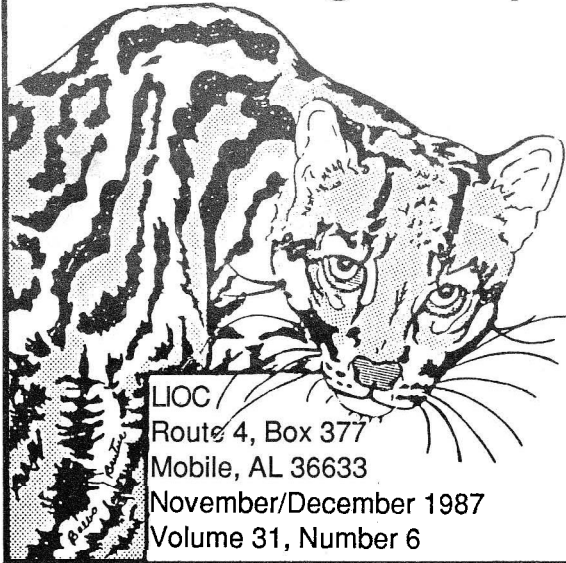


LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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Mercury had a close call recently -- his story is story on page 9.



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Contributions: The newsletter consists of articles, photos and artwork submitted by members. We depend on you for our material -- we can only publish what you send us. Articles of all types on all exotic cat-related subjects are accepted. We also have a Readers Write column.

Deadlines: In order for material to be included in the next issue it should be sent to the Editor by the first day of odd-numbered months. Contributions to Feature articles should be sent to the Asst. Editor by the first day of odd-numbered months.

Future Feature article topics:

Circus Cats and Teaching Your Cat Tricks
Cat (Pet or Livestock) Insurance
Basic Household Cat-Proofing



President's Perspective

A Case for National Policies

LIOC will soon be Thirty-Five. When interest and animals were plentiful our membership swelled. Then there was a dramatic decline when there were a lot of laws that discouraged their ability and rights to private ownership. There is an ebb and flow to everything over time in the formation of Public policy and we need to reflect on our history to guide our future evolution rather than overreacting which would only result in disarray.

There are at least two sides to this issue but let me offer an oversimplification. The private sectors believes it right to own anything it pleases for any activity without restraint versus the governments desire to act in the public interest to protect health and human safety by regulating everything out of private hands and into institutional structures (animal welfare and environmental concerns only of minor interest because they can not vote.) The truth is some where in the middle and difficult to define so where does LIOC stand?

In recent issues several forms and questionnaires have been included to help us build a database so that we can analyze the status and needs of our member and animals. This process is ongoing as we continue to grow. Even with our new By-Law and organization structure our resources are still any limited so we must carefully prioritise what will do the most good for the majority of our members.

Although the development of educational and conservation materials to enhance the welfare of our animals is an ideal goal that most of us share, we must carefully balance there desire with the need to be vigilant and be able to attempt by those who would curtail our rights. It is much the same in our US economy where defense and domestic issues compete for dollars.

There are many changes for the coming in the USDA and USDI and on state and local levels and many of them may not be in our interest. Our best defense against these changes is our ability to keep informed and be part of the process as it develops. This all takes time and more than a few bucks and therefore diverts some of our energies from helping you with your animals.

Though many of you do not want to be bothered with any legal or political matters, they are a growing reality today in the way we care for our animals. Most importantly these realities not only reflect who shall have the animals, but directly correlate to the availability of future animals. Government policies in these areas directly affect the enhancement or suppression of species more than animal welfare laws.

Apathy and independence which until recently has prevailed within LIOC work against a cohesive National organization. Now, with our new by-laws and your help we can begin to coordinate our activities. We can lend national support with clout on a state and local level. We can pool our resources and information to provide better care for our cats and help for new members.

While a branch may be able to help you on a local level for a particular personal problem it is LIOC National that must address the wider issues that affect us all. But we need help from you in the general membership on 2 levels. First we need your opinions and as much information about development

with exotic animals from all over. Any incident about an irresponsible owner can lead to a lighting a legislative ball. Being a reactionary against organized opposition is not a good defense so the more facts and intelligent comments we have from you, the better our ability to form a national policy that reflects you needs, not just for defensive purposes but also promoting our traditional goals.

Secondly we need those of you who can actually volunteer your time to assist our officers and directors do the work. The more participation the better the results. Too many are relying on too few and we can not afford to rely on any one individual and assume that we will produce adequate results.

Exotic owners may be as varied as their animals, but the animals face extinction because they cannot fight back on our terms and this lack of adaptability to join together for common cause threatens their survival. As advocates of their interest we as owners must recognize the value of cooperative effort, especially in light of the fact that it is man's competing interest for habitat in pursuit of his own society that has unbalanced nature.

Individual effort is laudible but only when we can show the strength of involved members when called upon as an organization. And so it is with LIOC that our efforts are more recognizable when we join with other wildlife groups to press our case for equity and sanity with the government.

For our small part and in association with others, in one case the effort has turned the course in our favor. The Model State Animal Law that caused such an aberration in February has been revised and released for comment. Dr. Nettles and his staff listened to our comments and this draft is much better. A few highlights: 1) Permits: it does provide for a regulations review board with a technical consulting committee. 2) Provides permits for A) Personal Possession of non-breeding, non-commercial animals B) Hobbyist Collector/Propagator permits for breeding animals, C) Rehabilitator, D) Scientific research, E) Dealer/Propagator for commercial license and F) Exhibitor. 3) An expeditious permit process with judicial review, and direct prior notice to all residents known to possess animals of any impending law or change in regulations.

The most important change is that this model treats each category of specie by function or use of each specie rather than one species specific rule that served no one. (Old Class I, Class II System)

Of course there are restrictions but for the most part they are reasonable and the regulators have made it clear that this is still only a draft and comments are welcome thru 12-31-87, so contact me or your local branch rep for details. It is only my opinion that there will be at least 1 more redraft of this proposal before it reaches its final form for desemenation to the legislative process late in 1988. Since this is only a model, each state might consider part, all or a modification for adoption or reject it altogether and this process will take additional years.

All in all everyone is to the commended for reworking this document. We should all express a special thanks again to Pat Hctor for alerting and precipitating a national movement of diverse and independent exotic animal groups to recognize common goals and to work out solutions with the regulators rather than stirring up antagonistic tribal groups who would subvert a rational process solely to assure their personal programs and political interests.

If we love our animals, we in LIOC would be well advised to do the same. What ever our short run differences our cats are depending on us to resolve them amicably so we concentrate on their welfare and enhancement.

— Continued on page 4

HELP!

We are frequently asked to provide a book list on various aspects of our felines and their welfare. Unfortunately such a list does not currently exist. However, we would like to remedy this and ask each of you to take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to help. Please go to your bookshelves (or better yet, the public library near you) and make a list of any books there dealing with any aspect of the exotic feline. Please give us the author, publisher (and their address shown on the fly page) along with a brief description of the book's contents, storyline, etc.

A booklist can then be compiled and those contributing to the initial effort will be rewarded with a free copy of this listing. In the future, this will then be available to new members at a small cost.

We hear so many complaints about what LIOC DOES NOT DO, that we sincerely hope you will take the little time necessary to do this in an effort to improve LIOC and the services it provides.

SEND TO: LIOC, Rt 4, Box 377, Mobile, AL 36619 - THANK YOU!

Cheetahs Are Cheated by Estrogen In Diet

One of the fastest animals on Earth is not surviving or reproducing well in captivity in the United States, and its diet is largely to blame.

Liver disease is the most common cause of death for cheetahs in the U.S. zoos, but only when scientists began comparing the mainly horse-meat and soybean diet of captive cheetahs in the U.S. and the diet of unprocessed meat fed captive cheetahs in South Africa did they determine that the naturally occurring estrogen in the soybeans was disrupting the animals' reproductive functions and damaging their livers. The estrogen acts as a contraceptive and damages the uterus by causing it to become fibrous.

Scientists were able to reverse the liver damage in some of the cats by replacing the usual horsemeat and soybean feed with white chicken meat, but it is doubtful whether it is possible to correct the reproductive damage says Dr. Kenneth Setchell, professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati, who, along with researchers at the Cincinnati Zoo examined the cheetahs.

Captive cheetahs in South Africa live as long as 15-20 years in captivity compared to an average lifespan of 9 years in the American Zoos. Only 10 percent of the female cheetahs in the United States have produced live cubs in the last few years, compared with fertility rates of 60-80 percent in zoos in other areas of the world.

Setchell and the other researchers involved will provide recommendations on diet and treatment for captive cheetahs to American zoo administrators in December.

Reprinted from INSIGHT/November 9, 1987
Contributed by John Perry

President's Perspective - cont

LIOC must become involved in defining what responsible ownership is in general and feline ownership in particular. The issue is not whether LIOC National is going to advocate reasonable standards of conduct to its members or branches but whether, if we do nothing but quibble on a sophomore level, our better organized adversaries will pass legislation that will dictate their one sided standards to us.

Fred Boyajian

Hamburgers Are Killing Trees

Lunch isn't what it used to be. It isn't bad enough that the plastic "clamshell" your burger comes in contains chemicals that may destroy the earth's ozone layer. Environmentalists have another beef: the burger itself.

To support their herds, ranchers in Latin America are carving out grazing land from the rain forest. Partly because it takes 55 square feet to produce enough grazing area for a single all-beef patty (let's not discuss Double Whoppers), at least 260 rain-forest acres disappear every day with troubling consequences for the planet's climate and diversity of life.

To break this hamburger connection, environmentalists have called for a boycott of fast-food outlets until they stop using Central American beef, 90 percent of which goes to the United States.

The Rainforest Action Network, in San Francisco, has already scored one victory. Recently Burger King told its suppliers to stop buying the south-of-the-border beef. McDonald's and Wendy's deny they use such beef, but the Los Angeles based Earth First! is still asking consumers to avoid all fast-fooderies. So far, the campaign hasn't exactly won over the man in the seat.

Reprinted from Newsweek.

LIFE DIRECTOR BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Enclosed in this issue is the ballot for the election of two Life Director to replace Catherine Cisin and Dr. Roger Harmon who recently resigned. All nominees were asked to write their thoughts and feelings on several issues (see Volume 31, Number 4, page 18) Below are their contributions. Please consider that LIOC's four Life Directors are elected and serve indefinitely along with the Officer and four Term Directors which are elected for two-year terms. They serve to provide a cohesive influence over the long range and should have a proven record of service to offer.

LIOC elects its Directors by preferential ballot. Each person of a married couple has a vote so two spaces are provided on each ballot along with a place for both signatures. Please number your choices in order of preference - 1, 2 & 3.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR BALLOT IMMEDIATELY TO:

Suzi Wood, Secretary/Treasurer
LIOC
6 E Lake Circle Drive
Medford, N.J. 08055

I believe the Life Director's primary purpose is to ensure that the question "How will this action benefit exotic cats now and in the future?" is asked as we expand our operations and membership. Further, the Life Directors must provide input concerning what worked in the past and more importantly if something didn't work. We should not repeat mistakes and waste effort. My eleven plus years as a member and officer would bring experience to bear.

In my professional work, as a food process engineer, I have been involved with a number of animal nutrition projects. I've also worked with the University of Minnesota Vet School in exotic milk analysis.

I've bred Geoffroy's cats for ten years (in two different states) and am aware of the problems involved with handling and moving the animals. The exchange of experience and knowledge about the cats is why most of us joined the club. Trading information about cats and their care is no longer enough. The club members must be increasingly aware that the government wants to eliminate the keeping of exotic pets (because it is an irritant) without considering the necessary contribution we make in keeping the species alive. Club members and other exotic keepers will not have the luxury of just being able to go their own isolated ways. We must respond in a concerted manner to protect our keeping and breeding of exotics. I see Life Directors aiding to develop the mechanisms and communications necessary for such activities.

Planning is another skill which will be needed as we expand. Much of my professional work is related to project design and planning. I feel this is directly applicable to developing projects for expanding and improving LIOC's activities. Planning goes beyond preparing a schedule of who is to do what when and how much will it cost. Planning must ensure a commitment to the objectives and goals that meet the club member's needs.

If you support my views of the purpose of a Life Director I would appreciate your support electing me to this position.

John Perry



First and foremost, let me acknowledge what an honor it is even to be considered, much less nominated for a Life Director! The shoes left vacant by Catherine Cisin and Roger Harmon are legendary and will be difficult to fill.

Most of you have seen my name since I have served as Editor of the Newsletter since 1974 and have been re-elected to the position of Term Director since the inception of its current form in 1974 as well. Previously, I served as Secretary/Treasurer and Membership Secretary under Catherine's regime beginning in 1970. I was honored to receive the Lotty in 1975.

I have raised margays and oncillas and further have been privileged to share my home with ocelots, cougar, Geoffroy's cat and serval.

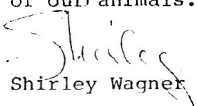
Although there is a rumor about that I am "old-guard" and "against progress", I assure you nothing is further from the truth. However, I do believe we should remember our roots and our primary goal of educating exotic owners to better care for their animals, secondly educating non-owners to the need for private conservation efforts and breeding. It is from there, with whatever resources we have left, that we should take aim on expansion of LIOC's programs.

I did not vote against the newly adopted by-laws just to oppose change. I felt (and still do) that there was much good contained in them. However I also feel that there is much that could be potentially harmful as evidenced by our loss of at least one branch and another potential group.

I hope that by participating as a Life Director I can assist in modifying the new by-laws to correct these deficiencies to a point that these Branches can re-join us actively.

I would also actively move for more and better educational aids, booklets and perhaps even video cassettes to better educate new owners to care for their charges.

It is also my feeling that the Board should as a whole guide LIOC thereby including as many in the decision making process as possible, you've elected each and everyone of them and they should be heard. Although LIOC's resources may be limited I fully believe we can be a viable force in the legislative process, but only if we all take an active part. No one person can do it all. LIOC should be a collective effort, participating to the betterment of our animals.


Shirley Wagner



Dear Friends:

I was recently honored at the 1987 Convention by being nominated by the Executive Board of LIOC for a position as Life Director.

It has been a long way back to 1969 when Herb and I joined LIOC. The first big impact was at our first convention in Portland in 1974. We were in awe at the presence of Ken Hatfield, Pepper Perry, Danny Treanor, Shirley Wagner and Dr. Roger Harmon. The names from the Newsletter came alive and they were people just like us - cat owners and cat lovers sharing their knowledge with us. Catherine Cisin did not attend the convention that year but I met her in Florida in 1975.

As a founding member of the Oregon Educational Exotic Feline Club, I worked in a teaching club to educate our younger generation about the importance of perserving our Endangered Species.

Receiving the Lotty award in 1981 was one honor I never expected, but that golden stature alongside Herb's means one heck of a lot!

I was honored again a few years ago by being appointed Membership Secretary for LIOC. It was a big job and I spent many hours typing, filing and trying to answer questions from hundreds of people who were interested, curious and some desperate for information.

LIOC was founded as a club of exotic cat owners to share their joys, problems and triumphs and assist one another. The Newsletter formed a bond between us. I hope that by serving as a Life Director I can be a force in restoring the original concepts of LIOC.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wilton

Regretfully, Jean Hatfield and Danny Treanor have declined their nominations.



OTHER READING



In the November, 1987, edition of SMITHSONIAN, Geoffrey C. Ward has written "India's Intensifying Dilemma: Can Tigers and People coexist?"

An in-depth look at the problems of India trying to cope with her increasing populations of both people and tigers. As always in SMITHSONIAN, it is accompanied by a multitude of beautiful photos and illustrates that although successful in increasing the tiger population there, India is now faced with the conflict it causes. Recommended reading for any conservationist.



CATS OF THE WORLD: BIOLOGY, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT.

Ed. S.D. Miller & D.D. Everett, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. Washington, D.C. 20036
501 pages \$20.00-paperback (stock # 79786)

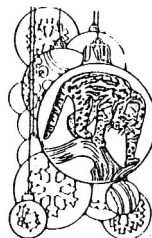
The gestations period is probably a record, but at last the offspring of the International Cat Symposium held 4-6 October 1982 on the campus of the Texas A & I University in Kingsville, Texas has been born. CATS OF THE WORLD, the proceedings of the symposium is now available and will be an invaluable reference work from now on. Many of the leading world experts on cats contributed to they symposium with papers on the status, social interactions and behavior, reproductive behavior, population dynamics, predator/prey interactions and resource use and conservation strategies.

It is perhaps illustrative of the problems faced by editors of proceedings that several important papers are represented only by abstracts, the authors having presumably failed, as novelist Trollope described the art of writing, to "apply the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair." This is a pity, for one would have liked to see their contributions fully recorded. Perhaps the Editors had them in mind when they wrote the introduction: "research and public dissemination of research results to public administrators and to the public at large is crucial." Incidentally, I could not help noticing that the guilty parties included three members of the CAT GROUP.

The section on the status of cats ranges through important areas of Asia, but India is a notable omission. This is surprising, given that Project Tiger, launched in 1973, has been one of the most publicized of all wildlife conservation projects, and information about the area's 15 felid species - the highest number of any country in the world - although scanty, is better than that from most of the world. Only Kenya, Uganda and Botswana represent the African continent, from which it would have been desirable to have something from Zimbabwe and South Africa as well in view of the advanced state of research and knowledge from those those countries, not to mention Equatorial and West Africa. The only Latin American country covered in the volume is Venezuela which reflects the paucity of knowledge of the neotropical cats in the continent. Happily, since the symposium was held the flow of information has improved to some extent.

In terms of biology and behavior, there is a heavy bias towards North American species, notably the bobcat. This is undoubtedly because of the location of the symposium, as well as the fact that more work has been done the area. But one hopes the next symposium on cats will redress the balance.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS



Glad Tidings

BOBCATS
or
A Holiday Tale, in Two Parts, With a Moral

Part One

I live in what is, more or less, downtown Pittsburgh. Local people will tell you that Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods; after having lived here for three years I agree. My neighborhood is a quiet, older one and most of the people who live in it are first generation European immigrants. There is an occasional student, like me, who prefers the community atmosphere and who has discovered the low rents and there are a number of younger, second generation families who still enjoy speaking the old language in their day-to-day life. We have a neighborhood greengrocer, a neighborhood butcher, a neighborhood bar and grill, a bakery, a barber, an antique store and (to come to the point of this story) a pet store.

When I first moved here I visited all the shops in the neighborhood, including the pet store. The greengrocer's vegetables were fresh and beautiful. He had crates of polished fruit, piles of different colored lettuces, asparagus at 79 cents a pound -- I was impressed. The pet store was another story. The shop was dark and dusty. It smelled.

The man behind the counter told me that he and his wife ran the shop. He said he took care of the store while his wife had a sideline in the grooming business. I spent a few minutes wandering around and was relieved to note that there were far more boxes and bottles on the shelves than there were animals in the cages. The bulk of the shop's animal trade seemed to be fish, gerbils, and mice. On closer inspection these small animals seemed relatively well cared for.

The owner told me that he did most of his business by request and that most of his customers were people in the neighborhood. For example, one of the waitresses at a popular restaurant across the street had just asked for a hamster for her daughter. The owner had told her he could get one within a few days. An older couple had a canary and wanted a second one "exactly like it." The owner was trying to find such a bird and said it would take him about two weeks.

I have a few aquariums around the house, so I asked the owner if he had any feeder goldfish. He took me to the back of the store and showed me a tank filled with fish. The tank was filthy and there were about a dozen or so dead fish floating on top. After a quick look, I decided to continue to buy my fish supplies in the suburbs. I left the store in an uneasy frame of mind, but one day slipped into the next and I never returned or did anything about how I felt.

Last year at about this time I paid another visit to the pet store. A friend of mine came to see me. She has a guinea pig, and she had stopped into the pet store to buy some seeds to feed it. She said she noticed a strange-looking cat in one of the cages "which didn't look too good." She knows of my interest in exotics, and she said she felt sure that what she had seen was no ordinary kitten. Off I went.

In a small cage, in the back of the pet store, was a tiny bobcat. She couldn't have been more than six or seven weeks old. She had a rust colored coat with very few spots and huge unhappy eyes. The man behind the counter told me that he had gotten the kitten for a customer who'd "special ordered" it. The customer was in the armed forces and had suddenly gotten transferred to a location where he was not allowed to own pets. The man continued by saying that the kitten was "a mess of trouble because she was so finicky." Apparently she hadn't eaten for four days: the four days she'd been in the store. I asked him what he had tried to feed her. "Dry kitten chow," he said. I ran home for a can of Zupreem and a can of unsweetened condensed milk.

We made a thin gruel of the milk and a small amount of Zupreem. While the kitten was lapping at the mixture, I asked the shopkeeper where he had gotten her and what he was planning on doing with her. He said he'd gotten her from a friend somewhere in the north of the state and that he was planning on selling her to anyone who was interested. He asked me if I was interested (as I obviously must have seemed), but (hard as it was to say) I had to tell him that there was no way I could accommodate the kitten. I live in a three-room apartment, I have two cats already, and they are both very small. Adding what would eventually be a full-grown bobcat to that situation would only have made us all unhappy.

That evening I came home and called one of my LIOC friends. I told her the story and asked her if she knew anyone who wanted a bobcat kitten. She didn't know of anyone who wanted one immediately, but she said she'd ask around. She also suggested that I call some vets in the area. I called several, and one man referred me to another vet in the area who had an interest in exotics. I called her. She turned out to be an old LIOC member who had let her membership lapse in recent years. Although she didn't want her name mentioned, she was willing to help me out. She said she'd do it "for the cat." She didn't want a bobcat kitten either (she has some of her own), but she did have some other names and numbers for me. One of these led to another woman, who lived in the south part of the state, who had a lot of land, and who raised bobcats. I gave that woman's number to the pet store owner, he called her, and sold her the kitten.

I went back to the shop a few times after the kitten was placed, and I never found another bobcat. Each time I went back, there were fewer and fewer animals of any sort. Now, this holiday season, the neighborhood pet shop seems closed.

Part Two

As far as I can tell, LIOC is about helping exotic felines. I remember reading somewhere, in something published by LIOC, that involvement with exotics was primarily for the animals' benefit and secondarily for our benefit. I remember reading, in a book from the 1950's or 1960's called "Know Your Ocelots and Margays," that involvement with exotics was not suggested for people interested in status seeking and that such people might want to think about becoming involved with Cadillacs or Irish Wolfhounds instead. (No slur intended to the cars or to the dogs -- we are the ones who assign value judgements.)

We have had alot of talk lately about who and what LIOC is about. There has been a lot of politics and a lot of status seeking. I consider politics a dangerous activity and I am not good at it. The most dangerous obligation I have fulfilled for LIOC so far has been stuffing, sealing and stamping 500 envelopes in one night. As for status seeking, I think about the cats. They don't. I try not to. But. If I am going to be contributing articles I need to have something to say. This issue (despite my lack of expertise) I'd like to say something about politics and about helping, talking and acting.

As far as I am concerned, *who LIOC is about* is the cats and *what LIOC is about* is helping them. More specifically this means helping to:

Preserve and protect them in the wild,
Make it possible for them to reproduce in the wild,
Maintain and propagate them in captivity,
Find out more about them,
Educate people about them and
Persuade other people to join us in helping.

There are other items that belong on the list, but you know what I am talking about. I am not talking about who does what, who is responsible for what, who is responsible to who etc. I am talking about goals we all share; tasks we all can engage in; things we all can do.

I know that the items on the above list will not happen by themselves, that they have to be done by people, and that people have to be organized to do them. Wherever people have to be organized there is going to be politics. And some people will emerge as politicians. The politicians will help by talking, by focusing issues, by drawing attention and by lobbying with the people outside the organization. Within LIOC, in the best possible case, the politicians will help the cats most by helping to deal with people. In many cases (just because of who they are and how long they have been in the organization) the politicians will also help by acting: by setting examples as responsible private owners and breeders, by determining policies, by contributing advice and by using their power and experience to deal with emergencies.

I will be the first to admit that there are people who are not politicians. I've already said that I don't consider myself one. I am, however, interested in helping the cats: that's one of the reasons why I joined LIOC. And during the time I've been a member, I've learned that there are things I can do which directly address LIOC goals. Without being political.

When I first joined in 1985, I was primarily interested in getting a cat. I saw the LIOC ad in the back of "Cats Magazine," sent my money in, got the brochures, promptly joined, and was sent a copy of the newsletter with a Safari on the front cover. The breed seemed perfect for me. They were small and could live in an apartment. They seemed to be affectionate. They were part domestic and might be a good behavioral introduction to exotics. With the help of various LIOC members, notably Suzi Wood, I got a female Safari kitten (Mitzi). She was wonderful and I was enchanted.

The newsletters kept coming. I kept reading them and I kept talking to Suzi. Over the months I came to learn what LIOC was all about. It was not about having a breathtaking spotted cat in your living room, but about assuring the future of exotic felines in the wild and in captivity.

After a year I was convinced that I wanted to play more of a role in exotic conservation. I studied the various breeds and came to the conclusion that I liked Geoffroy's Cats. Again, they were small, seemed to be even-tempered, and there were LIOC members with experience to help me. I went to the Washington, DC zoo, saw some Geoffroy's and made up my mind. At the 1986 convention I got a male Geoffroy's (Max) from John Perry. My intent was initially to breed the Safari and the Geoffroy's, and eventually to acquire a female Geoffroy's. (No luck yet with the first option, we're starting to consider the second one.)

During the past year I have become involved with the newsletter. Through all kinds of politics (which I still do not understand) I am Assistant Editor. (I admit that I volunteered to help out. I am a writer by profession and I thought that, aside from keeping cats, the best way I could help was to put my skills to use.) I am responsible for printing and mailing the newsletter and for writing an article for each issue. This issue and the last one were late, because I am still figuring out how long doing this takes and what exactly is involved. I have learned a lot though, and I hope that next years' issues will go much quicker. (A note to western PA and eastern OH members: anyone interested in an envelope-stuffing party please call me. It's a big job for one person and I'd appreciate some help.)

I also talk about LIOC a lot. And, of course, everyone who comes to my house and sees my animals gets introduced to LIOC. There are so many people who are interested in cats and it is easy to extend their interest to exotics. Most of the people I have talked to have never heard of LIOC. Once I describe our organization to them they want to know how to join.

And then there is the incident with my neighborhood pet store. Just by being involved, by making my interests known, by spending some time on the phone, I have helped. When I think about it, it seems as if I might not really have done that much. What is one captive bred bobcat against acres and acres of rain forest everyday? *One bobcat*. That's the answer. If each of us affects the life only one animal . . .

Moral

Let's try being "cats come first, people come second" people where LIOC is concerned. And remember that we all can do things to help -- even those of us who are politically uninvolved.



meet Mitzi Mischief & Max Miauw!

A Cougar's Tale

I'm writing this story in hopes that it might save an exotic life. I'm new to the exotic community, having owned cougars for two and a half years, but I've come a long way from the idealistic, romantic I once was. Mercury was my first cougar, purchased from a nearby exotic animal dealer at the tender age of 10 days. It was an impulsive purchase to be honest. We had ordered a bobcat, but spontaneously bought the adorable furball when we had intended to only visit. It was a turning point in my life and my husband's. Mercury is the child we never had, and owning and caring for him has been a rare privilege.

This is the true story of how through a moment of inattentiveness we almost lost his life. We live in a rural area of western Arkansas, on thirty acres. There are an estimated 25 wild cougars living in this prime cougar country. They are extremely endangered here. We feel very proud to be housing and caring for cougars in a country that certainly should contain more.



Since he was our first, we naturally made a few mistakes, but I also feel that we were very inventive and creative in dealing with the particular problems of raising cougars. Mercury had plenty of freedom while he was a young adolescent. We attached a large bell to his collar so that when we let him out in the morning we could hear where he was and if we weren't sure, we'd call and he would always answer in his high-pitched and very loud whistle. He was a good boy, very loving and attached. I proceeded to teach him to walk on a leash, a very challenging and sometimes hopeless situation. But, through patience and persistence, the secret to any exotic training, I was successful.

But I still let him roam around on our property, wearing his bell and trailing a leash, as long as he stayed in sight or hearing distance. Mercury was growing up, he began to wander, and several times I had to track him down, a skill I developed by "thinking like a cougar" I honestly could deduce where he was headed, by considering the time of day, his mood, and of course, the drag marks of his leash. Mercury was raised with our hunting dog and chow dog, so often they were all "hunting" together.

One day, after a pronounced change in behavior, the inevitable happened. Mercury had been wandering more of late, and he was sixteen months old. He was at an age where he was asserting his independence. I stopped letting him experience unsupervised travels - he had to be on the leash with me. He had visited the neighbors and at a weight of over a hundred pounds, he was no longer welcome. The neighbors claimed they had heard a wild cougar screaming. We figured Mercury was attempting to contact members of his own kind, and decided to purchase him a girlfriend.

We designed and built a compound beside his and it was almost complete as soon we would bring home an adorable 7 month old female companion for him. That, we

figured, would cure his wanderlust.

One afternoon, I took Mercury on a leash walk. We headed down our hill to the vegetable garden. Suddenly, the urge to weed the vegies overtook me, so I let go of the leash. Mercury then followed the dogs over the next hill towards our creek. I didn't feel like following the way they had taken through the woods, so I walked down our gravel road and figured I'd meet him at the creek.

I was wrong. He wasn't there. I figured he had gotten himself tangled in the underbrush, so I backtracked to locate him. I was wrong. So I crossed the creek and headed downstream to find him. I was wrong. So I checked the neighbors' cows to find him, but once again I was wrong. Then I began retracing my steps wasting valuable time. The trail was getting cold, I was at a loss. My "cougar sense" failed me. The only place I hadn't checked was upstream, and I didn't want to do that because of the tick population and the fact that the nearest house was a ways up the creek. My husband and I had a sinking feeling. We knew there were several very bad possibilities for Mercury. One, he could have gotten himself tangled in the woods and would have to figure out to chew his rope, a thing he had never done before. Two, he could have hung himself. Three, he could find his way to a neighbor's house or a neighbor's cattle field and get himself shot. At this point, hindsight tells me we should have gotten on the phone and alerted the neighbors of our missing cougar. But, at the time, pride and embarrassment stopped us. We had no choice but to sit home and wait by the phone.

Outside, the large, double cougar pens remained empty, a sadness filled the air. Then the phone rang. It was our neighbor up the creek - he had shot Mercury!

He thought he was a dog that had hassled his cows before. When he saw Mercury's tail and the thirty-foot yellow leash, he knew it was a cougar. He apologized and told us if we wanted to save him to get up there FAST! Bart and I jumped in the truck. When we arrived the neighbor told us his dog was barkin' at the woods and he figured Mercury was still out there. I called and Mercury immediately answered. It was dark by now and with a flashlight we located our runaway cougar, who had gotten himself tangled around a tree. He was so glad to see us, but we were sick! There were blood stains on his side.

Mercury seemed his old self, but the evidence was ominous. We thanked the neighbor for calling us as we live in country where the unwritten rule is to shoot to kill any dog caught chasing cattle and then bury them without saying a word.

Back home, Mercury came in the kitchen while I called the vet. He seemed fine, in fact he was looking on the counters for dinner. We told him "No" since we figured he would be in surgery soon.

At the vet's we struggled to sedate him. Then the x-rays started. The vet told me it looked bad. The 22 bullet was directly over the liver and spleen area. We could hope it hit a rib and was deflected, but if not, Mercury was not long for this world. I prayed and cried, secretly all I could think of was "liver transplant".



Things looked hopeless, but cats do have 9 lives-right? The first x-ray, which was developed at the hospital across town, showed no bullet. The x-ray operator was kind enough to lend us a human x-ray plate, since the vet's plates weren't showing a large enough area. To think that the life forces were draining out of my precious "little boy" because of a moment of inattentiveness was destroying me. It wasn't fair. After all, we had stopped playing chances with his freedom.

The vet returned after driving to the hospital again. The news was unbelievable. There was no bullet inside him, and no internal damage. The bullet was either a dud or so slow by the time it hit him that it only went in an inch or so and then worked its way out again. We drove our poor, drugged cougar home at 12:30 at night and thanked God and the vet. I wasn't gonna have to pay a high price for my foolish mistake.

The next day Mercury, still drugged and wobbly, insisted on coming in the house to sit with me. He could barely walk but he was determined to be by him "mom". The vet had warned me that the drug used to sedate him might make him unpredictable and even violent, but nothing like that happened to him. I cried for days, thinking how close a call I had.

We never again let him roam unsupervised. We set out to get him a female companion. Then we enlarged his yard to over a half acre. I still take him for daily walks and am extremely proud of our relationship. He is somewhat spoiled, but he deserves it. He is mindful. He is cooperative and he is loving. He now weighs about one hundred and fifty pounds, and if he wasn't cooperative I couldn't take him for walks or swims in the creek, something he and his girlfriend, Tara, both love to do in the summer.

Lynn Culver

HARTZ BLOCKADE FLEA SPRAY MAY BE DEADLY

A recent segment of CBS's series *60 Minutes* brought to light several reported cases of deaths in otherwise supposedly healthy animals after the use of Hartz Mountain's new flea spray Blockade.

Company spokesmen who were interviewed made light of the "insignificant" numbers of users who experienced problems in comparison to the great numbers of those who did not have any problem with the product.

However, while the Environmental Protection Agency conducts new toxicity tests, Hartz has agreed to put a warning on the product which will caution users among other things not to use it on animals less than a year old, on pregnant cats of an old, sick or debilitated animal.

The active agents in the spray, have been tested and used safely but the two main ingredients have not been approved as safe in combination. The EPA states this is not unusual. Once an ingredient is tested and approved, it is not usually retested only because it is in combination with another tested ingredient.

More Branches Withdraw

To The Officers & Directors of LIOC:

We have thoughtfully and thoroughly reviewed the newly adopted by-laws and feel that they so radically change the concept of the organization and the manner in which it will be governed in the future, that we can no longer participate as a Branch.

It is our feeling that the increased financial burden on branch members is totally unwarranted. Further, the by-laws governing branches are autocratic and overly restrictive as are the concepts set forth in the new by-laws.

Until such time as LIOC returns to its original concepts and turns away from these bureaucratic dictates as expressed in these by-laws, we will continue to meet without affiliation with LIOC as a branch.

Regretfully the Former members of the South-Western Branch

Dear Fred,

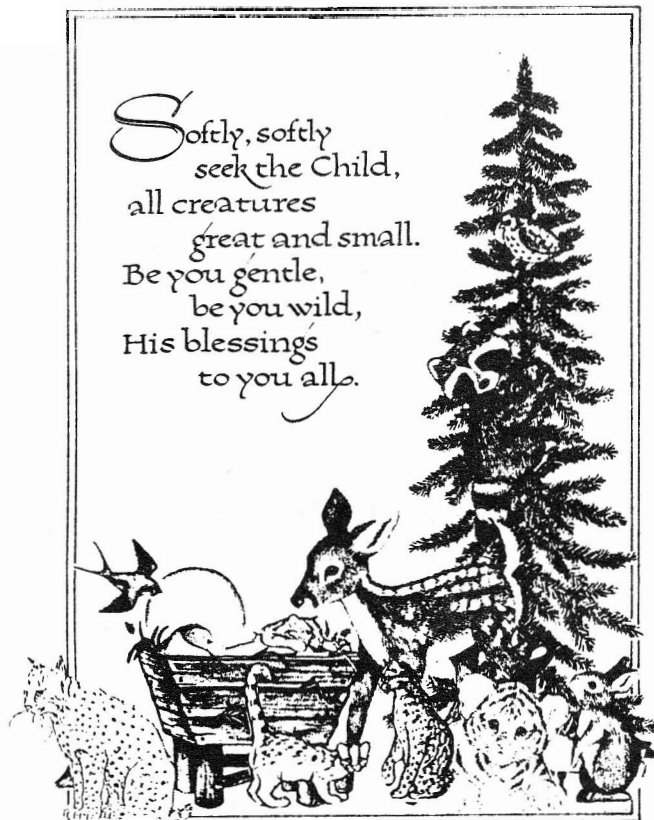
I am enclosing a copy of the questionnaire we sent to our club members. The overwhelming majority voted to discontinue our branch status.

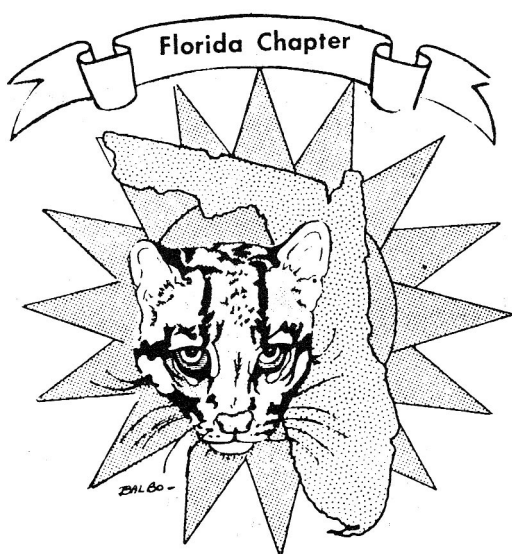
I have held this vote for two months in the hope that you would recognize that the new by-laws were causing LIOC to lose its branches and would voluntarily do something about it. We could then take another vote and perhaps continue as a LIOC branch. You leave us no choice.

As President of Northwest Exotic Feline Society, I hereby withdraw this club as a branch of LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. Effective December 1, 1987.

We as individuals will continue to support LIOC as active members and will try to make the 1988 Convention as enjoyable as the previous ones.

Sincerely,
Ethel Hauser
President
NWEFS





NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

The meeting dawned bright and early with Fred Boyajian knocking on our door, ready to head to Sanford, where the Central Florida Zoological Park is located. He came in from Atlanta to join our branch on an outing to the zoo, and was trying to see as many people along the way as he could. Also, I think, to find out why we are so unorganized (when it was time to leave at the end of the day, I think it was still a mystery to him.)

I gave him the grand tour of my backyard "sanctuary" where my two Geoffroy's Tara and Mickey, wallow in the lap of luxury, occasionally chasing poor Pierre pussycat around the premises. I then let my two "little darlings" out on their leashes to impress Fred with their skills of running through a 15 foot PVC pipe (that's about the extent of their talent, except for making mischief).

While I was getting my act together, Dennis gave Fred a "look-see" under the hood of the truck to show him our new gas engine he put in this week to replace an old diesel one. Eventually, I was ready to go and running late as usual and with Dennis about to take a cattle prod to me if I didn't hurry up, we finally were on our way.

It's about an hour and a half to Sanford, and after blowing everyone off the interstate, we squeaked in with fifteen minutes to spare. NO PROBLEM! We were the first ones to show up, not counting our host.

Lee & Mickie Crowell volunteered to host the bunch of us this time, and they did a super job of it. As we all straggled in during the next half hour, they set out a delicious lunch for us in the picnic area featuring all my favorite picnic foods and topping it off with a yummy cake.

Patrick was with Danny and Ellen, til Dennis stole him away with a stuffed monkey for bribery, and in return Patrick smeared cookies on him the rest of the time. He's such a doll. At almost 16 months, he looks like a person now, instead of a baby. After everyone was nice and full, I collected the lunch money, which the Crowell's generously donated back to the club and with a little more from the kitty, we gave the zoo a little of our support by way of a donation. We appreciate them giving us their time and letting our group in at no cost. Lee is a docent at the zoo, which is a fancy word for instructor and gives educational tours on a volunteer basis.

After lunch and gabbing with old friends and new ones, we had a meeting called to order and were introduced to Tom Williams who is the Educational Director of the zoo. He talked to us a little bit about conservation and preservation of the animal's habitats. Fred questioned him on his terminology of zoo ownership versus private owners, whereas, Mr. Williams concluded that the private sector can also be a contributor in the survival of a species. We then met

Joe Schrader, the Assistant Educational Director, Jim Sohlienz, and the two feline keepers, Bonnie Breitbeil and Liz Harmon, plus we had Debra Renfro, member of LIOC and former feline keeper joining us.

Danny then introduced Fred who briefed us on the new by-laws of LIOC, and to answer any questions we might have about them and to encourage us to participate and be more involved with our organization. It goes back to the old saying, "United we stand - divided we fall". We appreciate all his efforts. It's a very thankless job, with very little support from the members. I hope we can all improve in the future.

With the meeting out of the way, we were all eager to get in the zoo, with Lee giving us a personal tour free of charge. We started off at an ape cage where they proceeded to blow up their throats the size of grapefruit and let out such a piercing bark that made you jump right out of your skin. With a mouth like that, you can bet they would get your attention, if you were alone in the jungle. I would find the first rock, and get under it in a hurry.

Next on our list was the petting area, where we could get hands on experience with some animals most of us hadn't every petted before, such as a baby hedgehog. It was hard to tell which end was up on this one and a 14 month old alligator. They had a huge, cross-eyed o'possum that had a face only a mother could love, (kind of cute though). Also, there was an assortment of snakes and some macaws.

They had a nice collection of cats, ranging from margays to lions with ocelots, jags, and leopards inbetween. The zoo is exceptionally clean and neat, with mulched paths to walk on and lots of trees to shade the animals, plus us humans from the hot Florida sunshine. The animals are all beautiful and healthy looking, with well-cared-for cages. It was a real pleasure to walk around the compound and we thank Lee and the staff for making the tour so enjoyable.

The highlight of MY day was being elected to ride Maude, the elephant back to the barn after she finished up her day of work, carrying the children around a much worn track. After they unsaddled her, I got to climb on her neck and away we went. I always wanted to ride an elephant before turning 40 so just getting in under the wire, it fulfilled one of my goals in life. (It obviously doesn't take much to make me happy). She was a real jewel and quite comfortable, although she could have used some conditioner on her hair.

With some snide remarks in the background as to which one of us was the elephant, we wobbled off to the barn, with Lee walking in front of us, and Maude trying to reach him with her trunk. From where I was, it looked like a runaway vacuum cleaner hose waving around. I was so intent on watching her trunk she about wiped me off on a tree limb when I didn't duck, and about this time I was beginning to wonder how one got off an elephant. There was a platform where I climbed on, but I didn't see any up ahead at the barn. When I inquired about this sudden thought, Phil, her trainer, assured me that Maude would help me off. (Lee said that she would grab me with her trunk and yank me off, but she didn't). Instead, she graciously knelt down when we got to the barn, and getting off was like going down a big hairy slide. It was a real trip. I loved it! She is one precious pachyderm. (I wonder if you can paper train them ??)

I guess I have run on enough about our fun-filled trip to the zoo. Thanks again to the Crowell's and the staff at the Central Florida Zoo, for making it a memorable day and a special thanks to Maude.

Those attending today were our hosts Lee and Mickie Crowell, with their son Bob and his wife Ruth. The staff at the zoo - Tom Williams, Joe Schrader, Jim Soblienz, Bonnie Breitbeil and Liz Harmon. Dennis and I, Fred Boyajian, Danny, Ellen and Patrick Treanor. Also Jean Hatfield came all the way up from Ft. Lauderdale. It was good to see her. It's such a long drive. BeeJay Lester came down from Jacksonville with a five month old clouded leopard that she is raising for Robert Baudy, who owns the Rare Feline Breeding Center. What a beauty he is! We also had Debra Renfro, ➔

Harry Lackey, and Dr. Orlando Patino. We had several new faces, that is always nice. Among them were Tonie Gattie and Jack Derrico, Ray and Marge Reamer, Leah Ulrich and Michael Spiller. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Thanks, Fred for joining us.

Now on a sadder note. For those of you who haven't heard, we lost a very dear, long time member of our club last May. Arthur Freeman passed away after having had several strokes. We sure will miss his many stories of show biz, where he earned his living as a tight-rope walker.

His wife Gertrude has moved back to Mass to live with her nephew and his family. Even though it is difficult for her to write, I'm sure she would appreciate getting a card or letter from us. Her address is:

Mrs. Gertrude Freeman
c/o David E. Poskitt
31 River Street
Middleboro, MA 02346

As always, I'm your fellow feline fanatic and friend from Florida,
Barb Grimes.



DEBATE AROUND THE COLLAR

State wildlife officials are doing their best to save the endangered Florida panther, but according to one wild-animal expert they may unwittingly be contributing to its demise.

Robert Baudy, owner of The Rare Feline Breeding Center and Savage Kingdom in Center Hill, Florida, says the practice of collaring panthers in an effort to track their movements in the wild may prevent the cats from reproducing.

"During breeding, the male has to bite the neck of the female before ejaculation," Baudy says. "Throughout my career, which spans almost half a century, I very rarely saw a panther conceive cubs with a collar on her neck."

But Robert Belden, of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, says Baudy is "the only one in the state with that opinion. We've had two females and five males that have had radio collars on, and we know that one of the females produced two kittens that she successfully raised to adulthood and several other of our other females have been bred."



Belden says that before the collaring program began six years ago, nothing was known about the panther's habitat preferences or range.

"Everything we now know about the panther has come from radio telemetry," he says. Belden estimates that 30 to 50 Florida panthers roam the Everglades in the southern end of the state.

Despite Belden's assertion that more good than harm comes from putting the two-inch-wide, 20-ounce collars on the panthers, Baudy insists that the collaring method is too risky. "It puts them under stress. And since the Florida panther population is down to a very few animals, a single one can make the difference between survival of the species in the wild and extinction."

By Vryanna Iatooof
contributed by Joan Townes

IMPORTANT NOTICE To Advertisers & Purchasers of Endangered Species

Any offer for sale of an endangered species in this publication is contingent upon the conditions set forth in the Endangered Species Act and the acquisition of proper permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and any applicable state and local agencies. For assistance or information, call or write:

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1000 N. Glebe Rd. Room 611
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 235-1903

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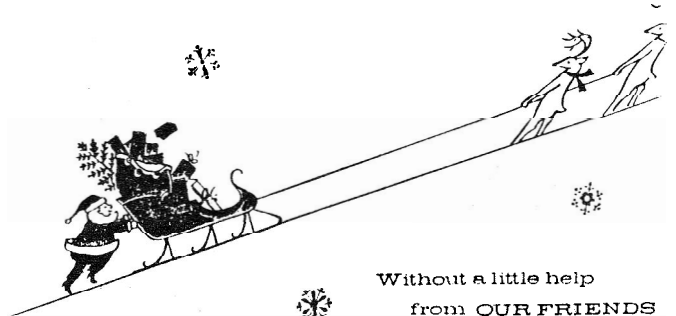
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Without a little help
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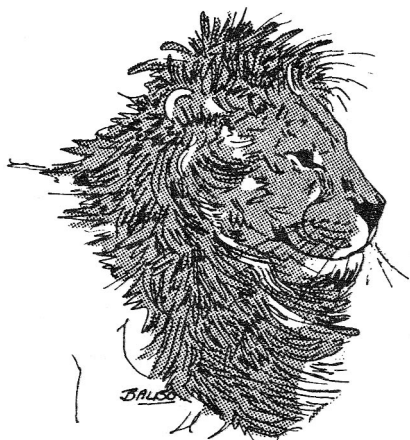
Our warmest gratitude to all who contributed to the Newsletter - Thank You.

AFRICAN AND ASIATIC LIONS LINKED

African and Asiatic lions shared a common ancestor between 50,000 and 200,000 years ago, according to Stephen J. O'Brien, of the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

The following is the abstract of a paper published in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH 3(1), 1987:

Electrophoretic variation of 45 to 50 allozyme loci were typed in four African and one Asiatic (Indian) lion populations. The African population revealed moderate amounts of genetic variation compared with other cat species. The lions from the Ngorongoro Crater, a small isolated island population within the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania, had a reduced level of variability, which was a precise subset of the larger founder population of the Serengeti plains. The Asiatic lion popu-



ulation from the Gir Forest in western India is a relict population of less than 250 individuals, which descended from a much more widely distributed subspecies early in the 19th century. The Gir lions were genetically monomorphic at each of the 46 typed loci, suggesting a drastic population bottleneck followed by inbreeding in their recent history. The allozyme genetic distance estimates between African lion populations and between Asian and African subspecies were low and comparable with the distance values between conspecific mouse populations or between human racial groups. These results suggest that the two subspecies shared a common ancestor recently, estimated at between 50,000 and 200,000 years before the present.

JAGUAR TO AID JAGUARS

The American, British and Canadian manufacturers of Jaguar cars have announced a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund to help save the animal that inspired the name of their automobile.

The companies will donate funds over the next three years to help support the Cockscomb Forest Jaguar Preserve in Belize, Central America, the only park in the world dedicated to jaguar preservation. The contributions will help the World Wildlife Fund manage the reserve, train and equip rangers, and build facilities to educate visitors about the jaguar.

The only big cats endemic to the Americas, jaguars once roamed throughout South America and as far north as Arizona. They are now limited to a few Latin American jungles.

State commission sued over cougar hunting season

Outraged opponents of a state plan to allow mountain lion hunting sued the California Fish and Game Commission.

The suit claimed the agency's decision to open a cat season was illegal and should have been preceded by a full-dress environmental impact report scientifically assessing the predator's population in California.

Agency Director Jack Parnell declared in an earlier statement that the hunt conforms with the state's wildlife management policy and is aimed at protecting the mountain lion's prey.

The 54-page suit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, names as defendants the commission and its top officials and asked the court for a writ of mandate and an injunction to halt the hunt as planned in October.

In arriving at the April 10th decision to hunt cougar, the commission used "data and scientific studies which do not look reliable or even sound in their methodology," said Sacramento attorney Michael H. Remy, representing the plaintiffs.

Over environmental protests, the commission approved the first big-cat season in 16 years, voting to issue by lottery 190 \$75 permits for annual 79-day cougar hunts. They names four zones from the Oregon boundry to the Tehachapis, the season to start the second Saturday in October. Game officials said they expected hunters to succeed in killing fewer than 60 mountain lions each year.

Sharon Negri, executive director of the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, allied in the suit with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Sierra Club, the Fund for Animals and the Defenders of Wildlife, said "There is no real study to demonstrate the condition or size of the state's lion population". She contends the agency's estimate of 5,100 mountain lions is inaccurate. The coalition has asked for a non-partisan study of the lion population in California.

Condensed from the San Jose Mercury
Contributed by Jean Townes

Reprinted from the San Jose Mercury News

According to an Associated Press report, in a lawmaker's third attempt, the California Senate narrowly approved legislation to restrict the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions, a measure opposed by the Deukmejian administration.

By limiting the use of hunting dogs, the measure sharply curtails most mountail lion hunting in the state by private parties, who often rely on dogs for tracking.

With little discussion, the Senate voted 21-12 to send SB 1687 by Sen. Nicholas Petris, (D-Oakland) to the Assembly. Petris' bill is opposed by the state Department of Fish and Game but supported by various animal rights and environmental groups.

The Petris measure would allow dogs to be used by official state of federal hunters, or by ranchers who have a special permit to hunt the creatures in order to protect their livestock, or by photographers who do not carry firearms.

Petris said the measure would prevent mountain lions from being unfairly treed by dogs and shot "like a sitting duck."

But Sen. Jim Nelson, (R-Chico) claimed the bill would make it more difficult to control a growing mountain lion population, and said the bill would "preclude the hunting of mountain lions in one of the most effective ways the mountain lion can be hunted."

Contributed by Jean Townes

Big Guy a big part of attempt to save panthers

By Jingle Davis

The 6,000 acre White Oak Plantation, which sprawls in lush splendor across the St. Mary's River south of Brunswick, Georgia, is a fitting habitat for Big Guy, a Florida Panther who may go down in history as the father of his subspecies.

The tawny cat, one of the few surviving Florida panthers in the world, will be bred to others of his kind and, if all goes well, his progeny will be released to repopulate wilderness areas of Florida and Georgia.

"There have been no other attempts in North America to put a big predator back in the wild," said John Lukas, a zoologist who heads the plantation's breeding program for endangered species.

Nor have the Florida panthers ever been bred in captivity.

Because of the plantation's extraordinary success at breeding other endangered species, the state of Florida has a contract with Lukas and his team at White Oak to undertake a long-term project aimed at saving the panthers from extinction.

"The only work with the most difficult endangered species, the ones nobody else can breed in captivity," said Bill Greer, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "They have state-of-the-art technology, the best equipment and the best professionals."

Lukas is presently attempting to breed Big Guy to a trio of Texas cougars, the closest living species to the Florida Panther. The half-breed kittens, when old enough, would be released into wilderness areas of Florida and Georgia.

If the half-breeds adapt successfully to the wild, they will be followed by pure-bred Florida panthers, which Lukas hopes Big Guy will father.

Big Guy is now the only Florida panther in residence at the plantation, but he is to be joined there in about a month by a female captured in south Florida.

"This is a long-term, well thought out program," said Lukas, "When you're trying to save a species, the worse thing you can do is rush it."

Not only will the cats bred in captivity have to learn to adapt to the wild, said Lukas, people will also have to learn to accept the big predators, which once ranged the woods and swamps from Florida to Texas.

"Public attitudes are improving, but people are still afraid of them," though panthers are solitary creatures, non-aggressive toward humans and hunt only for food, Lukas said.

"They just need to have a little space of their own, where they can hunt deer and turkey and armadillo," he said.

Lukas, 37, a Hartford, Conn. native who formerly worked with the endangered species program conducted by the New York Zoological Society on St. Catherine's Island, was recruited to manage the White Oak project in 1982.

At White Oak, the animals are kept in compounds that closely resemble their natural environments.

Owned by Gilman Paper Company, the plantation is home to 24 kinds of rare animals, including endangered cheetah, antelopes and white rhino, Aldabra tortoises from the Seychelle Islands, a Siberian tiger confiscated from a Florida drug dealer; and 30 species of rare cranes and waterfowl from all over the world.

In addition, thoroughbred horses sired by such famous stallions as Secretariat and Native Dancer are raised here, along with turkeys, quails, and peafowl which the plantation sells.

Although the endangered animals bred at White Oak are sold or traded to "reputable" zoos and game farms around the world or returned to the wild, Lukas said the plantation does not make money on the expensive endangered species project.

"This is a conservation program," Lukas said, "We don't even make enough to pay for the animal's feed."

According to Lukas, Gilman Paper Company owner Howard Gilman, who flies down from New York to spend weekends at the plantation, is an ardent conservationist

committed to saving rare animals such as the Florida panther from extinction.

"Most people think we've still got panthers all over the state," said Tom Logan who heads the panther recovery project for the Florida DNR. But Logan said Florida panthers have been "persecuted" by civilization into the wildest reaches of the Everglades and two other southern Florida wilderness preserves.

Even there, the panther population is so small that experts fear they will soon become extinct. "We count their numbers in dozens, not in hundreds," Logan said, estimating the Florida panther population at less than 50.

If we can re-establish panthers in one or two areas of north Florida I think we'll have the panther preserved in the state - but never at a level we can take for granted," he said.

The Okefenokee Swamp, the giant federal wildlife preserve that lies on the Georgia-Florida border, is among the places where young panthers will be released Lukas said.

"The Okefenokee, which has a corridor to Florida's Osceola National Forest, is one of the most secure places in the state," Lukas said.

The last panther sighted in the Okefenokee was in the 1930's he said. In those days, when little was known about the secretive cats whose eerie screams and graceful beauty gave rise to many legends, panthers were considered fair game by hunters.

Since 1973, the Florida panther has been on the Federal endangered species list, and in 1979, the State of Florida, which named the panther its state animal, passed laws making the wanton killing of the big cats a felony.

Until the capture of the female panther in south Florida, Big Guy was the only true Florida Panther in captivity in the world. When he was barely more than a cub, he was hit by a speeding car in the Everglades.

Because he has lost his canine teeth and walks with a slight limp, the 4-year old panther cannot be returned to the wild, Lukas said.

But someday his progeny may bring back the scream of the wild panther to the Okefenokee and other wilderness areas of the Southeastern United States.

Reprinted from the Atlanta Constitution
Contributed by Fred Boyajian



Merry Christmas
and a
happy new year



Congratulations

and best wishes are extended to Suzi (formerly Wood) our Secretary/Treasurer and Mike Mutascio who were married Thanksgiving day. I know we all wish them a happy and felino-filled life together which is long and prosperous.



WHAT IS A CAT?

By Bill Adler

A Cat is.....

...there when you call her--if she doesn't have something better to do.
 ...someone who is happy with just a ball of string.
 ...purring when she is happy, meowing when she is sad, and silent when she is planning her next move.
 ...a nibbler who can eat one meal a day - all day.
 ...someone with sharp claws.
 Ask anyone with new furniture
 ...a kitten who refuses to grow up.
 ...able to lower your blood pressure just by sitting in your lap.
 ...tolerant of people.
 ...willing to let the dog be man's best friend because she doesn't want the responsibility.
 ...A CAT IS LOVE.

NEWS from Around the JUNGLE



PELTES DETAINED IN SPAIN

A shipment of 5,000 cat skins, which arrived at Bilbao, Spain from Hamburg, Germany, was detained by customs at Madrid because of supposed illegality. The skins had been refused entry by Germany.

The unique aspect of the case is that the skins - of oncolla, Felis tigrina and Geoffroy's cat, Felis geoffroyi - had been travelling through European customs since 1982, the year they left Paraguay.

The shipment has been held in Madrid awaiting an export permit from the country of origin. However, Paraguay banned exports of wildlife in 1975.

The skins were allegedly bought for \$55,000 by a Spaniard.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS.

ASIATIC LION CENTER TO BE BUILT

India will build a breeding center and safari park to try and save the Asiatic lion from extinction, West Bengal minister for forests Ambarish Mookerjee has announced.

He said 10 of the endangered lions would be brought from their last stronghold in Gujarat to the center northwest of Calcutta next year according to a Reuters news release.

The Asiatic lion once lived over most of the continent, but only 400 or so are thought to remain. A recent census in Gujarat's 460 square mile Gir forest counted 357 animals left. The Asiatic male lion has a smaller mane and is far more active in hunting than the African variety.

ACTION NEEDED NOW

Because of the new California laws concerning the ownership of exotic animals, it has been proposed that a mass meeting of those affected be set up to discuss ways to make these new laws more liveable.

Hopefully, invited representatives from Fish and Game, the Humane Society (which really pushed these new proposals) U.S.D.A., etc. will attend and just perhaps some agreement which is mutually acceptable can be reached.

If there is anyway you could participate in such a seminar please contact:

Charlie Sammut
 1014 W. Laurel Dr
 Salinas, CA 93906
 (408) 424-7441

Charlie is willing to coordinate this in hopes of reaching some compromise which would allow ownership of exotics in California fairly administered.

These new regulations will affect EVERYONE- please let me know that you will participate!



DUR-A-GARD Epoxy Finish

Dur-A-Gard may be applied with roller or brush, but it's no paint! Dur-A-Gard's epoxy finish is lustrous and long lasting. In fact one coat of Dur-A-Gard will last longer than ten coats of latex paint! Dur-A-Gard not only wears well, it resists chemicals, acids, solvents, oils, and harsh detergents... retains its waterproof, easy-to-clean, glossy finish in any one of 16

appealing colors. Dur-A-Gard adheres to wood and metal, and it's a "natural" for concrete floors

It's easy to apply... merely combine Dur-A-Gard's two components and spread with roller or brush. A non-slip texture may be obtained by adding a suitable grit during application. Simple instructions are included in every order.

FOR BEST RESULTS:

The surface to be covered must be bondable, dry, and clean. The temperature during application, and for several hours thereafter, must be over 50°F. One coat may be satisfactory for many areas, but two coats are recommended for more uniform color and

greater durability. On average concrete apply the first coat at the rate of about 250 square feet per gallon and the second coat at 300 square feet per gallon. Dur-A-Gard may be applied as thickly as desired and can be used to fill and level a rough surface.

DUR-A-GARD RESISTANCE TO CHEMICALS

REAGENT	EXPOSURE		
	45 Min.	24 Hrs.	7 Days
Acetone	E	NR	NR
Acetic Acid (10%)	E	E	G
Acetic Acid Glacial (100%)	E	NR	NR
Ammonium Hydroxide (28%)	E	G*	NR*
Benzene	E	E	E
Chloroform	E	G*	NR*
Calcium Chloride (30%)	E	E	E
Clorox (Full Strength)	E	G*	NR*
Coca Cola	E	E	G*
Cottage Cheese	E	E	E
Chromic Acid (10%)	E	G	NR
Citric Acid (30%)	E	G*	NR*
Ethyl Alcohol (95%)	E	E	NR
Ethylene Glycol	E	G	NR
Ethylene Dichloride (10%)	E	G	G
Ferric Chloride (10%)	E	E	G*
Gasoline	E	E	E
Glycerine	E	E	E
Hydrogen Peroxide (6%)	E	G	NR
Hydrochloric Acid (20%)	E	E	G
Hydrofluoric Acid (10%)	E	NR	NR
Hydraulic Fluid	E	E	E
Isopropyl Alcohol	E	E	E
Lactic Acid (20%)	E	E	G*
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	E	E	E
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
Sodium Hydroxide (30%)	E	G*	G
Silver Nitrate (10%)	E	G*	G
Tide Detergent	E	E	E
Trichloroethylene	E	G	NR
Tri-sodium-phosphate	E	E	E
Toluene	E	E	E
Urine (Synthetic-6.6% urea)	E	E	G

Legend: E—Excellent, no chemical deterioration.
G—Good, sample discolored but no chemical deterioration.
NR—Not Recommended, sample deteriorated. Contact Dur-A-Gard to ascertain if a more chemical resistant formulation is available.
*Resistance to attack by this chemical can be improved by using Dur-A-Gard #1 or #2 as a topcoat(s).

Dur-A-Gard Physical Properties

HARDNESS (Shore D).....	ASTM D-1706	70-80
WATER ABSORPTION.....	ASTM D-543	0.37% after 7 days immersion
LINEAR SHRINKAGE.....	ERF 12-64	.002" per inch
TENSILE STRENGTH.....	ASTM D-638	3,000 psi minimum
FLEXURAL STRENGTH.....	ASTM D-790	4,000 psi minimum
COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH.....	ASTM D-695	16,000 psi
IZOD IMPACT (ft. lb./in. notch).....	ASTM D-256	0.50
BOND STRENGTH TO CONCRETE.....	ACI-403	Concrete falls before loss of bond
ULTIMATE ELONGATION.....	ASTM D-638	20%
HEAT DEFLECTION TEMPERATURE.....	ASTM D-790	No slip or flow at 242°F.
FUNGUS & BACTERIA RESISTANCE.....	MIL-F-52505	Will not support growth of fungus & bacteria
SALT SPRAY RESISTANCE, 25% solution @ 90°F.....	MIL-F-52505	No effect after 100 hrs.
THERMAL SHOCK.....	MIL-F-52505	No cracking or loss of adhesion
ABRASION RESISTANCE, CS-17 Wheels(2) Wgt. Loss, 1000 gr. load, 1000 cycles.....	MIL-F-52505	.035 Gm Loss
U.V. RESISTANCE.....		No chalking or loss of adhesion
TOXICITY.....		Non-toxic
POT LIFE.....		23 min. or 45 min.

CAT PROOF !!

Great for walls too!

DUR-A-GUARD EPOXY COATING is available in 15 colors: White, Black, Medium Gray, Dark Green, Light Green, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Dark Brown, Cocoa Brown, Tile Red, Canyon red, Yellow Ochra, Bright Yellow and Light Yellow.

Order sufficient amount of a color to finish the entire job. Slight batch-to-batch color variations may occur.

AVAILABLE TO LIOC MEMBERS AT DEALER COST

THAT'S A 40% DISCOUNT! ←

UNIT SIZE	SHIPPING WEIGHT	LI06 PRICE
1½ gallon	18 lbs	79.06
3 gallon	34 lbs	149.33
15 gallon	164 lbs	701.81

Normal coverage - floors- 250 square feet per gallon per coat. Walls- 350 square feet per gallon per coat. Thicker coatings may be appropriate for heavy traffic areas.

DUR-A-GUARD is USDA and OSHA approved.

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