



NEWSLETTER

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LIOC
Route 4, Box 377
Mobile, Alabama 36619

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Volume 31 - Number 4

LONG ISLAND OCELOT CLUB



These leopard cat babies, born at the Hauser compound are special. For the details see Page 5



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 Pat Hootor

In order for material to be included in the NEXT issue, it must be received no later than the 1st day of odd-numbered months.

Contributions for the Feature should be sent to Elaine no later than the 1st of EVEN numbered months.

TO AVOID MISSING ANY NEWSLETTERS IF YOU SHOULD MOVE, SEND YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

Barbara Wilton
 P.O.Box 66040
 Portland, Ore 97266

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

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.



ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION

R.L. Crawford
Animal Care Staff
VF, APHIS, USDA
Rm. 756, Federal Bldg.
6505 Belcrest Rd.
Hyattsville, MD 20782

June 26, 1987

Dear Mr. Crawford:

On behalf of the LIIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc., I would like to submit the following observations and comments on the Part #2 Proposed USDA-APHIS Rule Changes as noted in the March 31, 1987 Federal Register 9CFR Parts 1 & 2 Animal Welfare.

While we are specifically dedicated to the welfare of exotic felines and we have over 450 members that advocate responsible private ownership and have been active in support of fair animal welfare laws based on facts that do not infringe our constitutional rights to the personal or business ownership of all exotic animals.

What we see evolving here is that the government is attempting to regulate larger animal operators who are involved in commercial activities and exempting those that are operating privately or noncommercially. Under the proposed rule changes there will be at least 10 exemptions for every qualified licensee. This large class of small owners should be entitled to the benefits and protection of the Animal Welfare Act. The animals need the benefits and protection too. The larger regulated operators not only sell to each other but generate large amounts of surplus animals that are sold to the smaller exempt groups. An animal protected in one facility would then become exempt in another.

Why must there be a mandatory rather than voluntary exemption? In other words, if a private owner decides that he wants to comply with USDA standards and pay the minimum \$50.00 fee and as a taxpayer, is he not entitled to a license? Is it USDA position that only the traders in animals are more qualified for a license than those who care for animals all day as collectors but sell none at all?

Consider too that many small businesses or individuals may take several years to acquire and develop breeding pairs before they can sell any surplus progeny. Without a USDA license beforehand they may not be able to acquire and maintain a population before they can sell any and therefore be qualified for license.

Many states are now requiring USDA licenses or prohibit ownership of exotic animals unless they can obtain a USDA license. It is not an unreasonable position that they do not want to take the responsibility and costs of inspecting a relatively small amount of citizens relative to the general population that indulges in exotics when the USDA is already in the business. Why should there be a redundant inspection program with no uniformity from state to state when in fact most exotic owners, whether public or private, commercial or non-commercial, large or small, generally obtain their animals on an interstate basis, the principal domain of the USDA not the states. And this question does not even consider the additional regulatory burden of the USDI with which exotic owners must also contend.

We do not approve of animals in the hands of the unqualified or irresponsible or those who attempt to "escape or circumvent" the law. However we are not in favor of creating a legal situation for the vast majority of responsible owners that would be created by USDA exemption of holders of animals for personal use or non-commercial purposes because some states do not want to bear the costs if duplicate regulations.

The net effect of the exemption, as written, would create the very situation that the designers of the Animal Welfare Act were trying to avoid. The exempt owners would then have illegal animals (if not recognized by the states) which would then be confiscated and euthanized as they are not enough legal facilities to handle them, resulting in the further suppression and endangerment of captive species.

Therefore we request that you delete Part 2 subpart A 2.1 Section 3 Items ii & viii.

The definition of a class "A" dealer should also be amended to permit the licensee to also buy, sell and exhibit his animals as a minor part of his business of enhancing the breeding colony. Otherwise as written it could be construed the class "A" licensee would have to go to a class "B" licensee to acquire more stock for gene diversity or place progeny surplus to prevent inbreeding.

We do not support abuse of any animal or person including USDA Inspectors but it needs to be clarified that a licensee in vehemently defending his rights and opinions while disagreeing with the inspector does not constitute personal verbal or physical abuse.

We also recommend review of Part I the definition "housing facility" concerning land to mean a specified caged area actually occupied by animals and not an adjacent area or open range.

Regarding veterinary care, we support a co-operative program that protects animals from disease and public health problems and for contingencies in emergency care. However we believe the owner as generally more knowledgeable the vets in the husbandry care and handling of exotic animals. Requiring the attending veterinarian to have species specific knowledge beyond what is medically accepted by veterinary schools and state licensing boards is too extreme.

While we are willing to submit and support a controlled program we will not be put into a precluded situation by inter-government bureaucracies and budget problems when our welfare and that of our animals is at stake. The belief that it is easier to eliminate the a problem rather than to solve it, does not serve the taxpayers who charged you with the responsibility of administering the Animal Welfare Act fairly to ALL.

Sincerely,

Fred Boyajian
LIIOC President



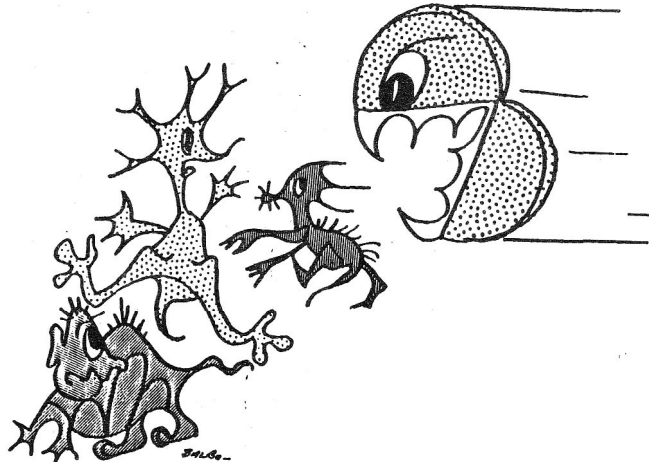
President's Perspective

Feline AIDS virus identified

A virus that causes a fatal disease in cats that is very similar to human acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) has been isolated from cats living in a cattery in the northern California city of Petaluma [Science, (1987)]. Although the newly discovered virus is distinct from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS, it and the feline disease it causes may provide a badly needed animal model for AIDS research.

The virus has tentatively been designated FTLV for feline T-lymphotropic lentivirus. It was discovered by Niels C. Pedersen, professor of veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis; Davis co-workers Esther W. Ho and Janet K. Yamamoto; and Marlo L. Brown, a veterinarian at Petaluma Veterinary Hospital.

The researchers point out that domestic cats are susceptible to infection by a number of retroviruses, which are viruses that contain RNA rather than DNA as their genetic material. The most common of these is Feline leukemia virus (FeLV), which causes, among other symptoms, immune suppression somewhat similar to AIDS. FTLV came to the attention of the Davis researchers because of an outbreak of disease in a colony of 43 cats, all of which had been tested for and found free of FeLV infection prior to being accepted into the colony. The animals live in five outdoor pens.



After introduction of a new kitten to one of the pens in 1982, a pattern of severe disease developed among the cats in that pen. Subsequently, Pedersen and coworkers demonstrated that the disease, which includes anemia, a variety of opportunistic infections, and neurological disorders, can be transmitted to uninfected cats by inoculation with whole blood or filtered plasma from infected cats.

Pedersen isolated the virus itself from T-lymphocytes from healthy cats that had been cocultured with blood cells from infected cats. The scientists then showed that virus particles can infect T-lymphocytes, causing giant cell formation and cell death, both of which effects are characteristic of HIV infection of human T-lymphocytes. FTLV does not appear to replicate in feline fibroblast cells.

Thus far, studies indicate that FTLV cannot infect human T-lymphocytes. The researchers note that three humans who had regular, close contact with the cats do not have antibodies to HIV or to FTLV. FTLV does not appear to be antigenically related to HIV. "To date, none of the animal lentiviruses show great antigenic similarity to HIV or to each other", the researchers write. "We assume that FTLV is a highly species-adapted lentivirus that has existed in cats for some time." Further antigenic and genetic studies are needed to clarify the relationship of FTLV and HIV.

The discovery of FTLV has important implications for both the domestic cat population and the study of human AIDS. A limited survey of cats at Davis' school

of veterinary medicine suggests that the virus is already widespread among cats in northern California. "If the disease-causing potential of the virus in general cat populations is as great as it is in the cattery described in this report, its clinical importance will be substantial", the researchers write.

Additionally, an animal model for AIDS is a pressing need. HIV infects chimpanzees, although they do not appear to develop a disease as a result of the infection. Chimpanzees and other primates, however, are very expensive and rare. Thus, they are not viable candidates for most of the research that needs to be done to understand the life cycle of HIV or develop vaccines against the virus and drugs to treat AIDS. Although clearly different from human AIDS, feline AIDS caused by FTLV provides researchers with a potential model system to test new ideas for dealing with HIV infection.

Pedersen's research was supported by Save our Cats & Kittens Inc., the Laurence Skewes estate for feline health related research, and Ralston Purina Inc.

By Rudy Baum

Reprinted from Chemical & Engineering News

Contributed by John Perry



World Bank Establishes Environment Department

In a move sought by the National Wildlife Federation, the World Bank has announced it is creating a top-level environment department and taking other steps to protect the environments of developing countries.

In the past, the Federation has criticized the Bank for funding many environmentally disruptive projects in the Third World.

"This is a major step forward," says Barbara Bramble, director of the Federation's International Division. "It is the first time the leadership of the Bank has indicated it understands the seriousness of its past neglect of environmental and social issues. However," Bramble says, "at this time the Bank has offered only an outline for major changes. We await the substance."

The World Bank, which has 151 member nations including the United States, lends about \$14 billion to about 100 developing countries each year. Its loans have funded projects such as a dam in Ghana, cattle ranches in Central America, and a highway through Brazilian rainforests.

A development disaster, the highway through the Amazon led to tropical forest destruction, crop failure, soil erosion, and the invasion of lands belonging to the area's native people.

The new environment department, announced by Bank president Barber Conable on May 5th, will have 50-60 members. Also, environmental offices with additional staff will be added within the Bank's four regional offices. The Bank currently has seven people responsible for environmental matters.

"The background of the people hired to fill these slots will be extremely important," says Bramble.

"There will be a great temptation to resuffle hats at the bank when the need is for seasoned professionals in natural resources, anthropology and sociology."

The Bank also announced it has plans to assess environmental threats in the 30 most vulnerable developing countries; promote a program to slow deforestation and the spread of deserts in Africa; contribute to a global program to promote the conservation of tropical forests; and participate in a cooperative effort among Mediterranean nations and international agencies to prepare a campaign to protect the Mediterranean and its coasts.

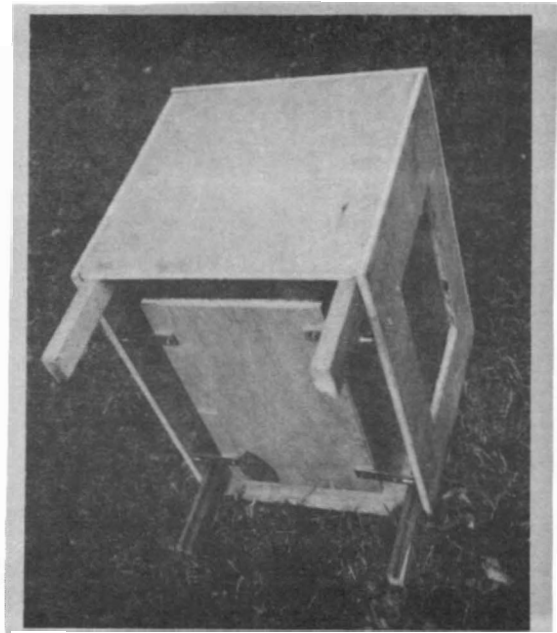
Reprinted from National Wildlife Federation
Contributed by Jean Hamil

Determination Pays Off

By Ethel Hauser

About 4 weeks after the death of my old male leopard cat, his mate showed signs of being pregnant. Since she's killed every litter shortly after birth, I made up my mind it would not happen this time! Since I didn't know the exact date of breeding, I called my friend in Pullman and he advised me to x-ray her with a light dose to measure the body length of the kittens. He felt the baby should be at least 4½" to be near full term. If the babies are taken even three days too early they wouldn't stand a very good chance of surviving.

For 15 nights I slept on the floor next to her cage in the livingroom as I wanted to catch her when labor started. We built a "delivery" cage which would allow the babies to drop through to the floor to try to save them. The floor of this cage has a clear space all the way around the bottom with the floor being just large enough for the mother's body. She liked it so we thought we had a chance to save this litter.



There was someone watching her almost all the time as her time grew near. I didn't get much sleep as she was busy at night.

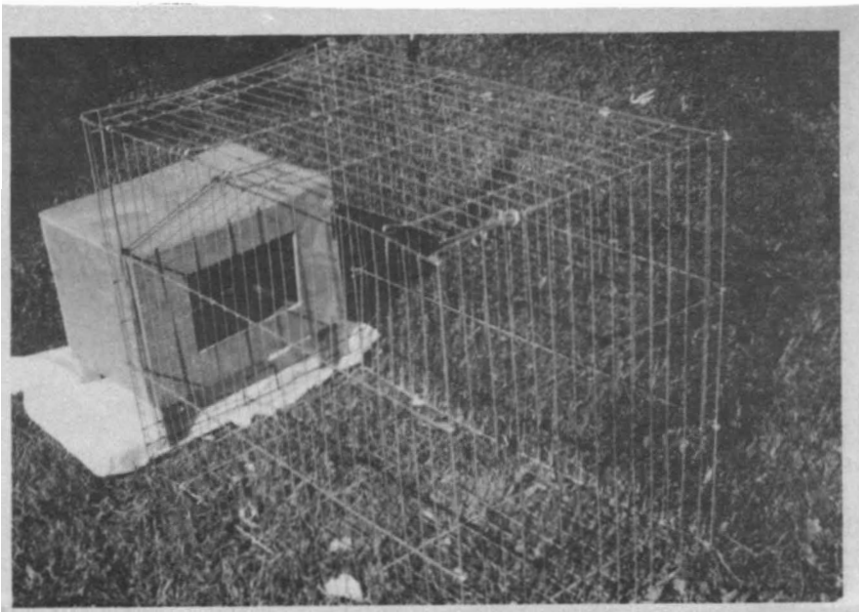
On April 15th, her pattern of eating changed - her stool was runny and she gave up her late-night moving around.

I got up early and we dashed to the vet. He decided she had started labor. The "C" section went smoothly and we now have 2 beautiful little girls-weighed in at 2½ oz and 5 ¾" long(body). They're now 6 weeks old and tearing up the place!

The vet is very pleased as he thought they might not make it as their weight was so low.

Take a look at their birth picture (cover)-those little feet really come prepared for life, however they have the nicest dispositions and are very cuddly. When they want to be held they make a "whirling" chirp. I'll be keeping these girls as their mom is at least eleven years old.

My toy poodle has adopted them. The utility room now has a special screen door so they can watch us in the family room and not be caged.



INDIAN RIGHTS VS. U.S. WILDLIFE LAWS

Reprinted from Humane News

The U.S. Justice Department has charged James E. Billie, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe in Florida with shooting and killing a Florida Panther in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Billie later ate the panther. "The case could set a precedent for resolving conflicts between Indians' rights and efforts to protect endangered species," said a Justice Department spokesman. According to Bruce Rogow, Billie's lawyer: "We find it a bit of an irony that the panther is endangered by the white man's commercial development of the Everglades, & yet Chief Billie is the only person ever to be prosecuted for the offense." Although the Indians believe that they have the right to hunt and fish on their reservation, Justice Department is seeking to litigate a precedent to show that native Americans must adhere to the Endangered Species Act. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has never notified the Seminoles that their rights are subject to Federal intrusion under the Endangered Species Act

Contributed by Jean Hamil

Due to technical problems CATS OF THE WORLD DOES NOT appear in this issue-see revised schedule below.

PLEASE NOTE:

The next topics for the feature item will be:

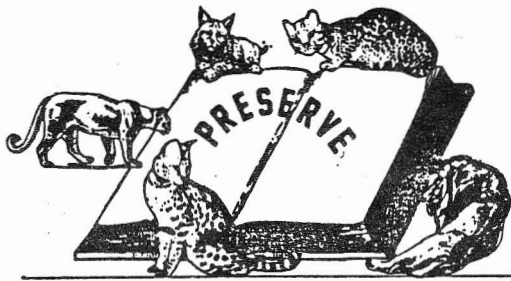
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER - BOBCATS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER - COUGAR

If you would like to contribute information or photos, please send to:

Elaine Burke
P.O.Box 2126
Norwich, Conn 06030

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IS THE 1st OF EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS



NORTHWEST EXOTIC FELINE SOCIETY

MEETING REPORT

February 14th was the first meeting under our new name - NORTHWEST EXOTIC FELINE SOCIETY - formerly the Oregon Educational Exotic Feline Club. We are excited about the change as our branch now encompasses our Washington members who have been faithful in driving down to Oregon to join us. The meeting was held at the Marshall Center in Vancouver, Washington, and about 70 members and guests were on hand to welcome our new LIOC President, Fred Boyajian.

Fred hoped to meet members and get to know the people of LIOC - what LIOC can do to help them and they to help LIOC. We need strong local organizations to make a strong national organization.

He also spoke about the USDA working on new laws on the national level. People who oppose private ownership are attempting to pass laws which drive exotic animal owners underground. We need to be a part of making the new laws. State veterinarians, worried about diseases in domestic animals (cattle, etc.) requested the USDA to draw up laws to control the spread of disease. The University of Georgia drafted the law and expanded it from disease control to ownership, transportation, security, etc. and encompassed it to all 50 states. It caused an immediate furor among private owners. There are 128 zoos as compared to thousands of private owners. USDA inspectors primarily inspect cattle, chickens, etc., suddenly, they are into inspecting exotic animals they know nothing about. Pat Hoctor, of Animal Finders Guide, was able to stir up enough awareness on short notice that Fred attended the hearing in Washington, D.C. Also included were bird owners, primate owners, zoos and circuses. There is strength in numbers. We all have the right to own animals. There are always a few who cause problems which affect us all.

The USDA agreed to revise the document. We need to operate in a reliable manner. It could eventually lead to a constructive law. Fred felt the trip to Washington, D.C. was very worthwhile.

Fred said "We learn from animals, it is our duty to help them." Many are on the endangered species list and won't be around much longer. They do not adjust to change as fast as man.

Fred hopes to strengthen us individually so we can have a strong front. We have to work together to dissolve issues.

Before we opened the snack bar we had our usual "Show and Tell" for the benefit of our guests. Included were jaguarundi, chaus, serval, bobcat, ocelot, clouded-leopard, Geoffroy's, safari and lion.

Bill Boyle, LIOC Vice President, gave a short speech on the illegal exportation of endangered species pelts from countries not signing the Endangered Species Act.

Submitted by Barbara Wilton



MID ATLANTIC STATES BRANCH

MEETING REPORT

June 6, 1987

Mid-Atlantic's spring gathering was hosted by Reg Riedel at his home in the rural foothills of Carmel, New York. Mid-Atlantic's new President, John Van Stry convened the informal meeting at 3:30 PM. His opening comments concerned the upcoming election of chapter officers and that consideration be given for nominations. Suzi Wood having resigned from the presidency, agreed to accept the appointment as Treasurer. John also solicited ideas for membership growth and fund raisers. Recognizing the geographic distance between Mid-Atlantic members, he encouraged more telephone communication between meetings. With that, the meeting was turned over to our guest speaker, national LIOC's president, Fred Boyajian.

Of immediate concern Fred explained the current USDA proposal which would mandatorily exempt certain individuals from requiring a USDA permit, which in many states would negate the possibility for a person to receive a state permit, as several states now work on a contingency basis which throws the initial burden of responsibility at the federal level. All were encouraged to write the USDA prior to July 1, 1987 offering some viable alternatives to the proposed legislation.

Fred also spoke about the motives for acquiring exotic cats, strongly disuading anyone who buys them for "novelty" purposes. He stressed the importance that all LIOC exotic owners be properly licensed and permitted in order that LIOC gain credibility as a serious animal conservation institution and suggested an effort to join forces with other wildlife programs.

Following closing comments by John Van Stry, the meeting was adjourned in order to break down into small discussion groups.

We thank Fred for sharing his time and ideas and willingness to meet and listen to the general membership. His visit was enlightening.

Present were: Fred Boyajian, John Van Stry, Suzi Wood, Steve Marino, Bill Fix, Anita Clark, Virginia Levin, Eugene Principe, Art Human, Betty Ann Weiss, Doris & Milt Demarest, Diane Stahl, Reg Riedel and Jochan Riedel.

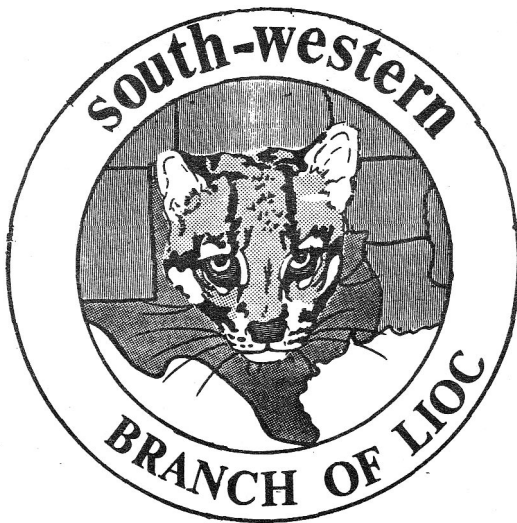
Respectfully submitted,
Suzi Wood

↓ PLEASE: ↓

Included in this issue are two forms requesting information on you and your cats. This information will be used to computerize our membership roster. You will note that a section allows you to choose the degree of privacy you wish. Regardless of the degree of privacy you choose, please fill out these forms completely.

In the future we will be able to provide quick and accurate information to our members based on this information. It will benefit everyone concerned.

Please take a few minutes NOW to fill out the forms in their entirety and return them quickly to the persons shown at the bottom of the form. The amount of information which will be available will be directly proportionate to the amount of input we have. Please do your part.



MEETING REPORT

On a lazy summer Saturday, the 22nd of June, the members started gathering at the home of John and Elfriede Vickery on Hiway Lake, a most beautiful residential lake situated between Longview and Marshall, Texas. Their most spacious home is being renovated to accommodate a proposed new exotic with it's own suite of rooms, which is indeed most unusual. Elfriede prepared a typical enormous Southern buffet with all kinds of salads, vegetables, and very delicious slow-baked brisket and ham. Dessert was a delicious layered custard vanilla and chocolate pudding. She was assisted with meeting preparations by Christine Chandler and her guests were each greeted by the hostess and her "assistant" hostess - Lady, a very gracious black Doberman Pinscher adorned with an ocelot print silk scarf, to compliment and carry out the theme of the meeting. Lady is presently serving as an exotic feline until such time as the home renovation is completed.

After lunch and much "cat-visiting" the meeting was called to order by our President, Jean Hamil. Each attending member introduced themselves, because there were so many new members and one or two visitors. Harriet Leake gave the Treasurers report and pointed out that the annual dues will be due in October. Also election of officers will be held at that meeting. It will be held at the home of Walter and Lois Marshall in West Columbia. Roger and Faye Harmon's Hill-o-Pines will serve as a back-up in case of foul weather or a hurricane on the gulf coast. The March, 1988 meeting will be held at the estate of Jim Steinmyer in Beaumont, Texas.

The program for this meeting consisted of a presentation by the new president of national LIOC, Fred Boyajian, who had flown in from Atlanta. Fred opened his presentation with a personal invitation to the up-coming national convention in Atlanta, August 5th-9th. He explained the format and theme of this year's convention will be "Finding Ways to Help Animals by Organizing ourselves into an Animal Welfare Organization. A comparison was made of LIOC and "Ducks Unlimited". What each has accomplished during its existence. He pointed out that as a whole "cat people" do not socialize very well, - except with other people. He emphasized that we have got to learn to get along and work with other animal-oriented groups; including veterinarians, zoo people, pet shop organizations, humane societies, and other exotic animal organizations. In fact, all people involved with animals. He stressed that if we are going to make any dent at all in curbing Federal, state and local legislation, we are going to have to have some support from these various groups. He explained his position as a "pro-breeder" vs "pet owner" in dealing with the U.S. Government. He particularly stressed the need for each member to write the U.S.D.A. and state that you have a RIGHT to have a USDA license. Among other items he made some suggestions as to how to self-police yourself, without need of outside intervention. Drawing up a code of ethics for your branch organizations and he closed with a plea to send in more material to the

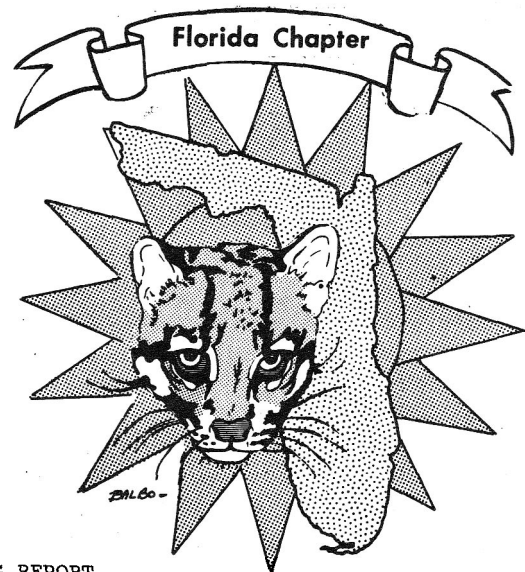
Editor of the Newsletter.

The exotic felines attending included three six-week old bobcats of Jean and Carl Hamil who ate solid food together for the first time. Two of them were photographed having immediately fallen asleep with their faces still in the pan!

Those attending were:

Jim Steinmyer & Duter Osha, Beaumont, Tx; Mark & Monica Jordan, Alexandria, La; Christine Chandler, Hallsville, Tx; Von & Missy Pilche, Dalls, Tx; Jackie Tronhalm, Leonard, Tx; Beverly & John Oglesby Garland, Tx; Beckie Davis, Tyler, Tx; Faye, Kay & Roger Harmon, Marshall, Tx; Adger & Beverly Smith, Texarkana, Tx; Jerry Neal, Flint, Tx; Vicki Chandler, Gilmer, Tx; Ron Barker, Carrollton, Tx; Lyn & Bart Culver, Mena, Ark; John Stokes, Euless, Tx; Jean and Carl Hamil, Magnolia, Tx.

Respectfully submitted
Roger Harmon, M.D.



MEETING REPORT

Here it is June already and due to our flexible ever changing schedule, we have finally had another great meeting. We changed our meeting time to coincide with the Newsletter, so that we could bet a report IN on time so Shirley could get it OUT on time, and in doing so caused a lot of inconvenience with the members that DID make the meeting most of the time. So.....we are now changing back to our OLD schedule and will meet SOMEWHERE hopefully in July, (or September) depending on if we can find a host. The main reason the motion was made to change the month of our meetings was because even months conflicted with convention week, several holidays (especially Christmas) that was already overloaded with parties, and we didn't want to O.D. on FUN, during these months.

Ya'll remember now, that it's the odd bunch in the odd month and we'll all be back on schedule once again! I'll tell you which weekend later. Usually it will be the second Sunday of the month, unless we decide to change it for some silly reason.

Anyway, our hostess with the mostest this month was Jean Hatfield. We had a fun time down at her place, as she has more cats than the local zoo. She has ocelots, Geoffroy's bobcat, cougars, jaguars, servals, a black leopard, margay and in her house for us to play with was a six week old cougar cub, a nine-week old serval, and a five week old leopard cat and domestic hybrid (isn't that a Bengal cat?) Oh well, it was cute whatever it was. How could you have a bad time with all that to play with?

I was a little down-hearted cause it was time to bring Calibe (Geoffroy's) back home to her, but for a good reason. I almost lost my beloved Tara to complications from her first pregnancy, resulting➔

in her having a C-section and spaying. She is doing fine now, and is healthier than ever, and has even had a personality change. She hasn't bit Dennis for a couple of months and even has become leash trained. It's amazing!

Now that Tara is out of commission, I brought Calibe back to Jean's place so that he could resume his love life once again. He is a sweetheart and maybe someday when he gives up what he does best, then maybe he can come back and live out his old age with me. In the meanwhile, I brought Mickey home with me to be a companion for Tara as he is neutered resulting from a problem he had when he was little. So I now have a matched pair of loveable "lame ducks". It's okay by me, cause all I wanted to do is love them anyway.

Back to the meeting. We took up our usual cheap donation for lunch and Danny called our business meeting to order, in which a motion was made to change the meeting time once again. No one has decided whether we are going to convention for sure or not, but if we do, our new meeting date won't interfere.

We had a nice cool picnic-style lunch of cold cuts, baked beans, and potato salad. Just the thing on a 95° day. We stayed in the house as much as possible, and once in awhile we would brave the outdoors and go take a look at the outdoor residents who were more than willing to spray us and cool us off, so I didn't stay out there too long. Besides, it was more fun to stay in the house and play with the indoor critters.

Well folks, that about wraps up our June meeting. I want to thank Jean for having us all down. We really enjoyed it! **Those who attended this time were:** Barb Grimes (that's me), with husband Dennis and "just graduated" daughter Lisa, Jean and Connie Hatfield, Danny, Ellen and "eleven month old, no teeth yet, took three steps this week, cute as a button Patrick Treanor, Jose' Gigante, John Pasch, Dee Dee Barnes, Millie Iarossi, Frances Duranti, Jim & Lyn Craft, Sid Miller and DeVerne Miller.

Our next meeting will be in Central Florida (for sure) as always I'm your -

FLEXIBLE, fellow, feline fanatic and friend from Florida,
Barb Grimes.

IN MEMORIAM

After a lengthy battle, Millie Payton has lost the fight against cancer. She left us on June 29th but will not be forgotten.

Millie was a pioneer of the Safari (Geoffrey cat hybrid) and a Geoffroy cat breeder. Through her dedication, love and knowledge of these cats, she has left her mark in history.



Millie served as Secretary/Treasurer of the New England Branch of LIOC, and was a co-host of the Boston convention. A strong and dedicated person, loved by all, she will be sorely missed by all who were privileged to know her, but especially in New England.

Her fiancé, Mike Mutascio, in concurrence with her family, ask that contributions be made in her memory to the LIOC Legal Fund. They should be mailed to:
LIOC Legal Fund
c/o S. Wood
6 E. Lake Circle Dr.
Medford, N.J. 08055

Millie is survived by a son, David, parents Dorothy & Harry Snyder and sister Beverly Ahola.

Snuggling with Smugglers

"She's snuggling up with a brutal smuggler," states the striking black and white advertisement of a woman in an ocelot fur coat. This advertisement, one of three, is part of the World Wildlife Fund's campaign to stop illegal wildlife trade, an ambitious public awareness effort that combines the resources of conservation, commercial and governmental organizations.

The public service advertisements, created by the well-known advertising firm of Ogilvy & Mather, have appeared in major magazines, such as Newsweek, The New Yorker, Money, Connoisseur, Psychology Today, Sports Illustrated, Business Week and New Age. The advertisements feature high fashion models in photographs by professional photographer Mistretta;



both the models and Mistretta donated their time. The advertisements show the woman in the ocelot coat, a man sporting crocodile leather belt, and a pair of woman's feet slipped into snakeskin shoes. The text warns consumers against buying illegal wildlife products and refers them to TRAFFIC (U.S.A.) for more information.

The response to these ads has been tremendous, with over 2,000 individual letters or calls received to date. Concerned individuals receive a full-color brochure, "Buyer Beware!" produced with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The American Society of Travel Agents, a co-sponsor of the brochure, has begun to advertise and distribute the brochure to its members.

Fashion designer Ralph Lauren continued his support of the campaign by writing letters to his colleagues and soliciting the support of the fashion industry to help stop illegal trade.

The U.S. fur industry has already played an exemplary role in discouraging the sale of furs made from endangered species in the United States. However, these furs, especially those made from critically threatened spotted cats, are still available overseas. Tourists to foreign countries must be careful about what they buy.

In June, 1986, the Denver Museum of Natural History opened "Souvenirs of Slaughter" a permanent exhibit at the Denver Stapleton Airport. WWF Chairman Russell E. Train, President William K. Reilly, and Vice President and General Counsel Kathryn S. Fuller participated in the opening, along with former Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm and Chief Judge Sherman G. Finesilver. This impressive exhibit of wildlife trafficking, partially funded by WWF, features confiscated wildlife products, descriptive photographs and warnings to travellers about endangered and illegal wildlife products banned from import into the United States. According to a November 7th, Los Angeles Times piece on World Wildlife Fund's work to end illegal trade in wildlife, "Each day, thousands of air travellers pass the exhibit. During peak air travel hours, crowds of people two and three deep surround the exhibit."

In addition to the Denver exhibit, a number of airports have agreed to display dioramas-backlit advertisements featuring the ocelot coat photograph in their international terminals. These dioramas will direct travelers to Mutual of Omaha Insurance counters where they can pick up a "Buyer Beware!" brochure.

For information on the campaign or to order copies of "Buyer Beware!" please write to:

TRAFFIC (U.S.A.)
World Wildlife Fund
1255 Twenty-third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Contributed by Jean Hamil

IN MEMORIUM

GIGOLO

June, 1969 to May, 1987

Me 'n My Margay

What joy! What Passion!
My margay doth inspire;
With his feline grace
His beauty I desire.

Those deep, large eyes
Are limpid and brown;
But a moment thereafter,
They light up like a clown!

Silky, sleek velvety fur,
Package a bundle of dynamite,
For now...he's a lover....
Then...he's ready to fight.

Up the tree, down and around
Twelve pounds of cat onto my back
Alert to all; nothing amiss
The margay pounces, territorial attack.

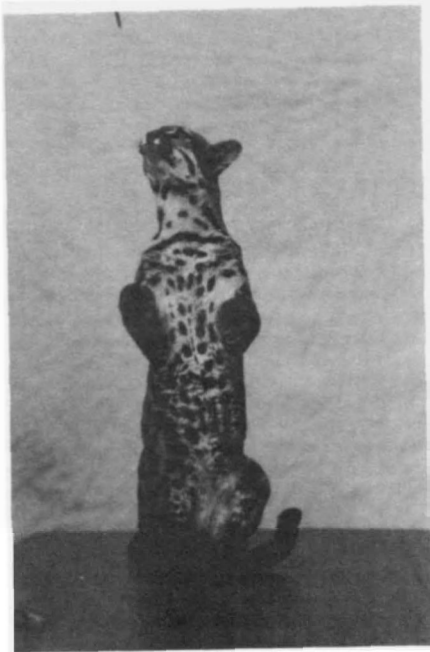
Of all Nature's creatures,
None surpasses Genus Felis.
So...I have "married" a margay
and live with him in eternal bliss.

* * * * *

Margay.....

.....a jungle jewel
of sparkling spots
and shiny stripes
Aglow in the darkness
of a treetop Tiffany's.

The above was written by BeeJay Lester of her margay Gigolo (Jiggy). BeeJay, asked that we run them again as she has lost Jiggy to renal failure. They had been friends since Jiggy was 4 months old, as he was her companion constantly all these years, and had been featured several times in the Newsletter.



Discussion:

By Lynn Culver

As responsible exotic animal owners we must never forget that our right to own these beings can be revoked at a moments notice. The public can and will outlaw our activities if they feel threatened. We must NEVER take the public for granted. Our animals are special to us because we are intimate with them. The misinformed and fearful public does not always share our enthusiasm for these "nondomestic" lifeforms. Therefore it is especially important that we respect the rights of others in our exotic activities. Nobody wants to be the reason that a state outlaws exotics. Yet it is all too often that we ourselves are the reason that exotics are outlawed.

Arkansas has no state laws concerning private ownership of exotic animals. We are ripe for hysterical legislation. All it takes is a public that perceives itself to be threatened. Arkansas is not alone in this situation. Two years ago Tennessee exotic animals owners fought a heated battle to keep private ownership of exotics legal. Recently, the Louisiana state legislature debated the future of private exotic ownership. Louisiana exotic animal owners won the first round of the battle, but the showdown is not over. There is a one year reprieve on the banning of exotics in that state.

With the possible banning of private ownership of exotics looming, few, if any, would invest in future ownership. And the sale of such animals within the state to new owners may certainly be curtailed. Who wants to invest his time, love and money in an animal or business that may become illegal?

Recently, the city of Springdale, Arkansas banned the private ownership of many exotics within the city's limits. All took it for this to occur was a few concerned citizens that perceived themselves to be in danger. In fact, all it took was one cougar owner, living in an apartment near a police officer. The seven-month old female cougar was seen running down the apartment halls a few times. Nobody was hurt. Nobody was killed...just scared - that's all it takes.

The Springdale ordinance makes it unlawful for anyone to "keep, maintain, sell, or have in their possession or under his control, while in the city, any poisonous reptile or any other dangerous or carnivorous wild animal or reptile." Specifically

prohibited are ALL snakes (bye, bye, garter snakes, which was my first childhood exotic), apes; that is gibbons, gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutan and baboons. Bears, cheetahs, lions, alligators or crocodilians, coyotes, elephants, hippopotami, lynxes, hyenas, jaguars, leopards, piranha, puma, rhinoceroses, tigers, skunks, raccoons and wolves are similarly banned. I'm sure the city council is very proud of their far-reaching thinking. They probably even mistakenly think their city is a safer place to live. It seems to me though, that it is just a more sterile place. The city council has an interesting slant to their thinking - it is alright to use exotic animals to entertain the masses to raise money. They allow the Shriners' Circus or the Rodeo of the Ozarks to function within the city limits!

No one knows how many responsible exotic animal owners have lost their right to live in Springdale and coexist with their exotic loved ones. It is doubtful that Springdale ever had a serious problem with rogue hippopotami or rhinoceroses, or that the City Council even knows what is involved in the care of such animals. It is even doubtful that any resident of Springdale was granted a U.S.D.I. license to have an endangered feline such as a Cheetah. But anyone owning such an expensive animal surely would have taken elaborate measures to protect it. None of this matters - the point is mute; the ordinance is passed and we can all mourn the passing of another hysterical law.

What we can, as responsible exotic animal lovers do to prevent our city, county or state from passing similar laws is behave and care for our animals responsibly. Mostly what we can do is NOT BE THE REASON SUCH LAWS ARE PASSED! Live in a suitable habitat for the keeping of our animals. Tigers and cougars do not belong in apartments.

And as responsible owners and breeders we MUST constantly strive to carefully select those who wish to adopt our exotic offspring. It is just as much the fault of the breeder who sold the cougar to an apartment dweller as it is the person who bought the animal - maybe more so as the breeder probably was better aware of the animal's needs than a novice owner!

We can stop ourselves from making a serious judgement miscalculation and we can talk to our exotic-owning friends about their judgements. The rural exotic owner who frequently drives his jaguar into town and through a drive-in is endangering us all. We must take a stand among ourselves as we are the experts. Our rights to own exotics can be protected or destroyed by our actions and the simple abuse of the public. Let us think twice before we act-it is important to maintain a good public image and demonstrate to all we are good owners.

TOPIC: SHOULD LIOC MAKE SOME ATTEMPT TO "POLICE" ITS RANKS?

As Lyn points out, one bad owner can spell trouble for us all. But, how far should LIOC go in attempting to set standards? Offending the less than perfect owner, we lose contact with the cat and the owner negating any positive effect we may influence. By what means should we censure the irresponsible owner or breeder?

These are weighty questions, please drop us a note with your thoughts-LIOC is your organization-please participate!

Send to: LIOC, Route 4, Box 377, Mobile, AL 36619



LIOC Spotlight



LIZ GHENT AND MIGUEL DE LAS AMERICAS

Elizabeth Ghent (Liz) was born in the New England area but basically, her higher education, including graduation from the University of Washington, occurred in the Pacific northwest. Ms Ghent taught elementary school in the Seattle area until her early retirement nine years ago.

I first met Liz at a LIOC meeting at my home on Lake Steilacoom here in Tacoma in 1970. At that time, she had her baby cougar, Loki who was approximately four months old. Liz and I became friends from that first meeting and I have been in constant contact ever since. It has been a delightful friendship and I have been able to piece together some information with reference to her interest in exotics over the years. Incidentally, Loki passed away at the old age of 16 years.

Liz related to me that her first experience with exotics was on a trip to Mexico, approximately 25 or 30 years ago. She was staying in a hotel and had an opportunity to purchase a little baby margay from a Texan who was living in Mexico, for the tremendous cost of \$10.00. Little Michi was immediately adopted by Liz and travelled extensively through Mexico by train. Liz's story how she brought Michi across the U.S. border is both touching and hilarious. Michi became a focal point in Liz's life, being her constant companion and friend, who slept with her each night and became potty-trained on the commode. Michi lived with Liz and travelled extensively with her for ten years. Evidently, Michi was dearly loved by Liz's father and upon Michi's death, Liz tells an amusing tale about how she sneaked into the cemetery in the middle of the night with a shovel and buried Michi on her father's casket. Her father would have thought that Liz's gesture was a great idea.

Evidently, Liz's second exotic was "Loki", whom I met in 1970. Loki, as I said before lived approximately 16 years and was the apple of Liz's eye. He weighed approximately 200 pounds, so Liz did not transport him around as she did during his first three or four years. The next exotic that Liz acquired came from the undersigned, which was a wild-born Asian Golden Cat that Liz named "Willi B. de Thailand" for William Boyle. Willi was not tame or declawed, so Liz and I embarked on a breeding program and eventually Liz acquired "Flower" a female Golden Cat from Lil Smith in the Los Angeles area, on a breeding loan.

Approximately two years later two years later Flower and Willie produced two beautiful kittens. The female kitten was taken to Los Angeles to Lil and Bob Smith and Liz, of course, kept the little male. (She would have kept both if she could have gotten away with it!)

Later Liz acquired two servals. The first came from Shelley Starns at Cougar Mountain and the second came from Jan Giacinto. When the male died at approximately 7½ years old, Liz immediately replaced him with another serval from Bill and Penny Andrews in the San Francisco Bay area. Two rare sand cats were then acquired by Liz from the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle because the zoo did not have the space for them and wanted Liz to attempt to breed the little cats. Liz constructed a beautiful house for the cats and she had hoped that they would breed and produce little ones for the zoo.

Miguel, the jaguar (shown above) came from yours truly. In September, 1982, I flew to Center Hill, Florida to pick up my first clouded leopard, Camille. At that time, Miguel, age 3 weeks, was given to me by Robert Baudy as a surplus animal. I took Miguel of course, with Liz in mind. Miguel is now approximately 300 pounds and has lived for the past two years at the Olympic Game Farm at Sequim, Washington, under the tender care of owner, Lloyd Beebe. Liz visits Miguel every month and has maintained a wonderful relationship with Miguel.

At last count, Liz has, along with her exotics, two domestic dogs, three domestic cats, along with a "Safari" cat and a hybrid German Shephard/wolf pup. During the years that I have known Liz, I have been amazed at her interest and devotion to the exotic. She has opened her home to a tiger and a cheetah and has cared for coyotes and bobcats and has devoted much of her time to wildlife in general. Her activities at the Woodland Park Zoo, here in Seattle, are constant and unwavering as a docent.

In addition to Liz's constant devotion to exotics, her gentleness, demeanor and general image have resulted in publicity. Her sense of responsibility to the cats was evident some years ago when she, rather than get rid of her exotics, moved from her lovely home in the City of Seattle, to the County where they were permitted. Also, Liz has plucked many unwanted cats at the Olympic Game Farm and with other people.

In conclusion, as we all know, many people become enamored with the exotics for a year or two and then lose interest and get rid of the cats, to the cats' detriment. Liz's consistent caring, devotion and responsibility to the exotics make her a worthy example to us all and a prime candidate for the Lottie award.

William R. Boyle



On Food and the Feeding of Exotic Animals

Donald Lindburg, Ph.D. BEHAVIORIST

Reprinted from ZOONOOZ, Publication of the San Diego Zoo

The common practice of equating nutrition with diet is an unfortunate one for it leads us to overlook the nonnutritive aspects of food consumption. Some of these may have important consequences for health. Consider, for example, the effort expended by animals to obtain food. Consider, too, the ways in which food in the natural world is "packaged" for consumption - such properties as shape, size, color, taste, smell, temperature and texture.

In captivity, an animal's quest for food is often reduced simply to the act of consumption. Caretakers assume the tasks of procurement and preparation of food the animal will eat, with attention to the animal's nutritional needs. Packaging becomes secondary in importance. There are growing indications, however, that the nonnutritive properties of food deserve more attention than they are customarily given.

The importance of food packaging became particularly evident when we began to study our cheetah populations in 1980. We discovered that cheetahs that had been groomed for breeding all too frequently developed nasal infections. Examination revealed a perforation of the palate, medial to the upper first molars. This perforation allowed food particles to enter the nasal passages via the mouth. The animal's attempts at dislodging these particles by coughing and sneezing appeared to have resulted in eventual impaction of the nasal passages with grass, twigs, and debris. Erosion of the palate was clearly caused by dental malocclusion or, more specifically, by the penetrating action of lower first molars of abnormal size or position. Why should a cheetah have maloccluded dentition?

A survey conducted by Helena Fitch, assistant behaviorist for the Zoological Society, and Dave Fagan, D.D.S. dental consultant, led to two hypotheses. The possibility that the defect is an inherited condition was suggested by the discovery that 13 of 15 affected cheetahs had been imported from a limited area in Namibia (formerly South-West Africa). A strong association with diet was also noted, in that the 15 affected cheetahs belonged to a group of 20 which were fed commercial diets. On the other hand, 39 individuals fed a natural diet were free of the disease. A major difference between the two diets is texture. Fitch and Fagan reasoned that processing a carcass into ingestible portions places a substantial workload on the animal's jaws and teeth. Cheetahs fed soft, formulated diets and thus deprived of this chance to exercise the masticatory apparatus, could be left with maldeveloped dentition.

The conditions of seven cheetahs recently imported from a captive breeding facility in South Africa offer no clear support for either of these competing hypotheses. The cheetahs had been raised on a carcass diet, and we were surprised to find that three had the disease in moderate form. However, with regard to the genetic hypothesis, only one of the three has a Namibian ancestry. While texture of foods remains strongly implicated as contributory, final determination of the etiology of this condition requires further surveys of both captive and wild-reared individuals.

Texture is only one of the packaging attributes which is modified in the course of feeding captive animals. Food that is minced or is in pellet or chow form may be nutritionally balanced but often bears little resemblance to the food which animals are programmed by nature to enjoy. To say that an animal finds pleasure in food may be anthropomorphizing. After all, grass is grass and meat is meat. But most animals are much less monophagic than is commonly believed. In addition, as

every pet owner knows, animals respond to foods in ways suggesting definite differences in palatability. Feeding rates, the amounts consumed, the degree of eagerness at feeding, and the relative tenacity over possession provide indications of the level of palatability. and, undoubtedly, of the pleasure animals find in feeding.

Test underway with the lion-tailed macaque colony at the San Diego Zoo are designed to measure differences in response to packaging-in this case to processed (peeled, husked, sliced, diced) and unprocessed fruits and vegetables. Preliminary findings indicate that reduced processing not only decreases the amount of human labor necessary, but also increases the macaques' interest in feeding.

Substitution and modification of food are necessary in the captive management of exotic animals. At the same time, recognition should be given to the dynamic relationship between animals and the foods they eat. To attend only to the nutritional aspects of food is to treat the animal as its passive recipient and to risk incurring effects which diminish both physical and psychological health. Even if the ultimate psychological benefit of providing a less processed diet is a small one, its contribution to the overall health of the animal cannot be discounted.

References:

- Fitch, H.C., and Fagan, D.S. 1982. Focal palatine erosion associated with dental malocclusion in captive cheetahs. *Zoo Biology*, 1:295-310
Hediger, H. 1966. Diet of Animals in captivity. *International Zoo Yearbook* 6:37-58

Contributed by Jean Hamil.

OTHER READING

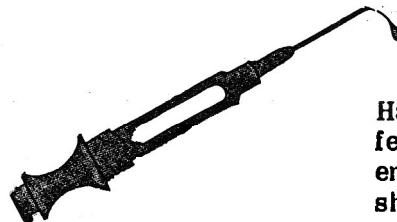


"Snow Cats of the High Himalaya, by Rodney Jackson in *ANIMAL KINGDOM*, July/August, 1987.

The further work of Rodney Jackson and his wife Darla Hillard (see *LIOC Newsletter* Vol 30, #4) in radio-tracking the snow leopards of the Langgu Gorge.

"When Only a Picture Remains", by Janet and Andy Phillips in *CAT FANCY*, May, 1987.

This article points out the perils facing the feline family in the wild today, pointing to the fact that "there are more Siberian tigers in captivity than in the wild". It explores the reasons for this deplorable condition - habitat destruction, and predation by man for furs, as well as what is being done to set up preserves for some of these remarkable species.

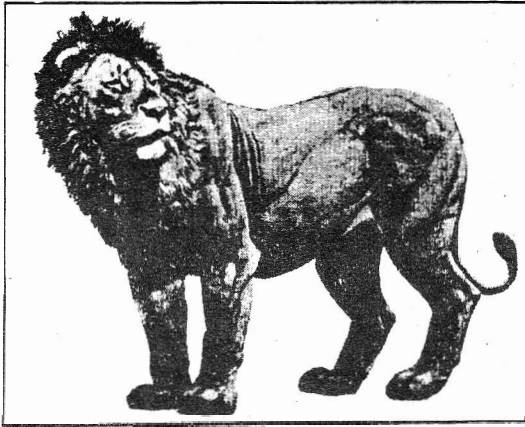


Has your feline had his enteritis booster shot yet this year???

The stuffed enigma

Condensed from BBC WILDLIFE,

By Michael Goss



Drawing of American lion, which was about 25% larger than the African lion and weighed as much as 700 pounds. Paleontologists dug up the animal's lower jaw at La Brea Tar Pits.

By Lee Dye

Rare bones from two extinct animals went on display at the La Brea Tar Pits, just in time to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the George C. Page Museum.

The museum, rare in that it is built on top of the prized resource it was founded to explore, unveiled the latest finds - including the lower jaw from a rare American lion - during birthday celebrations at the facility which is located on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The fossils are 38,000 to 40,000 years old and they come from a new discovery at the site that is so huge it promises to greatly enrich the understanding of the animals that roamed that area so long ago, according to George T. Jefferson, a paleontologist with the Page Museum.

The La Brea Tar Pits, world-famous for the ice age fossils they have already yielded, trapped literally millions of animals over thousands of years, some of which became mired in the bituminous morass while feeding or passing through the area, while others paused to feed on those that had become trapped.

According to Jefferson, the latest fossils came from a site that was first discovered in 1972, when utility work crews accidentally cut into it, "but we didn't expect it to be this size."

About a month ago county work crews began constructing sumps in the area to stop the naturally occurring asphalt from seeping onto Wilshire Blvd., and the entire mass of tar-including fossils it contains, was excavated and dumped in the museum's park. Workers there have been picking through the deposit ever since, finding bits and pieces of numerous birds, including vultures, and many of the animals that were common to the area such as bobcats.

But the most significant find was the lower jawbone of the American lion, which is very rare, Jefferson said. The American lion was about 25% larger than the African lion and weighed as much as 700 pounds, and although parts of as many as 70 other American lions have been found in the tar pits, the latest discovery is still important because the animal was so rare Jefferson said.

"The larger sample that we have, the better chance we have of determining what the species was like as a whole, and the more we can determine about its habits, what it was like and what it did", he said.

Reprinted from World Wildlife Society Newsletter



It is interesting to note that according to PIJAC's legislative monitoring service, since January 1st to March 23rd of this year, some 1,516 animal-related bills have been introduced to 46 legislatures meeting in regular session. Please see your State governing agency elsewhere in this issue-write them and ask to be put on any list they keep to have you advised of upcoming legislation-let us know what's going on - it might help your cat:

Described as "dog-sized- but not a dog" by Scottish gamekeeper Tomas Christie, who claims to have caught it the animal is 107 cm from nose to tail, weighs 6.3 kg and has tusk-like canines, a squat head and shiny black fur flecked with spiky white hairs. Christie adds that has a cat's features but is "definitely not a wildcat".

He says he captured it in the summer of 1983 at the Kellas House estate in Dallas, Grampian (England) and that it was one of a pair he saw crossing the river Lossie. He kept the news to himself until the following spring, when another gamekeeper, Ronie Douglas of Revack Lodge, near Grantown, reported snaring an almost identical animal.

Douglas preserved his catch in the freezer, but its present whereabouts are unknown.

Dr. Frank Turk, a retired reader in zoology at the University of Exeter, says that he has examined the stuffed specimen produced by Christie and is satisfied that it is a mutant melanistic wildcat. He says that, though the cat is "very much larger than most modern wildcats" it shares the broad cranium, bushy tail, passes a hair analysis and shows a wildcat-like tooth pattern - as far as can be determined from the taxidermist's work. He also refers to "persistent characters of the wildcat reported by Conrad Gesner in the 16th century" and the black wildcat named *Felis daemon* in 1904 by the Russian Professor Satunin, who found such an animal living among ordinary wildcats (*Felis silvestris*) in South Caucasus. Three decades later, another Russian zoologist rejected Satunin's conclusions, as he felt the specimen was indistinguishable from a domestic cat. (No melanistic wildcat has ever been recorded in Britain).

Nevertheless, it is difficult to rule out "mesalliance" between a wildcat and a feral domestic cat or any of several other explanations, and most zoologists remain skeptical.

Specialists from the British Museum and the Nature Conservancy Council say that the characteristics put forward by Dr. Turk are far from conclusive, that, for example, the white patches on the chest and thighs may indicate nothing more than wildcat "blood" and that a badly stuffed specimen is not a good enough basis for any kind of verdict.

Printing By **PRINTRIGHT** 10118 SE Washington
254-9542 · Mail 205

It is with sadness that we report the untimely passing of a fellow exotic cat owner and LIOC member. LEANDER DENIZ of Hayward, California, died June 29th of pneumonia.

Leander had long enjoyed the company of his feline family - both domestic and exotic; which included an elegant pair of jungle cats that resided in a backyard enclosure and until recently, "Rock-a-By" leopard cat shared Leander's home.

A man with a gentle nature and love of wildlife, Leander was also an avid hobby photographer and had been, for a time, the editor of Exotics Unlimited Newsletter.

We bid a kindred spirit goodbye.....



HUMPHREY THE WHALE SITED AGAIN

In October, 1985, the world was caught up in the saga of the humpback whale who wandered into San Francisco Bay and couldn't get out again. For over three weeks, hundreds of volunteers tried to guide Humphrey back to the Pacific Ocean, without success. It was feared that the whale would soon die if he could not get out of the Bay. Humphrey's plight captured the attention of even the most cynical critics, who doubted the worth of spending so many dollars (federal, state and private) on trying to save just one whale. But all doubts swept away when Humphrey finally found his way out under the Golden Gate Bridge and back to safety and freedom.

Still, the nagging concern of all who watched was whether or not Humphrey would survive. He had been exposed to fresh water and the pollution of the Sacramento River. Would all the efforts of the volunteers have been in vain?

At last, in August of 1986, photographer John Calambokidis confirmed that Humphrey was alive, well and swimming off Point Reyes, California. Since whales have unique fluke markings (as distinctive as fingerprints) there was indisputable evidence in his photograph that indeed Humphrey had been saved and was reunited with the other humpbacks.

Reprinted from World Society for the Protection of Animals.

CHERNOBYL FALLOUT RESULTS IN REINDEER SLAUGHTER

Norway and Sweden have reported grave danger to reindeer herds as a result of this disaster. Lichen is the staple diet of the reindeer and because this plant takes its nourishment from the atmosphere, rather than the ground, it contains a high level of radioactivity. The lichen or "reindeer moss" is estimated by scientists to contain more than 40,000 rads per kilo; a safe level agreed upon for consumption is considered to be 300 rads.

This has resulted in orders from these governments to destroy a large number of the reindeer which are traditionally farmed in the arctic wastelands. In the five years it will take before radiation levels are reduced to a safe level, it is estimated 100,000 reindeer will be killed.

Sweden is arranging the feeding of calcium which restricts the absorption of caesium and further research to analyze its results. They will also relocate a number of the herds, even though some damage is sure to have already occurred.

Condensed from World Society for the Protection of Animals

About Falls...

Cats have survived falls from as high as 32 stories while dogs and people generally die after plunging 3 floors or more, says an expert who offers reasons why cats have nine lives.

"It's been theorized that cats survive because of their ability to 'right' themselves - when dropped, they can turn themselves from paws up to paws down in just a couple of feet," explained Dr. Michael Garvey, the head of the medicine department at New York's Animal Medical Center.

"When a cat hits the ground its rib cage and abdominal cavity absorb the major impact. The cat's legs

and spine are also exquisitely designed to absorb secondary shocks. Cats are like living shock absorbers. It's as though their muscles and bones were designed for maximum resiliency."

"And we believe that cats are relaxed when they hit, further softening their impact."

While humans and dogs have the ability to right themselves while falling, "They aren't as flexibly built as cats," Dr. Garvey pointed out.

"Humans and dogs generally don't survive a fall from above three stories."

But if a cat survives the first half hour after a fall and receives proper treatment, it has a 90 percent to 95 percent chance of living - even if it has suffered severe injury."

"Large numbers of cats have fallen from as high as 32 stories and lived"

Reprinted from WPS Newsletter



LIOC's registration program was conceived some years ago to insure continuity in our breeding programs. Through this registration we can trace our cat's lineage, monitor and control unwanted inbreeding. Further, registration allows a clear "title" to a cat proving ownership and domestic birth.

If your cat is not registered, do so now - the fee is nominal. Contact:

Karen Jusseaume
168 Taffrail Road
Quincy, Mass 02169

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A ZOO FOR ALL SEASONS THE SMITHSONIAN ANIMAL WORLD

A visit to your National Zoo in Washington, D.C., through the pages of this extraordinary book, will reassure animal lovers from every walk of life that a new age has dawned in the world of zoos. A new age in the art and science of exhibition, a new age in zoo research...touching on such diverse projects as monogamy in marmosets and reproduction in pandas. A new age in animal medical care that runs the gamut from exotic surgery to preventative medicine. And, perhaps most important of all, a new age in animal breeding and reproduction, where the emphasis is on wildlife conservation and the preservation of rare and endangered whose native habitats are disappearing from the face of the earth. In many cases these days, it is a zoo that stands between the animal species and the irreversible journey into extinction.

But a more personal level exists as well - the special relationships between people and animals. In this book, penetrating essays and stunning picture stories introduce you personally to the keepers, vets, curators, landscapers and construction workers. These are the people who consider themselves privileged to work with animals and who view their jobs as "a sacred trust". You'll meet Mitch Bush, chief veterinarian, and agonize as he fights to save the life of an infant orangutan; you will marvel at the patience with which researchers record and describe every moment of an animal's activities; you'll accompany Jim Murtaugh and other keepers as they make their rounds to feed the animals, clean their enclosures and make sure all are healthy and content.

You'll also delve into the history and find out how the National Zoo got its start and barely survived a quirky Congress. How zoos have evolved in the methods they use to acquire exotic animals, no longer mounting massive expeditions to scour remote corners of the world to "bring them back alive", but relying on more exacting field work and on trading not only with foreign governments but with others zoos as well.

What makes the National Zoo unique is its stature as a national institution. That is why the gifts of animals to the people of America reside at the National Zoo. Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling, the pandas from the Peoples Republic of China, for example; and the late, beloved Mohini, a white tiger from India. The cast of animals arriving as gifts to America is truly an intriguing one and comprises an important part of the National heritage.

It is no small job keeping exotic animals in Washington. Here, spring explodes like a rocket. Two days after federal workers have slogged through slush and skidded home on icy streets at midnight, the cherry blossoms open. April brings daffodils hugging every possible bank along the city's Rock Creek Parkway; by May the azaleas are flamboyant. Summers are hot and humid, and we bask through a long, warm autumn. Then winter attacks again, just after Christmas, with snow sometimes piling up to 20 feet.

So how does this climate affect the animals? In A ZOO FOR ALL SEASONS, you will discover that climate both at the National Zoo's Rock Creek and Front Royal sites and at the zoos around the country - has a profound impact on which sort of animals can be displayed and bred.

In sum, A ZOO FOR ALL SEASONS is a book for all animal lovers - young or old. It is a book that rings with warmth and wisdom. Anecdotes make it come alive as few other animal books have. It takes you behind

the scenes at a major zoo and provides an intimate glimpse of the problems and rewards of caring for some of the world's most fascinating animals.

Whether you are interested in animal behavior, conservation, veterinary medicine, or simply in first-rate animal photography, you will find A ZOO FOR ALL SEASONS a treasure.

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Q & A

QUESTION: "If a cougar doesn't kill for the fun of it, how come it sometimes leaves a dead sheep uneaten?"

ANSWER: Wildlife scientists now think that a mother may do this when she's teaching her young to stalk.

Clearing forests threatens to kill species, study warns

Human destruction of forests and other ecosystems threatens to wipe out species on a scale unmatched since the dinosaurs disappeared according to a report from an environmental research group.

Rats, cockroaches and weeds may flourish in the void left by the destructions the report said.

In Latin American forests, 15 percent to 66 percent of the estimated 92,000 plant species could be lost by the end of the century, said the Worldwatch Institute. Similarly, 12 to 69 percent of the bird species of the Amazon Basin could disappear as forest is cleared for farming, ranching and other development.

The institute is a Washington based research organization that frequently reports on what it sees as environmental threats.

Biologists are disturbed by the disappearance of species, because science does not know their significance.

"The species at risk are not numerous enough in the temperate zones and the process not far enough advanced in Latin American forests to merit the label 'mass extinction' yet," said the report by Worldwatch staffer Edward Wolf, who surveyed research by Daniel Simberloff of Florida State University.

But if the upper estimates turn out to be true, it would be "comparable to the extinctions revealed in the fossil record."

The late Cretaceous extinctions 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs vanished, destroyed 11 percent of marine animal families - groups of species - as well as 57 percent of mammal families.

Since 66 percent of Latin American forest plants would be about 14 percent of the plant families, "The magnitude of impending extinctions clearly falls within the range of prehistoric extinctions," wrote Wolf, though comparisons have to be provisional.

"Extinction's survivors, the record shows, tend to be ecological opportunists. They reproduce quickly, eat indiscriminately and tolerate a wide range of conditions - characteristics we associate with pests," he continued.

"Plankton that bloom uncontrolled after a marine extinction, birds like house sparrows and starlings, and the rats, cockroaches and weedy plants that flourish in disturbed environments all suppress the recovery of diversity by their prolific reproduction and intense competition for space.

Reprinted from the Atlanta Journal-AP report
Contributed by Fred Boyajian



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