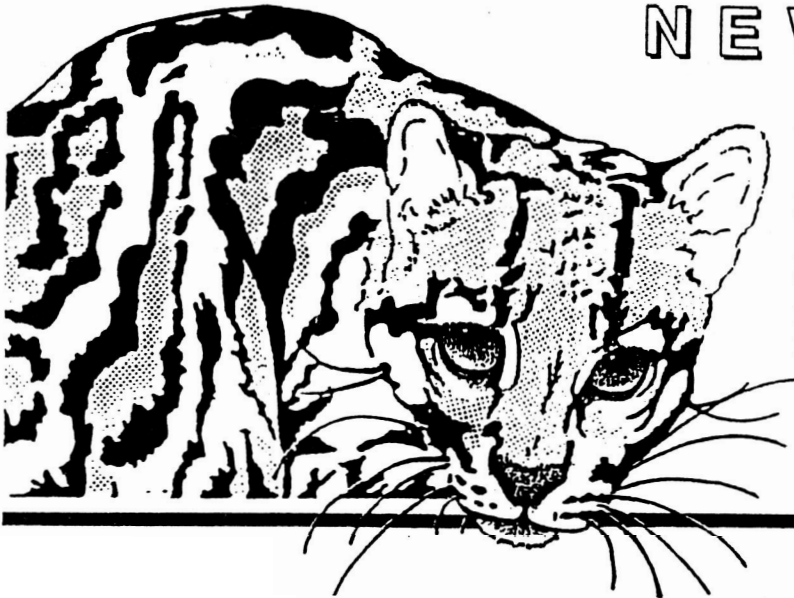


# NEWSLETTER



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This year's convention will be in Boston.

Throughout this issue (and at right) are points of interest you might want to plan on seeing.

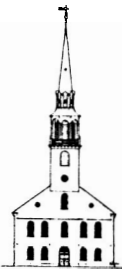
Details were in the Jan/Feb Issue.

Permit requirements for those bringing their cats are on page 6.

SEE YOU THERE!

## THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WELCOMES YOU TO BOSTON

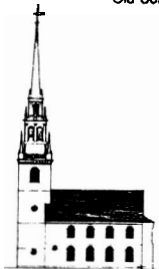
Discover our city's rich history...



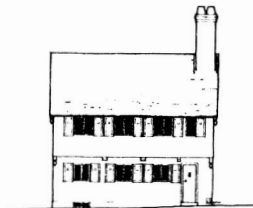
Old South Meeting House



Old State House



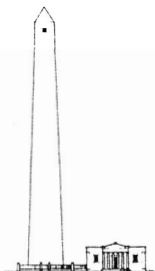
Old North Church



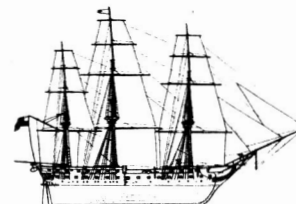
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Faneuil Hall

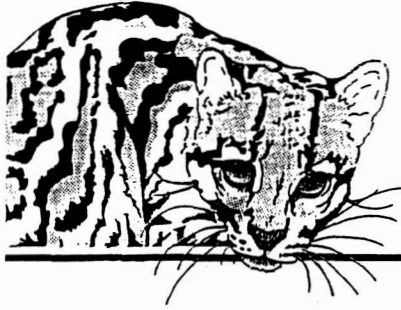


Bunker Hill Monument



Charlestown Navy Yard USS Constitution

Boston National Historical Park  
"The Freedom Trail"



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

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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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# EDITORIAL

BUT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN

We become quite complacent in the fellowship we enjoy with our exotics. We think we understand them completely. They are "good" cats. They conduct themselves with impeccable demeanor...they eat on schedule in the proper places. They respect their toilet sites. They tolerate our affectionate advances - when they are in the mood.

But there comes a time every now and then when our complacency is a bit shattered. We are suddenly faced with unusual actions in our cats which we interpret as deviation from their perfect behavior. We try to interject our "corrections" usually at inopportune times and they fall unheeded by the pre-occupied pussycat.

I became aware on two recent occasions that my interpretations of Tercera's messages were something short of understanding. She is a model ocelot, if shy of strangers, affectionate with us and "good" in her daily routines. She had finished her morning performance with the coffee pot which had been left, as usual in the kitchen sink with the remnants of the last making still in the pot. Tercera rolled back and forth on the sink, apparently intoxicated by the aroma of steaming coffee grounds. When she was finished, she insisted on refusing to obey the suggestions (commands are not used in our house since we discovered Tercera is more amenable to suggestions), we made to her, interested only in scenting the places where I had walked. Finally we discovered, scenting them ourselves, that I had stepped in the excrement of a visiting canine who had donated to our lawn fertilization program. When the offending scent was removed, the cat accepted our suggestion that she go to bed.

The other instance, of greater importance for its impending potential disaster, was Tercera's insistence that she disarrange kindling I had put in the fireplace, eventually to be burned. It was at about the moment when we despaired of disinteresting her in the kindling when I discovered she had chewed the top off of a plastic garbage bag. The missing pieces were obviously inside Tercera. The first thing that occurred to me in the emergency of discovery was to provide her with as much grass as she would consume, hoping she would vomit the plastic. Fifteen minutes later the grass and pieces of garbage bag, were dutifully produced. It was only then we realized that her interest in the kindling was actually interest in pieces of grass which she found clinging to it.

We know there is tremendous logic in every action of our cats but too often we fumble too long through our complex reasoning before we are able to interpret it. The result of our blindness is most often failure to communicate and, in the extreme case, disaster.

Our cats are intelligent. They are logical. Shall we try to emulate them?

*Catherine Cisin*

Reprinted from Volume 11, No. 6, November/December, 1967

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# An Ounce of Prevention

I purchased Rangkul at two and a half years of age from Bensons's Wild Animal Farm at its closing auction. He is very loveable and craves attention. I even hand feed him.

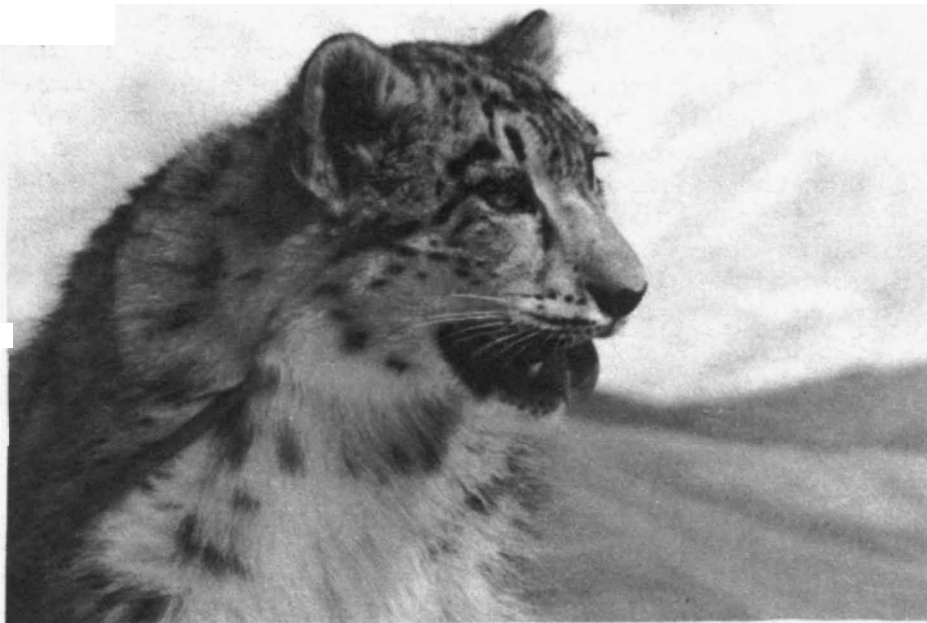
I purchased Verushka at three months of age (I'm in love again) from Robert Baudy whom I admire as one of the most knowlegable characters on exotic felines I have ever met.

At five months of age, Verushka, being in the cage next to Rangkul, slid her paw between the chain link gate (about 2 inches) into Rangkul's cage. He grabbed it with his teeth and ripped and tore at her paw, resulting in broken bones and rips completely through. Her paw and leg eventually healed thanks to the effort of the great veterinary team at Tufts University Veterinary School in Grafton, Mass. We almost had to amputate part of her paw, but luckily were able to save it.

It two months and megabucks to save her but she's worth it!

A lesson was learned the HARD way - don't leave spaces or gaps between cages- fill in all spaces.

Al Porges



Verushka at six months of age.

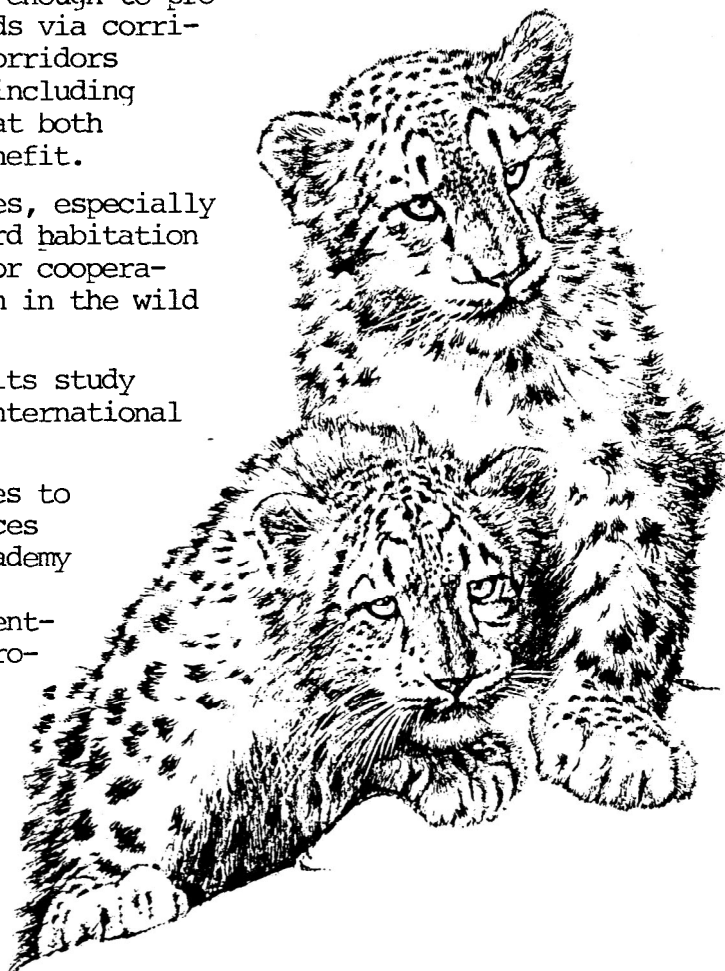
Editor's note: quarter-inch hardware cloth can be "sewn" along community chainlink partitions between cages and will keep the smallest paws safe (I've used it for oncillas). Also available from your chainlink fence dealers are flat bars with connectors that can be used in the small gaps between supports, doors & posts, etc. Also, simple boards can be fitted into gaps and secured with wire. When designing runs, drainage should be such that it runs from the back or front of the cage (not through another pen, which could also spread disease) and not through adjoining areas.

## Snow Leopard Symposium Resolutions

The sixth International Snow Leopard Symposium was held in Alma Ata, Kirghiz SSR, USSR, from October 2nd thru 7th, 1989. The following resolutions were passed.

Recognizing the snow leopard as a symbol of life of the fragile high altitude ecosystems and a symbol of international cooperative conservation efforts, we, the delegates of the Sixth International Snow Leopard Symposium, recommend the following conservation actions:

1. The establishment of additional protected areas, including new national parks, with special attention paid to reserves in areas which are on international boundaries, such as:
  - a) The western Tien Shan in Kirgizia adjoining the Tomur Reserve in the Peoples Republic of China, and
  - b) In the Pamirs where the Taxkorgan Reserve of the Peoples Republic of China and the Khunjerab Park of Pakistan meet Tadjhikistan and Afghanistan.
2. Further study of snow leopard habitat and potential reserve areas, such as that of the Altai Mountains, where Kazakstan, Peoples Republic of China and Peoples Republic of Mongolia meet.
3. Further strengthening the captive breeding efforts in zoos of the USSR by establishment of a cooperative, coordinated snow leopard breeding plan.
4. Establishment of territories large enough to protect viable populations of snow leopards via corridors between separate reserves. Such corridors would be designated for multiple use, including grazing lands and timber harvest so that both wildlife and indigenous peoples may benefit.
5. Request the USSR Academy of Sciences, especially its Intitutes in regions of snow leopard habitation creat an informational working group for cooperative activity on the snow leopard, both in the wild and in captivity.
6. Request the Soviet side coordinate its study program on the snow leopard with the International Snow Leopard Trust.
7. Request the USSR Academy of Sciences to direct the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences and the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences to include research on the biology of the snow leopard and representative mountain fauna in the activity programs of the regional academic institutes.
8. Designate the Alma Ata Zoo to be intervening coordinator between soviet groups and the International Snow Leopard Trust.





# Convention '90

## Boston, Mass.

### August 9 - 12



Besides the many things to see and do in Boston proper, there are lots of things of interest within a day trip from Boston itself. You might want to plan to come a little early (or stay a little after convention) and do a little sightseeing. Throughout this newsletter are areas you might be interested in visiting as well as,

PLYMOUTH (Day trip) - relive the Pilgrim era with a visit to the Mayflower, Plymouth rock, and Plimoth Plantation, a reconstruction of the original Pilgrim village. The Mayflower is a full scale replica of the original vessel.

Plymouth is also cranberry headquarters a free museum is maintained by the Ocean Spray Cranberry Co.

CAPE COD (two day trip) Cross either the Sagamore or Bourne Brides and you're on Cape Cod. Located 57 miles south of Boston, the cape boasts 300 miles of beaches, "Must" stops include the Sanwich Glass Museum and Heritage Plantation.

Concord/Lexington (day trip) The American Revolution got off to a rousing start on the Village Green in Lexington. Next door in Condord is the Old North Bridge. The National Park Service offers a slide show and special presentations in the summer. LIterary buffs may want to tour the homes of some early American writers\$, Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorn and Ralph Waldo Emerson. You can also walk around Walden Pond.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE (day trip) Turn the clock back 150 years and you're in rural New England town of Sturbridge. The re-created village features demonstrations of daily tasks of the time, and costume villagers wander about the homes, shops, businesses of a bygone era.

SALEM (day trip) Witches, castles, fishermen have given this area its character & fame. Known for the witchcraft hysteria of 1690, Salem features a witch museum, as well as the House of Seven Gables, Pickering Wharf and the Salem Maritime Historic site.

Since 1773, people have been  
throwing parties in Boston Harbor.  
Now it's your turn.

a permit is required to bring a cat to convention. They will be checked, so no cheating. Permit applications for visitors are available from Mary Parker, P.O.Box 27334, Seattle, WA 98125. If you think you MAY need to bring a cat or kittens, get your permit in now;



THE CATS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Christopher Stuart & Vivian Wilson  
1988 Bulawayo. Chipangali Wildlife  
Trust

Chris Stuart and Viv Wilson are well-known for their long-term field work on carnivores in Africa. In this booklet they provide a valuable summary of information on the seven cat species found south of the Zambezi and discuss conservation prospects.

Stuart and Wilson make the point that conservation efforts will be wasted if they concentrate only on the cats themselves. Habitat and prey species are equally important. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on areas outside preserves, and control of problem animals should be refined to ensure that only the individuals involved are eliminated. Public understanding of the role of cats and other carnivores as indicators of the health of ecosystems needs to be improved.

There is only a thin line  
between the past and the  
present... Discover it today.

**The  
Freedom  
Trail**

For more information & maps, call Boston National Historical Park at (617)242-5642. Stop by one of the National Park Service Visitor Centers at 15 State St. & in the Charlestown Navy Yard or the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau information Booth on Boston Common. Admission is charged at some of the private, non-profit historic sites along the trail.

REGISTER NOW - After June 30th  
fees go up!

Send you check for \$80 per person  
to: Al Porges  
6 Westview Dr  
Stoughton, MA 02072

We're staying at the Royal Sonesta  
5, Cambridge Parkway



January 17, 1990



## Litter Box

Dear LIOC:

We have just received Nos. 4 & 5 of the Newsletter and have read most of the interesting articles.

Sadly, we have to report the loss of our margay Tiger, who would have been 18 years old just about now (Photo Contest, 1984).

Last September during his usual afternoon roaming in the backyard, he apparently suffered a heart attack. He died within hours in my arms. We all miss the little guy very much.

For obvious reasons, ownership of another exotic in the future seems remote.

On the subject of membership and fees, Barbara and I joined LIOC more than 20 years ago and I feel confident that dues were paid each and every year at the time of membership renewal. I have not kept a record of when this took place over the years but know for a fact that last April (1989) payment of the required amount was sent you.

Now the other side of the coin, namely the irregularity at which the Newsletter arrives. It was either in 1988 or last year that a whole year's Newsletters arrived in one mailing. Also there were years when invitations for annual meetings arrived weeks after the event.

However, I know that the Club runs on a volunteer basis and has experienced it's problems and upheavals in the past few years and that I have not given any help to improve matters. With this in mind, I am sending a further US \$20 enclosed with this to Portland.

I remain sincerely

Kurt Moltner  
Oakville, Ontario

\* \* \* \* \*

Ed. Note: Kurt's letter was received in Mobile on 2/23, over a month after he mailed it first class! The newsletter is mailed 3rd class and this does slow it down in the mail. We hopefully are close to having the membership list up-to-date and reconstructed. Further, we envision a timely newsletter in the future, provided material is available. This is where each and everyone one of you come in - we must have material, take a minute to drop us a note about you and your cat(s). Pictures are always welcomed gratefully. We are only as good as our members make us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear LIOC Members:

I have been a cat fancier for a long time, and I would desperately love to own a large cat, although I understand you never actually "own" a cat, you just are a part of their lives.

Because of the very strict laws in my home state of Massachusetts, I am unable to obtain a permit. So what I'm hoping is that there is some other way I can help in the preservation of the large cats. Are there any cats that don't require a permit. I've seen pictures in the Newsletter of Safari cats and I understand they are a hybrid. Is a permit required for these? Perhaps a breeder of Safaris or some other cat breed would contact me. cont next page





## MEETING REPORT

The September, 1989 meeting was held at the home of Jackie Vanderwall in Estacada. It was a nice warm day and everyone enjoyed seeing Jackie's many animals.

Our main topic was the loss of a member's animal from eating a blanket. They had had their animal for several years, but no one had thought to tell them that blankets should not be used. The rest of the meeting was devoted to talking about the information booklet that we want to put together for new owners in hope that this sort of

thing doesn't happen again. We also talked about our new logo for the club and Cheryl Warren brought a design for us to look at. The rest of the day was devoted in good, old-fashioned cat talk and lunch.

The November meeting was held in the home of Steve Belnap in Boring, Oregon. We were all greeted by Pantara and Bo (cougars) and we were impressed with Steve's beautiful cages.

Jackie thanked everyone for helping her move the animals and cages to her new 12 acre farm in Eagle Creek. We did this as a club project instead of having an October meeting. Isn't that what it's all about? We even had a California member of LIOC come up to help. Thanks John.

We also talked again about our booklet. Kathy Tesdal brought in a logo that her son did and it was decided we would use it.

The next topic was our Christmas party plans. This will be our first as we don't usually get together in December and January because of bad weather.

As the meeting ended we all just enjoyed the rest of the day visiting and having lunch. See you all next year, and hope all of you and yours have a very Merry Christams and a happy, healthy New Year.

Submitted by  
Gayle Schaecher

## LETTERS - Cont.

I have a wonderful 12x8 house with adjoining 12x8 run I built in anticipation of getting an exotic, but it stands empty. Anyone who has any information or just wants to fill me in, please call me collect (617) 341-6369

Thank you,  
Andrea Terenzio  
28 Pinewood Ave.  
Stoughton, Mass 02072

# UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

## The School of Veterinary Medicine

10

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL STUDIES — PHILADELPHIA  
3850 SPRUCE STREET  
PHILADELPHIA 19104-6010

### FELINE BLOOD TYPING

The Section of Medical Genetics, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania is studying a variety of inherited disorders in cats, and investigations on the feline AB blood group frequencies and incompatibility reactions have been initiated. Our limited survey of the feline blood group frequency in Philadelphia and throughout the United States, including feline blood donors at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospitals, indicated that most cats (more than 99%) in the United States are of blood type A, and type B cats generally are rarely encountered. However, our recent study of purebred cats throughout the United States suggests that the prevalence of type B cats in certain breeds or purebred lines might be higher. Thus far, blood type B cats have been documented in Persian, Himalayan, Birman, Abyssinian, Devon Rex, British shorthair and domestic shorthair cats. The mode of inheritance of feline blood groups is not well understood.

Of great importance is the fact that blood type B cats have high titers of strong antibodies against type A red blood cells. These naturally-occurring antibodies can cause two serious incompatibility reactions:

1) If a queen of blood type B has kittens of blood type A, the maternal anti-A antibodies in the colostrum will cause destruction of red blood cells (hemolysis). Kittens that develop neonatal isoerythrolysis are born healthy and alive, start to have red-brown colored urine within hours of colostrum intake, may become icteric and often die within 12-48 hours. Foster nursing of kittens from queens with litters lost to neonatal isoerythrolysis or that only developed early clinical signs can be successful. Neonatal isoerythrolysis can be prevented by blood typing tom and queen before the first breeding and by avoiding breeding of an A tom to a B queen.

2) Cats with the rare blood type B are at risk to develop a life-threatening transfusion reaction when receiving blood from a type A cat. Such reactions can be avoided by blood typing and cross-matching, and administering compatible blood. A feline blood donor with type B red cells is now available at the University of Pennsylvania for the patient with type B blood.

We are presently studying the mode of inheritance of the feline blood group system and are further characterizing neonatal isoerythrolysis and transfusion reactions in cats. Blood typing of cats is available at the University of Pennsylvania, and instructions are provided on the next page.

Blood - cont.

SHIPMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FELINE BLOOD TYPING

Sample: (a) EDTA anticoagulated blood sample (purple top tube), 1-2 ml.

(b) Serum, separated from clot, 1-2 ml.

Label all tubes with cat's name, and number and owner's name.

Complete Feline Information form including pedigree, history, (any suspected reactions, relatives with type B) and signalment (breed, sex, age)

Typing results and pedigree information will be kept strictly confidential.

Shipment: Pack tubes carefully so that they will not break or leak during transport. Send blood in an insulated container (with ice, however do not allow tubes to directly contact ice.)

Send by overnight mail (e.g. Federal Express) or other reliable service early in the week to assure arrival by Thursday. Address to (information underlined is essential)

Department of Clinical Studies - VHUP Room 4017  
 School of Veterinary Medicine  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 3840 Spruce Street  
 Philadelphia, Pa 19104-6010  
 (215) 898-8076

No official charge is presently asked, however, a donation (check to University of Pennsylvania) of \$10. per cat, would be greatly appreciated to help defray the cost and to continue the study of feline blood types in the U.S. Results will be available in 1-2 weeks from the date of shipment. If you have any questions, please call (205) 989-7076 between 9 AM and 3 PM EST.

Name Breed Sex Age Color Pedig/hist encl EDTA blood encl serum encl	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
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SUBMITTED BY:  
 Veterinary Clinic  
 Address

Phone #  
 Owner/Doctor

Name Breed Sex Age Color Pedig/hist encl EDTA blood encl serum encl	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>
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## SCARE TACTICS

Having trouble keeping kitty out of the planters? To discourage cats from using potted plants as litter boxes try using screen - the same as in your screen doors which is available from any building supply store. Cut a piece just large enough to fit inside the pot. A slit from the side to the center with a hole just large enough to accommodate the plant finishes the project and protects the dirt which is the cats main attraction. You can cover the screen with pinebark or pebbles. If kitty finds the cover just as attractive as the dirt, it can be removed.

Other things which might help are pinecones - especially in larger planters, or moustraps set upside down and covered with newspaper (this technique can be used on countertops as well). When puss jumps where he's not wanted the traps spring, giving him a surprise.

Some find chopped onion, sprinkled around the plant a deterrent. Some cats do not like the feel and sound of aluminum foil. Sheets of foil can be placed on countertops or tables, anywhere you don't want the cat. Left in place while you are unavailable to discipline your cat, the foil's noise and feel does the job for you.



# More than Witches!

## SALEM

MASSACHUSETTS

### *First in history!*

More than the witchcraft trials of 1692, Salem is a quaint seaport town known as the home of:

**The First** New England trade ships to sail to China and India, which created

**The First** millionaire in America, who built and inspired

**The First** Sea Captains' mansions in America on

**The First** planned street in America, still beautifully maintained today.

Visit the museums, quaint shops and cobblestone streets of Salem, where important **firsts** in American history come to life.

Make Salem your **first** destination in Massachusetts. Just 16 miles North of Boston on the scenic coast.

For more information call or write to:

**Salem Chamber of Commerce**

Derby Square • Salem, MA 01970 • (508) 744-0004

SPONSORED BY THE SALEM PARTNERSHIP

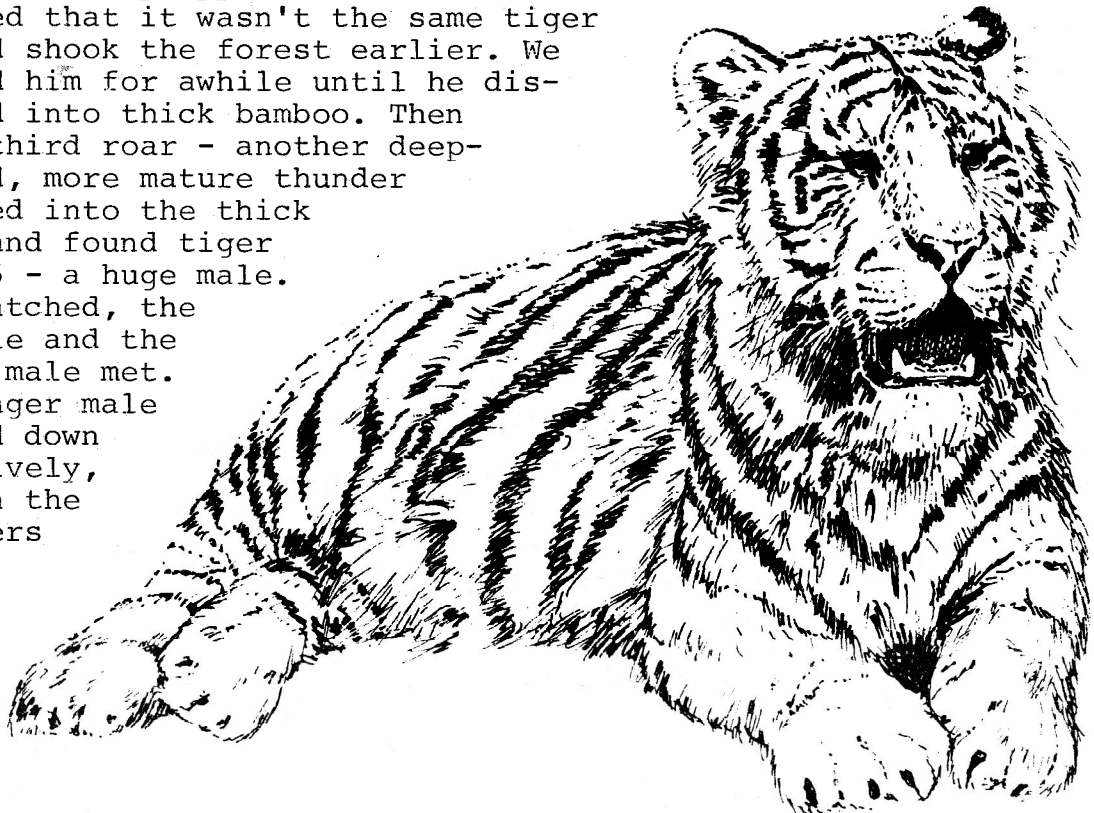
## A GLIMPSE OF TIGER FAMILY LIFE

Tigers, like most cats, have had the reputation of being asocial and especially of males hostile to cubs, to the extent even of killing them. Protection has led to tigers disregarding people and thus providing glimpses of unsuspected sociality. Last December, Belinda Wright, who with her husband, Stanley Breeden made the acclaimed film "Land of the Tiger" witnessed what she describes as "the most extraordinary encounter with tigers we have ever had" in Kanha National Park in central India. In a letter to her Mother, Cat Group member Anne Wright, Belinda said:

"We went (on elephant) towards the hills opposite Kisli Rest House. Sitting half-hidden in a patch of dense undergrowth we found two shaggy male cubs (about 12 months old) of an old tigress friend of our's called Phoolan Devi. There was no sign of Mum, and we left the two agitated cubs to search for her. Half an hour later we found the cubs again, some distance from where we had originally seen them. They were sitting on top of a huge pile of rocks beside a nullah. From further up the ravine, the tigress started calling to her cubs with long, low yowls. The cubs answered with short, sharpe mews and moved tenatively in the direction of her calls. Just then the forest shook with an awesome roar to our right - it was the call of a male tiger.

As the tigress was obviously some distance asawy, we decided to leave the cubs and go in search of the male. In a clearing nearby we found a beautiful young male tiger (Phoolan Devi's three-year-old cub from a previous litter, sho seems to spend most of his time with the family). He roared, but it was a higher pitched yelpey roar, and I was convinced that it wasn't the same tiger that had shook the forest earlier. We followed him for awhile until he disappeared into thick bamboo. Then came a third roar - another deep-throated, more mature thunder. We headed into the thick bamboo and found tiger number 5 - a huge male. As we watched, the huge male and the younger male met. The younger male crouched down submissively, and then the two tigers circled each

cont.



## FUR TRADE FARCE

Earlier this year, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) initiated a judicial review of the Canadian government's refusal to disclose fully the details of their controversial trap testing and research program, which led to the development of the new trap. Through this legal action WSPA hopes to expose a program which investigations indicate is designed more for public relations value than as a meaningful effort to minimize cruelty to wildlife.

WSPA's Michael O'Sullivan presented evidence to the European Commission to convince them that Canada's humane trapping research was a farce; for instance, the researcher's definition of what constitutes a "humane" death is so broad that it even includes a leghold trap.

Based on this research, the Canadian government has proposed a national standard for "humane" traps and has asked the International Standards Committee to develop corresponding trapping standards.

A confidential document obtained by WSPA indicates that the fur trade is relying upon this questionable research to forestall the EC initiative against fur trading. The International Fur Trade Federation, which has sought for years to influence the EC to drop their fur-labelling initiative and give the industry a grace period in which to perfect trapping methods, stressed to the EC that Federation financed research was well underway to developing 100% humane trapping methods.

Accordingly, WSPA will redouble its efforts to ensure that the fur trade does not continue to deceive the people of Europe into believing their efforts to develop a less cruel trap are anything more than a campaign to deflect worldwide public criticism of the cruelty they inflict on millions of wild animals each year.

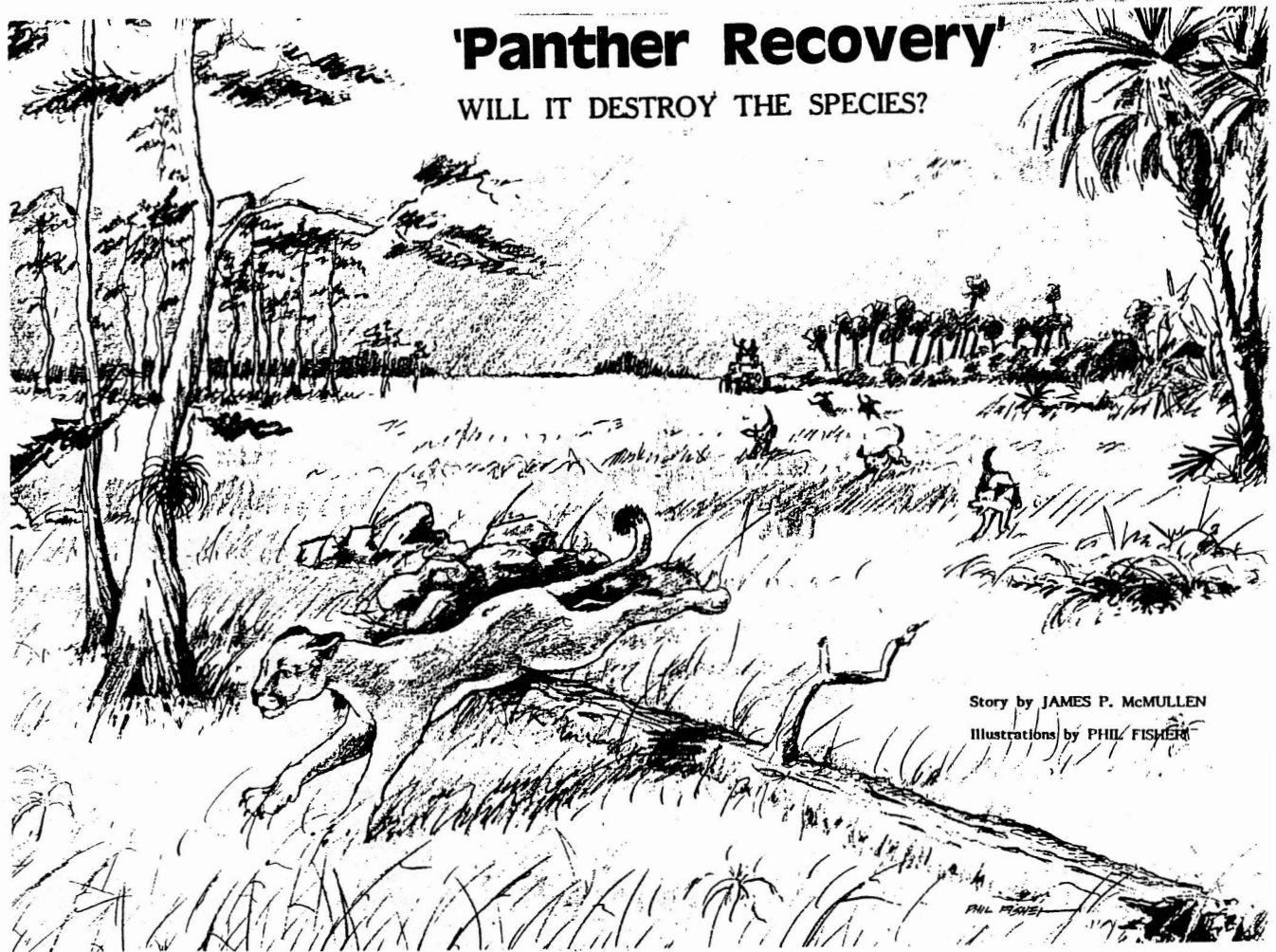
Reprinted from WSPA NEWS

**THANK YOU  
FOR NOT WEARING FUR  
IF YOU DON'T BUY THEM,  
THEY WON'T KILL THEM.**

TIGERS - Cont.

other rubbing their bodies together. They then faced each other and rubbed their heads and necks together. The younger male tentatively put his paws on the side of the male. Then they separated and both lay down about nine feet apart. From behind them, the two male cubs bounded up the rise and rushed towards the larger male. They too rubbed faces with him while he made gentle prr-prr noises. The two cubs looked delighted to have company at last and nestled and played with each other besides the larger male. To our astonishment, the tigeress then appeared from the opposite direction and called the cubs. They rushed towards her (and us) with happy yelps and clambered all over her. The younger male followed and greeted her with equal enthusiasm - stroking her head and neck and yelping. The four tigers were all over each other. A few yards away the larger male looked on. Then, he got up, joined the others, and all five tigers walked off down the hill. We left - absolutely breathless, as it was getting dark. No pictures I'm afraid (not enough light) but what an incredible thing to see."

Reprinted from CAT NEWS



# 'Panther Recovery'

WILL IT DESTROY THE SPECIES?

Story by JAMES P. McMULLEN

Illustrations by PHIL FISHER

Reprinted from Neopolitan

It was a cool January morning in 1983. Roy McBride, a professional hunter from Texas, was running his dogs in the Fakahatchee Strand, a 50,000 acre preserve of Everglades cypress swamps. McBride could tell by the dogs' howling that they were hot on the trail.

Deep in the custard apple tree sloughs, among rare, ghost orchids and a strand of royal palms, a group of alligators and a flock of white ibis heard the hounds too. As the dogs drew near, the ibis took flight and the 'gators sank a little deeper in the water. Suddenly, a tawny blur flashed upon this scene and up into a live oak tree. It was an eight-year-old female Florida Panther, one of the very few left in the state.

Immediately there followed five hound dogs, yowling and yipping and jumping endlessly to get at the cat with the long tail that wouldn't be still. Between fits of panting and hissing she snarled as she desperately sought an escape. Her beautiful amber eyes were wide with alarm, though her threatening front teeth were bared in defiance.

When McBride arrived to call off his dogs, he was accompanied by members of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's "panther recovery" team. They had hired McBride to help recapture this 70-pound endangered animal so they could make a routine change of the radio-telemetry collar that was tightly fastened around its neck. The two-pound unit had been placed on this cat in 1981, as part of the game commission's program, ostensibly to study panther movements and territories. That same year six other panthers had also been fitted with the

## PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

devices. And now the subject of this experiment were to have their two-year "maintenance inspection".

Near the base of the tree with the tormented panther, Scott Sanders got ready to do his part. A biologist from the game commission's Palmdale field station and an expert rifleman, Sanders shouldered a CO2 powered rifle, aimed at the feline's posterior, and shot a tranquilizer dart loaded with one-tenth ounce of prozamine and ketamine. It missed through the sunlit tree canopy, past dragonflies and spiderwebs and plunged into the bewildered and exhausted cat's hind-leg muscle. Within five minutes the panther's body slumped into the branches, apparently paralyzed.

Now Robert C. Belden, the team's leader since the project's beginning,\* cautiously climbed the tree, but carelessly put a rope around only one of the cat's hind paws to lower her. The precious burden smashed to the ground, headfirst. A quick examination revealed the worst: the panther was dead.

This was a serious blow as well to the "recovery" project, for there were only 30 panthers left, according to the game commissions own estimates. And the incident was to cause more than one eyebrow to be raised about a project that was supposed to be saving a species on the verge of extinction.

Further, there was small comfort to be had when the autopsy came back from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida, where the dead cat had been shipped. Despite the drop of more than 10 feet, an evaluation by Allan Egbert, assistant director of the state game commission's wildlife division revealed "no apparent evidence of damage to the spinal cord or skull."



\* In October 1976, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission initiated a panther investigation program to determine the validity of panther reports and to conduct special field research on the viability of the panther population. A radio-telemetry research project was included, partially funded by grants from the National Wildlife Federation and Shakar Safari, Inc., with matching funds from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



## PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

Even though such language did not categorically rule out the fall as a contributing cause of death (it was just not "apparent"), nevertheless, Both Drs. Don Forrester and Elliot Stetzer, a wildlife pathologist, did confirm that at least one element in this risky, chase-capture method had indeed killed the panther - it was the drug, they said.

Since the dart had pierced the panther's femoral artery, the exhausted cat's fast-pumping heart had raced the tranquilizer through the bloodstream to the brain and other organs killing her. Though the report did not say so, another contributing factor might well have been an overdose, for Belden had openly stated that too much of the drug was used. So, while mishandling of the darted animal had not been shown as cause of death, the tranquilizing method itself remained as the killer.

Even before this tragedy, though, there had been considerable objections to the whole idea of disturbing this rapidly disappearing animal and its natural environment for fear of accelerating the rate of the cat's demise. **Historically**, of course, hunting had first brought the cat near extinction, and modern-day over-development has contributed heavily to the destruction of the panther's critical habitat. Add to that the highway deaths, environmental pollution, and natural causes, and there were more than ample reasons to worry about the panthers survival.

Now ironically, the Florida game commission's own "recovery project", it would seem had joined the growing list of threats and the reaction was swift. Public outcry against the project echoed among naturalists and conservation groups across the country. Typical was Marjorie Stoneman Douglas' call for an immediate halt to the program. Said the founder of Friends of the Everglades and author of *THE EVERGLADES: RIVER OF GRASS*: "I don't see how they can learn about the natural animal when they take dogs and chase the poor cat up a tree, shoot it and put a radio collar on it with a beeper.



Even a member of the panther recovery team raised an objection. Said Robert Baudy, Florida's Main breeder of wild animals: "Radio-telemetry is advisable only if you have a large population of wild animals not a species on the verge of extinction." His meaning was clear: the method itself was responsible for killing animals and for the panthers small population the method was not even practical. The risk was too great.

Another obvious objection was that the second a radio-telemetry collar goes around a wild panther's neck, the animal ceases to be wild - untouched by man. Its behavior has been altered, it becomes a technological freak. And obviously, the "experiment" is seriously flawed.

As for the loss of this panther, the issue was not just a matter of one cat but the possibility of much more. For as a female it could have been a mate for any surviving male, and potentially it could have produced a litter and a rare opportunity for the species to pull itself back an inch or so from the abyss of extinction. Now in this case, that could not happen.

## PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

The episode left questions that begged to be answered: What was the trauma of the dog-chase going to do to the panther's "natural" behavior in their already shrinking territory? How disorienting was the radio-telemetry collar? Could this foreign object discourage mating? Suppose the next female was pregnant - might she abort? And if the project were to continue, would a repeat tragedy be likely? Finally, if answers to these questions were to be had only by continuing such a project, who needed it? Certainly not the panther.

As the controversy boiled, the public demanded that the game commission rethink the radio-telemetry program. For out of the fog-shrouded swamps, other reports began to emerge that prompted still more questions. and they hung in the air like jungle rot: had this radio-collared panther really been the only one to die? If not, how many more might have been lost in pursuit of this program?

If the commission heard any of the questions, its only response was action that would bitterly disappoint the program's opponents. The agency announced that while it would take steps to minimize risks, it would nevertheless continue the radio telemetry program. To ensure the safety of future panthers, however, it would appoint a technical advisory council to watch over the game commission and a veterinarian would be added to the field.

Critics of the program saw this move as yet another catastrophe. For any hopes of objectivity were quickly dashed because many of the appointments to this advisory council were already members of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Department of Natural Resources. It was seen simply, as a case of good ole boy politics.

Soon thereafter, however, the media bore in, and a shockwave of information began to unfold, extracted from the game commission's own official records. For example, in January 1984, the Associated Press reported that of the seven panthers radio-collared since 1981, only two were still being tracked. Why? Because it was discovered, four of the collared cats were already known to have died and contact had been lost with another.

And the shocking revelations have continued ever since. Just this year the former leader of the panther recovery team, Robert Belden, admitted in his lecture to a "panther workshop" that all seven of the original panthers radio-collared in 1981 had since died. (Having been relieved of command as panther team leader, Belden is now working at White Oak Plantation, near Jacksonville, on yet another project of questionable benefit to the Florida Panther - cross-breeding panthers with western mountain lions - cougars, a different species)

To opponents of the government's panther project, such developments have of course been appalling. The Florida panther, both a state and federal endangered species, has been guaranteed protection by the law. But not only was one killed directly by this experiment, but six more died - all under the aegis of the very governmental agency charged with fostering the animal's preservation. How could the tragedy been allowed to happen - by the very government agency assigned to protect this marvelously adaptable but now nearly extinct species?

While skeptics speculated about motives in government bureaucracy and more charitable souls allowed as how even good intentions could sometimes be set awry, many genuine conservators considered the government agency's oft-recited tales of accomplishment too frustrating to listen to. They found it especially so when the anecdotes were surrounded by misinformation, possibly even disinformation.

## PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

And apparently such bungling and duplicity are not new to this program; indeed, they have plagued it from the beginning. In the period from July 1, 1979 through June 30, 1980, a radio telemetry program was initiated by the game commission on the bobcat in the Fakahatchee Strand as a surrogate species to test for a safe method to be used **on the panther**. **But when the radio-telemetry** was declared "safe" and switched over to the panther, the bobcat itself had become a problem. For the dogs continued to run bobcats as well as panthers.

Amazingly, the only solution that occurred to these guardians of our wild-life was to hunt the bobcat out of panther territory. One biologist on the team at that time said that, on occasion, bobcats were fed - sometimes alive to the tracking dogs to encourage them and keep them on the scent of cats. Formerly plentiful throughout Florida, the bobcat is now being pushed towards the same endangered status as the panther, thanks to hunters - and such an insensitive government policy that could allow this debacle.

As for the "valuable" information the panther experiment claims as original, long-time trackers in the area say it is nothing that could not have been harm-lessly obtained by the trackers themselves. And for far less money than the annual budget of the project estimated at \$90,000 - \$300,000.

In any case, the program's critics have continued to state that the mis-guided efforts of the panther recovery team are not saving the Florida Panther. Instead, the project is having the opposite. For before the program was begun, the records shows no such list of tragic encounters that now abound.

From the inception of the state's radio-telemetry monitoring of the panther, the death-dealing incidents involving radio-collared cats has grown. And the projects's opponents continue to raise insistent questions about the growing number of obituaries which read like a wilderness litany"

- A young male was struck by a vehicle and killed - it was wearing a collar.
- An older male drowned in a cypress slough, his skull had been fractured. Team Leader Robert Belden would not admit the radio-collared cat was dead for nearly three weeks, not until Roy McBride talked him into going out to retrieve the body. Could it have been saved if gotten to in time?
- A collared female sighted earlier with her two cubs was found dead. The official press release stated "no foul play" - but how did she die. What happened to the cubs -
- An aged male was found dead its collar still beeping - no cause sited.
- After being collared and released another panther promptly died of "trauma"?
- Another panther's radio contact was lost - no attempt was made to locate it.

Even after "improved" methods of safety were begun to lessen the chances of more fatalities, a two-year old collared cat was killed in was described as a "turf war". This cat had been separated from its mother only two months earlier, and was apparently eaten by an older male. "This was a natural occurrence" said Tom Hines. "the older cat dragged its victim around for a couple of days and fed on the carcass.

Some wildlife experts thing that would be an extraordinary event, to put it mildly. While panthers are known to be fiercely territorial, normally they do not kill and eat each other. And it can hardly be "natural" behavior for a

PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

panther to drag its prey around for days, from one place to another. An equally remarkable statement, though somewhat incidentally mentioned in the same release, noted that the killed panther's mother, radio-collared and named #9, had been treed and captured on January 8, 1987 to replace an old collar. But upon examination, says the report, the recovery team discovered a deep, infected laceration on the left hind paw..possibly a gunshot wound. Rushed to Miami's Metrozoo, #9 underwent surgery but during the treatment this female aborted a litter of cubs. Another litter lost - not a potential litter-a real one.

As if to anticipate question, sthe game commission was to confuse the matter more by the issuance of a statement five weeks later saying that Panther #9 had aborted the litter three weeks after being taken captive for treatment. The release said that #9 had been put back into the wilds a mile away from the capture site.

The most recent incident of a panther's coming to harm is not only tragic, but ironic. An employee of the Game Commission was traveling through the Big Cypress Preserve when he ran over a collard panther.

The accident happened in daylight on a gravel road. The panther was dragged a good 50 feet before the truck stopped, at which point the cat escaped and climbed a tree to nurse his wounds. The recovery team retrieved the badly wounded panther for treatment in Miami. After a critical period of healing the animal was released back into the wilds, but it should be noted, not before this unfortunate creature became the bearer of another radio-telemetry collar.

Within the last two years the Everglades National Park system has initiated its own radio-telemetry pather-recover project separate from the State game commission. Inevitably the same tragedy struck.

A female panther with three cubs was captured and collared. One of the young cubs a male, was also collared. But when the female was released, along with the cubs, she rejected the cub with the collar. Because the cub was too young to fend for itself, it was recaptured and put into a cage where it will remain.

So now, here is a male cub that will not be able to grow up in the wild. Here is a male that could have been a potential mate.

The incident raises even more questions, however. What is the fate of the two other cubs. Have they now been collared?

When cubs are fitted with collars they have to be recaptured continuously to adjust the collar because of the cat's rapid growth. How much stress can a cub withstand? **What is the mortality rate of the cubs under these conditions?**

History reminds us of the bitter irony: in the 1890's, the Florida panther was hunted and killed - for study - by Charles Cory, from whom its scientific name was derived - *Felis concolor coryi*. Now this larges of unspotted cats in North America is still being pursued - and killed. All in the name of science.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SAVE THE PANTHER FROM EXTINCTION

- \* Immediately halt the radio-telemetry phase of the panther recover project.
- \* Continue to verify the panther count and habitat, but only by discovering its tracks, kills, scat, claw scrapes and other signs. Adopt an attitude of benign neglect - leave the cat alone.

PANTHER RECOVERY - cont.

- \* Halt the panther/cougar cross-breeding program. Keep the species pure.
- \* Dissolve the Technical Advisory Council. In its stead, have the governor appoint an investigative committee composed of unbiased individuals to investigate the current panther program.
- \* Strengthen the endangered species laws, and heavily staff known panther territories with wildlife officers.
- \* Commit state and federal funding for the purchase of land where the panthers roam.
- \* Prohibit all hunting in panther territories.
- \* Limit off-the-road vehicles anyaccess to wilderness areas.
- \* Increase the reward for information leading to the arrest of panther poachers.
- \* Deter commercial and residential developers from building on land that will be needed for future wildlife preserves.
- \* Continue a state-wide public awareness program about the Florida Panther's plight.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

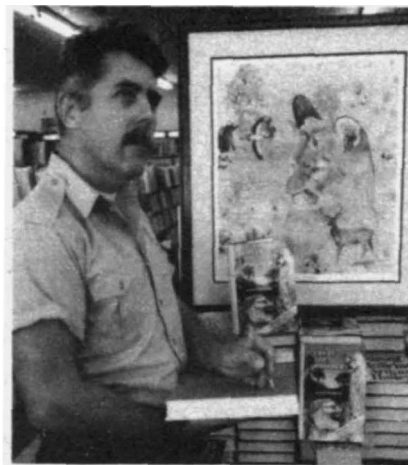
Wildly acclaimed for his best-selling book, CRY OF THE PANTHER, Quest of a Species, (Pineapple Press, Englewood, FL. 1984, McGraw-Hill Paperbacks, N.Y., N.Y.) James P. McMullen is also founder of the Endangered Species Research Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1982 "to study endangered species in the Everglades" and to promote education about this unique habitat for many rare animals.

Since the publication of his remarkable first book, author McMullen has become the subject of much media attention himself. Stories about him and his work have appeared on all TV networks and in a great many major newspapers and magazines.

A naturalist and tracker, McMullen has spent the last 12 years studying the Everglades, with special attention devoted to the Florida panther. Establishing a unique sighting network among swamp folk and regular wildlife observers, McMullen authenticated the panther areas and behavioral patterns which are now the subject of so much governmental investigation - before the government's experiments began.

As a lecturer and educator in schools and colleges, his work has been recognized by the Florida legislature, which ultimately resulted in the panther being named the state animal in 1982.

Just finishing his second book on the Vietnam conflict, McMullen says his third book will return to the world of nature.



Jim McMullen autographs book.



See Update on page 22



## FLORIDA PANTHER UPDATE

The experiment with seven Texas cougars which had been released into north Florida wilderness has been ended.

According to an Associated Press release, the decision comes after the death of four of the seven cougars released to serve as surrogates for the endangered Florida Panther.

Tom Logan, chief of the Wildlife Research Bureau said the decision was made because only two cougars remained in the vicinity of the Osceola National Forest. They have both been recaptured.

A primary factor in making the decision was the potential for conflict between the cougars and humans which has created unanticipated problems in the experiment, including the killing of two animals by poachers. "There has been more that has happened than I've anticipated" said Logan.

The cougars were released to determine whether the habitat in the Osceola National Forest was suitable for the eventual release of panthers. Wildlife officials originally had planned to end the experiment at a much later date. After three of the original cougars died, officials released two new cats and had intended the experiment to last indefinitely. In fact, it was planned to release more cougars in the future.

Of the cats that perished, one died of unknown causes, two were shot by poachers and one died after it was injured while being captured by wildlife officers. Officials decided to recapture the cat after it had killed livestock. Another cougar took to hunting exotic deer at a private hunting preserve. This month, one of the cougars wandered into a Jacksonville neighborhood.

"When we had the original group, they behaved as they should" When the numbers were reduced, things started happening. Logan said he did not consider the experiment a disappointment because plenty of information was gained. While evaluating the information, wildlife officials will attempt to determine why two of the cats took to hunting livestock.

Wildlife officials will now focus on captive breeding programs and studies in south Florida involving the bulk of the Florida population. The captive breeding program is centered at a private plantation in Yulee, where officials have been attempting to produce kittens for several years without success.

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## TEXAS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Texas has enacted H.B. no 1687 authorizing the Parks & Wildlife Department to require permits to hold "certain wild animals". The felines governed by these permits are: Lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah and jaguar.

Permit fees are \$100 per controlled animal up to a maximum of \$500. As passed, the act further reads:

Sec 12.602 (a) No person may possess a wild animal for breeding exhibition, or personal use unless the person has a permit issued by the department.

(b) The commission by rule shall prescribe requirements under which a person may safely possess a wild animal for breeding, exhibition or personal use.

(c) This section does not apply to a person licensed under other state or federal law to breed or exhibit a wild animal.

Sec. 12.603 APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT. (a) A person shall apply to the department on a form prescribed by the department for a permit required by Section 12.602 of this code.

(b) The department shall issue the applicant a permit if the department determines that the applicant meets the department's requirements for possession of a wild animal for breeding, exhibition or personal use.

In the Department's regulations it goes on to state: The application shall contain the following information before it will be considered by the department:

- 55.204 (b) (1) Name address, and telephone number of the applicant
- (2) a complete identification of each wild animal in possession including sex, species, and age if known and any distinguishing marks or coloration which would aid in the identification of the animal.
  - (3) a description of the facilities provided for each animal including the size of each cage, construction materials used, species of animal to be confined in each cage, general location of cage(s) on the property in relation to any public roadway or any residence(s) within 300 feet, and the location of any boundary fence on applicant's property and its height and construction.
  - (4) location of each wild animal if different from the address of the applicant and a statement as to why each animal is being held at the location specified in the application
  - (5) a statement of ownership including written documentation to evidence ownership of each animal.
  - (6) a statement of security measures taken by the applicant to prevent the escape of the wild animal and to insure the safety of the public.
  - (7) a statement that the applicant has read these rules and that all facilities used by the applicant to hold the restricted wild animals in possession comply with the facilities standards specified by these rules and that the facilities may be inspected by the department at any reasonable time to determine compliance with these rules.
  - (8) a statement indicating that the wild animals will be held for breeding, personal use, exhibition or a combination of these purposes.

As of this date, we have not received any standards for caging that may have been incorporated into the requirements. As we receive further information it will be published.

## ***Leaping For Their Lunch...a study of food presentation methods to decrease stereotypic behaviors***

Feeding time at Howletts Zoo Park can be exciting, not just for the public, but for the animals as well. Clare Knowler, a student at Glasgow University Veterinary School with a Vacation Scholarship from Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), found that hanging food from the top of a cage and hiding it under logs, helped both to reduce the stereotyped behaviors of two captive Leopard Cats (*Felis bengalensis*) and increase the time spent in appropriate activities such as grooming. Clare's initial observations found that although both cats appeared in good physical condition, a large amount of time was spent by Lhasa lying and sleeping and Bandar pacing stereotypically and running in circles. She also noted that neither cat groomed very much nor showed much interest in exploring its environment.

In an attempt to enrich the cats' environment and reduce their stereotyped behaviors, Clare changed the way in which their food was presented. Instead of being placed in a pile on alternate days on the ground of the enclosure, Lhasa and Bandar's food (dead day-old chicks and rats, chicken pieces and rabbit halves) were presented each morning and suspended from the roof, hidden in and under various materials and generally made much less accessible. Food hung from the roof on twine encouraged the cats to display such hunting strategies as leaping and swiping their paws, or pulling the twine suspending the food towards them from above. Climbing skills were improved by placing food on the netting on top of the enclosure. Progressively more difficult hiding places were found for the cats as they became more adept at finding the food. Placing food under a plastic flower-pot encouraged Lhasa to sniff it out, whilst hiding it under a piece of wood resulted in swiping and 'fishing' behaviors where she used both paws and claws.

As a result of enriching the cats' environment, Lhasa became far more active and the stereotyped pacing shown by Bandar disappeared altogether. Time spent grooming and eating increased, as did sniffing for food, a behavior which had not occurred previously. Social relationships also seemed to improve and the cats began to sleep together on branches and platforms during the day, and in the same den box at night.

The cats developed and displayed their natural hunting skills to such an extent that their feeding times became an acrobatic display which fascinated and educated the public.

Recommendations for further study which have emerged from Clare's work include: the need for a long term study to evaluate the effectiveness of such environmental enrichments over time; investigation of the effect which a pool for swimming would have on the cats' behavior; evaluation of these environmental enrichment strategies with other species of cat and a comparison of captive cat behavior with that shown by wild members of the same species.



Dr. David Shepherdson (UFAW/ZSL Research Fellow) who is currently studying the environmental enrichment of captive animals at the London Zoo, commented that "This study provides more evidence to suggest that novel (not necessarily expensive) ways of presenting food can reduce pacing behavior."

UFAW, an educational, scientific charity, aims to improve the welfare of all animals through funding of accurate, objective research. This study on Leopard Cats was one of the several Vacation Scholarships offered by UFAW to United Kingdom undergraduates in the agricultural, biological, medical, veterinary, zoological or human sciences. Further details of scholarships may be obtained from: UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, Great Britain. Contact person: Helen Dealy

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## Californians Call for Ban on Hunting Mountain Lions

Californian conservationists are seeking support for a ban on trophy hunting of mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) in the state. A moratorium was imposed in 1972 but Governor George Deukmejian vetoed its extension in 1986 following some attacks by mountain lions on people. However, mountain lion hunting has still been blocked by lawsuits against the Fish & Game Commission, which is dominated by hunting groups. The conservationists hope to collect 600,000 signatures on a petition to be voted on in a state ballot in June, 1990. The petition calls for a permanent ban on trophy hunting. Killing of problem animals to protect livestock or public safety would be permitted. The petition also calls for acquisition of land to conserve deer and mountain lion habitat.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS.

## Hazards for Reintroduced Canadian Lynx in Adirondacks

Five of 18 Canadian lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) reintroduced recently to the Adirondack Mountains in New York state have been killed.

Four were killed by traffic on roads, one was shot by a farmer when it raided his chicken coops. A sixth died of unknown causes. Nevertheless, 24 to 30 more lynx will be released during the winter of 1989-90 in this area, where they have been extinct for a century.

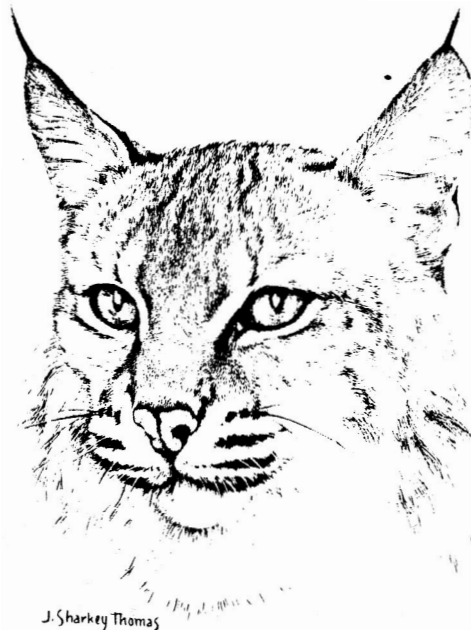
The reintroduction is part of the Adirondack Wildlife Program conducted by the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, New York State University. Initial funding came from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The New York State Assembly is providing the main funding. The State Trappers' association is among other donors.

Softwood logging and forest fires have been blamed for habitat modification that led to the decline of the Adirondack lynx population. But since the creation of the Adirondack Park and a forest preserve the habitat has been restored. Hunting and trapping of lynx in New York is now banned.

About 24 lynx are being imported from the Yukon and Alaska for release in the High Peaks Wilderness area of the Adirondack Park. All are being permanently marked for identification purposes and radio-collared to monitor their movements. Simultaneously, the Yukon lynx population is being studied to determine hunting behavior and habitat use by the source population.

Scattered and infrequent reports of lynx in this century are thought to represent nomads from lynx populations in Canada and northern New England.

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CAT NEWS



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## Nepal-ing Fashions

Pressure continues to build on the Nepal government to crack down on merchants selling the coats of endangered snow leopards to foreign tourists. Several 5-star tourist hotels have been directly involved in sanctioning this illegal trade, reports Journal investigator Larry Barnes. They are: Hotel de l'Anapurna, the Yak & Yeti, Hotel Everest Sheraton, Hotel Soaltee Oberoi and the Hotel Himalaya. Send letters to His Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, The Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Auto-Destruct for Lynx?

In the winter of 1988, 18 Canadian lynx were transported from the Yukon for release in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. The restoration effort is now on the ropes. One lynx was shot by a New Hampshire farmer 250 miles from its release site, another died of "unknown" causes and four others have been run down by speeding car-. "It looks like the automobile is going to be the lynx's major predator," a member of the restoration project told the New York Times. "It has the potential to threaten the project's success."

## DEBT-SWAP DIDDLY SQUAT

What has happened in Bolivia since Conservation International arranged a much heralded debt-for-nature swap intended to protect a 2.6 million acre buffer around the Beni Biosphere Reserve? According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, as of July, 1989, not a single tree has been planted under the required reforestation program, but thousands of mahogany trees have been hacked down by Bolivian lumber companies. Meanwhile, the 25,000 indigenous dwellers of the Chimanes forest fear the new logging roads will open up the forests to the same colonial pressures that are destroying the Amazon. The main market for Bolivia's 175 lumber companies? The USA.

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RANGKUL - 6½ years old lives with Al Porges - more on page 4

