



NEWSLETTER

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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB
1454 Fleetwood Drive East
Mobile Alabama 36605

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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



Now this is some cat to get by the tail ! Reva Anderson is helping Miss Chiquita pose for the birdie, see inside story by Chiquita.



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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) 866-0434
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
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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

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11105
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95051 (408) 241-5565
SHIRLEY TREANOR, 1454 Fleetwood Dr.E., Mobile, AL.
36605 (205) 478-8962 (Emergencies - days
(205) 433-5418)

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.

Toxicity Associated with Lactated Ringer's Solution Containing Preservatives

By C.P. Ryan, D.V.M.
Condensed from FELINE PRACTICE

Cats are poisoned infrequently compared to dogs. One 5-year study on the frequency of intoxication of cats and dogs found that dogs were poisoned about 16 times more often. Ethylene glycol toxicity was the most commonly seen feline poison, accounting for about 20% of the cases. The cat's fastidious nature and meticulous eating habits compared to the dog's account in part for the low incidence of feline poisoning.

Drug metabolism in the cat can differ from that of a dog and other species. Chemicals such as lindane, benzyl benzoate and benzoic acid can be safely used in dogs but are extremely toxic to cats.

At one veterinary clinic, within a 2 week period three sick cats and one clinically normal cat died within four days of receiving a commercial lactated Ringer's solution containing preservatives. All cats exhibited central nervous system disturbances within 72 hours of administration of the solution. The cats salivated profusely, had dilated pupils and became very apprehensive. There was marked hyperkinesia, and extreme aggression was easily provoked by bright light sound and touch. Once aroused, the cats became very violent, making handling difficult.

To test the suspected commercial lactated Ringer's solution, a 6-year old male domestic cat was used as a control. The cat appeared in good health. CBC and blood chemistries were taken and were all normal.

The cat was given 150cc subcutaneously in the morning and another 150cc subcutaneously 8 hours later. The same amount of Ringer's was given the following day. On the third day the cat began exhibiting the symptoms described above. Twelve hours later the cat became comatose and died.

Autopsies of all 4 cats revealed suspicions of idiosyncratic toxicity.

Due to a shortage of lactated Ringer's injection, USP from the hospital's normal supplier, a local veterinary pharmaceutical company had sent a quantity of lactated Ringer's solution. According to the sales representative, the solution was the same as that used by the hospital in the past except that it was produced by a different company. The solution was represented as safe for use in cats and dogs. After the 1st three deaths the pharmaceutical company was contacted and they stated that no previous problems had been reported. The Food and Drug Administration was also contacted.

The only difference between the lactated Ringer's solution and the lactated Ringer's injection USP, which had been used for years in cats without side effects, was the addition of preservatives. It is felt that the preservatives were responsible for the behavioral changes seen in the cats.

Careful reading of the label revealed that four different preservatives were present in the solution: benzyl alcohol, methylparaben, propylparaben and ethylparaben. The solution was labeled for parenteral use and could be administered either subcutaneously or intravenously. On the side of the label under indications was the following: "for use in cattle, horses, sheep and swine for rehydration and supportive therapy following vomiting and diarrhea or loss of the electrolytes provided by the solution"

The preservatives benzyl alcohol, methylparaben, propylparaben and ethylparaben are commonly used because of their bacteriostatic and fungistatic properties.

All the preservatives are closely related structurally to benzoic acid. Benzoic acid is known to be highly toxic in cats and can produce the behavioral changes seen here.

Because benzoic acid is relatively nontoxic to man and almost tasteless, it can be added to food. At one time benzoic acid was used as a preservative in the open pack types of meat preparations fed to dogs and cats. However, in 1972, an experimental study showed it to be extremely toxic to cats even in low doses.

The drug has both an acute and cumulative effect. Clinical signs associated with an acute effect include convulsions, aggression, hyperesthesia and death. The cumulative effect can produce clinical signs of hyperesthesia, depression, anorexia and death.

The question arises as to why preservatives were added to the lactated Ringer's solution. Fluids for parenteral use are normally considered sterile. The two labels for the lactated Ringer's injection, USP and lactated Ringer's solution appear quite similar. However, close inspection revealed a difference that is significant clinically. It would be helpful if labels were standardized according to the United States Pharmacopeia. The USP's official monograph for lactated Ringer's injection states that "Lactated Ringer's injection contains no antimicrobial agents". Neither the United States Pharmacopeia nor the Food and Drug Administration has an official monograph for lactated Ringer's solution.

Although the preservatives in the lactated Ringer's solution seem to be contraindicated for use in cats, in no way does the present report seek to curtail the appropriate use of lactated Ringer's injection in cats. The problem described here represents a change in the medication being purchased and used rather than an inherent toxicity in lactated Ringers.

In retrospect, a number of things could prevent such a tragic episode. First, read the label on all products and use the product as directed. Second, the pharmaceutical company and its sales representative should know their products thoroughly to avoid any statements that have not been proven. Thirdly, the manufacturer should advise product users of any contraindications.

ANOTHER SPECIES OF CHEETAH

The family of *Acinonyx jubatus* is usually regarded as having two sub-species, *jubatus* of Africa and *venaticus* of Asia, but there is no sharp difference between the cheetahs of the two continents.

However, in 1926 a most unusual cat was trapped not far from Salisbury in Rhodesia. Its coat was not spotted but bore long, dark stripes down the middle of the back and had exceedingly handsome irregularly shaped dark blotches on the flanks. At first, the animal was thought to be a hybrid between a cheetah and a leopard, but further examination proved beyond all doubt that it was simply a cheetah, typical in all but its markings. Inquiries soon brought to light the existence of other animals of the same type. At first it was thought that a new species of cheetah, named the king cheetah (*Acinonyx rex*) had been discovered, but nowadays these animals are regarded as unusually marked specimens of the ordinary cheetah.

From WILD CATS by Michael Boorer



.....YOU DON'T SAY

A friend told me there was a big fight in the lion house at the zoo. One lion called the other a cheetah!!

IN MEMORIAM

TO A GRAND OLE GIRL -

TUFFY



I hate death. Death makes me angry! With that I wish to note the passing away of Tuffy Margay.

Tuffy's exact age is a secret that Tuffy never confirmed or denied, like most women. However she appeared as a kitten in 1964, from Columbia, South America. She, at that time, arrived in New Orleans at the Home of Rick & Claire LeBlanc.

I am led to understand that Tuffy spent her first years as a free household margay and enjoyed interacting with her human providers.

The first time I saw Tuffy, I don't remember her making any undue impression on me, in fact the presence of a bobcat that liked to "mark" strangers was the center of attention that day. We were all afraid of becoming the next "victim". Besides we had a new, male margay to pay attention to and keep out of mischief.

Time passed and on the occasion of the first LIOC Convention, that time in Dallas also, a conversation with the LeBlancs brought to light that Tuffy was available for breeding purposes. Her past history was not encouraging, nor was her age. Although she had been housed with a male, recently deceased, they had never produced. Even though Critter was at that time too young, we agreed to take her, feeling that the real reason for the offer might be other than that presented - the unloading of a burden.

For whatever reason, Tuffy LeBlanc became Tuffy Treanor - duly delivered by Harriet Leake.

Tuffy had been housed outdoors and now she was housed indoors adjacent to another margay. Try as I did to make friends, she did not like men - she was a ladies cat. Shirley would sit on the floor to find herself with a lap full of margay. And Tuffy was a lap full. She (Tuffy - come to think of it Shirley too) tended to be chubby. She was a short, chunky cat, very unlike the lean, lithe, Critter. From the length of the tail however, there was no doubt that she was in fact, a Margay. I did serve a purpose in Tuffy's life however, I was the source of the "Tie Game". The "Tie Game" is simply this - take that tie you got as a present and secretly hated and move it along the floor like a snake. Eventually, some reaction will take place. The game turned out to be a nightly event and the event became a source of exercise for a badly overweight female margay. Soon she was thinner, quicker and more alert.

Tuffy was soon to come face to face with "The Critter". He was the male and approximately 2 years old at that time. Critter was a nice guy and a snappy dresser...but a little stupid. Tuffy would come into heat but all Critter would do was pull the hair from the top of her head. Tuffy's way of letting a guy know she was "interested" was to "bulldoze" into him with her head - Critter took another meaning from this evidently. He was just too young to understand why this other margay moaned, crawled low to the ground with her rear in the air and kept running into him head first. It must have something to do with her head - so he did, what he could by relieving her of the fur and making her bald.

What a loose woman was this margay. As I said before, she had been with males before but nothing had happened. So why this immature, domestic-raised, naive male with the stupid name of Critter? Who knows, women are like that.

Critter finally figured it out and the very first mating resulted in a kitten. Unfortunately it was still-born. After a decent interval another arrived. Tuffy did her part, but during labor pulled hair out of her haunches. I'd never seen this before (or a birth of any kind for that matter) and thought it odd. When I peeked in and saw Tuffy with the kitten between her paws, moving as if she was pulling fur from the kit, I panicked and not waiting for Shirley to come home ran into the cage and "rescued" the kitten. Later I learned that some females pull fur to line the nest and "strip" their stomachs to make the nipples more available to the kit. However my reaction had broken the maternal chain - Tuffy would have six more kittens over the years and never take care of them. They were all hand raised. Tuffy liked to make them but after a day or so would begin to ignore them. When the kit readily took a bottle we knew it was time to bottle feed them. Tuffy always insisted that Shirley sit with her during labor, she even tolerated me with a movie camera on one occasion. She would let Shirley handle the kitten and move her around to allow the kitten to nurse. But when left alone, she would curl into a ball and hide the "faucets". We would be awakened to a loudly bawling kitten and looks from Tuffy as to say "can't you shut the kid up?" She became cranky and would eventually snap when you tried to put the kitten to a nipple - unlike her normally easygoing self. She looked so relieved when you removed them and quickly reverted to her former cheerful attitude. After all, those little things did nothing but snuggle and cry.

In trying to plan for the future, I decided to keep one of the kittens. Tuffy wasn't getting any younger and there weren't too many of us breeding Margays.

Phase II of our story - this is where TV would insert a commercial, so stop and to to the refrigerator or bathroom if you wish.

In January of 1978, I relocated to Orlando, Fla., and brought three margays with me; Tuffy, Critter and their daughter Sundae. Relocation brought problems, a townhouse with no room for cagers and a lease that prohibited it. The girls were OK, but the male wanted to set up territory. He quickly took a vacation to Ft. Lauderdale and the Hatfield's until this human could provide better. Tuffy and Sundae were fine, loving the high places on the stairwell and wall-to-wall carpeting.

in the 11 years that I shared my life with Tuffy, she never really cared for me - after the move to Orlando, even the occasional scratching under the chin was denied me. I thought she generally dislike men but my soon acquired room-mate got along with Tuffy very well, and the ladies I dated got to know Tuffy also.

When I decided to remarry it was very important to me the lady accept my cats. Maybe I should have checked with Tuffy to see who she preferred, but this didn't turn out to be a problem. Ellen and Tuffy soon became close friends and Ellen claimed Tuffy as her margay.

In July of 1982, Tuffy went off her feed; not even caring for treats like chicken hearts which she normally craved. Her stools changed, possibly due to the lack of solid food intake. Concerned, I took her to the vet's. A blood sample was taken and her white cell count was almost non-existent. Antibiotics, B-complex shots were given and she seemed to pick up a little after eating some raw egg yolks. After 4 days she seemed unable to move without exhausting herself in two or three steps. In desperation, with the advice of the vet, I decided to a blood transfusion from her daughter, Sundae. Another blood test showed the white cells were increasing, but the red cells were down. Before we gave her the transfusion we x-rayed her for a possible blockage. She had not been given any anesthetic because of her weakened state. While we positioned her for the x-ray she suffered cardiac arrest but was revived. When we attempted to give her fluids by vein, she arrested again and this time we could not revive her.

It's a hard way to lose a long time friend, and I do mean friend

Tuffy was the most unassuming and non-aggressive margay I have ever met. I see her style daily in her daughter - and I thank heaven she gave me 8 kittens and one of them is still with me to give each day a pose.

THANK YOU TUFFY.

Danny Treanor

As most of you know, Tuffy spent the many years of her life with me also. Although she and Danny were not as close as she and I were, there is little I can add to the above. Tuffy was a truly dignified spirit, always her own cat. This made the concessions she made to those she loved that much dearer. She gave her affection or withheld it at her will but never ingratiatingly. When she moved to Orlando with Danny it left a void in my life, but knowing she was there was some comfort. Even after 5 years, years when a visit to Orlando resulted in the same reaction-an empty lap was soon filled by Tuffy, a chin was offered for scratching. The news of her departure brings pain and as I type this, tears - she was a Grand Lady and hopefully, someday, through her daughter, grand-kittens, (are you listening Danny?) she will continue.

Shirley

VITAMIN B-12

Most illnesses requiring your cat to visit the vet. B-12 is administered for appetite stimulation. This will manifest itself the next day as a red tinge in the urine as it is expelled from the body.

Being unaware of its administration these results could cause an anxious owner to suspect urinary problems. Therefore, make it a point to ask the vet about any medicines administered and what, if any, side effects could occur.

CAUGHT

In November, 1981, Warden Woolsey received information from A Coalinga, Cal. rancher that a mountain lion had been killed by a hunter on his ranch the preceding February. Following some leads, Warden Woolsey made two trips to L.A. and Orange County areas and two informants were contacted who were willing to testify.

The subjects involved were Tony Mendes, and Ken Watson, a licensed hunting guide, and Dave Vaisman, a taxidermist.

Ken Watson obtained the mountain lion from Tony Mendes who owns and operates a mini-zoo in the Visalia area. Watson then released the cat in the mountains west of Coalinga. Dave Vaisman was at the scene when the mountain lion was released. Vaisman had paid Watson \$1,200 to kill the mountain lion. After the cat was released, it was shot and killed with a .22 caliber pistol. Vaisman and other subjects involved then posed with the dead cat for pictures.

Photos of the "chase" and kill were obtained from the informants in LA and the hide was recovered in a tannery in the San Francisco Area.

Mendes and Watson were charged with 182 PC, conspiracy. Mendes was also charged with transferring a mountain lion to a private party. Watson was charged with unlawful possession of a mountain lion and unlawful killing of a mountain lion. Vaisman was charged with unlawful killing of a mountain lion also.

Mendes pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,000 and six months in jail. The jail time was suspended and he was placed on 3 year probation.

Watson pleaded guilty received the same fine and probation but on the condition that during his probation he cannot hunt or be in the company of hunters.

Vaisman also entered a guilty plea and was fined \$500 and placed on 3 year probation.



Penny Andrew writes that things are popping at their place - 2 cougar cubs (1 male and one female) along with a litter of 4 servals.

Also, Penny's little golden cat male is in need of a girlfriend. The little boy is now 3 months old.

Protecting Pets from Poisons Ounce Of Prevention --

by Jean Townes

It is often said that pets are like children who never grow up. Nowhere is this more true than when dealing with household poisons.

DON'T PETS KNOW INSTINCTIVELY TO AVOID POISONS:

No, they don't - no more than a small child does.

WHAT KINDS OF SUBSTANCES ARE POISONOUS TO PETS?

The same things that would make you sick will make your pet sick: acids, alkalis, drugs, bleaches, cleaning solutions like carbon tetrachloride, insecticides, herbicides, even detergents. Fungicides, paint, putty, moth balls, kerosene, antifreeze, rodenticides, fire-works and turpentine can kill as well.

WHAT ABOUT PLANTS?

Many common plants including houseplants can be deadly. Philodendron for example, is extremely dangerous to cats. Crocus, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs are poisonous as are tomato plants and the berries from mistletoe.

WHY WOULD A PET EAT POISON?

They don't know any better. Often, they just want something to chew on. Sometimes, too, animals seem to crave unnatural substances. The condition, called pica is not completely understood. There are many possible causes, including nutritional deficiency, boredom, general neurosis and tooth or mouth pain.

WHATS THE BEST PREVENTION?

Keep pets and poison apart. Lock things away or make sure they're out of the animal's reach. Since this may be impractical with plants, give them a dish of grass of their own. Seeds can be obtained at pet stores - catnip, or nurseries - grasses. or even from your own yard.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF POISONING?

Cats will immediately lose interest in food, may drool, become lethargic have trouble walking and ultimately go into convulsions. Depression, unaccountable excitability, diarrhea are symptoms as is shock.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF AN ANIMAL IS GOING INTO SHOCK?

Shock is a killer and must be detected quickly. Press the animal's gum with your finger. The pink will turn greyish white; when more than a couple of seconds pass before normal color returns, it usually means the onset of shock. An animal in shock will have a weak, rapid pulse and dilated pupils. Under these conditions, do not give anything by mouth. Keep the victim warm and rush to the veterinarians. Take the offensive substance with you if possible.

Three incidents have happened that prompt me to ask all exotic cat owners to please practice an "ounce of prevention" when you have more than one cat.... different breeds, tow of the same sex or just two cats, housed next to each other.

Cages that attache to each other are easier, less expensive to put up and are used by many who have limited space. These cages are fine, IF you take the precaution to prevent the cats from reaching through to each other. A fine mesh welded wire should be attached to the chainlink on the side separating the cats. This small task can prevent a vast amount of pain, heartache and expense. Pain for your cat, heartache for you, and expense of veterinary bills.

A beautiful female serval, with lovely, long legs, was housed next to a pair of caracals. One evenine, for a reason only known to her, she reached through the chainlink with her right leg. When found the next morning the let was stripped of flesh and had to be amputated at the shoulder.

Another sad incident also involved a serval. This time, housed with her mate, next to a cougar. Again the serval, for apparently no reason, put her leg thru the chainlink and was so mutilated that she died within the day.

Luck of being on the scene and quick action by the owner, is the only thing that saved a bobcat from the fate of the two servals. The bobcat had been put temporarily into an unused portion of a cage that housed a pair of caracals. Closed off from them by a gate with a piece of masonite in front of that...and even then, the bobcat managed to put a paw into the other cage and was grabbed by the male caracal. The owner tried hosing, the cat the cat with water, but he wasn't about to let go until two bricks were thrown into his cage-only then did he let go to hiss at the intruding bricks - thus releasing the panicked bobcat.

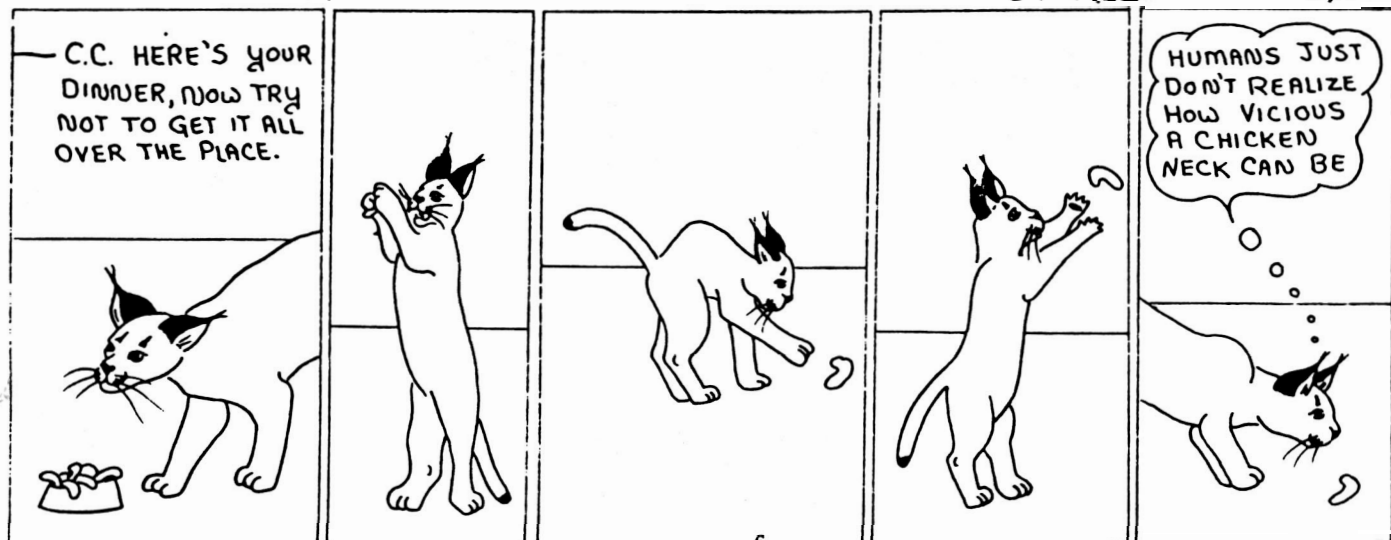
So PLEASE take the precautions. Don't say it won't happen to your cat. They may live side by side for a long time without incident, but when it does happen... can you forgive yourself? To see a trusing pet mutilated and in pain or even dead because you didn't take that "Ounce of Precaution"...I know the heartache because it happened to me a number of years ago and I still feel the pain- and terror my little cat must have gone through.

"YOU BECOME RESPONSIBLE - FOREVER - FOR WHAT YOU HAVE TAMED"

(Antoine de Saint Exupery)

CRAZY CARACAL

BY REBECCA MORGAN



ON POISON

Take a sample of the suspected poison in its original container to the hospital.

Common Household Poisons and Their Treatment

Poison	Common Products Containing It	Immediate Treatment If Exposure Known	Signs Which May Develop Following Exposure
Ethylene glycol	Antifreeze	Induce vomiting and rush to veterinarian	Immediate treatment necessary. DO NOT wait for signs to appear.
Organophosphate	Insecticides - coumaphos, dichlorvos, malathion, fenthion, ronnel.	On skin: wash with alkaline detergent and wait for signs to appear.	Salivation, small pupils, muscle tremors, vomiting, diarrhea, incoordination, convulsions.
Chlorinated hydrocarbons	Insecticides - methoxychlor, toxaphene, lindane, chlordane	On skin: wash with soap and water and wait for signs	Salivation, diarrhea, hyper-excitability, muscle twitches, convulsions.
Strychnine	Rodent poisons, malicious poisonings	Induce vomiting if signs not yet present.	Restlessness, incoordination, muscle tremors, convulsions.
Metadeldhyde	Snail bait	Induce vomiting if signs not yet present.	Restlessness, incoordination, muscle tremors, vomiting, convulsions.
Salicylate (aspirin)	Aspirin	Avoid use; spontaneous consumption unlikely.	Weakness, lack of appetite, vomiting, fever, incoordination convulsions.
Phenol (carbolic acid)	Household disinfectants and antiseptics, wood preservatives, fungicides, herbicides, photographic developer	On skin: wash with soap and water. Ingested: induce vomiting and wait for signs to appear.	Incoordination, muscle tremors, depression, unconsciousness.
Amphetamine	Diet and stimulant pills	Induce vomiting, wait for signs to appear.	Delirium, fever, dilated pupils, convulsions, shock, unconsciousness.
Arsenic	Ant poisons, herbicides, insecticides	Induce vomiting, and consult veterinarian immediately. No home treatment effective.	Vomiting, restlessness, abdominal pain, diarrhea (sometimes bloody).
Thallium	Rodent poison	Consult veterinarian, no effective home remedy.	Signs vary.
Warfarin	Rodent poison	Consult veterinarian, no effective home remedy. Single dose may not cause signs.	Hemorrhage-mainly internal. Pale mucous membranes, weakness.
Alkali	Cleaning preparations, grease dissolvers, drain opener (sodium, potassium, ammonium hydroxide)	On skin: water and vinegar rinse. Ingested: vinegar by mouth.	
Acids	Car batteries, some metal cleaners	On skin: flush with water, apply bicarbonate paste. Ingested: magnesium hydroxide antacid, egg white, sodium bicarbonate.	
Phosphorous	Strike anywhere matches (safety matches nontoxic), rat poisons, fireworks	Induce vomiting	Vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, collapse.

Poisonous Plants

The list of potentially dangerous house and garden plants is very long. The best rule to follow is to watch your cat carefully and correct them if they chew on plants. Some of the more common poisonous plants are:

Plant	Poisonous Parts
Castor bean	Seeds and foliage
Oleander	All parts
Monkshood	All parts
Philodendron	Leaves
Autumn crocus	All parts
English Ivy	Leaves, berries
Lily of the Valley	Leaves, flowers
Daphne	Bark, leaves, flowers
Larkspur	Young plants, seeds
Foxglove	Leaves
Golden chain	Leaves, seeds
Daffodil	Bulbs

KNOW YOUR VET'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

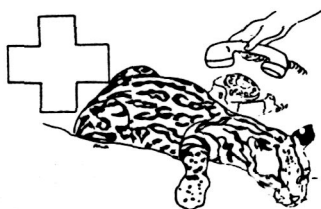


PHOTO CONTEST



GLADYS LEWIS of Lake Panasoffkee, Fla. is a familiar face to many LIOC members who attended last year's convention in Orlando, Florida.

Gladys is the lady who raises most of the babies born at Roberty Baudy's Rare Feline Breeding Compound in Center Hill, Florida.

It's nice to know we still have those among us dedicated to breeding and raising these wonderful creatures.

Photos contributed by BEEJAY LESTER



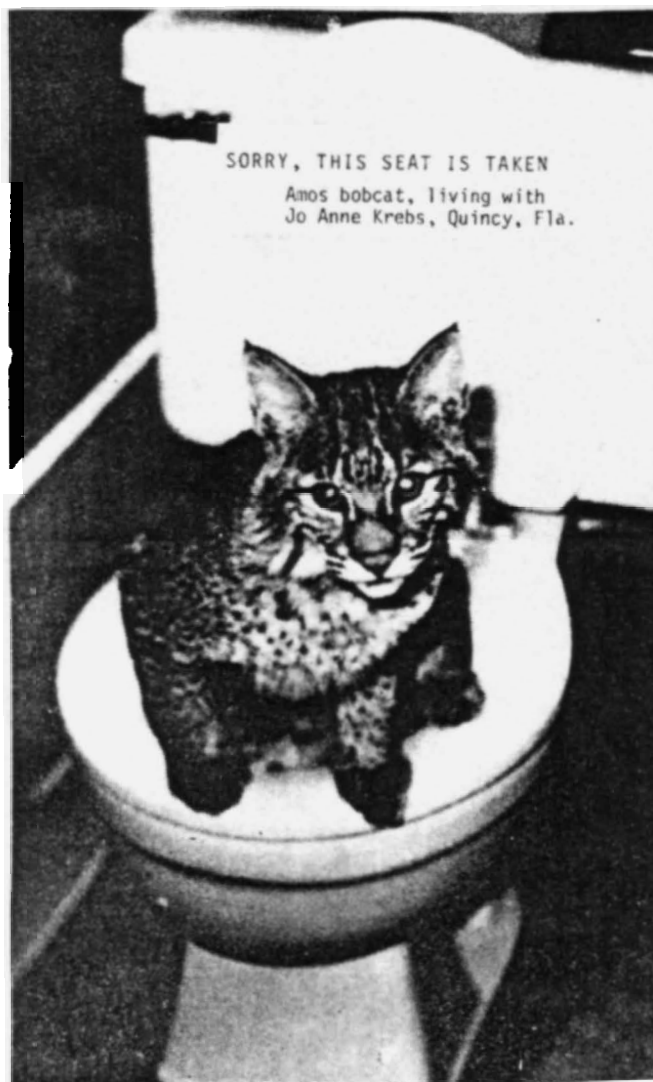
A pair of 6 month old clouded leopards born at the compound are also being raised by Gladys - lucky lady - but she pays her dues with all those 2AM feedings. That's dedication!

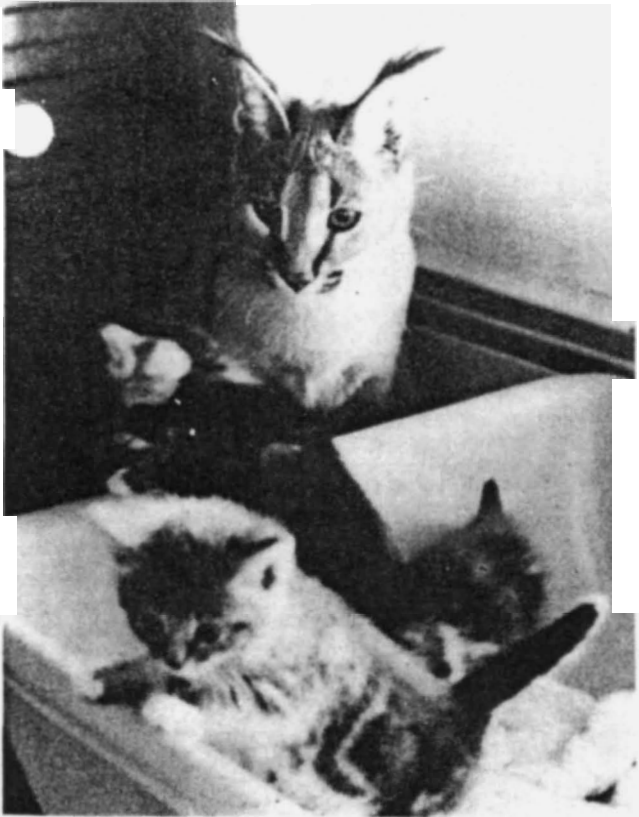
Submitted by BEEJAY LESTER



Don't you dare let loose!

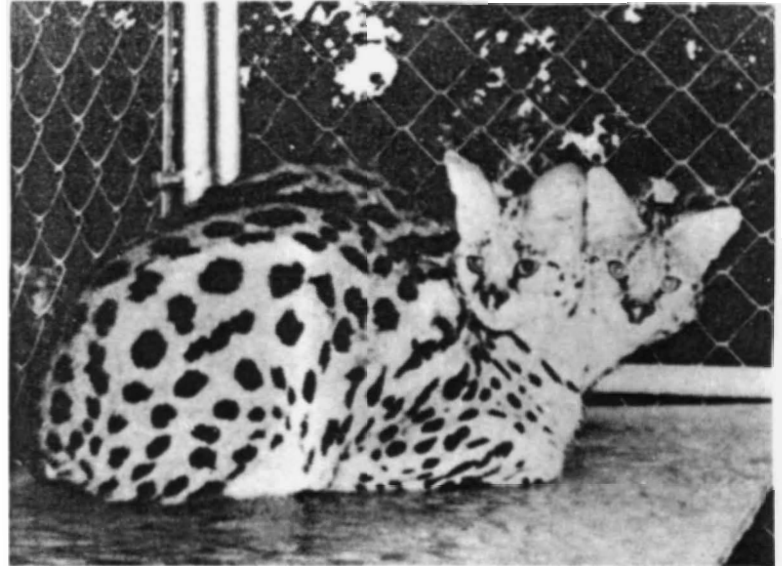
J. B. Anderson takes a swim with Chiquita Jaguar, now jags are good swimmers so who's holding who up? By the way he claims his short hair cut is from her rubbing it off.





MARA caracal - and her "domestic" litter.
Mara tenderly cared for the kittens
even tho they were "adopted".

Penny Andrews

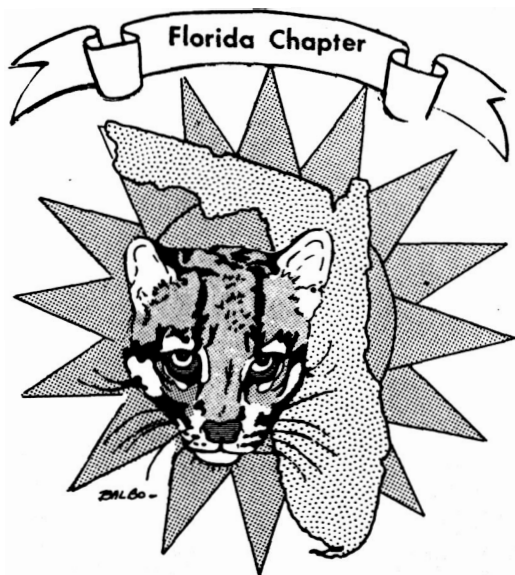


Look Close
"Two Headed Serval"
Sent in by the Andrews of California



Gandolf
One really big bobcat,
Tracy Johnson of Sarasota, Fla.

These are the last pictures to be entered in this year's photo contest. I feel the results were fun for everyone. The pictures will be taken to the convention and pasted up with numbers below so at the convention the members can vote. The winner will be announced at the banquet where the winner will be presented a nice trophy. Let's start out the next year with some pictures of your cats and kids and neighbors. Now there are some felines, such as chaus, fishing cats, hybrids, and many more that we'd like to see in this contest. You don't have to send in a portrait just a



MEETING REPORT

The May meeting of the Florida chapter was held a week later than usual because of Mother's day. It's not healthy to compete with Mother.

Some California members may recognize our host, Marian Allen, who has 5 acres of land near Tampa. The exact location being 7 miles south of Zephyrhills - who names these cities anyway?

To understand why this meeting was one of the few we have outdoors, you will need to understand a little about Florida weather. Florida can be very tropical - heat, humidity and thundershowers, not to mention the insects. There are a few months that have certain weather trends, June begins six months of afternoon thundershowers, that may or may not appear. Hard to make plans for a cookout March & April weather is unpredictable because of the changing seasons - winter or spring? May is usually a dry month and one of the few in which to plan an open air meeting.

A nice crowd turned out and the hamburgers never tasted better. Pork and beans plus vegetables topped the meal. The cats attending included a 40 lb, 11 month old cougar, Margay Sundae, two, 6 week old clouded leopards and a 6 week old Florida Panther, our state animal.

Well, gossip, treatments, feedings and flea fighting and all those other things attending a gathering of feline folks happened and it was a most enjoyable gathering with no real business to attend to.

Those attending that were not on a chicken-neck diet were: Barbara Bond, Delorise Newman, BeeJay Lester, Jean Hatfield, Barb & Dennis Grimes, Gladys Lewis, Jamie Wheatly and his Mother, Art & Gertrude Freeman and first time visitors Paul & Corine Pyle, along with yours truly, Danny and Ellen Treanor. Those who didn't attend missed a truly pleasant afternoon.

Danny Treanor
President

Morris's Pay

Ever wonder how much a "star" makes? Morris the famous orange tabby of Nine-lives fame earns between \$5000 and \$10,000 per year for those commercials.

He works about twenty days a year and sometimes requires 50 takes to get things purrfect.

MEETING REPORT - JULY

Special credit for an outstanding meeting has to go to our host, Jim Craft. Just two days before the meeting, Jim's wife, Lynn, was hospitalized for an unknown problem so Jim had his hands full - GET WELL QUICK LYNN.

The big surprise was a visit from Ken Hatfield. He was visiting from El Paso and you know what happens when Ken's around - he's bombarded with questions about cats and their health. Unfortunately for Ken, Jamie Wheatly and friend Rich brought their snakes. Ken would rather lose an arm than see a snake.

Delightful to see Mary Nell and Cubbedge Phillips who have been traveling alot. Jean Hatfield, who recently got her Real Estate License, tried to sell everyone a house.

Also attending were: Sandy Rolands and guests, Danny & Ellen Treanor and MR. & Mrs. Van Dort.

Ken brought us up to date on the USDI's latest shenanigans - registering all captive born. Ken plans to go into it further at convention.

If you're a new Florida Member, we meet on the second Sunday of every odd month, drop me a note (address on Page 2) and we'll see you're sent a meeting notice.

Cheers,
Danny Treanor



The Old Timers - by nature gradually reducing their number - must give way to the now Long Island Ocelot Club, many of the members now, not having been around in 1953, or even in 1963. Progress must never be impeded. Therefore we look to the Now members to share their experiences in all species of exotic felines with others who are now learning their exotics, either by word of mouth or communication through the LIOC NEWSLETTER.

The Newsletter is our lifeline. In the interest of prolonging LIOC, we must all "feed" the Newsletter. Stay with it for the sake of our own exotics and for the sake of felines everywhere.

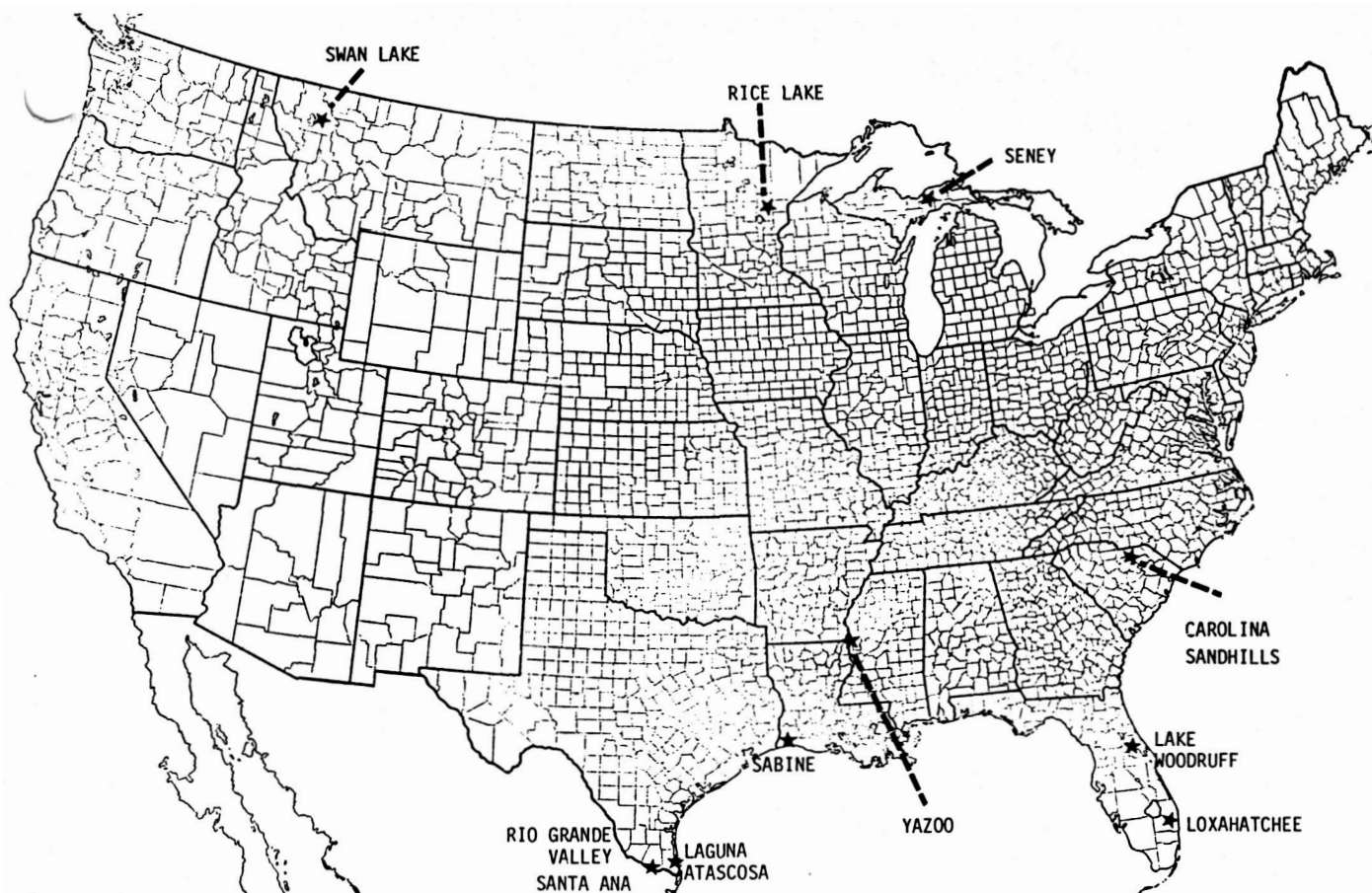
FROM OUR FOUNDER

CATHERINE CISIN

Continued

Refuge	Species	Use Days	Peak Population	Production
	Eastern Cougar	1445		0
	Florida Panther	610		0
	Jaguarundi	7665		3
	Ocelot	12045		7
	E. Timberwolf	34		0
	Red Wolf	900		1
Laguna Atascosa	Jaguarundi	5110	14	2
	Ocelot	10950	30	6
Rio Grande Valley	Jaguarundi	730	2	1
	Ocelot	365	2	1
Santa Ana	Jaguarundi	1825	5	0
	Ocelot	730	2	0

Carolina Sandhills	Eastern Cougar	365	1	0
Yazoo	Eastern Cougar	1080	3	0
Lake Woodruff	Florida Panther	10	1	0
Loxahatchee	Florida Panther	600	3	0
Sabine	Red Wolf	900	3	1
Rice Lake	E. Timberwolf	10	2	0
Seney	E. Timberwolf	14	2	0
Swan Lake	E. Timberwolf	10	1	0



This report was compiled by the Division of Refuge Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior from data submitted by field stations on the fiscal year 1981 Information System Output reports. It includes a national summary and individual refuge listings of species use days, peak populations and species population. The original report lists 63 species which include 55 endangered and 8 threatened on 277 refuges. We have listed only the wolves and felines here.

Submitted by Daniel J. Twedt

General and Medical Care of Old Cats

NUTRITION

As cats get older they often are more particular about what they will eat due to the fact that their sense of smell is no longer acute. Cats will not eat at all if they cannot smell the food first. Therefore, it is often necessary to whet their appetites with different food flavors, particularly those with a strong meat or fish odor. The food should be highly nutritious and digestible.

Owners of older cats must be careful not to allow the cats to become dependent on one type of food because nutritional deficiencies may develop and considerably shorten the cat's life span. Occasional use of cheese, cooked fish meat, baby foods, yogurt, vegetables and cereals is medically acceptable but should not be overdone. Two egg yolks a week and a daily teaspoonful of cooking oil, bacon fat or butter will help maintain a healthy skin and coat. Vitamin and mineral supplements are often recommended as are hormones in certain cases. These should be given in accordance with instructions from your veterinarian.

DENTAL CARE

Dental tartar and gum disease are the most commonly seen ailments in the older domestic. Few cat owners realize that cats do need dental care. Although cats seldom develop cavities (probably because they eat few carbohydrates) tartar does build up and if not regularly removed will eventually dig into the gum line with a resultant infection which causes teeth to loosen and fall out. This cycle is painful and many cats stop eating because of the pain. A cat that runs to the dish then suddenly backs away after one bite or starts shaking its head is usually having teeth problems. Cats like people, tend to chew on one side of their mouth so the tartar buildup will be worse on one side than the other, mainly on the upper molars.

DIGESTIVE TRACT

Older cats may have some diarrhea or constipation problems. Constipation is a common problem with older cats. The colon frequently loses tone, and if the cat does not drink enough, the bowel movement may become hard and difficult to pass. This stretches the colon and causes further loss of tone and eventually a condition known as megacolon may develop. Bulk laxatives and high residue food will usually keep the problem under control and even surgery may be necessary if impaction occurs.

The pancreas secretes enzymes necessary for digestion and if these enzymes are lacking, loss of weight and pale greasy, foul-smelling bowel movements occur. These enzymes can be replaced by medication and the deficiency can be detected by a trypsin test.

Diabetes mellitus, although rare in cats, does occur if the pancreas is malfunctioning. Increased drinking of water, the presence of sugar in the urine and weight loss are diagnostic signs. Insulin therapy is possible if the owner is willing to treat the cat daily.

Cirrhosis of the liver is seen quite often in older cats, although diagnosis is difficult. Vomiting, loss of appetite and loss of weight or accumulation of fluid in the abdomen may be due to liver disease. If the disease is not too far advanced, treatment is worthwhile.

Respiratory diseases are commonly seen in cats of all ages. If the older cat gets a respiratory infection, special care, medication and force feeding are essential.

MUSCULOSKELETAL AND NERVOUS SYSTEMS

Old cats become weaker due to loss of muscle strength and tone. Anabolic (tissue building) hormones are particularly useful in treating the cat suffering from senile weakness. Owners are pleasantly surprised when they see the response to such treatment. Vitamin B and liver injection also appear to be helpful in the older cat. None of the treatments works indefinitely, but they do help make the cat's life happier for its remaining time.

Arthritis, although not common, does occur. Disc problems are also seen. When diagnosed by such signs as pain and lack of movement and x-ray examination, treatment with corticosteroids is often helpful.

EYES AND OTHER SENSES

All the senses of the cat are affected by age as in any other species, but cats seem to be better able to compensate for such senile changes. Cataracts do occur in older cats, but they seem able to adapt to these. If cataracts are severe, surgery is usually successful.

Hearing is often less acute, and deterioration of the senses of smell and taste may lead to difficulties in persuading the older cat to eat certain foods.

Most cats, if they live long enough, develop kidney failure problems. By contrast to those acute cases of kidney and bladder infections seen in cats, the onset of kidney failure (chronic interstitial nephritis) in the older cat is usually insidious. Increased urination (both frequency and amount) usually indicate kidney failure. The breath often smells foul and ulcers in the mouth are not uncommon.

Your veterinarian can investigate the extent of kidney damage through urine and blood tests and will find out on palpation that the kidneys are small, contracted and irregular.

Fortunately, it is possible through medication and diet to slow down kidney failure and allow the cat to feel well despite the problem. Anabolic hormones, salt and sodium bicarbonate to stabilize the body fluids and vitamins and minerals are drugs used to treat the condition.

The protein content of the diet should be reduced and only high quality protein should be fed such as lean meats, chicken, eggs, milk and cottage cheese. Plant protein, fish etc should be avoided.

Cats with kidney failure should be encouraged to drink as they no longer have the ability to concentrate urine. Also all stresses, such as separation from the owner exposure to weather changes, other diseases, etc may bring on an acute uremic crisis. Therefore, a regular daily regimen is advisable.

Neoplasms (tumors) occur in cats as they do in humans and are most frequently seen in older cats. Any area of the body may be affected. Diagnosis is made by symptoms. Sometimes surgery is needed and can prolong the cat's life depending on the prognosis and whether the tumors are widespread.

LUNGS AND HEART

Heart and blood vessel diseases similar to those in man do occur in older cats. Unfortunately, the cat tends to compensate by decreasing exercise and exertion and usually by the time signs are apparent, the disease is too far advanced for treatment. If a cat reduces his exercise over a period of time, or is seen frequently lying on his chest, panting or if the tongue is bluish, a heart lesion can be suspected. Treatment is possible if this problem is detected in time, but cats do not tolerate the drugs used in treating heart disease too well.

BLOOD DISORDERS

Anemia is often seen in older cats, although it is not always possible to determine the cause. Frequently, the anemia is due to a kidney or liver disease or neoplasm elsewhere in the body. If due to a nutritional problem, the anemia can be readily treated. Even when the cause of the problem cannot be determined, treatment is often satisfactory.

Embolism (a blood clot blocking a blood vessel) of the aorta, especially at the point where the aorta ends and divides into the hind limb arteries, is a fairly frequent problem in cat. Paralysis of the hind limbs, pain coldness of the limbs, collapse and shock will occur quickly. Embolisms can occur in other blood vessels in the cat. Treatment is worthwhile but may involve surgery.

SKIN

Cats of all ages suffer from various skin problems due to allergies, hormonal and dietary deficiencies and external parasites. Older cats do not appear to have special skin problems except that they do not always groom themselves sufficiently. The condition of the skin and coat is indicative of the cat's general condition and any change should be brought to your veterinarian's attention.

DATELINE SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Mountain lions: August 30, 1982 - the Governor signs a bill extending for three years, the moratorium on hunting of mountain lions in California.

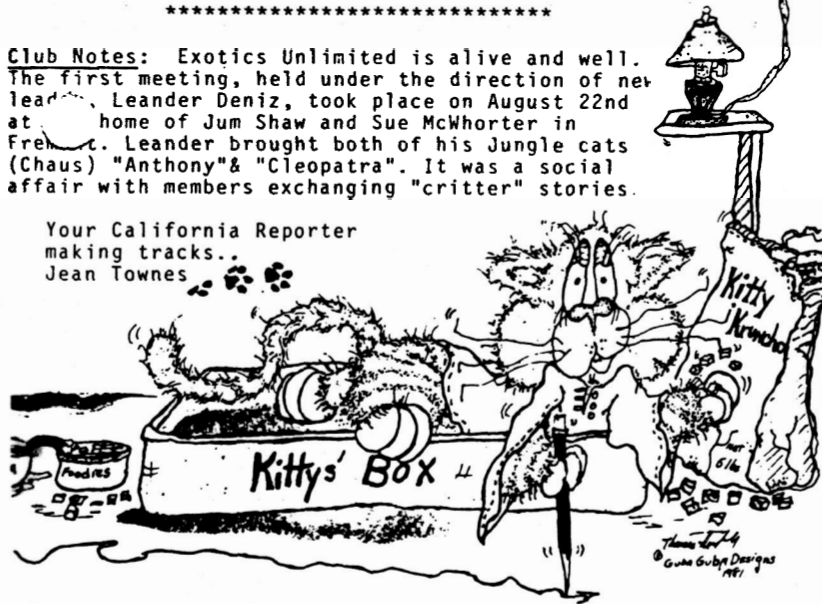
Comment: After the 3 year extension, the fight will begin all over again to try to keep the TROPHY hunter from using these magnificent animals as wall decorations. Be forewarned, the hunters get more support each time. ALL exotics people must do their part to protect the cat of the wild or he may vanish;

Exotic Cat Permits : The Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, Animal Welfare Section, is now telling all potential exotic cat owners that it no longer issues state permits for pet purposes. They will issue an Animal Welfare Permit after all cage criteria are met and a USDA Exhibitor's permit obtained, ONLY for commercial enterprises such as movies, TV, educational exhibits, petting zoos, displays, etc.

Comment: all those seeking an exotic cat permit, even if it's only for a pet, should state, when calling or writing the Game Dept. that it's for commercial purposes and an application will then be sent to you.

Club Notes: Exotics Unlimited is alive and well. The first meeting, held under the direction of new leader, Leander Deniz, took place on August 22nd at the home of Jum Shaw and Sue McWhorter in Fresno. Leander brought both of his Jungle cats (Chaus) "Anthony" & "Cleopatra". It was a social affair with members exchanging "critter" stories.

Your California Reporter
making tracks...
Jean Townes



Fix- It

Hairs all over the sofa? A damp sponge, rubbed in one direction will roll up cat hair onto the sponge for easy pickup.

Hair, Kitty, Kitty

Did you do a "scratch job" on your favorite rush hair? Brush it with clear shellac - the loose ends will disappear.

WINTER CARE

Condensed from MIDSTREAM

Harsh winter weather can cause severe health hazards to your pet unless some basic preventive measures are taken.

An annual trip to the vet scheduled just prior to the onset of winter is a sensible step. This provides an excellent time for the animal to receive its annual booster shots and to be checked for heartworms.

If an animal is kept indoors, it is of course easier to protect it from adverse weather; but an outdoor animal needs protection too. Older pets should be allowed to stay in most of the time during winter because they tend to be affected more by cold weather. We would not recommend introducing an animal accustomed to living indoors to a new outdoor lifestyle during the cold months. However, if you adopt a new pet during winter and must keep it outdoors, we suggest that you avoid sudden exposure to prolonged periods in the cold. The animal should be introduced to cold weather slowly and over a period of several weeks, to allow its body to adjust to the change.

Animals kept out of doors need to be provided with a few basic protective measures. All outdoor animals need a dry, warm shelter so that they can get out of cold, damp weather. The shelter should have an above the ground floor.

Food should be presented that is room temperature or warmer. Cold food can cause diarrhea or vomiting. Outdoor pets may require more food during the winter because their systems use more energy in order to maintain body heat. Although pets tend to drink less during the cold months, they always need an adequate supply of water - it may need to be changed to prevent icing over in extreme temperatures. This will also help prevent it shocking the animal's body with liquid that is too cold.

Too often during the cold months cats are killed by anti-freeze. Anti-freeze attracts pets with its sweet smell and taste. This is highly poisonous. Before housing an animal in a garage on extremely cold days, check the floor to make sure your car has not leaked anti-freeze.

Long coated animals should be brushed more frequently to prevent moisture from collecting under the coat. If you see your animal is cold and wet, bring it in and dry it briskly. This will not only dry the animal but will also stimulate its blood circulation.

Many animals suffer from lack of proper care. This problem is compounded by the cruelty winter brings. By taking a little extra time, you can ensure that your pets have the basic requirements and protections from winter weather.



New Product-----What Next?

A cat door that only a cat can open solves problems experienced by cat owners. Frustrated cat owners no longer have to worry about "strangers" entering their homes.

Unlike ordinary cat doors, which allow any small animal to enter, only the "privileged" cat can open this battery operated door. This door incorporates a magnetically operated see-through plastic flap. As the cat approaches the door from the outside, a special 'magnetic key' on its collar automatically trips a flap latch, allowing the pet to enter. The latch then automatically releases to lock the flap in place.

The new cat door includes two magnetic keys and is available from the Pet-Eze Company, 13736 Saticoy St. Van Nuys, CA 91402

PILLING A SIAMESE QUEEN



In most regards she was a normal cat, as gentle as she could be. But pills in her would not stay down beyond a count of three. The owner called her "Kitty Cat" but we all dubbed her "Four" - That's the average tries it usually takes to complete the pilling chore. I'll never forget the day we met - I was just out of school, I walked up to her confidently and tried to act so cool. But as soon as she saw pill in hand she began to come unglued. The room soon filled with screams and hair from the action which ensued.

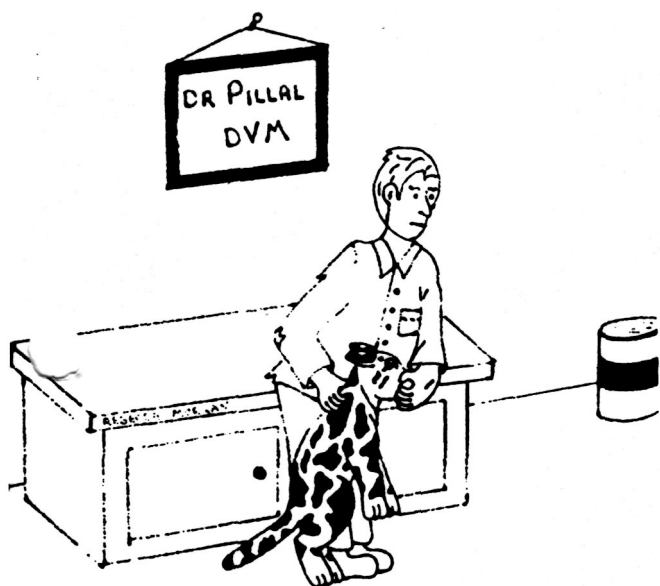
At first I tried the gentle approach and deftly poked it in -- She neatly chewed it right in two along with half my skin. Next I tried some hemostats to jam one down her throat. They were small and tough and pointed, and kept my hands remote. The struggle was a short one and when the stats reappeared, the Tips were chipped and broken, and they were twisted up quite weird. By now the cat had panicked and was bouncing off the walls. And every time we passed she drew blood samples with her claws.

When the battle reached a slower pitch I sent to the Pharmacy-- Tranquilizer for the cat and adrenalin for me. The owner looked bewildered and asked what he could do. I tried to act so nonchalant and said "I'm almost through". The clamor in the waiting room by now had reached a roar. As other clients began to ask what occurred beyond the door. I stuck out my head from time to time just to put their minds at ease. But by then I wore a haggard look which did little to appease.

I gave us all a breather and reflected on what I'd tried. The drug no longer mattered - at stake was professional pride. I summoned reinforcements and we tied her to a chair. Then I searched for mouth amidst the claws and teeth and hair. The things she screamed in cat-ese I really can't repeat. She slandered my own dear mother with titles none too neat. Her screams were not the only things she emptied into the room. Samples from every orifice about the place were strewn.

I shut her mouth; I taped her nose; I squeezed her furry neck. When she turned blue and I turned red, I eased up for a check. A count of "one", a count of "two", - "Aha" I cried, "It's in!" But out it came all mashed and wet and dribbled down her chin. When at last I emerged victorious I noticed that I was wet. Some of it was urine (hers, mine, and ours) and some of it was sweat. I waited for our vital signs to drop to normal highs. Then I sighed from pur relief - a look of triumph in my eyes. But my short-lived joy was soon replaced by a sight that made me ill. On the floor, as plain as day, there it was - the pill.

Adapted from "Pilling a Siamese Queen"
by M.J. Shively, D.V.M.
Reprinted from FELINE PRACTICE.



NECROLOGY

TERA, ocelot, 18 year old companion to Catherine Crum was put to sleep recently due to complications brought on by her age.

Few words of comfort are available to fill the void filled for so many by "Teri".

CHIQUITA



My name is Chiquita, jaguar. I live with my people, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Anderson at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri.

My dad is solid black, his name is Macho and my mom looks just like me, her name is Babe. My first pet human was Mrs. Lewis. In the fall of 1978, J.B. came to visit and learned how to fix my bottle and took me to my home in Missouri.

I live in a 12x24x8 carport converted into a cage with cattle panels. I have a tunnel to my concrete room in my human's underground house. Outside in my cage, I have my own cedar house with thermostat controlled heat in the floor. My cage connects to a 200' chain link fenced run in the front yard by the lake. There are some aluminum wires about nose high that spark sometimes. I touched it with my nose when I was little and it bit me so I don't touch it now.

In my pet's house, I have my own kitchen so my food doesn't get confused with theirs - who wants all those vegetables anyway?

Sometimes after my bath (there's a concrete tub (4x6x3) I get to go into the human part of the house. I pounce on my couch (I got that when I was only 6 lbs), but I never touch the other furniture. My pet JB, plays with me every day, we wrestle, play hide and go pounce, and go swimming in the lake.

Food is pretty good here. I get 6 egg yolks and milk for breakfast along with my vitamins (they think they're hidden) in velveeta cheese. At night I get beef and chicken. For a special treat, I get a live fish put in my tank - I have to catch it.

When I don't feel too good, I get a rabbit to eat, that usually makes me feel better.

J.B. talks about finding me a "artificial boyfriend" so I can be a "mother" - whatever that is.

When I was about 2 1/2 years old, I had a vaginal infection, but JB & my mom used human suppositories to get the medicine to the right place. J.B. says he seminate me without using tranquilizers.

When other people see me play with my pets, they say I am the best tempered jaguar in the country, so all you humans out there come by and see me sometime, I like company.

Chiquita Anderson



JACK RABBITS ADDED TO PEST STAMPOUT LIST

Jack rabbits are a wildlife pest and they should be largely wiped out, the American Farm Bureau Federation says according to an Associated Press report.

The strong stand has been requested by thousands of farmers from Idaho, where thousands of jack rabbits were clubbed to death after being blamed for \$5 million in crop losses in 1981.

Already on the Federation's "stampout list" were starlings, crows and blackbirds. Federation spokesman Gene Malone said the Federation wanted enough animals eradicated so their numbers would be under control and no longer threaten crops.

MAN ACCUSED OF CRUELTY TO TURTLE

A Largo, Fla. man has been charged with animal cruelty after running over a turtle twice, then leaving it in the road to die.

Police said Duane Alan Collins claimed the incident was an accident, even though it occurred in the opposite traffic lane.

A witness who was gardening in his yard, told police it was deliberate and that he asked Collins at the time why he backed over the critter, then pulled forward and ran over it again.

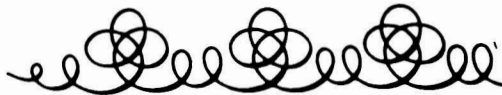
According to Alexander, the young man replied "Because I wanted to."

The animal cruelty charge is a misdemeanor which now carries a minimum \$500 dollar fine and a maximum of \$1,000 fine and a year in jail in the State of Florida.

ESKIMOS ALLOWED TO HUNT WHALES

Eskimo whalers along Alaska's west and north coasts will be allowed to harpoon 19 endangered bowhead whales this year under an agreement between federal officials and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

The agreement is an extension of a pact signed last year allowing Eskimos to manage their own hunts with assistance from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We are happy with the way it worked out last year" Bob McVey, regional director said. "They reached the quota and stopped when whales were still available. They've convinced us they sincerely want to retain responsibility for managing their own hunt."



AUSTRALIAN SKINNED

According to an AP release an Australian business man was duped out of \$500 for shares in a non-existent Mexican ranch where cats were to be crossed with snakes so the offspring would shed their fur, police said.

A letter sent by the swindler said the fur would then net \$3 million a year. As an economy measure, the cats were to be fed on rats raised at a neighboring "rat ranch" and in turn the rats would be fed on the cat carcasses.

Eventually, the letter said, it was hoped to cross the cats with snakes who shed their skins twice a year. This would eliminate labor costs for skinning and getting two skins a year from each cat.

The swindler has been arrested.

contributed by Barbara Wilton
reprinted from the OREGONTIAN

Legislation

U.S. Agencies Differ on Law

Parts of the Reagan Administration at least are divided dramatically over renewal of the Endangered Species Act. The end result, the final power of the bill is still in doubt.

Currently, Congress is considering changes in the law, up-dates, new wording and other proposals. Interior Secretary, James Watt, has recommended that the law be extended, as is, for one year and that at the end of that period, Congress make a number of improvements. Watt seems interested in introducing exemptions for developers who find it difficult when their lands come up against areas the government terms "critical habitat."

On the other side, both the State and Commerce Departments want a two year extension of the act with no changes.

A number of private environmental groups and some federal officials insist that there are far more fundamental differences between the warring factions. These groups are saying that Watt wants a single year extension because he suspects 1983 will offer a softer climate for his proposals.

The more conservative environmentalists want a longer extension because they fear Congress might tinker with the law, making some if not all, of the changes the Administration wants.

Federal hearings have been held on the issue. The pet industry, through its counsel, Marshall Meyers, has taken the position that much of the Act is "sound" and "workable" but has asked for changes in the wording of several sections to make the Act more acceptable to the industry.

Reprinted from PET BUSINESS

Bill extends ban on hunting of lions as sport

The California Assembly sent Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. a bill that extends until 1986 a ban on the sport hunting of mountain lions.

Critics of the measure complained that it would still allow ranchers to kill any cougar seen injuring livestock as long as it was reported to the state Fish & Game Department.

But Assemblyman Richard Floyd of Los Angeles, countered that "without this bill it will be open season on cougars" for hunters who "want to tack the hides on the wall."

Easing the winter...

Kitty Litter's Second Market

With the severe winters this year in the Midwest and East, many motorists got by this winter with the help of kitty litter. That's right, the same stuff used in the kitty's box.

A number of motorists have taken to carrying 25 and 50 pound bags of it in the trunks of their cars whenever roads are icy or the weather threatens.

The weight helps and when the going gets slippery, they simply add a little beneath the back wheels. The clay helps absorb the moisture and improves the footing. Environmentalists say it is better than salt, sand or clinkers.

For a time, many areas reported shortages but winter eases the clay pellet market is returning to business as normal - kitty litter for kitties.

From PET BUSINESS

ZOO NEWS

The San Francisco zoo has added handsomely to its feline collection.

The cheetah population has been enhanced by three and there's a new headliner in the form of "Prince Charles", a 16 month old white tiger.



LIFE WITH AN OCELOT

By Theresa Parrott

Caca Poqui'ta came to me through our veterinary practice when she was 10 weeks old. The owners had brought her in because of a birth defect in one of her hind legs. I remember thinking to myself at the time, how small she was, (3/4 pound), yet quite capable of defending herself, being all claws and teeth. After a few weeks of braces and casts, we took the advice of a veterinary orthopedic surgeon and amputated her limb at the hip joint. We also declawed her three other limbs during the surgery.

With teeth and all, I soon found myself very attached to this South-American cat. After talking with the owners, they agreed to transfer ownership of the cat to me. Caca, then became a definite member of our family and an intricate part of my life.

Being a sophomore in veterinary school and a surrogate mother to an ocelot, was a very interesting experience. With a husband and a home to tend to in Miami, Caca soon learned about life in the fast lane of the Florida turnpike. She got along very well with the other members of the family at first. However she soon outgrew the five domestic cats and Kojak, our Indonesian Macaque. Roughhouse, was Caca's middle name. At six months she was a terror on three legs. She learned however what "NO!" meant and many times felt the wrath of the almighty fly-swatter.

Her first heat was at 13 months. She was a completely changed cat. One minute she would be purring by my side and the next minute, I would find myself frantically searching for the fly-swatter, Caca at my heels. Her cycle lasted four to six days and she would re-cycle every two weeks. That's when I learned about Ovaban and ocelots. I keep her on it for three to four months and then take her off it until she resumes a heat cycle.

An interesting fact about her family line, is the hair loss and skin thickening that occurs during the heat cycle. This skin change occurs on the dorsum of the neck caudally to the level of T3-T4 vertebrae. The skin change seems to be a protection factor for the female against the male's teeth when he grabs her for mating.

Caca is now 20 months old and has calmed down considerably. She still likes to climb up on my lap and suckle on my finger in the evening, while purring constantly and eventually drifting off to sleep. She is 25 pounds now and her only playmate (the only one who will tolerate her) is a 20 pound mongrel dog named Rocky.

I would not recommend an ocelot for everyone, however they do make affectionate pets and will definitely add zest to anyone's life.

My husband and I presently own a small and exotic animal clinic in Hollywood, Florida. My husband is a graduate of Auburn, 1973, while I am presently attending the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine and graduate in 1983.