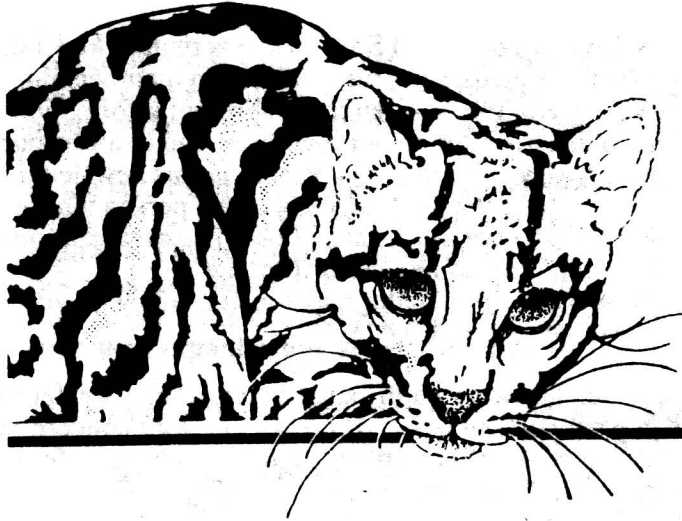
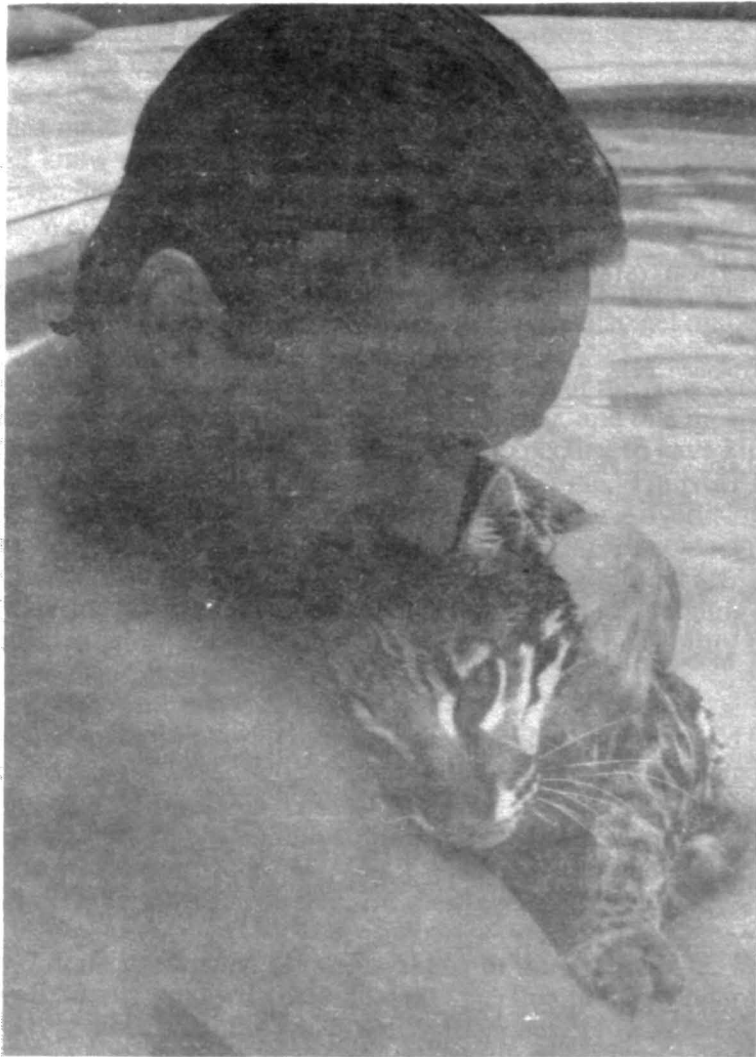


L.I.O.C. Endangered Species Conservation Federation Incorporated.



Newsletter

4101 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15224
Jan./Feb. 1989 , Volume 33, Number 1



Jeff Bellingham and Kato. Kato, an ocelot (*Felis Pardalis*), is giving a good demonstration of the fact that exotics enjoy playing in water. Jeff and Scarlett Bellingham share their home with many other felines; more pictures inside.

Information about LIOC ESCF Inc. and this Newsletter.

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation Incorporated. We are a non-profit, non-commercial organization, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of the newsletter is to present information about exotic-feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members, and to allow our members to publish their points of view on these topics. The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and, in many cases, reflects the point of view of the person whose name appears on the article, rather than the point of view of the organization. The organization's statement of intent is contained in our by-laws; a copy can be requested from the Secretary/Treasurer. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without written permission of the authors and/or the copyright owner LIOC.

Since the newsletter consists of articles, photos, and artwork contributed by members, we depend on you for our material. We can only publish what you send us. Articles of all types concerning exotic felines are gladly accepted. We also have a reader's write section for letters or responses to articles. Please send materials for contribution to the newsletter editor.

Newsletter Editor: Wendie Wulff, 4101 Penn Ave. #6, Pittsburgh PA 15224

LIOC ESCF Officers, Directors, Branches and Affiliates.

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Shirley Wagner, Rt. 4, Box 377, Mobile AL 36619, (205) 661-1342

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World Pet Society: Jan Giacinto, Box 343 Tarzana CA 91356, (818) 345-5140

Animal Finder's Guide: Pat Hctor, Box 99, Prairie Creek IN 47969, (812) 898 2678

I am happy to say that we are almost back on schedule. You should be reading this issue by the end of March. The next issue, March/April, should be in your mailboxes by the end of April. After that we should really be back on track.

In the last mailing, you should have received an election Ballot. Elections close on April 7th, so if you haven't mailed your Ballot yet, please do so RIGHT AWAY. Mail Ballots to Gwen Oberlin -- her address is on the form. It is crucial that we elect a new Board as soon as we can. The old Board members feel their terms are over, and we need to get some new people in place. This is your chance to decide what you want from your organization, so let's hear from you.

The results of the elections will be printed in the March/April Newsletter. I'm going to ask each of the winners to prepare a short statement of what they plan to do next. Those statements will be published in the same issue. I'd also like to ask you, the general membership, what you expect from people in Officers and Directors positions. What do you expect from a Term Director for Member Services? From a Vice President? And from all of the other positions? From attending convention, I know there are people out there with opinions. Write them down, send them to me, and I'll publish them in the March/April issue as well.

In the last mailing, you should also have received an indication of your membership status. I know those of you who got pink slips last time will be surprised to be getting this Newsletter, since we said that the Nov/Dec 88 issue was the last one you'd be getting. Well, this issue really is your last one. We decided to give all of you at least a few weeks to respond to our request, and this issue was ready to go in the meantime, so everyone got a copy. But, if you got a pink slip last time, and you don't renew by April 7th, you won't hear from us again. Renewals also get mailed to Gwen Oberlin.

I'd like to remind people that we do have a section of the Newsletter where animals can be offered for sale. It's starting to look like spring, and that means kittens. If you are a breeder, and you have kittens for sale, or are expecting to have kittens for sale, and want to run an ad in the Newsletter, please contact me. I'm NOT in charge of advertising, but until we have a new Term Director for Advertising and Publicity, I suppose I'd better do the job. If you want to place an ad, contact me about rates for 1/4, 1/2, and full pages, and please be prepared to send final art. I'd also like to add that sellers and buyers are responsible for having and maintaining all necessary permits and documentation, and that LIOC ESCF takes no responsibility for, and makes no guarantees regarding, animal sales or transfers.

My stack of material to print in the Newsletter is getting low. I'd like to encourage you to send me things. Possibilities include articles clipped from magazines and newspapers, anecdotes you'd like to share about your own animals (or someone else's), and photographs and illustrations. For those of you sending artwork: black and white pieces reproduce best, and if you want your material back, please say so. Otherwise I'll keep what you send for the Newsletter files.

Finally, I don't know what the status of any of the Branches is. With the adoption of the new By-Laws, and with the upcoming election of a new board, I hope that we'll start hearing more from the LIOC ESCF Branches. How about some Branch Reports? Or some indication of who to contact in what geographic location? Maybe an overall Branch Summary for an upcoming issue? Current and, soon-to-be-current-again Branch Presidents, can we get together on this?

In the July/August 1988 issue of the Newsletter I printed an article, called California Enforcement, which has caused quite a stir. A number of you have contacted me to ask how that article happened to get printed, and some non-LIOC ESCF people have responded with letters to the Editor. Here is one explanation of what occurred, followed by some of the correspondence surrounding the issues.

The California Enforcement article was sent to me, for publication, by a Board member. The article had been sent to the Board member by a respected LIOC ESCF member, who often sends articles in for publication. The article was also accompanied by an Editor's Note from the previous Editor of this Newsletter, indicating that she had read it and had something to say about it. I read the article, and the Editors' Note, and then I decided to print both. I had two motives for doing so. One motive was that I trusted the people who sent the article to me. I'd dealt with them in the past, and I had no reason to think that they might contribute something that would damage our organization, or other similar organizations.

As we have said before, we are a volunteer organization. We don't have enough people to do all the work, and the people we do have also have other jobs and responsibilities. It is impossible for us to take the time to verify everything that gets sent in to the Newsletter for publication. If I had to run a draft copy of each Newsletter by the Board for review, prior to printing, I'm afraid nothing would ever get published. And, I don't have the time to continuously update myself with all of the shifting political implications of all of the articles and comments that I might or might not print. (I'm a volunteer too.)

In the case of the California Enforcement article, I assumed that the names of the LIOC ESCF members who sent in the article were sufficient verification. One of the members came from the state in question, and I assumed that person knew what was going on. I have to make such assumptions. If I didn't, I wouldn't have anything to print.

My second motive? I believe that the LIOC ESCF Newsletter should be an open forum where people can discuss issues from all perspectives. I might print something controversial in order to get a debate going, or to encourage people to think about issues in another way. However, I would not knowingly print something that would put members, or their animals, in danger.

Since the July/August issue of the Newsletter, the board has met, discussed what happened, and adopted a new policy. At the front of the Newsletter is a disclaimer mentioning that the articles may reflect the opinions of the author/s rather than the intent of the organization. The disclaimer also mentions that the Newsletter is an open forum and that members who disagree with what has been printed have the right to reply, either with an article for publication or with a letter for the reader's write section. This is how newspapers deal with opinions, and I think their model is a good one for us to follow. It may not be the perfect solution, but, for now, it is the best we can do.

In that spirit, I am going to print four pieces that came in regarding the California Enforcement controversy. I would like to stress that these pieces reflect the opinions of the people who wrote them, at a time when the issues were fresh. The purpose behind what I'm doing is not to call undue attention to the topic, but to indicate that, as Editor, I am willing to present multiple points of view to our readership.

(Incidentally, an update from someone out in California, for the next issue of the Newsletter, would be welcome.)

CALIFORNIA ANIMAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Mailing address: 1014 W. Laurel Drive
Salinas, California
93907 (408) 424-7441

Treasurer: 8033 Ocean View Avenue
Whittier, California
90602 (408) 424-7441

Dear Editor,



As president of the C.A.O.A., I am forced to write to you in response to the article printed in your newsletter, volume 32, number 4. I feel very repetitious in writing to you when I know so many of our members have either written to you or have been in contact with you regarding this matter. Never the less, it is my duty to respond as representation of the C.A.O.A. and as a subscriber of LIOC.

The article I speak of was titled, Calif. Enforcement, by Ken Castle. I don't know you or how you screen the information for you news letter, but I do know that you Do Not know a thing about California trouble in the private ownership of exotic animals. If I had to guess, and the information given to me by your president and several of your directors and affiliates is correct, there would be no LIOC without private exotic animal ownership.

Do you realize that you printed an article written by one of the most detrimental writers to exotic animal ownership? An article written in favor of the one person who costs Californians thousands of dollars in attorneys fees (Pat Derby) just to be able to continue owning their animals in California? An article against what your president suggested would have an impact on the nation when we were finished, the California Animal Owners Association.

If I were to write an article suggesting that ocelots are fowl, smelly, aggressive little creatures and should be exterminated from the entire planet, and that I felt the LIOC was a false, shabby, rag publication and should be illegal to even be publish, would you print it? Do you think Pat Hoctor would allow U.S.D.A. to print an article describing their feelings about Pat in the Finders Guide?

It might sound blown out of proportion to you but it's not to us. We worked hard this year and spent almost twenty thousand dollars so far on legal and political help to form the C.A.O.A. which might be the only reason you will have to continue having any members in Calif. in the future. They were going to eliminate the private ownership of exo... in Calif. until we were formed and we paid the price to stop them.

In response to the article, Castle has had it out for Capt. Jim Zobel for years. There is not an animal owner in Calif. who has anything but a deep respect for what Capt. Zobel tried to do with the little Calif. Fish and Game gave him to do it with. As for are negotiations with him, we listened and that all. But we feel we are an intelligent group of individuals so we try to keep an open line with everyone, even our opposition. Castle condemned us for it and he used us an instrument we did not care to be used as.

Several of your directors, and your affiliates have even contacted me and they are even disgusted with the fact that this article was printed. It has done and will probably do additional damage to our membership drive. Many of our members have asked us to ask our membership to discontinue any further association with LIOC. The issue is still to be brought before the Board of Directors. I am not yet sure what my response will be.

Our membership consists of over 150 private animal owners who have worked hard and donated alot of time and money and I have to do what they desire. I have been publishing our newsletter now for almost one year and I do not claim to be an expert, but I do not print everything everyone tells me to print. I try to make sure I am printing what we call "facts".

You obviously do not practice the same policy, and this scares me for if you would print an article dealing with politics that was so misleading, are your articles dealing with diet, nutrition, veterinary care etc... also just as fictitious? All it took was a phone call to one California Animal Owner, or one C.A.O.A. member, (Maybe, OH, your president?), and you would have learned so much about the impact this article had on our battle when it was printed months earlier in Castle's newspaper.

I can't begin to define the problems, and expenses, we incurred this year in a battle against the one person the article drew such a pathetic picture of, Pat Derby. And Castle saw and read letters from people who had worked for Derby in the past and saw her do things to animals that I will not bother printing because you would only think I was dreaming up the most horrifying examples I could dream up. But it's true! And yet her political powers and ability to mold the Ken Castles of the Calif. enable her to continue making the private ownership of exotics in Calif. almost impossible for any of us!

So you tell me. Now what? How do you heal a scar? And do you now realize that you might have even damaged your own membership and fellow animal owners by playing into the hands of such a mutual enemy? Do you truly blame us for feeling as we do about this issue?

I await your response.


Charlie Sammut
C.A.O.A. President

cc:Jan Giacinto
Fred Boyajian
Carin Carmichael
C.A.O.A. Board Members



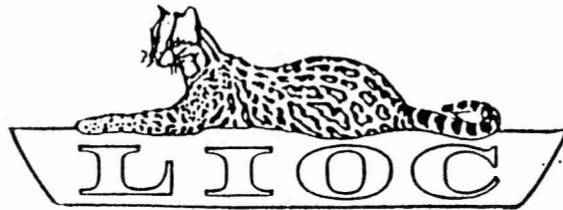
California Animal
Owners Association

Charlie Sammut
President

1014 W. Laurel Drive
Salinas, CA 93906
(408) 424-7441



"We do our best to protect
responsible animal ownership"



ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.
483 Armour Circle N.E., Atlanta, GA 30324

Mr. Charlie Sammut, President
California Animal Owners Association
1014 W. Laurel Drive
Salinas, Ca. 93906

December 12, 1988

"California Enforcement" LIOC Newsletter Reprint

Dear Charlie,

In regards to your letter of 11/20/88 and our recent phone conversation about the above article in our July/August issue, while I am very sympathetic with most of your concerns, I would like to share with you the following observations:

As you know LIOC is an extremely decentralized organization, even more so than your CAOAA, so it is impossible for our board of directors or editor, who are located all over the U.S., to be aware of the detail happenings in any area. Hence it is not practical for review of our Newsletter by our board or president before its publication, and I am not aware of any review in Jan Giacento's "Fur, Fin and Feather News" your designated news service, either.

Secondly like most other small associations with a part-time all volunteer staff, we rely essentially on the contributions of other members, the majority of which are reprints of other articles members send in from their area. The rest is made up of first hand reports of member experiences. Our editor does not have enough time to verify either type of report, and the only guideline our Board has issued is for the editor to use good judgement in avoiding articles or references that depict irresponsible private ownership. (as educational or otherwise)

The article you refer to was sent in by Jean Townes a longtime LIOC member in good standing who has contributed many other articles without incident for years. It was done innocently enough and with our system it could just as easily have been an article written by a veterinarian advocating a poor nutritional program or anesthetic use; how would anyone but an expert know better until it was too late?

It may have been caused from a lack of oversight and awareness; our system is flawed in this respect, but what is the solution? Every story has at least two sides, and invariably, this was an accident waiting to happen; but it could have happened within your organization too. I am not trying to explain away the hurt and damage we have caused you, in fact I apologize on LIOC's behalf and want you to know that we are still most appreciative of your work and remain an ardent supporter.

I have called an Executive Board meeting of our Directors for an evening Telecon on December 12, to review this and other matters to see if we can develop some guidelines to prevent a similar situation. Your suggestions would be most welcome, and I will pass along their thoughts.

Printing rebuttals will be fine but at the same time will draw more attention to this unfortunate incident. The choice is yours as we will try to make amends for this flap. In the short run for your dilemma I would think that it would be in our common interest to contact our members to increase their awareness that just because they see an article in print does not legitimize its claims or validity and to investigate further.

To better times for both our associations and the Best of Holidays,



Fred Boyajian,
LIOC President

cc: LIOC Executive Board
Wendie Wulff, New Newsletter Editor
Jean Townes
Jan Giacento
Penny Andrews

Convention '89 on Bourbon Street

In: New Orleans

From: August 10th through 13th

At: The Landmark Bourbon Street Hotel, 541 Bourbon St., New Orleans LA 70130

Registration Fee: \$75 before June 30th (send to Suzi Mutascio)

Agenda: Fun, Friends and Felines

Convention Coordinators: Suzi Mutascio and Shirley Wagner



More information in the next issue!





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Judi Williams - Executive Vice President
Kenn Kingsbury - Vice President Education
Pam Golly - Secretary
Joe Brown - Treasurer

Byron E. Countryman
Elizabeth Luster
June Matthews
Stephen F. Peters
Phyllis Strong
Joe Williams

OF COUNSEL:

Law Offices of
Countryman & McDaniel

Byron E. Countryman
Michael S. McDaniel

November 23, 1988

Shirley Wagner
Rt.4, Box 377
Mobile, LA 36619

Dear Shirley:

It is with dismay and utter disbelief that I am writing to you in reference to your article CALIFORNIA ENFORCEMENT that appeared in your July August 88 newsletter. I have watched your newsletter grow from its humble beginnings to what it is today, and the LIOC should be commended. That is why I find the article that I have just read, so unbelievable. The LIOC's membership has a vast number of private animal owners, who in California are going through tremendous hard times, and I'm sure that trend will continue across the country. Why would you print or reprint such an article without checking your facts? You should be striving for unity, rather than dissention. You should check the people who you are applauding as well as those who you are tearing down. Not everything that glitters is gold. I will not go into the facts, although I know them, pertaining to other individuals or facilities. I will only address the issue of the Wildlife Waystation

As to the charges that Wildlife Waystation has been repeatedly cited, let me say this. Do you know of any facility anywhere in the country that does not get "citations" which are nothing more than fix-it tickets. I do not. In a large facility, holding hundreds of animals, there are always little fix-its, such as repair of a floor board that your bear just clawed up yesterday or change the water container that a lion got possessive over and mangled 15 minutes before the inspection, and so the animal is without water on a brief basis until that container can be replaced.

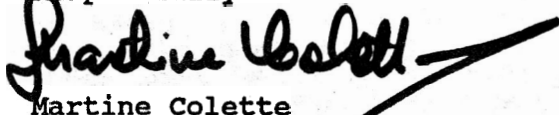
And the Wildlife Waystion has never been cited for improper caging.

As to your reference of the Wildlife Waystion not being inspected, I do not know of a facility that is more inspected by the County, City, F & G, State Humane, Agriculture, Fish & Wildlife, and the SPCA, than Wildlife Waystion. Every week, several times per week, the representatives from the above mentioned agencies can be found here, for a variety of reasons. Are you suggesting that all of these people are so inefficient or uncaring that they would all turn their backs? Hardly.

Have you yourself ever visited the Wildlife Waystion, or are you in some position of bias? It takes many years for people and facilities to build a good reputation. It is unconscionable of you and your organization to smear a reputable facility without availing yourself of the facts.

It is a well known fact that among the "animal owners" there exists a substantial amount of descent. This person doesn't like that one and that one will speak badly of another etc. Allot of personality conflicts. Those things should be left in their proper place. I have been in contact, and will add a few more phone calls, to people that have a "need" to know. I will also send a copy of this letter to your officers/board, not because I choose to defend myself necessarily, but merely to point out that such yellow journalism should not be propagated. I hope that the LIOC will deem it necessary to rectify a very grave wrong.

Respectfully



Martine Colette

Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote



As a member of the board and a life member of LIOC, as a permittee of the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, as a member and supporter of Wildlife Waystation, as an active member of the Calif. Animal Owner's Assoc. and as a private owner of non-domestic felines for over twenty years, I must state my dismay at seeing, in our Newsletter, the reprint of an old article that is divisive, inflammatory and totally inaccurate.

I would not dignify this gossip (Calif. Enforcement - July/Aug. '88) with a response were it not that I fear the damage such misinformation might cause.

Wildlife Waystation is doing a fantastic job and I'm sure the stipend they received in '86 from DFG has long since gone to feed the animals. WW is inspected like every one of us by local, state and federal officials, and also like every one of us, they are sometimes cited. (I one time had the inspector pull up a floor tile with her fingernail and then cite me for a loose floor tile; a Federal offense?)

As for Capt. Zobel, I've had nothing but the most responsible treatment from him and all DFG officials since I received the 12th permit issued after the Dept. became involved in the management of privately owned, non-domestic animals in 1975. I was never privileged to get "chummy" with Capt. Zobel, though we've spoken on

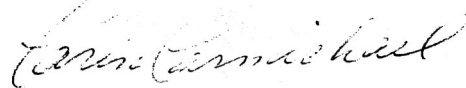
the phone and communicated by U.S. Mail. I'm not a rich trainer making "big bucks" off filmmakers, nor am I sure anyone who fits that description even exists. Animal work rarely pays, but it always costs. I'm just an individual owner of exotic cats and I always felt Zobel was on my side -- that is the animal's side. If he can use his years of experience and expertise for the further benefit of animals and owners, in his retirement years, I'm all for him.

The unfortunate reference to the Calif. Animal Owner's Assoc. was gratuitous and an effort to divide the handful of animal owners who are trying to work with everyone (including DFG) to get regulations on the books that can be enforced, in the best interests of the animals, rather than the pending prohibitions that make exotic ownership virtually impossible. Such prohibitions can only create an underground ownership that can only harm us and our animals. The CAO is not a group of "heavy hitters from the lucrative film industry" (though we are grateful for some members who can and do contribute more than others), but rather a group of hard working animal owners hoping to make the future viable for responsible animal ownership. Our membership comprises about a fifth of the individual permittees in California and counts LIOC President Fred Boyajian and members Lil Smith, Jan Giacinto and others, including myself, among the active participants. In fact, most, if not all of the "cat people" (the coalition represents all non-domestic animals) are LIOC members.

Since its inception in January of '88, CAOAs members have attended, spoken, and been listened to at Fish & Game hearings throughout the state, met regularly to evaluate our progress and plan our procedures. With the aid of the attorney we hired (which is a costly venture for a handful of folks) we have accomplished a great deal. DFG is re-thinking the new regulations before they are passed into law and is willing to work with us to promulgate rules we can all live with. As Charlie Sammut, President of CAOAs said, "As new and as small as we are, it is very damaging to us to be attacked by another animal group. The harm has been done." I hope not, because CAOAs work has just begun.

In these crucial times, when we must pull together, it is unfortunate that there are individuals who feel they alone are qualified to possess the animals we all care for and who feel if they sling mud at the rest of us they will be even better qualified. In reality, we are all doing the best we know how and if we make mistakes, we must learn from them and go forward. We are all striving toward a common goal. Our procedures may vary, but our end result must be the same: Exemplary care for the creatures we are privileged to have in our possession.

No one is being singled out, there is no collusion and there are no vendettas. There is only US, with the limited resources most of us are all too familiar with, struggling to afford our animals the quality of life they deserve.



Carin Carmichael

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:

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

- All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law.
- All transactions are between buyer and seller.
- All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold.
- LIOC does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser.
- LIOC reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription or ad.
- No blind animal ads - all ads must contain:
 - A - Name of business or individual
 - B - Must state whether individual is the owner or broker
 - C - Must show state and phone number or full address.

by Mrs. M. Falkena-Rohrle

reprinted from CATS Magazine

contributed by Shirley Wagner

A note from Shirley: Among the things Gertrude Freeman sent with her Convention Auction gifts was the clipping, reprinted here, taken from CATS magazine in 1964. The "long-tailed tree ocelot" is, of course, a margay and the "dwarf tiger cat" is what we now call an oncilla. The cat in the picture, shown as her first South American kitten and described as "likely an *oncifelis geoffroyi*" is also what we now call an oncilla. All this only a short 24 years ago! Although the article mentions forty-odd types of cats that live in the South American jungles, we now know that there are only 39 species recognized worldwide.

There is a sureness in the love of animals, for felines in particular, that unites people even when thousands of miles and a language barrier separate them. Cattery van Mariendall, from where I write, is probably just like any other American cattery in temperament and in the physical aspects. The exception is most apt to be in that most breeders haven't been as fortunate in knowing and loving the wild cat.

Years ago, friends gave me a small, spotted cat that they had gotten from a sailor. It was likely an *Oncifelis geoffroyi* or another of the forty-odd types of cats that live in the South American jungles. Everyone was fascinated by its tropical, wild beauty coupled with an amazing adaptability to its new surroundings. The small creature had evidently suffered from lack of care before I received it, for I only knew her for a few short weeks. I tried for months to get another like her. It seemed that I had been more than blessed to have even had her for a short time. Then, two years ago, I was offered a cat from Ecuador . . . a long tailed tree ocelot. Buenaventura came to live with me. She is a beauty, very tame, but oh so athletic! I'm certain that only real cat fanciers could tolerate the activity of such a cat.

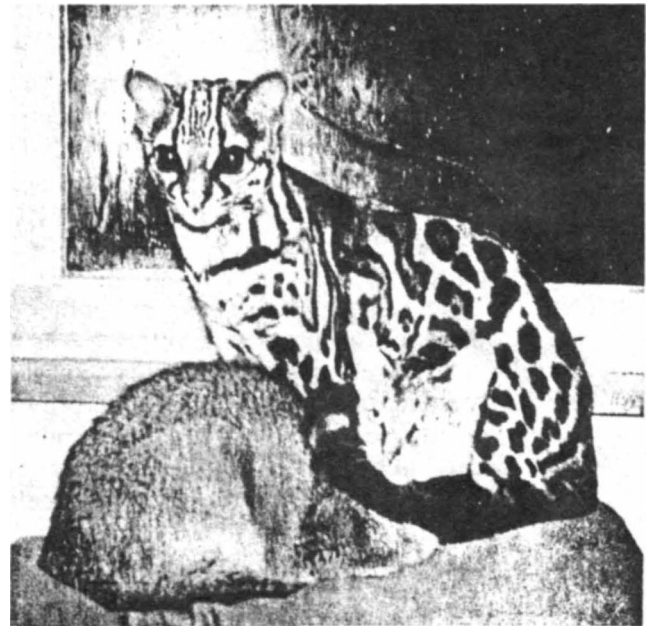
Less than a year later, another South American cat joined the family. This one came from Brazil and we call her Candida de Jacuacange. Candy is a dwarf-tigercat. Completely adult now, she is still no larger than a house cat of four months. Her coat is dotted with dark "open" spots, circled in black with brown courts inside. Her round black ears with white insides and large, warm brown eyes make for a most handsome head. She adapted quickly to life here although she is more shy than either the first love or Buena.

There seems to be a strong affinity between Abyssinians and the South American cats. They eat together, sleep together and seem almost related in some respects.

In a recent article in CATS, the writings of David Curtis interested me for there is so much unknown about cats. Four thousand years ago, the ancestors of my tigercat had been the holy cats of Inca temples; four thousand years ago the ancestors of the Abyssinian cat -- the wild cat from Nubia -- lived in the temples of the Egyptians. Archeologists wonder about the connection between those old cultures. Today, far away from both civilizations, the maraja pintado of the Indians and the cat of the Nile are dreaming their dreams as they sleep peacefully together. Could there be a link between them? Perhaps some day it will be proven.

After any article regarding my cats is published, I receive many letters asking if I plan to breed the tigers. Domestication is not simply taming a cat and breeding it. Research has shown that wild creatures, although they themselves are tame, will produce wild young for generations. The state of being tamed is an acquired one and is not inheritable. On the other side, this seemingly extraordinary capacity for adaptation shown by these jungle cats could be inheritable.

At the moment, I enjoy, without any plans, my tigers with their lovely beauty and remember with sadness touched with thankfulness the first little margay who aroused in me this love for these wonders of cats.



Left: The author's Tabby Domestic grooms her first baby jungle cat. Right: Buena and one of the author's Abys pose together

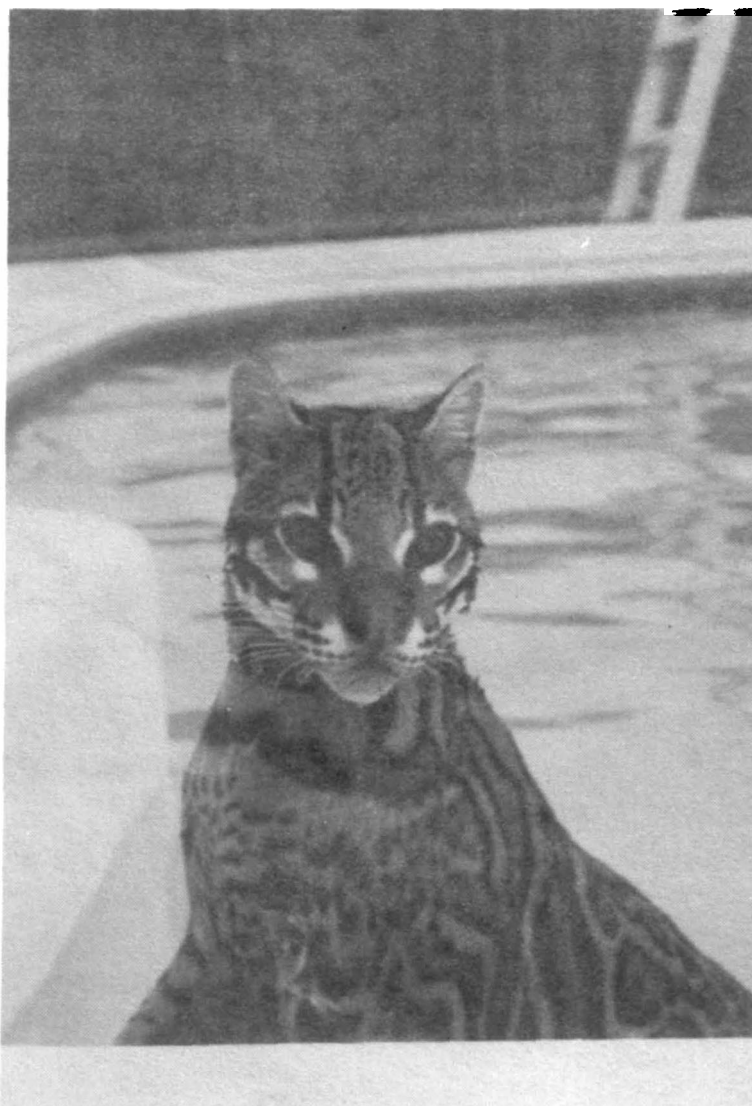


Left: Another view of the author's first South American kitten. Right: Candy and another Aby show their friendship

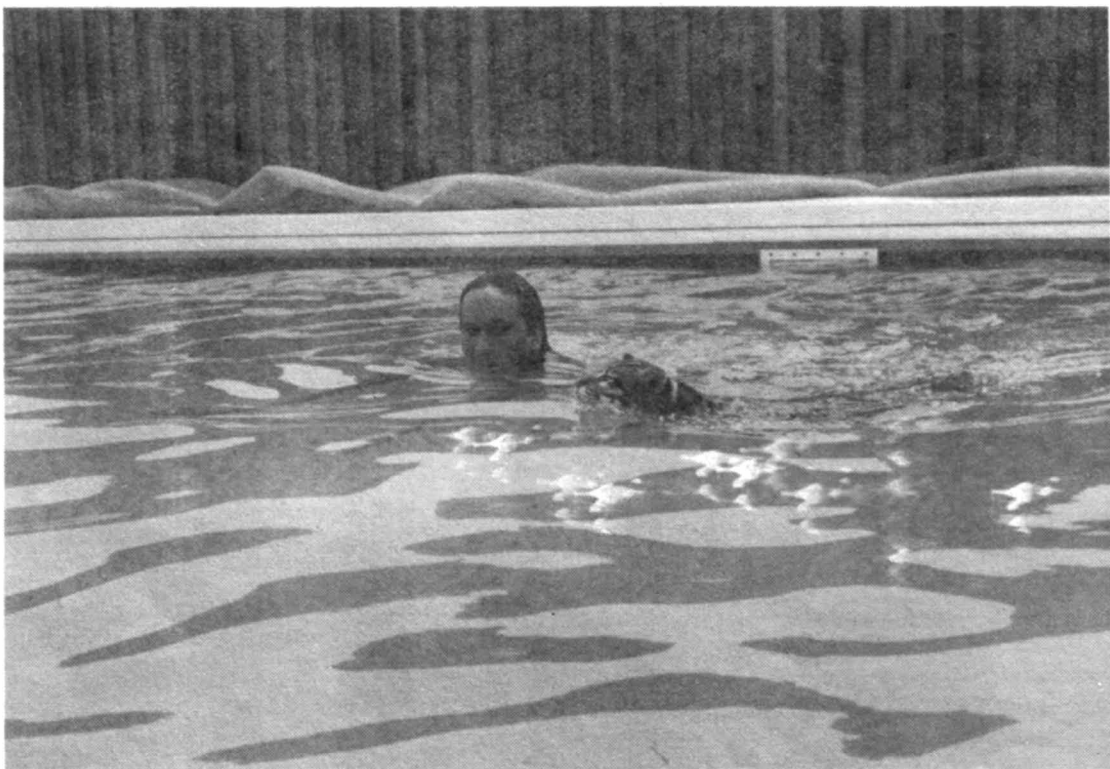
Here's a bunch of pictures of the kids. The total count in the house consists of 10 domestic cats, 1 Siberian husky, 2 ferrets, 1 ocelot, 1 Geoffroys cat and 3 servals. All of the exotics, with the exception of the ocelot, get along with everybody in the house. We are all one big, totally confused, happy family, although nobody is really sure what species they are! The three servals are quite convinced that the husky is their mother, similarity of the ears, I guess. She, in return, is quite pleased to take them on as her own. With the male serval being only six months old (as of December 1988), we hope to begin breeding servals next year. We are also looking for a male companion for our female Geoffroys. The ocelot was our first exotic and is, without a doubt, the king of the house. Although we keep him separated when we are not home, he comes out every night and watches TV with the family. There is no question that the animals own the house and they are gracious enough to allow us to stay there. In all honesty, we wouldn't have it any other way.

Jeff and Scarlett Bellingham
Box 722
Niverville, Manitoba
Canada, ROA IEO

Below: Kato, ocelot. "The one who got us into this mess."



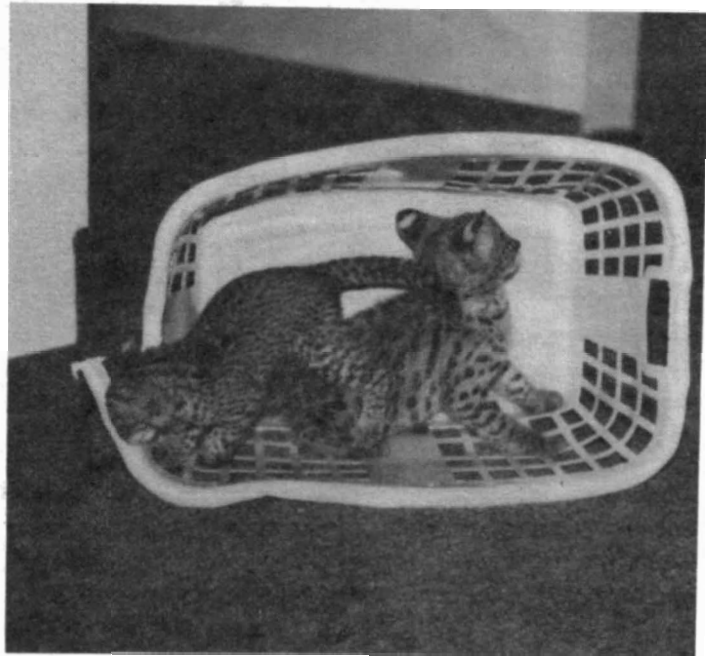
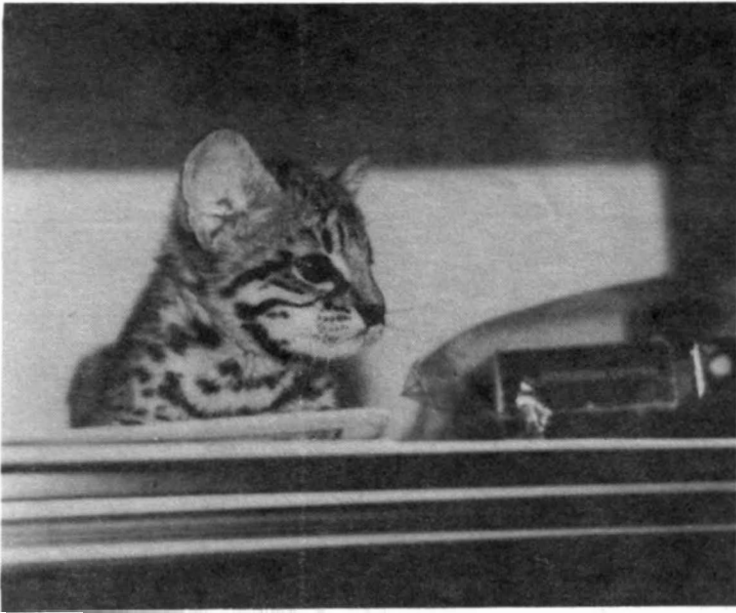
Jeff and Kato in the pool.



Above, serval Chanel in her lair. Chanel was four months old when this photo was taken. Below, serval Chantilly asks "Are you my mother?"



Top, Geoffroys Chloe, like all Geoffies, is looking regal. Center, Chloe, on the left, and Chantilly, on the right, doing the wash. Bottom, the same pair a few months later.



Above, Kato making an important decision. Below, Chanel, all legs at four months.



11.8.1988

Thank you for reprinting in your last issue (July/August Newsletter) an article about myself. I would, if possible, let your readers know that, while the article was fairly accurate, it never mentioned facts that I pointed out to the lady who wrote it. We never euthanize any specimen in a casual manner. The difficult decision is reached after consultations with Dr. Mounger and Dr. Keske and always done when no other avenues are available. The article never pointed out that my people, employees, volunteers, and myself often work 12 hours daily, seven days a week, on a yearly basis. The lady was aware of the fact that whenever money resulting from sale of specimen becomes significant, the whole amount is always reinvested in our work with new species. Many other positive aspects of this farm available to the writer, were not at all mentioned in this paper, which in my opinion, was written with a bias.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Baudy

17 December 1988

I just thought I would share with you and the readers of LIOC the wonderful news of cougar Tara's successful birth of three healthy baby boys. It was her first pregnancy and delivery, and it went purrfectly. The boys, Sharu (Arabic for Regulous, the heart of the constellation Leo) Arjan (after Arjan Singh, my hero) and Cinnabar (mercury sulfide) are now five months old and I do believe they are the sweetest, best natured cougars in the whole world. Mercury still hasn't had direct contact with them, but he is aware of their presence, and I hope that someday there can be a successful introduction. Tara co-raised the boys with us, a decision we made after talking with animal behavior specialists Gail Foreman and Pat Quillen. It has been my gratest joy to share in the raising of these three, very special cougars.

Sincerely,
Lynn Culver

Left, Tara with Sharu and Arjan. Right, Cinnibar.

