

LIOC ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



NEWSLETTER

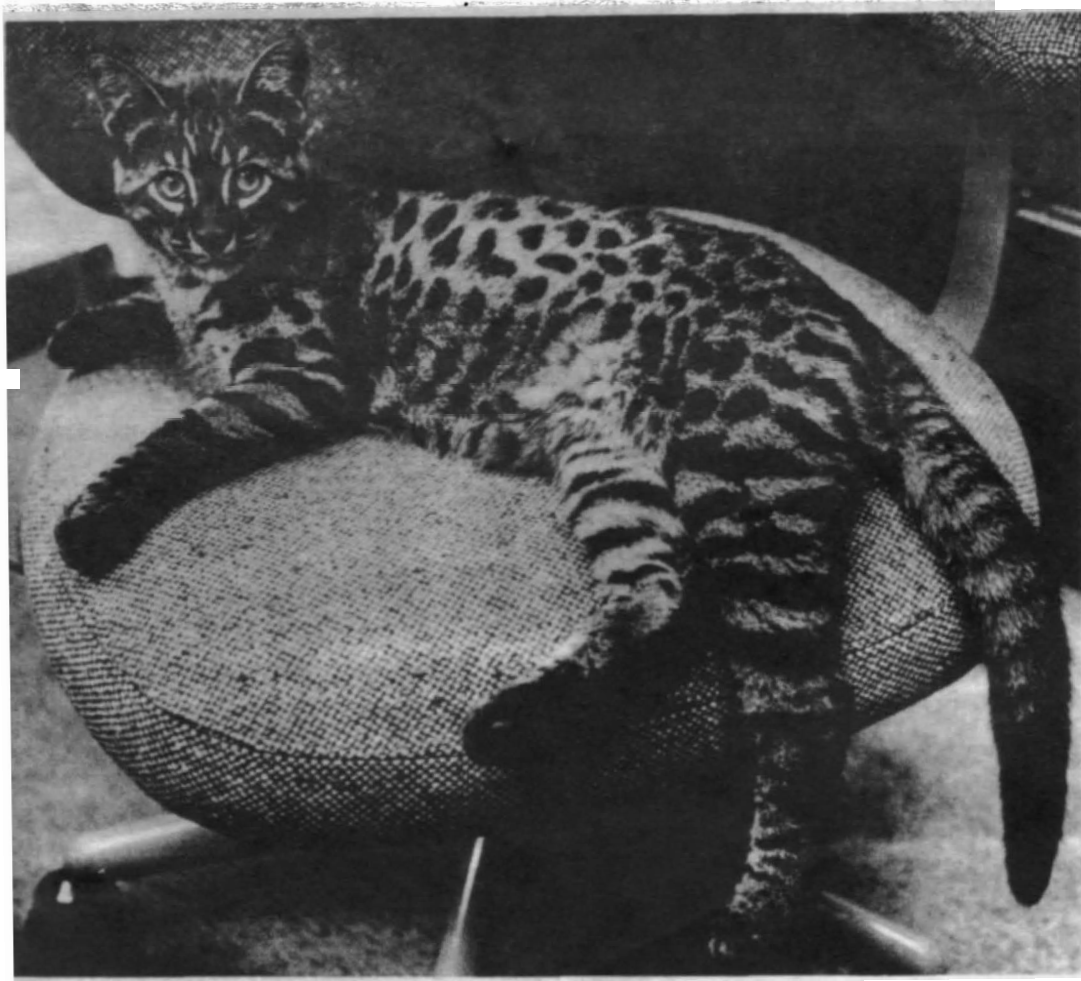
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LIOC
Route 4, Box 377
Mobile, Al. 36609

Volume 30 - Number 4
July/August 1986

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



MYSTERY CAT Baffles TACOMA, WA. HUMANE SOCIETY

Story on Page 10

Photo BY Wayne Zimmerman



Published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. LIOC is a non-profit, non-commercial organization international in membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines.

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

Help Wanted

REPORTERS

LIOC 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 exotic ownership.

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.



Tracking the Elusive Snow Leopard

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
RODNEY JACKSON AND DARLA HILLARD

In the snare was an animal so rare and mysterious—so long anticipated—that I hardly dared to trust what the spotting scope had shown me from base camp. I scrambled up the steep embankment and pushed cautiously through dense bushes lining the trail high above Nepal's Langu River. Beyond the large boulder ahead was the trap.

In it waited my quarry, a snow leopard, crouched low to the ground, ears flat, eyes icy green, mouth wide open in a deep growl. I had to get close enough to aim a four-foot jab stick with an immobilizing drug into the cat's flank. A prime male, he was in no mood to cooperate. He twisted and lunged, hissing and snarling, harmlessly restrained by the snare to a radius of two feet—just enough to foil my aim.

My Sherpa guide, Lopsang, approached from the opposite side, the cat hesitated, and in that instant I found my mark and injected the drug. We retreated out of sight to wait for the tranquilizer to take effect.

The cat was down, eyes wide and dilated. He lay unmoving as I took the snare from his forepaw, covered his head against the bright spring sun and the stress of seeing humans, and placed a radio collar around his neck. A small tattooed "1" on the inside of his left ear would identify him in the event the collar shed and he was retrapped. Standing about two feet from the shoulder, this three-foot tail nearly as long as his body, he weighed around 100 pounds.

I checked my watch—less than 15 minutes since the drug, a light dose, had taken effect. The cat began to recover, muscles rigid and straining against my hands. Soon he would regain mobility. We repacked instruments, took last minute photographs, and filled our eyes with the image of dense smoky gray fur dappled with black rosettes, thick tail, huge paws with claws extending as he rolled to his feet and moved unsteadily up the slope. He did not go far, but lay in the shade of a wild peach tree.

We returned to camp and tuned in the telemetry receiver. The world's first radio-collared snow leopard was on the move, beginning to give us information on his almost completely unknown habits in the wild.

"It can't be done" was the typical reaction to my proposals for a radiotelemetry study of *Panthera uncia* in its inhospitable mountain habitat.

No one was willing to fund such a "high risk" project, until I received one of five Rolex Awards for Enterprise in 1981. His Majesty's Government of Nepal, through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation approved my application for a joint study and assigned Karan B. Shah, a Nepalese biologist, to work with Darla Hillard and me. He would gather data on the snow leopard's prey species, the bharal, or blue sheep. The National Geographic Society, The New York Zoological Society, the World Wildlife Fund, the International Trust for Nature Conservation, the California Institute of Environmental Studies, and the International Snow Leopard Trust provided funding for four field seasons, averaging 8 months.

An aura of mystery surrounds the snow leopard, one of the rarest of the world's large, endangered cats. Snow leopards inhabit the remote and rugged mountains of inner Asia, their historic range of some half million square miles.

Until now almost nothing was known about the species' habits and life history in the wild, hardly surprising in its shyness, superb camouflage, and challenging habitat. Few people have been lucky enough to glimpse

the cat. Most encounters involve villagers searching for firewood or herding livestock and big game hunters stalking a trophy. Suddenly their quarry is scared off by a snow leopard in search of a meal. The first photographs in the wild, taken by George B. Schaller, were published in the November 1971 National Geographic.

In selecting our study area, I committed myself and my associates to living and working in one of the world's most remote and formidable regions. Only a few mountaineers have visited Langu Gorge since British explorer John Tyson first mapped it in 1964.

We carefully considered everything needed for at least 8 months. If we forgot something, too bad—the nearest store was at Nepalganj, 160 miles south by foot. Staples such as rice and flour filled much of the 2000 pound capacity of our chartered aircraft. Potatoes—and little else—could be bought from the nearest village, if the harvest was good.

We flew to the small town of Jumla, roughly 200 miles northwest of Kathmandu. Its dirt airstrip ties a few government employees and aid program workers to the lifeline of Kathmandu, and us to our study area. At least 30 porters were needed to carry our supplies and equipment from Jumla to base camp. The journey north covered some 60 miles. It took ten days over two high passes; storms can cause delays in any season.

Base camp rested on a small river bar two days (8 miles) beyond the village of Dolphu, population 200. No permanent path exists beyond the village, so we used wildlife trails and constructed log bridges where necessary to cross the Langu.

We learned to accept the Langu's weather extremes, the monotonous diet, backbreaking terrain and isolation, for it is a stronghold of snow leopards and their prey, a natural stage for spectacular moments like the hunt recorded by Gary Ahlborn, who joined us in 1983 as my research associate.

While looking for firewood, Gary came upon a herd of bharal feeding above him in alpine grassland. Surprisingly, they showed no undue concern at his approach, particularly the adult males. It was the rutting season and they were distracted.

Suddenly a male sheep came plunging down the steep slope directly toward Gary, followed immediately by a large snow leopard. Both were taking huge strides, traveling at top speed. After a hundred yard chase, the leopard drew within reach of the bharal. He lunged forward, catching the sheep on the left side of its rump and sending a cloud of pelage into the air. The bharal veered sharply and ran off to safety. Although the pursuit had brought the leopard within a short distance of Gary, he didn't see Gary standing there for several minutes. Then the man became the focus of all the cat's attention. For six tense minutes the leopard stared intently, undergoing a remarkable transformation. Pulling its ears back tightly against his head, he seemed to melt into the low vegetation. Lying prone, he was nearly invisible.

Gary's first thoughts, stimulated by the cat's potent stare, were to tell himself, "I'm not a bharal. I don't look anything like leopard prey." Was it true, he asked himself, that there had never been substantiated report of a snow leopard killing a human?

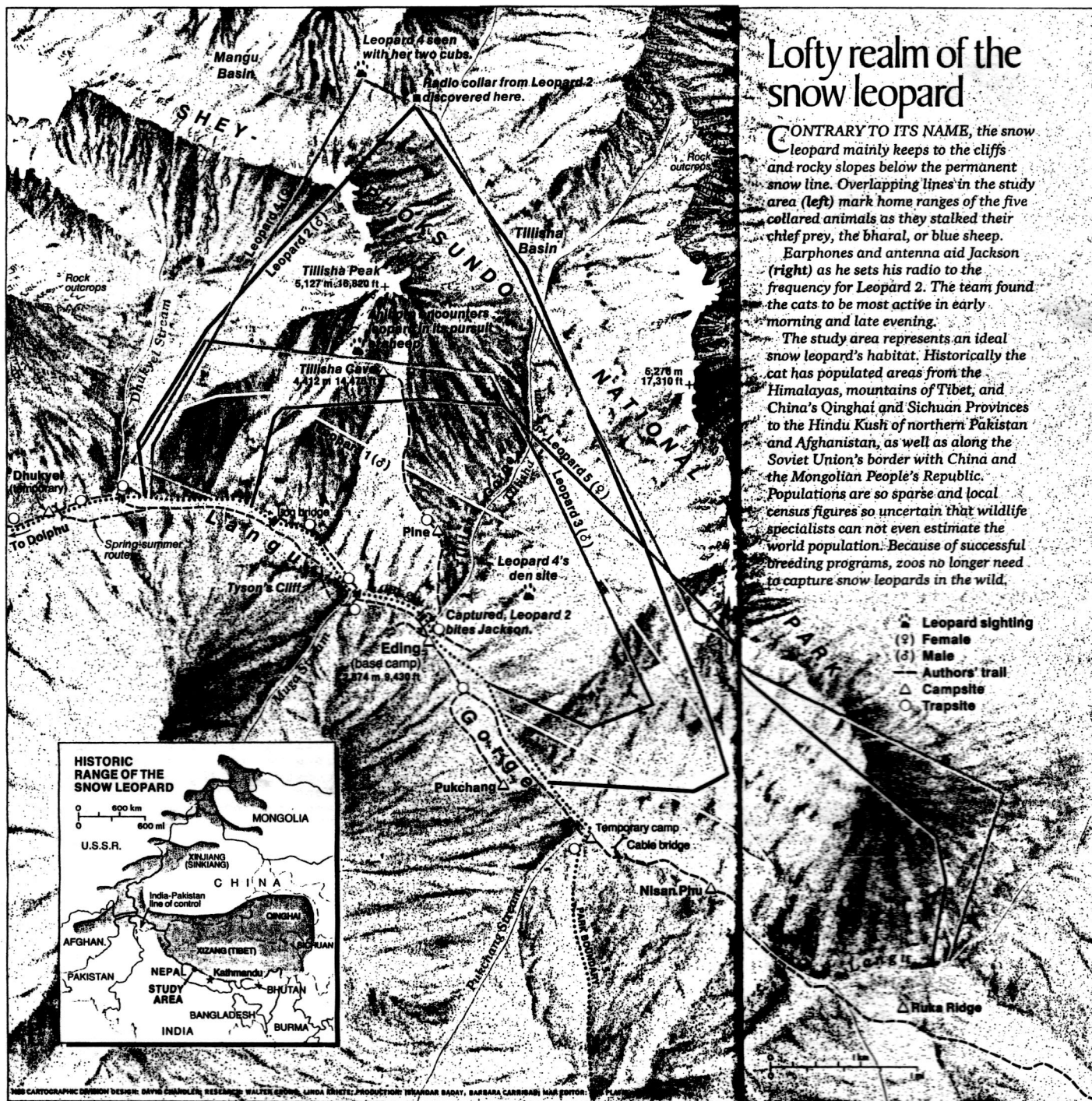
Finally the leopard looked away several times, but more minutes passed before he made his move. For the first 75 yards, he barely lifted his belly off the ground as he crept away through short shrubs and tufts of grass. His body made very little motion, as if he had somehow located a moving sidewalk.

Lofty realm of the snow leopard

CONTRARY TO ITS NAME, the snow leopard mainly keeps to the cliffs and rocky slopes below the permanent snow line. Overlapping lines in the study area (left) mark home ranges of the five collared animals as they stalked their chief prey, the bharal, or blue sheep.

Barphones and antenna aid Jackson (right) as he sets his radio to the frequency for Leopard 2. The team found the cats to be most active in early morning and late evening.

The study area represents an ideal snow leopard's habitat. Historically the cat has populated areas from the Himalayas, mountains of Tibet, and China's Qinghai and Sichuan Provinces to the Hindu Kushi of northern Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as along the Soviet Union's border with China and the Mongolian People's Republic. Populations are so sparse and local census figures so uncertain that wildlife specialists can not even estimate the world population. Because of successful breeding programs, zoos no longer need to capture snow leopards in the wild.



With a final glance back at Gary, the cat stood and broke into a full run for a couple of hundred yards, following the path the bharal had taken. As the animal approached the ridge on the horizon, he stopped, looked back, then walked out of view. Gary took his first full breath and suddenly realized that it was nearly dark and very cold.

All told we have collared five cats: three males, wearing collars 1, 2 and 3; a prime female, 4; and a young female, 5. All live on the Langu's north side. There may have been as many as five uncollared cats in the study area at any time, for our research shows the presence of transient animals.

In spite of Gary's phenomenal experience, the Langu's leopards uphold their species' reputation as shy and secretive. They are easily concealed, and we have spent many hours - the radio giving us a cat's exact location-looking in vain for a glimpse of sinuous tail or two revealing black ear flags.

Like tigers and other large cats, leopards advertise their presence by leaving distinct signals along their trail routes. Scent sprayed on boulders and tree trunks, scraped depressions in sandy soil often accompanied by feces or urine and raked trees all communicate to other leopards that this range is occupied.

These essentially solitary cats briefly associate during the mating season, January through March. While snow leopards do not roar like other large cats, their high-pitched yowls pierce the frigid nights of winter.

We frequently heard yowling in February of 1984. As we found out later, Leopard 4 was in heat. Spraying boulders along the bluff above the camp, she alerted other cats to her condition. In June her activity pattern and reduced range indicated she had given birth. She made quick hunting forays from the den: the need nurse her young was as strong as her need to hunt for herself.

I was highly tempted to climb up there, to see if I could find the den and sneak a look inside. But that might have caused her to move or abandon the cubs, which are completely helpless during their first 6 weeks of life. Unavoidable commitments precluded our staying another month. We left reluctantly, hoping that when we returned the following autumn we could recontact 4, who would then be traveling with her babies.

It took several months after we returned in November to confirm that she had two cubs. And at that, confirmation was only in the form of tracks in the snow. Each time her signal came in loud and clear, we would search intently. One would think three cats would be easier to spot - but no.

As we radiotracked her and the two growing cubs, it became evident that she was again utilizing her entire range. The cubs must have quickly developed the climbing skills to enable them to follow their mother wherever she chose to go. The cubs began to exhibit marking behavior at about nine months; on the Pine Camp trail I found scrapes made by one or both of them.

But what we really wanted to see were the cats themselves. Snow leopards in the Langu are most active in early morning, but are not averse to traveling during the heat of the day. They are constantly on the move, daily seeking a new resting site - unless on a kill, which may keep them occupied as long as a week.

Their ability to subdue prey is remarkable. A sub-adult, weighing perhaps 45-50 pounds, killed a fully grown sheep weighing at least 120 pounds. Tracks down a grassy slope showed us how it had dashed about 50 yards, caught the sheep, and then rode him another 160 yards before managing to kill him. Tufts of fur, sheep and leopard, clung to the bushes along their path.

No capture of any leopard has gone exactly to script. Each cat responds differently to immobilization, but the sedation period is always brief, and we must work quickly to collar the animal and obtain its vital statistics.

One or two recaptures are desirable to check the cat's condition and if necessary replace the collar, which has a 24-month battery life. Once a cat has been trapped, it normally continues to use the area and follow the same trail, avoiding its previous trap site by simply walking around it. But leopard 2 became notorious for his inability to avoid capture. He was caught 5 times.

We had begun to wonder if he didn't perhaps like his encounters with humans-until his fourth capture, when events made it clear that he was not happy to see us. He took his revenge in a way I will never forget.

In previous captures he had remained relatively docile while the drug was injected. This time he was uncooperative, making every attempt to avoid the needle. We gave him the normal dose, but he did not respond in the normal way. He became only lightly sedated - immobile for the moment - probably long enough for us to replace his collar, which was old and battered. I was reluctant to give another injection, as it would significantly prolong his recovery and possibly create risks to his welfare.

Working at top speed, we figured we could send him on his way in ten minutes. As I tightened the new collar, a low growl confirmed the need to hurry we must move him quickly from the bluff's edge so he would take off safely upslope.

I took the forequarters, Gary the hind. Less than a yard from the shade of a jupiter tree where we were headed, the leopard lurched, too quickly for me to react before his jaws clamped tightly on my hand.

At once, Leopard 2, Gary and I let go of one another, and the leopard crawled behind the jupiter a few feet upslope, still groggy and unsteady. I had a serious wound: deep punctures and a blood gash between two fingers, knuckle and bone exposed.

We had bandages, painkillers, and antibiotics, but we could not assess tendon damage or risk of serious infection. Only two weeks into our field season, I would have to walk out to get medical attention. In the dead of winter it would be a month's round trip, if we were not delayed by storms.

Taking only bare necessities, Darla and I, with our camp assistant Karma, set off the next morning. Eight days of hard walking got us to Jumla, in spite of a storm that dumped two feet of snow on the trail over Uurchi Kekh. In Jumla we were advised to fly on to Kathmandu, for although my hand was in good shape, all things considered, only in Kathmandu were there facilities for surgery if necessary and rabies vaccine.

We were directed down narrow winding streets in Kathmandu, among small shops and family homes, to an excellent Nepalese surgeon who laid to rest my anxieties about permanent damage to my hand and pronounced me fit after a week's observation. Our friends in Kathmandu took delight in making me a most reluctant celebrity - "Oh, I want you to meet Rodney Jackson. He's been bitten by a snow leopard."

Radiotracking highly mobile, solitary leopards in the Langu's awesome terrain requires that we work between base camp, three permanent high tracking camps, and several temporary camps along the main river course.

The leopard raid, to our surprise, was quickly dismissed by Dolphu villagers during the first field session. Expecting, I guess to hear a growl, or the munching of teeth on bharal bone, one young fellow exclaimed "Tok-tok-tok-tok. Sabu Chhaina!" Beep-beep-beep-beep. That's no leopard!

Dolphu villagers, like many Himalayan people believe that snow leopards drink only their prey's blood, leaving the meat. This belief is likely inspired when a leopard is scared off, before it can eat a fresh kill, by an early rising villager, who finds his cow or goat dead with telltale toothmarks in its throat. But such encounters are rare.

With no villages or livestock grazing along most of its 35 mile length, the Langu Gorge and its side canyons provide ideal sanctuary for snow leopards and their prey. In Nepal's less rugged high mountain areas, however, snow leopards face poor odds. In areas where much of the wild prey has been forced out by livestock grazing or killed by hunters, leopards typically venture into villages in search of a meal. Verbal and written accounts tell of the snow leopard - unaggressive, in fact docile towards humans - being stoned to death by villagers.

Considering the relative scarcity of prey, the home ranges of our collared cats are proving remarkably small, averaging about 12 square miles. But this figure does not take into account the surface area within the rugged topography. While there is considerable range overlap, each leopard has preferred areas to which it frequently returns between bouts of often extensive travel.

Some sites are favored by all the cats, but occupancy is staggered so that they are usually at least a mile apart. Given the abundance of leopards in the core study area and their propensity for using common travel corridors, they seem quite successful at avoiding one another.

Karan B. Shah, a lecturer from Tribhuvan University Kathmandu, has the demanding task of gathering information on the leopards' prey - herds of bharal (*Pseudois nayaur*) and Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) that roam the gorge. His effort is concentrated on bharal, for although significant numbers of the goat-like tahr occur along the Langu's moister and more forested south side, they are scarce in the core study area.

During the winter we often see small herds of bharal within a hundred yards of base camp. Constantly alert, the sheep sound the alarm - a high pitched chir-r-r-it chir-r-rit - for no apparent reason. The herd then bolts for the nearest protective cliff, leaping effortlessly across hair-raising chasms and onto the smallest of ledges.

Snow leopards, well aware of the defensive tactics used by bharal, spend a good deal of their time padding quietly up and down narrow cliff ledges that tower above the Langu and its tributary gorges. They zigzag along ridgelines, which afford both cover and view of the immediate terrain, and through gullies, hoping to surprise the ever alert bharal.

As the crow flies, leopards may travel only half a mile a day, but in fact, taking the topography and their circuitous route into account, they cover much more ground. Were it not for the beautiful and evocative sound of the words "snow leopard", I would be tempted to consider "crag leopard" a more apt description. For one thing, leopard prey is usually found below the permanent snow line. But snow leopards have been known to cross 18,000-foot passes on occasion or meander across high glaciers as they move between major valleys.

At 14,475 feet Tillisha Cave shelters the highest of our tracking camps. In two miles we gain 5,000 feet - a six hour hike. Though leopard sign is not easily found in the alpine grassland around the cave, the cats visit regularly, and some of our most exciting moments have occurred near Tillisha Cave.

Working from the cave in late spring, I found myself near the summit of Tillisha Mountain, a place

of jumbled boulders, ice, and snow. It was cold, windy, and difficult to write down my notes. Male 2's fresh pugmarks led down a snowbound slope, meandering between massive boulders toward other bluffs.

Climbing the mountain's steep east ridge with receiver and antenna, I located him in the grass and rock moraine 1,500 feet below. He had spent the night traveling hard from the precipitous western cliffs of Tillisha Mountain up a long ridge to the round peak. There at about 17,000 feet, he had traversed half a mile of frozen rock and snow, looked down into the remote and frigid alpine basin that provides the headwaters of the Tillisha stream, climbed several huge boulders, then headed downslope for areas more likely to yield bharal.

Clouds moved in to swirl about the peak, engulfing me and the views. Cold, shivering, yet immensely satisfied with the day's work, I headed down to the shelter of the cave, companionship, and a cup of tea.

Months later, as Gary & I scanned the same slopes above Tillisha Stream, I spotted Leopard 4 sauntering along the mountainside - and behind her were two big cubs. They romped and chased one another, rolling and tumbling down the steep slope. They stalked imaginary sheep. They leapt and charged like kittens instead of year-olds! We watched for 20 minutes, until it got too dark to see. They were too far away and there wasn't enough light for photographs, so we indulged ourselves completely, absorbing the event for which we waited so long.

Poor 4! We wondered how she ever fed those two ram-bunctious cubs. They must bungle half her attempts at hunting. In fact such play is probably very important for the cubs' serious work of learning to hunt for themselves. By the age of two, they will face the task of establishing their own range.

Since 1973, His Majesty's Government Department of Wildlife Conservation has created six mountain parks and reserves, a remarkable effort for a country only 54,362 square miles. Our study area occupies the far northwest of 1,370 square mile Shey-Phoksundo National Park.

But simply setting aside parkland is not enough, for villages are a fact of life in Nepal's parks. They must be managed so that man and wildlife can coexist harmoniously. Also, with populations of snow leopards increasingly fragmented, buffer zones must be created to allow movement between separate enclaves. Otherwise, inbreeding may diminish the species' chance for adapting to long-term environmental change. To meet this challenge, the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation has been created. Its goal is to strike a balance between nature conservation and human needs.

How many snow leopards are left beyond the Langu Gorge? No one knows. Except for Tibet and China's Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces, what little prime habitat remains is near international boundaries, which often make study impossible. With international cooperation, urgently needed surveys can be carried out and necessary steps taken to protect this rare cat throughout its range.

Without *Panthera unica* the high mountains of Asia would be like the African plains without lions, reduced in vitality and appeal. For now, the snow leopard is a symbol of encouragement - a sensitive indicator of healthy mountain environment.

The children of Dolphu and Wangri are learning the sabu-snow leopard is worth more alive than as a pelt for barter. As they come of age and take their places in village concerns, they could become the most effective guardians of their national treasure, keeping the snow leopard of the Langu range a safe distance from the edge of extinction.

* * * * *

The prized pelt of the snow leopard has long lured poachers into a lucrative trade fed by human vanity. Now the market is waning because of laws and private sentiment against the killing of endangered species.

The chain of commerce often began with three-foot-long sharpened bamboo spears tipped with a concoction made from the poisonous monkshood plant. Placed at 45-degree angles along ledges, the spears implied cats leaping down to follow a trail. So lethal was the poison that even a superficial wound could kill.

In a Nepalese village a hunter offered a pelt for

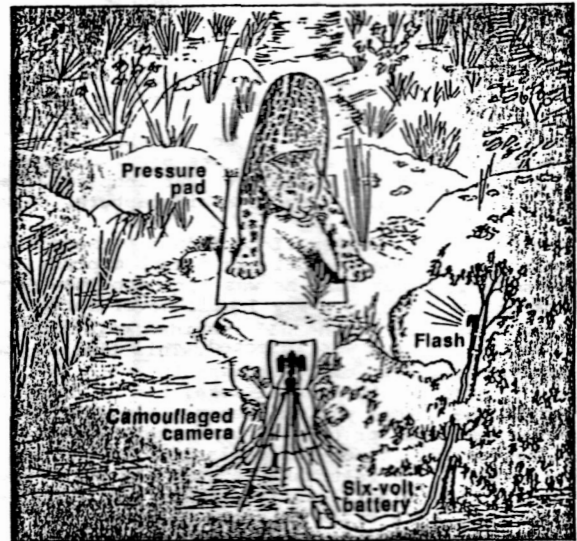
sale in 1977, several years after the international convention in trade on Endangered Species restricted trade in snow leopard pelts. Jackson bought the pelt for \$10 and presented it to Nepalese officials as proof of the poaching violation. Poaching for pelts has declined and is no longer considered a dangerous threat to the species' survival.

Yet coats are still sold, even on the open market. In contrast to the paltry sum Jackson paid for the skin, a pelt in good condition can bring several hundred dollars when sold in the city. From there, the price increases quickly as it passes to middlemen, coat makers and dealers.

A couple from Arkansas paid \$1,058 at a government tourist store in China for a snow leopard coat. It was seized at the Seattle Airport. Bill Schaff of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service said the buyers professed both innocence and ignorance, saying they had been misinformed as to the coat's identity. Dr. Helen Freeman of Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, who heads the International Snow Leopard Trust, a group working to protect the species, said the garment was made from three snow leopard pelts. Such a coat could command upwards of \$60,000 on the black market., and might contain up to a dozen pelts.

REPRINTED FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
Vol. 169, No. 6, June 1986

Self-portrait of the snow leopard



NGS CARTOGRAPHIC DIVISION

The click of the camera captures a leopard's frosty stare. In the glare of the flash, the cat's eyes glow with a greenish hue reflected from a mirror-like membrane behind the retina that enhances night vision.

Snapping candid shots of snow leopards in the wild presented a complex challenge, including extreme temperature variations, dust, and constant servicing of equipment.

The team selected a site marked by scent sprays, droppings and scratchings on a wildlife trail that crosses a riverine terrace next to the Langu River. There they placed a pressure pad of the typed used for security systems. From the pad wired led to the camera assembly, prefocused at 13 feet.

The researchers carefully covered the pad with dirt and restored the site to its previous condition, using pictures taken beforehand. The camera and tripod, well camouflaged with brush, drew current from a six volt solar powered battery.

During the 561 nights the camera was in place, only two dozen or so cats ventured near the pad. The only non-feline subject to show up on film was a startled villager.



Readers Write

Dear LIOC,

First, I would like to say a BIG thank you to Suzi Wood for her much needed support with my first litter of bobcat kittens. You have no idea how much better you made me feel with your suggestions and helpful hints. It's a feeling I'll never forget to go down and see your bobcats and find screaming little balls of fur when you had no idea Mom was expecting!

In a way, it was a tragedy-I was not prepared. The little girl died but the beautiful little boy had a will to live like I've never seen. This was Mom's first litter.

Anyway, I learned a great deal and I will never be unprepared again. Thanks again Suzi, for everything!

I was given the following formula by a gentlemen who has raised bobcats. I was real pleased with it. The baby gained weight steadily, had a good coat and firm stools.

- 1 pt powdered milk (I had always used KMR)
- 1 pt distilled water
- 1 jar strained chicken (added gradually)
- 1 container of Dannon yogurt
- Vidation vitamins without Iron
- 2 crushed oyster shell tablets

I started using this formula when the baby was about two weeks of age....I learned, add one thing at a time, slowly.

I am very interested in learning all I can about baby formulas and on others ideas on vaccinations and worming of these babies. Ages, types of vaccinations recommended, etc. I'm sure other members are interested in this type of information also.

Thanks so much.
Kathy Metzner
Rt 1, Box 226
Tyler, TX 75709



New Mexican member Sandra Klessen, sends in a clipping obviously from a catalog - no store name shown for a "wildly attractive vest, embellished with natural Canadian lynx tails" - for only \$300.

It is obvious the fad of wild fur hasn't been stopped yet, as the accompanying photo shows at least a dozen tails from the view shown.

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P.O. Box 1896
Sacramento, CA 95809
(916) 442-2666

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

L.I.O.C. NEEDS YOU!

Breeder Directory

LIOC MAKES NO RECOMMENDATIONS OR WARRANTY IN REGARD TO THE BREEDERS LISTED HERE. ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS THAT PROVIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL BREEDER AND IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. BE AWARE THAT INTERSTATE COMMERCE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (MARKED HERE WITH *) IS REGULATED BY FEDERAL LAW AND REQUIRES BOTH PARTIES TO BE PERMITTED. A COMPLETE LISTING OF ENDANGERED FELINES IS FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE.

BREEDERS RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ARE LISTED BELOW ALPHABETICALLY, THEN, THEIR NAMES ARE SHOWN UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIES LISTED.

AMOS, Donna & Jack
552 Cedar Tree Dr.
Roseburg, Ore 97470
(503) 679-8631
Permits: USDA, State

BASKIN, David
161 Lake Shore Dr.
Duxbury, Ma 02332
() 585-5093
Permits: USDA, State

BLOUNT, Donald
Rt 3, Box 78
Bentonville, Ark. 72712
(501)795-2167
Permits: USDA State, USDI

GIACINTO, Jan
19400 Santa Rita
Tarzana, CA 91356
(818) 345-5140
Permits: USDA, State & USDI

GORDON, Anne
P.O.Box 1165
Bothell, Wa 98041
(206) 827-9367
Permits: USDA, USDI, County

HAMIL, Jean
31307 Debbi Lane
Magnolia, Tx 77355
(713) 356-2076

PEARLMAN, M.J.
3766 N.W. 205th St.
Carol City, FL 33055
(305) 624-3000
Permits: USDI, State,

Perry, John
6684 Central Ave N.E.
Fridley, Minn 55432
(612) 571-7918
Permits: U.S.D.A

PORGES, Al & Ann
6 Westview Dr.
Stoughton, Mass 02072
(617-344-4943
Permit: USDA

REGEP, Damian
130 Midway Dr.
River Ridge, LA 70123
(504) 738-9453

Permits: USDA, State, USDI
County

ROGERS, Pamela
4595 Joy Road
Occidental, Ca. 95465
Permits: USDA, State

SCHAECHER, Clem & Gayle
10715 S.E. Orant Dr
Boring, Or 97009
(503) 663-4673
Permits: USDA, State

SCHOLE, Connie
8416 N.E. 13 St.
Vancouver, WA 98664
(206) 892-4033
Permits: USDA

SMITH, Lillian
3265 Old Topanga Canyon Rd
Topanga Ca.
(818) 704-0119
Permits : State

WILLE, Patricia
Rt 1, Box 192
Branden, Wis 53919
(414) 346-2675
Permits:USDA, State

WOOD, Suzi
6 E. Lake Circle Dr.
Medford, N.J. 08055
(609) 983-6671
Permits: USDA, State

VANDERWALL, Jackie
17824 S.E. Morrison Ct
Portland, Ore. 97233
(503) 665-9488
Permits: USDA, USDI



There are some names conspicuously absent from these lists. If you did not return a breeder form, which is sent out yearly to make sure all information is current, please send me the information so that you will be included in the next listing (July/August issue). If you returned the form and it was misplaced in my recent move, please accept my apologies. But do let me know so that it will be included next time.

- * - ALL SPECIES ENDANGERED
- ° - SOME SPECIES ENDANGERED

BOBCAT °

Baskin, David
Blount, Donald
Giacinto, Jan
Hamil, Jean
Porges, Al & Ann
Regep, Damian
Rogers, Pamela
Schaecker, Clem & Gayle
Wille, Patricia

CLOUDED LEOPARD *

Vanderwall, Jackie

CARACAL LYNX

Rogers, Pamela

COUGAR °

Baskin, David
Blount, Donald
Giacinto, Jan
Pearlman, M.J.
Schaecker, Clem & Gayle

GEOFFROY'S

Pearlman, M.J.
Wille, Patricia
Perry, John

JAGUAR *

Pearlman, M.J.
Wille, Patricia

JUNGLE CAT

Blount, Donald

LEOPARD °

Giacinto, Jan
Pearlman, M.J.
Regep, Damian
Wille, Patricia

LION

Blount, Donald
Giacinto, Jan
Wille, Patricia

MARGAY *

Smith, Lillian

OCELOT °

Pearlman, M.J.
Wille, Patricia

SERVAL

Amos, Donna & Jack
Blount, Donald
Giacinto, Jan
Schole, Connie
Wood, Suzi

TIGER *

Blount, Donald
Giacinto, Jan
Gordan, Ann
Wille, Pat.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Scientific Name COMMON NAME	DATE LISTED	CONTROLLED RANGE
Acinonyx jubatus CHEETAH	2/70	Anywhere found
Felis bengalensis LEOPARD CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis concolor coryi FLORIDA COUGAR	3/67	Anywhere found
Felis concolor costaricensis COSTA RICAN COUGAR	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis concolor couguar EASTERN COUGAR	4/73	East of Miss. River
Felis iriomotensis IRIOMOTE CAT	6/79	Anywhere found
Felis jacobita ANDEAN CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis lynx pardina SPANISH LYNX	6/70	Anywhere found
Felis marmorata MARBLED CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis nigripes BLACKFOOTED CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis pardalis BRAZILIAN OCELOT	3/72	Anywhere found
Felis pardalis mearnsi OCELOT	3/72	Mexico South
Felis planiceps FLAT-HEADED CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis rufus escuinapae MEXICAN BOBCAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis serval constantina BARBARY SERVAL	6/70	Anywhere found
Felis temmincki TEMMINCKS CAT ASIAN GOLDEN CAT	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis tigrina oncolla TIGER CAT ONCILLA	3/72	Anywhere found
Felis wiedii MARGAY	3/72	Anywhere found
Felis yagouaroundi cacomitli GULF COAST JAGUARUNDI	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis yagouaroundi fossata GUATEMALAN JAGUARUNDI	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis yagouaroundi panamensis PANAMANIAN JAGUARUNDI	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis yagouaroundi tolteca SINALOAN JAGUARUNDI	6/76	Anywhere found
Felis nebulosa CLOUDED LEOPARD	6/70	Anywhere found
Panthera leo persica ASIATIC LION	6/70	Anywhere found
Panthera onca JAGUAR	3/72	Anywhere found
Panthera pardus LEOPARD	6/70	Anywhere found except where listed as Threatened 1/82

Extinct is Forever...

Protect

Preserve

Propagate

Panthera tigris TIGER	6/70	Anywhere found
Panthera uncia SNOW LEOPARD	3/72	Anywhere found

Recovery of Scoo

A lost or escaped cat is something that most exotic feline owners live in dread of. It happened to me a short time ago.

"Scooby", my year-old male bobcat followed me out the front door without my detecting it.

When it became apparent that "Scoo" was really missing, I did a rather unproductive, but predictably human thing i.e., I panicked. After a number of hours of frantically beating the bushes around my house and adjacent areas, it was time to sit down, calm down and think things over.

I began to reason: due to bobcat camouflaging, it was obvious that I could just about step on "Scoo" without ever seeing him. The area around my house is heavily wooded; a hundred bobcats could easily conceal themselves while gleefully watching an equal number of humans stumbling through the bushes making a---s of themselves.

What to do? Contacting the media seemed too dangerous. Newspapers and TV are first and foremost publicity/sensation seekers - a twenty-pound, declawed and tame bobcat could easily become a two-ton Siberian tiger embarked on a campaign of terror. (Bobcat=wildcat=lion, tiger, or whatever)

On the other hand, to the local animal control officer (dog catcher) and police department, publicity is as welcome as a terminal disease.

I started making phone calls: the animal control officer came over right away. She immediately fell in love with my two seven-week old cougar kittens. A stroke of luck! I had an ally. The police department and all my surrounding neighbors were alerted to be on the lookout for a very small (almost a baby, in fact) harmless bobcat.

Despite the search being hampered by several days of typically rainy New England weather (no chance for Scoo to follow a recent trail home) a sighting was made within 24 hours. "Scoo" attempting to befriend a neighbor's cat, tried following it into the neighbors home (neighbor and neighbor's cat in particular, not thrilled with the idea)

I immediately mobilized some of the local kids (kids looking for a lost kitty invoke more sympathy than silly grown-ups looking for kitty). Armed with written notices to the effect: "Please do not harm the harmless cat" plus my telephone number. I then parked myself next to the telephone.

At 4:10 PM I got my call. "Scoo" was under an abandoned truck not 300 yards from the original sighting.

Needless to say, a few world speed records were broken in the time it took me to get there. The neighbor who phoned was calmly sitting beside the truck trying to entice "Scoo" out with a plate of cat food.

Naturally "Scoo" wasn't having any; hungry as he was, he would of course prefer cyanide to cat food.

Thirty feet from the truck, I called his name and he was in my arms so fast he nearly knocked me over.

Unfortunately, at the exact moment that I took physical possession of "Scoo" the police chose to arrive. Although the cooperation and good-heartedness of the

police were beyond question in this situation, there seems to be an unwritten law among police departments that squad cars arriving on the scene must always do so in a cloud of dust, tires squealing and brakes screeching

"Scoo" immediately decided that a trip to the moon was in order, but superman himself couldn't have broken my grip and 15 minutes later "Scoo" was home, safe and sound, a bit thinner, very hungry and glad to be back as a tragedy had been averted.

"Scoo" got loose because I broke one of my own rules: usually whenever I leave the house I automatically confine him, but on this particular day, I had a quick errand to run and let my rule lapse. As it turned out, I was very lucky indeed.

Secondly, although I have always maintained that a collar is a potential noose. I have changed my mind and "Scoo" looks very chic in his new, red leather collar.

Also, if I was 100% convinced of the necessity for de-clawing before, I am now 110% convinced. Without claws, "Scoo" was not capable of causing real injury. For those who might question his ability to defend himself- well "Scoo" learned long ago that as far as agility goes, dogs are only clumsy oafs compared to himself.

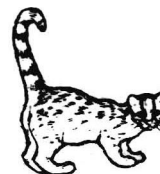
But, above all, in the event (God forbid) of an escape, establish a network; beating bushes is OK for Jungle Joe moves, but not good for much else.

Re-assure EVERYONE (police, neighbors, etc) that the animal is near harmless and will bite only if attacked or frightened (if young, the animal is barely out of diapers. If old-it is on its last leg, old, decrepit, nearly toothless and half-blind.) babies and senior citizens are not considered threatening.

Be sure to ask the animal control officer and the police to immediately notify you of any sighting - tell them that you want to be the first on the scene to do the handling - they will be only happy to oblige you in this.

But as they say, "All's well that ends well," and I hope that the reporting of this incident is of some value to fellow feline owners.

David Baskin
161 Lake Shore Dr.
Duxbury, MA 02332



Mystery Cat

By Terry Church
Reprinted from the News Tribune

After spending 2½ days in the lock-up and puzzling Tacoma-Pierce County (Washington) Humane Society officials, a mystery cat has been identified and claimed.

The cat's owner claimed his pet and told society officials that it was a cross between a Geoffroy's cat and an American shorthair.

That's exactly what experts at the Woodland Park zoo in Seattle had guessed after the Humane Society had given up trying to figure out what it was and asked for help.

The cat was picked up by the Humane Society where it had been seen for a couple of days. After observing it for two days, officials were convinced it was no "ordinary cat".

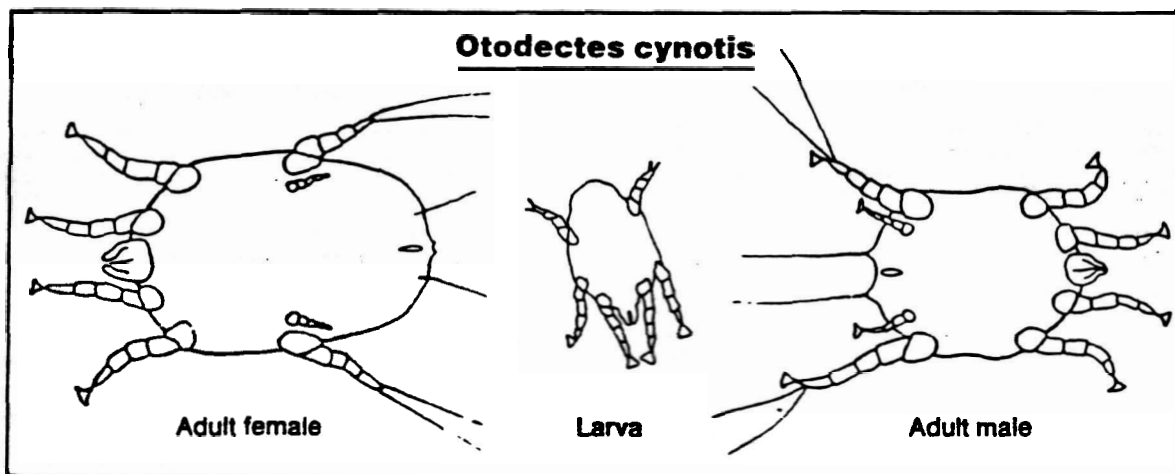
"It's much bigger than most kittens its age," said Bob Walter of the Humane Society, who estimates the kitten's age at about 4 months-it weighs about 11 pounds. Also, the cat likes to splash around in water. It's owner, whom Humane Society officials did not identify confirmed the cat's background and told them that he had purchased the animal from a Washington State University research project.

Walters said, "It acts more like a lion cub than a cat."

Contributed by RITA BOWEN



Ear mite diagnosis and treatment



These are three forms of the common ear mite, magnified 100 times. Note extra "suction cups" and longer antennae on the male.

Reprinted from Exotics Unltd Newsletter

Otodectes cynotis is a nasty little beast that makes animals miserable and gives pet professionals bad reputations.

These mites are relatives of those which cause mange in animals and scabies in man. *Otodectes* usually frequents the external ear canals of dogs and cats, but may reside elsewhere on the animal. An infestation produces a dark, crumbly and waxy exudate.

In most cases of mite infestation, the affected animal experiences severe itching. It may frequently shake its head or scratch its ears or neck. In long-eared dogs, the intense headshaking may even lead to the formation of a hematoma.

Although an ear mite infestation is rarely fatal, the irritation may lead to a severe secondary bacterial or fungal infection.

Of importance is the fact that ear mites are extremely contagious. Often found in entire litters of animals, they can spread easily to healthy pets. Fortunately, *Otodectes* can not be transmitted to people.

The best insurance against these pests is to routinely inspect and groom new arrivals and existing stock.

Use an EPA-approved disinfectant to clean surfaces touched by animals.

Compared to many mites, *Otodectes* adults are rather large, approximately 0.5mm in diameter (that's about the size of the period in this line of print). The best tool to see these little pests is a microscope.

Prepare a glass slide with a thin smear of some material from the ear canal and mix with a drop of mineral oil. Place a cover slip on the slide and view under the microscope's low power. You'll see debris, oblong eggs, nymphs and adult mites.

If you don't own or have access to a microscope, you can get by with inexpensive materials and a little practice. Use black construction paper, a good light source and a good magnifying glass.

Thinly spread a small amount of exudate on the construction paper and place on a draft-free surface under strong illumination. Then take your magnifying glass and closely inspect the surface of the paper.

Ear mites will be seen as small, white, moving specks. The construction paper method, however, cannot discriminate between *Otodectes* and some other mites which also infest the ear canals.

If the infestation is mild and apparently affects only one animal, some vets recommend grooming the animal and thoroughly cleaning the ear canals with a wax solvent or mineral oil.

However, because animal populations in most kennels are high, a more aggressive approach is often recommended. With this method, all exposed animals are treated.

Thoroughly wash the animals, paying special attention to the ears. Then use an ear mite preparation prescribed by your veterinarian. Whether you use an over-the-counter mite preparation or a veterinary product, always follow label directions.

Also treat the animals with a topical insecticide to reduce the likelihood of ear mites being harbored outside the ears.

Treatment must be continued for 2-3 weeks. If you aren't sure that an animal has ear mites, call your vet. Or if you don't have the equipment, time or experience to do the tests, call. That's the best way to prevent a potential epidemic.

Ear mite infestations can be minimized if you carefully scrutinize your animals, their sources and your facilities. Suspected cases must be evaluated and brought to the vet's attention immediately. Appropriate action could spare your animals agony.

Walt Burghardt, D.V.M.

Man-eating lions take 16th victim

According to an Associated Press report from Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, lions mauled a man to death in southern Tanzania raising to 16 the number killed by lions this year.

The government owned Daily News quoted District Commissioner Boniface Hoja as saying that 36 game rangers had joined a large hunting team seeking the beasts while villagers were setting lion traps.

Earlier victims included a district game officer the paper reported.

Tunduru district is near the 16,000 square-mile Selous Game Reserve, famed for its elephants & lions.

TRIVIAL ZOO by L.M. Boyd

Q: What makes a cat's eyes look so big?

A: They are big-The biggest of all mammal's eyes, in fact, in proportion to body weight.



South America's counterpart to Smokey the Bear is a big cat known as "Don Puma".

Taken!

On Saturday, July 26th, 1986, Sasha, the nine-month old pet tiger of the Pinto family of Darien, Connecticut was taken by the state Department of Environmental Protection (Fish & Wildlife) to a new home at the Science Museum of Connecticut. It turns out that the tiger has congenital cataract problems and is about 90% blind. It is also being evaluated for other health problems (seizures).

So ends another unfortunate incident of unknowledgeable people buying a cute tiger cub, mail-order. When publicity first came out, Bette and I sent out copies of the newspaper releases to about ten Club members who we thought would pass the word around. We did not hold out much promise, as it is usually impossible to find a home for a second-hand pet tiger or lion. For that reason, we never contacted the Pinto family ourselves. From the first newspaper stories on, it was always stated that the D.E.P. was granting the Pinto's temporary permission to keep the tiger until a new home could be found. The problem was that the D.E.P. had no authority to grant such permission.

Keeping it simple, the various Connecticut state laws concerning wild animals are just that, LAWS. They are not just rules and regulations of the D.E.P. that could selectively be enforced. An individual may not keep a large, wild animal as a pet under any conditions; subject to the confiscation of the animal, fines and or imprisonment and loss of the animal which may be disposed of as the court decides. That is the LAW, enforceable through the state court system, and to be brought into court by a summons issued either by the D.E.P., state or local police. It is the duty of the D.E.P. to look for and prosecute violations of the state animal laws. State and local police are supposed to enforce these laws when they are aware of violations.

The Pinto family gained almost two extra months to search for a new home because the D.E.P. did not enforce the law as they were supposed to. Eventually the town attorney of Darien realized that the town could be sued if the tiger escaped or injured someone. With national, state and local newspapers giving our continuous coverage, there was no way the town could claim it didn't know about the tiger's presence. The attorney ordered the town police to post a 24 hour guard of the facilities. At this point, the D.E.P. took the tiger, with the families permission.

The D.E.P. should have originally issued a summons. Failing that, the local police should have done so within 24 hours of the first newspaper story. The court would have found the owner guilty, no other outcome possible. The judge could then have waived the fine or set it at minimum. At the D.E.P.'s suggestion, the judge could have allowed the family to keep the tiger on a temporary basis as long as they could prove adequate insurance coverage.

After a series of disagreements between the Pintos', the D.E.P. and the Science Museum of Connecticut, Sasha was sent back to Devera Stevens' "Big Three-Acres ZOO Farm" in Conroe, Texas, where she was born.

Luckily, these stories are occurring less frequently than they used to.

Arthur Human



REPRINTED FROM EXOTICS UNLIMITED NEWSLETTER

MARIN COUNTY, CA.

Five exotic were seized in April at the home of an animal breeder after a 135-pound cougar "attacked" two handlers inflicting minor bites.

State Fish & Game wardens, who placed the cougar in quarantine for 14 days, cited the breeder for not having valid permits to keep the cats.

The handlers were treated at a hospital and released. Judy Carroll, public information officer for the Marin County Humane Society, said the authorities found the cats lounging in an enclosed porch at the owners spacious home.

Besides the cougar, officers seized a 10-pound African cat known as a chaus, a mother serval and her two 10-day old cubs.

The cats were in excellent shape and appear well cared for Carroll said, adding that the cougar was taken to the pound in Sacramento and the others to the Marin County pound.

Their future will be decided in court a Fish & Game spokesman said.

Because the cats were captive-born, they may be privately held provided the owner has a state permit. The owner of the cats, who breeds 15 species of African animals, including antelopes & zebras, said his failure to have a valid permit for the cats was an "inadvertent oversight".

He also said the cougar was a pet, and had been innoculated against rabies. He claimed the cat might have "attacked" because it did not know the handlers who were new to the job.

From the San Francisco Chronicle

By Eric Ingram

(Exotics Editor Note)

This is printed as a reminder of what can happen if you, for whatever reason, neglect to get, or forget to renew your permits.

The people in this situation are qualified, conscientious animal owners. Dept. of Fish & Game warden told me that they have in fact, one of the best facilities in the area.

The cats have since been returned to their home and the delinquent permits renewed.

Editorial

QUESTION: CHANGE TO WHAT & AT WHAT COST?

An old Arabian proverb states that some of the things a foolish man is known by are: "speech without profit, change without progress, anger without cause, inquiry without object and putting trust in strangers." Risking the anger of some, I would say that some of these are at work within LIOC today.

At Convention this year there were many complaints and, a few suggestions on how we need to improve. The words heard most often were professional, image, growth...worthy goals all. But a distinct feeling was aroused within me that many of these folks were looking for a "stamp of legitimacy"-they mention LIOC and no one drops to their knees, there are no French horns and confetti...some went so far as to imply a "bad image", others find the term "club" distasteful (don't tell the Rotary and the Lions). Another saying comes to mind, "a rose by any other name."

LIOC was created by Catherine Cisin in the 1950's. She acquired an ocelot and turning to the only other folks she knew might be able to help her care for her beloved Carlotta, ran into the "zoo mentality" and a dirthful shortage of knowledge. Whether, because of the way they care for their charges versus the way we care for ours (zoo cages versus home) or because individuals have no right to keep these animals, another source of help was needed-others like herself who kept these creatures in their homes. Yes, there are individuals within zoo circles who will cooperate and help-but most take the latter tact. Who really can blame them, not everyone can put up with the shenanigans of an exotic. So LIOC was born-to help individuals care for their cats...despite the claim of many that declare we have no right to keep these animals, that they belong in the jungle. We all know the fallacy of that statement. But, that mentality will not change.

The zoos are the professionals, they are taking care of that problem-we know too the rebuttal of this. But, that doesn't change their minds; we, as individuals do not have the right to keep these animals.... the Humane Society is working hard to make this fact under the law. The zoos concur for the most part, here it would take hundreds of thousands of dollars to counteract the hundreds of thousands they are spending to accomplish their goal-after several years we managed

to raise \$5,000. toward a legal fund to fight such things. Where did we go wrong?

Where can we raise such money, how can we grow? Some advocate advertising cats for sale in the Newsletter, yet LIOC has never advocated everyone is suited for pet care-in fact we discourage it. But, if you are determined, we are here to help you do the best job possible. But now we will join the ranks of "dealers and brokers", this will enhance our image? or does your nose wrinkle as so many do when those words are used? Will a \$25 ad make the financial difference? Will the professionals approve of our enhanced, enlightened approach-more cats in individual hands, more money in the treasury, more members? I doubt it. The zoos are professionals; they don't want competition.

In discussing this new "professional" image with a member I suggested they join AAZPA, the American Assoc. of Zoological Parks & Aquariums...people who make their livings (that is professional) with animals. Their reply was to the effect that "I'm not going to pay their exhorbitant fees."

There folks, is the crux of it-LIOC is a group of volunteers. The newsletter is produced and distributed on a budget of less than \$4,000. per year. Yet the professionals get paid for their work and the time they devote to it.

However, the criticism hurts nonetheless. I am proud of my 15 years active involvement in LIOC. I challenge each of you with a complaint to do something other than complain! More old sayings:"by your actions shall ye be known"...there are many worthwhile things you can do to improve LIOC other than complain; a timely, informative Newsletter is dependent on input-other than complaints, what have YOU contributed? Why not contribute a few \$ or a subscription to a scientific journal, the Federal Register to keep us abreast of federal law, an hour a month at the library, the time and money to copy found information and send them to the Newsletter, it goes on from there, more time, more money, more dedication. One or even two Editors cannot do it all, nor can ten Board members. We are not professionals in feline care-we don't get paid, we are volunteers too. There are many "professional organizations from AAZPA to the Veterinary Associations to the periodicals aimed at dealers, all making their livings from the animals. This is not LIOC.

What should we become? That is the question. I truly feel LIOC's function is to help the cats in the care of individuals. Working with the pet (nasty word to some) owner to the breeders with large compounds and all inbetween to help them care for their cats.

I contend that any individual who takes their vocation seriously, works long and hard, can and will be acknowledged. LIOC and its members have been recognized by various professionals for the help and information we provided-I have proof. But confetti and French horns, for wearing a LIOC button, don't hold your breath.

It is a remarkable feat that we have survived for thirty (30) years with the bad image we supposedly have, and the poor material put forth in the Newsletter. The cry for change is heard, but change to what? A classified section, a textbook of technical "professional" articles, a reprint of books we all have in our libraries stating, "The ocelot is a medium-sized cat, indigenous to South and Central America, it ranges from....." Be careful what you wish for you may get it.

We call our publication a Newsletter...perhaps this too needs rethought. In the near future you will receive a questionnaire from our new Assistant Editor Elaine Burke, asking for your suggestions and opinions. Think long and hard and carefully. What the Newsletter becomes cannot but bear reflection on what LIOC becomes. What will best enable you to care for your cat, or what will enhance our "image".....what are we? These are the questions of today?

Is drastic change needed, wanted? Are you willing to work harder and participate more, not by criticism, but with suggestions and most of all actions? Are you part of the problem or part of the solution? Where are we going-will it benefit the cats we care for, will it enhance their survival?

As always, the Newsletter is an open forum for discussion, for your thoughts and feelings-what do you think?



MEETING REPORT April 27, 1986

Sixty-six members and guests congregated at Ethel and Al Hauser's in Vancouver, Washington, to see cats, talk cats, and eat spaghetti.

Pam Pierson from "Mr. Bee Pollen" gave a report on the merits of using bee pollen as a dietary supplement. In humans it is claimed to: 1. increase vitality, 2. act as a natural weight control, 3. give greater disease resistance, 4. improve skin quality and 5. provide complete nutritional needs. Ethel is using bee pollen for her cats to study the effects on them - especially to see if it will increase the fertility of the hybrid males!

The usual cat "Show & Tell" procedure showed serval, bob/lynx and hybrids, then all were invited to go outside to see Ethel's compound and visit Clint, Jackie Vanderwall's jaguar and a 6 month-old lioness brought down from Bothell, Washington by Ann Gordon.

MEETING REPORT June 29, 1986

Many of us made the 120 mile drive north to Bill Boyle's in Tacoma, Washington and met with the members from Washington who can't always get down "south". There was a short business meeting. Jerry Ghiglieri gave a report on the new Oregon laws scheduled to become effective in January of 1987. There will be a licensing fee and caging requirements (taken from LIOC's recommendations) but are not overly restrictive.. We worked with the state on writing the rules which we felt was to our advantage to cooperate. We gained more by working with the officials than if we had fought them and alienated the law-forming bodies.

Barbara Wilton read a report on the effects of the loss of natural habitat on exotics. Bill Boyle reported on Clouded leopards and Connie Schole on servals.

There was an interesting art display by Gloria Capon and Arla Hertz. Both artists from Vancouver, Washington have donated beautiful artwork for National Convention.

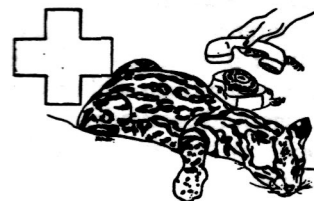
The aroma of lunch (hot dogs, beans and potato salad) overwhelmed us and the meeting was adjourned to visit, eat and enjoy one another's pets. Bill's new cloudeds stole the show.

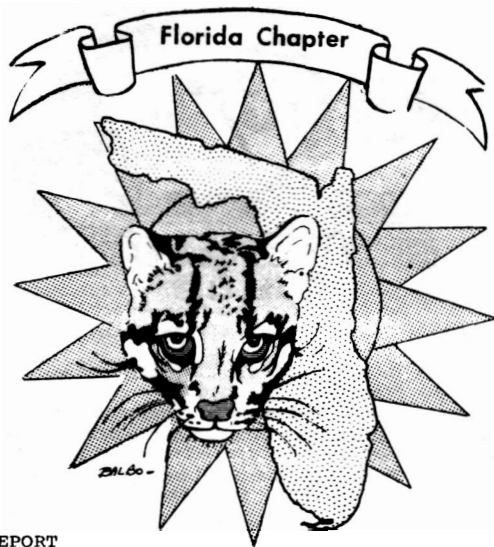
A video tape was made by Jim Christianson to show at subsequent meetings.

Submitted by
Barbara Wilton

**Ed. Note: These reports were not submitted until late August.

KNOW YOUR VET'S TELEPHONE NUMBER





MEETING REPORT

The meeting this month was hosted by the Grimes, - better known as Dennis & Barb. It was more like a family gathering, as only about a dozen of us showed up. This is the time of the year that drips with humidity in Florida and anyone with good sense stays in their air-conditioned house and refuses to budge. Fortunately, there were a few that lost their reasoning and dragged out for the afternoon. And to them I am grateful, and Dennis is even more grateful, cause if it wasn't for them showing up, he would still be taking baked beans and potato salad to work for lunch. We took up a collection for it and put the money towards printing up the meeting notices.

I enjoyed seeing everyone, and since we didn't have any business to discuss, it was a chance just to gab with the folks. Jean brought us a couple of baby bobcats to play with and everyone had to take their turn following me out to the cat house to see Tara and Calibe, our two Geoffroy's cats that have been learning to live together for the past year without snarling at each other. Pierre, our Siamese was out in the yard also, moping around and looking for some shade to beat the heat. Inside the house we had a couple of squawking parakeets and a pair of guinea pigs that are spoiled rotten and whistle for a treat every time the refrigerator opens.

Danny brought a VCR camera and we had a lot of fun playing with that. Everyone got a chance to make a fool of himself and have it recorded for posterity. Danny and Ellen also brought a beautiful Serval print that they were generously donating to the convention to be auctioned off on banquet night. It is a limited edition and is signed by the artist.

Those in attendance besides yours truly, and Dennis were: our daughter Lisa, Danny & Ellen Treanor, Jean Hatfield, Jim & Lyn Craft, Orlando Patino with daughter Monica, and Dan and Jackie Harvell. So glad all of you could make it. Next meeting will be in September in South Florida-see you all then.

Your fellow feline fanatic and friend from Florida
Barb Grimes

Animal poison hotline

(217) 333-3611 is a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, free-of-charge service provided to the nation by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A veterinary toxicology team will answer questions on chemicals, drugs, and pesticides and will also help investigate chemical-contamination problems or suspected poisoning.

Legislation

ARIZONA

The legislative chamber in Arizona adjourned in mid-May with the enactment of these bills:

- House Bill 2209 amended the definition of wildlife to include live specimens held or bred in captivity. The definition of "wild" now includes animals found in nature "anywhere in the world".

- Senate Bill 1392 makes it a felony to knowingly deal in wildlife that are taken illegally.

IOWA

As the Iowa Senate & house broke for the summer, these bills died:

- House bill 503, to prohibit the possession of "dangerous animals".
- Senate Bill 304, to require registration of "dangerous animals".

KANSAS

The Kansas legislature has recessed, leaving these bills in committee:

- House Bill 2339, would require exhibitors of dangerous animals to have licenses; it did not pass the Agriculture & Small Business Committee.
- House Bill 2900, to permit cities & counties to prohibit or regulate the possession of dangerous or vicious animals, died in the Federal & State Affairs Committee.

NEW YORK

Seventeen pet-related bills are under consideration in the New York Assembly and Senate. Among them are:

- Assembly Bill 4448, to require licensure and training of "animal handlers"

NEBRASKA

- Before it adjourned, the Nebraska Legislature and the Governor enacted Legislative Bill 558 to prohibit the possession in captivity of any wolf, skunk or carnivore of the families felidae and ursidae.

MICHAEL'S MENAGERIE

Reprinted from Exotics Unltd Newsletter

Animal lover Michael Jackson recently acquired a giraffe, what he did not acquire was a permit.

Jackson's aid Billy Bray, said Jackson already keeps a chimpanzee, two llamas and some deer on his property for use in parties he gives for terminally ill children.

After inspecting the premises of his Encino estate in early June, Fish & Game commission personnel found the giraffe's pen too small-they confiscated the animal.

"We're dealing with an innocent in terms of what he knows about animals" said Jim Boebel. "We have to lead him by the hand. We have to keep his attention. They're playthings for him."

The giraffe was moved from the singer's property to a private animal shelter. It was released back to Jackson when suitable accommodations were provided.

"We always intended to get a permit," Jackson's aid said. "We applied for one before the giraffe was shipped, but they were so slow in granting it"

Giraffes outside of zoos are so rare in California, that Fish & Game has no regulations for their care. However, Jackson promised to accept the guidance of the Department in providing suitable housing for the animal.

Viral and Mycoplasmal Examinations of Iriomote Cats (*Prionailurus Iriomotensis*)

by Masami Mochizuki, Masao Akuzawa (1) and Hiroshi Nagatomo (2)

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ABSTRACT

Virological and mycoplasmaological examinations of Iriomote cats (*Prionailurus iriomotensis*) were performed. Totally 11 cats which were clinically healthy were examined. Attempts to isolate cytopathic viruses, mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas from swab samples of respiratory, rectal and urogenital sites came to be negative. Although no viral antibodies against major feline diseases except feline calicivirus (FCV) were detected, 80% of the cats had the neutralizing antibody against FCV to some degree.

Iriomote cats which are wild cats discovered in 1965, exist at the Isle of Iriomote belonging to the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, and they have been designated as the special natural monument of Japan which needs thorough preservation of the species. Eleven cats were captured during 14 months since October 1983, until November, 1984, by permission of the Environmental Agency of Japan and the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and they were examined clinicopathologically under the Research Program for Reservation of Habitat of the Iriomote Cats conducted by the Japanese Committee of the World Wildlife Fund and Laboratory of Ecology, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Kyushu University. Hematological and parasitological findings will be shown elsewhere, and this paper presents the results of search for feline pathogenic viruses, mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas, and detection of antibodies against viruses of importance in feline medicine.

Brief identification of each individual cat examined and summary description of the study are presented in Table #1. Swab samples from oropharyngeal, nasal, conjunctival, rectal and urogenital sites as well as blood samples were collected under an anesthetic. The serum and plasma separated, and the swabs were immediately frozen and transported by use of dry ice. Blood smears were air-dried and stored at room temperature.

Virus isolation from swab samples was attempted in a cell line of Crandell feline kidney as usual laboratory diagnostic manner. Detection of mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas was performed with Taylor-Robinson's medium for ureaplasmas and Hayflick's medium for mycoplasmas with a slight modification as previously reported. No cytopathic viruses, mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas were isolated from the swab samples examined. Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and its antigen in peripheral blood were examined by focus inducing assay (FIA) and indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) with anti FeLV p30 antiserum, respectively. Both infectious FeLV in the plasma by FIA and antigen in the blood smear by IFA were negative. Since the pathogenic feline viruses and mycoplasmas were successfully isolated from wild zoo Felidae, they ought to be isolated from the cats, if they harbor such microorganisms, by the methods in the study. But, some device might be necessary for detection of FeLV or exogenous retrovirus in wild Felidae.

Hemagglutination-inhibition (HI) and serum-neutralization (SN) antibodies against feline panleukopenia virus (FPLV) TU 1 strain were examined and HI and SN antibody titers of more than 1:10 and 1:2, respectively, were looked upon as positive. No cats had any HI and SN antibodies against FPLV. As the antibody against FPLV used to persist for a long time after recovery of infection and the activation of the antibody is due to re-infections at a subclinical level when the virus is maintained in a population, the result that no antibody was demonstrated indicates the disease has not been epizootic in the cat population, and the cats still have no immunological resistance to FPLV infection.

SN antibodies against feline herpesvirus (FHV) C7301 strain and feline calicivirus (FCV) F2 strain were examined by plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT). The method of PRNT was essentially the same as that reported previously and the titers of more than 1:2 against the viruses were considered to be positive. Although no SN antibodies against FHV were detected, 8 of 10 cats tested had SN antibody against FCV at range from 1:2 to 1:128. Since low level antibody is usually found after recovery of feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR) caused by primary FHV infection and the antibody titer declines more quickly when compared to FCV infection, the result of antibody negative against FHV does not always mean FVR is not epizootic in the cat population. Supposedly, the cats are free from FHV, however, latent infection with FHV still remains to be examined. Conversely, there is a possibility that FCV infection has been epizootic in the cat population since 80% of the cats tested possessed the antibody for FCV. If so, there must be some excretors in the cat population because carrier state in which virus excretion occurs from oropharynx more or less continuously is normal sequel to FCV infection in domestic cats and there may be some affection in the cats less than one year of age.

SN antibody against FeLV of subgroup A/Glasgow-1 strain was examined by the Method of Russell & Jarrett in which an antibody titer of more than 1:2 was regarded as positive. No SN antibody against FeLV was detected.

Complement-fixation (CF) and reverse passive HI (RPHI) antibodies against a rotavirus RS 15 strain isolated from a dog were examined. The methods of CF and RPHI tests were the same as those reported previously and CF and RPHI antibody titers of more than 1:2 and 1:10 were looked upon as positive respectively. Neither CF nor RPHI antibody against the rotavirus could be detected; therefore, there might be no epizootic of FeLV and rotavirus infections in the cats.

These results clearly indicate that the Iriomote cats have not been affected yet with major pathogenic microorganisms detected frequently in the domestic cats in other parts of Japan. **These precious cats need protection against contagious diseases with high mortality, so it is necessary to prevent diseased or superfluous pet cats from bringing in the the isle.**

Reprinted from Japanese Veterinary Science
Contributed by John Perry

Table 1. Viral and mycoplasmal examinations of Iriomote cats

Cat designation (sex)	Date of sampling	Virus						Viral antibody						Mycoplasma and ureaplasma			
		Swab samples				FeLV ^{a)}		FPLV		FHV		FCV		FeLV		CRV	
		Q ^{b)}	N	C	R	FIA ^{c)}	IFA	HI	SN	PRNT	PRNT	SN	CF	RPHI	O	U	
W-1(M) ^{d)}	Oct. 1983	— ^{e)}	—	NA	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	4	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
W-2(M)	—	—	—	NA	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	4	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
W-3(M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	128	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
W-4(F)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
W-5(F)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	16	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
W-6(F)	Jan. 1984	—	—	—	—	NA	NA	<20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	—	
W-7(M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	4	<2	<2	<10	—	—	
E-6(F)	Aug. 1984	—	—	—	—	—	—	<10	<2	<2	2	NT	<2	NA	NA	NA	
E-7(M)	Nov. 1984	—	—	—	—	—	NT	<10	<2	<2	4	NT	<2	NSI	—	—	
E-8(M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	NT	<10	<2	<2	4	NT	<2	<10	—	—	
N-1(M)	—	—	NA	NA	NA	—	NT	<10	<2	<2	8	NT	<2	<10	—	—	

a) FeLV=feline leukemia virus, FPLV=feline panleukopenia virus, FHV=feline herpesvirus, FCV=feline calicivirus, CRV=canine rotavirus.

b) O=oropharyngeal, N=nasal, C=conjunctival, R=rectal, U=urogenital.

c) FIA=focus inducing assay, IFA=immunofluorescence assay, HI=hemagglutination-inhibition test, SN=serum neutralization test, PRNT=plaque reduction neutralization test, CF=complement-fixation test, RPHI=reverse passive hemagglutination-inhibition test.

d) M=male, F=female.

e) —=negative, NA=not available, NT=not tested, NSI=non-specific inhibition.

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Gasoline	E	E	E
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Hydrofluoric Acid (10%)	E	NR	NR
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Methylene Chloride	E	NR	NR
Mineral Spirits	E	E	E
Motor Oil	E	E	E
Mustard	E	G*	G
Nitric Acid (10%)	E	G*	NR*
Phosphoric Acid (85%)	E	E	E
Salt Water	E	E	E
Spic and Span (30%)	E	E	E
Syrup	E	E	E
Sulfuric Acid (30%)	E	E	E
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Silver Nitrate (10%)	E	G*	G
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Legend: E — Excellent, no chemical deterioration.
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COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH.....	ASTM D-695	16,000 psi
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