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Tiger (c) Omni Magazine

For more on Tigers, see pages 7 and 10



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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 subjects are gladly accepted. We also have a reader's write column. Materials should be sent to the Editor by the first day of odd numbered months for inclusion in the next issue.

Neotropical Cats

from CAT NEWS

Deforestation, hunting and problems of controlling livestock predation by jaguar featured in a review of the status of the neotropical cats at

an IUCN meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, held in association with a session of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and in written comments on draft facts sheets prepared by the IUCN Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit.

In a preliminary review of the status of the jaguar, deforestation and loss of habitat was cited almost without exception throughout Latin America as the major cause of the decline of the cat. Reporting on a status survey carried out with Dr. James Bear for submission to the U.S. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (a funding organization associated with the Fish & Wildlife Service) Dr. Marshall Swank said this included especially forest clearance for subsistence agriculture and cattle ranching. Road construction, which opened up areas for development, was also leading indirectly to the jaguar's decline.

Dr. Swank said that hunting was cited as the second most important activity, and throughout its range the jaguar was killed by local people at

opportunity due to fear and for the status of being killed a big cat. On the other hand, hunting of jaguar for commercial purposes had declined because the demand for skins had declined - usually, accompanied by a similar fall in prices.

"Either styles have changed or the curtailment of trade through CITES is beginning to have real effect on the take of jaguars."

Dr. Swank said that most countries had good regulations prohibiting hunting and commercialization of the jaguar, but enforcement was poor or nonexistent. Permits were often issued to kill alleged cattle-killers without verification.

While legal sport hunting of the jaguar has been permitted in Mexico in 1985 and 1986, it would not be allowed in 1987. Elsewhere sport hunting was not permitted.

"There is little sentiment for opening the season for sport hunting in any of the countries, primarily because there is apprehension about the ability of the government agencies to enforce any necessary regulations to control the take," Dr. Swank reported.

After describing the decline of the jaguar at the edges of its range in the U.S., northern Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, Uruguay and east-Brazil along the Atlantic coast, Dr. Swank said the population was good in the Peten of Guatemala and adjacent areas of Mexico and Belize, as well as in the Amazon basin of Brazil, south of Orinoco in Venezuela, in inland undeveloped areas of Suriname and especially Guyana and French Guiana.

Dr. Rafael Hoogsteijn said he calculated that the realistic estimate of jaguar in Venezuela would be in the 2,500 - 3000 range. Survival was assured in large areas of forest in Bolivar State and in the Amazonas because of their inaccessibility. However, habitat destruction had been serious in tropical and gallery forests, especially west of Lake Maracaibo, the eastern upper llanos (central plains), northern coast and northern Bolivar State. Jaguar predation on livestock led to killing of any jaguar found. There were also "human jaguars" who killed cattle for meat and then blamed the cat. Jaguars were insecure even in protected areas north of Orinoco because of lack of controls, poaching, fires and squatters.

Dr. Hoogsteijn said the general wildlife situation was best in the flooded plains area, especially in regard to capybara and caiman, because of poaching and private ranches.

He said that while the jaguar was legally protected, including from commerce in skins, further measures were needed. Hunting was banned, but the jaguar was still on the list of game animals and could be subjected to sport hunting which was undesirable.

Dr. Hoogsteijn said there were no regulations in Venezuela to deal with jaguar predation on cattle and there were no benefits for the species or stock owners, who only wished to destroy the pests. He proposed a system by which pest jaguar be officially identified by the Ministry of Environment expert and a representative of a conservation organization, such as FUDENA (Venezuelan Foundation for Nature Conservation). The cat's footprint should be measured and its hunting area identified. A hunt could then be auctioned off for Venezuelan or foreign hunters. Shooting should only be from a blind over domestic prey or after tracking by dogs from the prey so that innocent jaguar were not killed. The proceeds should be divided between the cattle owner, the hunter/guide and the Ministry of the Environment. Dr. Hoogsteijn suggested that the scheme could be tried experimentally on a conservation-oriented ranches, while an intensive program of education should be carried out through cattle-men's organizations to create awareness of economic biological and ethical benefits of protecting jaguar. Fines and imprisonment should be increased to deter killing of non-problem jaguars.

Dr. Hoogsteijn also proposed that as a first step in a captive breeding program the origin of zoo specimens in Latin America countries should be ascertained and a studbook started in order to maintain a pure stock of subspecies.

Regarding ocelot, Dr. Hoogsteijn said there was no problem in Venezuela, although there was some small-scale smuggling. Ocelot were common in forests, on ranches with good gallery forest and in some heavily-forested national parks. As with the jaguar, the real threat was loss of habitat, which amounted to 50,000 ha a year in the western plains, and 100,000 ha in the whole of the country. Lower oil prices and the decline in the value of the Venezuelan currency encouraged conversion of forest to cropland because imports, which had amounted to 50% of the country's food, had become too expensive. He said that some ocelot were hunted because they raided chicken runs, but there was no active hunting as there had been in the past when Colombian traders had bartered goods for skins, thus encouraging hunting.

Margay and oncilla were much rarer than ocelot and more sparsely distributed. They were more affected by deforestation in subtropical and cloud forests.

Dr. Hoogsteijn declared that Venezuela needed more protected areas for all spotted cats.

Dr. Jorge Rabinovich stressed the general lack of information about Latin American cats and suggested three critical categories:

1. Ecological information, which included the carrying capacity of the environment, the potential population growth rate, the present numbers in terms of density, and how these factors related to different types or qualities of habitat.
2. Socio-economic information involving studies of the pattern of exploitation from hunter via stockpiler/middleman, tannery, commerce and export.
3. Administration and legal information. Legal information on cat status was available and needed only to be loaded in a data bank. But written laws meant little in Latin America

without adequate administrative structures and manpower. It was necessary to find out how administration of faunal resources was organized, how it related to other authorities, how it was affected by political factors, how big was the turnover of civil servants, etc. The answers, easy to obtain, were essential to understanding the harvest, trade, legal and illegal, in lesser cat skins.

Dr. John Eisenberg quoted notes derived from the work of Drs Mel Sunquist, Mike Koneckni and Mark Ludlow in Belize and Venezuela (he is editing the full data for publication shortly by the University of California press):

OCELOT (*Felis pardalis*)

In both Belize and Venezuela the ocelot appears to be nocturnal. Although it will rest in trees, it seems to hunt terrestrially. It is strongly associated with forested habitats, but can range into the llanos of Venezuela, making use of gallery forests associated with streams and rivers. Adult females defend an exclusive territory. The territories of the males overlap one or more female territories. In riparian habitats with high carrying capacities the ocelot can exist at densities of approximately 3 per square kilometres. Primarily carnivorous, the ocelot in Venezuela is an opportunistic feeder, taking small vertebrate prey that happen to be at high numerical densities. In short, it tracks prey availability and will feed extensively on the cane rat during population highs.

MARGAY (*Felis wiedii*)

The margay is definitely arboreal and hunts arboreally. It is also primarily nocturnal and seems to be strongly associated with moist forested habitats. In the broad sense, the margay appears to have a lower density than that of the ocelot, but in areas of prime habitat (moist, premontane forests) the margay may actually be more abundant than the ocelot. Data from Belize indicate that some fruit (about 10%) is taken in addition to small vertebrates.

ONCILLA (*Felis tigrina*)

The little spotted cat is poorly known. Data from Venezuela indicate it is very strongly associated with moist forest. Analysis of stomach contents suggests that this cat takes smaller vertebrate prey than does the ocelot. Thus some resource partitioning may occur where the two species live in sympatry.

Dr. Eisenberg added that he had the feeling that, as the ocelot became rare over much of its range, there was a switch to taking Geoffroy's cat (*Felis geoffroyi*). This might mean that the latter species, if not already, would soon be threatened.

Dr. Mel Sunquist contested the suggestion by Dr. Wayne Melquist in a draft survey of the status of Latin American cats for CITES (1984) that several species could be harvested on a sustained basis, on the grounds that so little population data was available. Referring to the ocelot, he said that it had wide distribution, but from the studies in Brazil, Peru, Belize, Venezuela and Texas it was evident that it attained high densities only in areas of dense cover. Open areas with patches of cover were used by ocelots only at night, and the ranges of individuals were much larger where habitat was fragmented. Estimates by his group in a mosaic of habitats in Venezuela were 0.4 adults per square kilometre compared with one per square kilometre estimated by Dr. Louise Emmons in tropical rainforests in Peru. He calculated that an area of 2,535 km² was necessary to maintain an effective population size of 500 ocelots, the actual size being 1,334 adults, including 1,000 females. However the area would vary in relation to habitat quality and sex ratio.

On reproduction, Dr. Sunquist said data were limited but in optimum condition litters of 1-2 appeared common with interbirth interval of probably at least one year. Although there was a potential recruitment of 1,000 each year, assuming each of 1,000 females successfully raised one young to independence, there was the question of the fate of subadults. In Venezuela, one in two of male dispersers were killed, whereas in Texas three or four were killed before settling. Because of the likely high mortality of dispersers the actual recruiting might actually be closer to 300. Thus he found it hard to believe that the harvest could be controlled to limit the take to appropriate numbers.

Dr. Sunquist remarked that margay in Belize were found to be highly arboreal and thus tied to dense forest cover. Margay appeared to be more of a habitat "specialist" than any of the other small cats.

Dr. Gustav Peters pointed to the danger of giving different protection status in CITES and other classifications to subspecies within species. He said that nobody could distinguish subspecies with certainty. Most had been described from limited material and so it was quite safe to assume that a large number were not "good" subspecies.

Dr. Peters also took issue with Melquist's suggestion that *F. tigrina*, *F. geoffroyi* could sustain controlled harvests. Controls in countries of origin did not work. Calling for import bans because no population data were available, Dr. Peters declared: "Only after sound data on distribution and populations of these neotropical species are available and public opinion in the consumer countries has changed to a new attitude towards wearing coats of felids taken from the wild, can controlled harvest of some form be considered."

Dr. Louise H. Emmons sent copies of papers on her studies of felids in rainforests in Peru's Manu National Park. She found from study of scats that terrestrial mammals were the chief prey of jaguar, ocelot, and puma, but reptiles and birds were also numerically important in the diets of ocelots and jaguar. Cats evidently took any readily available vertebrate. Puma did not use waterside habitats or take caiman and turtles. The survival of the jaguar was threatened only by skin hunters and habitat destruction, but also by extinction of many of its prey species.

Dr. Emmons radio-tracked ocelots and found them to be active at any time of day, but usually they rested in the morning, became active in mid- to late afternoon, and continued activity until after dawn the following morning. Breeding females occupied mutually exclusive territories, but an old female was tolerated on their territories by her former neighbors when the latter had no dependent young. Adult males occupied large territories that overlapped three or more females' ranges. Circumstantial evidence indicated that females in the study area produced young every other year. An 80% grown female was already wandering, but two 80% grown males occupied small ranges within their presumed mother's. The disappearance of an old adult male and the establishment of another coincided with changes in the status of all collared residents. Although ocelot hunted, travelled and usually denned alone, they often met - 37 encounters between collared cats were recorded during radio-tracking. One male encountered four other radio-collared ocelots in 24 hours.

Dr. Jose Lobao Tello, in a report on a five month study of Bolivian felidae for CITES between June and October, 1986, made the following points:

PUMA - *Felis concolor*

Puma are widely distributed throughout most of Bolivia and common in most of the region below 2,000m, particularly in lowland humid forests, including cattle ranching regions. Puma are not considered a severe threat to cattle, but they kill calves, pigs,

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small livestock. While they are not liberately hunted, they are shot at sight. Some other rural Bolivians hunt puma for food. Tello does not consider puma highly threatened by opportunistic hunting, except near towns and larger villages, nor is it endangered by habitat change, except in developed agricultural areas where natural cover has been completely destroyed. However, Bolivian puma could be seriously affected by heavy hunting of deer and a decline in the population of rhea which seems to be the most important prey.

PAMPAS CAT - Felis colocolo

The pampas cat appears to be widely distributed over a large area of Bolivia, except above 3,000m and from large floodplains below 200m. The status is insufficiently known. The skins have only limited commercial value.

MARGAY - Felis wiedii

Widely distributed, occurring in all the sub-tropical and tropical regions in Bolivia, but he considers that the species has made a very good recovery and he strongly believes it is out of danger in rural areas and is common in forest areas. Margay does not appear to be endangered by habitat changes, except on agricultural lands. The major threat to margay is professional hunting, especially with traps.

OCELOT - F. pardalis

Widely distributed, occurring from the tropical valleys of the Andes at elevations of 3,000 m or lower. Tello does not consider the species in danger, and declares that if it were so, as had been suggested, then it made a considerable recovery. The species has a wide habitat tolerance and adapts to living near to human settlements, and thus is not threatened by habitat loss except in intensive farm-areas. The only serious threat is uncontrolled professional hunting with traps, which does not occur at present.

JAGUARUNDI - F. yagouaroundi

Jaguarundi are very common and probably abundant. They are reported from almost every type of habitat in all regions below 2,000m. Local informants said it was particularly common around rural houses where it preys on poultry. The skin does not have commercial value and the jaguarundi is not a trophy animal.

MOUNTAIN CAT - F. jacobita

The mountain cat does not occur in the region Tello surveyed, although recorded from higher areas of Oruro, Potosi, Tarija and Chiquissaca provinces. The status and ecology are not known.

ONCILLA - F. tigrina (tiger cat)

Tello states that no scientific specimens of the oncilla have been collected in Bolivia nor in the immediate vicinity in adjacent countries. He found no evidence of it, and believes that skins exported from Bolivia as oncilla were smuggled from neighboring countries.



Ocelot (c) Douglas Faulkner/NASC

The Cat Specialist Group is a division of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The group consists of leading international specialists on felids from over 30 countries all of whom act in an honorary capacity as advisers to IUCN and other conservation organizations.

Friends of the Cat Group pay an annual subscription to support production of CAT NEWS, and any other activities deemed by the Chairman to promote the conservation of felids. The subscription provides for delivery of 2 issues of CAT NEWS a year.

The Cat Group recently polled its members on the topic of trophy hunting as a management technique for cats. Below are their conclusions along with some selected comments from some of the group.

DRAFT: Policy on Trophy Hunting:

1. Trophy hunting is a legitimate use of wildlife provided:

- 1.1 That the target species is not threatened either locally or overall,
- 1.2 that the controlling authorities have proven ability to manage the wildlife resource.
- 1.3 That a substantial portion of the income should be channelled to conservation and for the benefit of local people without reduction of the normal budget allocations for those activities.

2. Each trophy hunting proposal should be considered separately in the light of the above conditions.

Professor Paul Leyhausen: "I am not of the opinion that trophy hunting should be regarded as 'a legitimate use of wildlife' by IUCN, least of all by the Cat Group. Even with animals of relatively high population density like most herbivores, trophy hunting must of necessity in the long run exert a negative selection pressure. The trophy hunter very naturally seeks the best, the biggest, the most phenomenal antlers, horns, pelts, etc. Thus mortality caused by trophy hunting takes a disproportionately high toll of the best and invariably will result in a deterioration of stock quality. In an animal like a big cat, whose density is low even in undisturbed populations, this effect will be more pronounced and quicker to become manifest. If control should ever be necessary, it should be exerted along the principles of indiscriminate elimination of surplus. If indeed we want conservation we must be careful not to deflect the natural selection. In a declining species - and the leopard is a declining species, even where it is still relatively frequent, even according to Norman Myers - trophy hunting must be resisted to the last stand, especially the the Cat Group. Experience has shown that when you don't or won't withstand the beginnings you will never be able to stem the tide later. Under no conditions whatsoever condone trophy hunting of cats!"

Mr. Arajan Singh: "So-called sport hunting, apart from the moralistic view that it is uncivilized to take pleasure in taking life of another entity in creation, is also anachronistic because of the alarming shrinkage of wild populations. It is now a form of legalized poaching, and the declared inability to eradicate poaching smacks of the adage that if you can't beat them, join them. Pompous statements regarding 'sport culling' and 'sustained yield' are easy ways of justifying such slaughter, and in the present context of reduced and degraded habitat areas, even a local deficit may be converted into a surplus area by an immoral reduction of habitat. Wildlife must still be expected to pay for its own salvation."

"Sport killing must be outlawed in tandem with the concomitant occupation of commercial poaching. The difference is strictly marginal, and the slender revenues are tainted. The argument that legalized

Member Profile: Robert Baudy

Reprinted from FLORIDA MAGAZINE
Orlando Sentinel

hunters keep out poachers is another talking point by which false theories are propagated, as they operate under different mandates. What is correct is that sport hunters do harm by legalized killing of prime breeding stock, and illegal operators can often take shelter behind their activities. If killing is made illegal, it will go a long way towards depressing occupations which are essentially immoral - one for commercializing a living resource and the other for taking a vandal's pleasure in destruction."

Dr. Louise Emmons: who has extensive experience in Latin America, opposed any hunting of jaguar for the following reasons:

1. It is currently impossible to evaluate and accurately monitor.
2. Although jaguar occur widely, populations appear low.
3. These populations are threatened by subsistence hunting and deforestations.
4. Hunting jaguar in rainforests entails the slaughter of other threatened species.
5. There is no mechanism to correctly control a limited take.

"In the completely rainforested regions where I have worked, virtually all ex-jaguar hunters say they hunted with box traps baited preferentially with monkeys, or as a second choice peccary or deer. Because the return per trap is low, many monkeys and other game were shot for every jaguar and ocelot caught. Monkey and peccary populations over vast areas have already been decimated by hunting. Re-opening hunting of felids in rainforest regions would add severe and unsustainable pressure to remaining monkey populations. In drier habitats, where dogs are used, these can be so efficient at finding jaguar that entire populations can be quickly reduced below acceptable levels for sustained management."

Reprinted from CAT NEWS

Cheetah Update

The cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus* is no longer considered an endangered species in South Africa and has been removed from the South African Red Data Book.

The 1986 edition by the late Reay Smithers states that there is a small population in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and they occur as vagrants along the Botswana border. There is also a resident population in the Kruger National Park and individuals cross the border from Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The cheetah, is a protected wild animal listed under Schedule 4 in the Transvaal; is especially protected in Natal; and is protected in Cape Province as an endangered wild animal. The Red Data Book recommends total protection; capture of problem individuals and translocation to game preserves, as carried out in Transvaal.

In the IUCN Red List 1988, the cheetah is overall still classed as "vulnerable", while the Asiatic cheetah *A.j. venaticus* is "Endangered".

Clive Walker reports the discovery of cheetah in the Waterberg Mountains in northwestern Transvaal, where he has a 21,000 ha reserve called Lapalala. A neighbor shot the animal under the impression that it was a leopard, for which he had a license, and which is common in the area. The cheetah measured 225 cm. Local blacks said there were at least 5 cheetah in the area.

The area of flat tablelands and open woodland consists of private game sanctuaries, Tribal Trust land and farming areas, mainly for cattle.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS

Robert Baudy collects endangered species - dead or alive. The living room of his rural Sumter County home contains more exotic cat pelts than most big-game hunters ever hope to seize.

Chairs, sofa and floor are covered with overlapping striped and dappled skins that once warmed the bodies of rare big cats. Eight-foot elephant tusks stand upright on either side of a painting by Baudy of tigers posed on a snowy hillside. Twin deer heads peer inward from wall mountings outside the elephant tusks. A fossilized saber-toothed tiger skull rests next to an African lion skull on a low table under the painting. Above it all, an Indian python skin is stretched tightly across a 20-foot expanse of wall.

"You're sitting on an endangered species" Baudy tells a visitor jocularly. The array of pelts, stuffed heads and skeletal remains gives his home a look that might be described as safari kitsch, but Baudy did not gun down his decor in the wilds of Kenya. The elephant tusks were purchased; the fossilized tiger head was a gift from a museum; and the big cats died - or were destroyed right in Baudy's back yard.

"What I'm doing here is basically farming. It's just that I'm not farming cows, I'm farming very rare animals says Baudy, whose animals have been purchased by zoos around the world. "And just like a farmer, when you have an animal that is not a producer-or sometimes you have an animal that has some kind of problem at birth- I destroy them. My business is to produce defectless animals.."

A native of France who studies art in Paris, Baudy followed his father and two uncles into the business of training and performing with exotic animals. Regular appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show with various animal acts in the early 1950s made Baudy a nationally known novelty, and for 20 years he demanded among the highest salaries in circus work. Between show engagements, trained animals for use in television and the movie

In 1971, he settled down on a 40 acre plot between Center Hill and Bushnell to breed big cats and other exotic animals. His 'farm' is known to the locals as Savage Kingdom, the name he gave it during a short period when it was open to the public.

With a staff of five, Baudy raises a variety of animals ranging from small, monkey-like lemurs to deer, elk and maned wolves.

But the mainstay of his business is breeding and selling rare big cats. In a series of cage compounds shaded by large oak trees, he has produced specimens of 27 of the 35 species of family felidae - lions, tigers, leopards and lynxes and small cats, most of which endangered in the wild. He has successfully bred two of the rarest cats in the world, the snow leopard and the clouded leopard. He says that he acquired the breeding stock for these animals before the Endangered Species Act took effect in the early 1970s, restricting the import and export of endangered animals.

Baudy is "recognized as being very capable in his ability to breed some of the hard-to-breed species," says Robert Prather, senior agent with the division of law enforcement for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Tallahassee. The service licenses Baudy to trade in endangered species with others who are also licensed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the Animal Welfare Act, has used Baudy's compound on occasion as a temporary housing for animals seized from exhibits where conditions were deemed unsatisfactory.

Probably the breeder's greatest coup came a year ago, when he announced the birth of Boris, the first white Siberian tiger born in captivity. The green-eyed Boris is already a majestic 200 pounds and is expected to triple his weight by the time he matures. Baudy estimates his value at \$250,000-but he's not for sale. The breeder hopes to cross Boris with his yellow half-brother and bring forth the elusive white gene again.

Bill Zeigler, curator for Miami Metrozoo, where white Bengal tigers were recently born, says if both Boris' parents are pure Siberian, then the tiger may indeed be one of a kind, but "if it has any Bengal in it at all, it would be no more rare than ours." There are about 70 white tigers in the world, most of which are hybrids, Zeigler says.

Baudy removes his cubs from the care of their mothers, whose mothering skills can't always be counted on, and sends them home with half a dozen dedicated local women who bottle-feed them around the clock. He provides the adult cats with fresh-killed cattle and deer—the latter sacrificed from his collection. Fresh flesh, rather than the more aesthetically agreeable processed feed favored by most zoos, is one of the reasons for his success in breeding, he says.

Baudy has had his share of perilous encounters with his cats. One, a male Florida panther tried to take his arm off once when Baudy entered the animal's cage to remove a collar from the cat. Workers nearby beat the animal off with shovels. Last year a chimpanzee crushed Baudy's hand, which had to be restructured with surgery.

What happened to the chimpanzee?

"I euthanized him," says Baudy. "No chimp busts my hand and lives to brag to other chimps about it."

Baudy's lingering French accent makes him sound like an exotic breed himself. It is an impression encouraged by the agile 62 year-old, whose tanned face is virtually unlined. He tells tales of a boyhood spent "pushing tigers into cages" for his uncle's circus acts; of hiding out in the forests of France as a young man during the German occupation; and of joining up with the American Army in North Africa for a victorious march on Paris.

Baudy relishes his image as a one-time celebrity, globe-trotter and ladies' man. "Women seem to be absolutely fascinated by how a simple man can make 18 tigers sit up at the same time. It's mysterious," comments Baudy, who has been married and divorced twice.

Despite his generally good marks from wildlife officials, Baudy's operation has not been entirely free from controversy. In 1984, he was suspended from the American Association of Zoological Parks & Aquariums, the national organization that accredits zoos and marine exhibits. Baudy says the suspension came as a result of an incident that began when the Syracuse Zoo shipped a pair of jaguars without warning. The male cat

hostile and the cage the cats arrived in was so damaged that Baudy feared they might escape. He tried twice to tranquilize the male with an injecting pole. Twice the broke the pole. Baudy shot them both.

"It was either have loose jaguars in Sumter County or euthanize them," he said. The Syracuse Zoo filed a complaint, and the AAZPA board of directors voted for Baudy's suspension.

Bob Wagner, executive director of the AAZPA in Wheeling, W.Va. says the association prohibits him from discussing reasons for a members suspension, but he concurs with Baudy's account of the events.

While Baudy received a measure of national fame through Boris, it is the breeding in captivity of the Endangered Florida panther—or at least something closely akin to the Florida panther—that has brought him the greatest recognition in his home state.

In 1978 he borrowed several panthers from a roadside zoo, and from that pair and subsequent matings of their offspring, has produced 27 panthers. The purity of the bloodlines is disputed by the Florida Game & Freshwater Fish Commission. The commission maintains that Baudy's cats lack some subtle physical characteristics distinguishing the Florida panther from other subspecies of *Felis concolor*, the species which includes the wide-ranging puma and western mountain lion.

But differences over the animals' authenticity aside, the state has respected Baudy's ability to breed the rare cat. He was appointed by Governor Bob Graham in 1983 to a five-member committee that advises the game and fish commission on the management of endangered species of the endangered state animal.

From the start Baudy advocated captive breeding programs for the panther—something the commission is now considering. And he opposed a program put into operation several years ago that tracks the cats' movements in South Florida using radio transmitting collars. Baudy said that the trauma of being tracked and collared suppress the panthers' mating instincts, and that tranquilizing them in order to collar them might endanger their lives. A female panther was killed accidentally in 1983 during a collaring attempt.

"I think Baudy is genuinely interested in the survival of the Florida panther," says Don A. Wood, endangered species coordinator for the Florida Game & Freshwater Fish Commission. "He was vocally opposed to our radio telemetry program—he felt we would kill cats. And we did kill one cat."

In Baudy's view, his cats are "like money in the bank. They are stock from which future generations may be produced even as their wild brethren are diminished. Still the skins of some of the same animals he is working to preserve end up on his sofa. The laws of survival at Baudy's Savage Kingdom are dictated by one man.

The apparent contradiction of his feline upholstery with his efforts to help save the big cats does not escape him. He may be insensitive to the effect his room full of animal skins has on visitors, but he pleads innocent to the wanton slaughter of the animals. Most of his cats die of old age, disease or in the sometimes violent encounters between new mates, he says. Only a minority meet with the sudden finality of a Baudy-administered bullet through the brain.

"None of these animals was killed in order to be made into a pelt," he says with a wave around the living room. "Nature euthanizes 50 percent of every litter in the wild—the weak and the misfits. In a captive breeding program you have to mimic nature. Unless you have tremendous financial resources, you can't keep imperfect animals. And another reason for euthanizing them is when they are extremely dangerous to human beings."

"My conscious is very clear and I sleep very well at night."

Tiger Wine

By George Nobbe

The unslakable thirst of the Chinese people for an illicit brew whose main ingredient is dried tiger bones has not only reduced the Siberian and South China tiger population to a meager 100, it has also further strained the republic's relations with neighboring India.

Alarmed at the rising slaughter of its tigers in the Dudhwa National Park and the surrounding forests of Pilibhit and Kheri, the state government of Uttar Pradesh complained to Peking, charging that 110 distilleries are turning out vast quantities of tiger wine on the Chinese side of the border. Not so, says Peking. The bones come from Burma.

India is understandably concerned, since it has only 4,000 wild tigers of its own, all of which live in 9,650 square miles of forest sanctuary. Poachers and smugglers, lured by the rising price of the wine (used as an aphrodisiac and occasional fever remedy), have grown desperate in recent months. Lacking tigers, Chinese have started decimating golden cats and both common and clouded leopards to get more bones, or so say the Indians.

According to Peter Jackson, the Editor of Cat News, a publication of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in Gland, Switzerland, a single adult tiger can yield about 165 pounds of bone. It is crushed and then added to a concoction made from its sex organs pickled in alcohol, usually brandy. "The price varies from city to city in China, and it's very expensive," says Jackson. It costs anywhere from \$400 to \$500 per kilogram. "The wine is really one of the major threats to China's tiger populations, if you can call it that."

Reprinted from OMNI

Contributed by Jean Townes

California Enforcement

By Ken Castle
from "Insights"

One of the sores that has been festering over at the Department of Fish & Game is its supervision-or lack of it - of exotic animal compounds throughout California, especially those involved in the movie and entertainment industry.

Now a possible reason for the DFG's inattention to this area has come to light: The man in charge of regulating these compounds has been meeting with the animal owners to become a paid consultant for them when he retires from the department.

And, interestingly enough, public records show that many of the handlers and trainers who may want to hire him haven't been inspected by the DFG in years.

Recently, we discovered that the Wildlife Waystation, a private Los Angeles facility that has a contract with the department to house confiscated and abandoned animals, has been cited repeatedly by Federal inspectors for improper caging, poor sanitary conditions and inadequate water.

While state humane officers and the federal officials were pressing for reforms there, the Department was stonewalling. DFG brass insisted that the Waystation, which got a \$300,000 DFG grant in 1986, was a model facility and that formal inspections were unnecessary.

When we looked further, we found that not only was the department letting the Waystation off the hook, but it also was ignoring dozens of breeders, animal trainers and handlers who make big bucks by selling their services to filmmakers.

This was happening despite thick files by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Inspectors that showed recurring deficiencies among major animal compounds.

By law, the DFG is in charge of issuing permits for selling, transportation and possessing exotic animals; for making inspections of cages and for prosecuting violations. That includes commercial facilities as well as individual owners. State laws are stricter than federal laws.

While the department was ignoring the big fish, it was swooping down with a vengeance on Pat Derby, the operator of a small, non-profit compound north of Stockton where wardens have been making repeated inspection raids.

Derby is the founder of the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), which fights for humane treatment of animals in the entertainment industry and has been very vocal lately about the DFG's policies. A former trainer herself, Derby keeps a small well-attended shelter with retired animals such as the Mercury Cougar. She has never failed federal inspections, nor had she ever been cited by state wardens - until last year.

Why has she been targeted for selective attention when the rest of the compounds go ignored?

Turns out that the department's man in charge of wildlife permits and related enforcement actions, Warden Captain James P. Zobel, has developed a chummy relationship with the Hollywood animal companies he's been overseeing for the past 11 years. The reason? to land a job with them, possibly this fall.

In fact, we discovered that Zobel was recently negotiating with the California Animal Owners Association, a new group that includes many heavy-hitters in the lucrative film industry. Charlie Summut, President of that organization and himself a commercial handler, said that Zobel has offered to become a paid consultant "after he retires from the Department."

Zobel's services are also being sought by Dr. Martin Dinnes, a prominent Los Angeles veterinarian who is Mr Big in the Hollywood animal world. Dinnes procures animals for directors, hires trainers and supervises them during filming. He has built a worldwide empire that consults for theme parks, including Marine World Africa/USA in Vallejo, and obtains animals for a variety of entertainment uses.

During an interview last fall, Dinnes hinted that Zobel might eventually head up a new division of his business that would help trainers obtain the myriad of government permits needed to buy and move animals.

Some of Dinnes' clients have been cited by the Feds for recurring deficiencies, and Dinnes himself was sent a warning letter by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last year over problems with marine mammals at two theme parks.

Zobel, 50, who has worked for Fish & Game for 20 years, was instrumental in arranging and overseeing the deal between the Department and the Wildlife Waystation.

Zobel also has been the department's main contact with superstar Michael Jackson, who owns a few animals, but plans to vastly enlarge his menagerie when he opens a giant enclave on land he's just bought in Santa Barbara County.

You may recall that Jackson was cited for obtaining a young giraffe without permits a year ago, but was eventually allowed to keep it by the state Fish & Game Dept. Zobel thinks Jackson may be able to use some consulting on his future collections.

"I could probably be a facilitator for these organizations," said Zobel. "They need to know how to make their approach for permits and how to be in compliance."

All of this quiet wheeling and dealing with the people Zobel is supposed to regulate seems inconsistent with the Department's own conflict of interest policy, which states: "Employees may not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, money, gifts, favors, or any other consideration of economic value for providing service, advice or information, or for the performance or non-performance of any act within the scope of their prescribed duties as employees of this department."

The policy also says that employees "may not maintain a financial interest in, nor enter into any enterprise, partnership, profit-sharing or employment arrangement with any person, organization, firm, or corporation, which is subject to inspection, licensing, certification, regulation, audit or enforcement by the employees of this department."

Zobel, currently the department's "in-house consultant" on wildlife permit matters, has been deeply involved in the delays over renewing Pat Derby's permit.

In an interview last week, Zobel insisted that the "manpower shortage" among the state's warden force is the main reason that many animal compounds get overlooked. He has been supported in that contention by his boss, DFG Director Kate Bontadelli.

But a look at the records shows there may be more to this than lack of personnel. Computer printouts of DFG inspections, obtained by Derby and her PAWS group and made available to us, provide the following information:

- * Out of 593 individual permittees in California, only 47 were inspected by the Department in 1987. PAWS shelter, which has 15 animals, was inspected by two wardens on six occasions that year.

- * Some 30 of the permit holders represent large compounds that buy, sell and transport exotic animals, but not one of these was inspected by wardens last year. In fact, some of the worst traffickers in animals haven't been visited in years...one since 1979

- * Of the 47 inspections made in 1987, 17 were places housing single animals, including six of the seven that were checked in Los Angeles.

- * Despite state law requiring once-a-year inspections of all facilities with big cats, Tippi Hedren's Shambala preserve, which listed 82 cats, including lions and tigers, hasn't been inspected since 1985, according to the printouts.

As for Zobel's friend, Dr. Dinnes, the records of his name but no entries at all next to it. Is there a pattern to all of this? Perhaps the legislature or the state attorney general ought to find out. And when Pet Bontadelli, Governor Deukmejian's nominee for Director of DFG, comes up for confirmation in the State Senate, someone ought to ask him why this peculiar Hollywood connection is allowed to flourish in an agency he's supposed to be cleaning up.

DITOR's NOTE: It would seem that, according to the above information, individual owners are being singled out for "special treatment" in California. Certainly, it would make more sense to check the places the largest number of animals are kept on a priority basis if the welfare of animals is the primary goal.

Jean Townes who contributed this article feels that "enhanced" enforcement will make it all that more difficult for exotic owners in California.

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Lynx Vocalization

Vocalization data indicates that there is no close relationship between the genera Lynx and Panthera, and lynx show more affinities to species of the genus Felis, according to Gustav Peters, who has studied acoustic signals in Lynx lynx and Lynx rufus.

Peters says that lynx possess 10-12 signal types, which agrees with other species of Felidae. The mew, spit, hiss and growl, he notes are common to all Felidae, while the gurgle is common to all but six species. However, these species have an acoustical signal similar and equivalent to the gurgle - prusten in Neofelis nebulosa, Panthera onca, P. tigris and P. uncia, and puffing in P. leo and P. pardus.

"In having the gurgle Lynx is clearly differentiated from the felid group including Neofelis and Panthera," Peters declares.

"Of the vocalizations in the genus Lynx not common to all Felidae, none is shared with Neofelis and/or Panthera. Moreover, acoustic signal types peculiar to species of the latter two genera are not present in Lynx.

"The vocalization data presented clearly show that Lynx and Panthera are not closely related but the lynxes show more affinities to species of the genus Felis.

From: "Acoustic Communication in the Genus Lynx, a comparative survey and phylogenetic interpretation", Bonn. zool. Beitr. Bd 38 by Gustav Peters - reprinted from Cat News.



Lynx (c) Gunter Ziesler

Tasmanian Tiger

Is the Tasmanian Tiger really extinct? Not according to Kevin Cameron, an experienced Australian aborigine tracker.

Cameron was hired by the Australian government to investigate sightings of the Tasmanian tiger (also known as the Tasmanian wolf, or thylacine) on the mainland of Australia, where it is believed to have been extinct for 1,000 years. (the last known living specimen was captured in Tasmania in 1933 and died in a zoo in 1936) Cameron claims he saw at least four separate animals in the dense forest, each displaying the animal's distinctive "drunken" gait. The authorities remained skeptical of Cameron's findings, however, so he went back for more concrete evidence.

Fascination with the legend of the Tasmanian tiger has stirred innumerable searches but there has never been any proof that the creature still exists. Cameron's second trip produced photographs of a creature about the size of a large dog, with dark bars stretching across its rump. "This is a distinct characteristic of the tiger." Says Athol M. Douglas, retired senior experimental officer at the Western Australian Museum in Perth, who was brought in to examine Cameron's findings, which include casts of footprints. "The prints show the forefeet with five toes and the hind feet with only four toes," says Douglas. "And the tracks were made in damp soil while the animal was stationary, so the impressions were very clear." According to him, this difference between the front and back toes is also a typical trait of the tiger.

Douglas who is also a renowned bushman, has been chasing reports of the Tasmanian Tiger for 55 years. He believes Cameron's sightings are authentic, even though accepted scientific knowledge indicates otherwise. Douglas estimates that there are six or so tigers living and says it is just a matter of time before a specimen is discovered for certain - Cathy Spencer

Contributed by Jean Townes



Tiger (c) Omni Magazine

Killer Tigers

One does not talk idly of tigers in Arampur, known as the "Village of the Tiger Widows".

In the last decade most of the village men have been killed by the graceful but dangerous beasts.

Arampur is on the edge of the Sunderbans, a 1,034 square-mile forest in eastern India, one of 15 areas where the government is trying to save the Royal Bengal tiger from extinction.

The \$23 million project to save the big cats is succeeding. The latest tiger census three years ago - based on paw marks that are as distinctive as fingerprints - showed more than 4,000 tigers roaming India. That is up from 1,827 in 1973 when Project Tiger was launched with aid from the World Wildlife Fund.

"The government is breeding man-eaters and under the laws we cannot kill them," complains Surya Kanta Roy, the village leader in Arampur.

The government imposes a fine of \$7,692 for killing a tiger, but pays compensation of only \$384 to the family of a tiger's victim. "I have survived because I do not go to the jungle," says Roy, who also runs the village school.

In key areas, the government has set up electrified human dummies, powered by car batteries that give a 230-volt shock to the tiger that touches them. That is to convince tigers that man is dangerous too. Villagers are told to carry a stick on their right shoulder because the tiger always attack the right side of the neck. Honey collectors are given clay face masks to wear on the back of their heads to confuse the tiger as to which side to attack. The Royal Bengal tiger never attacks from the front.

Arampur, meaning "the resting nest", once was a bustling place where traders came to buy honey or a fish. But since Project Tiger began, Arampur has been transformed. About 80 percent of the village's 300 homes have no man.

"All eaten by tigers," says Roy, the village head man.

On March 13th, a man-eater took Arampur's latest victim, fisherman Shaki Charan Mondal, and another woman became a widow.

An Associated Press report reprinted from the Columbian
Contributed by Ethel Hauser

No Puma Hunt in CA

A San Francisco, California, Superior Court Judge issued a ruling that will likely halt what would have been the first California Mountain Lion hunt since 1971.

Judge Lucy McCabe threw out regulations issued by the state Fish & Game Commission allowing hunters to shoot 190 mountain lions during a season to begin October 9th, 1988.

Reprinted from the San Jose Mercury
Contributed by Jean Townes

Iant Poisoning

By Gigi Hanna, CVT
Animal Medical Hospital of Aspen
Aspen Colorado 81611

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians can provide an important service to pet owners by educating themselves and their clients on the dangers of poisonous houseplants to pets. The experience of the University of Illinois Animal Poison Control Center indicated a need for information on plant poisoning. During the Center's first three years of operation (1978-81) 11.6% of the inquiries were plant-related. Of these, approximately 50% involved common house or ornamental plant ingestion by household pets. Information about the toxicity or recommended treatment for ingestion of or exposure to a plant product was requested for more than 70 different species of plants (1).

A poisoning is a systemic disease induced by a toxic substance which has entered the animal body via the mouth, skin, by inhalation or parenterally. More generally, a poison represents any substance which causes chemical or physical damage to the body. The course of poisoning is similar to the course of infectious diseases in having a cause, causal agent lag period, clinical signs and pathanotamic effects (2).

When educating clients about poisonings, the prevention of plant poisoning should be stressed. Pet owners should check their present houseplants to see if any may be poisonous. They should also check on the poison potential of any new plant purchased. It is best not to rely on a friend or sales clerk for this information. The local botanical society or poison control center is usually quite knowledgeable about plant toxicity. (3)

PLANT EXPOSURES

Contact poisoning by plants is very rare in domestic animals. Most plants cause poisoning only when eaten (4). Although plant poisoning of adult dogs and cats is unlikely, puppies often "mouth" anything they encounter and are prime candidates for the accidental ingestion of toxic plant materials. Kittens are less likely to ingest such foreign material, but on occasion they will do so. However, both older and immature animals may suffer from boredom or behavioral abnormalities, or may simply be investigating a new addition to the environment—all of which may lead to ingestion of poisonous plant material (5).

The family Araceae contains the houseplants most commonly recognized as toxic. More familiar members of this family are Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane) and Philodendron, although other family members are also capable of producing similar disease problems (6). Historically, toxic signs from these plants have been attributed to the presence of calcium oxalate crystals that act as irritants upon contact with the mucous membranes. An additional toxic component proposed is a protein-like substance stimulating histamine release. However, the lack of protection by pretreatment with antihistamines appears to reduce the likelihood of histamine involvement. In any event, the clinical sign—resulting are similar to a histamine reaction (5,6).

Dieffenbachia characteristically produces marked swelling and irritation of the oral mucous membrane, with resulting salivation and difficulty in swallowing and breathing. Philodendron may produce vague digestive tract signs that are accompanied by debilitation and listlessness (7), elevated temperature, nervousness, twitching, trembling, and occasionally opisthotonus (8). This plant contains a poison that has a cumulative effect; there may be loss of kidney function if a cat eats the leaves for a month or two (9) and death is a likely sequel (6).

INITIATING VETERINARY CARE

Veterinarians are frequently contacted by telephone concerning a poisoned animal. The preliminary instructions given at this time can be important to the success of subsequent therapeutic measures. (10). When handling a telephone call concerning a possible poisoning, the veterinarian or technician should instruct the client to keep the animal warm, to prevent injury to the animal if it is convulsing and to transport it immediately to the hospital. Because some toxic substances can elicit abnormal behavior in the animal, a client should muzzle the animal if it is not vomiting (11). The owner should then identify the plant ingested and bring along any plant remnants as well as feces or vomitus from the animal (12).

Although the veterinarian is responsible for diagnosis and treatment of poisonings, the technician can be helpful by obtaining as much pertinent information as possible from the owner of an animal suspected of being poisoned. This can be done prior to the veterinarian's arrival in an emergency (13).

Thorough clinical examination of the animal is an integral part of the overall diagnosis. The clinical findings may justify suspicion of poisoning. The examination also provides data for differential diagnosis, for evaluation of the course of the disease, and for prognosis. It is also necessary for timely and effective therapy to be started. Analysis of urine, blood and feces, will compliment the clinical examination (2).

TREATMENT

The most important aspect of emergency treatment is to ensure adequate physiologic functioning. All the therapeutic procedures available will be of no use if the animal has lost its vital functions. This procedure may include establishment of a patent airway, artificial respiration, cardiac massage and perhaps the application of defibrillation techniques. Following stabilization of vital signs, the clinician may proceed with subsequent therapeutic measures (10).

In plant poisonings, as with other toxicological emergencies, the presenting signs usually dictate the appropriate therapy, as in most instances there is neither a specific treatment nor antidote (14). Rational procedures can be employed to treat a case of poisoning even though the poisonous agent is not identified. They involve preventing further absorption of the poison, enhancing the removal of the absorbed poison, and providing supportive therapy to combat the effects of the poison already absorbed (8).

When there is good reason to suspect that an animal has ingested a potentially poisonous substance within less than two hours, efforts should be made to remove it from the upper gastrointestinal tract. If the animal has not vomited and can swallow, an emetic should be given promptly (13). Gastric lavage is an emergency procedure that at times has been maligned as being relatively ineffective. But changes in technique (i.e. using a larger tube, more volume and more frequent lavages) have proven this is a useful procedure when undertaken within two hours of ingestion of a toxicant.

Although activated charcoal does not detoxify poisons, it will effectively prevent absorption of a toxicant if properly utilized (10). It can be administered after vomiting has occurred (13) or can be used in the gastric lavage solution (10). The "universal antidote" should be avoided as magnesium oxide and tannic acid interfere with the absorptive capacity of activated charcoal. Activated charcoal is considerably less expensive than the universal antidote (8).

An oral cathartic of sodium sulfate is an efficient agent for evacuation of the bowel and may be used in an emergency. A colonic lavage may be of value in hastening elimination of toxicants from the lower gastrointestinal tract. Warm water with castile soap makes an excellent enema solution. There are also several commercially available enema preparations. Care should be taken to avoid the induction of dehydration and electrolyte imbalance with overzealous enema treatment.

Supportive measures include control of body temperature, maintenance of respiration and cardiovascular function, control of acid-base imbalance, alleviation of pain and control of central nervous system effects. Hypothermia can be controlled with a circulating hot water blanket and by keeping the animal in a warm, draft-free cage. Hyperthermia is treated with ice bags, cold water baths and enemas. It is vitally important that the animal's body temperature be constantly monitored to prevent overcorrection.

Respiratory support requires an adequate patent airway, using a cuffed endotracheal tube in an unconscious animal or by performing a tracheostomy under local anesthesia. A respirator is of great value, or an anesthesia machine may be utilized with manual compression of the bag. A mixture of 50% oxygen and 50% room air generally is sufficient unless there is thickened respiratory membrane, in which case 100% oxygen is necessary.

Cardiovascular support requires the presence of adequate circulating blood volume, cardiac function, tissue perfusion and acid-base balance. Blood volume and cardiac activity are of most immediate concern.

In the presence of hypovolemia due to the loss of both cells and volume, whole blood is needed. Sufficient blood should be given to raise the packed cell volume to 75% of the animal's estimated normal level. Hypovolemia due to the fluid loss alone can be treated with the administration of lactated Ringer's solution or plasma expanders. Central venous pressure should be monitored to determine the adequacy of the replacement therapy. In some cases it may be necessary to administer corticosteroids intravenously to restore adequate tissue perfusion.

Cardiac activity can be aided by the application of closed-chest cardiac massage for limited cardiovascular support, but the administration of calcium gluconate, infused slowly intravenously can stimulate cardiac activity in most instances. This agent is also a good nonspecific treatment of many toxicities. Overdose with cardioactive agents must be avoided, since they are highly toxic to the myocardium; the electrical activity of the heart should be closely monitored.

Control of the acid-base balance problems is primarily a matter of physiologically maintaining an animal in a homeostatic condition. The most common acid-base disturbance seen is metabolic acidosis, but alkalosis may also occur in cases of poisoning. In correcting acidosis not of respiratory origin, sodium bicarbonate intravenously is the drug of choice. As it is the easiest to administer and requires no metabolic conversion. Caution must be exercised with alkalinizing agents to avoid the induction of alkalosis. Unless drug induced, alkalosis does not generally occur, but the IV administration of 0.9% NaCl (physiologic saline) is usually sufficient for initial therapy. This should be followed by the oral administration of divided doses of ammonium chloride.

Control of pain with a minimal dose of morphine or meperidine is used in animals. Management of central nervous system (CNS) disorders in cases of intoxication is complex. Therapy depends on the presence of CNS depression or hyperactivity. Either disorder can easily be reversed to the extreme by overzealous treatment. CNS depression can also be considered with respiratory depression, since the management of the two conditions is very similar. Although the IV administration of analeptic agents, such as doxapram, is reported to be efficacious,

their actions are short-lived, and CNS depression returns if the animal is not monitored continuously. Analeptics can also induce convulsions. Artificial respiration or respiratory support is of value in animals exhibiting CNS depression and may be the treatment of choice for most CNS depression syndromes.

Cases of CNS hyperactivity, including convulsions, can be managed by the administration of CNS depressants or tranquilizers. Diphenhydramine sodium is the agent of choice for convulsions and hyperactivity. Care must be taken, however, since a respiratory-depressing dose may be required to alleviate all adverse signs. In these cases respiratory support is mandatory. Inhalant anesthetics are excellent for long-term management of CNS hyperactivity. Central-acting skeletal muscle relaxants and minor tranquilizers (methocarbamol, chloral hydrate, guaifacinate and diazepam) are also used for convulsant intoxicants. The animal should be placed in a quiet, dark room to reduce excitation due to auditory or visual stimuli (10).

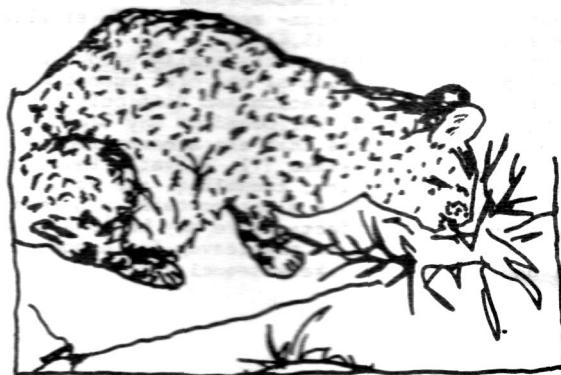
CONCLUSION

Diagnosis and treatment of poisoning is an imprecise science. When faced with a case of supposed plant poisoning, the owner - as opposed to the suspected cause - directs the treatment. Prevention is the most effective route to follow and education of veterinary professionals and pet owners is the best way to prevent plant poisonings.

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Contributed by John Perry



Cavities in Cats

Cavities as we know them in humans do not for all practical consideration in animals. From time to time, veterinarians do find an isolated cavity which is usually related to some other dental problem such as a malformation of the animal, or a fractured tooth.

This is probably due to the fact that our animals are either plant eaters or have teeth which shear and tear rather than grind like human molars. This lack of a place for the bacteria to build up on animals' teeth and an almost sugar-free diet make cavities a novelty, according to the Veterinary Medical Association.

There is, however, one lesson which is becoming more and more common in cats which behaves just like a human cavity.

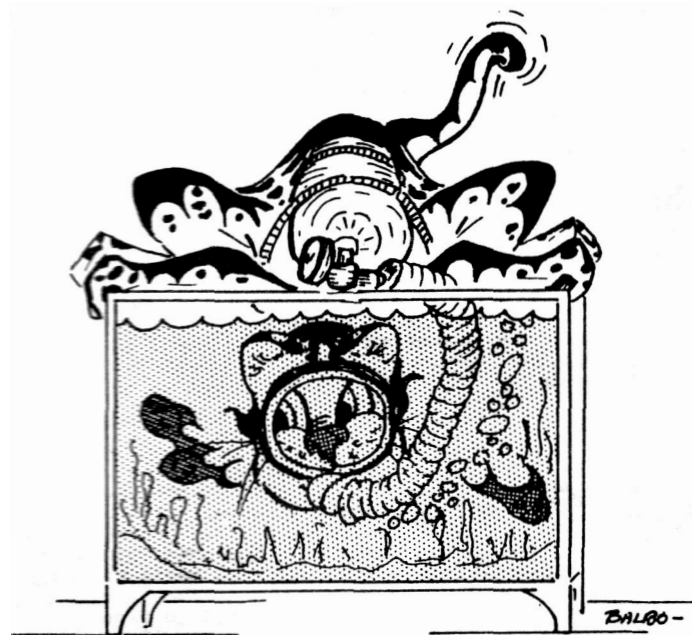
These lesions are called cervical neck line lesions (CNL'S) This is not a true cavity, but a reabsorption of the enamel and dentin of the tooth.

They progress very rapidly and will cause the cat to lose the tooth within a few months. To preserve the function of the tooth for your cat, it is necessary to fill the tooth.

How do you know if your cat has a cervical neck line lesion on a tooth? They are painful! The cat will often eat with only the side of the mouth, thus avoiding the sore tooth. The cat will drool excessively and have a lot of tartar build-up over the tooth.

When your veterinarian probes these areas the cat has a very agitated reaction.

It is recommended that if your cat shows signs of having a pain in the mouth, drooling or unusual eating behavior, have its teeth checked for cervical neck line lesions.



Never underestimate an Ocelot.

Puma Confrontation

A young mountain lion that was shot dead by police in a residential area may have wandered out of the mountains in search of water because of drought conditions, state Fish & Game officials said.

The 80-pound male mountain lion, was shot by a marksman after the cat wandered into the back yard of a home where two children were playing in Pasadena California.

Pat Moore, spokesman for the Department of Fish and Game in Long Beach, California, said the lion could have wandered out of the San Gabriel Mountains three miles away because it was chased out in a territorial dispute or because it was seeking water.

"We're heading into a drought and that is also a possibility," Moore said. "In the next few months, we'll be seeing a lot more wildlife. They'll be coming down to the gutters to drink water."

The mountain lion was taken to a state laboratory in Sacramento, where a necropsy will be conducted to determine if there were any other factors, such as a neurological problems, that may have caused the cat to wander.

Reprinted from the San Jose Mercury (AP)
Contributed by Jean Townes

New England Branch Report

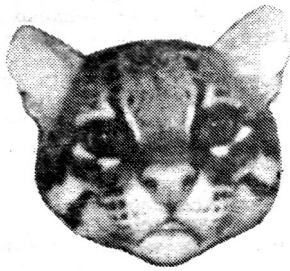


Albe and Ann Porges was again our host for New England Chapter. It was a perfect June Sunday. A big thank you goes out to them for the delicious barbecue meal that they served.

Present were 17 members and 5 non-members, all from surrounding New England. Present felines were Bobcats and a snow leopard. When people were done socializing, the meeting was called to order by our President Albe Porges. His first order of the day was thanking all the members that helped at the spring meeting and also stated that he did get his town permit to keep his snow leopard and all is well and quite again. He also stated that this was to be a social day to show his appreciation. However he closed with a talk on the importance of conservation and increasing our membership. There was no major business conducted this day. Just a fun day in the sun and in the pool for anyone who wish it.

again, it was a fun day and I thank all the members for being there, see you at the next one.

Submitted by
Karen Jusseume



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MOST CANNED PRODUCTS CONTAIN 78% MOISTURE; THAT IS EXPENSIVE WATER. REMEMBER, THE FOOD YOU GIVE YOUR CAT IS ALL IT GETS, & IF IT IS COMMERCIAL IT IS 100% PROCESSED. CATS HAVE SPECIAL NUTRITIONAL NEEDS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THEIR DAILY FEED IF THEY ARE TO ENJOY ABUNDANT GOOD HEALTH.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF FEEDING & CARING FOR THEIR PRECIOUS CATS, THE MEZOTRACE CORPORATION HIGHLY RECOMMENDS NATURAL HEALTH CARE FOR DOGS AND CATS BY RICHARD PITCAIRN DVM, RODALE PRESS. ANIMALS IN THE WILD KNOW WHAT PLANTS CONTAIN MINERALS AND VITAMINS AND THESE ARE WHAT THEY EAT.

Readers Write

Dear Editor:

Hats off to Jean Hatfield and John Perry for their inspiring articles upholding exotic pet ownership. Our faith is partially restored in LIOC, knowing others share our opinions in deference to those expressed by Fred Boyajian.

According to the dictionary, a pet is a creature kept as an object of affection. Is this wrong? Our exotics are as pampered and loved as our domestics...given the same kindnesses and considerations (our neighbors' children should be so lucky). Fred's commentary against pet ownership of exotics made us feel that we were lesser, conniving individuals. In a democracy freedom of speech is acknowledged. However, this does not mean we need to continue a relationship with an organization that feels our efforts are uncaring and opportunistic. If criticism is well-founded, it can be accepted. Unjust criticism, however, is abrasive and scorned.

We joined LIOC for information and support in raising our exotics to the best of our knowledge. This goal has been achieved and we thank LIOC for their help. Our little cats are healthy, alert and affectionate pets. We conform to their needs, no vice versa, as any cat owner knows is necessary. This responsibility, as with the majority of other exotic pet owners, is not taken lightly. If daily routines of feeding, cleaning, worrying, mixed with many sleepless nights constituent "inlating

one's ego", our egos must be of colossal proportions. A "thank you lick" now and then, is the only self glorification we need.

Our only fault, as we see it, is not having written this letter before now.

The Jacksons

Puma is what the Quechua Indians called one of the two big cats indigenous only to the Americas. European settlers, being unfamiliar with the animal, gave it various names. While scientific journals and books usually use the term puma, the name unfortunately has not caught on with the news media or the general public.

When the misnomers are abbreviated to lion, I cringe. The practice is distressing to me because I think it denigrates a beautiful creature. The standing naturalist, D. W. F. Stanek describes it as quileless in Introducing the Cat Family, Spril Books, London. Calling this cat a lion further endangers the few left in their fast-dwindling native habitat in the United States.

Is it too late to upgrade the image of our cat by encouraging the use of the name puma?

Frank.

From Under the Editor's Desk

'As a long-time member of LIOC, I have always been thankful for a long list of friends and acquaintances I've met over the years via the Club.

In the early years, as a novice, it was through telephone conversations with experienced owners that I survived the trials and tribulations of new kittens, and later through the ordeals of breeding and trying to handraise the babies.

More than once, it took years before that voice on the phone evolved into a face with personal contact while travelling or at convention. Nevertheless, there was a secure feeling when trying the waters of a new endeavor, knowing that help, knowledge or even just a sympathetic ear were as close as the telephone.

All this came via the Newsletter. Articles by members recounting their first endeavors, their successes as well as their failures....they had been there, they might be able to help. Amazingly, never once, did some one refuse-never was anyone less than enthusiastic, encouraging; never did anyone hesitate to answer the best they could and go out of their way to help-whatever the problem, no matter the time of day (or night). We all shared the common bond of our felines-their well being and safety.

Over the years, it has become common place for the phone to announce the happy news of new kittens or the sad news of the death of a cherished feline friend. However, these calls come less frequently these days. Is it because the new babies are now old hat and the deaths,,,,,well, many of us are now on our second, third or even 10th exotic and death comes to all eventually?

Or is it we are content unto ourselves-not feeling the necessity to share? Complacent that everyone knows the most basic facts, are we resting on our laurels?

First hand experience, by exotic owners is invaluable.....why is it then that I receive fewer and fewer articles from members sharing their experience?

I, a member since 1968 lookforward to hearing and learning through photos, others' felines. The oldest, experienced owner out there can learn from a new, fresh outlook on an old problem; be given new insight into an old approach, or just cherish the memories evoked by the wonder of the first-time owner.

Among God's most wondrous creatures, I never tire of photos of the feline species-comparing of course the cats in my life to those depicted, noting that this serval differs from the ones I have now in subtle but definite ways.

Folks, let us return to the days of yesteryear when LIOC was a close knit-group. Renew that resolve to contribute to the Newsletter this year-this month-NOW today!

New members need reinforcement, encouragement and knowledge. Us oldtimers too need to be boosted, recall the days when you thirsted for knowledge....eager to know EVERYTHING! Dig in and let's make the Club a fountain of such knowledge and encouragement-send us a few pictures, a few words about YOUR cat, how you solved a problem or let us know a problem you need solving. Input makes LIOC your Club and everyone gains. Please contribute something soon, help refoster that spirit of togetherness, of the close family with each member working to further the subject nearest our heart-the Exotic Feline.

Cancer in Felids

March 3, 1988

John Perry

I have recently had to deal with two cases of cancer in my felines. Both different and neither feline leukemia. I have a domestic (purebred Maine Coon) with cancer of the liver (Lymphosarcoma) and a Geoffroy's Cat which has a metastasized malignant mammary cancer.

The lymphosarcoma is being treated at the University of Minnesota Small Animal Veterinary Hospital. It is treated according to the protocol at the end of the article. Basically it consists of a shot of vincristine every week to ten days and daily doses of prednisone (a hormone) pills. The treatment is similar to that given to humans. However, it is not curative, it only regresses the tumor and extends the life expectancy. The reason for this is that the high levels (proportionately) used in humans would result in a very sick animal and this does not appear to be an acceptable alternative for "pets." Life expectancy can be extended one to three or more years. The cost of the treatments themselves is low, but the blood work to determine the efficacy of the drugs runs \$40 per visit. The lymphosarcoma was diagnosed based on a yellowing of the eyes, teeth, and skin. This coloring has decreased with the treatment. Side effects are that the cat has lost most of her soft under hair. Also, the cat, unless treated with an anti-vomiting medication will vomit frequently for a period beginning about 3 days after the shot to 6 days after the shot. The cause of the vomiting is irritation of the stomach muscle by the killed cancer cells.

Inquiring of the Veterinary staff, they indicated that a similar protocol would be applicable to exotics. While the treatment is feasible, I have mixed feelings about recommending it in general. The shots must be given intravenously. While a domestic cat can be held for this, an exotic would probably have to be anesthetized, an additional stress in an already sick animal. Also, the treatment is not a curative and prolongs the life for an uncertain duration. I think any owner in this sort of a situation would have to think long and hard about whether to proceed with the treatment. The one positive to the treatment is that the cat has not acted sick or shown any significant personality changes, except a fear of going to the vet's.

The second cancer, mammary cancer, was found about a year and a half ago in one of my female Geoffroy's during an x-ray to determine the cause of arthritis in one hip. The cancer was removed surgically and biopsied. It was found to be malignant. No further treatment was carried out. The cat was at the time about 12 years old. Recently, during the past few months many tumors have appeared just under the skin of the ventral (stomach) area. Some of these have erupted through the skin. The diagnosis was that there was no purpose in treatment as the spread of the cancer was so wide. Accompanying the spread of the cancer has been a loss of calcium from most of the bones. This is a result of the cancer and not related to dietary availability of calcium. (The diet is about 10% bone and is supplemented in Vitamin D.) The cat is not in obvious pain and will be permitted to live out her time, unless significant pain develops. Also, she is being kept in a cage which has no high areas to climb or jump down from.

My purpose in sharing these diagnoses is to remind members that there are a number of cancer-related diseases that cats can suffer besides feline leukemia and that some of these are treatable.



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Hidden within the seemingly random letter list are the common and family names of 34 of our cat friends. The names are both horizontal and vertical. They are both normal and reversed. Several are missing from the full list of 39 species. There are enough to keep you busy for a while. Arthur Human 8/29/87

p s n o w l e o p a r d a a t r
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