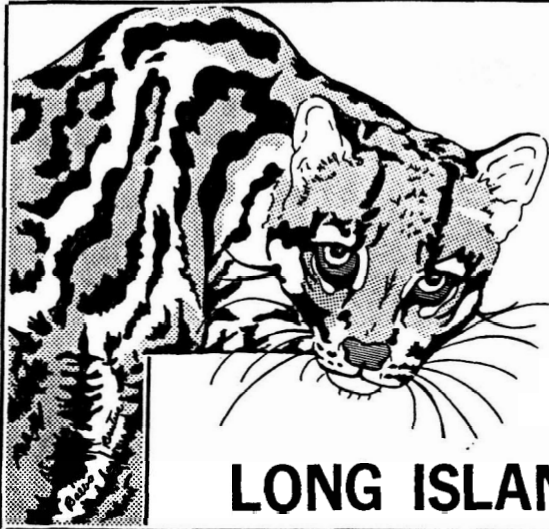


NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS:

Wild Cats of the Sonora	Page 3
On the Road	Page 5
Thar She Blows	Page 7
Heredity vs Environment	Page 7
Other Folks	Page 8
Attitudes	Page 10
Unique Characteristics of the Feline	Page 11
Boston - Convention/80	Page 12



LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB
1454 Fleetwood Drive E.
Mobile, Alabama 36605

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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



GATITA, an ocelot kitten, shown here at 4 months was bred at ASDM
PHOTO BY: Neal Peterson



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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.

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QUESTIONS

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JUST YOUR RANDOM

THOUGHTS

L.I.O.C. NEEDS YOU!

THE WILD CATS OF SONORA

By Inge Poglayen, Ph.D.
Curator of Birds & Mammals
Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Condensed from an article in SONORENSIS, the publication of the Sonora Desert Museum (Volume 2, Number 2 - 1980)

It is not surprising that few people have ever seen any one of the six species of secretive wildcats in its natural habitat in the Sonoran Life Zone. Cats are nocturnal beasts. Combine the protection of darkness with the coloration of their fur and they become nearly invisible at night or in daytime. A fortunate Desert Museum employee spotted a mountain lion in the late afternoon near the Museum last November, the only such sighting in recent years in the area.

The Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM) exhibits all six species of native wild cats, most of them in naturalistic surroundings, as part of the interpretation of Sonoran animals, plants, geology and their interrelationships. However, none of the Sonoran cats are native exclusively to the Sonoran Desert. The mountain lion occurs far north into Canada and south into Argentina. The jaguar, now extinct in the American Southwest, is found in subtropical and tropical Mexico and in Central and South America. The bobcat ranges widely across the U.S. and Mexico. The smaller cats such as the ocelot, margay and the jaguarundi occur mainly in deciduous and rain forests of Central and South America. The ocelot, margay and jaguarundi are reported occasionally to have crossed from Mexico into the U.S..

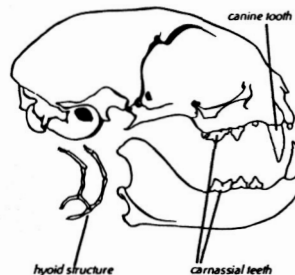
SMALL CATS & LARGE CATS - THE DIFFERENCES

In order to get a more complete picture of our cats and to understand how they fit into the zoological system we need to explain their classification and their anatomical peculiarities in generalities. Cats are carnivores of the family Felidae. The Felidae have been roaming this planet for about 40 million years. When you examine the roundish skull of the cat you will notice elongated, sharp, canine teeth (the fangs) which are slightly recurved. These are the killer teeth. The so-called carnassial teeth (last upper premolar and lower molar) are large, well developed and used for cutting flesh. The surface of a cat's tongue is covered with sharp-pointed papillae designed for laceration of food and for grooming. You have probably also enjoyed the graceful, dainty gait of a cat. There is good reason for that. All cats are "digitgrade", which means that they walk on their toes and finger tips.

The felids are divided into three subfamilies: the extinct sabre-tooth cats, the true cats, and the cheetah. The cheetah is placed in a sub-family because of various anatomical differences, such as non-retractable claws. The true cats comprise the "small cats" and the "large cats". Differences between these two groups are anatomical as well as behavioral: large cats have only a partially ossified hyoid structure (tongue support) which enables them to roar. Some can also purr, but only when exhaling; small cats have a completely ossified hyoid, cannot roar, but purr both exhaling and inhaling. The pupils of the large cats are round; those of the small cats contract to a vertical slit. The nose of the large cats is covered with hair which reaches the front edge of the nose; on the small cats the forward area of the nose is hairless. The large cats always feed in a lying position; the small cats feed in a crouched position. As with the housecat, the small cats hold their prey to the ground with its paws while they

eat. The large cats don't do this. Another difference: the small cats frequently and intensively groom; the large cats indulge in this activity much less frequently and only cursorily.

CAT SKULL -- Side view



The term "small cats" is confusing since the largest species of the small cats, the puma, attains the size of a leopard which belongs with the "large cats". Except for the jaguar, all Sonoran cats are grouped with the small cats.

All of the New World cats described below, with the exception of the jaguarundi, have prominent white spots on the back of their ears thought to function as a "follow me" signal for the young during night excursions.

THE JAGUAR

In its wide range from Northern Mexico to middle Patagonia (Argentina) a number of subspecies have evolved. The Sonoran jaguar belongs to the subspecies *Panthera onca arizonensis*. El tigre, as it is called in Mexico, lives in diverse habitats such as rain and ravine forests, as well as bush and tall grass savannahs with sufficient cover and open water in which it can swim, splash and fish.

In undisturbed areas jaguars have rather small home ranges, not larger than 7 km across. Occasionally a male jaguar, driven from home in territorial disputes with other males, may migrate a hundred miles and farther. A male was killed in 1955 near the southern tip of the San Pedro Martir range in Baja California. This animal must have wandered across the whole Sonoran desert, crossed the Colorado river, and travelled south for 100 miles, a trip of 500 miles from regularly occupied jaguar range!

Jaguarundi



THE OCELOT

Only two of the six species of spotted small cats from South America reach the Sonoran region, the ocelots and margays. From the Chaco region of Brazil alone, 4000 ocelot pelts are exported illegally every month and 3000 ocelots per month are poached in Bolivia. It's no wonder that this cat is on the endangered species list.

Ocelots are believed to live in pairs, frequenting forests, bushy and rocky terrain. Although ocelots are largely arboreal creatures, they are not especially skillful at tree climbing; therefore, they hunt mostly on the ground, not ambushing but running down their prey.

THE MARGAY

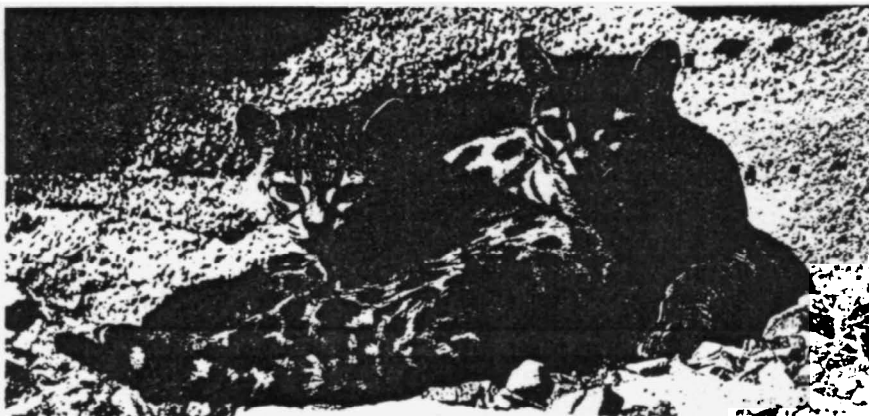
The margay - tigrillo in Mexico - is the closest relative of the ocelot. The margay is an exclusive forest dweller and probably the most accomplished acrobat of all cats. A special anatomical adaptation of its joints allow its hind feet to rotate inward a full 180 degrees. The margay can hang from a branch by its hind feet or its wrists, move along a branch upside down in sloth fashion or jump off a tree and catch itself with extended claws on a branch far below. Like no other cat, it can run head first down a tree trunk, either in a gallop or diagonal walk.

Almost nothing is known of the margay's habits in the wild. It is likely that this strangely different cat spends nearly all its time in the tree canopy, there hunting its prey of birds, squirrels, marsupial rats and monkeys.

THE JAGUARUNDI

A cat with an unusual shape is the jaguarundi, the leoncillo of Mexico. Its body is elongated, its legs short. The ears are small and rounded. The tail is quite long. This gives the jaguarundi an almost weasel-like appearance reflected in its German name, Wieselkatze.

Newborn jaguarundis are spotted, as are young pumas, but the spots are soon replaced by the unicolored adult coats. This unique cat inhabits dense bush, brush and the forest's edge. This cat is most active in the morning and evening, is mostly terrestrial and is solitary, pairing up only for brief periods.



Margays

THE BOBCAT

The bobcat, often called wildcat, or bay lynx, occurs throughout most of the U.S. and Mexico. South of the border it is called gato del monte. Apart from its smaller size, the bobcat can be distinguished from its northern cousin the lynx, by its tail whose underside is white rather than black.

Like other lynxes, the bobcat maintains a well-marked territory with fixed trails, toilet sites, rest sites and a den in a rocky crevice, brush pile or a hollow tree trunk.

THE MOUNTAIN LION

The largest of the "small cats" is the mountain lion, also called puma, cougar, catmount, panther and at the ASDM "George L." It is the cat with the largest range in

the western hemisphere, occurring from British Columbia to Patagonia in Argentina.

Today this cat is extinct in vast areas of North America. There is overwhelming evidence to show the negative effects of the mountain lion's demise. Some time ago, when the puma became extinct in the Kaibab Forest of Arizona, the native mule deer population multiplied rapidly, overcrowding its habitat. Ultimately, many deer died of starvation.

When the puma is on the prowl, nature produces one of its most fascinating shows. The mountain lion stalks its prey, body kept low to the ground...then a sudden pounce! The unlucky victim is dispatched quickly by a well aimed bite into the nape of the neck. The mountain lion is also an excellent sprinter, capable of developing considerable speed over short distances. Tiring easily, it will give up the chase of prey that cannot be overcome quickly. It is also known to jump 22 feet vertically.

Mountain lions lead a strictly solitary existence. They will live up to 20 years in the wild if they are lucky enough to avoid man.

THE CATS AT THE DESERT MUSEUM

The staff of the Large Animal Department at the ASDM has studied the social structure and general behavior of all of the cats mentioned above and has tried to induce them to breed in their captive environment. We are happy to say that all three species of spotted cats have reproduced within the past 18 months, with the ocelots in second generation.

There are problems when breeding cats. In some cases a pregnant cat is too high strung or perhaps missing a facet of its natural habitat, will either neglect or kill its newborn. At such times, the Large Animal Department staff must intervene to attempt hand-rearing in order to save the young. Last year, one newborn ocelot was taken into human custody and two newborn jaguars were successfully taken from their mothers before they were destroyed by them. As we write this article, one of them, Panchito, a healthy, feisty male jaguar kitten, begs for attention and investigates our office. Last November visitors to the Museum were charmed by this baby in the docent enclosure near the interpretive ramada. Now, of course, Panchito has grown considerably and we'll have to wait for a new baby for our visitors to handle.

Raising wild kittens is not easy. The foster parent has to be conscientious, punctual with bottle feedings and extremely sanitary. The young are fed on a formula of synthetic cat's milk with vitamins and minerals added. At first, feedings are about every three hours around the clock. At about two weeks of age the night feedings are skipped until at the age of 6 weeks, the baby requires only five feedings a day. The substitute milk gives nourishment but cannot provide the antibodies of the mother's natural milk. Therefore, milk and blood serum are taken from the mother and added to the formula. Some of the serum is frozen and given to the young at about four weeks. This enhances their resistance to bacterial disease and infection.

Food of proper amounts and quality and inoculations are not the whole secret of success in artificial raising of baby animals. There are important functions performed by the natural mother which must be simulated by the foster parent, such as aiding in elimination.

We are pleased we have been successful in our efforts with our baby animals. It is challenging and stimulating task which we enjoy.

THE FUTURE OF THE CATS

Of the cats we've written about, the jaguar, the ocelot, the margay and the jaguarundi are listed as endangered species. All spotted cats are more or less extensively hunted, often in violation of existing laws which cannot be adequately enforced. The destruction of forests to make room for agricultural land and cattle raising together with the fur trade in Latin America make the future for these cats look grim indeed. It can only be hoped that they will survive, though in limited numbers, in special sanctuaries and forest reserves.

on the road

By Pat Quillen

Traveling with young kittens is something one does not do for a vacation. The hazards are far too many, and the feedings are much too frequent to allow for an enjoyable trip. If you have young kittens on the bottle, my advice is to re-schedule your vacation, unless you have a friend who is experienced in hand raising cats from infancy and who is willing to care for them until you return.

In planning a trip to convention in Houston, Joyce Little and I made a trip I will not soon forget. Our plans were initially formulated to include taking along my then four month old oncilla (*Felis tigrina*) who was quite accustomed to traveling by cat. Our first problem was in convincing Joyce's husband Jim, that we would be safe in making the long drive from California to Texas and back again, alone. My husband, Vern, lent his support by expressing his confidence (accumulated through more than fifteen years of marriage) in my driving ability, good judgement and precautionary attitude. Soon, Jim's ardent negative response was reduced to "Maybe" so, Joyce and I cheerfully set about making plans for the trip.

With plenty of time before our departure, we began to review our self-defense techniques. In addition to this we collected an adequate supply of door and window locks for motel room security and we borrowed a friend's CB radio so that we could summon help should we be face with car trouble. After seeing this, Jim joined forces and assisted us in every possible way.

The next hesitation came when Tina, Leopard Cat presented us with two male kittens, for whom she had no milk. We decided to continue planning our trip, with the knowledge it could be cancelled at the last minute due to kitten difficulties should they arise.

The kittens were hand raised and did quite well. They were three weeks old a week before our departure and our veterinarian issued them a health certificate without any words of discouragement. He also reviewed my check-list of products for kitten emergencies to be carried on our journey, and supplied the necessary items to complete the "Kitten medical kit". All was going according to schedule.

As luck would have it, another unforeseen complication arose...friends came to my doorstep with a tiny, four day old leopardcat female. Now what was I going to do?

I knew that should we continue as planned, the trip would be nothing more than exhaustive work and worry for me as I had no one to leave the kittens with. The veterinarian, once again, gave his approval and Joyce's enthusiasm was so high that I really did not want to disappoint her. So we left on schedule with Gensie the silly oncilla, two little boy leopard cats, and one tiny leopard cat girl who had not yet opened her eyes.

While Joyce supervised Jim's car packing, I made the last kitten feeding before tucking them into their carriers for the journey ahead. During this time my conservative subconscious was saying "I can't believe your're really doing this."

I had travelled the very same route before and although the car was airconditioned, I realized that the most practical way to drive through that section of country was to drive by night and to sleep during the heat of the day. So, we left San Diego in the late afternoon and our first feeding stop was made in Arizona.

A "feeding stop" consisted of washing our hands, after spraying them first with a virucide/disinfectant, pouring hot water from the thermos into a cup, and placing the prepared bottles of formula from the ice chest into it until they reached the desired temperature for feeding. Each kit was taken from its carrier, pottied, examined for any problems (such as dehydration, etc.) fed, burped and given affectionate handling before being returned to the carrier. Gensie too was fed her own special formula which she lapped from a saucer along with other gourmet delight designed to tantalize oncillas. In addition to feedings,

records were maintained for the progress of each cat on the trip. Once the feedings and record were complete, the nursing bottles were thoroughly rinsed and placed in plastic bags; hands were washed and with all things secure we were on our way in a matter of 30-45 minutes.

We continued our drive through the night making our feeding stops every three to four hours along the way and the morning sun found us in Texas. All was well and in the early afternoon we checked into a nice motel for our daytime rest. At this point we began another procedure which was to become part of our "traveling routine".

We had the motel stops figured to a fine science... while Joyce stayed with the animals, keeping the car cool, I ran into the room with spray containers of virucide, flea killer to fumigate, paying special attention to the floors and carpeted areas. After a few minutes, I opened up the doors and windows to let the room air out. During this time we unpacked the essentials from the car and brought the cats into a fresh room. Carriers were left unopened as we inspected the floors for objects which might be dangerous for kittens (pins, cotton balls, pills) windows were checked to make certain the room was "escape proof" and the walls too were examined for any holes into which a kitten might get caught. After completing the room inspection, we commenced setting up our collapsible enclosures for the kittens. The floors were covered with a protective sheet and the cages placed on top of it. A heating pad was placed in each pen to insure the cats a warm place to crawl should the temperature drop while we were asleep and each enclosure was covered with a sheet which provided them with a stress-free secure environment. After they were fed and placed in their prospective play-pens, all nursing bottles from previous feedings were sterilized in boiling water, new formulas blended and the bottles were refilled for the drive which lay ahead of us. We then showered, made our clean clothes ready, packed what we could, ate a snack of cold cuts and cheese from the cooler and proceeded to collapse into a deep sleep - with our auxiliary locks fastened to doors and windows, two alarm clocks set and a pot of coffee ready to perk.

By early evening the car was reloaded, kittens were fed, thermos filled with hot water, fresh ice in the cooler and we were on our way...In retrospect, I marvel at our efficiency and teamwork during this and most of the following stops.

The dawning of the second day brought on a strong desire to stop for a hot breakfast. Being used to Southern California where there are a multitude of 24 hour diners, we were annoyed as we made several stops only to find the establishments were not yet open for business. When we finally found a restaurant that was open, the sun was high and I did not dare to lock the



animals in the car long enough to consume a meal and in being so irritated I had lost my hunger anyway. I remained in the car with engine and air conditioner running while Joyce ran in to get her food to go. We had lost time in searching for a place to eat and we wanted to reach the home of our friends in Dallas before the mid-day heat.

Somewhere out of El Paso I detected an unusual pulsating sound from the car, and began to feel a slight vibration in the steering wheel. I pulled off the freeway and inspected the tires - all of which appeared to be healthy and normal. I resumed driving but the condition persisted so that it became obvious we did indeed have something wrong. We limped slowly into the first gas station we could find and I proceeded to explain our situation to the young attendant who was eager to serve us. To my dismay the young fellow peered under the hood, looked up and announced that one of the mechanical parts would have to be replaced. Convinced that he was mistaken, I asked how this particular engine part could possibly produce the symptoms we observed. He looked at me blankly, walked away to enlist the assistance of a co-worker. Now, with three young attendants' heads beneath the hood and my question still unanswered an older, well-seasoned attendant approached us. Once again, I went through the story

ing all the details. After he listened, he dispersed group, closed the hood and crawled underneath the. He soon emerged and procd to describe to us how a huge blister on the inside of the right front tire and he explained how this could and would produce the symptoms we experienced. Joyce, wisely had him replace both front tires and in a matter of two hours we were on our way to Dallas.

The breakfast search and car problem had delayed us long enough that we were forced to travel during the heat of the afternoon. We became nervous as the temperature guage rose, and we were obligated to shut off the air-conditioner each time it did. This too was disturbing as the temperature within our vehicle did not remain stable and I became worried over the kittens becoming dehydrated. At last we reached our friends in Dallas. After unpacking we had a very nice visit and the hours passed quickly. Again we packed up and resumed our travels to our ultimate desination - Houston and Convention

It was late night when we arrived in Houston. Exhausted as wer were, we went through our motel room inspection, unpacked the entire car and organized our belongings for the three day stay. I stayed up preparing formulas while Joyce peacefully snored - despite the screaming of the blen-er and the kittens bounding across her in a game of tag.



While in Houston we attended lectures and meetings which we each recorded on tape for our feline "tape libraries". We had a most enjoyable time visiting with old friends and picking up bits of knowledge here and there the following two days. On the third day we began to ize for our departure later that evening.

When it was time to leave we said our goodbyes and headed west. I had reached my limit of accumulated exhaustion after a few hours of driving, so Joyce took over the wheel while I slept. At dawn she suddenly became very sick and we thought at first she had eaten something that had disagreed with her. However, as time passed, it became evident that she had contracted some type of virus and although she weathered it fairly well, I was worried that the kittens might also catch it. I wanted desperately to stop in spite of our schedule but we both had obligations to meet at home, so I had no choice but to press on.

The afternoon sun found us still in Texas, as I choked down some of the Mylanta I had taken along for the kittens with the hope of controlling the nausea I was beginning to feel and kept on driving. When we did stop at a motel I instructed Joyce to take her shower and go straight to bed, thinking she would feel better after some sleep. I set about unpacking the necessities and completing the kitten care as if automated. Then I showered, dressed and fell across my own bed to sleep for three hours

The rest had helped, but Joyce was still weak. I went outside to arrange the car when I heard a blood curdling scream....I raced back to our room and ran head-on into Joyce fleeing the bathroom and the rather large scorpion that had crawled out of the drain while she was brushing her teeth. Needless to say, the following scene was the fastest check-out in history!

We left the Texas scorpion behind and I drove us through Arizona. As we neared the California line, Joyce's condition was greatly improved, but my own nausea persisted. We changed seats and Joyce drove us into San Diego right on schedule.

Except for the illness on the return trip, I do not regret our adventure - but once is enough! The kittens? Oncilla, thought the whole thing was quite a lark; two little boys are now named "Jai" and "Ponce de Leon" and are no longer little boys; and last but not least, baby girl has blossomed into a beauty named "Sweetheart".

Reprinted from LCS Newsletter

Necrology

IT WAS WITH MUCH SORROW THAT WE LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF CAESAR AND TRILBY, TWO BEAUTIFUL OCELOTS OWNED BY LORA VIGNE OF SAN FRANCISCO. THESE CATS WERE OVER 12 YEARS OLD AND HAD PRODUCED MANY KITTENS. THEIR ROMANCE AND SUBSEQUENT MATINGS WERE FAITHFULLY REPORT-ED IN PAST LIOC NEWSLETTERS. THEY WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO LOVED THEM.



Readers Write

Dear LIOC:

At an OEEFC meeting recently we got a chance to see Ken Hatfield's new baby jaguar. She is a doll! Holding her I realized this little bundle of fur would grow up to be a 250 pound cat.

Many people would argue that her life will be an un-natural one for such an animal; this may be true, but the thought that occurred to us was the terrible destruction she would suffer in the wild at the hands of trophy hunters and fur traders. Our anger should be directed at those and others who destroy the supporting habitat of these animals - not against people who are trying to preserve them.

As usual, I learned new things at the meeting. Ken's talk on declawing - complete with diagrams - was an eye-opener. I have always been against declawing of cats, for the reason that I worked at a veterinary clinic for many years and was required to help in many operations. This was done with the guillotine-type clippers, cutting through claw, flesh and bone and resulting in a bloody mess. The cat's feet were bandaged and a considerable amount of pain and discomfort was experienced.

Ken explained how the claws could be removed with a minimum of bleeding and discomfort with no bad after-effects. Surely this type procedure should be mandatory.

My main other objection was also because of sad experience. It is so easy for them to slip out a door and in fact, some unfeeling folks let their declawed cats out knowingly, which has resulted in the cats being mauled by dogs and having to be euthanized.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Marton



Thar She Blows

by Ethel Hauser

Mother Nature has a way of taking care of her own showing mankind how insignificant we really are. Old wife's tales say animals have the ability to predict a change in their environment. Whether it's a rainstorm, or a hurricane, tornado or earthquake. After last week I'm convinced this is true.

Saturday night started off like most other evenings, feeding the cats and having our daily rap session with each. Although our cats can't speak, they definitely have their own way of telling me they miss me and how they feel. However, that night they wouldn't eat, and didn't particularly care that I was even there. Their eyes were dilated and many were pacing the floor, which cats will do under stress.

Mama chaus was in isolation, very close to her time and little Mitzie Margay was expected to have her kit at any time also. Sunday morning we knew something was definitely going on, as all food was untouched. Even the munch-mouth cats hadn't eaten. I ran into the house and told Allan that there must be something going to happen. Out in the outside runs the ocelots were running back and forth and lifting their heads in a funny way; kinda screwing them back and forth and standing up at the wire. Later that afternoon we had a jolt, 4.6 on the Richter scale and several minor trembles later that evening.

Mama chaus had her baby and it was killed as the delivery was very rough. Another came easy and was so beautiful. She cleaned and nursed it right off. The way she protected the baby and curled around it, I was sure this one would be OK. I stayed near most of the night and the next morning I looked in on her and all was well. Baby was crawling around her and looking good. About 12:30 we had another earthquake, this time leaving a little crater in the side of Mt. St. Helena.



My little farm is about 21 miles from her by air. Geologists came from all around, it looked as if we might be in trouble. The mountain lost only 6 feet of her top in the last week of eruptions: steam has been rising from her craters and her bowels are rumbling.

That night when I came home from work I ran to the cat house knowing now why they had been so terribly upset. I was sick, the baby chaus had vanished. We even raked the chips and moved the nest box but there was nothing left.

Wednesday evening the little margay acted like it was in pain. She had shredded paper for her bed and stayed in her box. We always isolate the pregnant cats so they won't be bothered by the ones nextdoor. She was all boarded up except for a peep hole so I could keep tabs on her progress. About an hour later, sure enough, a big baby was born. Knowing she is a good mother, I left

and returned later. The mountain had burped in the meanwhile and another crater scarred her surface. When I checked her again the kitten was gone. She too had killed her kitten.

Well, it's two weeks later and Mt. St. Helens is still rumbling, whether she will erupt we'll just have to wait and see. The ash fallout and the sulphur smell isn't too bad but we all turn our heads toward her when we go outside just to see the black clouds puffing up.

Most people may feel it's jibberish, but I'm a believer that animals can sense a change in nature. Chinese scientists have begun predicting earthquakes based on animal's behavior. Among such Chinese reports are rats that climbed utility poles, pigs that crashed

Out of their pens and birds that evacuated threatened area en masse. Certain animals apparently can hear sounds at very low frequencies, smell gases escaping from the ground and even sense minute changes in the earth's electrical fields. Each is at least implicated as a potential warning that an earthquake is on it's way.

The last time Mt. St. Helen threw a tantrum she kept it up for 7 years. If that happens this time, my poor cats may just have to get used to her. I'll keep a closer eye on them and try to avoid upset mothers killing any more kittens.

HEREDITY VS ENVIRONMENT

Dr. W.R. Centerwall, University of Calif., Davis.

Which is more important, genetic endowment or environmental upbringing? This age-old controversy still persists, particularly with regards to such complex qualities as behavior, temperament and personality. To shed more light on the relative contributions of heredity and environment, for the past eight years the author has been cross-breeding the leopard cat with the domestic and observing the offspring.

A half dozen male leopard cats and more than a score of domestic females, produced more than a hundred, first generation hybrids were included in this study.

All hybrids were raised by domestic mothers with foster sibling, domestic kitten controls. Though averaging about midway between the wild & domestic parents, they hybrids exhibited moderately wide ranges of characteristics but with none as tameable as its domestic mother nor as untameable as its wild father reared on a domestic foster mother.

Observations on back-cross hybrids support the direct correlation of behavior with proportion of domestic to wild genes present. The evidence appears unequivocal that the maximal potentials for optimal (domestic) behavior are genetically controlled and how close one comes to that maximum potential is a matter of environment. Extrapolating these studies to humans, we can better appreciate basic differences and how some people have it in their inborn nature to be more amicable and sensitive, etc. and succeed more at this than do others who indeed may be trying harder and on whom greater efforts have been vested to attain these goals. In cases of exceptional success and failure, perhaps we should care both credit and blame with Mother Nature.

TRAVELING WITH TIGER?

If so, you might want to write for the book, *Touring with Towser* (\$1. Gaines TWT, Box 1007, Kankakee Ill 60901) It lists thousands of hotels in the US & Canada that welcome Pets.

Be sure to check with all States you may be passing through regarding their exotic laws. And a copy of a current health certificate showing vaccinations is a must. Additionally, make sure your pet has a collar with your name and address on it. Don't take any chances - again it's a case of better safe than sorry!



THEY HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Should you find yourself driving in a remote area of Southern Illinois in May, be warned: Snakes have the right-of-way.

The US Forest Service closes a two mile stretch of road at the bottom of a 350 bluff twice a year for the annual snake migration in the LaRue Pine Hills Ecological area. The Snakes have to travel about 500 feet from their winter homes in the graggy bluffs to one of several swamps. On a hot day you can walk along the road and see as many as a dozen snakes crossing the two mile stretch including the likes of rattlesnakes, moccasins and copperheads - quite a gathering at one time.

BENEFIT CRITTERS WITH DOLLARS

In Colorado a checkoff square on the state income tax forms allows taxpayers to channel funds from their state income tax refunds into the state's non-game wildlife program. In the three years since its introduction, the program has produced nearly \$1 million for the 748 non-game animals found in the state...everything from songbirds and eagles to chipmunks and shrews fall into this category. Everything that is not hunted or fished for - that's about 80 percent of the wildlife in Colorado. Checkoff funds have helped to re-establish river otters, and restore habitat for the greater prairie chicken and produce pesticide free eggs from captive peregrine falcons.

**DO
SOMETHING
WILD!**



DIDN'T THEY FIGURE ON IT?

A recent experiment conducted by Dr. Nils Oritsland of the University of Oslo, Norway was a test in which three polar bears were dunked in crude oil to study the effects of spills on rare animals. One bear died by swallowing crude oil it tried to clean off its once white fur; a second suffered kidney failure and had to be destroyed; and the third is ailing at last report and not expected to live. We'd like to know who the dummy is who allowed such a sacrifice.

PASSENGER FILES SUIT

Freddie Hall has a quarrel with Texas International Airlines - another passenger bit him he claims. The passenger Hall complains about in the \$25,000 civil suit is a chipmunk and Hall claims TI was negligent in allowing the little creature to mingle with the human passengers. Hall says he was bitten and suffered bruises contusions, physical pain and mental anguish.



THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE

An animal breeder raised the possibility at a scientific meeting of crossing a sheep with a pig to create a single animal that would provide both wool and bacon.

Discussing genetic engineering, Dr. John King, Director of the Animal Breeding Research Organization in Edinburgh told the British Assn. for the Advancement of Science that "such attempts will probably be made and could be successful".

He said genes might be manipulated to create a pig-like animal that would grow wool. The new animal would breed at the rate of pigs rather than the slower rate of sheep. But raising ordinary lambs is likely to continue, King said "if only to keep the Sunday table full."

INDIANNA'S DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

We all know that habitat destruction in the form of land development for farming, housing and industry is one of the main reasons for decreasing wildlife. Indiana is one state that is trying to do something about it. The state legislature has adopted a classified wildlife act that allows landowners a tax break on lands they put aside for wildlife preservation. Under the act, you receive a one dollar per acre reduction in your tax assessment on property taxes, plus free habitat advice and technical assistance.

LAUGH FOR THE DAY

The Florida Game And Fresh Water Fish commission has applied for a permit that would permit them to "remove the wild ALL existing dusky seaside sparrows for safe use in a captive breeding program." Why them and not the others?

BAN LIFTED

Sad news for the wolves on federal land in Alaska; the ban on aerial hunting of wolves has been lifted. Secretary Cecil Andrus took this action in view of his long held belief that "Management of non-endangered wildlife on public lands is a state prerogative".

OUTNUMBERED

A roundup of rare, bighorn sheep, coordinated by the Cal. Dept. of Fish & Game, came to a grim end after five of the 10 sheep herded into a relocation pen died of exhaustion, fright and hyperventilation. A force of 40 men from 5 state and federal agencies, trucks and a helicopter took part in the roundup.

"USELESS" GOATS TO BE MOVED

The last goats of San Clemente Island, off the coast of California, saved from slaughter, are to be airlifted from their home canyons to Southern Calif. The Navy and the Fund For Animals will pay to transport the goats in a Lockheed Electra...this will continue until the 4,500 goats are moved from Navy owned land. The animals are remnants of a widely killed population because it posed a threat to protected species of plants. Officials claim they are wrecking the environment for seven endangered species.

The Navy slaughtered most of the 17,000 goats in 1976 and had similar plans for the rest. But the Fund for Animals along with other groups, won a court order to block the remaining kill. The Navy will contribute the \$80,000 it planned to spend on shooting the goats. The key to the Plan is a fence supported from an overhead wire that opens 350 feet wide and slides closed by remote control or when a sensor determines there are enough warm blooded creatures inside.



SNAKE OWNERS TO JAIL

Keeping a pet snake in Hawaii could mean a year in jail, thanks to a bill ok'd by the State Senate. Only the zoo is allowed to keep snakes. The bill would set a mandatory one year prison term and a maximum \$5,000 fine. About two dozen snakes were found loose in the state last year - imported and either released or escaped from their captivity.

BIRDS GO TO SEED, NOT TO THE SOUTH

This may be hard to swallow but some quite knowledgeable authorities are beginning to suspect that birdseed is bad for birds.

Before running to the backyard feeder to perform a body count, be advised that the danger is more long range and insidious than immediate. While it's true that birdseed, under certain conditions is poisonous, the real danger is that birds get hooked on the stuff.

Freeloading flocks are becoming so dependent on backyard handouts that they are altering migration patterns established about the time of the ice age. Indeed, 30 years ago, it was almost impossible to find a cardinal anywhere near Northern cities in the winter. Now nearly all of them stay - thanks to birdseed.

As a result, birds are subjecting themselves to the rigors of harsh weather. The past three winters in Illinois killed most of the state's mockingbirds and Carolina wrens. Says William Beecher, director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.



Another major problem is thoughtlessness on the part of the birds' human providers. If you start feeding birds in fall the birds will think they've found a steady source of food. All too often, however, people tire with the daily chore or take off for mid winter vacations, leaving the birds to fend for themselves - leading to their starvation.

The Audubon Society, which sells birdseed itself is an unlikely critic of bird feeding, but recently it caused a tizzy in the industry. It said that the cracked corn and peanut hearts found in most birdseed develop a carcinogen called aflatoxin if they spoil. This happens when the seed sits around too long, either in the ware house, or at home. A bird primarily needs the carbohydrates provided by sunflower seeds and millet for energy, while corn and peanuts offer only marginal protein, but birds like the way peanuts smell.

LOVABLE OR PEST?

Los Alamos Lake, AZ. They have perky, impudent ears, bit, innocent eyes, a cuddly, oversized head. Elsewhere they call them ass or donkey or equus asinus. Here they call them burro, but they mean pest.

Officials estimate that half of the palos verdes trees within a mile of the lake are dead from animal grazing. Within three miles, the trees have been stripped of 85% of their vegetation.

Land managers concerned about preserving the desert in their natural state. The Los Alamos Lake region consists of a desert wonderland state park surrounded by land under the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau is mandated to maintain its lands for everything from mining to wildlife preservation, from range management to recreation.

The burro gets in the way. So, since 1975, the Bureau has rounded up 1,600 of them and sent them out as pets in its Adopt a Burro program.

The program is generally humane and keeps the herd down to the 175 or so that the 212,000 acres can support. Since the 1920's there have been efforts to reduce the herds. But the burro, which reproduces a fifth of its number each year, keeps coming back.

Casual hunting used to hold numbers down and some folks are actually fond of burro meat. But Congress

put a stop to that. Since burros have no natural predators in the desert and are remarkably immune to most diseases, they keep multiplying.

So, in 1978 the Park Service tested some options for herd control. It found that it cost \$400 apiece for cowboys to bring them out alive. Next they sent in Park Rangers with tranquilizer guns and helicopters to see what that cost - it came to \$1,200 a burro.

Shooting is more certain and it only cost \$60 a piece. Some conservationists are trying to collect money to bring the animals out alive - and the Park Service has given them 2 months to see if it is feasible.

Meanwhile the burros keep chomping away on dropseed and Indian rice grass, mesquite, black brush and a crust forming lichen that holds the land together. Some of the damage is irreparable.

It takes 50 to 100 years for a desert to repair itself the authorities say. But it only takes 18 months between colts for every burro - and they live to a ripe old age of 20 years.

EAGLE POPULATION UP

A total of 13,127 bald eagles, 35 percent more than in 1979 were sighted in this year's annual census of eagles in the lower 48 states the National Wildlife Federation says. Washington reported the highest eagle population followed by Missouri, California and Florida. No eagles were reported in Rhode Island, Vermont or West Virginia.

Wildlife officials attributed much of the increase to better counting techniques, rather than a sharp increase in the eagle population. However experts are encouraged by the number of young and immature birds sighted and state that we are not losing ground in the fight to save the national emblem.



CATS OF THE SONORA - Cont.

The puma has been practically exterminated in the eastern portion of the U.S. and pressure by the cattle industry has diminished its numbers in the west. Luckily, bounties have been revoked in many states and the puma has been reclassified a "game animal". In a few states it is totally protected.

In recent years, the status of the bobcat has changed from "vermin" to that of a highly desirable furbearing animal. Because of the demands by the fashion industry, this attractive, interesting and beneficial cat (the bobcat is an excellent mouser and rabbit hunter) has been decimated in several states. Where protected, it is still frequently poached since its pelt brings \$300 and more.

So, those of us dedicated to conservation of wildlife need to redouble our efforts to assure future generations that they will have the opportunities we have now to enjoy and protect the animals we love and respect.

THE ARIZONA SONORA DESERT MUSEUM IS IN NEED OF A YOUNG MALE OCELOT AS A MATE FOR GATITA (COVER) GATITA IS NOW ABOUT A YEAR OLD. IF YOU CAN HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN, PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM.



ROUTE 9, BOX 900 - TUCSON, ARIZONA - 85704



THE SEARCHING SPIRIT
JOY ADAMSON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY
 By Joy Adamson

Published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, N.Y. 1979
 \$12.95

This book was in most bookstores for the 1979 Holiday season. Most libraries have it, some with long waiting lists.

The subtitle is the best possible description of the book. The only shortcoming is its length which could have been two or three times longer.

This is Joy's tenth and last book and was released several months prior to her death. The news bulletins were confused and lasted for a week. The final story seems to be that she was murdered by several former employees that had been recently fired.

Born: Free, Living Free, Forever Free, The Story of Elsa, The Spotted Sphinx and Pippa's Challenge are the books we know her for. They covered about one third of her very interesting and extremely active lifetime. Her life in Africa started with plant and fossil expeditions led through rare, small mammal and insect collecting museums and governments before finally getting to travel with her third husband, George Adamson, the game warden. Her paintings of flowers and plants have been used for book illustrations and fifty of her portraits of over a hundred native tribal costumes are on permanent display inside the Statehouse in Nairobi, Kenya.

Joy, through her books, foundations and worldwide lectures has done more to save wildlife and educate the public about the need for conservation than any other person in history.

Art Human

ATTITUDES

A three year study prepared by Dr. Stephen Kellert of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies reports on the attitudes of Americans as related to issues affecting Wildlife. The Study, conducted under a research grant from Interior's Fish & Wildlife service cost \$450,000.

The results of the study are significant as the public attitudes can influence the outcome of conservation programs as much as any wildlife management technique. The Yale study was based on extensive national questionnaire and interviews with over 3000 people. Some of the study's more relative include the following:

1. Of the eight selected wildlife issues, Americans knew the most about "killing baby seals for fur", and effects of pesticide (DDT) on birds. Only 34% of those questioned indicated that they had some knowledge of the Endangered Species Act, and only 17% were familiar with the much publicized snail darter/Tellico Dam controversy.
2. Most of those questioned favored protecting wildlife even at the expense of jobs, housing and development projects. 55% opposed the building of industrial plants on a marsh needed by rare species.

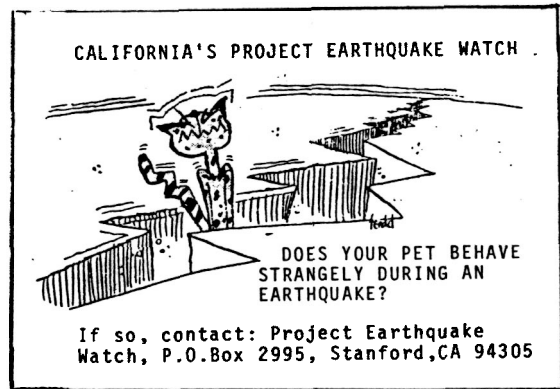
3. The public's support for endangered species protection when it would increase costs for an energy project depended on the animal involved and the nature of the project. Americans overwhelmingly supported protecting the bald eagle, eastern mountain lion and the American crocodile. Regarding the snail darter, the majority of those questioned opposed blocking a water project designed for the essential uses such as drinking water, hydroelectric power or irrigation to protect an unknown fish. However 69% opposed construction of a dam for nonessential purposes such as recreational lake etc.

4. Generally support for protecting endangered species depended on factors such as the animal's attractiveness, close biological relationship to man, reason for endangerment, economic value and importance in American history.

5. 77% Reported that they agreed with the killing of whales for a useful product if the species hunted was not endangered.

6. Attitudes toward many issues varied with age, sex, education and residence. For example, support for protecting endangered species was strongest among those under 35, highly educated and residents of the Pacific coast

Copies of the report can be obtained by writing: Publication Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240



GOOD FOR A LAUGH

From Fur, Fin & Feather News

In Nevada its against the law to drive camels along the main highways; an animal on the street after dark in Berea, Ohio must display a red tail-light; you cannot legally set a trap for a mouse in California without a hunting license; its illegal to mistreat oysters in Baltimore and Seattle prohibits goldfish to ride on a bus UNLESS they lie still. Brooklyn denies donkies the right to sleep in bathtubs and in Denver the law insists that dogcatchers notify dogs of impounding by posting a notice on a tree in the park.

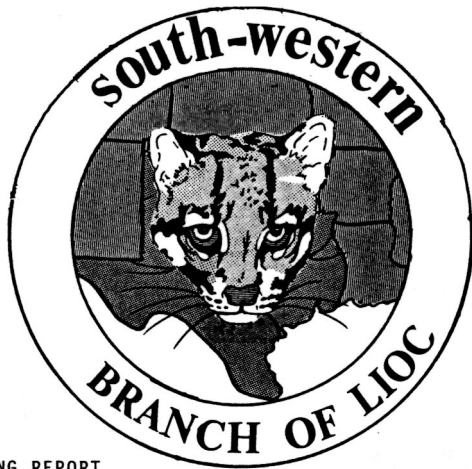
mites?

From the Leopard Cat Society Newsletter comes this tidbit: If your leopard cat (or other animal friends) suffer from a chronic case of ear mites you might ask your veterinarian's advise on the following procedure which worked perfectly for our adult cats.

On a routine annual checkup, ears were carefully cleaned using Q-tips and Panalog ointment only. Pellitio1 Ointment (Pitman Moore) was then gently packed into the ears covering the inner ear surfaces completely.

On the following annual checkup we were pleased to report there were no recurrences of ear mites, even in animals who had suffered years of reinfestations while under treatment with other products.

Pat Quillen



MEETING REPORT

The Spring Meeting of the Southwestern Branch was held on April 12th at the home of Lois & Walter Marshall just south of Angleton, Texas.

President Rebecca Morgan called our meeting to order after a scrumptious Texas style barbeque feast prepared by our hosts.

A special welcome was extended to the members of the University of Houston Cougar Guard. These college students 21 in all, are responsible for the care of Shasta, the University of Houston cougar mascot. The guard is making preparations for Shasta V, a cub they hope to acquire in the near future.

A treasury report was given by Sec/Treas. Jan Neal a breakdown of monies made on the Snow Leopard tting; with a discussion of how much should be donated the Engler Cat fund.

The next order of business was the drawing for the original painting of the Snow Leopard. Thanks to all who purchased chances. The lucky winner of this painting was ROBERT LEEDS of Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Convention doings in Boston were discussed and of course all were encouraged to attend. It was decided that our President, Rebecca Morgan, will represent SW at the Convention.

Our next meeting will be in June at the home of Roger Harmon, see you all then.

Jan Neal
Secretary/Treasurer.



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UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FELINE

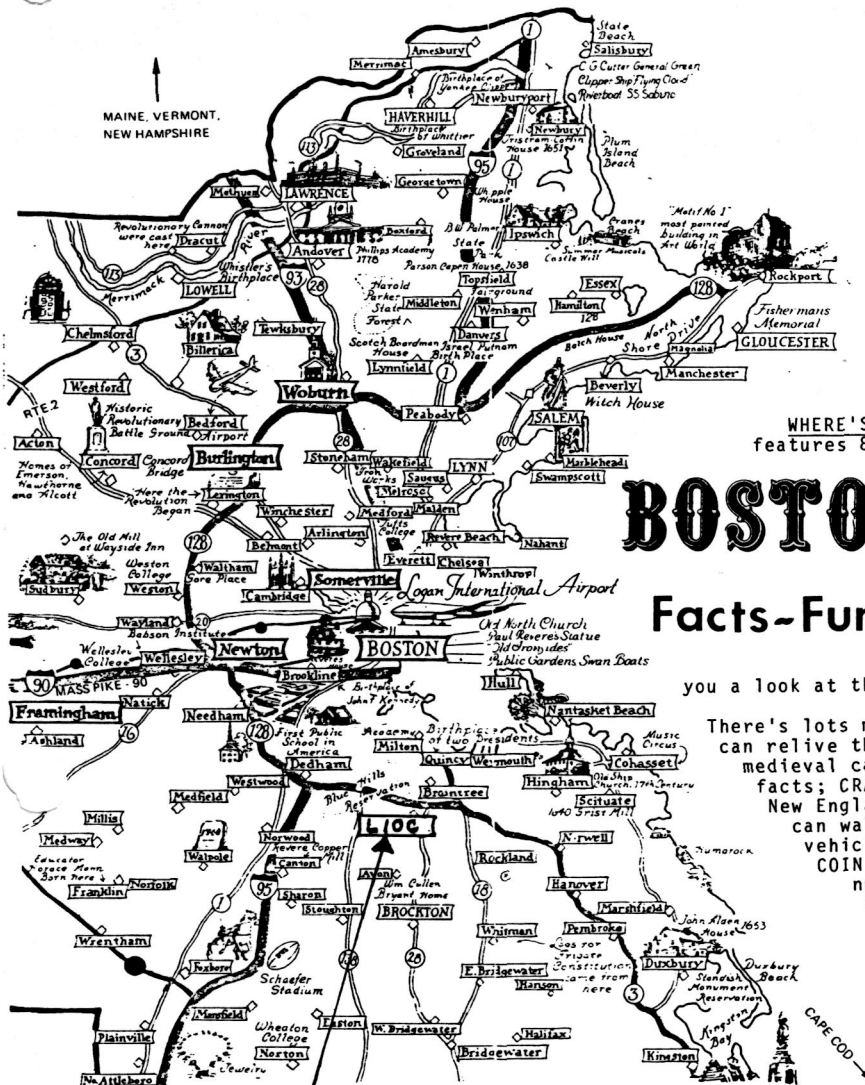


Reprinted from a pamphlet printed by Purina and distributed at Convention '79. This refers mainly to domestics but as all felines are closely related it has direct bearing on the exotic as well.

1. The cat is a true carnivore and prefers meat to foodstuffs. However, this has been obscured by domestication and today few cats have retained their carnivorous habits. Through years of research other types products have been developed which supply all the essential nutrients which have resulted in superior diets.
2. The cat has a very keen sense of taste and is able to pick up organoleptic differences at thresholds far below that of man. Cats appear to have an even keener sense of taste than dogs. This point must be considered when evaluating clinical cases involving appetite and food consumption.
3. Cats are occasional eaters and frequently eat several times per day. They may, however, be conditioned to eat once in 24 hours. Young, growing kittens and lactating queens require several meals per day to meet their needs.
4. The cat has evolved as an arid animal and concentrates its urine in an attempt to retain water. For example compared to the canine, the average urine total solids is approximately 20-25% higher. This characteristic is in part responsible for the strong urine odor of the feline.
5. Cats excrete a crystal in the urine called struvite. This is a magnesium ammonium phosphate complex. Accompanying the crystal frequently is a proteinaceous mucous plug. Both play a part in the FUS syndrome. The reason for excretion of the crystal is not totally understood. Some feel that it is a means of excreting nitrogen and arising from the high protein intake.
6. Cats excrete an amino acid which is unique to to all other species. The amino acid is called "Felinine" This phenomenon is not relevant to any known dietary amino acid requirement. The reason for its production is unknown.
7. Cats store a great deal of vitamin A in the proximal tubes of the kidney; approximately 10 times that of other species. Some researchers have felt that this represents a need for high dietary vitamin A levels. However, it appears more realistic that the kidney is a point of synthesis.
8. Cats inefficiently convert beta carotene to vitamin A. For this reason, grain-based diets would be deficient except for the advent of purified vitamin sources. Today, diets may be balance with inclusion of adequate quantities of Vitamin A with a high biological value.
9. Cats exhibit a high protein requirement - higher than any known species requirement. The minimum requirement approximates 28 percent (dry matter basis) This high requirement is prevalent during periods of rapid growth, reproduction and lactation. The adult maintenance requirement has been reported to be as low as 21% (dry matter basis).
10. Cats have an inefficient conversion of tryptophan to niacin. This is apparently due to lack of tryptophan peroxidase, an enzyme necessary for conversion to kynurenine. Kynurenine is a key intermediate for the synthesis of niacin. A probable niacin deficiency is circumvented by inclusion of adequate niacin in the diet.



CONVENTION 80 - AUG. 15, 16, 17



We're staying at:
HOLIDAY INN at Randolph
 Take exit 67S off Rt. 128
 1374 N. Main Street

Rooms are \$34.00 single
 \$36.00 Double

AGENDA BEING SET

This is the time for suggesting any topics for discussion at the annual Board Meeting.

Send them to: Ken Hatfield
 1991 SW 136 Ave.
 Davie, FL. 33325

It's convention time again folks. As you know there's lots to see and do in the historical Boston area so plan on staying a little longer. We might suggest:

BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIP AND MUSEUM

Relive history at the Tea Party site by throwing tea chests overboard. Full sized replica of the ship "Beaver" and museum - admission \$1.75

CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

The history of "Old Ironsides" comes alive the building of old ironsides allows you to watch a shipwright recreate the ship. admission \$1.25

THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM provides the chance to explore the underwater world. Dolphins and sea lions perform every hour and a half. The newest exhibit is a 450 lb, 25 foot giant squid. \$4.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM is actually 4 museums: the Peabody Museum of Archeology, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Botanical Museum and the Meteorological Museum. Exhibits range from pre-Columbian art to dinosaurs, rare gems and the famous "glass" flowers. Admission \$1

MUSEUM OF CHINA AMERICAN TRADE features the artifacts brought to America from China by sea captains and Merchants of History - \$3

PLIMOUTH PLANTATION recreates life in Plymouth colony as it was in the early 17th century. In the village, men & women dress, speak and portray life as it was then. Admission \$4

WHERE'S BOSTON is a multimedia portrait of Boston which features 8 gigantic screens and quadrophonic sound and gives

BOSTON GET READY!

Facts-Fun-Food-Friends-Felines

you a look at the many faces of Boston - Admission - \$2.50

There's lots more too in and around Boston. OLD SALEM, where you can relive the witch trials; HAMMOND CASTLE, an authentic medieval castle housing a rare collection of European artifacts; CRANBERRY WORLD, free samples and lore of the fabled New England cranberry; THE TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM where you can walk through recreated streets tracing the artifacts vehicles and images of our past; THE NEW ENGLAND RARE COIN GALLERIES, THE LONDON BRASS RUBBING CENTER, the numerous fine arts museums and CHILDREN'S WORLD. SO besides the usual convention doings there's some thing for everyone in or around Boston and there's even the whole rest of New England.....

AND THEN THERE'S CONVENTION 1980!!!

We'll be featuring speakers on a wide range of subjects from fleas to infant care. Speakers will be from both within and out of LIOC.

Of course Saturday nite will feature the banquet and the 1980 LOTTIE presentation and as always the fun auction (so bring a few extra pennies) If you can't make it, we'll miss you, but send something for the auction anyway to: Art Human 32 Lockwood, Norwalk, Conn

Plan on seeing us all there: Send your registration (includes banquet dinner and breakfast meeting) To

LIOC C/O Mildred Payton
 8 Woodlawn Rd
 Randolph, Mass 02368

COST: \$25.00 each

