

# NEWSLETTER

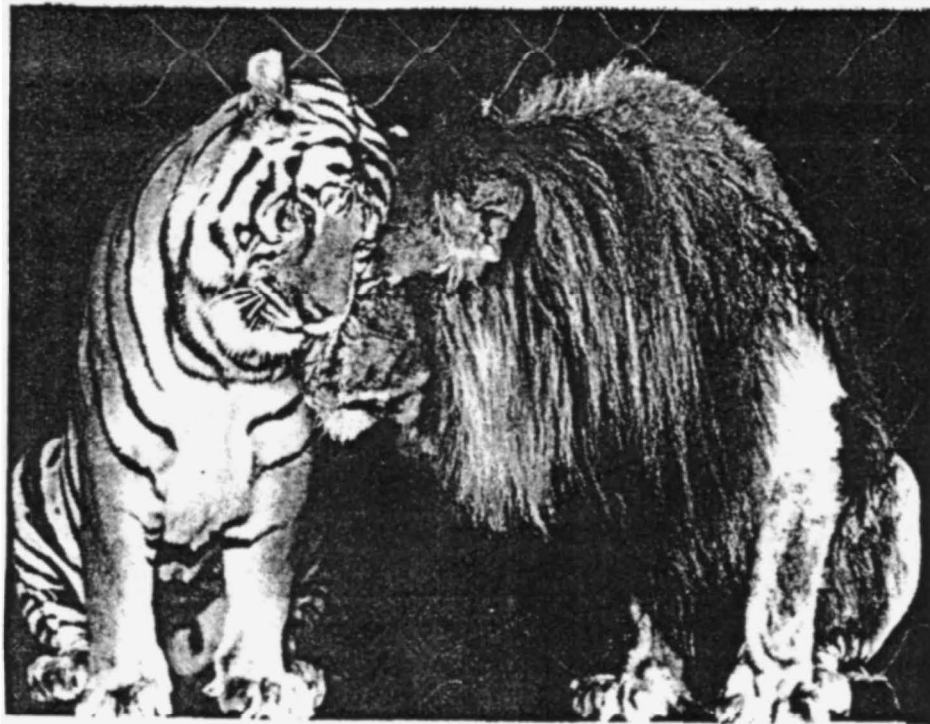
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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB  
 1454 Fleetwood Dr. E.  
 Mobile, Ala. 36605

Volume 26 - Number 1  
 January - February  
 1982

## LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



Although rumored to be mortal enemies, Bombay the Bengal and Pancho the lion, don't show it! In fact, the Asian lion is all but extinct and there are no tigers to be found in Africa so its highly unlikely the two would meet accidentally. These two star in David McMillan's Fabulous Flying Tiger Act at Circus World in Orlando, Florida, and were raised together. Contributed by BeeJav Lester



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#### BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

FLORIDA: Danny Treanor, 5151 Glasgow, Orlando, Fl.  
32805 (305) 351-3058  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Pat Quillen, P.O.Box 7535, San  
Diego, CA 92107 (714) 224-4261  
OREGON EDUCATIONAL EXOTIC FELINE CLUB: Herb Wilton,  
7800 S.E. Luther Rd. Portland Ore 97206  
(503) 774-1657  
GREATER NEW YORK: Art Human, 32 Lockwood Ave. Norwalk  
Conn. 06851 (203) 866-0484  
SOUTHWESTERN: Rebecca Morgan, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton,  
Texas 75006, (204) 241-6440

#### AFFILIATES

EXOTICS UNLTD: 410 W. Sunset Blvd. Hayward, CA 94541  
LEOPARD CAT SOCIETY: P.O.Box 7535, San Diego CA, 92107  
NATIONAL ASSOC. FOR SOUND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS: 2455 N.E.  
184 Terrace, Miami, Fl. 33160  
WORLD PET SOCIETY: P.O.Box 343, Tarzana, CA 91356

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MOVE, SEND YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE TO:

BARBARA WILTON  
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P.O. Box 66040  
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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.

#### L.I.O.C. OFFICERS

KEN HATFIELD, PRESIDENT: 1991 S.W. 136 Ave., Davie,  
Fl. 33325, (305) 472-7276  
JOHN PERRY, VICE. PRES., 6684 Central Ave., N.E.  
Minneapolis, Minn. (612) 571-7913, 331-6330  
JACKIE VANDERWALL, SEC/TREAS. 17824 S.E. Morrison  
Portland, Ore. 97233, (503) 665-9488.

#### LIFE DIRECTORS

CATHERINE CISIM, FOUNDER: Amagansett, N.Y. 11930  
(516) 267-3852  
MIKE BALBO, 21-01 46th St, Long Island City, N.Y.  
11105  
ROGER HARMON, 405-C Pinecrest, Marshall, TX 75670  
(214) 938-6113  
KEN HATFIELD, (See above)

#### TERM DIRECTORS

ETHEL HAUSER, 14622 N.E. 99th St., Vancouver,  
WA. 98662 (206) 892-9994  
ELMER MORGAN, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton, Tx. 75006  
(214) 241-6440  
JEAN TOWNES, 3033 Harding Ave., Santa Clara, CA  
95051 (408) 241-5565  
SHIRLEY TREANOR, 1454 Fleetwood Dr.E., Mobile, AL.  
36605 (205) 478-8962 (Emergencies - days  
(205) 433-5418)

#### STAFF

EDITOR: Shirley Treanor, 1454 Fleetwood Dr.E.,  
Mobile, Al. 36605  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Barbara Wilton, 7800 S.E.  
Luther Rd., Portland, Ore 97206 (503) 774-1657  
REGISTRAR: Rebecca Morgan, P.O.Box 144, Carrollton,  
Tx 75006 (214) 241-6440

#### 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.

# CONVENTION - 1982

## TEXAS STYLE

• IS ALMOST HERE •

AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SEEING Y'ALL

BANQUET

LOTTIE

### TRAVEL:

By air you will arrive at DFW Airport. Transportation from the Airport to the Summit Hotel is now being handled by Surtran Bus to Farmers Branch, where you would be picked up by a van from the Summit Hotel. But hopefully by Convention time, the Summit Hotel will have a van to pick you up at the airport. (Everyone who states on the Pre-registration form that they are coming by air will be notified as to which mode of transportation will be available.) If you are flying in without pre-registering call Rebecca Morgan (214-241-6440) at least 10 days in advance and we will get the information to you. If you get to the airport without this information, call the Summit Hotel (214-243-3363) and ask for our hospitality room.

If driving to Dallas, the Summit Hotel is located in northwest Dallas, on Loop 635 at Josey. (Just east of I-35)

### ACCOMODATIONS:

We will be staying at the Summit Hotel, who welcomes our cats as long as they are carried into the rooms in cages. They ask that no cats be brought into the lobby on a leash only. Use the enclosed card to make your Hotel reservations and to assure you receive the convention rate of \$42.00.

### REGISTRATION:

Pre-registration cost for convention is \$30.00 per person. This covers all the Convention functions including the banquet Saturday night. Registration at the Convention will be \$35.00. (Money will be refunded if you notify us 10 days in advance of any changes in your plans.) Send to : Long Island Ocelot Club P.O. Box 144 Carrollton, Texas 75006.

### PERMITS:

TEXAS REQUIRES NO PERMITS, But you should check with any State you are going to cross if you are driving to Dallas with your cat.

### AUCTION:

As in the past an auction will be held as a fund raising function for L.I.O.C. If you wish to contribute some items for the auction, but aren't able to join us, it can be sent to L.I.O.C. P.O. Box 144 Carrollton, Texas 75006.

### AGENDA:

Friday, Oct. 22: The morning will be left open to register, get settled, meet new & old friends in the Hospitality Room & see some of the sights of Dallas. In the afternoon we will have several speakers and the General membership meeting ... A time to bring up whats on your mind and make suggestions to the Board of Directors.

Saturday, Oct. 23: The day is free for most (except our officers who will be attending the Executive meeting) Sat. night is highlighted by the Lottie presentation, the banquet and the auction.

Sunday, Oct. 24: We will meet one last time for the report back to the members of what happened in the Executive Meeting, and to say our good-bys for another year.

TALK

FUN!

FUN!

CATS

PICTURES

SPEAKERS

## OLD & NEW FRIENDS

# ACTION NEEDED NOW

BOTH HOUSES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS MUST AGREE TO RENEW THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 BY OCTOBER 1, 1982.

As most of you know, the original act only prohibited the importation from the wild those animals classified as "endangered". Thereafter, the act was modified and as it stands today, makes ownership of exotics almost impossible and the acquisition of domestic born animals an impossibility.

Protection of those endangered species in the wild is desperately needed. However, without modification to the present laws, captive breeding programs are in danger of extinction themselves.

An article by Gary Casper is included in this Newsletter as well as a petition Gary has drafted to have the law changed to one that promotes captive breeding programs.

PLEASE GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR UTMOST ATTENTION.

Write your Representatives (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515 - send copies to President Reagan (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500)

Circulate a copy of the petition in this issue and send it to the above, with a copy to Gary Casper (address below.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Shirley,

I am contacting you regarding efforts towards reforms of wildlife laws affecting the movement of captive born animals. I feel that current legislation is threatening the chances of survival for many rare, Threatened and Endangered species.

We are asking your organization's support in enacting sound, practical wildlife legislation which will enhance wildlife survival. Please present the enclosed material to the members of the Long Island Ocelot Club.

Sincerely,

Gary Casper  
3403 S. 16th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

## IMPLICATIONS OF WILDLIFE LAWS

By Gary Casper

U.S. wildlife protection laws have been worded, interpreted, and enforced in a manner frequently to the detriment of the animals they were meant to protect. The results have been devastating in their impact on wildlife and researchers, especially regarding vitally important captive breeding programs for endangered species. Rare & endangered species are being isolated or even euthanized because of this situation. Further, many activities and policies of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service appear to be inimical to effective wildlife preservation. It is necessary to reverse this trend to ensure that government has a positive effect on wildlife preservation. Effective species preservation can often be achieved by encouraging captive propagation rather than prohibiting such activities. Amendments to current wildlife legislation are necessary to resolve this dilemma.

The US. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, in it's recent nationwide "sting" operation demonstrated a disregard for civil rights. Although the stated intent of the operation was to conserve wildlife by curtailing "widespread illegal trafficking", the actual operation resulted in the destruction of many rare animals and the research being done with them. This situation has come about through enforcement of several questionable wildlife protection laws in such a way as to threaten the very animals it was meant to protect.

### SNAKESCAM

In the 1981, reptile "sting" operation undertaken by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, many questionable acts occurred. The operation now tagged "Snakescam" was conducted in cooperation with several state wildlife agencies. It has been documented that in many of these raids animals with registered permits were seized as well as animals not requiring permits. At least 109 important research animals were confiscated. Many of the Fish & Wildlife Service agents demonstrated a remarkable inability to identify confiscated animals. This incompetency resulted in citizens' legal property being seized. Research papers, business records and personal property were destroyed! The deaths of large numbers of confiscated animals, through placement in inadequate care facilities, was a common occurrence. These deaths included many rare, captive born animals.

The Fish & Wildlife Service operated a false business front (The Atlanta Wildlife Exchange) which bought and sold over 10,000 animals over an 18 month period. This false business apparently encouraged the taking of animals from the wild through financial inducements. Federal agents operating the Atlanta Wildlife Exchange were inexperienced in reptile care. Persons who purchased from the "exchange" received specimens with burn lesions, broken bones, and fatal parasite infestations. How many died while passing through the exchange is unknown.

Activities of USFW since these "raids" are equally alarming. USFW has refused to return illegally confiscated animals, research records, photographs, articles for publication and permits. Several defendants are being required to prove their animals were not obtained in violation of any State or Federal law, in short, they must prove their innocence! An exact contradiction of our basic legal premise of innocent until proven guilty.

Why did these amazing events occur? The reasons for initiating "snakescam" are not clear. Many believe that in this time of budget cutting and departmental phase-outs, the law enforcement division of USFW felt it had to justify its existence by making a dramatic series of arrests. Thus Snakescam which, according to a USFW press release "uncovered a massive illegal trade in protected and endangered U.S. reptiles". However, it can be shown that the USFWS (through its Atlanta Wildlife Exchange) in fact created this "massive illegal trade" by offering incredible high prices for protected animals in an economically depressed time. The Atlanta Wildlife Exchange also encouraged customers to purchase illegal animals at greatly reduced rates. Tactics such as refusing to do business with a person unless illegal animals were included in a shipment were used. Federal agents asked persons to ship snakes through the mail in violation of Postal regulations.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Current federal wildlife laws are intended to enhance wildlife survival by regulating market hunting, live trade and habitat destruction. It is the responsibility of the USFWS to enforce these laws. Habitat protection can be extremely difficult in the face of powerful commercial lobbies and demands for construction sites for energy and natural resources, as shown in the case of the Snail Darte and the Tellico Dam. Protection of "listed" animals from market hunting can also be difficult, as shown in the recent furor over bobcat harvests. Powerful fur interests are combating any reduction in the take of bobcat pelts. Live animal trade, however is an easy target as it is made up of small businesses and private individuals, as well as public, low funded institutions such as zoos. These do not have the resources to survive "power plays" by a federal agency such as the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Ideally, the intent of wildlife protection legislation is to enhance the long term survival of wildlife. Of course the function of the USFWS should be to assist and encourage efforts toward this end. The USFWS should do everything possible to aid research and breeding of rare animals. Persons who breed endangered animals are perform-

ing a great service to mankind and the environment. They are preventing the extinction of unique elements of the planetary ecosystem. Such persons should be given a citation of merit for their accomplishments! USFWS should promote such activities by quick and efficient processing of permits as well as active encouragement. Government should have a positive effect on breeding and work with all animal breeders towards the common goal of long term wildlife survival. Wildlife legislation must promote activities beneficial to wildlife, and must address negative impacts on wildlife. These come from three sources - market hunting, live trade, and most importantly, habitat destruction and loss. Habitat destruction is by far the major cause of wildlife decline. Effective means to protect the habitat must be studied and considered. Incentives for habitat preservation are extremely important, only when this is achieved will other protective measures have meaning.

There must be effective regulation of hunting and the animal product market. Careful regulation is required, not outright bans. This is necessary because many animals are being protected in the wild by establishing commercial farming operations, which put illicit markets out of business by providing a legal source for superior quality products. Total bans can actually be detrimental to wildlife by either driving market underground (thus raising prices and making such an endeavor more profitable) or by displacing market pressure to substitute species. For example, the bobcat and lynx were immediate targets when the spotted cats were protected, while the monitor and tegu lizards suffered the brunt of alligator protection.

In many cases, this dilemma of over-hunting wild animals for their meat, hides, etc., can be resolved by establishing alternative sources for animal products from captive or semi-captive stock. These alternate, legal sources for products can undermine the "poachers'" business, and coupled with strict protection of wild populations, afford effective species preservation. The crocodile farms of Thailand and Papua New Guinea, trout farms, apiaries, alpaca farming and mink farms are all examples of animal product industries that are actually beneficial to the survival of the species in the wild.

Many more species could be protected in this manner and captive populations will provide gene-pools from which animals can be drawn to augment or re-establish dwindling wild populations. Wildlife legislations should encourage such operations.

Wildlife legislation must have realistic regulations on commerce in live animals. Intelligent quotas for the import and export of live fauna need to be considered and established. Employment of, and consultation with, qualified personnel in this regard is essential. At the present time there are no quotas on live trade for many species. It is an all or nothing situation where either tens of thousands of animals can be imported, or none at all can be imported. This has resulted in vast numbers of animals suffering because their easy replacement allows them to be sold very cheaply; while animals whose survival may depend on captive propagation programs are almost impossible to obtain. Quotas must be established before a species becomes so rare that a total ban on trade need be established.

Prudent live collecting for captive maintenance has rarely been documented to have negative effects of wild populations. However, live collecting could pose a threat when habitat has been destroyed to the point where only remnant survivors exist, in extremely fragile habitats or other special conditions. The USFWS has cited the Eastern Indigo Snake as a species endangered because of live collecting. This is highly unlikely, as many other reports indicate that habitat loss is the major cause of this creature's decline, along with indiscriminate gassing of Gopher tortoise burrows during "rattlesnake round-ups". It is doubtful that live collecting has had any effect on healthy Indigo snake populations. Where habitat loss has reduced a species to endangered status, it is often desirable to sample surplus individuals for captive propagation programs. To this end, intelligent and realistic quotas need to be established for the live collecting of rare animals.

Finally, wildlife legislations must encourage and assist captive and semi-captive breeding programs, both public and private. Current restrictions have had just the opposite effect. These laws have traditionally been intended as being beneficial to wildlife survival. However, accumulating evidence shows that many of these laws are actually preventing the reproduction of rare wildlife under captive conditions. Laws, regulations and policies now in effect make it virtually impossible to transport, trade, or market captive born wildlife over

state or international boundaries. The expense of housing and feeding offspring that cannot be sold, moved or traded is prohibitive. Thus, zoos, collectors and wildlife organizations are frequently not breeding rare and endangered animals because of the very laws enacted to "protect" these species. Further, the enforcement techniques being used all but require proof of origin for protected animals on hand. It is estimated that following the passage of the Endangered Species Act, more tigers, leopards, and jaguars were killed in the U.S. than in the wilds. Breeders are now refusing to breed such as the Jamaican Boa, which were commonly bred in large numbers before their listing as endangered. The endangered Indian Python raised in large numbers throughout the US is now being crossbred with the Burmese python, in order for the young to be marketed; resulting in pureblooded Indians being rarer than ever before.

If a protected animal is bred, the offspring cannot be moved except within the state. This market quickly is saturated and any further offspring become a great financial burden to house and feed. Though permits can be issued for interstate and foreign commerce, few institutions are granted them and these require applications, fees and long waiting periods. Further permits are rarely issued to individuals or private foundations, despite the fact that these parties are just as important in the breeding of rare wildlife as large publically supported institutions. This is because private foundations are free to concentrate their resources on a few species and avoid the expense of providing for public access and displays.

This ability to conduct extensive research and breeding with no "frills" attached can result in mass production of captive born wildlife. For example, 60% of all freshwater tropical fish sold in the U.S. are domestically farmed. Publically supported zoos, often plagued with funding problems, are considering a "triage" system where only select species of the greatest importance are concentrated on. This system promises great benefits for the selected species. However, only a small percentage of the ever growing number of rare and endangered species can be extensively bred by publically supported institutions alone. Further, unless there is some outlet for dispersing surplus animals in captive population, few species are economically feasible to breed. For example, the estimated annual upkeep for a single tiger is \$3,243. It is therefore essential to encourage the development of as many breeding facilities as possible, in both the public and private sectors. Yet, the enforcement of current laws, instead of encouraging and assisting the propagation of rare wildlife, makes such propagation virtually impossible.

Restrictions on the sale, trade, transport, importation, exportation and possession of captive born wildlife have had negative impacts. These restrictions need to be re-assessed and removed or substantially reduced. The benefits of new legislation would be great, as it would take pressure off natural populations by making captive born animals available. At the present time there are high risks involved when buying wild caught animals as they often succumb to disease, parasites and trauma. The purchase of captive born animals however, carries inherent advantages in that they are clean, healthy and acclimated to captivity. In this way, the trade in illegal wildlife should be greatly reduced by providing legal sources for superior quality animals. This is a far more effective means of halting "smuggling" of wild animals than is prohibition of all trade. This would allow law enforcement agencies to concentrate on the basic causes of population exterminations, habitat loss and commercial market exploitation. The establishment of large, widely distributed captive populations will reduce the vulnerability of extant remnant wild populations to natural or man-made disaster. It will also make possible the re-introduction of species to areas from which they have disappeared. It could facilitate research on the biology of rare species, including the establishment of tracing of genetic lines.

Such legislation could provide economic incentives to breed rare animals. It could enable zoos, organizations and individuals to generate funds by selling captive bred specimens. This money would pay for food housing, energy, salaries, research or new bloodlines. In short the animals would help pay for themselves. By making captive bred animals a valuable commodity everyone benefits, the animals, through careful husbandry, breeding and population expansion; the owner, by generating funds for animal maintenance, research or expansion; the purchaser by acquiring quality, captive acclimated and low risk specimens.

New legislation would facilitate the establishment of breeding groups of rare, threatened and endangered species. With very rare animals, there can be a problem of actually bringing sexually compatible pairs together collections scattered throughout the world.

Heretofore elusive effects of wildlife laws, regulations and enforcement modes have emerged as very real direct threats, not only to rare animals but to the people who work with them. Thus we are now being forced either to take action against the very department created to protect wildlife, or face systematic elimination of captive breeding, research and our attendant civil rights.

Too many persons are not making themselves heard for fear of further harassments. No changes will be made by sticking our heads in the sand. Unless we protest now it will be nearly impossible to continue captive breeding, and the future of much wildlife research will be jeopardized. The abuses of civil rights could set a precedent which will threaten other areas. Opinions need to be expressed to those who can make changes, our Senators, Congressmen, and the media.

These amendments should stipulate that there be NO restrictions on the sale, trade, transport, importation, exportation or possession of any CAPTIVE BORN wildlife. Protected animals now in captivity should be granted a general amnesty. This is necessary because proof of legal origin is often impossible for animals acquired prior to the original legislation. A general amnesty would remove the necessity of proving legal origins for animals already in captivity. It would stimulate persons with animals of undetermined origin to bring these animals into breeding situations. An attitude of encouraging and assisting captive breeding and other activities beneficial to wildlife should be an underlying basis for the law. Finally, amendments should encourage animal farms which will provide legal sources for animal products, take pressure off wild populations and make it uneconomical for poachers and illegal suppliers to operate.

## PROTEST

PLEASE SIGN AND CIRCULATE YOUR  
PETITION NOW! THIS IS IMPORTANT!

DON'T DELAY - IT COULD BE TOO LATE  
TOMORROW! DID BROTHER SIGN?  
SISTER? AUNT?? NEIGHBOR??



The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission reports that work on the endangered Florida Panther was intensified during 1982. Field observations have reaffirmed that the Fakahatchee and Big Cypress Swamp have significant populations of this elusive animal. Biologists recently radio-collared six animals. Two males were captured along with two females in each of the above areas. One male was a recapture and one female was pregnant. Development activity in these regions, including oil wells and interstate highways are proceeding at a brisk pace and information garnered from these animals can be used to prevent adverse impact on the species.

Contributed by Daniel Twedt



We received a note from Mike Smith (recently from Hawaii) letting us know he's back in the continental U.S.- San Diego now. Mike is sure to be remembered by many from conventions of the past and his art contributions to the Newsletters.

He's looking forward to being in closer touch with LIOC and it's members and is still as interested in the cats as always. He can be reached at

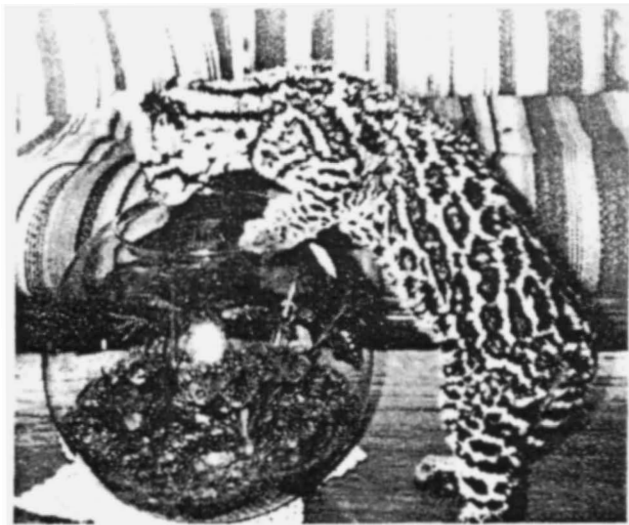
108 W. Robinson St. #3  
San Diego, CA 92103

## AGENDA BEING SET

Each year at convention, during the General meeting, members are given the opportunity to bring up subjects for discussion by those present and then later for action by the Officers & Directors at the Board meeting.

If you have a subject you wish discussed either at the General Membership Meeting or by the Board of Directors, please send it to us at

LIOC  
1454 Fleetwood Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36605



"ALLRIGHT, WHO TOOK THE @!%\$ FISH?"  
Submitted by Debra Wisener



"BET I CAN SMILE BIGGER THAN YOU CAN!"  
Liz Ghent meets Sasquatch



"YOU STAND GUARD -  
I'M POOPED!"  
Barbara Grimes entry  
of TARA



"TEAGER" Submitted by Richard Dyck

## PHOTO CONTEST



## Busch Gardens acquires set of rare white tigers

Rare Bengal tigers — two white and one yellow — have found a home at The Dark Continent's Claw Island.

Reprinted from THE LEDGER  
By Janice Lucus

The big white tiger streaks over to the yellow one and tenderly, but determinedly uses its powerful jaws to pull the cub away from the water. Its no surprise that the rare white tiger cub thinks danger lurks in the waters. After all, he was born and raised inside a northern zoo and has never before experienced the luxury of romping in the great outdoors.

The white tiger is one of three rare Bengals that the "Dark Continent" Busch Gardens, in Tampa, Florida recently acquired from Cincinnati. Two of the tigers are rare because they are full-blooded white Bengals and the yellow cat is rare because it has recessive white genes., which gives it the capability to produce more white tigers.

The number of zoos in this country that own this rare species can be counted on one hand plus one finger. Tampa is the only one in the southeast. The three baby bengals, a white male and female and the yellow crossbred female were bred in Cincinnati who has the largest breeding colony of these cats.

The white tigers, born 9/5/81 are two of only 50 known members of the species in captivity. The yellow female was born 7/6/81 and if mated to a white male, is expected to produce offspring, have of which would be white, those born yellow, would however carry the recessive white gene. Genetically, if the two white cubs breed, all their offspring should be white.

All white tigers are the descendants of Mohan, a white male captured in 1951 in the Indian province of Rewa. Mohan was mated with a yellow female, Begum, and produced 10 yellow cubs. One of these cubs was bred back to Mohan and together they produced 14 cubs - 11 of which were white. The breeders finally reached their goal when a litter of six white cubs was sired by Mohan and a tiger from his last offspring.

The unique white tiger is not an albino because of its icy blue eyes, pink nose and the brownish stripes on its milky coat.

It is important to breed new blood so that the genetics remain strong. Too much inbreeding would result in genetic defects or chronic ill health in the offspring.

In 1960, a female white Bengal was presented to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. as a gift to President Eisenhower. She was named Mohini. Mohini eventually found her way to the Cincinnati zoo where she was paired with another white of unknown ancestry. Together they produced the largest number of white tigers every born- 8 males and 5 females.

Right now, the Dark Continent's tigers do not have names - they will be named by residents of their home town in a contest.

Contributed by Barbara Grimes

## cougar hunting continues in Oregon

Cougar hunters were offered 161 permits in Oregon according to Oregon Wildlife. 46 permits were issued in western Oregon and 115 in northeastern Oregon. The 1981 season's take of the big cats totalled 33, with eight coming from the west and the remainder taken in eastern Oregon. The total harvest was very close to the 1980 season's take of 32 cougars.

## Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

THIS is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody and Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blames Somebody, when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

SOUND FAMILIAR - WHO ARE YOU?



"There She Is, MISS L.I.O.C."



# DONATING—TAKE CARE

A new reserve for native wild animals opened in California the first Saturday in June. I went to the ground breaking ceremony .

Before going, I checked with the authorities for required permits and found that none were even applied for, even though the "founder" had been notified months before that there would be permits required. This includes the County Conditional Use permit and the State fish & Game permit.

At the Ceremony I talked with Wilma Peterson, who, according to her, is a representative of the California State Humane Society out of the Van Nuys office. She stated that they gave their support to this project. As we know, the humane society is a private organization, not a government authority.

I also met an ex-student of the founder who had attended a course she taught at the A.V. college relating to snakes and desert survival. She told me that students were instructed to "kill all rattlesnakes, its either them or us". They were also taught how to tan snake hides. Does this sound like someone who wants to preserve our wildlife? Would you knowingly give this organization a donation even though they are a state non-profit corporation?

On the "tour" of the reserve, one is taken to a "current den of a family of cougars", the male reportedly weighs 300 pounds!?!? How many of you has ever heard of a 300 pound cougar? The founder of this reserve says she has seen it with her own eyes and it is 7' long from the nose to tip of tail. According to her the cougars need only 1 mile of territory in the wild. She also informed us that bobcats and lynx are on the property and that Red wolves were going to be reintroduced "because they are native to the area" - that antelope are currently living adjacent to the preserve, and that she has seen the California Condor on this site.

As you know, Red wolves are native only to Texas and Louisiana, never reported west of Texas. The last antelope was killed around 1914 and none have been sighted since that time. As for the California Condor, the founder would not make a very good observer in not being able to tell our large, migratory condor by the very distinct wing markings. Perhaps she should visit the L.A. Zoo and observe a real California Condor.

I do not believe from my experience at the ground-breaking ceremony that any of the promises of the future will come true.

What really saddens me is that should this dire prediction come true, it will hurt donations to bonified facilities that do good work and who really know about the continued care of endangered wildlife.

PLEASE, before making any donations to such causes, research them carefully. It is not enough that they are recognized as "non-profit". Questions directed at their personnel may reveal that they are not qualified to accomplish what they are collecting money for.

A World Pet Society member

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Dwight Moore

Reprinted from World Pet Society

The average American family has at least one pet and for the most part there is no understanding of the relationship that should exist. More people everyday are ignoring their own cowardice and calling it a virtue. They are afraid of their pet and instead of correcting it, they make an excuse for its unruly behavior by saying "I love my pet too much to correct it" If I point out that their dog needs some structure or it will become progressively worse they then admit that they are indeed afraid the dog will get angry and bite them.

This isn't love for the animal, it is cowardice and the more they try to appease the dog, the bolder it will become. Bad behavior must be corrected, and the proper pecking order established.

Of course, some people are too weak to do this and they excuse themselves further and say they just want to be friends or equals with their dog. This isn't possible because Nature abhors a vacuum and if the pet owner does not assume the position of leadership the dog must accept that role. Then, if the owner steps out of line, he will get bit because nature demands that the dominant dog must keep order.

Most people will continue to defy nature by trying to be submissive to the animal. This is dangerous with dogs and impossible with other types of animals, because when a human interacts with them, the animal sees that human as one of its own kind and the animal immediately must find out which is to be leader. With some animals the challenge may be a simulated sexual mounting, with others it could be a vicious attack. An animal trainer or behaviorist never lets things go that far. The trainer will establish this dominance over the group immediately before there is a challenge by the dominant male, that could lead to a fight. Even the wild predators can accept a puny trainer as their group leader when he asserts himself as the strongest in their pecking order.

The trick is to simply make the dominant male retreat, which the animal will normally do because by nature he is suspicious of humans and in the mind of an animal one always retreats from a superior.

This is one reason circus animals are worked in a round cage - they can always retreat and can never be cornered.

When a trainer has established his dominance in the pecking order he can then accept the animal's affection and submissive gestures. With dogs, you will rub the back of their neck to simulate the way the dominate dog mouths the vulnerable neck area of a subordinate.

A submissive chimp will stick its finger in the superior's mouth as a gesture of trust. Likewise elephants will offer their trunks to be bitten by the dominant elephant when seeking reassurance.

One further point of evidence that trained animals are content is that they reproduce. Wild, exotic animals are very temperamental and will not breed if all is not well. Yet circus animals are prolific breeders. The reason they will reproduce in such seemingly tumultuous environs is because of the strong, secure, social order which emanates down through the pecking order. The animals have complete trust in their leader (trainer) and have nothing to fear. Their use in an act gives them a sense of pride and purpose for living due to their leader's constant reassurance and praise when performing. The animal's self-confidence is reinforced with positive words of the leader.

# 'Beast of Truro' Mystifying Cape Cod

Condensed from the New York Times

Who is the beast of Truro - is it a mountain lion preying on local pets & livestock or a pack of dogs or ocelot or lynx, a wild cat or some yet un-identified creature?

The first evidence that some unknown predator was loose came when a dozen dead cats were found in the same area in Truro in September. Recently a 175 lb hog was so badly mauled its flanks ripped by deep claw marks and a chunk of flesh ripped out of its neck, that it had to be killed. A few days later, two pigs were clawed in their pens in another part of town.

The most dramatic description came from William and Marsha Medeiros of Truro. They said they were taking a walk on the bike path when an animal appeared 50 feet in front of them.

Mrs. Medeiros continued: "My husband put his arm out to stop me and said, 'You see what I see?' Together we said "It's not a fox" It had a very definite long, rope-like tail like the letter 'J' it hit the ground and went up. We figured it was about as tall as up to our knees and weighed 60 or 80 pounds.

"We were frightened and froze. He was in the path and didn't see us at first. As we made some noise, he turned and we saw his face with short ears"

Mr. Medeiros left the path to get a branch to protect them. The creature did not rush for cover, Mrs. Medeiros said, but walked slowly and casually along the path in front of them before disappearing into the nearby woods.

The Medeiroses are sure what they saw was a mountain lion. "What we saw fits that description" said Mrs. Medeiros. At first the couple was reluctant to report what they had seen. "who would believe it?"

Mrs Medeiros said. Others have reported hearing strange catlike cries in the night. Edward Oswald, a Truro Selectman and health officer said a New York man called in mid-December to say he had seen "something resembling a mountain lion" in north Truro.

Mr. Oswald and seashore officials have made efforts to identify the culprit by its tracks, but in sandy soil they could find no clear impressions.

The mountain lion is considered extinct in Massachusetts and records indicate the last known cat was killed in 1858. Truro is seen as an unlikely but not impossible habitat. Seventy percent of the town is undeveloped land, part of the Cape Cod national Seashore. Packs of wild dogs occasionally kill deer in the woods and there is probably enough small game and domestic pets for a wild animal to subsist on.

Donald Rodenhaven of Wellfleet, who formerly worked at the Bronx and Staten Island Zoos in New York, and is familiar with the habits of wild animals, says the mode of attack more suggests a cat than a dog.

Mr. Rodenhaven said he believes the so called Beast of Truro may be a mountain lion, ocelot or lynx that may have escaped or was left behind by a summer camper. The official view in Truro holds that the attacks on the pigs were by a dog or dogs, Thomas Kane, Truro's Assistant Town Clerk said.

Contributed by Art Human

## Rabies doubles in three years

Documented reports of rabies have more than doubled in the U.S. in the last 3 years. In 1981, 7,211 cases were reported in the U.S. and its possessions compared with 3,298 cases in 1978.

The 1981 reports marked the first time that the number of rabies cases in cats outnumbered those in dogs - by 32 percent.

Seven animals accounted for 97 percent of rabies cases: skunks-62%, bats-12%, raccoons cats-4% dogs-3% and foxes 3%.

## Bobcat Rule Suspended

Ruling in February 1981, that the United States was not counting its bobcats carefully enough, the Federal Court of Appeals banned the export of all bobcat pelts effective July 1981.

The court criticized the Office of Scientific Authority in the Interior Department for allowing the killing of 90,000 bobcats a year without an accurate population count.

The export ban is still in effect. The Government has yet to come up with a more scientific bobcat census, says Richard L. Jachowski, chief of the Scientific Authority office.

Up to now, he observes, states have been taking density samples. These have shown 725,000 to 1.02 million bobcats in the country. The problem is, no one method of sampling has been satisfactory. The Federal office is exploring bobcat "population modeling". This calls for developing a mathematical equation and measuring the known factors in it that influence bobcat population. Unknown factors are then solved by the equation.

The final rule authorizing the export of bobcat pelts taken during the 1981-82 season is suspended for six months. This action was taken to conform to the District Court injunction prohibiting the authorizing of exportation of bobcat after July 1981 and became effective due to the above on January 12, 1982.

The Sumatran tiger species is threatened with extinction because the males don't seem to care for their mates, the North Sumatra Environment Dept. reports. "Unlike other tigers, Sumatran males do not like to roam around with their mates and often avoid looking at them" said a department spokesman. They are used to walking 20-30 miles a day, but carefully avoid the company of females. They only agree to have sexual relations once or twice a year, a practice which endangers the species.

Complete data on the sex lives of the tigers was hard to collect the spokesman admitted, "Because the felines hide during their mating, not only from humans but from other animals also."

## LIVING FOSSIL

Japanese naturalists were overjoyed, back in 1965 when they learned that a unique species of wildcat known as the "Iriomote Wildcat" does in fact exist. The find came after many years of patient study and search.

Iriomote Island is a part of Okinawa Prefecture, and one of the southernmost islands of Japan. About 75 kilometers in circumference, it is covered with a thick, primeval forest. Traces of the wildcats had been found, and unconfirmed sightings had occurred, but it was only in 1965 that the ill-fated mammals were confirmed as still existing on the island.

The Iriomote wildcat was announced to be a completely independent species in 1967, and was also designated as a natural treasure and put under official protection. The wildcats have round ears, a large muzzle, thick tail and spotted fur. They are larger than domesticated cats, nocturnal in habit and rarely utter cries.

A pair of the wildcats were captured for scientific studies last year and kept under close observation.

Because of their scarcity and nocturnal jungle habits, the photographer spent a full month of patient waiting to capture a single photograph.

Reprinted from Japan Pictorial



## POLAR BEAR COMEBACK?

A recent Associated-Press release speculates that polar bear populations may be on the rise.

These inhabitants of the polar ice caps have been protected in the U.S. since 1972; Norway imposed a five year ban on their hunting in 1973 and Russia stopped all hunting, except for capture of live animals for zoos in 1956. Estimates of the current population of polar bears varies from 10-20,000. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates the Alaskan population to be 5,700.

Canadian authorities plan to increase its polar bear harvest from 648 in 1978 to 719 this year. The U.S. is considering letting 170 of these animals to be harvested this year, as authorities do not consider hunting to be a serious threat to the species, but states in a recent report:

"Human development, especially that associated with oil and gas extraction, poses the greatest immediate threat to the bears." Arctic oil exploration would force bears to abandon the traditional den areas and oil spills pose a threat to sea life that the bears feed on.

Difficulties arise in trying to determine exact population densities as the bears are solitary, roaming the polar ice caps, covering great expanses.

Doug DeMaster, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist claims that biologists agree that such an increase in hunting the great beasts could be allowed without endangering the species.



## PENNSYLVANIA'S BEAR FACTS

Rexford, PA. As other hunters quietly survey the surrounding forest, Ed McCarthy examines what appear to be large footprints on the lightly packed snow. "I see such large bear tracks that the frightened McCarthy tells the hunters he is about to lead. The discovery of the tracks in this "pre-hunt" scouting seems to confirm his feeling that "the bears of our forest are abundant, big and well fed."

This is Pennsylvania's one-day bear hunting season. Pennsylvania expects as many as 300,000 sportsmen to join the roundup before it ends at sundown. "I can't think of any other hunting season in the country that has attracted so many hunters before" one game commission official says.

Up against this army will be only 4,000 black bears. Such odds wouldn't seem to give the home team much of a chance, and animal protection groups are upset. The hunt is "plain stupid," says Lewis Regenstein, executive vice president of the Fund for Animals, who fears it may lead to black bears an endangered species in Pennsylvania. Regenstein says game commission officials. They point out that during the last hunt in 1976, some 200,000 hunters managed to bag only 605 bears.

In any case, there are quite a few Pennsylvanians living alongside bears who are convinced the hunt will improve the neighborhood. Black bears are omnivorous eating almost anything that doesn't put up a fight, and they have almost doubled their population since 1976.

The state's "bear damage fund" isn't big enough. Since 1937, Pennsylvania has reimbursed property owners for some of their bear losses, hoping to discourage them from seeking their own remedies. But in fiscal 1979 the \$25,000 appropriation didn't cover all the claims.

Nor is the game commission's bear relocation program foolproof. It provides for the trapping of habitual offenders, who are hauled 40 miles and released. Most eventually find their way home, says field worker Gary Alt, but 65% never get into trouble again. Decidivists are sentenced to a 100 mile move.

Some residents can't wait for the wheels of justice to turn. Richard Sabel, a vice president of Sparkomatic Corp. shot a bear he caught attacking his pet donkeys in 1976. Charged with killing a bear out of season, Mr. Sabel eventually won his case on appeal when he told his side of the story. "I was only trying to save my ass," he said.

The object of all this controversy, *Ursus americanus* is in fact a rather run of the mill bear. It averages 300-400 lbs. in Pennsylvania, where there are lots of berries and is maybe 6 feet high when standing upright. By contrast, an Alaskan grizzly or a polar bear may reach 1,500 lbs.

In 1905 Pennsylvania became the first of 27 states to restrict bear shooting. Other states either never allow bear hunting or like Alaska allow it anytime.

And, in at least one neighborhood, the bears are safe. The recreational community of Hemlock Farm, situated in seven square miles of woods, plans to post guards and sent out patrol cars to drive away hunters. Hemlock Farms has 12 resident bears and a number of transients says manager Dave Kouchel, and the people here have learned to live with them.

Reprinted from the Wall Street Journal by Amal Nag.

## KORNER

by Ken Hatfield



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### SHOCK

The term "shock" is one I hear frequently abused. It is extremely important to know whether or not shock is truly present, because its presence or absence often determines whether or not a condition is an emergency.

Shock can be simply defined as the failure of the cardiovascular system to provide the body tissues with oxygen, without which an animal cannot survive.

There are several causes of shock; the most common in veterinary medicine is blood loss. The following signs may indicate the presence of shock:

- 1) Depression (quietness and inactivity) and lack of normal response to external environmental stimuli.
- 2) Rapid heart and respiratory rate.

3) Poor capillary refilling time. To test for this, press firmly against the gums, causing them to blanch (whiten) beneath your finger. Lift your finger away and see how long it takes for the color to return to the blanched area. The normal refilling time is no more than one or two seconds. Poor capillary filling is an early and constant sign of shock, it precedes

the pale, cool, mucous membranes present in the more advanced stages.

4) Rapid pulse which becomes weak and may become absent as shock progresses.

5) Lowered body temperature. The extremities (legs and paws) and skin become cool to the touch and rectal temperature often drops below 100 degrees F.

If your cat shows signs of shock following injury or prolonged illness, contact a veterinarian immediately. But first wrap your cat in a towel or blanket if possible to preserve body heat.



I have been around exotics since I was a kid as my father owned a private zoo while I was growing up. I am sorry to say that I have been a little negligent in sharing the many fun times and experiences I have had with LIOC. But perhaps in the future can remedy this.

Many of you have seen the Lynx-LN7 commercials on TV advertising the new car by Lincoln/Mercury. I guess I'm lucky that I get to see, pet, feed and care for their cat every day. Nicki is his name and he belongs to me. Nicki is a 3 year old European lynx. He is extremely smart, very affectionate and as you can see, quite handsome. Although he is a "Superstar" to many who have enjoyed seeing him leap through the air, sit passively as a car moves near him, or gives a regal look to his admirers; he is still just my number one buddy of the more than 400 exotics that I work with daily.

I must admit that raising him from 5 weeks of age was a sheer delight. But to work with him and train him for TV work has been both rewarding and challenging. Never under-estimate the ability of any exotic when it comes to training. A little patience, a lot of love, and a bit of discipline are the key ingredients to a good working relationship.

The first Lynx commercials were done in Burbank, California. The second was done in Fargo, North Dakota in the middle of a wheat field. You might have noticed Nicki had his summer coat when these commercials were shot. I must say he looks much nicer in the shots that were done in January of 1981.

There were two cats used for these commercials. Nicki did all the close-ups and Silver, Lloyd Bebe's bobcat did the speedy shots. The producer of the commercial like the idea of having Nicki, with his nice, expressive, round eyes, catch the TV audience by surprise while Silver, shows much ability as he moves the minds of the viewers.

It just goes to show that for the first time the director found out what cat lovers have known for years - The expression of an exotic cat can say much more than words. I hope all of you enjoy seeing these commercials. Next time you see them say "hey, I know that cat - that's Nicki, a European Lynx from South Carolina".

If any readers would like more information about our work, please let me know. I always make time for serious inquiries.

David R. Meeks  
M & M Zoo  
Rt 1, Box 351  
Wellford, S.C. 29385

## Fight Feline Leukemia with Interferon?

Feline leukemia may be the most complex and life-threatening virus cats can encounter. Feline Viral Leukemia (FeLV) attacks a cat's immune system, leaving the animal susceptible to many infectious diseases, including anemia, lymphosarcoma, feline infectious peritonitis, uterine disease, respiratory infections and others. It is extremely contagious transmitted through the saliva and requires close contact.

The virus attacks a cat's bone marrow, the center of the bone, where red blood cells are produced. From there the virus reproduces, plaguing a cat with leukemia or a wide range of feline diseases.

Of the many diseases, anemia is a major problem. There is no effective treatment. Few cats with FeLV caused anemia recover and most eventually develop leukemia.

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"IF MAN COULD BE CROSSED WITH THE CAT IT WOULD IMPROVE MAN, BUT IT WOULD DETERIORATE THE CAT."

Mark Twain

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Recently, a substance called interferon has been considered a possible agent for effectively fighting the disease. Interferon is produced naturally in the body to help fight viruses and slow their growth and spread.

Veterinary scientists at the University of Illinois discovered, in a preliminary study, that medicine containing interferon and substances to boost the body's production of interferon is effective in treating anemia and FeLV associated disease. This news sheds hope for a future vaccine against FeLV.

Research in this area and the side effects of interferon will also aid in human research.

Condensed from Pet Business

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