

NEWSLETTER

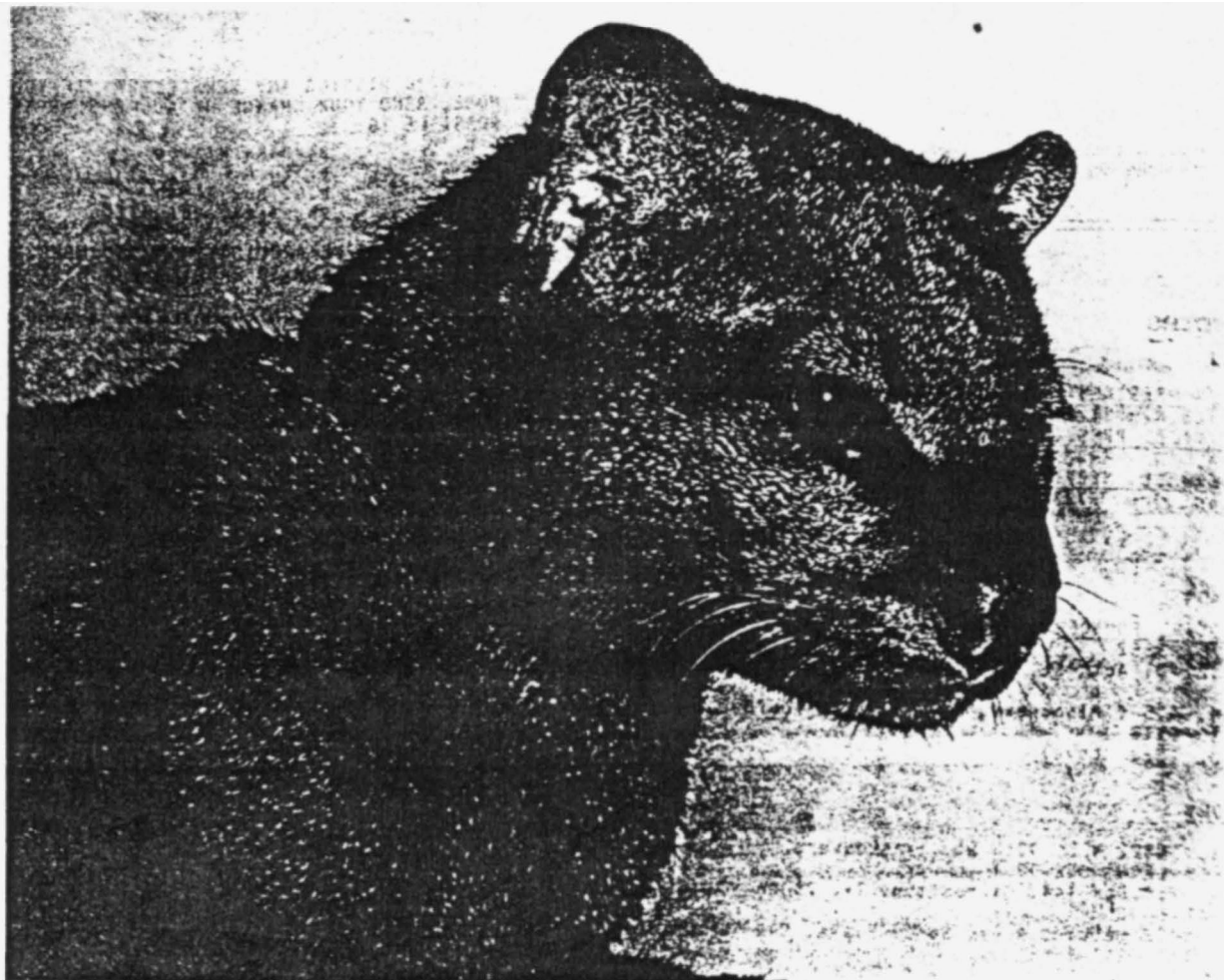
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LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB
 1454 Fleetwood Dr. East
 Mobile, Alabama 36605

Volume 29 - Number 1
 January - February
 1983

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



JAGUARUNDI

Head Study by Etnel Hauser

YAQUI - Descendant of Chuck & Suzie Kindt's "Copy". Jaguarundi is native to the Southern United States, Mexico and the Amazon. They are tree dwellers, average 23 to 35 pounds. Come in Black, Red or Gray. Does not meow or growl, twitters like a bird. Sometimes called the Otter Cat because of the sloping head and long, lean body, snort legs and bristly coat. Good disposition but hard to housebreak. Yaqui lost his mate in a housefire and is wife hunting.



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

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

Help Wanted

REPORTERS

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

WRITING EXPERIENCE: None whatsoever

PREREQUISITES: Love of exotic cats

TYPE OF MATERIAL Articles of happy and
sad experiences;

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

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

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



Attention! Convention is Aug 12-13-14 at Isis Oasis, Geyserville California. Phone (707) 857-3524. Room rates \$20.00 per person per day, Double Occupancy. Convention registration fee is \$35.00. Please mail to: Virginia English - 7009 Willoughby Ave. - Hollywood, Ca 90038

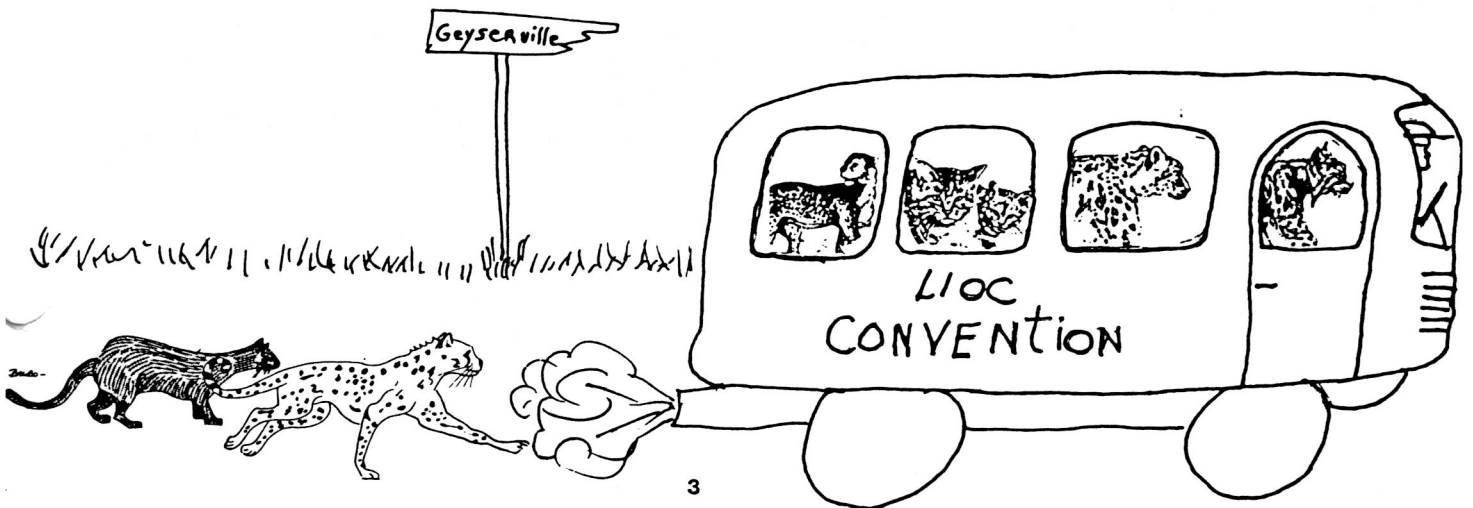
If you plan on bringing your cat, send a written request with a copy of your USDA permit to: California Dept of Fish & Game 1416 - 9th St., Sacramento, Calif. 95814, Attn: Captain Zobel

The Lodge is filling up fast! Alternate accommodations should be made at: L & M Motel, 70 Hillsburgh Ave, Hillsburgh, Ca. 95444, Phone (707) 433-6528. Rates are \$32.00 per room (1 person) - \$37.00 / \$42.00 for two or more in a room.

From the San Francisco Airport, catch the Airporter bus to Geyserville. They will let you off at Isis Oasis. Fare \$19.00

Schedule:	7:00 A	Sat	11:00 A	Greyhound buses also available.
Monday	9:15 A	Sun	4:00 P	
Thurs	10:00 A			
Friday	1:45 P			
	6:45 P			

- Things are shaping up for a great convention. See you there!





MEETING REPORT

Everyone talks about the weather, especially in Florida. The November meeting for the Florida Chapter was held in South Florida where record November rains have fallen and the state has been setting alltime records for warm temperatures. November 14th was no exception as we gathered at the home of Jim & DeeDee Barnes in Plantation, Florida.

This was the first meeting since Convention so everyone was eager to hear about the doings there.

Ken Hatfield would have had a report from Ken Hatfield, but a very severe headache prevented him from attending. In his place, I reported the change of our non-profit status and accepting of advertising in the Newsletter.

Sultan the tiger and Baron the cougar served as co-hosts during the meeting. Also in attendance were two "jiffy"(Geoffroy's) cat kittens and two young ocelots. Sundae margay did not attend as she was trying out her new cage and her father, Critter was returning home also.

Some of our members like more than cats - some like snakes! At least two were in attendance, which might have had something to do with Ken's absence.

Two legged visitors included Jim & Lynn Craft, Cabbage & Mary Nell Phillips, Danny & Ellen Treanor, Sandy Bucacci & Guests Joe & Bill, Jamie Wheatly, Jean Hatfield and Rick Weinstein.

Again, we invite you to visit us and attend a meeting if you come to Florida

Danny Treanor
President



a volunteer program. One is cleaning up along various streams and another is planting willows, etc along streams where erosion is causing damage. (Herb Wilton hurriedly donated the stream through his place for a project!) Could wind up in a good bar-b-q later.

Jackie Vanderwall and Terry Baily reported they had been approached by a professional photographer to use the club's cats on calendars & cards. More information will be gathered when they have their next session.

Meeting adjourned
Submitted by Ethel Hauser

MEETING REPORT

The February business meeting was called to order by Mary Parker, OEEFC's new Coordinator. Her Co-coordinator is Barbara Wilton. Pat Parker was hostess and served a table loaded with finger foods and refreshments.

Report of the January Installation Banquet was given. Highlight was the tasty food and being with good friends. Herb Wilton was presented with the "Out Going Coordinator" plaque with a round of applause. Dancing to the Elk Band topped the evening.

Treasury report was given and Ways & Means showed checks handin in from 7 members who donated their time at the Jafco inventory. Don Scholes, Herb & Barbara Wilton, Mary Parker, Al & Ethel Hauser and Kathy Tesdal made a total of \$96.98. Not bad for 4 hours of fun, easy work!

Old business was the Fish & Game Report. Ginger Peterson, Gayle Schaecker and Jackie Vanderwall are keeping us posted and have prepared to meet with the game people to work out new regulations.

Information on the 1983 convention was read and the entire group urged to attend. The last time California hosted a convention we had 17 attend!

Barb Wilton showed the LIOC lapel tac for the club to sell. They are silver and black, about the size of a nickle. An ad was placed in the Newsletter.

Herb Wilton found a new flea repellent. He has used "PennyRoyal" for some months and found it effective. He purchased 10 small vials @ \$1.50 each. PENNYROYAL is very strong..use only 1 small drop behind the cats ears or rubbed on top of the head. Some cats reacted to the smell however it only lasted a few minutes. PENNYROYAL is pure herb and should not be harmful.

The club has been notified we can no longer buy VIONATE vitamins. The company quit manufacturing them. After checking with larger breeding farms and zoos, it seems CHAPPAREL vitamins are their choice. Best balance for exotics, and in powder form. The club passed a motion to buy 100 lbs and divide it into smaller portions. The cost is around \$1.10 per lb. this way...cheaper than Vionate. We voted to charge \$2.50 a quart jar, creating a small revenue and a savings to all.

More old business was the up-dating of our by-laws and phone lists. A work meeting is planned for March 12. New business was the acceptance of two new members - Pat Teagarden and Terry Bailey, both have beautiful cougars. WELCOM ABOARD.

The big interest of this meeting was the scheduling of more guest meetings during the warm months. We pick up more members by having more guest meetings. We will be presenting a new education program and more fun.

We had a discussion on what goals our club should set for 1983. Several ideas were submitted by Ethel Hauser. We would like one that would help wildlife - other than our own... and do something for the community. Our Fish & Game Dept. recently released



Victories noted in wildlife fight

According to an Associated Press story by James F. Smith, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), ten years after its creation has had some important victories in the fight to save the earth's most vulnerable animals and plants.

Conservationists and traders agree that serious loopholes still weaken the campaign to prevent extinction of threatened species. But they say the existence of a binding treaty has helped foster a new awareness of the danger, some with tangible results.

"You can't walk down Fifth Avenue today and buy a leopard skin coat" said Israeli conservationist Bill Clark. "You don't find many alligator handbags or python belts." "This is an organized war against vanity" said Clark.

CITES, formed in Washington in 1973, recently held its fourth review session in Gaborone, Botswana. About 300 delegates met in a tent to debate whether governments should upgrade or downgrade scores of species covered by the treaty.

The treaty is binding on 81 member states and covers some 50,000 species - four-fifths of them plants - in two categories.

- Appendix One bars all international trade in 600 animal species and several thousand plant species
- Appendix Two requires export permits and other monitoring but does not forbid trade.

The conference toughened the rules on whale trade, adding two species of great whales and four bottlenose whale species to Appendix One. Canada and the United States lost an attempt to remove bobcat and lynx and other species from Appendix Two. They argued that the listing caused a great deal of paperwork and was unnecessary because the species were not on the endangered list.

Canada won a campaign to keep 14 species of earless seals from being added to the second group, saying such monitoring was not useful and that the species were not endangered.

Zimbabwe won approval for crocodile ranching the first time the convention has permitted a ranching program for a most-endangered species. And seven African countries were given permission to export a total of 460 leopard pelts a year under strict conditions - that they be sold singly to individuals and not to the fur industry.

Contributed by Barbara Wilton

3 Tigers Put to Death Despite Offer of Home

The owners of Waldo's Wild Animal Retirement Village were so sure they would be receiving four "aged and ailing" tigers from the Detroit zoo that they purchased several truckloads of chain-link fencing to prepare cages for the felines.

But last week Gene & Rusti Schuler's hopes were diminished when they learned three of the tigers already had been put to death by zoo officials.

"I was in shock," Gene Schuler said, adding that he couldn't believe the zoo's officials could be so "calloused". The Schulers told the zoo they would provide homes for the animals that zoo director Steve Graham said were too old and arthritic to live.

A Detroit judge issued an injunction to prevent the zoo from disposing of the tigers until they were examined by several veterinarians chosen by the New York-based Fund for Animals. A hearing to decide the fate of the animals, originally scheduled for Nov. 19 was held instead on Nov. 3. Two veterinary experts testified that the tigers "were not in excruciating pain to the point that the only viable alternative would be euthanization," said Detroit attorney Lee Roy Temrowski, Jr. in a letter to the Schulers.

But the zoo's medical experts stuck to their testimony that the animals should be put to death, and the judge lifted the injunction permitting zoo officials to kill the three tigers. Temrowski told the Schulers he would continue trying to help them acquire the last tiger, Anna, which had been labeled the unruly one of the quartet.



Allergy Relief?

There's encouraging news for people who are allergic to cats. Scientists have found that the allergen is in the cat's saliva - not in the dander, as was previously thought. While cleaning itself, a cat leaves saliva on its skin. The saliva dries and rides on the dander, the particles that are shed from the skin. "Although we haven't proceeded far in the studies, this is a promising area of research," says Dr. John Ohm of the Boston Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic. "We're looking into ways that a cat's saliva may be altered to reduce the allergic reaction." Knowing the source of the allergen will also be helpful in desensitization.

Reprinted from Ladies Home Journal



Murray Killman

The Man And His Wildcats

By J. Howard Ferguson
Reprinted from Insight On Collectables

Most wildlife artist paint their subjects from photographs and visits to a local zoo. Some make sojourns into the wilds to view the animals first hand. Very few work and live with the animals day in and day out. One artist does, and that is Murray Killman.

I climbed the mountain out of Hamilton and made my way along Upper James on route to Caledonia (Ontario, Canada) the home of Murray and The Killman Research & Study Center on Native North American Wildcats. I was looking forward to spending a day with the extraordinary artist and his cats. Every child loves a zoo. It goes without saying that I was still a child at heart.

Arriving at the game refuge, I was greeted by Murray and invited to tour the cat pens with him. We made our way down a narrow path leading from the house and soon came to the cougar enclosure. They were beautiful, majestic, stately animals. They strutted around their kingdom, hissing every now and then to inform me that I was coming very close maybe too close, to their territorial ground. Glancing up, I noticed a sign, it read simply, "Don't feed the Cats" and showed an outline of a hand with half the fingers missing. It conveyed the message very clearly.

Murray unlatched the gate and made his way into the enclosure. The cats paraded around him coming close enough every now and then for a welcomed back rub. Killman obviously knew his way around the big felines. He carefully picked up a long pole with a red handkerchief attached to the end. Murray began swinging it around in large circles; the cats went after it like a house tabby after a string.

"They like to play, but because of their size they play kind of rough" Murray informed me. A large female began moving over from the far side of the pen and made her way toward the action. Killman immediately picked up the lid of a tin garbage can and dropped the flag. "I don't trust her, she's very aggressive," The cat swatted at the lid as Murray backed to the door. Quietly he stepped out and locked the gate. "I don't think she would actually attack, but one never knows. You're better to be safe" I breathed a sigh of relief as we moved to the jaguar cage.

The jaguars are the largest of all native American wildcats. Killman informed me that a cougar is 10-times stronger than a man and a jaguar is five times stronger than the cougar, these were certainly not cats to be played with. "I hope you don't mind if I don't go in with the jags, Ole Tex (the big male) is very possessive and once I get in I have trouble getting out. He goes over and lays at the door and wont' move until he gets tired of your scratching his back. Sometimes you can find yourself in there for hours." Another interesting fact about the jaguar that Murray related is that they are the only American cat that roars.

The ocelots were the next stop. Murray had made mention over the phone that he was one of the few people in the country that has bred this cat. I was looking forward to seeing them. I had never seen an ocelot before. Nearing the enclosure, we were greeted by a pungent odor. "Ocelots are very territorial, I have a cougar kitten in the next pen and they want to make darned sure he knows whose domain this is". I was surprised when I first caught glimpse of the ocelots. They were much smaller than I had anticipated. "Don't let the size fool you," I was informed, "one of the worse bites I've had came from a female - bit right through my wrist." I reminded myself to keep my distance from this small predator.

Continuing on we came across bobcats, lynx and a cage full of fox. I made mention of the fact that I wasn't aware that fox were members of the cat family. Murray laughed and informed me that he had inherited them from a friend. "I was doing a fox painting and he thought it would be better if I had the subject on hand, I really think he just wanted to get rid of them. It doesn't matter, I like them."

After making the grand tour of the cat pens and wildlife sanctuary at the back of the farm, we made our way back to the gallery. Wildlife, Indian and battle scenes adorned the walls. I was impressed with lifelike images, the minute detail and technical correctness prevalent in all the canvases. After half an hour's deliberation in the gallery, we were summoned by Mrs. Killman that lunch was ready.

Fresh ham, homemade chili sauce, and just baked apple pies were the order of the day. "We're simply country folk, hope you don't mind eating at the kitchen table," asked Mrs. Killman? "Not at all, I'm a country boy myself." Sitting around the table we discussed many light-hearted topics as we enjoyed lunch. After savoring the gastronomical delight, it was back to the studio to continue the interview

Killman was born in Hamilton, Ontario and can trace his roots back seven generations in Canada. His ancestors were United Empire Loyalists who made their way to Canada during the American Revolution. Jacob Killman was a Butler's Ranger of revolutionary fame and settled on the Niagra Peninsula in 1778. One of Killman's paintings depicts his famous ancestor, in full ranger garb, crouching behind a tree watching a majestic cougar perched atop a rock. Murray still has strong feelings for the Loyalists and has done considerable research on the war of 1812-14. Many of his paintings depict battle scenes from this era .

From the time he was six, Murray recalls drawing and painting. During his elementary school days he won many art contests and was constantly in trouble for doing doodles on the corners of his work books. "All my life, I used art as an escape. I still use it for that purpose today."

After a lengthy career with various commercial art establishments, Murray began painting famous Indian chiefs and battle scenes from the War of 1812. In 1976-77 he created the Joseph Brant portrait series. "I wasn't making a lot of money, but money wasn't my main objective as long as I had enough to live on. The cat paintings were merely a fluke. I had always loved the big cats and I began painting them. Before long, I was selling nine wildlife paintings to every one historical painting. I decided that if I was going to make this my full time career, I had better hone in on the market place. Thus I began painting animals more and more."

"I was always intrigued by cougars and when the chance to buy one came up I wrote three letters, one to the Toronto Zoo; one to the Alberta Game Farm and one to the Lion Country Safari. The Safari said there was no way that I should venture into raising cats. The Toronto Zoo said they wouldn't recommend it, but if I was extremely good with animals, maybe. The Alberta Game Farm said go ahead and that's what I did. In hindsight, the Toronto Zoo probably gave me the best advice."

When he found that he had no problem raising one cougar, he decided to expand. Before long, other breeds of cats were added and at the time of this writing (12/82) there are 17 large felines on the Killman farm. "Anyone that thinks that 17 wildcats are easy to manage better think again. If you make one mistake, it could be your last one. You can get in an awful lot of trouble in a hurry. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone."

KILLMAN Cont.

To date, Murray has two plate series in the making. The first series deals with famous Indian chiefs the second is a series of six plates depicting a different native wildcat on each and is called "Native Cats." This is the first time that a series of cat plates have been produced by someone having the first hand experience of Killman.

Murray is also an avid conservationist and recently donated a painting of a cougar to the World Wildlife Fund. The painting entitled the "LOOKOUT", was auctioned at Southby's and brought \$5,000.



Murray's wife, Marge, Lorne Green and Murray standing in front of "The Lookout", the painting the painting auctioned in behalf of the World Wildlife Federation.

Murray claims that there are avenues in the art field that he has not even explored. "There are certain techniques that I want to try but as of yet have not found the time to explore the possibilities. What I am shooting for is 99% realism in my wildlife art. I haven't reached that point yet, but I'm confident that one day I will reach that pinnacle. That's my goal!"

When one is interviewed by Killman you can never stray very far from wildcats, the minute you do Murray will somehow get you back on the topic. "The only way I can substantiate owning the cats is if I can use them for research and painting. By owning the cats I not only become more familiar with their appearance, but more important their personality and moods. I have seen cougars strike poses and do things that few people will ever have the opportunity to see. I believe that by owning the big cats, I capture on canvas things that most wildlife artists miss. It is an expensive undertaking to raise 17 critters, it takes a minimum of 15 tons of food per year and that gets expensive. Add to this the medical supplies, bedding and incidentals and you have a very expensive hobby. I have to paint them and paint them just a little bit better than anyone else in order to justify ownership. It's as simple as that."

I glanced at my watch and was shocked to find the time to be four-thirty, it seemed that I had just arrived. Mrs. Killman came into the studio and asked if I would stay for tea. Thanking her I declined.

It had been a fascinating day for me, not only had I had the pleasure of meeting one of Canada's foremost wildlife artists but also had the enjoyment of seeing five different breeds of wildcat close-up. Killman is an artist who knows his subject and conveys it onto canvas as well as anyone in the field today. If you have the opportunity to visit Murray and his cats, I would recommend that you don't pass it up.



SPEECH

When I have things to say
I expect you to listen to me.
If you cannot understand what I am saying
That is your fault and your loss,
But at least be quiet when I am speaking
and try to comprehend
You who think yourselves so clever,
Who know the languages of people
Of the living world and the dead,
Why cannot you learn mine
Which is so simple
To express wants so few?
"In"
"Out"
"Hungry"
"Thirsty"
Give me just a taste of what you are having
Something hurts"
A ball rolled under the divan; get it out"
Keep doing whatever it is you are doing and
Pay more attention to me"
"I like you"
"I don't like you"
If you can talk to the arabs, the Chinese,
The Eskimos and read the hieroglyphics of the past
Why cannot you understand me:

SILENCE

I walk on secret feet,
Though if I willed,
My tread
Would shake the earth beneath me.
I stalk
As silently as moonrise,
The sinking of a leaf,
The touch of snow upon the ground.
A drop of dew, born to a petal,
The fros spreading upon a window pane,
The shadow of a cloud
Drifting,
Make no more sound than I.
Nor with my hunting
Do I stir a fallen leaf.
I come,
I go,
Unheard by day,
Unseen by night,
On muffled feet of steel
Clad in a velvet shoe.

Paul Gallion

MATTER OF TASTE

TAX BREAKS

By James K. Page

REPRINTED FROM THE SMITHSONIAN

Anyone who lives in a house with two dogs, one cat and six or so teen-age daughters plus, on a fairly regular basis, their admirers, is in obvious danger of attracting fleas. This being a sufficiently common problem to justify research, a series of scientific experiments was initiated - at no cost to the taxpayer - to determine the best defense.

It can be reported that, to the researcher's relief, the flea epidemic could not be attributed to the teen-age girls or their suitors in spite of evidence to the contrary (unmade beds, borrowed clothes, strange heaps of rags called laundry in the basement). These cheerful but potentially pathogenic mammals were isolated from the experiment by being sent to the seashore to visit grandparents, thus leaving only three culprits.

Research therefor proceeded on one aged German Shepherd which has traveled from the headwaters to the mouth of the Amazon river on a raft (Exploring the Amazon, National Geographic Books.) one mop-shaped dog of apparent Hungarian descent (acquired from the Humane Society); and one game, 3-legged cat.

For weeks, the researchers tried every commercially available dip, bath, spray, powder, soap bar and tag with no lasting diminution of the population of fleas and their totally unwarranted attacks upon the experimental animals and the experimenters' ankles.

There is room for desperation in science. A researcher was dispatched to a health food store (of all serendipitous places), someone now lost to science having suggested pennyroyal oil.

"Pennyroyal oil?" said the ghostly pale proprietress. "We're out of pennyroyal oil" Appraised of the nature of the experiment, she handed the researcher a bottle of pills. "Brewer's yeast" she said.

Sixty grains were administered to each dog (30 grains for the cat) daily, in their regular meals - and soon there was no sign of fleas. Five months later the shepherd, the mop, the cat and the rest of the household, including your reporter, were still free of this scourge.

These astounding results were reported to Dr. Theodore Reed, director of the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, who said that when, years ago, he was in veterinary practice he employed a kennel boy who was susceptible to fleas ("Some people just taste right") and he solved the problem by giving the boy thiamine (vitamin B-1). Perhaps, Reed opined, brewer's yeast works because it's rich in the vitamin B complex. Maybe vitamin B is all that is required.

Perhaps. But as Ted Reed pointed out, the fleas are not gone from the house. They are waiting in the rug or under the beds for the day when the dogs again taste right, and your faithful researchers going to take no chances with further experimentation. Brewer's yeast it is.

Contributed by Ethel Hauser

Since 1977, 20 states have successfully passed income tax check-off legislations designed to raise funds for non-game wildlife conservation. In these states, taxpayers have the option of designating all or part, of their tax refunds to a state fund earmarked for specific conservation needs.

Colorado passed the first non-game "check-off" bill in 1977 and has raised over \$2.9 million during the 5 tax years that it has been in effect (1977-81)

Forty-nine states carry out some sort of non-game program within their respective wildlife agencies. Eighteen states have passed check-off bills during the past 3 years. These programs are not identical, but most are designed for non-game species.

The programs are proving to be unifying forces within conservation communities, appealing to the generosity of both hunters and non-hunters. Whereas hunters and anglers have for many years supported game management activities through sales taxes on support equipment and through license fees and stamps, the check-off program is the first vehicle to be established which allows non-consumptive wildlife "users" to contribute directly to wildlife conservation.

States with a state income tax check-off are: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

Daniel Twedt



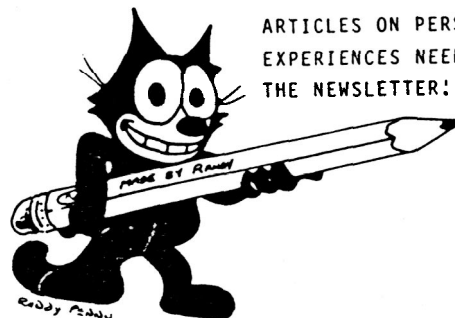
I AM..... WHAT I AM

Leopard Cats are an elegant breed which enter life with definite minds all their own, this being obvious from DAY ONE! They are ruled by their free spirit all the way and are subservient to no one. Along with their bright, free spirit, which entails a very inquisitive nature, it their equally matching stubbornness which refuses ever to bend! Their determination will put our wants to shame...but this is their "inner-self" and exactly the way they come. Now, if you can accept them just the way they are, the loving joy you'll receive in return is most rewarding by far.

Dedicated to "Rudders" from Meko's Ma....

ARTICLES ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES NEEDED FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

GET THE POINT?!



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BASIC GENETICS

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Genetics is the study of heredity. Heredity is the passing on of the characteristics from parents to offspring by genes, which are structures located on strips called chromosomes in the eggs and sperm of the parents.

Breeding is choosing the parents, putting them together and hoping they'll reproduce. Whether or not we are successful is up to them, unless we load the dice by using artificial insemination or the like.

Inbreeding is breeding parent and offspring or siblings to each other.

Line breeding is breeding individuals related farther back, such as cousins or grandparents and grandoffspring, to each other.

Out-crossing is breeding individuals which are not related, at least as far back as we can trace.

Purebreeding is breeding individuals of the same breed or species.

Hybridization is breeding individuals of different breeds or species.

How does genetics work? Two elephants look like each other and have babies that grow up into elephants because they have the same genetic code; that is, they have the same series of genes on their chromosomes in the same order like beads on a string. One elephant looks slightly different from another because there are various options on some of the genetic sites, sort of like round beads or square beads. These options are inherited, or passed on, by certain very formal and consistent rules. For instance, while all elephants have genes for teeth, only some have genes for tusks; therefore some have tusks and others do not, and some have bigger tusks than others.

Parents can pass on genes only that they have. Some genes show on the animal and some are carried. Those that show are called "dominant" while those that are carried and don't show are called "recessive". Two recessives side by side will also show in the animal. Occasionally two odd genes will both show because neither is dominant, but this is rare. Usually other pairs of genes are also mixed up in something like that. Occasionally there is a mutation, or rearranging of the gene structure itself, but very seldom. Radiation and heat can cause mutations.

Parents have two genes on any given site on a chromosome, except in the reproduction cells. Those split right down the middle and make two new sets, which don't have to match because one side could get a dominant gene and the other a recessive. An offspring gets one set from each parent, adding up to a full double set.

Offspring are exactly like their parents only if the parents are genetically alike. This can happen whether or not they are related; and it doesn't have to happen if they are related. A matching pair of genes before the cell splits is called "homozygous". An odd pair is called "heterozygous".

Breeding, if done with intelligence, can lead to a very healthy and superior strains of animals and plants. If done by fools, it can destroy a breed or species. If done wisely, breeding can save an endangered species or salvage a breed that has gone to pot. The same strain or species can also be either salvaged or destroyed if left to Mother Nature.

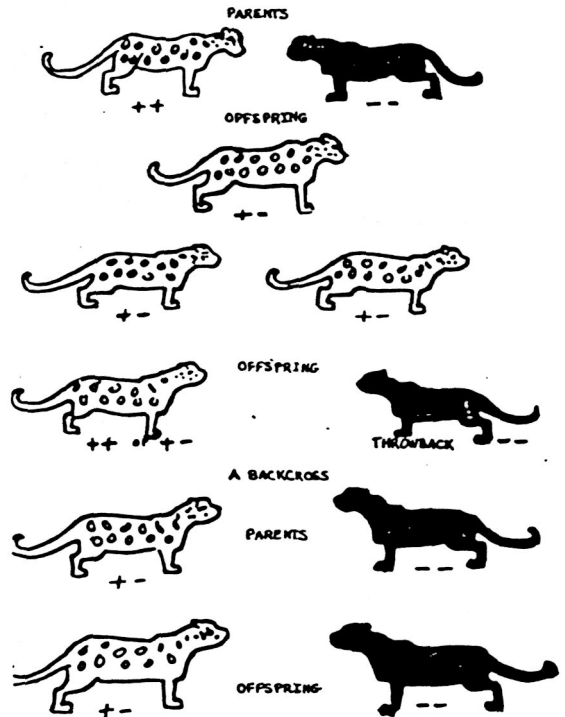
"Survival of the Fittest" also means "Extinction of the Unfittest". "Fit" means that an organism can live under prevailing conditions at the moment. It doesn't mean "most desirable" conditions.

There are standard symbols and abbreviations for the genetic process. Each species has a set of letters for each of its characteristics. They are used by everybody to state the genetic code, or the order of the genes on the chromosome, for that species. For simplicity's sake, here is a set of genes using plus (+) and minus (-) rather than letters. Let us look at the jaguars at the Rio Grande Zoo.

Black ground color rather than red or gold is sometimes seen in jaguars. They all have black spots. These are visible on black jaguars in bright light. Red/gold happens to be dominant, black recessive. Red individuals which produce only red cubs, no matter what color animal they are bred to, are homozygous dominant red (++) . All black jaguars are homozygous recessive (--). If these two homozygous animals are bred to each other, all their cubs will be red. In the sex cells, one gene of each pair is passed on to the offspring from the parents. All offspring have one of each kind of gene. Their genetic code for background color is +-, heterozygous dominant. Their color is red because red fur pigment is dominant over black and always shows if it is present. They are all carriers of black, which is recessive.

The homozygous and heterozygous dominant jaguars look alike. The only way to tell which is which is to breed them to a homozygous recessive individual, whether related or not, is called a backcross. The black grandparent should do just fine unless some horrible defect has turned up which we wouldn't want to pass on. Any jaguar would do whose genetic makeup is known, and a homozygous recessive is obvious. As long as there are enough offspring to make a reasonable sample, there should be some homozygous recessive offspring, in our case black jaguars, because the recessive black gene will double up with the recessive gene from the homozygous black animal. The black jaguar has only black genes.

Now, if we breed those cubs to each other at adulthood, the genes can sort themselves out in three different ways when they split in the sex cells and then recombine in the offspring. There will be some ++ homozygous dominant red babies, there will also be +- heterozygous dominant babies also showing red ground color and there will be some -- homozygous recessive black babies, throwbacks to the black grandparent.



THE BASIC CONCEPT ON WHICH GOODNESS RESTS IS
THE REVERENCE FOR LIFE - THE GREAT MYSTERY IN
WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES WITH ALL LIVING THINGS.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

TO PONDER

"We are the keepers of all living things.
Let us never forget our responsibility to
preserve what we cannot create..."

© 1974 by Rudolf

ARIZONA'S ARISTOCATS

BY JEAN TOWNES

February in California was rain, rain, rain,... so I escaped to sunny Tucson, Arizona, where the temperature was in the 70's and I could watch the sunset from my room at the brand new Sheraton Tucson, in the foothills of the Santa Catalina mountains. A range of mountains which, by the way, is supposed to be home for bobcat and cougar. I didn't see any of the wild cats but I did take a horseback ride into the hills and spotted some of the smaller wildlife -jack rabbits and the famous roadrunner.

While in Tucson, I played tourist and visited the Air Museum, Colossal Caves and of course both the Reid Park Zoo and the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.

The Desert Museum is 14 miles out of town, adjacent to the Saguaro National Monument where the Saguaro cactus reigns supreme. At the entrance you are greeted by a variety of lizards basking on a sun-warmed rock. Then, by following the map given you by the friendly ticket-taker, the first cats you come to are the cougars and jaguars. They have a pair of each, all in beautiful condition and when I was there, the cougars were napping while the jags indulged in a bit of people watching. I have found it's difficult to find really good structured jags in our country's zoos, but these were the exception to the rule and are well formed without the bowed legs that is usually seen on zoo jags.

Continuing the tour, I came to the prairie dog town and was delighted by their antics. What fun it would be to have them outside the back door... who would need a TV? In the same area were javelina, oati mundi, deer, kit fox, wolf and coyote. The paths wind around the natural vegetation of the desert and the saguaro cactus stand like sentinels as far as the eye can see.

Next, the small cat grotto.....strikingly natural settings that you look down into or can go down to ground level. It's like looking into a minute canyon complete with fallen logs, rock outcroppings, and scrub brush. This type of cat enclosure makes any chain link look alot like Alcatraz compared to the Taj Mahal! It was interesting to see tho', that even with the natural setting and more than ample room that the cats still paced. These unique enclosures held margays, ocelots, bobcats and jaguarundis. The margays and ocelots were some of the nicest I've seen, well proportioned and without the bug-eyes typical of many of these cats....really lovely animals. These are the times I wish all the members could be along to share the sights.

The next grotto housed a pair of bobcats and from the look of them, they were probably up in age. The male was wandering around his territory making bobcat type noises, while the female was holed up in the den for a snooze. Their grey/brown fur blended into the surroundings making them difficult to spot.

Moving on, a long sleek jaguarundi greets visitors at the window in the lower area of the adjoining grotto. He then continued his tour of the canyon bottom. A handsome cat, about 13 pounds and a grey-ticked coat, he shared his quarters with a rather unusually colored female. Her coat is very black, sleek and shiny, almost like patten leather, with no ticking and a reddish hue to her head. I have seen all red jaguarundis but none so black. She also had a bit of a pouch and preferred to sit and sun herself on a rock outcropping. As other visitors rolled by, not bothering to read the signs, I heard remarks about "the large weasels" which brought ire to the fore and caused me to ask more than one of them to please read about this lovely and unusual cat. Having always been partial to jaguarundis and few zoos exhibit them, these people should have considered themselves lucky to have seen them at all!



I spent a lot of the time in the cat grotto, going back and forth to watch all of the cats again and again...but the sun was setting so as I made my way toward the entrance, I paused by the otter and beaver pools, saw the bighorn sheep and various aviarys along the way and dashed into the gift shop for a poster and cougar print T-shirt.

Reid Park Zoo is located right in Tucson proper and is a small, compact zoo that has tried to house their animals in as natural a setting as possible for a conventional zoo. Though in some areas the vegetation has gotten a bit out of hand. They are in the process of converting the typical cement floored, chain-link cages into grottos for their lions and tigers. Most impressive of the cat cages is the one in which their three leopards, one spotted and two black reside. It's an exceptionally large flight cage type, with black painted chain link for easy viewing, natural earth floor with grasses, trees and shrubs within. Particularly nice was the way they had installed a bare tree with a number of large limbs about 12 feet up and a fallen limb positioned in the crotch in the tree to the ground for climbing. Perfect for leopards! When I arrived, one of the blacks was relaxing, leopard style, with legs dangling on either side of a high limb. Very picturesque indeed. The smaller black is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. Her coat is SO black that the spots aren't visible even in sunlight.

The serval cage was also on dirt and had an interior that resembled a dense, dark jungle. So dense, that it was very hard to see the cat. The cage was a triangle in shape and very tall, more adequate for birds than a ground dwelling animal. Their serval was a young adult male and the only serval they had at that time. In talking to the keeper, I found out that they had had an older pair but the male recently killed his mate and was promptly traded for the younger male they have now. He is a handsome, tall cat and they would be wise to enlarge the cage to better enhance this interesting member of the exotic cat family.



To round out their cat collection is a pair of caracals. They too are installed in a cage with lots of shrubbery but theirs also includes a fresh water pond...which must be great during the hot Arizona summers. When I came up, the cats were asleep together at the front of the cage..an elegant looking couple, one had its front paws draped over the other and neither bothered with their visitors. Though quite compatible, the keeper told me that these cats had not produced any kittens in the 3 years he had been there. It was also interesting to find that the zoo feeds the cats exclusively on commercial frozen feline diets and they seem to have a number of health problems concerning the bladder. This may just be coincidence, but thought it might be a point of interest, since most of the exotic owners I know mainly feed chicken necks with feline food only occasionally.

As I left the zoo, I purchased a T-shirt being sold to help finance the new cat grottos that read "Support your local cat house". It was sold to me by an elderly man in the zoological society who seemed to blush as I held it up for size...anyone wishing to purchase one can order them from: The Tucson Zoological Society, 900 S. Randolph Way Tucson, AZ 85716.



Jumble / Henri Arnold & Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINVY
 [] [] [] [] [] []

CUHDY
 [] [] [] [] [] []

LEHTAH
 [] [] [] [] [] []

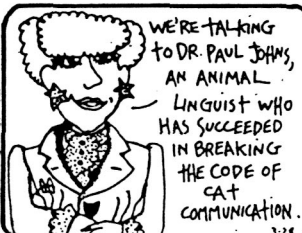
TUFACE
 [] [] [] [] [] []



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " [] [] [] [] [] [] "

Answer: What those feline gossips were - CATTY
 JUMBLES: Yling, Duchy, Health, Faucet



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HELP NEEDED

The Dallas Zoo has experienced a rather strange pelage color phenomena with some black leopard cubs. Certain cubs were born completely white, although not albino, but progressively turned dark until fully black at approximately 60 days. The white cubs were all from a female imported from Thailand.

I am attempting to locate zoos and parks that have experienced this method of hair coloration and modification. If you have noticed this type of pelage change in black leopards, or any felines, I would be grateful if you would let me know. I would like to collect genetic or background data on those particular animals. Please contact:

Hughe E. Pearson
 Large Animals
 Dallas Zoo
 621 E. Clarendon Dr.
 Dallas, Tx. 75203-2996



Rabies Doubles in Three Years

More than 7,000 documented cases of animal rabies were reported in the U.S. last year more than twice the total of three years ago according to the Center for Disease Control.

In 1981, for the first time, rabies were more prevalent in cats than in dogs. The CDC reported 285 cases involving cats compared with 216 involving dogs.

Wild animals accounted for 85% of all rabies cases and skunks registered the highest count ever.



I AM YOUR CAT

DO NOT THINK OF ME AS AN OBJECT TO BRING FAME TO YOU.
MY MOST PRIZED TROPHY IS A GENTLE TOUCH FROM YOU.

DO NOT EXPECT FROM ME A NEW FAMILY OF BABIES EVERY FEW MONTHS.
I LOVE MY LITTLE ONES AND WANT THEM WITH ME SO I MAY TEACH THEM
AND PLAY WITH THEM, AS A GOOD MOTHER SHOULD.

DO NOT DISCARD ME IF I DO NOT PRODUCE. IF YOU HAVE OTHERS YOU
FEEL MORE VALUABLE THAN I, FOR I CANNOT BE DUPLICATED. DO NOT
THINK OF ME AS AN UNKNOWING, UNCARING OR AN INDEPENDENT BEING FOR
I NEED YOU AND DEPEND UPON YOU.

ACCEPT ME AS I AM, CARE FOR ME, LOVE ME AND BE MY FRIEND
AND I WILL GIVE YOU IN RETURN: A SOFT TOUCH WHEN YOU ARE TROUBLED,
A COMPANION WHEN YOU ARE LONELY, A CLOWN WHEN YOU ARE DEPRESSED,
A TRUSTING, LOVING BEING, CONTENT TO SHARE YOUR HAPPINESS AND YOUR
SORROW. LET ME WITH YOU IN OUR SMALL PART OF THIS WORLD.

DO NOT THINK OF ME AS A SIMPLE CREATURE FOR I CAN SEE ANGELS
YOU CANNOT SEE. I FEEL THE VIBRATIONS AND WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE
YOU CAN ONLY DREAM OF. I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH YOU IF YOU WILL BUT
LEARN MY LANGUAGE AS I HAVE LEARNED YOURS.

AND, WHEN THE TIME COMES WHEN I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU REMEMBER,
I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU FOR OUR SPIRITS ARE ONE.

LOVE ME! CHERISH ME! CARE FOR ME! I AM YOUR CAT!

Submitted by Jean Townes

Author Unknown

