

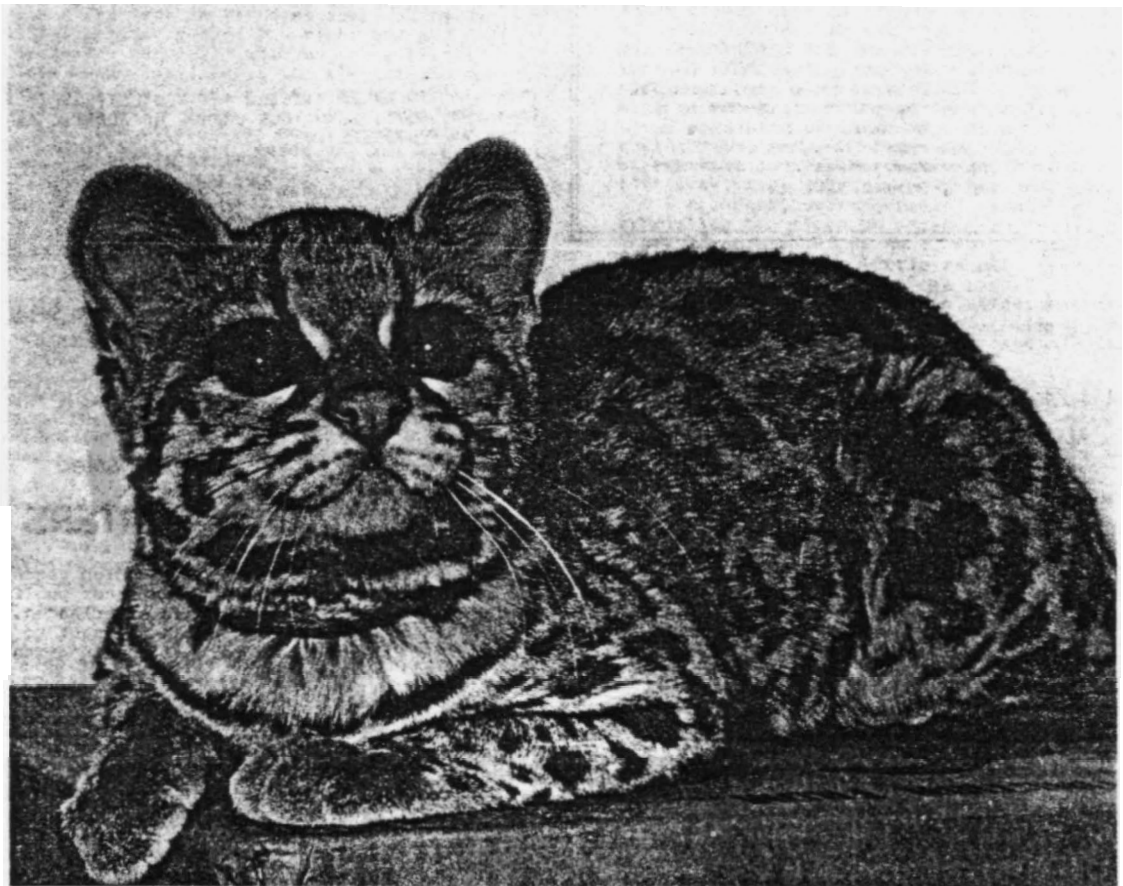
NEWSLETTER

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

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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



RA, a female margay owned by Ethel Hauser seems to be saying:
"Ain't I got a cute puss?"



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PLEASE SEND ALL APPLICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS DIRECTLY TO BARBARA FOR FAST SERVICE.

ALL NEWSLETTER RELATED MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT
TO THE EDITOR, SHIRLEY TREANOR.

Help Wanted

REPORTERS

The Long Island Ocelot Club urgently needs
material for its Newsletter publication. We
can only share those experiences, funny, happy,
sad or tragic, which are sent to us. This
sharing is a part of the enjoyment of owning
an exotic.

WRITING EXPERIENCE: None whatsoever

PREREQUISITES: Love of exotic cats

TYPE OF MATERIAL Articles of happy and
sad experiences;
technical articles; opinions of any and all
exotic cat related subjects (including LIOC)
all short and long items - also day to day
experiences; announcements of: adoptions,
pregnancies, births, deaths (with autopsy
report if one was done) all subjects of
interest; all questions - give other members
a chance to help.

SALARY: The love and gratitude of all exotics,
their owners: and the Newsletter Editor.

STARTING TIME: IMMEDIATELY!! The Newsletter
is waiting on You.

GETTING ACQUAINTED



By Nancy

Reprinted from Exotics Unltd Newsletter

When I first shipped my serval up to her new owners, she was only 5 months old and I assumed she would adjust without any problems, as she loved everyone in our home and was very outgoing and affectionate to strangers. I never considered she may have a problem in adjusting to a new home.

However, after five weeks in her new home she was still badly frightened and refused to allow anyone to get close to her. She rarely ventured out of her crate which she had been shipped in and which was the only familiar object she had.

I became so upset at these reports that I finally flew up to where she was and hoped that my little girl hadn't forgotten me. But I need not have worried. When I arrived she was in her cage in the basement and didn't seem to recognize me and was even downright unfriendly - she just crouched in her cage and hissed at me, looking like something right out of the jungle. But I talked to her and in a few minutes she quit hissing and looked at me very intently - The look in her eyes appeared to me to be saying, "I'm getting rid of you right now by attacking". I suggested nervously that we try a little later but her new owner insisted it was alright and for me to keep talking, so I continued to sing the song I always sung for her when she was a baby. All of a sudden, she came rushing out of her cage straight at me. I almost died and would have run except that I was frozen and was watching my life flash before my eyes. She leaped at my chest and landed in the middle of me making a very peculiar sound - sort of a scream - she grabbed my arm with her paws and began frantically nursing on anything she could get her mouth on, my hair, clothes, fingers, etc. Boy was she happy to see me.

I carried her around for about an hour or so as she wouldn't let me put her down. If I did she would grab my leg and bite me, demanding to be picked up. At that point I carried her upstairs to see what a wonderful new home she had had for 6 weeks now and had never been able to explore - she loved it! We took her outside into her jungle yard where she was very happy and excited to be able to run around while feeling safe and secure with her ole mom there.

I stayed about a week and each day she settled down more and needed me less. She became friendly with her new folks and decided that this was just as close to heaven as she was likely to get. By the time I left, she was settled in, loved everyone and I felt awfully good as her new people could offer her so much more than I could.

I guess little servals just have to feel safe and secure when they adjust to a new home. I would suggest that anyone giving up an exotic make every effort to personally accompany it to its new home. My little serval's owners did everything in their power to help her adjust, but being frightened by the long trip made it impossible for her to trust them right off.

THOUGHTS ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

There ought to be capital punishment for cars that run over rabbits and drive into dogs and commit the unspeakable, unpardonable crime of killing a kitty cat still in its prime.

Purgatory, at the very least
should await the driver
driving over a beast.

Those hurrying headlights coming out of the dark that scatter the scampering squirrels in the park should await the best jury that one might compose of fatherless chimunks and husbandless dogs.

Backlash

By Dr. David Samuel

condensed from Archery Magazine

I've been following the anti-hunting phenomenon since 1971. One reason is that I'm a wildlife biologist on the staff at West Virginia University and teach a course which directly relates to anti-hunting. At one time I frankly felt that the antihunters would spell the end for hunting. But there's a trend in the wind which causes me to reconsider. It's an anti-hunting backlash.

A backlash occurs when people with a certain attitude or idea suddenly change their point of view in response to one or numerous events. As many of you know, anti-hunters succeeded in the early years of the 70's in banning hunting in the Great Swamp Refuge in New Jersey. During that time deer carcasses started increasing and the biologists were proven right - the deer were in poor condition due to overpopulation - a backlash occurred. A postscript is that since the first hunt in '74 the deer have been healthier, there are fewer skin tumors (indicating good health) fawns weigh more and antler size has increased.

As a wildlife biologist, my big complaint against anti-hunters is that most do not present any viable alternatives. "We do it for the animals" they say. But it doesn't look that way. Take Cleveland Amory and his group, Fund for Animals; they continue to reach new lows in efforts to stop hunting, their ridiculous actions should trigger more backlash. For example, Fund for Animals released its "Tips for Hunt Saboteurs."

The purpose of these tips is to make hunting miserable for hunters. Get into the woods yourself the day before hunting season starts and try to drive the wildlife away, they suggest and take a dog and a loud radio.

I'd suggest wearing bright orange, get the landowners permission and clean up after they leave. Also, to reach areas where most of us hunt, they better be prepared to take along hike with little result. Ever try to "drive animals away" from their home range?

Another tip: make hunting blinds uncomfortable by placing cow dung or rotten eggs in them. Uncomfortable hunters are irritable and poorer shots - they've got to be kidding.

No here's a real winner: certain to be viewed by many nonhunters who haven't made a decision as a very realistic, if not brilliant method to discourage the hunter: put deer repellent on deer trails or collect hair from a barber shop and place handfuls along deer trails to scare deer out of the area.

I hope they do this in the areas surrounding my stand to drive deer in my direction. Do you start to get the idea that Amory is a nature faker - that is, someone who knows nothing about the animals he is trying to "save"?

There's more, lead a female dog in heat through the woods, play recordings of a wolf howl, put stuffed animals around since hunters often don't take the time to check if the animal is real and will shoot the stuffed ones. I feel faint.

Amory suggests that his cohorts use their imaginations to frustrate the hunt. "By your work, you will be helping animals in two ways. First, you will be protecting them from the hunters." The fact is that none of the above tactics are realistic and show how little he knows about wildlife.

"Second, let the hunters know the Fund for Animals is in the woods. This serves to anger them and angry hunters do not stalk so quietly and their aim is no so precise"

This kind of logic will not go unnoticed by non-hunters. Those who follow Amory in publicizing such tactics will be far outnumbered by those who realize how ridiculous this stuff is and will join the other side. They do it for the animals? Amory might fool few but not many. What does Fund for Animals do to save the whooping crane?, or feed deer in the winter? Don't look now but check your local barber shop for people collecting hair in plastic bags.



FELINE VIRAL DISEASES

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Presented at the Animal Health Conference, Morris Animal Foundation
Chicago, Ill. 1978

FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA

Feline panleukopenia is perhaps the oldest known disease of cats and is still one of the most important. Panleukopenia means deficiency of white blood cells. The disease is also known as feline distemper and feline infectious enteritis. Feline panleukopenia is caused by a hardy virus which can live for weeks or months outside of the cat, e.g., in dried secretions on floors or cages. Panleukopenia is highly contagious and most commonly affects young cats, although cats of any age may be affected. Young cats are affected because the immunity to panleukopenia that they receive in the queen's milk declines as they reach weaning age. It is then that they are most susceptible.

Panleukopenia is a severe disease and may be fatal. The symptoms are rapid in onset and include, fever, extreme listlessness or weakness, loss of appetite for food and water, vomiting and diarrhea. Neither sneezing nor increased secretions from the eyes occur unless complicating respiratory infections are present.

The panleukopenia virus causes cats to become ill by destroying the white blood cells and damaging the lining of the intestines, and the lymph tissues. This results in loss of the cat's normal defense mechanisms against bacterial infections and also causes loss of vital body fluids and various salts due to vomiting and diarrhea. Secondary infections by bacteria in the intestinal tract and elsewhere are an important part of panleukopenia.

Treatment should be started as soon as possible. Many cats which would have died of the disease in the past can now be saved with modern treatment. The veterinarian will try to combat secondary bacterial infection, replace vital fluids salts and vitamins, and control vomiting and diarrhea. Injections of large quantities of balanced salt solutions, plasma, or blood are often necessary.

Fortunately, feline panleukopenia can be prevented by vaccination. A cat should be vaccinated for panleukopenia when its maternal protection (immunity) is declining. The age at which this protection declines low enough for the vaccine to "take" is somewhat variable, but is usually between 8 to 16 weeks. Therefore, at least two doses of vaccine are given at 2 to 4 week intervals, generally beginning at 8-9 weeks of age. Booster vaccinations are given each year.

**This is recommended for domestics - exotics should be vaccinated more often beginning as soon as they are weaned.

There is still a substantial number of unvaccinated cats which develop panleukopenia each year. These animals and some of those which have recovered from the disease but continue to "carry" the virus, perpetuate the disease in the cat population. A vigilant vaccination program, therefore is the best insurance against feline panleukopenia.

FELINE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

In recent years, there has been considerable progress in identifying the causes of the all too familiar respiratory infections in cats. Two virus infections appear to cause most of the problem: feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR) and feline calicivirus infection. Others include feline pneumonitis, reovirus and occasional complicating bacterial infections.

FELINE VIRAL RHINOTRACHEITIS

This disease was identified in 1957. The name means inflammation of the nose and trachea (windpipe). It is caused by a virus which is contagious but does not survive long outside the cat. Transmission from cat to cat, therefore is by direct contact or by aerosol spread of virus infections in secretions over short distances (several feet or within a small room). Young cats are frequently affected for reasons similar to those for panleukopenia.

The symptoms of FVR are sneezing, coughing, fever, squinting, redness and increased secretions from the nose and eyes and loss of appetite. Pregnant queens often will abort or have stillborn kittens. The FVR virus makes cats sick by destroying the cells lining the nasal passages, trachea and eyelids. This causes great irritation and damages the natural barrier to bacteria created by cells covering these membranes. The reaction by the cat's body is increased production of secretions and outpouring of white blood cells to combat infection.

FVR can be a problem in catteries and hospital wards. The infection usually is most severe in young kittens and can be fatal. Fortunately, most cats recover from FVR. The most important complication of FVR are chronic infection of the sinuses or pneumonia caused by bacteria. The prolonged period that some sick cats go without eating can be a serious problem since a serious loss of stamina and resistance develops. It is now clear that some cats that have recovered from FVR continue to carry the virus and that periodically these cats may shed virus in nasal secretions or saliva although no symptoms of respiratory disease occur. Therefore, carrier cats can be a source of infection for young, susceptible cats.

Treatment of FVR and other respiratory infections cats involves three main components:

1. controlling bacterial infection with antibiotics.
2. replacing lost fluids, vitamins and nutrients
3. Good nursing care.

Nursing care is best provided at home whenever possible. Periodic cleaning of the cat's nose and eyes and encouraging some consumption of nutritious soft foods is very helpful. Eye ointments will help prevent serious infection and permanent damage. Steam or warm, humid atmospheres help clear nasal passages of mucous secretions.

In recent years, vaccines have been developed for FVR. One vaccine is given by injection; another by dropping vaccine directly on the surface of the eyes and nose. The vaccine protects cats from developing severe infections of FVR. The vaccine that is administered directly into the eyes and nose requires only one dose, but may produce a reaction as it initiates a mild form of FVR. The injectible vaccine produces a lower incidence of reaction although two doses are needed for immunization.

FELINE CALICIVIRUS INFECTION

The feline caliciviruses formerly called picorna viruses were discovered in 1960 and were recognized as a cause of disease in 1966. The symptoms and effect of these virus infections are now well identified. The feline caliciviruses can produce mild or severe disease depending on the individual virus involved. Recent research with calicivirus infection has identified features which will help the veterinarian distinguish it from FVR, however, the two infections sometimes cannot be identified by symptoms alone.

Calicivirus infection is contagious and, like FVR can be a recurrent problem in catteries or wherever cats are congregated. The chief signs of calicivirus are ulcers on the surface of the tongue or elsewhere inside the mouth. Fever, loss of appetite and mild listlessness may also occur. "Runny" nose or eyes are less frequent than with FVR. Some of the caliciviruses cause pneumonia which can be a serious problem in kittens.

Treatment is similar to that for FVR. As with FVR, some cats may carry and shed the virus for long periods. Vaccines also have been developed for calicivirus and is usually combined with FVR vaccine.

FELINE PNEUMONITIS (Chlamydia Infection)

The feline pneumonitis agent was the first microbe identified in cats with respiratory problems in 1944. The causative agent is not a virus but is more like a bacterium. All feline respiratory infections were called "pneumonitis" before viruses were identified. It now appears that viral infections are much more common than is pneumonitis. Feline pneumonitis infection affects principally the eyes and causes a mile to severe inflammation and red, swollen membranes of the eyes (conjunctivitis.) Usually, there are not signs of illness but the infection can last for several weeks. The condition can be treated effectively with antibiotics which directly affect the causative agent. A vaccine for the disease has been available for years and now is being re-examined and re-evaluated. Pneumonitis is less important than are those for virus infections.

FELINE REOVIRUS

This virus was identified in 1969. It appears that cats infected with the virus either develop no signs of illness or may have mild inflammation of the eyes, causing transient "runny" eyes. The nose and mouth are not affected and neither fever nor other signs of illness have been detected. Treatment or vaccination does not appear necessary.

CHRONIC SINUSITIS AND RHINITIS

Chronic sinusitis means long-term or persistent inflammation of the sinuses. Rhinitis means inflammation of the nasal passages. Sinuses are extensions of the nasal passages into the facial bones. Infections of the nasal passages, such as FVR often extend into the sinuses. After viral damage to the membranes of the nasal passages and sinuses, bacteria, normally present on the surface of these membranes may increase in number and grow deeper within the tissue. Usually when cats recover from viral infections the nasal membranes heal, and bacteria are also controlled. In some cats, however, pockets of bacterial infection persist, especially in the sinuses since these cavities may be slow to be drained of mucous secretions. Symptoms of sinusitis are prolonged nasal discharge (sometimes from one nostril) intermittent sneezing and shaking of the head or persistent noisy breathing.

Antibiotic drugs are effective against bacterial infections but penetration of the drugs into secretion-filled recesses such as sinuses may be minimal. For this reason, sinus infections, once established, are difficult to treat. Surgical drainage of the sinuses, although not a simple procedure, may be necessary if intensive antibiotic treatment is not effective.

The best way to prevent chronic sinusitis is to minimize the occurrence and severity of viral respiratory infections by vaccination. Cats with severe upper respiratory infections can be treated with antibiotics to help reduce the probability that chronic sinusitis will occur.

FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) was identified in 1966 as fatal disease of cats. Peritonitis means inflammation of the inner lining of the abdomen, which is the chief sign of the disease. The onset is gradual and marked by intermittent loss of appetite, loss of weight, fever, weakness and swelling of the abdomen due to accumulation of fluids. The eyes, kidneys, brain and other organs are affected in some forms of FIP.

The cause of FIP is a virus. The disease is contagious but the exact means of transmission is not known. FIP often affects only one or two cats or a group but epidemics have occurred in some catteries. About 40% of the cats with FIP have concomitant Feline leukemia virus infection - which probably lowers the cats' resistance to FIP. Cats of all ages can be affected, but FIP usually occurs in cats 1 to 4 years of age. Diagnosis can be difficult. Withdrawal of a sample of abdominal fluid may help the veterinarian identify FIP. A test for serum antibody to FIP virus recently has been developed and can be used to aid in diagnosis.

No treatment has been found effective. It has not yet been possible to cultivate and study the FIP virus in the laboratory. Until the causative virus can be more clearly identified, no means of prevention will be possible. It appears that many cats exposed to FIP virus do not develop the disease but instead develop immunity. Little is known about the factors which are important in the development of FIP in cats. Considerably more research is needed before FIP can be understood, treated or prevented.

FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS

The viral cause of leukemia (cancer of blood cells) and lymphosarcoma (cancer of lymph tissue) in cats was discovered in 1964. Now it is known that 70 to 90% of leukemias in cats are directly related to the feline leukemia virus (FeLV). One of the most significant aspects of FeLV infection is that it is transmitted contagiously among cats, as are respiratory viruses. Saliva appears to be the most important vehicle for virus transmission from cat to cat and infection involves relatively close contact. The virus does not remain infectious long outside the cat's body and is killed by drying, detergents and disinfectants.

After cats are exposed to FeLV, either two outcomes are possible. First, the cat may be able to control the infection and produce antibody to the virus. These cats successfully develop immunity to the FeLV virus and do not get leukemia or other diseases caused by FeLV.

CRAZY CARACAL

BY REBECCA MORGAN



The second possibility after a cat is exposed to FeLV is that the cat's immune system will be overcome by the virus and will not be able to limit its growth. In this event the FeLV will establish an active and persistent infection in the cat's body. FeLV infection, once established usually persists for the life of the cat and usually exists for months to years before leukemia or other FeLV related disease occurs. During this period of continual leukemia virus infection, there may be no signs of illness. However such cats have the virus in their blood and shed the virus in saliva, urine or feces, and thereby can infect other cats. Cats that are actively infected with FeLV can be identified with a test performed on their blood. This test detects the FeLV in circulating blood cells and now is widely used.

Cats that are infected with FeLV (positive blood test) have a high risk of eventually developing either some form of leukemia or several other diseases which now are recognized as consequences of FeLV infection. These conditions include severe anemia, intestinal and kidney disorders, reproductive disorders and various secondary infections due to impairment of the cat's immune system by FeLV.

Symptoms of leukemia or anemia are not specific and are variable depending on organs involved. Often lethargy, paleness and loss of weight are the chief signs. Blood count, x-rays and other laboratory tests may be required to establish a diagnosis.

Some cats that have positive FeLV blood tests do recover from FeLV but the percentage appears to be small. More must be learned about exactly how cats resist or recover from FeLV so that treatments of vaccines can be developed to induce this immunity in susceptible cats. Currently, there are not successful treatments for elimination of FeLV or the leukemia it causes.

Experimental vaccination for FeLV has been investigated for several years and the problem of producing immunity by immunization is difficult and complex. "Live" virus type vaccines are potentially hazardous because it would be difficult to assure that these viruses would not be capable of causing leukemia themselves. Further study of the virus and the cat's immune system is needed before a vaccine can be developed.

Control of FeLV in cats currently depends on identifying the infected cats and removing them from contact with other cats. Currently, although FeLV can infect cells of several species (including humans) grown in test tubes, there is no evidence that people have been infected by FeLV or that the virus causes leukemia or other diseases in humans.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF VIRAL INFECTIONS

A good state of health allows cats the best chance to "fight off" viral diseases. The severity of viral infections is always less in cats in a good nutritional status and free of parasites. Sick cats should be separated from others (another room). In cleaning, feeding and handling, one should progress from the healthy cats to the sick ones rather than the reverse. Most disinfectants and detergents will kill most viruses.

The smaller the number of cats per area, the less efficiently viral diseases will spread. Convalescent cats should be kept separated for two weeks after recovery before being introduced to a new group of cats. Because some viruses can be carried by some healthy cats, any time new cats or kittens are introduced into a group there is a potential for transmission of viral disease. In catteries with persistent respiratory disease problems, viral culture of nose and throat swabs from cats can be done to identify the virus or viruses involved. However, laboratories with facilities for feline virus culture are few and vaccination programs usually are a more practical approach to the problem.

The vaccines for respiratory viruses appear to be effective and feline panleukopenia vaccines are proven highly effective. For control of leukemia virus infections the only effective method currently known is test and removal or isolation of FeLV positive cats. The same is true for FIP although FIP virus infected cats are more difficult to identify with current laboratory tests.

Familiarity with the major symptoms of the feline diseases will enable cat owners to seek early medical attention and treatment for affected cats. Better control of feline viral diseases in the future depends upon continued research into better methods for diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

CARNIVORES

Carnivores are the "flesh eating" order of mammals. They are distributed world wide except Antarctica. The smallest is the Least Weasel; the largest is the Alaskan Brown Bear. They share some general characteristics.

1. At least 4 digits on each foot.
2. Claws
3. Well developed brains.
4. Strong, massive skull.
5. All are predators
6. Most of the young are born blind and helpless but covered with hair.

There are 7 families of Carnivores.

1. Canidae (dogs)
 - a. approximately 45 species including wolves, coyotes, arctic fox, cape hunting dogs.
 - b. They are social animals, living in packs to hunt and have a hierarchical social structure.
 - c. Gestation: 50 to 70 days (domestic dog is 63 days)
 - d. Anatomical structure is quite similar in most species.
2. Ursidae (bears)
 - a. there are nine species including Polar bears, Alaskan browns, grizzly, black, spectacled, sloth giant panda.
 - b. They are distributed in the northern hemispheres with the exception of the spectacled bear from South America.
 - c. They are omnivorous and aggressive (polar bears have been known to stalk humans).
 - d. the bears closest relative is the dog.
 - e. Bears go into a semi-hibernation, during which time their young are born. They have delayed implantation.
3. Procyonidae
 - a. There are 18 species, including raccoon, coati mundi, lesser panda, kinkajou.
 - b. They are primarily new world with the exception of the lesser panda of Asia.
 - c. Many have long banded tails, are nocturnal and have a prominent snout.
4. Mustelidae
 - a. There are seventy species including weasels, skunks, tayras and otters.
 - b. they have a strong musk odor.
 - c. Sea otters are born with their eyes open and can swim immediately after birth.
5. Viverridae
 - a. There are approximately 75 species of civet cats.
 - b. Distribution - Asia & Africa
 - c. They have long, banded tails and prominent anal scent glands.
6. Nyctenidae
 - a. There are four species, aardwolf, spotted, striped and brown.
 - b. Their habitat is Asia & Africa
 - c. They appear as scavengers but are indeed predators.
7. Felidae (cats)
 - a. There are 36 species of cats.
 - b. They occur on all continents except Antarctica.
 - c. Teeth are designed for stabbing, biting and tearing.
 - d. Cheetahs are the major exception - claws are not retractable. Fastest land animal at 65 MPH.

Pinnipeds (seals, sea lions, etc.) are closely related to Carnivores but not classed as such even though they are predators.



MAY 17, 1981

Meeting was called to order by Dennis. Because of the untimely death of Jon Dyer, Herb Wilton was presented with the perpetual plaque as coordinator of 1980.

Ethel reminded us there is a speakout at Kenton School on Tuesday at 7:00. It is for a Boy Scout Troop who have been studying endangered species.

It was the feeling of the group we need an up-date of our by-laws plus a new phone roster for distribution. Barbara and Ethel were appointed to review the present by-laws and make recommendations for changes.

Connie made a motion we charge \$5.00 per year membership per family. It was seconded and passed. She also suggested we appoint someone or elect someone to be membership secretary to keep track of renewal dates and notices. There was no motion made on it so no one was appointed.

Ken reported on the Coalition meeting in Salem in regards to SB791. He said Ginger had been asked to be Historian and Liason Officer to represent the Feline club and do reports for their Newsletter.

Ken Reported the revised SB791 is better than the original.

- Sec. 3 Can't sell, purchase or offer for sale, any exotic or indigenous wildlife.
- Sec. 4 Exempts captive bred birds (Ken said it should exempt ALL CAPTIVE BRED SPECIES)
- Sec. 5 Allows permits for wildlife with adequate facilities (NEEDS DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE) Permits to propogate & sell according to rules of the Commission (SHOULD BE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE).

We could leave it alone or try for something that would benefit us. This bill does not prohibit possession.

Ken read a letter from the National Rifle Assoc. to Herb Others who have come out against SB791 are the Oregonian, Oregon Fish & Wildlife and Warren Iliff. Ken thinks something will come out of the Senate Committee for a vote - it will not be dropped. Should we leave it alone or go for amendments? He thinks we should push for it to be re-worded. USDI precedes state law. Ken is waiting for a copy of the Florida State budget. He says this is very expensive to enforce - where is the state going to get the funding?

Ginger passed out Community Club Award books. There ar many items and services we can save receipts on and make money for the club.

Ethel made a motion we give Ginger \$26.00 to make ash-trays for the 1981 Convention - it was passed.

Herb thought we should rent a video camera to tape some speak-outs, ectto use as fill-ins and educational purposes. Ethel said she was just attended some classes on video taping. We can cut tapes there, using their equipment. We have to buy the blank tape next month sometime. We need people to man cameras, etc. but the tape can be edited so we get exactly what we want. Cable TV Systems would reserve the right to use the tape.

Jenny Klem was voted in as a member. The next meeting will be June 28th at the Vanderwall's.



JUNE 28, 1981

Our meeting was held at the Home of Jackie & Dennis Vanderwall. Dennis called the meeting to order and introductions were made, the minutes approved as read.

The meeting was started on the welcomenews that SB791 has been dropped. There was too much opposition to th bill. Ken said there was very little support from the people on this bill. Few letters were received in Salem from Club members. Ken reminded us that these things are very important and deserve much more individual attention and support.

Dennis mentioned the upcoming LIOC convention in Florida August 14, 15, & 16.

Ethel missed thismeeting to stay home and care for her newest ocelot kitten. Pumpkin didn't want anything to do with her so Ethel is playing mama.

Ken gave a talk on training cats. He said a person trying to train a cat should be consistent and follow through. Reward your cat with food and affection. When potty-training, take a plastic garbage can, cut a hole large enough for the cat to walk through in the side of it. Put newspaper or litter inside and change it each time it is used (cats abhor a dirty box) Cat's cannot reason but have excellent memories so when your cat needs to be punished get it while it is in the act otherwise it won't understand.

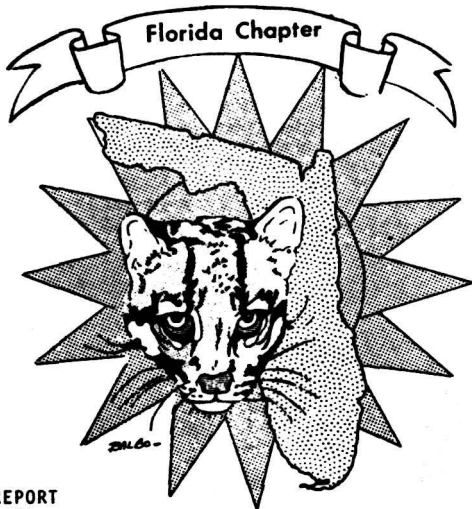
The Stricklands showed us the new baby serval, 7 week old Manderine. She was adopted from Donnie & Connie Schole. Since this was an outside meet, the cats were all comfortable and many visiting felines were present.

BUDGET

SHE WAS THREE WEEKS OLD
WHEN I GOT HER.
SHE WAS SOME
COUGAR'S
DAUGHTER.
WE PLAYED ON THE BED
WHEN I GOT HER.
AND I TAUGHT HER.
SHE WAS TOUGH
ON MY BUDGET
WHEN I GOT HER.
SHE BROUGHT ME JOY
AND I LOVED HER.
MY BABY'S GONE.

HERB WILTON

Budget was found dead in her cage in March. Autopsy showed a ruptured blood vessel in her lung. She was 26 months old



MEETING REPORT

The Spring meeting was held Sunday, March 29th at Pat Warren-Reg Reidel's place in Pawling, N.Y. It was a clear, sunny warm pre-spring day that had the presence of several early insects including a mosquito or two. Obviously the meeting was outdoors and as usual had a picnic atmosphere.

Attendance was sparse with a total of about 15 people. States represented were New Jersey, New York, Conn. and Massachusetts-

Three of the large, first generation Geoffroy/domestic hybrids were present. They are larger than either parent and weigh between 22 and 32 pounds. Markings were of the desired "tiger" pattern and the shape shows the hybrid parentage. After some members had left, Colorado, a red "tiger" hybrid was allowed loose and followed a group of us in a walk around the boundaries of the property. He followed as a dog would. So far, all of these hybrids have personalities of housecats with a tinge of territorial possessiveness and perhaps just a little shyness of the Geoffroy.

Sue Wood, from New Jersey, has applied for a state wild animal permit for Geoffroy's cats. The state regulations allow disqualification for every imaginable reason. It seems that the regulations are meant to prevent wild animal ownership without directly saying so. (Since the meeting Sue has been granted a permit she believes that it was issued due to the list of creditable references she supplied together with her studies in psychology and animal psychology.)

Pat Warren and Reg Reidel now have their New York State Endangered Species permit for their oncillas. It was issued without any real problems, but had a considerable procedural lag time. None of the fish & game employees had even heard of a "small tiger cat" as New York State law calls it, and obviously would not have been able to enforce the law before this. They were expecting something bigger than a bobcat. A combination of excellent facilities together with the desire to breed the oncillas, the excellent reputation of their domestic cattery and their elaborate record keeping system left no reason for not issuing the permit, under that law which is now 12 years old.

Arnold Weber who has had his problems with N.Y. State endangered species law in the past will be boarding his "permit issued" domestic born mountain lion at Pat's place. He has lost use of the farm property where he kept Misty and some horses. Misty will be living in a newly build pen away from the domestics, geoffroys and oncillas.

Submitted by Art Human

Five Nations Join CITES

Reprinted from PET BUSINESS

Five nations have joined CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Included are Chile, Argentina, Portugal, Liberia and Mozambique. The nations joined in a period from late 1980 to March, 1981. With the recent signees, member nations now total 60.

MEETING REPORT May 17, 1981

Clear skies over Florida offered no excuses for anyone to miss the May meeting of the Florida Chapter. However, the lure of the beach and the current cost of gasoline may have contributed to the small attendance in Hollywood, Fla.

As is often the case, our meeting was casual and conversational. No formal reading of the minutes of the last meeting, no roll call and no structured format - just like the lifestyle in Florida.

Some things about Florida laws did come up. We have a state system that regulates exotic ownership by breaking the cats (and other exotics) into size category. Class one being the large cats - lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars. Class two - cougars and ocelot-size cats, and so on. In order to keep your cat you need a permit which costs \$100 and must be inspected to assure you meet state health and cage conditions. However, at the first of this year, the state stopped issuing Class One permits and the word is that the state is quietly confiscating all class One cats.

Another item - did you ever see one of those places that has lion or tiger cubs and offered to take your picture holding one? Well, the state is trying to prohibit exhibitors from any public contact with class one animals regardless of the age of the cat. These ideas seem to proliferate in areas that grow in population - less freedom and more restrictions.

The main area of interest was the progress of Convention.

A REMINDER OF ALL THE LITTLE THANKLESS JOBS THAT HAVE TO BE PERFORMED: THE SHUTTLING, REGISTRATION FEES (COVERS ALL DOINGS, THE BANQUET, BREAKFAST) ALL COMING WILL RECEIVE A SOUVENIER MUG WITH CONVENTION 81 ON IT.

We ask all of you also to remember the sale and auction.

A word of thanks to all who took time out of busy schedules to attend the meeting. A special thanks to Hosts Jim and B.J. Scott and Shirley Wheatly for the fine food she prepared. Jamie Wheatly was there also with friend Connie Christensen. (Jamies bobcat just had three kits), Marc Pearlman and Gene Erskine, Mary Nell and Cubbedge Phillips and of course the ever-faithful Jean Hatfield along with Ellen Bartlett (Soon to be Mrs. Danny Treanor) and Danny Treanor.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 in Orlando at Danny's House.

Respectfully submitted
Danny Treanor

ESCAPE!

by BeeJay Lester

PANIC!....with a capital P! That's what I did when one of my margays got out of the cage. It was a first for me....letting it happen after 12 years of keeping exotic cats. And, of course, it happened very late one dark night - after I got home from long hours at work.

I was trying to separate the male and female pair so that I could feed them and get to bed. Unable to get them to cooperate, I opened the cage door just wide enough to get myself wedged in, when suddenly all hell broke loose. The male started chasing the female; she ran from one section of the cage to another and before I knew it, she had darted at me and slithered right between my legs, and out the cage door, running rapidly down the garden path toward the front yard and the street. I ran after her in hot pursuit....only to realize as she reached the edge of the yard that I had left open the cage door with the male margay still (hopefully) inside. I dashed back, shut the door (which turned out to be another mistake) grabbed my net, small cage, two flashlights and slipped on a pair of jeans and sandals.



I also did another foolish thing: I called the police, thinking they would assist by shining their spotlights around the neighborhood for me. A call to a friend proved of no value either, she was fast asleep. She had previously owned a cougar which escaped and I thought she might have some ideas..

Well, I really got frantic when I couldn't spot my margay anywhere in the yard or in the trees. I ventured across the street, knocking on doors and explaining why I was in their bushes. I scoured the area - no margay; only the glaring eyes of some stray alleycats peering at me. Dogs began to bark. I ran quickly towards the sounds, thinking the cat must surely be there. No such luck. This margay was nowhere. I thought the worst - that she had gone across the highway and a block away to the woods.

So, I awakened my 88 year old mother, pleading for her help to stand guard at the back yard around the cages in case the margay came back.

Just about this time, the police officer arrived, perplexed as to the nature of this distress call. He listened but offered nothing except to put out an alert. I begged him not to shoot "it". It was harmless unless cornered. It was small - only 10 pounds. It was spotted and striped. It was scared. It was a pet. It was valuable and rare, etc., etc., Then my mother called to me from the back. She said she had spotted the cat. I crept quietly around the garage where the cages are located and closed off the male margay in another section of the cage and reopened wide the other door.

Then I saw Sabrina - apparently she had circumvented the entire house and worked her way back to the other side of her cage. She just stood and looked at me. I talked softly to her and called her name. But as I moved toward her she spooked and ran toward the fence. When I went one way, she went another. In and out the bushes. Cat & mouse games! Finally, she spotted the open cage door and started in but as I approached the cage, she darted back into the bushes.

Panic again. This margay had just a few weeks had a baby (stillborn) and she was recycling now. She is super nice when in estrus - comes to me, lets me rub her head and vocalizes. But none of that tonight. She was a totally different animal. And the worse part of it was that she had never set foot outside in her life. She was born in captivity and raised in houses.

Keep in mind now, that it is pushing 1:30 in the morning (or night if you prefer), and my neighbors (who already frown on my margay mania) were trying to get their pre-Easter sleep. Suddenly it occurred to me that inside the garage were four baby chicks that I had bought for my margays' Easter presents. They were bedded down for the night so I had forgotten about them. I grabbed one of the chicks, went back to the bushes and again spotted Sabrina. I threw the chick into the cage, but the margay just ran by. Then I got another chick and crept toward Sabrina. She took note and began to follow me. I lured her toward the cage and just as we got there, I threw the second chick inside. Both were peeping loudly by this time and I expected momentarily to hear the neighbors holler for some quiet. Sabrina stuck her head in the cage and I was right behind her. Then, when she put her paws into the cage, I lunged forward and pushed her on it, pulling the door shut fast! I feared she would grab a chick and dart back into the bushes as I have seen some exotics do at the zoos I've worked for.

Which reminds me of a story - Once upon a time, a dumb keeper let an adult puma out of his cage. It was handraised, but not a pet. I heard the keeper yell for help so I ran toward the puma while he ran away from it. I grabbed the cat by the tail and held on, even though the cat turned and bared his teeth at me. I bopped him hard on the nose and held tight til help came and the puma was bodily lifted back into his cage.

Whew....relief is spelled "catching an escaped cat" Normally my panic wouldn't have been as severe, but somehow, when it's your very own margay - a proven breeder too- it makes a very large difference. One thing's for sure: that margay was just as relieved to be safely back home as I was to have her there.

Smart pussycat...she knows a good home is the Margay Menagerie!

No Election

There will be no election of officers this year. For whatever reason, there were nominees enough to fill exactly the number of vacancies in our Board.

Ethel Hauser has resigned as Vice President citing her feeling that new blood was needed. She nominated John Perry for that position. Since no other nominee was put forth John will be our new V.P.

Jon Dyer's death created a vacancy amongst our Term Directors. Since Ethel vacated the post of V.P. a nomination was made for her to take the vacant spot of Term Director, fortunately for us all she accepted. That was the only nomination for Term Director.

Since there are no posts being contested the need for an election is gone. Is the lack of nominees indicative of a general lack of interest in club affairs? Is there no one out there willing to serve?

Another chapter: Life with Apollo

Apollo is a very spoiled, bratty, three-year old ocelot. He lives in our house (or more correctly, we live in his.) He has his own bedroom and the run of the whole place when we're at home. But, as with most spoiled children, he is sickly. As we have him just about stabilized now, I will not write about it at this time.

I had one incident I thought all you smaller cat owners should know about. I can't imagine anyone doing the following with a full grown lion:

Apollo is small; only 28 pounds. He is neutered and declawed, a regular housecat. Since he was a tiny baby he has always tried to eat all his toys. It didn't matter if they were made of rubber, leather, wood, tin; anything he could chew, he'd swallow.

Before I let him come out of his room, I patrol the entire house. Strangers must think I am a little weird as I have rubbergloves, sponges and teflon pads in the oven for safe keeping. But, on to the latest misdeed of our little boy.

His bedroom door is access from our bedroom and we had a screendoor installed so he can always see what is going on. Some nights ago, at 3 AM, I awoke to a strange sound (I can hear a flea sneeze when I sleep). It came from Apollo's room, so, up I jumped to see what it was.

Apollo was choking. He was crouched on his haunches, his eyes turned upwards. His breathing came in little, wheezing gasps. I rolled him over and pried his jaws open, and could just barely see the edge of something whitish way down in his throat. I ran to get a pair of blunt tweezers. Of course I could not get to the obstruction as Apollo was fighting me with all the strength he had left, which was plenty. I got bit on almost every finger and poked in both eyes with his paws.

I paused for a few seconds to get my wits together. I was alone in the house as my husband was on the road and our neighbors would not come closer than 50 feet to Apollo. I got a throw-rug and found a pair of long forceps. I rolled Apollo into the rug - I mean I tried to roll him. I felt like I was wrestling with a 28 pound centipede; he was all legs and paw and all of them hitting me.

So, this was no good either. He was getting weaker and so was I. I had another idea. I ran to the kitchen and got the roasting baster, which is a giant eye-dropper, filled it with water and squirted water into his mouth. Then I took a firm hold on the cat's tail and picked him up, clamped his rump between my knees and with my free arm squeezed hard below his ribcage. It worked!! He made a loud coughing, hissing, snarling, gagging sound and a piece of leather about 2 x 6 inches long was dislodged from his throat.

I picked it up and looked it over, it came from a leather chew-toy a friend had brought him for Christmas. Apollo sat down, washed his face, went to his dish and started eating - it is now past 4 AM. He's hungry and I a shaking, quivering bundle of nerves.

What a joy it is to be foster mother to an ocelot, but I would not trade him for anything in the world.

©friede Vickery



just for fun

Fuss
Tray(litter)
Film
News
Fun
Leopard Cats
Felines
Chicken
Pampers
Spots
Dots
LCS
Furry
Kittens
Vitamins
Goatsmilk
Toys
Permits
Love
Food
Playtime
Poem
Names
Book
Health
Exotic
Tail
Cute
Art

The following is reprinted from
The Leopard Cat Society Newsletter

The object is to find all the words listed on the left. They may be backwards, forwards, diagonal, top to bottom and bottom to top.

Can you find them all?

T P P E R M I T S B G T
O L F U S S D O O F O X
Y A E C F U N O I U A S
S X L O V E K L N R T E
S T I T P A M P E R S M
N I N R Y A R T C Y M A
I M E O P C R E H L I N
M E S L S T O D I Y L S
A C U T E Y S A C M K P
T A S N E T T I K A P O
I C I T O X E S E V T T
V H E A L T H T N E W S

Wildlife Federation Out for Watts

Reprinted from PET BUSINESS

You almost have to get into line to dislike Interior Secretary James G. Watts - and the National Wildlife Federation has joined the team. They've called on the President to sack Watts.

NWF has 4.5 million members in 50 states and before deciding to ask for Watt's dismissal NWF executive Vice president Dr. Jay Hair, polled 4,000 members. Although they voted 2 to 1 for Reagan over Carter they were nearly unanimous in favor of Watt's firing.

Even before President Reagan announced Watt's appointment on December 22nd, 1980, environmentalists were up in arms about rumors that the 42-year-old Colorado attorney would head the department that oversees 519 million acres of publicly owned land. For the past 3 years Watt has been the president and chief legal officer of a conservative law foundation that spends much of its time challenging the Department of the Interior.

Watt, who was born in Lusk, Wyoming, has a lifelong history of involvement in controversial Western issues such as land and water rights. He has been quoted as saying "environmentalists are the greatest threat to the ecology of the West" By preventing the orderly development of western energy resources now, he said, environmentalists would cause those resources to be developed later in a crisis atmosphere, resulting in the "ravaging of our land and the destruction of our natural environment".

Supporters describe Watt as a tough administrator who demands accountability. Joseph Coors, President of the Adolph Coors Col, and founder of Watt's legal foundation, said environmentalists should not be upset, because Watt is "an environmentalist ..who believes in properly controlled growth.



"THE SMALLEST FELINE IS A MASTERPIECE,"

Leonardo Da Vinci from his notebooks

In Memoriam

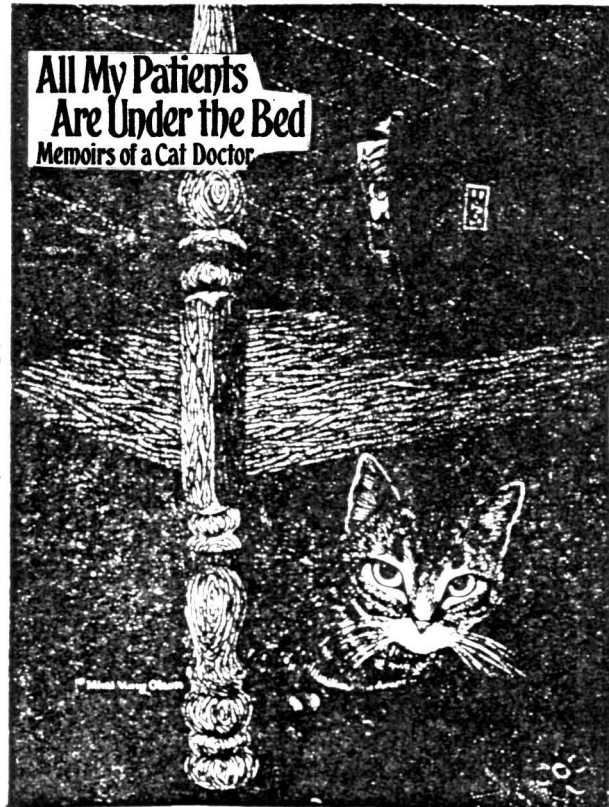
Louis Joseph Camuti, V.M.D.
1883-1981

One of the cats' best friends has left us. Louis J. Camuti of Mt. Vernon, New York, after practicing for 60 years, died of a heart attack at the age of 87. He was driving home after an average day's work of six house calls.

He started an exclusively feline practice in 1931, the first in the country. At first he saw his patients in the office, but as his memoirs pointed out cats are unhappy travellers. If I intended to do my best for cats, I realized that I would have to go to them.

Park Avenue Vet, was published in 1962 by Holt, Rinehart & Winston. All my Patients are Under the Bed, was published in 1980 by Simon & Schuster.

In tribute to this unique man, we reprint the following.



Considering my age - 87 - and the number of years I have made house calls to all my cat patients, I picture the reader smacking his or her lips waiting for old Camuti to tell his greatest cat story. I'm sorry but I don't have one. There have been memorable cats in my past, but none that lend themselves to great stories; at least, not of the sort that a dog lover could come up with. No cat ever went up into the Alps with a keg of brandy around its neck to rescue anybody. Cats don't leap into raging streams to rescue devoted masters, they don't rush into fiery buildings to save children.

It's not that cats care less about the people who love them; they just care differently. You can ask for love from a cat and you'll get it. Wise cat owners know how to give love, and to recognize its return in little ways. With dogs and people its love is in big splashy colors. When you're involved with a cat you're dealing in pastels. I like that about cats.

When a cat is in the mood, it may suddenly leap into a lap and settle down. That is a small miracle as any catowner will tell you, and it does not occur because some human

being has snapped his or her fingers or whistled. To a cat, human beings are an inferior, servile race, always to be kept in their places, with occasional rewards if they perform well. To love a cat is uphill work and therefore very rewarding.

I like the fact that when a cat decides to lick my hand I know that cat truly likes me. With a dog, who can tell? Maybe the dog has been taught to lick an outstretched hand, maybe it wants to be petted or maybe the dog smells the roast beef sandwich I had for lunch. With a cat there is never any doubt. I am liked - maybe not loved, but liked - at least for the moment.

Granged among the thousands of cats who have been my patients, there have been very few hand lickers. In fact, there have been very few who stuck around when I made my appearance. But I like that. Would you stick around if you thought the man coming through the door was going to hurt you? I wouldn't, and I can't blame a cat for not wanting to either.

I think a lot of what I like about cats has to do with the way I was brought up. In my day, you shook hands when you met someone, and when you left you said good-bye politely. Kissing was only for very special people. Nowadays, its all kissing...not only with the show-business people who have been my clients. People kiss hello and they kiss good-bye, and it can be with people they hardly know. Well, I still like a little formality. When I kiss somebody it is because they mean something to me and if they kiss me it is because I mean something to them.

It's that appreciation of formality that makes me like cats. They are perfectly willing to keep their distance with strangers until they decide about them, and they'd just as soon that people would respond in kind.

I like dogs, dachshunds especially. But I trust and respect cats more. I think everything that I like and admire about cats is what has caused them so much trouble through the centuries. It is their impenetrable dignity, the great silence you can feel about them, their way of looking at a person without revealing what they are thinking that have unnerved mankind and led to all sorts of ridiculous connections among cats, the devil and witchcraft.

But cats have survived it all from ancient Egypt to the present day and I have no doubt that they will go on surviving. It is my opinion that the people who hate cats, fear them or don't trust them are people who are unsure of themselves. Deep down inside, they are jealous when they see a cat going about its business, indifferent to what anyone wants or expects of it. That cat is leading its own life, giving affection only where and when it wants accepting affection only when and from whom it chooses. If I were someone who spent his life putting up with and giving into people I had doubts about, I think I might want to kick the stuffings out of a cat that was showing me it could lead a life I didn't have the guts to lead.

Sure, I've met a lot of wacky cat owners, some weak and some strong, but I suspect that basically they must be self-sufficient people. Their cat says that to me. If those people needed a pet that would give them wild displays of affection every time they come in the door, they'd have picked a different pet. Cats are for people who have some self-contentment.

So I haven't got one last great cat story. But maybe, if you see things the way I do, every cat is a great story within itself. I only know that I can look back with fondness on a life spent tending to cats. Though they didn't give me much affection in return for my work, I have no doubt that they knew I was trying to help them. Cats are too bright not to know. And if it is not their way to show a little appreciation, I can understand that. I've been told so often that I'm a pretty crusty old bird that I accept it as the truth.

There has been many a time when I've choked up at an unexpected kindness and said nothing. Later on, I wanted to kick myself. Well, maybe there are cats walking around today wanting to kick themselves for hissing and spitting at Camuti when he was only trying to help. I hope so.

Not that it really matters, because as long as the good Lord lets us, Alex, my beloved wife, Alexandra and I

will be hading out late in the afternoon making our way to out patients. Who knows? One of the Nicodemuses or Oswillas - my catch-all names for all the toms and their ladies whose names I can't remember - I have yet to meet may be that great cat story I would like to have told here.

But I don't really expect that to happen. It will be more than enough for me if one day I open a door and find a cat sitting in the middle of the room looking up and waiting for me.

Come to think of it, that would be a great cat story.

MORE SAD NEWS

ZAPATA, the model for the "Lottie", died at the age of 18. He was owned by Stan and Brenda Duprey of Lennox, Mass. Up until the end he enjoyed his daily walks in the woods, reports Art Human. Death was apparently caused by heart failure brought on by old age.

GENE BRILL, after a lengthy illness has left us.

She served as LIOC's Secretary for many years, being a member since 1960. Always a cheerful presence, her absence will leave a vacancy that cannot be filled. Our deepest sympathy to her twin daughters who survive her.

Warning

FLEA PRODUCTS IMPLICATED IN TOXIC REACTIONS

A group of veterinarians in Florida became troubled after observing the sudden appearance of similar maladies in previously healthy dogs and cats. Over a year's time, the veterinarians saw or heard about cases of hypersensitivity, muscle twitching, ataxia and convulsions; some cats also died

The common factor, in addition to similar symptoms seemed to be the use of a product called FLEE. Symptoms sometimes appeared within days of administration of Flee and in other cases, only after several months.

Flee is manufactured by the Environmental Products Corp., Hollywood, Florida and is labeled as a flea repellant, to be administered orally and topically. It has been advertised as "non-toxic-safe". It was sold over the counter in pet supply and drug stores and purportedly was dispensed by several vets. Apparently, little distribution was made outside the Miami area. It is from this area that the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) has received adverse reaction reports from veterinarians and complaints from pet owners.

The active agents in Flee are labeled as "alkanolamines" and may contain diethanolamine (DEA) and triethanolamine (TEA) separately or in combination. According to the literature, DEA and TEA salts may be found in waterless hand cleaners, detergent-type liquid shampoos and hair waving preparations. They are described as having low to moderate toxicity when ingested but having the potential for eye or skin irritation. Diethanolamine is said to have a low toxic effect when administered once acutely but the effects may be cumulative if low doses are given over a period of time (The duration of Flee therapy is not limited). DEA and/or TEA have been shown to have an adverse effect on the liver, kidneys, pancreas, and nervous system and both may combine with nitrates under certain acidic conditions to become mutagenic.

NEITHER FOR NOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Agency has given an approval or assigned a registration number to this product. FDA issued a regulatory letter on Flee approximately a year and a half ago because Flee was being marketed without a new animal drug approval. After that, the firm corresponded with FDA and the agency concluded once again that Flee had not been demonstrated to be safe and effective.

The adverse reactions associated with Flee are still under investigation. While one cannot rule out the possibility that drug interactions involving Flee and other agents may have contributed to the signs observed, Flee use does present a health hazard. A considerable body of evidence of Flee's toxicity to animals cannot be ignored. The symptoms exhibited by the dogs and cats show similarities with patterns demonstrated in chronic and acute toxicity studies with diethanolamine in other species. No direct safety data in dogs and cats is available and, other than supportive therapy, no direct antidotal procedures are known.

At this time, the distribution of Flee appears to be confined to Florida and in mid-June the manufacturer instituted a voluntary recall. All practitioners should be aware of this product, however, and the potential health hazard to pets it presents. Any adverse reactions that may be attributable to Flee should be reported to the nearest FDA office.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



HEAVY METAL

When Max, Chicago's favorite harbor seal, passed on to his reward he died wealthy - as seals go. When autopsied, medical examiners found nearly \$100 in pennies, a brass ring and a medallion in his stomach. He was counted a victim of a strange habit of zoo goers, that of tossing coins into the Lincoln Park Zoo seal pond. - reprinted from Pet Business

HOT CROSS WABBIT

The world's most unusual heating system is covered with fur and has a nose that twitches but can generate up to 180,000 BTU every hour - about 15 times the heat needed to warm an average house. It's a rabbit and Williams Schultz of Grant's Pass, Ore. has installed 350 of them to heat his greenhouse. Currently heating bills hit more than \$1,000 a month. By putting rabbits in cages at one end of the greenhouse, Schultz hopes to cut that bill. Feeding of the rabbits cost \$15 a day so Schultz figures the new system will save him \$25 a day. - reprinted from Pet Business

RARE SIAMESE CROCS BORN IN MIAMI

Nine, rare, ferocious Siamese Crocodiles were born at Dade's Metrozoo, a headline event in the world of captive breeding since Siamese crocs are among the most difficult of all species to mate.

Siamese are among the few species of crocodiles born alert and ready to strike out on their own. They come from Thailand and Southeast Asia where they are nearly extinct. - reprinted from Pet Business

NEW JERSEY joins the growing list of states that finance wildlife protection out of income-tax refunds. On a 1981 state return next year, a Jerseyite owed a refund will be able to check off from it a gift of \$2, \$5 or \$10 to a new state endangered species fund.