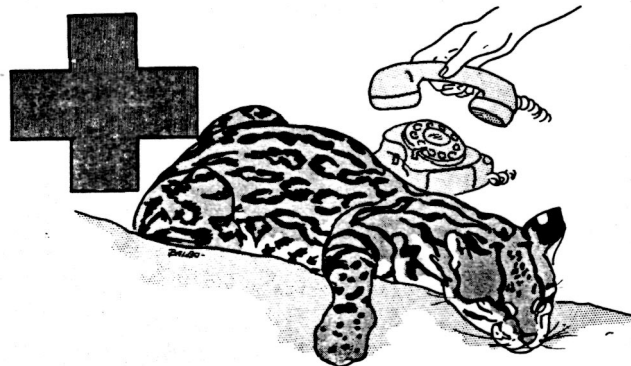
- \* Give the antibiotic until the prescription runs out.
- \* Use the medication as directed to keep the cat's urine acid. Many cat owners are able to test the acidity of the cat's urine using special test paper (Nitrazine) generally available at drug stores and adjust the acidifier accordingly.

- \* Give vitamin supplements according to directions, if they have been prescribed - Vitamin C also acidifies urine.

- \* Don't expose the cat to any stress situation. Cold, damp, emotional stress or sudden change in environment are all sufficient to start up another cystitis attack.

- \* Encourage the cat to exercise. This applies particularly to indoor cats; either take them for walks or set up a regular play period.

- \* If signs of FUS appear again, call the vet at once.



#### DIET FOR POST FUS CASES

The type of diet suitable for a cat that has been pulled through an acute FUS attack is very important. As already mentioned, any food that puts a high level of mineral by-product (ash) through the kidneys can lead to another attack, so the first aim of the following diet is to avoid this condition.

- No fish food of any kind.

- \* One meal every second day of raw liver, raw kidney or raw heart or a good grade raw ground beef. Two to four ounces is sufficient (for house cats).

- Pieces of cooked chicken provided NO BONES are included.

- \* Canned foods - absolutely NO FISH. Feed only meat type canned foods. A low ash content is very important, check can labels for this information and try to buy only those brands showing an ash content of 3.5% or less. If the information is not on the label don't buy that brand.

- \* Egg yolks are good. Feed two or three a week if possible.

- Tomato juice keeps the urine acid and many cats love it.

- Whole wheat cereal, oatmeal, rice and spaghetti are acceptable items in this diet.

- Small quantities of dry cat food are acceptable and help to keep the cat's teeth clean but be sure these are meat type foods and not fish type, and that the cat is getting enough water. No dry food is probably the safest advice however.

- \* Meat type baby foods are also acceptable.

- \* Give the cat distilled water only to drink. Cystitis cats should be given as much water as possible and this can be achieved by lightly salting their food. Force feeding by syringe or adding water or soups to their food may also help.

#### SPECIAL DIETS

Several commercial packing houses have special divisions which formulate and can special diets for pet s suffering from certain conditions. These are prescription and are available only from your vet. They cost approximately twice normal cat food but are highly concentrated weight for weight.

It is essential that the cat owner understand that FUS is a chronic or lifetime condition; at least until veterinary medicine finds a definite cause and/or a cure.



your veterinarian puts your cat through an ordeal Jack and sends him home on medication or with special instructions it is imperative that you keep up the medication and follow the instructions.

### SURGICAL TREATMENT

There are a number of surgical techniques that can be applied to this condition and they are used in cases where blockage cannot be relieved by flushing and catheterization, or in those cases that have too frequent recurrences of blockage or to remove "large stones" in the bladder.

It was pointed out however that in exotics, perhaps due to the larger size of the cat, surgery is seldom needed as for whatever reason these cats do not become blocked as often as a domestic would.

The techniques range from removing part of the urethra which increases the size of the urethral opening and thus reduces the likelihood of blockage, to abdominal surgery to open the bladder (cystotomy) scrape the lining and remove any stones.

Unfortunately, none of these surgeries will cure FUS but they do reduce the incidence of blockage which is the most dangerous aspect of the condition. The percentage success of these surgeries is increasing as more and more veterinarians become familiar with the techniques.

### PROGNOSIS AND RECURRENCES

If the cat is discovered to be in the earlier stages of cystitis it may be possible for the vet to clear up the condition with initial treatments. Other cases are brought late to the hospital and these have a tendency to be chronic. However, the cat that has been pulled through an acute attack of cystitis has a good chance of leading a happy, full-term life with minimal chance of recurrences provided the vet's instructions are closely followed and the cat is carefully watched by the owner. If the kidneys have been damaged by the episode, the cat will need special care.

Chronic cases may have to stay on medication for this at a time and sometimes for life to prevent recurrences.



## **A KID NAMED HOTI**

Getting Hoti started a whole new world for our family. We had no idea what we would receive from the zoo. We had only seen one Geoffroy's cat, that was the light colored variety. Well, we received two Geoffroy's that were just the coloration and striped/spotted as a margay. We were surprised and extremely happy.

Linda Turner from the zoo told us the kittens were eating zupreem and baby chicks. We had no intention of feeding baby chicks to any cat so we had to change a little of their diet. These kittens really went through the mill that first week.

On Tuesday they were vaccinated for shipment and placed in their cage. On Wednesday they were taken from their snug home and placed in an air carrier at 6 AM. We picked them up at 2:30 PM after their flight. What an ordeal! From there we took the kittens to Ethel Hauser's veterinary for a "look-see" and set up an appointment for declawing. That evening OEEFC had a speakout so the kids were with us. We loaded up Ethel's cats and the tens for the show and off we went.

Early the next morning, Ethel's son took the kittens to the vet. On Friday after another speakout we went to Ethel's to get our new kid.

Ethel had bought one of the kittens from us so we had to pick which we wanted. The veterinary had separated the kittens and placed collars on them while they were still under so he had also decided which was a better companion. They gave us the better natured of the two because this was our first exotic and we have two children, ages 9 & 10 years.

The children had stayed home while we were getting the kitten - waiting on their new "brother". At Ethel's we placed leashes on the kittens so someone had to put their hand into the carriers with these little spitfires. With the kids at home and the warrior mother that I am, I did it! Hoti nailed me after I got him and "Tattoo" was a spitfire too but didn't bite. When we got Hoti home, he let us know he was not happy with his ordeal so we let him sleep it off.

That afternoon Jackie & Dennis Vanderwall came over to meet the little sweetheart. All went well and we also had a nice chat about diet, vitamins, and general care. After they left we decided to remove the bandages and see how it would go.

By this time, mind you, I had 3 wounds and Chuck had as many. One last bite came during the removal. We had one mad kid now, not that I blame him, considering his life from Tuesday to Saturday. Once we removed the bandages, he was upset for about 5 minutes. During this time he hissed, spat, clawed and jumped at Chuck & I. All of a sudden it hit him that his feet were free and he quieted down almost immediately. At this point we placed him in his carrier. By the time an hour was over I had my hand in the carrier petting him with only a half-hearted hiss. By bed time I could pet him bare handed without a hiss, spit or bite.

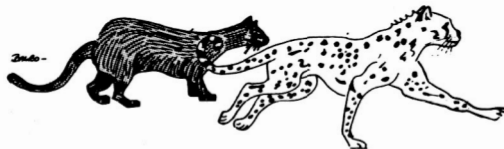
Early Sunday morning Chuck woke up to the sounds of Hoti singing or whatever it was. From then on he has been a little angel. He began eating well and is in good health. On Monday we took him to our vet for a once over for fleas, ear mites and good going over. We took him everywhere we went, in his carrier. He adjusted pretty well as long as the carrier was covered.

We found out Tuesday morning what he liked and didn't like. When he was mad he shredded paper. By this time he was removed from the carrier during the day and placed on a leash connected to the sewing machine.

This got him used to people, radio, TV and foot traffic.

You must remember the ordeal this kitten went through. He was eleven weeks old when we received him and at three months (12 weeks) he was at his first "speakout" as a "Show cat". This was a real good show and he behaved perfectly. He even had his first bath with no hissing.

Chuck & Ginger Peterson



## **Odors in Rug?**

Having trouble with odors caused by "accidents" on carpeting? A rug cleaning firm suggests the following:

Cover the odor-infected area with a layer of table salt at least one half inch thick. Leave on a day or two then vacuum up. Do be sure to empty the vacuum bag immediately and wipe off any parts that have come in contact with the salt. Salt can also be put on damp spots just after an accident. Sponging with club soda will sometimes remove such odors...the sooner used the better.



## OREGON-EDUCATIONAL-EXOTIC FELINE CLUB

### MEETING REPORT

OEEFC ended 1979 with Christmas Party at Ethel & Alan Hauser's. It was well attended with Jon Dyer playing Santa Claus.

The January meeting was the Installation of Officers Banquet held at Lung Fung's Restaurant. 1980 Officers were installed.

Coordinator - Jon Dyer  
CoCoordinator - Herb Wilton  
Sec/Treas. - Barbara Wilton  
Ways & Means - Pat Parker  
Public Relations - Ethel Hauser  
Telephone Comm. - Louise Jenny  
- Liz Wilton  
Librarian - Ginger Peterson

Very little business was discussed, but a good time was had by all.

The February Guest Meeting was held at the Hauser's in Vancouver, Wash. This was the largest turnout we've had for some time - both members and guests.

Jon Dyer called the meeting to order and presented Ethel with the perpetual plaque which will grace her walls for 1 year, then go on to Jon. We also had a tag added to her past coordinator plaque which is hers to keep.

Barbara Wilton gave the Treasurer's report. Here was the big news. Jackie Vanderwall announced OEEFC has purchased a Video Cassette Recorder which we will sell raffle tickets on with the drawing to be at the 1980 convention. Tickets will be \$1.00 with free tickets available on volume sales. All profit to go to the LIOC National General Fund.

Jackie also announce the Washington Park Zoo in Portland is in need of volunteers and/or monetary contributions. She had applications.

LIOC has received an invitation to a Zoo management conference in Winston, Ore. on May 4, 5, & 6th. This is where the cheetah who attended our Convention was from.

Ethel gave a report on the up-coming speakouts and had a couple of new members offer to help. One is a big night show for the Shriners and one a Saturday afternoon at the Hillsboro Library. Ethel also gave a report on Hybrids for the benefit of the many guests.

Jean Morton, a member who works for the zoo, read a paper she did on the babies at the zoo nursery. Jean is an extremely talented author (amateur) and we could almost see the baby lion and tiger playing together.

Ken Hatfield was in Oregon again on business and he gave us an interesting report on the necessity of salt in the cats diet. Altho' we feed protein, it is not whole as in the wild and we add vitamins, calcium, phosphorus, but most people overlook the need for salt. The necks, etc. we feed have been bled out for human consumption, reducing the salt content. In the wild

they may not have a balanced diet in the wild, but they get salt by eating the whole carcass and hide. Salt will also make the stool a little softer. He recommends we add salt at every meal. He adds 1 lb. to every 10 lbs.

or vitamins. The salt will also increase water consumption and urination which keeps down bacterial infection in the kidneys. He said regular table salt, plain or iodized was fine.

Pat Parker announced there is another inventory job coming up which we can do if we get enough volunteers. They will pay \$3.15 per hour/per person. The last one we helped on earned us \$110.00.

We then had a show and tell for the benefit of our guests. Jon Dyer spoke on the chaus; Dianne Graham showed her baby ocelot, Sug (short for Sugar) from the Hauser Compound. Chuck & Ginger Peterson showed their two Geoffroys, they recently acquired the female, Banshee so Hoti will be happy. Pat Parker talked about the Jaguarundi, we are still looking for a female companion for Yaqi. Sherri (clouded leopard) had been attendance all afternoon in her safari cage so Jackie Vanderwall gave a report on Clouded Leopards. Ethel then brought in Reno, her Leopard Cat and Chuck Peterson gave a report on margays. Herb Wilton did not bring Budget cougar in but did pose her for pictures after the meeting.

Our dollar pool winner was a guest, Jay Freed. On our dollar raffle, Mary Parker won a picture of a lion with a clock in it and Donna McDonald won a large decapage picture of a cheetah. We thank Claudia Carver for these donations. We also had several smaller items on 25¢ tickets. The meeting was adjourned.



Barbara Wilton, Secretary

## PREPARATION CAN LESSEN TRAGEDY

In Oregon and also in Massachusetts the Humane Societies are urging homes with pets to put a sign in the front window that indicates there's a pet locked inside.

It's been two years now since our home burned down taking with it five of my little cats. I've meant to write this before, but just couldn't bear to do it.

When we moved to the country I began to worry about a fire. We have a well but no close water line so I knew water would be brought in by tanker. Grass fires have always been my fear, more so than a house fire. Anyway, I called on the fire chief and asked him to drive out to see the farm. I wanted him to know about the cats; that they were caged in runs near the house. I told him that I wanted the cat house to get the first water - little knowing what would happen, thinking of grass fires.

When the trucks came roaring down the road the house suddenly blew up. There was no saving the little guys inside but the chief had water on the cat house some 40 feet away from the flaming inferno.

The fire started about 7:30 PM and the fire dept. kept watch over the cats until about 3:30 AM. The cats in the outside runs were saved thanks to the fire chief keeping the kennel wet and getting there so quickly.

The sign need not say whether its an ocelot or a dog, but in the event of a fire, rescuers would know your pet is inside. Also a card in your wallet letting folks know you have pets should you be hospitalized unexpectedly, would alert someone to feed your charges. If only the humane society or SPCA, better yet a neighbor's name or a friend that can be called upon.

The pet's name, vet's name & phone number, what to feed him but most important, a number of another LIOC member should be included.

REMEMBER, your cat is your responsibility.

Ethel Hauser



# International Convention

The following is a list of the cats presently listed as endangered in the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, as listed in the April 3rd Federal Register. The Department of Interior has asked that proposals for changes or additions to the listing (all species) be reviewed in preparation for the 1981 meeting of the Convention. The Convention is a 59 nation treaty controlling import and export of endangered animals and plants.

Animals are listed in one of three appendices. Appendices I and II may be amended only by agreement of the Party nations.

Comments and recommended changes should be sent to Dr. Richard L. Jachowski, Office of the Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240 prior to June 3, 1980.

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	APPENDIX	LISTED
<i>Felis bengalensis bengalensis</i>	Leopard Cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. Caracal</i> (Asian Population)	Caracal	I	2/4/77
<i>F. concolor coryi</i>	Fla. Puma	I	7/1/75
<i>F. concolor costaricensis</i>	Costa Rica Puma	I	7/1/75
<i>F. concolor cougar</i>	Eastern Cougar	I	7/1/75
<i>F. Jacobita</i>	Andean Cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. rufa escuinapae</i>	Mexican bobcat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. marmorata</i>	Marbled Cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. nigripes</i>	Blackfooted cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. pardalis mearnsi</i>	Ocelot	I	7/1/75
<i>F. pardalis mitis</i>	Brazilian ocelot	I	7/1/75
<i>F. Planticeps</i>	Flat-headed cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. rubiginosa</i> (Indian)	Rusty spotted cat	I	2/4/77
<i>F. temminicki</i>	Asian golden cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. tigrina oncella</i>	Tiger cat	I	7/1/75
<i>F. wiedii nicaraguae</i>	Central American Margay	I	7/1/75
<i>F. wiedii salvina</i>	Guatemalan margay	I	7/1/75
<i>F. yagouaroundi cacomitli</i>	Gulf coast jaguarundi	I	7/1/75
<i>yagouaroundi fossata</i>	Guatemalan jaguarundi	I	7/1/75
<i>yagouaroundi panamensis</i>	Panamanian jaguarundi	I	7/1/75
<i>F. yagouaroundi tolteca</i>	Sinaloa jaguarundi	I	7/1/75
<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	Clouded leopard	I	7/1/75
<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Indian lion	I	7/1/75
<i>Panthera onca</i>	Jaguar	I	7/1/75
<i>P. pardus</i>	Leopard	I	7/1/75
<i>P. tigris</i> (except <i>P. tigris altaica</i> )	Tiger	I	7/1/75
<i>P. unica</i>	Snow leopard	I	7/1/75
<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Cheetah	I	7/1/75

This is not the U.S. listing but the International Listing, which the U.S. agrees to but may expand upon. The date is the date it was put on the International list, not the U.S. list which for the most part went into effect in 1972.

Appendix I includes species threatened by extinction that may be threatened by trade. Appendix II includes species that although not necessarily threatened with extinction may become so unless trade is strictly controlled. Appendix III includes species that any party nations identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of restricting exploitation and for which it needs party members cooperation.

**L** is for Leopard. Thanks to Leonard, this the Last Leopard Living. Leonard Liquidates Leopards so that Linda and Lois can Look Luxurious. Let's hope the Leopard Leaps on Leonard. After all, one Less Leonard is better than one Less Leopard.

# LEGALITIES

A battle is developing between the Department of Interior and the Department of Commerce over which agency should have control over endangered species, marine animals, migratory fowl and anadromous (fish that migrate up river) fish.

Assistant Secretary of Interior Robert Herbst appeared before the National Advisory Committee on Ocean and Atmosphere on February 14th regarding the Interior's views on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Organic Act. Mr. Herbst stated to NAOA (a Dept. of Commerce advisory committee) "I have developed and forwarded to Secretary Andrus a proposal, including draft legislation" that would "propose that the National Marine Fisheries Service should be integrated with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FSW) and the new agency housed in the Department of the Interior. This would place together all fish, marine mammals, endangered species and habitat protection. In other words, most of the fish and wildlife activities would come under one agency."

The Department of Commerce is responding with violent opposition as expected. Top officials are meeting with key members of Congress suggesting legislation that would do just the opposite of that suggested by Interior and consolidate the programs under NOAA. Some top Commerce officials are even calling for the resignation of Robert Herbst and Lynn Greenwalt, Director of Fish & Wildlife Services. Inasmuch as Secretary of the Interior Andrus is not the most popular member of this Administration in the eyes of many key senators, this controversy could escalate into a major legislative initiative that could have critical and significant impact on zoological interests.

Reprinted from AAZPA Newsletter.

On January 15th, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service published in the Federal Register a final rulemaking which will terminate the destruction of birds illegally imported into the U.S. Effective that date, all birds in a healthy condition which are illegally imported may now be sold at public auction. Prior to this illegally imported birds were destroyed due to inadequate quarantine facilities.

It should be noted that endangered species or threatened species will also be allowed entry under the new regulations. Although the new regulations restrict the sale of such birds to private individuals, the birds are eligible to be transported to permanent quarantine facilities. Such permanent facilities may include zoological institutions designated by the Department of the Interior.



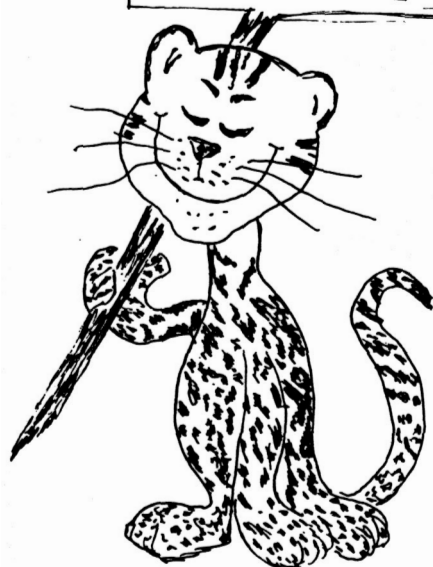
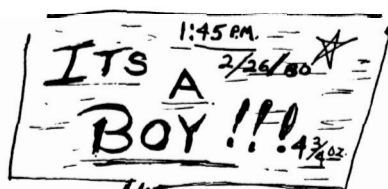
Under a proposed change in the animal's status under Federal regulations, hunters who shoot leopards could bring the skins back to the U.S.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service said it wants to downgrade the big cat's status from endangered to threatened. Commercial trade would still be banned, but sport hunters could bring back trophies and zoos could import leopards. The wildlife service said that three separate, recent studies showed that leopards were "fairly abundant and widely distributed" in Africa.



An update for you in regards to obtaining an exotic animal permit for Multnomah County, Oregon. The only change that has been made is in the fee. It was raised (doubled) on July 1, 1979. It is now \$50.00 per year for each facility, regardless of the number of animals. If it doubles every year, pretty soon it will cost you more for the permit than the cat. Do you suppose that is what they have in mind??

According to Animal Control, there are presently only 4 permits issue for 1980 and 10 applications on file. At this time there are none for exotic cats.



Pat Quillen reports that Gensie onchilla has delivered a male kit. This is LIOC's 1st first generation domestic born onchilla, both parents being bred by LIOC members. This is actually Gensie's second delivery but the first, a set of twins did not survive. Congratulations!

SWEETHEART, senior Leopard cat at the home of Jackie Childress, delivered a record breaking litter of five boys.....last report had mother & kits doing well.

And, from the Hatfields, one ocelot kit with more due shortly; 2 jaguars and 4 Geoffroy kits.

Of course, Spring being what it is, the zoos have also been having their share of new faces and we thought it would be only fair to mention their accomplishments in the area of breedings also.

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens have successfully bred 2 bobcats, a caracal and two leopard cats. And the Los Angeles Zoo had a single birth of a marbled cat which unfortunately did not survive.

You might also want to check into the following acquisitions at these zoos: A pair of Snow Leopards have been added to the Dallas Zoo; a pair of caracals, a Siberian Lynx and a clouded leopard are now in residence at the Memphis Zoo; and Cincinnati zoo has bred a litter of three black jaguars and has acquired a pair of Rusty Spotted cats, and the Jackson Zoological Park has added a black jaguar to their collection.



IF A CAT'S EARS SEEM TO BE MORE ACTIVE THAN THOSE OF OTHER ANIMALS, IT'S BECAUSE EACH EAR CONTAINS 30 MUSCLES, ENABLING THE CAT TO TWITCH, STIFFEN, OR FLAP THEM ACCORDING TO HIS MOOD.

## Editorial

It's not often I get on my soap box but a recent article in a new magazine called GEO by our old nemesis Roger Caras has again brought exotic owners some bad PR.

The article is about those who keep exotic animals as pets, a lady and her tiger, who prefers him (the tiger) to men - he's more reliable. A buffalo whose owner is American and what is more American than a buffalo? Yes I must admit that Mr. Caras did state that some individuals have contributed greatly to our knowledge of some species by their keeping exotic pets and he pointed out some notable examples. But for the most part the article made exotic owners out to be weird individuals in search of a "see me" badge; something to point out that they were individuals and not part of the crowd, something that sets them apart.

Additionally, the article cited some tragic accidents involved with keeping the larger animals....some years in the past.

The group who was foolish enough to speak to Mr. Caras (I'm sure in hopes of good publicity) denies some of his accusations, and feels that they were mistreated.

Again it must be pointed out that all reporters, nay let's give them the benefit of the doubt and say most, are out for the story and will print what will gain the most attention - that is their job. Unless it is out of the ordinary, the further out the better, it is not newsworthy. They may omit little tidbits, picking up the most ludicrous exceptional and colorful, making it seem the most usual.

Please be warned again, and again, where the press is concerned. Be careful what you say it could show up in print, out of context to be sure, but nevertheless in print this does us no good. They will not give you the impression of being sensationalists - just good ole boys out to tell your side - and they will, as they see it, hear it, etc. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY, or better yet steer clear. I cannot believe, with all that Roger Caras has said and written in the past with regards to exotic ownership that any sane person would give him the time of day much less invite them into their homes. Surely they could do no better, but then many of us are dreamers.

So folk, again, please be careful where the press is concerned - remember NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS.

*Shirley*



## Slides Available

Illustrating the meanings of this year's National Wildlife Week theme - Save a Place for Wildlife is a slide presentation on that subject. The presentation includes 3 dozen color slides, a music backed cassette recording and a teacher's guide containing a script and background information about the program. The show helps illustrate the meaning of this year's theme by describing several common kinds of wildlife habitat and explaining what techniques are being used to provide and improve habitat, with special emphasis on attempts to rescue endangered species. The slide show emphasizes that the future of our wildlife depends on a willingness of Americans to "Save a Place for Wildlife". The Slide Show is suitable for any audience at anytime of the year and is available for \$9.95 from The National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.