

NEWSLETTER

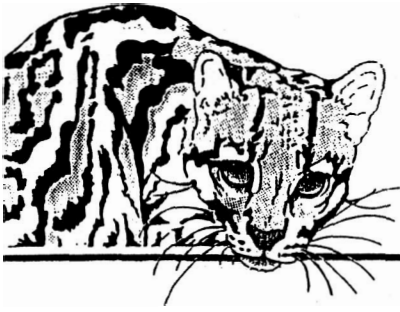
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Auroara Harmony



1974-89



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

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal I.D.# 58-9100616), non-commercial organization, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members. 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 of which 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 copyright owner LIOC.

Since the newsletter consists of articles, photos and artwork contributed by our 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 column for letters or responses to articles. Please send all materials for contribution to the Newsletter editor.

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President's Perspective

I hope the holidays were pleasant for all. Things in Minnesota are well. Thank you for all the prompt responses to the nutrition questionnaire. If you haven't responded yet, please do so quickly. I will be putting the information together over the next two months and hope to have a preliminary summary out in the spring. Also thanks to all who've sent me extra information. I'll follow up on suggested sources.

I've had several conversations with the local RE/AC people who handle the USDA licensing. At least in the upper midwest, they're really snowed under and want to develop some sort of workable procedures. They're still in the formatory stages. Hopefully, we can work out something liveable.

One item did come up for discussion that I think everyone who travels with animals should be aware of. Even if you have all your state, USDA, and USDI permits, remember that if you take your animal out of state on a vacation, you will need health permits and should contact the destination state to avoid problems there. (A local member in that state can let you know who to talk to in the government.) If you have trouble finding out who to contact, Mary Parker (see page 2), has a list of the state agencies involved with animals and wildlife.

This will be an election year in the fall. I would encourage everyone to think whether you can make a contribution to your fellow club members in a club position. The pay is the thanks and appreciation of the membership. In many ways this pay is better than money.

A gentleman stopped over yesterday to find out more about exotic cats. He had called seeking information about buying one. I said that you have to learn a little about what you are getting into. We talked and I gave him several other members' names to talk to. He's still interested in spite of knowing the work involved. (before and once he has an animal). We all started out this way. It feels good helping someone through the rough parts and helping them to be sure that they will be a good owner when/if they decide to obtain an animal. We also discussed that "neat pet" may have been the starting point, but that it isn't a sufficient reason. There's too much work involved, and the animals are too scarce to just want them to show off. Caring for the animals has to be the basic reason.

With this I'll sign off. Happy New Year Everyone!

John Perry,
President

P.S. Congratulations to Karen Jusseaume, her geoffroys and her safaris for getting mentioned in The Illustrated Book of Cat Trivia by Theresa Shimer (LIOC gets a mention too.)

L. I. O. C. NEEDS YOU !

One of LIOC's stated goals is the sharing of information. Through this sharing it is hoped that the cats benefit. New members learn from the experiences of older members, tragedy it is hoped is averted, everyone benefits.

In this issue is a lengthy questionnaire on how you care for your felines. This information will be kept in strictest confidence and if you prefer, may be submitted anonymously. We ask also for ANY thoughts you may have, helpful hints, handling tips, whatever. From this information a series of handbooks will be compiled on the varying aspects of exotic care.

This is desperately needed. Especially Ocelots, once the "bible" of exotic care is out of print and many advances in veterinary medicine have been made since it was published.

PLEASE, take time to thoughtfully fill out the questionnaire and return it. Do not, just because you are a new member, perhaps with only one cat, take the attitude that "everyone knows this", And, for our experienced members, please share your expertise, everyone doesn't know what some of us take for granted which was gained thru years of experience (think back to the terror of your first exotic). Fill as many pages as you can. The more input we have the more comprehensive a manual we can produce. This is something every LIOC member can point to and say WE DID THAT! This is our chance to seriously contribute to the conservation of our felines. LIOC can work, but only if each and everyone of us do our small part.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

Well folks, it's that time again. In order to be valid a nomination must be signed by two LIOC members in good standing and accepted in writing by the nominee. All officers and directors serve for two years beginning January 1, 1991.

Nomination will be accepted for the following:

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER

TERM DIRECTORS: Member Services: oversees the membership roster including production of labels for newsletter mailing, answering inquiries, keeps the membership roles updated.

Legal Affairs: keeps abreast of legislation affecting exotics and assists members in these matters.

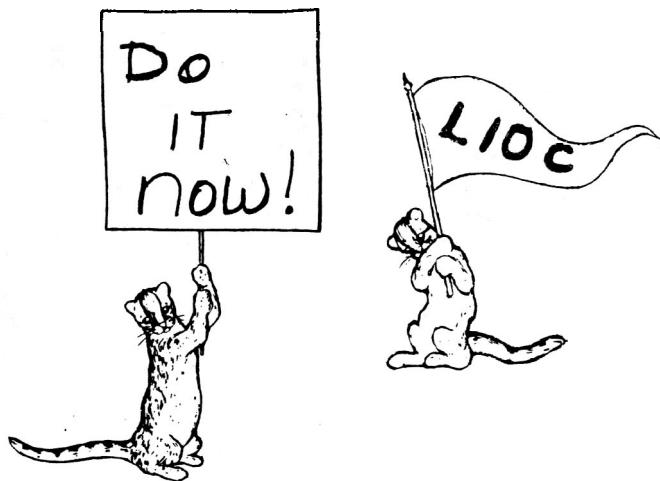
Advertising & Publicity: solicits advertising for the Newsletter and coordinated LIOC's public relations.

Education and Conservation: coordinates and institutes educational aids and programs. Coordinates with other organizations and advises on conservation efforts.

Nominations must be received by MARCH 30th. Send them to: Shirley Wagner
3730 Belle Isle Lane
Mobile, Al 36619

More precise descriptions of the duties and functions of the Board and Officers are contained in the by-laws. If you wish a copy they also may be obtained from Shirley.

Do give nominations some thought. These are the folks who will lead LIOC for the next two years. Their actions directly influence LIOC's direction and effectiveness.





WHEN CHEETAHS ARE KINGS

By Donald Lindburg, Ph.D.

An ancient prophet is said to have compared the prospect of reforming human behavior to that of a leopard changing its spots. Had he lived in 1926, he may have found encouragement from the discovery in southern Rhodesia of a cheetah skin having stripes and splotches in place of the usual spot pattern. This unusual specimen had been purchased by a farmer from native hunters and then donated to Queen Victoria Memorial Library and Museum in Salisbury. Museum authorities however, seemed unaware of the skin's significance until a military officer, Major A.C. Cooper, opined that it might be evidence of hybridization between leopards and cheetahs.

It was major Cooper's inquisitiveness which sparked an investigation of this unusual skin. He had heard the legend told for many years by Africans to white hunters, of the nsuifisi, a large cat that preyed on the kraals at night that was "neither lion, leopard, nor cheetah." Upon learning that the Queen Victoria specimen had come from the Macheke District of Zimbabwe, were the legend of

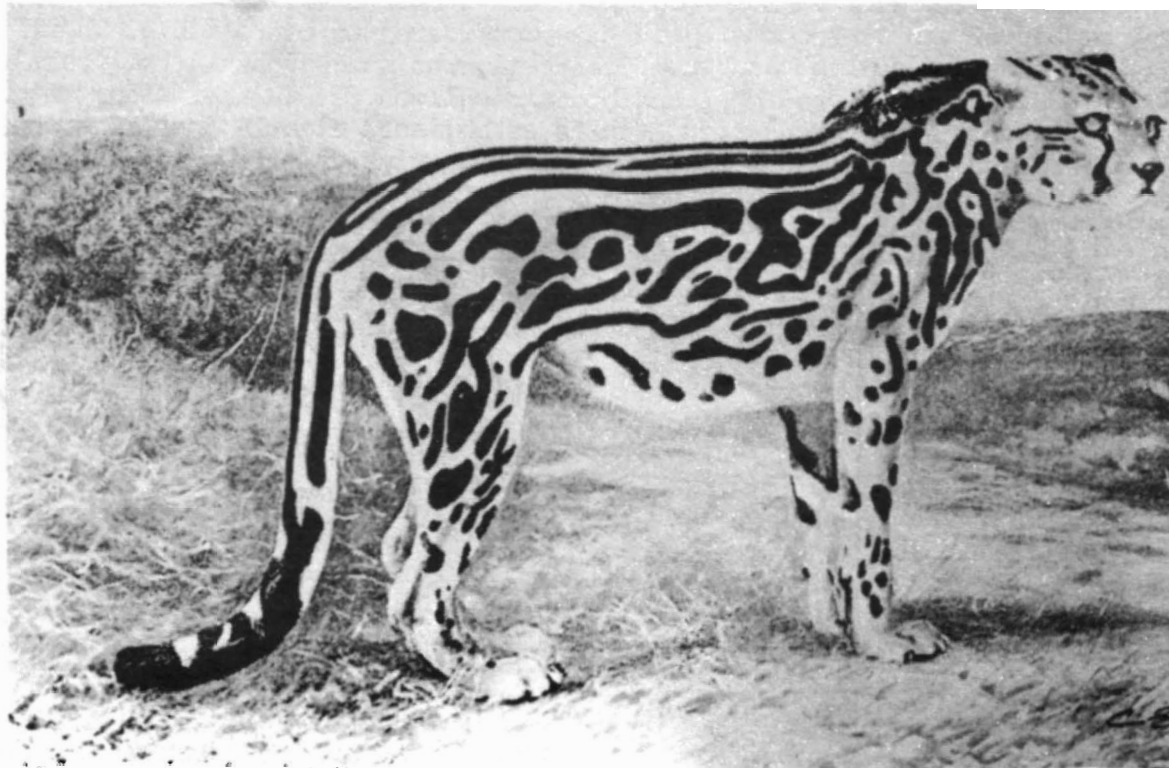


Illustration by E.C.Swan from R.I.Pocock's "Description of a New Species of Cheetah" published April 6, 1927 in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London

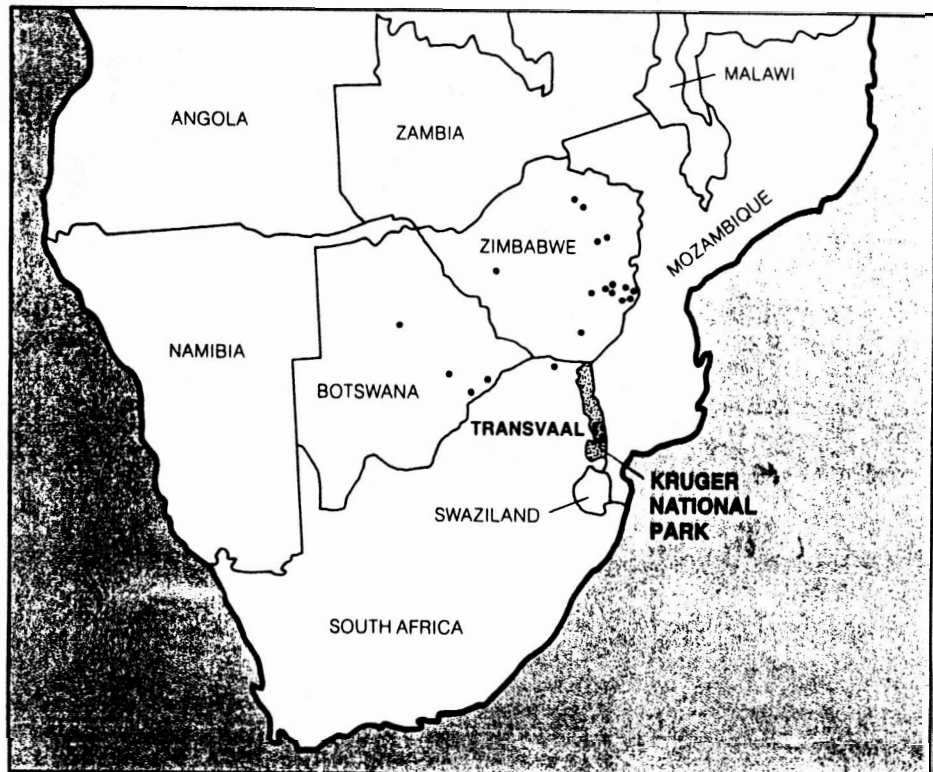
KING CHEETAH - cont.

nsuifisi was particularly strong, Cooper asked colonial officers throughout the country to notify him of any further evidence of its existence. This effort paid off when the Native Commissioner at Bikita, in the southern part of the country sent photographs of two unusual skins from cheetahs killed in his district.

Meanwhile, Cooper had persuaded the Queen Victoria Museum to send the Macheke skin to Reginald Pocock, world renowned curator of mammals at the British Museum in London, for an opinion. From a photograph sent him earlier, Pocock had dismissed Cooper's find as an aberrant leopard, but when he examined the foot pads and claws of the museum skin, he knew immediately that this was indeed a new kind of cheetah. In the following year (1927) Pocock published the official description of *Acinonyx rex*, or king cheetah, in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.

An unfortunate consequence of the publicity generated by these efforts was to create a demand for king trophies in museums and private collections. Pocock himself, for example, urged Major Cooper to help find a skin for Lord Rothschild, and the two Bikita skins were eventually purchased by the London taxidermy firm, Messrs. Rowland Ward, Ltd., who in turn sold them as mounted specimens to museums in London and Natal. The number of skins that have disappeared into the stores of taxidermists and the hands of private collectors will never be known. But in 1980, Daphne Hills and Rea Smithers published a list of 13 known skins and a near equal number of visual records which they considered to be reliable. Their findings were extended by Lena and Paul Bottriell, who spent roughly two years in 1978-79, searching by Land-Rover and hot-air balloon for further signs of the king's existence. These concerted efforts established clearly that king cheetahs have never been plentiful and that they derive exclusively from adjoining portions of Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, and the northern and eastern Transvaal of South Africa (see map for distribution).

Dots indicate locations where king cheetahs have been reliably collected or sighted.



KING CHEETAH - cont.**A VERIFIABLE LIST OF KING CHEETAH SKINS COLLECTED SINCE 1925**

Provenance	Date of Record	Circumstances of Collection and Preservation
1. Macheke, Zimbabwe	1926	The holotype of <i>A. rex</i> , this skin was purchased by a farmer from natives and given to the Queen Victoria Museum in Salisbury. Destroyed by museum authorities ca. 1950, due to poor condition.
2. Bikita, Zimbabwe	1925	Originally in possession of Native Commissioner H.N. Watters. Later mounted in proportions of a leopard by Rowland Ward, Ltd. and sold to the British Museum of Natural History.
3. Bikita, Zimbabwe	1925	A second skin originally owned by Commissioner Watters. This specimen also found its way to taxidermist Ward for mounting and is now on display at the Natal Museum in South Africa.
4. Seki Reserve, Zimbabwe	1926	Photograph published by Major A.C. Cooper of a skin in possession of a Mr. Lacey, who reportedly purchased it from native hunters. Present whereabouts unknown.
5. Mt. Selinda, Zimbabwe	1927	A flat skin obtained by Major Cooper for the private collection of Lord Rothschild. Now in the British Museum of Natural History.
6. Bikita, Zimbabwe	1928	A third skin obtained by Commissioner Watters and sold to the South African Museum in Capetown, where it is on exhibit as a mounted specimen.
7. Birchenough Bridge, Zimbabwe	1935	Killed by native hunters on a ranch near the Sabi River. Now in the private collection of Sir Archibald James, England.
8. Messina, Transvaal	1940	Shot by a rancher (van der Walt) at a lion stakeout. Now in private collection of J. Joubert of Krugersdorp.
9. Tjlotjo, Botswana	1942	Purchased by wife of Native Commissioner N.L. Dacomb from an African, later sold to the Kaffrarian Museum in King Williams Town, where it is now kept.
10. Tuli, Botswana	1960	In the possession of L. van Niekerk, a rancher, who purchased it from a local hawkker. A photograph has recently been published by Lena Bottriell.
11. } Eastern Botswana	1960	These three skins, which are presumed to be from eastern Botswana, have been in the possession of Messrs. J.R. Ivy, Curio Dealers, Pretoria, for several years.
12. } (presumed)	1965	
13. }	1966	
14. Rakops, Botswana	1960s	Owned by a merchant, Charlie Freeman of Palapye, this skin was recently photographed by Lena Bottriell. Freeman claimed to have lost three additional skins to a thief.
15. Moijabana, Botswana	1971	Originally owned by Mr. Clark, a dealer in skins, who donated it to the National Museum of Botswana in Gaborone.

KING CHEETAH - cont.

The story of the king cheetah took an interesting turn with the birth of a litter of 5 cubs to a normally spotted female at the DeWildt Cheetah Breeding and Research Center near Pretoria in May, 1981. One of the cubs, a male, bore irregular blotch and stripe pattern found in the collected specimens of the king cheetah. Two days later, a litter of 3, born at Port Elizabeth, contained a king female. Although these are widely regarded as the first captive births, Desmond Varaday, who operates the Loskop Cheetah Sanctuary near Middelburg, South Africa, has claimed that a litter born there in June, 1980, contained two king cubs.

This normally spotted mother has produced 4 cubs with the standard coat pattern and one (foreground) with the king cheetah coat.

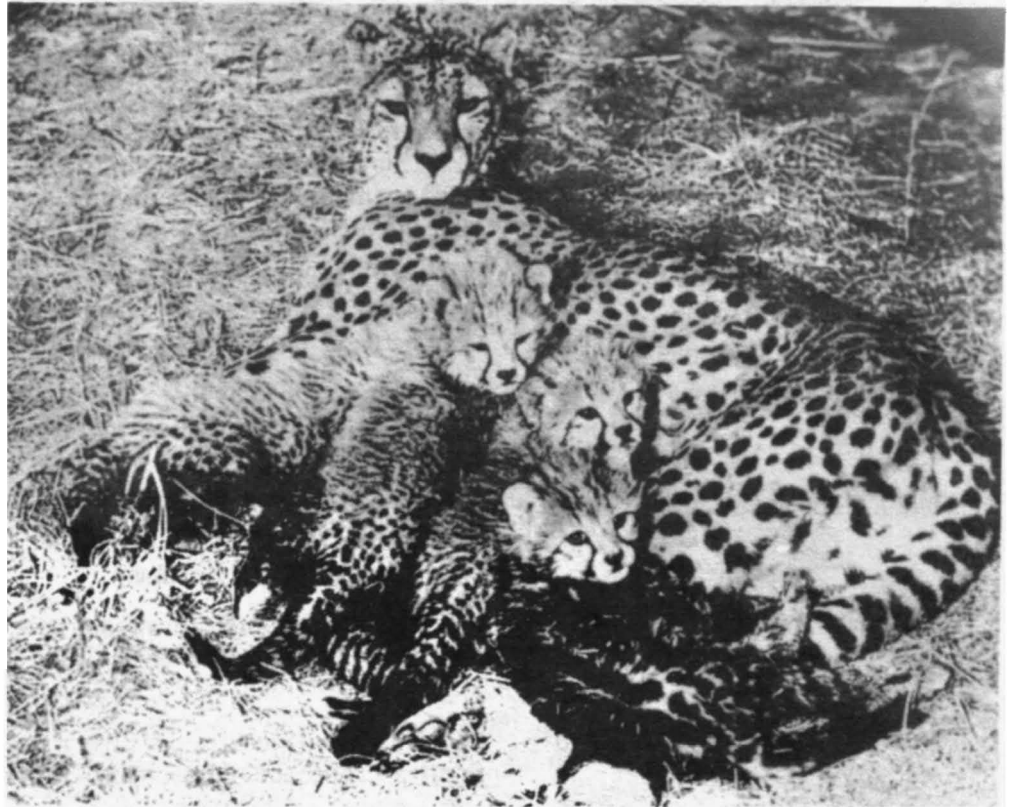


Photo by Dick Reucassel

Nine kings born at DeWildt between 1981 and 1984 (the Port Elizabeth female parent was a sister of one of the DeWildt females and her progeny is included in this tally) provided geneticists in South Africa with an opportunity to study the inheritance of the king coat pattern. Although Pocock had many years earlier withdrawn his claim regarding the species status of *Acinonyx rex*, the captive cheetah births established unequivocally that the king cheetah is merely a variant form of the common cheetah, *A. jubatus*.

From pedigree analysis of the DeWildt births it is certain that the king coat pattern is controlled by a single gene, occurring in recessive form. All of the parents of king cheetahs have had normal spotted coats. An offspring born with the king pattern has to receive the gene from both parents, who carry it in unexpressed or recessive form. By chance, such an event should occur 25 percent of the time, on the average. The occurrence of 9 king cubs in litters numbering

KING CHEETAH - cont.

26 individuals at DeWildt gives a ratio of one king for every 3 cubs born, close enough in a small sample to be in accordance with the rules of inheritance for a trait controlled by a single gene.

The genetics of coat variation for the cat family is actually quite well known from extensive studies of the domestic cat, *Felis domesticus*. Despite the many variations in the color characteristics of domestic cats, it would appear that mutations of only about ten genes account for this variation. Of course, domestic cats have been selectively bred by humans and therefore, show color variation far in excess of that found in wild felids. All cat species, however, appear to have the same complement of genes for color variation, and one of these, known as the tabby gene, is responsible for the occurrence of dark pigment in stripes and spots. In domestic cats, one gets blotched offspring from striped tabbys when a mutation of the tabby gene occurs. Geneticists now believe that the remarkable coat of the king cheetah results from a mutation of the tabby gene.

Other kinds of mutant cheetahs have been recorded, though less frequently than has the king. Undoubtedly, the oldest known record is from the memoirs of Jahangir, a Mughal emperor who ruled in India during the 17th century. Known as a careful observer of wildlife, Jahangir described a white cheetah, having blue, instead of black spots and a bluish cast to the white background. Homologous occurrences of these color characteristics in other cats indicate that Jahangir's white cheetah was not an albino, as some have suggested, but was rather a mutant of the deep pigmentation gene.

The Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for 1877 carry the description of a cheetah seen in the Cape Province of South Africa and covered with "dark fulvous blotches" on a "pale isabelline" (brownish-yellow) background. This cheetah is also said to have lacked the tear line which is so characteristic of the cheetah face. A 1921 photograph of a specimen shot in Tanzania portrays a virtual absence of spots on the neck and shoulders, and unusually small spots on the rest of the body. Although black is by far the most common variant for felines, there is only one unequivocal report of a black cheetah, seen in Kenya in 1925. A skin from Zambia in the 1930's described as "dirty-whitish grey" and "profusely covered with black spots" such that the tawny background shone through only on the face and lower legs, is regarded by some as a second example of a melanistic form.

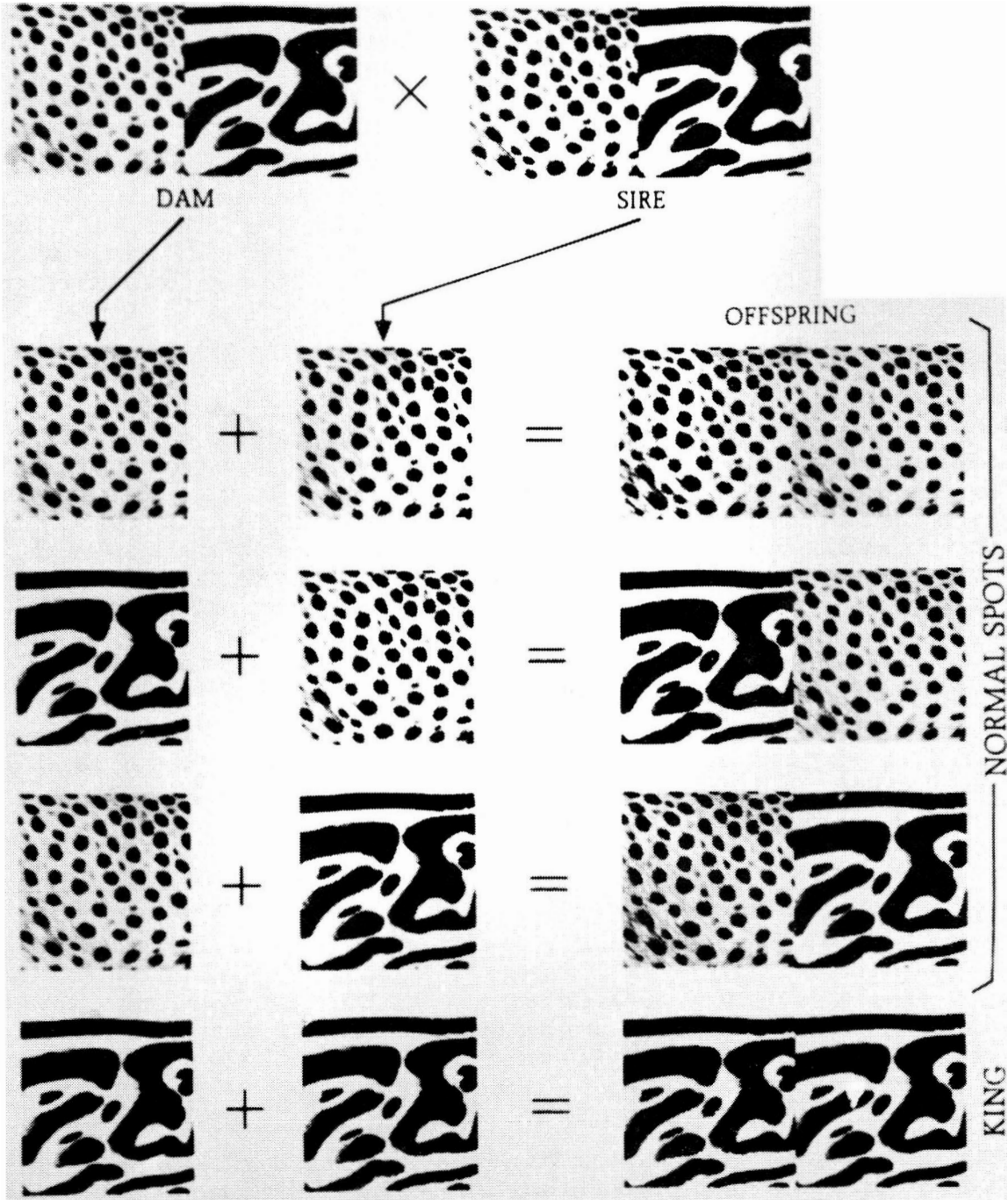
Less striking, but nevertheless noticeable, variations in spot arrangement and in color of the tawny background are often seen, even among littermates. Other pelage features said to be characteristic of kings are their longer, silkier hair, and the raised appearance of the pigmented markings above the tawny background hairs. However, both of these features occur in normally pigmented cheetahs in our Wild Animal Park collection. Altogether, available evidence suggests that cheetahs are as genetically variant as other wild felids in the appearance of the pelage.

Why haven't king cheetahs shown up more often among captive-born offspring? One reason is surely to be found in the fact that the gene's prevalence has been reduced by the propensity of humans to collect their skins at every opportunity. It is possible, as well, that natural events affect frequency of expression. Some authors believe king cheetahs were more common in the early part of the century and have speculated that natural fluctuations do occur, as seems to be the case for South Africa's white lions.

But low frequency of the gene in mutant form is unlikely to be the sole reason for its rareness in captive collections. In North American zoos alone, 113 litters had been born through 1985, none with kings, whereas the first king at DeWildt occurred in the 47th litter. It is more likely that the king's rareness in

HOW THE KING CHEETAH GETS ITS COAT

Parents who carry both the normal gene (left) and the king gene (right) can give either gene to their offspring. Because the king gene is recessive, or hidden, only those individuals who receive it from both parents will have the king coat. The four possible combinations of parental genes shown here illustrate why this will occur only in one of every four offspring.



KING CHEETAH - cont.

In comparing these cheetahs, you can decide for yourselves whether the king coat would enhance hunting ability as some suggest.

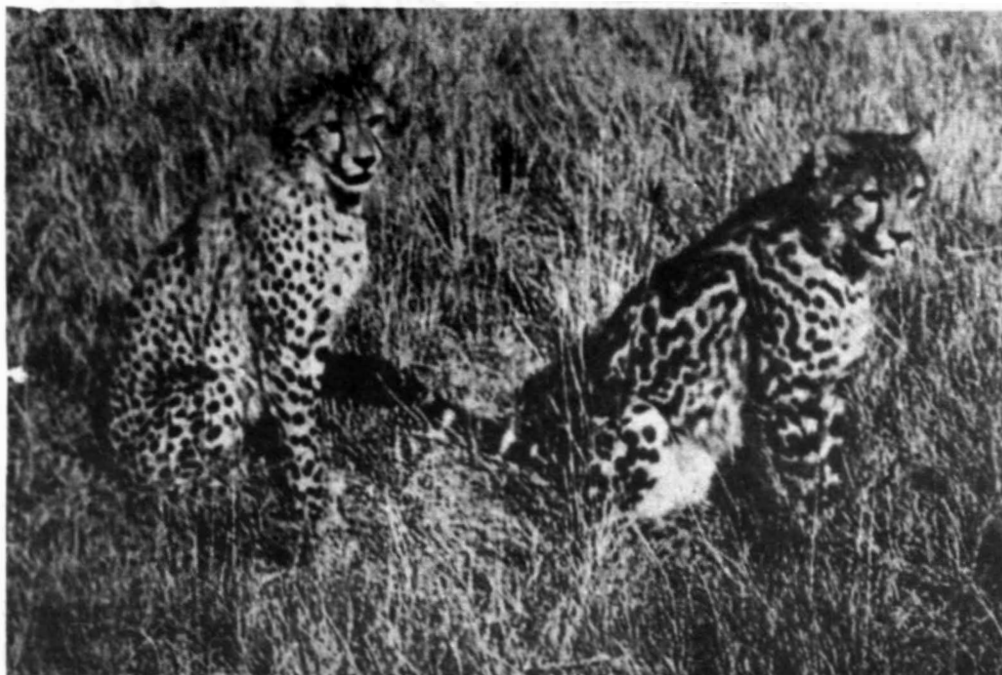


photo by Dick Reucassel

the captive North American population is because the gene has restricted geographical distribution in the wild, and occurs outside the area from which cheetahs have traditionally been taken for export. **The sire of the first DeWildt litter was a wild-caught male from the northern Transvaal, within the known range of Kings. The dam, on the other hand, was a captive-born female whose mother had come from the same area. The vast majority of North American imports have come either from Namibia or from East Africa, areas either outside the known range of the king, or at its extreme edge.**

The latest indication of king cheetahs in the wild is the sighting of a pair of adolescents in the southern part of Kruger National Park in 1986. Lena Bottriell has reported another visual records from Kruger during the late 1970's but the 1986 sighting, like that of the first king seen in the park in 1974, is one of very few such reports that is backed by photographs. The total absence of any evidence of king cheetahs in Kruger National Park prior to 1974, could be an indication that its historic range is moving southward, to an area where it is safe from the southern African spears known as assegais and from guns.

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Readers Write

Dear LIOC,

I joined LIOC because I have always had an interest in cats. In fact, I once owned a Safari, but lost him about a year ago. I am handicapped by cerebral palsy and unable to find a replacement at this time.

I am wondering if you know of a source of video cassettes featuring any of the exotic cats? If so, would you please inform me as to how I could obtain them. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Mike Smith
32-881 Central
Wildomar, CA 92395

**Ed. Note - Mike is a long-time member and in the past has contributed artwork to the Newsletter. Please, if you are aware of videos dealing with our favorite subject share it with us all via the Newsletter!



CONVENTION 90 IS IN BOSTON!
Details on pages 26-27

LEASES - cont.

have to change the laws to make the no-pet clause illegal."

If you live in the city, get a copy of "A Tenant's Guide: Pets are Wonderful Urban Dwellers" It discusses the advantages of having a pet, and outlines steps tenants can take when renting an apartment to be sure their pet is welcome.

On the other hand, if you are an urban landlord, you should read "Landlords Guide to Urban Pets" Either or both are available on request from Pets are Wonderful Council, 500 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611

THINK IT'S OVER? - THINK AGAIN!

No matter how you personally feel about the matter or ranched furs - I think we can all agree on the subject of wild-caught furs....especially those of cat!

Left are leopard cat coats from a catalog.

It is obvious from the offering of many cat-fur coats throughout this past year's Christmas catalogs that the slaughter has not stopped.

A Hong Kong furrier offers a catalog featuring "a magnificent array of exquisite furs to include lynx; leopard; snow leopard, Russian Sable, among the usual mink, squirrel, nutria, etc. ; The address? a P.O.Box in Cary, North Carolina!

This year's Neiman Marcus catalog featured a Russian Lynx coat (bellies only) for \$150,000. Jean Hamil returned their catalog telling them why and received the following reply:

"Thank you for your recent letter voicing your objections to the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalog's merchandising of furs.

We would not presume to argue with you or discredit your beliefs on the subject. But we would like to mention that the fur industry in general and Neiman Marcus in particular, make responsible use of renewable natural resources. Our goals are compatible with the goals of environmental conservation. Furs from the wild are taken in accordance with professional wildlife management programs and strict government regulations at the national and international levels designed to assure that wildlife populations are healthy and in balance with their environment.



FURS - continued.

Most furs produced in North America is raised on family farms where selective breeding and precise attention to the care of their animals enable North American farmers to produce the finest quality furs in the world.

In keeping with the standards set by the fur industry, Neiman Marcus has a strong policy that no endangered species are offered for sale.

Pat Morgan
Vice President
Mail Order Merchandising
Neiman Marcus
1618 Main St
Dallas, Tx 75201

Fur farming aside, only Britain has suggested that furs be tagged as to whether they are "farmed" or wild-caught".

The photo at right is of a warehouse in Canada of wild-caught lynx awaiting shipment.

Although the World Council of Churches has censured the fur trade saying: "Nowhere is this indifference in the name of fashion more evident than in the case of fur-bearing animals trapped in the wild inevitably to suffer slow agonizing deaths. When we purchase the products of commercial furriers we support massive animal pain and death."

The Wall Street Journal reported recently that the animal activists have contributed to the leveling off in the demand for furs (see chart).

Furriers profess optimism maintaining that business has merely been in a cyclical slump.



FURS - continued

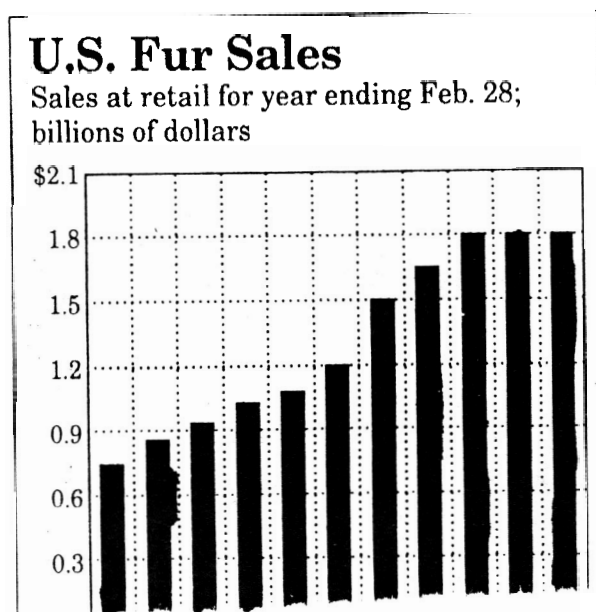
Fashions have also been a factor in coat profits. This year the best selling fur appears to be shearlings, which are short-wooled skins of sheep and lambs. "Their lighter in weight and more casual Says Robert Miller, president of the Fur Vault, "people are buying them instead of mink. You've got to sell three of them to equal the sale of a mink coat.

Although some designers, namely Bill Blass and Caroline Herrera say they've stopped making furs, Bill Blass mink trimmed gloves are in the current Spiegel catalog. Ms. Herrera made her anti-fur statements only after her contract with one manufacture wasn't renewed and negotiations with a second had fell thru.

"Greg Dolinsky, V.P. at Hudson's Bay Fur Sales, a leading animal fur auction says: "The animal rights people aren't a factor. The real issue is warm weather and over-production. Industry executives expect ranchers to scale back, as ranchers cut back, prices will begin to rise."

Legislation is in the House (HR 1693) which would prohibit "sport" hunting as well as commercial and recreational trapping on federal refuges which were intended to be preserves of wildlife.

No matter how you feel, it is obvious we still have a long way to go before animals are taken from the wild to satisfy the hunger for their pelts.



SNOW LEOPARD SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS PUBLISHED

The Proceedings of the Fifth International Snow Leopard Symposium in Srinagar, Kashmir, are now available in limited number. Copies cost \$19, (\$17 for members of the International Snow Leopard Trust) add \$2.50 postage in the US, \$5 elsewhere.

To order, send a check or money order to the International Snow Leopard Trust, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103, USA

This was the first symposium held in a country with wild snow leopards and the emphasis was on high altitude habitat, as well as conservation of snow leopards in the wild and captivity. Biologists, wildlife officials and zoo professionals from 12 countries took part.

The proceedings, edited by Trust president Helen Freeman, include chapters on the snow leopard's distribution and status in the wild, recent field studies, the management of captive snow leopard populations including veterinary aspects, and recommendations for conservation strategies.

According to the Snow Leopard Studbook, 412 (210.202) snow leopards were in captivity as of January, 1987. This is an increase of 146% since the studbook was started in 1976 when there were 167. The captive population consists of 233 in North America; 105 in Europe, 34 in China; 27 in USSR and 13 elsewhere.

Leif Blomqvist says that the present population consists of a broad base of young animals, with 57% aged less than 5 years. There were 37 (23.14) potential founders, i.e. wild caught animals without living decedents in the captive population, but all but 7 are in China.

India had its first sucess in breeding snow leopards when two cubs were born this year. The Director, Vinod Rishi, says that the zoo acquired its first pair in 1986 and a second pair in January 1989 - both pairs were zoo-born.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS



Articles and photos for the Newsletter are always needed
.....Get the point?

A LOVING TRIBUTE TO AUROARA HARMONY

The children loved him from the very beginning. As a young lion cub, Auroara's eyes flashed big and bright at all the kids peering at him from only a few feet away. And when the lecture ended at that day-care center in late October of 1974, Auroara and his owner boarded the '61 Chevvy stationwagon and headed home to Salem, Oregon. It was all in the name of love.

Auroara Harmony was born at a private facility in northwest Washinton state. We first met when he was four and a half weeks old and I was nearly twenty-four years of age. He needed a home soon because the compound had run into financial problems and had excess animals. So, on August 10th, 1974, with baby bottle in one one hand and a seven-pound lion cub in my lap, we drove south with my father at the wheel. I had studied lions in literature since 1964 and had handled them about four years. Neither of us knew what adventures awaited us.

On the icy surface of Interstate 5, heading towards Kent, Washington, Auroara relaxed and gazed out the windows in the back of the station wagon. My father and I decided that now was the time to look for some land; maybe five acres way out in the country where we could grow up learning from each other the best we could. Maybe things would work out where this wayward lion cub might star in a film devoted to the cause of enlightenment on behalf of lions and other wildlife, free and captive. Right now, we needed to find some good land and secure ourselves.

But Auroara spent more than a year in the Seattle area, romping in a large backyard, fenced in, on a property overlooking a freeway. He loved to look down and watch the cars speed by. He slept with his owner until he decided to make a meal of the bed. Now he was at the 200 pound point, it was definately time to move onto some open acreage far from the city.

AUROARA HARMONY
and
Ed Smith

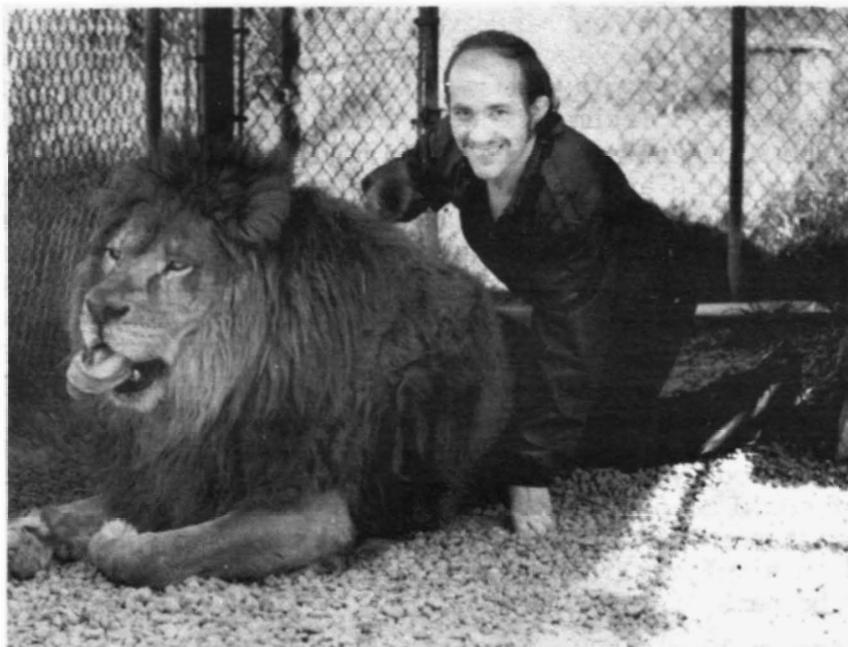


Photo by
Carl Cook

Auroara Harmony - cont.

My father and I worked hard on a five-acre parcel that we found near Eatonville, we cleared the trees to make room for fencing and a trailer. But, then we found this land would not drain water sufficiently to pass the requirements of the county regulations. We could not build anything here without a permit and this acreage would not perk for anything or anyone. However, we found two friends who had eleven acres near Yelm and offered Auroara and me a home there.

In May, 1976, we moved to what would soon become "Cougar Mountain Sanctuary", (a compound devoted to caring for unwanted felines "pets" - bobcats, cougars, ocelots, servals and leopards). For the next five and a half years, our dwellings were but a few feet apart; Auroara in a chainlink enclosure with a house stuffed with clean, dry hay, inside; his owner in a '57 Fleetwood travel trailer.

People came from all over to visit the cats. As humble as things were at this place (cages were small and facilities limited) the information about the fate of the cats, many of them endangered in the wild, was a valuable asset. We had plans to construct a more open facility where each animal would have ample room, but those plans were not to be. The financial demands and the daily frustrations of caring for more than a hundred cats became too heavy a burden and by 1981 the compound shut down and most of the cats relocated, including Auroara and me.

We had reached a point where things were a bit frightening. I would sit on my porch and strum my guitar or go into his cage and lie close to him, speaking softly, to comfort him - and myself. We'd have to find another place to live.

Eight miles on the other side of Yelm, two new friends offered a place to relocate. Auroara was extremely patient spending two nights and days in the back of his (that's right - HIS) '69 Chevy suburban panel truck, while his cage was constructed in the new place. It took an endless amount of work to reconstruct the enclosure to its exact specifications and he watched every move with those big bright amber eyes. Finally, my trailer was placed close by and this would be our final home together.

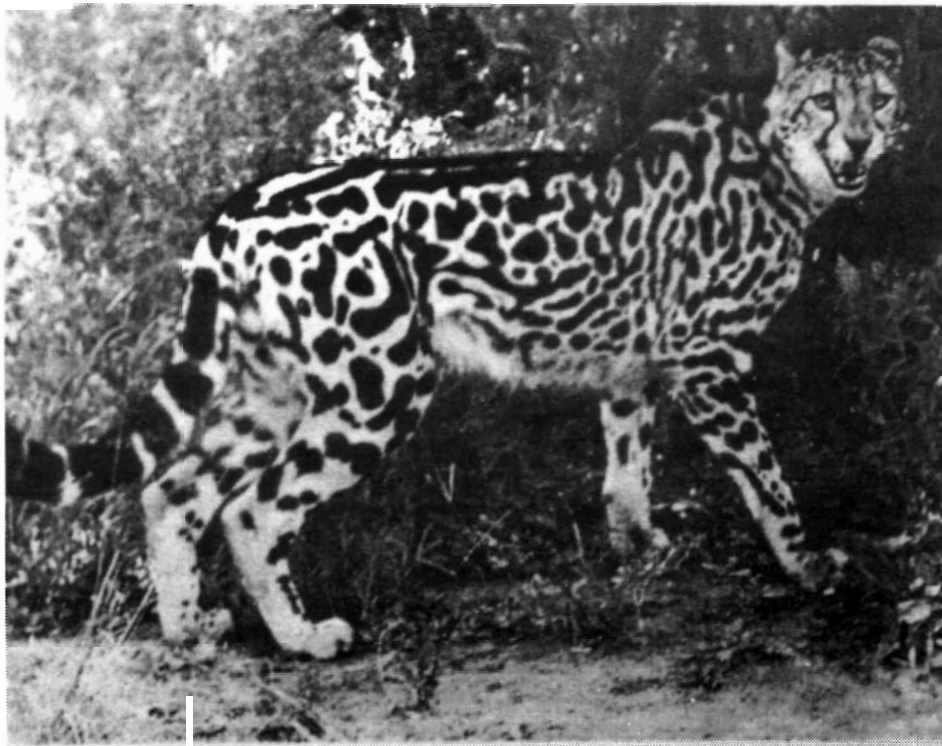
Auroara didn't like it when his owner drove off to work in the little white car; but when he saw the car return, he would run and bounce and call out with delight. We would rub each other through the wiremesh, kissing and talking with each other. Then I would change my clothes and go into his cage for a hug and stroke his mane. Sometimes he would roll over and want his belly rubbed. Inside my home the sound of his voice would make everything vibrate; his roaring could be heard for miles around. Many people would come to visit him as often as once a week; he would lie quietly on his porch, gazing at them; sometimes he would pace back and forth for exercise or relaxation; he might pounce on his truck-tire toy or swipe his bowling ball across the enclosure playfully. He had his moods. Like many of us, lions are emotional creatures who express themselves excessively. They are the only truly "social" cat - they live in family prides. They are sensitive and intelligent. They don't belong in cages, but Auroara and his owner had little choice - this was originally a cub who would otherwise have been sold to a circus or simply have been "put down" as surplus stock, if that twenty-four year old lion-love hadn't taken him into his life to share whatever could be offered. And although some times were uneasy and funds mostly on an existence level, the love and good times we shared can never be paraphrased in simple language. Fifteen years, wonderful and rewarding years we had, all in the name of love.

On August 10th, 1989, Auroara failed to come out of anesthesia while being examined for a sudden weight loss. The results of that examination revealed

AUROARA HARMONY - cont.

that he had a Squamous cell carcinoma. His quiet passing was indeed a blessing compared to what he would have suffered from the fast spreading cancer.

Edward Eugene Smith
14595 119th Way. S.E.
Yelm, WA 98597



KING CHEETAH - see story elsewhere

ATTENTION PAST LOTTIE RECIPIENTS

It is once again time to give thought to the presentation of a 1990 Lottie. Please give serious thought to nominations for the Lottie and send any nominations to: Shirley Wagner, 3730 Belle Isle Lane. Mobile, Al. 36619 as soon as possible.



TEXAS PASSES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR "WILD ANIMALS"

The state of Texas passed a law effective January 1st, 1990, making it a Class C misdemeanor to possess a wild animal for breeding, exhibition, or personal use without first obtaining a permit at a cost of \$100 each, up to a maximum of \$500 for more than 5 animals.

At this time we have not received a copy of this legislation but will report further when details are known.



A NOTE OF THANKS

I did want to write this letter a couple of months ago, but I've been so busy since the Convention in New Orleans, that I just haven't had time.

A lot of you probably haven't heard that Suzi and I bought a home in Mobile, Alabama and should all be moved in by Christmas. We've been really busy with closing on the house, setting up facilities for the animals, moving the animals to Mobile and then preparing the house in New Jersey for sale. Anybody who has ever moved animals from a home after so many years, must know what we went through. But, things are winding down now, all the animals are settled in and are doing fine.

Most importantly though, I would like to thank everyone who was in on "The Spirit of LIOC" award that was presented me at convention. Although the things that I have done for the organization, the animals, and for the members, I would have done regardless. After all, that's what the organization and its' members are supposed to be about. To help one another when the going gets rough, and especially to help the animals out when they need it. I do thank everyone for the recognition, even though I'm now married to the Vice-President and got to sit at the head table at banquet, I do appreciate your thoughtfulness and do thank you once more.

Anyone who has not attended a convention, sure is missing a lot of what LIOC is about. It's the perfect chance to meet members face-to-face who have owned and bred just about every cat in existence, and if it's one thing we like to do it's talk about our cats. So, I hope to see you at next year's convention.

Mike Mutascio
2470 Eloong Dr.
Mobile, AL 36605

UPDATE: OCELOT STUDY IN SOUTH TEXAS

Seven years of research on the ocelot have been carried out by Michael Tewes and associates of the Caesar Kleberg Research Station out of Texas A & I University. The major thrust of the research was to understand the ecology of the ocelot.

Less than 80 ocelots are left in the U.S. and all are confined to the extreme southern part of Texas in fragmented habitats. A major population is in the Rio Grande Valley, several (2-3) smaller fragmented groups may exist in the interior and another major population is found in south-central Texas. The major study site for these cats has been on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge on the gulf coast. The primary capture technique has been with the use of a wire mesh box traps placed in dense brush. The ocelots are surprisingly calm in the traps, much less active than bobcats. **Ketamine chloride is administered by way** of a pole syringe and then the cats are weighed and measured, and dentition and parasite checks are done. Blood samples are taken for seriological profiles.

Bobcats are also caught in the traps and the ecological niches of the two cats are being compared. Individual ocelots can be identified by the patterning on the forehead and shoulders. Each animal found to have a unique pattern. Each bobcat or ocelot is equipped with a collar for radio-telemetry and each collar emits a unique frequency. The majority of radio-telemetry locating is done on the ground, but occasionally, an airplane is used to follow signals. They have captured to date, 34 ocelots, and 84 bobcats and the cats are easily trapped. One male was captured 10 different times. Females are less easy to catch.

The findings of this study show that ocelots select dense scrub habitat close to the ground. Territories average 6 square miles with male territories being larger than female territories. Female use of the territory is more intense than male use. Males exclude other males from the territory and females exclude other females. Activity patterns show a peak at 1900 hours and a drop at 0800 hours. Evening is also the time when prey is most active. Most of the young are born in the fall and early winter. This may be an evolutionary holdover from when ocelots evolved in South America where the seasons are reversed. **Less than 1/2** of one percent of south Texas now has suitable habitat.

Seven to eight den sites have been located. The den sites can be identified by the presence of claw marks beside the entrance. In a concave depression at the base of a tree, a nest was also found with 1-2 offspring. Mothers ranges overlap with the ranges of offspring, and the young have a close association with the mother for 6-8 months.

The existing habitat is being saturated because young ocelots can't disperse. This situation also leads to inbreeding. Dispersion is accomplished mainly by the use of corridors. Dense thorn forest corridors are used to cross agricultural areas. The brush corridors are also used for intraterritorial movements, extra-territorial movements, foraging, resting and den use.

Sixteen bobcats have been radio-collared and they exhibit the same activity patterns, prey base and home ranges as the ocelots. The major difference between the two species is that bobcats leave the brush more often.

Ocelots are sometimes trapped illegally, but the major threats are cars and habitat destruction. Less than 2% of the natural vegetation remains in the

OCELOT STUDY - continued

Rio Grande Valley. The dense brush required by ocelots is found only in areas of fertile soil. The Rio Grande River supports an important corridor. A 250 mile long corridor is being constructed which will link up several preserves. This land has been acquired in the last 5 years. There is also the possibility of a corridor into northern Mexico which will link up now isolated populations. Other projects going forward involve the planting of brush in an attempt at habitat restoration and the construction of under-highway travelways to connect the corridors. It has been shown that if these travelways are available, the cats will use them. Translocating ocelots has also been done. Ocelots have been moved from the main population to an isolated habitat in a National wildlife refuge.

The ocelot conservation plan contains six points: 1) protection of existing genes 2) investigation of habitat characteristics, 3) habitat establishment and enhancement; 4) manipulation of gene pools; 5) captive breeding; 6) targeted education.

Reprinted from FELID

CALVIN AND HOBBS**WILDLIFE TRADE UPDATE**

Singapore now has legislation to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Under the Endangered Species Act 1989, anyone who contravenes the act may be fined \$2,500 and/or be sentenced to one year in jail for the first offence and fined up to \$5,000 and or one year in jail for the second offense.

Three Americans and three South Americans have been charged with smuggling rhino horn which came to light after the Fish & Wildlife Service heard that one of the Americans was offering a leopard mount. He later sold agents two leopard skin rugs for \$2,000 a leopard head mount for \$550, and a cheetah rug for \$2,400.

In Britain, a Kenyan woman was sentenced to three months imprisonment for attempting to smuggle 7 leopard skins through London Airport.

In Belgium, recent seizures included a handbag made from a leopard cat skin and three leopard teeth.

In Italy, two jaguar skins dating from before implementation were seized due to improper documentation as was a clouded leopard coat that the furrier claimed falsely to have for alteration.

Urbanites Can Win Changes in 'No-Pet' Lease Clauses

Condensed from *Pets 'n' People*

A country dog can be noisy and misbehaving and get away with it because it is less likely to bother other people. Not so in the crowded city, where there are a myriad of leash laws, license laws, coop laws and, more recently, no-pet clauses in leases.

According to author and animal authority Patricia Curtis, leash laws are designed to protect lives, clean-up laws make cities a lot nicer to live in and license laws at least give you the chance to identify your pet if it is lost or is picked up.

But one of the unfortunate effects of the tight housing market in cities is the no-pet clause in apartment or housing leases. "It denies the joy, companionship and protection of pets to millions of people." Ms Curtis writes in her book The Urban Dog/

Speaking of urban landlords, Ms Curtis points out that the no-pet clause in leases saves them the trouble of dealing with tenants on an individual basis, even though every standard lease gives the building manager a-l the power needed to deal with tenants whose pets cause "problems." However, if nobody is allowed to have a pet, that's one less hassle for the landlord to contend with.

The no-pet clause is also a weapon for landlords to intimidate tenants from complaining about lack of heat, secure locks or clean halls.

One bright light in the picture is a national law, passed by Congress in 1983, which says that senior citizens living or moving into housing that receives federal subsidies cannot be denied the right to keep pets. And in New York, members of the City Council became convinced that an overzealous group of landlords were trying to force people out who would rather move than give up their pets. They passed a law providing that tenants who lived openly with their pets for three months or more without complaints could not be ordered to give up their leases.

HOW TO FIGHT A NO-PET CLAUSE

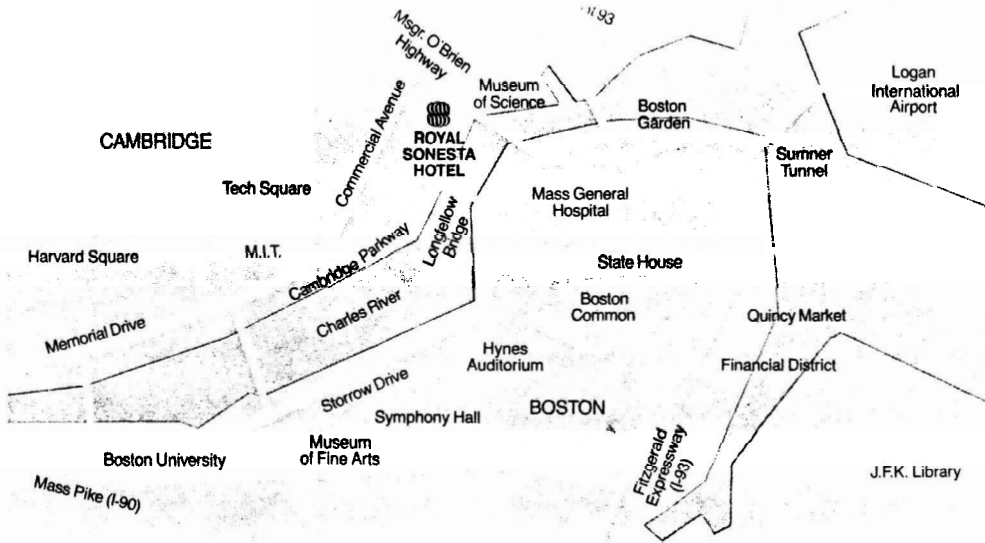
In recent years, lawyers interested in animal rights, and the rights of pet owners, have formed The Animal Legal Defense Fund (205 E. 42nd Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10017) Their message to urban animal owners told to give up their pets is this: DON'T AUTOMATICALLY GIVE UP YOUR PET....no-pet clause or not, it is possible to win in court. A good lawyer can often find careless wording in a lease that renders the no-pet clause legally unenforcable.

Ms. Curtis writes that rental real estate attorneys are sometimes overconfident of not being challenged and are careless in preparing leases. In another instance, a rental agent enticed a woman to move into a building he was having trouble renting, giving her verbal assurance, in the presence of two witnesses, that she could keep her dog. A few months later, after the building was fully occupied, he sought to evict her because of the dog.

In court, the judge not only found for the tenant, but awarded her damages for having been deceived. "As urban pet owners, and I am one of them," said Ms. Curtis, "we have our work cut out for us. First, we have to be unfailingly considerate and lawabiding ourselves and encourage others to be so, too. Then we

Continued on page 14

Convention '90

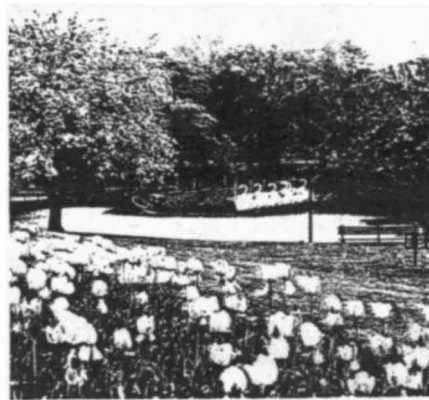


Three miles from Logan International Airport: Follow signs to Sumner Tunnel/Boston (Route 1A South) to Route 93 North. Stay in center lane and follow signs for Cambridge/Somerville. Bear right and follow Somerville/O'Brien Highway signs. Take left (Commercial Avenue) at traffic lights after the Museum of Science. The hotel will be on your left.

From the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) Eastbound: Take exit 18, follow signs to Allston/Cambridge. Stay in right lane following signs to Cambridge/Somerville. Cross over River Street Bridge (Cambridge Street) and take a right at traffic light onto Memorial Drive (Route 3). Follow Memorial Drive East (Route 3 South), until you reach signs for Government Center/Kendall Square. Be sure to stay in extreme right lane along river. Memorial Drive then turns into Commercial Ave. The hotel will be on your right.

Royal Sonesta Hotel

5 Cambridge Parkway
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142
 Telephone: 617-491-3600
 Telex: 275293 Fax: 6615956



Swan Boats, Public Garden



Faneuil Hall, Quincy Marketplace



The U.S.S. Constitution

Boston, Mass.

Make your plans now to attend the 1990 Convention! The Royal Sonesta Hotel is located on the Charles River and features a complete gym including indoor/outdoor pool, whirlpool and saunas. A "Ice cream Social" is featured daily with all the free ice cream you can eat! Complimentary transportation is provided to many historical points of interest, so come early and take in the sights!

TENTATIVE ITINERARY: Thursday, August 9th - tours of Quincy Market Place and Waterfront and other historical points of interest.
 Friday, August 10th - Membership meetings, an afternoon tour of Boston's spectacular Science Museum.
 Saturday- August 11th - Guest Speakers - evening is our annual Banquet and auction doings.
 Sunday - August 12th - Farewell breakfast.

Rates at the Royal Sonesta are \$99 single or double.

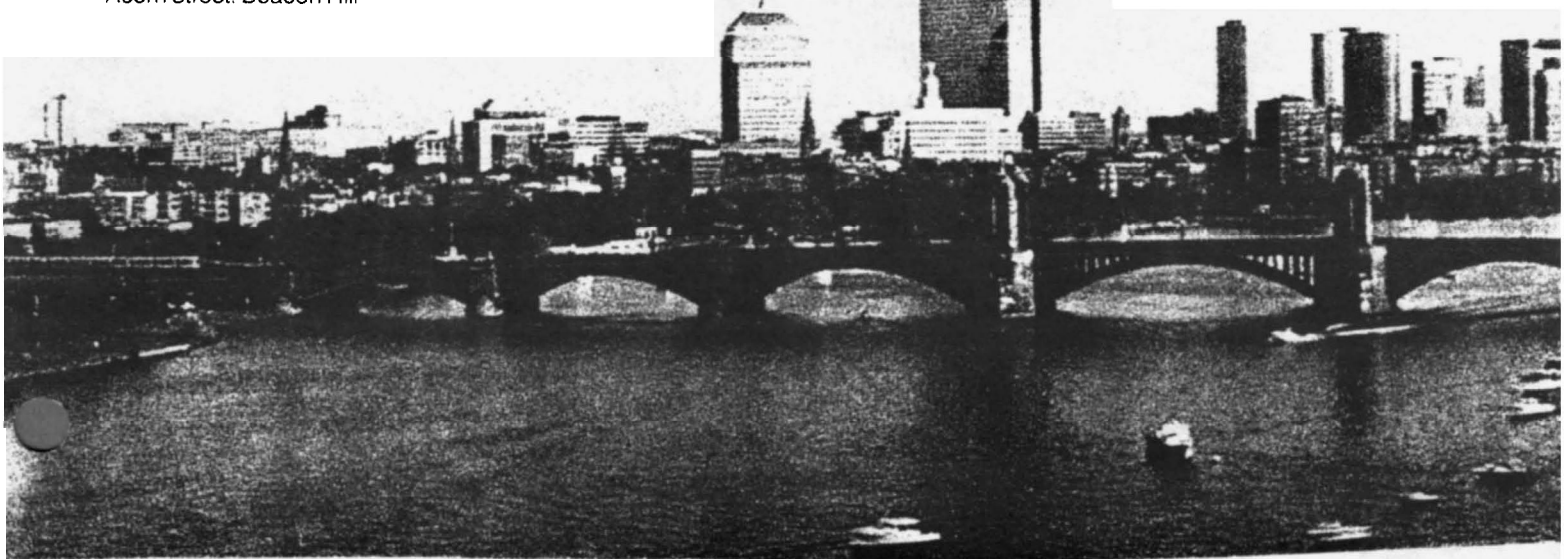
Registration: Early rate:(before June 30th) \$80.00 - after June 30th rate increases to \$85.00 - send your check now to:

AL PORGES
 6 Westview Dr.
 Stoughton, Ma 02072

August 9 - 12



Acorn Street, Beacon Hill





Do you WANT TO BE A STAR?

We're collecting photos to be used in the future on greeting cards. Artists within the ranks of LIOC will be asked to do paintings from these photos (Artist volunteers are needed!)

These artistic renditions will then be converted to greeting cards and the photo contest winners will be given the original art of their cat!

LIOC will then offer the greeting cards for sale.

Photos (name and address on the back) should be sent to:

AL PORGES
6 Westview Dr.
Stoughton, MA 02072
(617) 344-4943

Artists who wish to contribute their services should also contact Al.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS ENDEAVOR A SUCCESS - PLEASE DO YOUR PART!