

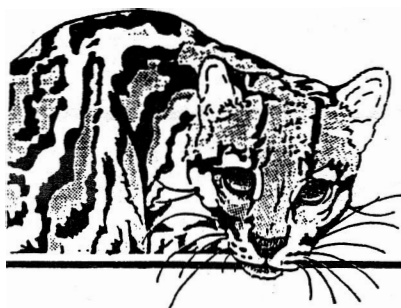
NEWSLETTER

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THIS GAL LIKES HER POPCICLES - SHE SHARES HER HOME WITH GAYLE & CLEM SCHAECHER



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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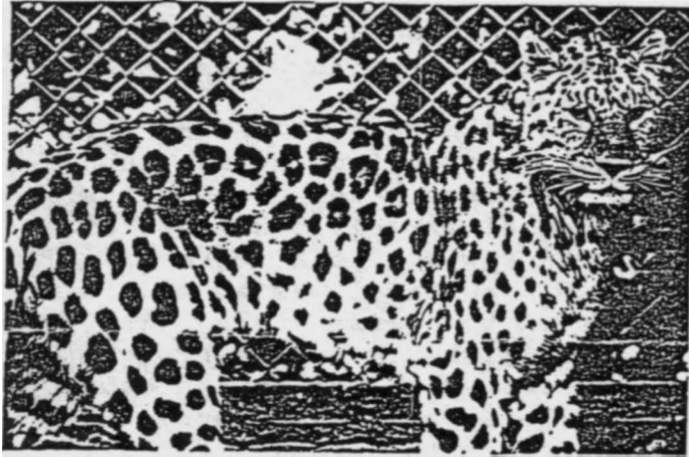
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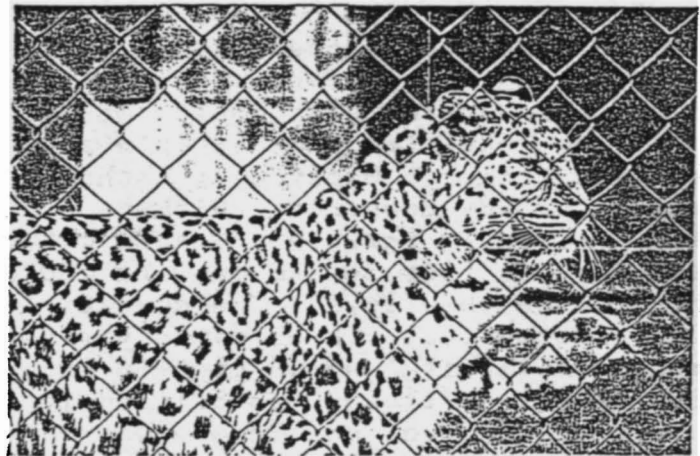
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Observations on Amur and "Amur" Leopards



L: Amur leopard (Studbook #35)
at Franklin Zoo. Photo: R. Wirth

R: Captive born "Amur" Leopard
(studbook #72 or 106) at E.Berlin
Zoo with 50% genetic contribution
from the presumed *Panthera*
pardus pernigra (studbook #2)
Photo: R. Wirth



The Amur leopard's highly distinctive coat pattern is stressed by Roland Wirth, Chairman of the Mustelid and Viverrid Specialist Group. Wirth has seen at least nine captive Amur leopards. He has provided photos of a wild-caught specimen and a captive born animal with a 50% genetic contribution of founder #2. Taxonomist Colin Groves of the Australian National University, supports Wirth's view that #2 has genes of the Nepal leopard *Panthera pardus pernigra*.

Wirth says the true Amur leopard pattern is unlike that of any other leopard subspecies. The rosettes are widely spaced and of large size with very thick margins, which are usually closed. Hybrids are much like an average leopard except slightly long-haired. Their rosettes are closer together and often of smaller size, with thinner, broken margins. Pure Amur leopards have quite long legs compared with hybrids, which, Wirth suggests is possible an adaptation to walking in snow.

Expressing his strong reaction to the original proposals to release captive-born Amur leopards as part of the proposed Amur leopard conservation program in the USSR, Wirth states: "The Amur leopard is a magnificent and unique form of leopard and anybody who is involved in destroying the last genetic reservoir of pure Amur leopards in the wild by releasing hybrid leopards has to be made responsible for the final extinction of the subspecies."

Reprinted from Cat News

TEEGEE AND ME

Teegee, a male Geoffroy's cat, was born July 24, 1990. He came to me at ten days of age on a permanent breeding loan, all eight ounces him. What a fragile sight he was.

Teegee was removed from his natural mother at 24 hours of age, since she had a history of killing her offspring. He was then put on a Bengal queen, who allowed him to nurse, and given four supplemental feedings a day. The supplemental formula consisted of Kitty lac mixed in fresh goat's milk, with raw egg yolk, corn oil, and pediactic vitamins. A few days later, nutrical was added to this formula. All my resources kicked in to raise this tiny, totally dependant baby. When we arrived to pick him up, we brought our nursing domestic queen. He was transferred to her at ten days of age, without incident. My daughter Lora carefully suspended him in her shirttail, cushioning the bumps on the highway for his trip home. Miss Cat, the nursing domestic, let him nurse and then carefully cleaned and groomed him.

The domestic queen had plenty of milk for Teegee, so he refused the supplemental feedings of earlier. Teegee has special needs our careful eyes could not see. By ten weeks of age, not receiving the large digestible amount of calcium he would have received from his Geoffroy's mother's milk, his first debilitating health tragedy occurred. Rickets suddenly manifested itself with heart breaking reality. Teegee walked on the tops of his front paws as his feet rolled outward and over. At the vets, several things were theorized. The domestic queen he was nursing from was fed a commercial, high carbohydrate diet, and probably didn't produce milk with enough protein and calcium levels for Teegee. If Miss Cat's diet had been calcium fortified, perhaps this could have been avoided. And Teegee was old enough for solid food, which would have provided additional protein. We had started solid food with vitamin mineral supplement too late. Teegee was given a therapeutic calcium injection by the veterinarian and once home, we began giving him a pet-cal tablet a day. We also took him away from the domestic queen's milk. Now he would eat raw ground meat, which had been frozen to kill salmonella. His initial improvement was rapid, but for complete healing, he required braces and hours of physical therapy, which bonded us to each other even more closely. Today I marvel seeing him walk, his graceful stride on near perfect legs pleases me.

At three months of age another malady manifested itself. This, I believe almost took Teegee from me. His throat erupted in blisters, making eating painful. He picked at his food,, slinging his head when he swallowed. Then he would sit with head drooping and salivate with mouth gaping open. Some days he became so dehydrated that syringe feedings became necessary. In his run-down state he became asthmatic, possibly allergic to his beloved cream tabby playmate. It seemed that there was too much against him. after three months persistance of these symptoms I began to despair of his life.

Then the trip to Florida. We live in Ewing, Virginia, and Teegee had lived in the house all his six months. Early in February we drove to Lakeland, Florida and spent four days. Was it

TEEGER & ME - cont.

a vacation to Florida, or a special prayer for Teegee prayed by James Farrah? Teegee is much better. Teegee will live to be my friend and to father the exquisite Safari cats.

Today, Teegee eats a diet of 2 ounces of raw meat per feeding, three to four times a day. His raw meat is either beef or deer, ground up by me, and mixed into it is a small amount of metamucial dissolved in 2 ounces of water, with goat cheese, corn oil, nutrical and pet-cal. His pet-cal dose has been reduced since his bout with rickets to only 1/4 tablet a day.

This tiny spotted South American leopard cat has the personality to attract the skeptic's attention, delight the indifferent, and to mesmerize his fanciers. I know how Teegee, an animal fierce in the wild, feels about me when I hold his raw meat in my hand for him to eat. He alternately rubs his face on the meat, chews the meat, and licks my hand. This ritual continues until all the meat is gone. Rubbing the meat with his face says "You're my favorite." Chewing the meats says "You're delicious." And licking my hand says, "Thank you Daddy, for giving me my favorite delicious food." Then curling up on my lap for grooming and sleep says "I trust you with my life."

The Safari is a true hybrid, the result of breeding a wild Geoffroy's male to a female domestic. The result is a super intelligent, loving, and large cat, often weighing twenty or more pounds. They are gorgeously black spotted. Readers interested in learning more about Safaris should locate the summer 1990 issue of "Wildom", which featured three articles on them.

By Jack Spiers



PRIVATE OWNERSHIP UNDER ATTACK

Arkansas has no state permit requirements, or regulations concerning private ownership of most wild and all exotic species. Traditionally, Arkansas has left it up to city and county governments to deal with the issue of private ownership of exotics and wild animals. As a result of this, several cities have closed down, a couple of counties have outlawed exotics, and at least one choose to enact a perimeter fence law and the U.S.D.A. guidelines. But for the most part, responsible private owners face the constant threat of unregulated, irresponsible owners moving into their county, resulting in the very real possibility of accidents, bad press coverage and the inevitable, knee jerk reaction to ban private ownership.

Recently, two incidents have occurred. First, three counties north of me, a man began building a compound to house three young tigers and one young lioness. He had constructed concrete floored outdoor pens, a metal building, and the beginning of a 10 foot tall perimeter fence, recurved with barbed wire in both directions. He owned 5 acres in the county, in an area suggestive of a residential area. He had numerous neighbors. One of his neighbors was agast at the ongoing construction and housing of these large predators. She, her husband and her mother began a campaign to outlaw this activity in Crawford county. She brought the issue to the quorum court's attention, and petitioned them to ban all dangerous wild animals. She wrote letters to the editor, and quotes of hers appeared in the newspaper and on the television news coverage. She enlisted the aid of an abuse investigator for Arkansas for Animals to testify to the quorum court. Together they began a campaign to incite fear and loathing for these creatures. The investigator graphically described being torn limb from limb by tigers, for the benefit of the quorum court members. The issue was not resolved at this first county meeting, and it was moved to be continued at the next. I wrote a letter to the editor explaining the need for captive husbandry of exotics, and urged them to use existing laws already in place, such as public nuisance, public endangerment, or cruelty or abuse of animals if they applied, to deal with this problem, rather than an outright ban of exotics in a largely rural county.

In the meantime, two counties north of Crawford, inside the city limits of Gentry, a boy was bitten on the hand by a caged pet cougar, and his rescuer, the local fire chief, shot the female cougar in the head to "save the boy's life". Press and television coverage was extremely biased, and actually inaccurate on several points. The actual sequence of events is clouded, but I interviewed the owners of the cougar several times to better understand the event. I was told that the boy, along with a group of other youngsters were given a guided tour of the cougar by it's owner, and told to look, but not touch. Then they were sent on their way. The owners of the cougar left to run errands, and while they were gone, an 11 year old boy returned and reached over the 4 foot tall chicken wire screen, which was the only effort at a perimeter fence these people had provided. He began petting the

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP - cont.

cougar, or other reports say he began poking the cougar with a stick. Regardless, Sheba grabbed his hand and wouldn't let go. He screamed for help, and a nearby fire chief was radioed to respond. This man knew the cougar and its owners, and had earlier expressed a negative attitude towards Sheba. He arrived with a 22 already loaded, ignored the suggestion over the radio to use a fire extinguisher, didn't think to use the nearby water hose, and instead, shot Sheba in the head and killed her. The owners returned to find Sheba shot dead in her own cage. They took statements from several witnesses.

This did not bode well for the Crawford County case. Three days later, at the next Gentry city council meeting, all predators and snakes were banned from the Gentry city limits. I wrote a letter to several newspapers condemning the trigger happy response of the fire chief, the unnecessary death of a captive cougar, and raised the issue of the lack of parental supervision which allowed this child to trespass and tease the cougar. I wrote the television news station and set them straight on their sickening coverage.

After this event, I felt it very likely that Crawford county would close down. I feared a domino effect, which could reach my county. I was in touch with Betty Young, fellow LIOC member, living one county north of Crawford, who was a full time caretaker of over 30 exotic felines, many of them tigers. Together we decided we had to participate in this frightening situation. She agreed to have her local newspaper do a positive story on her, counteracting the recent bad press and negative attitudes towards predators and private ownership. We both sent the prosecutor for Crawford County newspaper clippings showing private owners of wild felines from across the county. I personally wrote him, giving him background information about the exotic animal industry and the support groups available for novices. I supplied him with dozens of articles about good owners, doing good works.

Bart and I as well as Betty and Robert decided to attend the next quorum court meeting. Another cougar owner, from another Arkansas county also attended. Once again the fearful neighbor gave testimony. She entered into the court record reprints, compliments of the Gulf States Region of the Humane Society of the United States, of what she claimed were over 150 maulings by big cats. (I got a copy of them from the county clerk, it was only 28 incidents, some dating back to 1972.) She threatened the county with lawsuits, she exaggerated the difficulty and cost of county regulation, and minimized the regulation and requirements of the U.S.D.A. The tiger owner spoke in defense of himself, saying he was getting a \$500,000 insurance policy, he had applied for a U.S.D.A. license, and he was continuing to finish his perimeter fence.

Betty spoke with calm authority on the nature and personality of big cats raised in captivity, living proof that tigers can be gentle, that escapes don't have to happen. She swayed fears. I spoke of the industry, the need for husbandry, the various roles private owners play and urged regulation, rather than banishment in a rural county. The court voted to study the various county regulations adopted by other Arkansas counties, as well as the

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP - cont.

U.S.D.A. guidelines. They set a date to visit the compound in question, and have a deciding meeting in three weeks.

Newspaper coverage continued, television crews were there for the quorum court visit to the tiger compound. And the neighbor continued to try to stir up trouble. She was in many ways her own worst enemy, being pushy, obnoxious, and blatenly lying in the press.

The day of the final quorum court meeting, a long letter to the editor appeared in the newspaper pleading to residents of Crawford county to attend this meeting, voice their concern against the hords of breeders that would move in. I saw the attempt to build fear, based on the slanderous imagery of unscruplous breeders cranking out deadly, baby tigers and leopards, and cougars, etc., then pushing them off onto an innocent, unsuspecting public.

One by one the court members voted. There was no more input allowed. The audience contained about 6 extra people, a result of this neighbors' excessive effort to raise concern. What was noticably lacking was any of the other neighbors near the tiger owner. The final vote - to do nothing, based on the public input that people living in the county have an increased expectation of freedom, which they did not want infringed.

The issue is not dead, by any means. It can be reopened at any time; if a tiger escapes, or someone is bitten, or the hordes of breeders move in. The neighbor promptly paid for an ad in the local paper to drum up support. This issue will not die, I am sure. But a combined effort from several private owners created at least, a temporary reprieve. But who, in their right mind would spend the emotional and financial investment necessary to build an endangered species survival center, a behavior research center, or a sanctuary in a county that might close tomorrow. This will not do, if there is to be any future in private husbandry.



LYNX REINTRODUCTION POSES PROBLEMS FOR FARMERS

The return of the lynx to the Alps and Jura mountains is making waves. While wildlife lovers glory in the presence of Europe's big cat, hunters and sheep owners want to take up arms. The sheep owners blame the lynx for stock losses, while hunters claim that lynx are reducing the number of their favorite game the roe deer and chamois.

In the French Department of Ain there has been a rash of sheep killing by lynx in an area near the Swiss border, giving rise to the suspicion, that one or two lynx may have become dedicated sheep killers. The authorities have given permission for the capture of any lynx thought to be responsible for the killings, and called for a watch to see if attacks continue to help decide whether it was the guilty animal. Owners of sheep who fail to take precautions after one attack will not receive compensation for further losses. Feelings have been running high. Veronique Herrenschiidt, who is employed by the French Ministry of Environment to track lynx released in the Vosges, was harangued for half an hour by an irate customs officer, a hunter who recognized her name on the passport.

The lynx was reintroduced in the Swiss Alps and the Jura in the early 1970s after being extinct since early this century. Over a dozen lynx caught in the wild in the Carpathians in Czechoslovakia were released, and, according to Swiss biologist Urs Breitenmoser, there are now between 60 and 100. Complaints about the lynx come mainly from the canton of Valais, sometimes called the wild west of Switzerland because of the Valaisans' rumbustious nature, and from across the border in France's Department of Ain.

"These problems arise as the lynx spread out" says Breitenmoser, who has tracked radio-collared lynx for over 10 years. "Where hunters and farmers have found they can coexist with the lynx opposition has declined. But there are problems at the fringes of the population, and I think they will occur elsewhere when the lynx arrives. It is a generation matter. You have hunters and farmers who have never had to live with the lynx and have enjoyed a paradise for hunting and letting their sheep roam freely. People have to learn to live with this predator.

The authorities in the Valais have taken up the anti-lynx cause and asked federal government for permission to reduce the lynx numbers. But the Federal wildlife authorities have opposed the request, calling for evidence of damage before taking a final decision. Under the Swiss hunting law, any canton has to prove with precision that the lynx has committed great damage to forests and agriculture, perturbed its environment, and represented a considerable danger to man. The Swiss League for Nature Protection, which pays compensation for lost sheep says the legal conditions for hunting lynx have not been satisfied.

Breitenmoser insists that his researches have shown that roe deer are the main prey of the lynx and chamois where roe deer are less common. He blames poor husbandry for sheep losses.

"Sheep are put out in the Alps in summer without guards. They are checked once a week, but you cannot count them in this region. You cannot show whether losses are due to lynx. But if there is proof, owners are compensated at good rates agreed by the sheepowners themselves.

In recent years about 50 lynx are known to have been killed by hunters, cars or died for unknown reasons in Switzerland.

LYNX - continued

Lynx reintroduction is being considered in Austria, France, Germany and Italy.

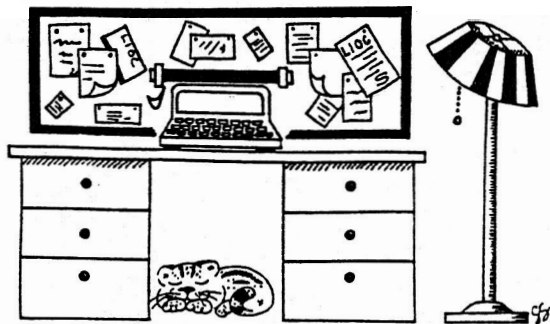
In Germany it is proposed to reintroduce lynx to the Bavarian Forest near the frontier with Czechoslovakia, where lynx were released a few years ago in the Bonner Forest. Another area which is proposed is the Black Forest, near the Swiss Jura and the French Vosges, where lynx have been reintroduced. However the Black forest is cut off from these areas by the River Rhine and roads.

In other countries the areas under discussion are: Austria, Innsbruck region; France the Massif Central and Italy, the Abruzzo National Park.

Breitenmoser says that his personal opinion is that it would be best to establish one big and independent population in the Alps before recolonizing smaller areas because wild lynx for reintroduction, as well as funds, are likely to be in short supply. He considers that the Swiss and Austrian populations are not yet out of danger and their genetic bases need enlarging with new blood.

Of the French repopulation 6 of the 14 lynx released in the Vosges Mountains survive, and two breedings have been confirmed. Plans are advanced for further releases of lynx from Czechoslovakia this winter.

Reprinted from CAT NEWS



FROM UNDER THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am sorry, and must apologize for the tardiness of this issue (and more than likely the next as well). Due to extraordinary demands upon my time by an illness in the family - now fully recovered - and temporary, but necessary longer hours at the office, I find myself with fewer hours to devote to more pleasant things such as my editorial duties.

I ask that you bear with us until these inconveniences can be rectified. Hope to see you all in Las Vegas!

Shirley

SMITHSONIAN SEMINAR ON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Wash., D.C.
April 1-5, 1991

It's cherry blossom time at the National Zoo.

The orangutan mother nurses her little one, until the people start filing by. Then she puts her back tight up against the glass so all anyone can see is her beautiful ruddy coat and, occasionally a tiny arm reaching up around her neck.

The invertebrates lead their strangely ritualistic lives, oblivious to our prying eyes, 'though the octopus sure knows when a treat is being prepared. He takes the mason jar and eagerly unscrews the lid to get out the shrimp.

Toni, the most recent arrival in the elephant exhibit, stands dejectedly, her trunk hanging over the gate to her sleeping quarters. The other two females, heads together, seem to gossip behind her back. Toni was raised alone and "spoke" no elephant when she came here. That was all the excuse Nancy, the dominant female needed to flatten Toni when they first met. Two keepers come in to give these giants their treats and to clean up. When Nancy sees the 121 lb. young lady offer Toni a snack, for all that she's had hers, she protests darn near squashing the rather small keeper between their huge bodies. Nancy is spoken to severely, chained briefly and the pachyderms resume their head hanging and gossiping. Later, only Nancy and Toni are out and Toni has her head a bit higher. She even puts her foot in "their" pool. To be sure, she withdraws it when Nancy looms up behind her, but she doesn't retreat and she doesn't pout. Maybe by the time balmy Spring becomes muggy Summer she'll be emboldened to take a whole trunkful of cooling water to spray her back, even if she never has the gumption to spritz Nancy in the face.

Ungulates and waterfowl are mating, eggs are spotted in the enclosures of endangered crane, the Golden Lion Tamarin is proliferating and being re-introduced into its native Brazil and many tiny marsupials have full pouches.

Yes, Spring is in the air. Alas, it doesn't seem to matter to the Geoffreys, inside, behind glass. The Servals have bred "a few times", but the docent isn't sure what happened to their offspring. ("I think she ate 'em!")

Dr. David Wildt, one of three distinguished scientists directing research programs at NOAHS (New Opportunities in Animal Health Sciences) Center, is head of the Reproductive Physiology Program at the National Zoo. His most intense interest is with cat species, although Dr. Wildt conducts research with a variety of wild fauna (ranging from North

SMITHSONIAN - cont.

America's black-footed ferret to Africa's elephants to Australia's koalas). His program involves the fields of endocrinology, andrology, cryobiology and embryology. Still, he told me he did not feel they could really accomplish what was needed for the smaller cats, (he's currently working with the Leopard Cat) without help from the private sector.

Those of us who've been around long enough remember Dr. Wildt's predecessors to whom working "with" us meant knocking our cats down repeatedly, generally causing them (and us) undue stress. However, recent improvements in endocrine tests of urine and feces detect hormones indicating stress, estrus, the breeding cycle or time of an expected birth. With these new tests the cats can be studied regularly without anesthesia.

Many of you will remember NOAHS studbook keeper, Laurie Marker-Kraus and Khayam (Cheetah) from our Portland convention a few years ago. Who could forget Khayam playing with children in the halls of our downtown hotel or posing regally on the head table at our farewell breakfast? Remember, too that Ms. Marker-Kraus had successfully taught Khayam (born and raised in captivity), to hunt in the African wild. Khayam is gone, but Ms. Marker-Kraus continues to assist NOAHS Center with their detailed studies on medical, reproductive and genetic health of free living and captive cheetahs.

Those of you who have withstood the ravages of time and legislation and still have pure Leopard Cats, in particular but any of the small cats, in general, might like to get in touch with Dr. Wildt, in hopes your hard won knowledge will prove beneficial to our cat's survival.

He is:

David E. Wildt, PhD.
Reproductive Physiologist
National Zoological Park
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20008

'phone:
(202) 673-4793

Let's hope there is a Spring in the very near future when we can all say, "Our efforts made a real difference, before it was too late".

Carin Carmichael

SAD NEWS FROM TEXAS



Our heartfelt condolences go out to Texas member Lucille Coulter on the loss of her husband Ray.

April 3rd, another Texas member, John Stokes was killed in a private plane crash. John's son is in Saudi as part of Operation Desert Storm. Local members are working to place John's cats.

LIOC's last thought wildborn Margay, Sinjin owned by Harriet & Terry Davis also Texas members, died April 9th. Sinjin was approximately 23½ years old. Harriet writes that her heart is still too heavy

to impart all the precious memories they have of Sinjin. Your editor also has some, as being his "aunt" I carry scars on my nose from this feisty little fellow. He will be missed.

THE BIRTHS

On a happier note, John Perry reports the birth of twin Geoffroy's, both doing well now at 4 weeks of age.

Al Porges was surprised with two lynx/bobcat kittens. Watching his snow leopard closely, he somehow failed to note the impending arrival of the bob/lynx kittens. All are doing fine however and the little male is looking for a home.



Moving?



Don't miss any issues - notify Member Services (see page 2 for address).

Our special 3rd class rate does not allow for returned mail - you MUST notify us promptly of any change of address to insure uninterrupted receipt of your Newsletter.



MEETING REPORT

The February meeting was held in the home of Addie & Jerry Boyle. Since it was the first meeting of the year, we did have lots of news and business.

The first order of business was to see if anyone was having any problems. We all saddened to hear of the loss of one of Shirley Malar's cats. Also to hear of the loss of Bruce and Phyllis Bobst's bobcat kitten. It always is sad when the animals die.

We next discussed plans for convention. We have at least 10 of our members now planning to attend and hope to see that number grow before August.

We had our usual raffle and dollar game won by Aaron Warren.

Jerry showed us his new camera and monitor and we were able to see his cats playing from the deck on the monitor. We only had one guest cat, a cougar.

The remainder of the day was spent visitin, snacking, and telling cat stories. Thirty five members attended in spite of the rainy weather.

NEWS BULLETIN

Marlyn Borden's bobcat, Tika had been limping. A visit to the vet showed part of her shoulder had been eaten away. It was necessary to amputate her right front leg including the shoulder. She is recovering and the biopsy came back OK.

The March meeting was held at the Redland Grange. Hosting was Linda Hobson - Bill was unable to attend since he was working down at the coast.

We had a total of 45 members and guests present along with 9 animals. Glen Davis had his cougar, Sharon Roe brought her 2 servals, Jackie Vanderwall was accompanied by two chaus babies (being cared for by Gayle), and a chaus hybrid, Jerry Boyle brought his Siberian lynx and Gayle Schaecher brought an ocelot. Guest Carol brought her female caracal. It's been awhile since we've had that

PACIFIC N.W. - cont.

big a showing of different species.

First order of business was of course checking for problems. Both Ray and Gayle talked about the problem in Hillsboro and the council wanting to ban all exotics there. This all came about because of a ferret problem. They have now classified ferrets as exotics which they are trying to ban. We have decided to send \$50 as a donation to the Pet Industry Assn. who had an attorney fighting this proposed action.

We welcomed a guest speaker who talked about a new vitamin supplement called 2x2. She did not have a lot of information on exotic needs, but we welcomed her input.

Also attending was a person making picture buttons of our animals or name tags. We sold an additional four copies of EXOTICA and discussed convention. The raffle and dollar game was won by a guest (who's now joined).

We adjourned to visit, snack, play with the cats and talke with friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Schaecher

Our April meeting was at the home of Jerry & Addie Boyle. It was kinda rainy, so we were both in and out. Jerry had the monitor hooked up for viewing in the house, so we were able to watch his cats without getting wet.

We checked with the members for any problems. A member of the Ferret Club was there and she brought us up to date on the Portland City Council wanting all persons with ferrets to get a special license.

Convention was talked about and members were encouraged to donate at least one item for the sale table and auction.

Before the meeting was over Addie surprised Gayle with a birthday cake and a lovely purse with a cat print on it.

Among our 37 members and guests present were Jackie with 4 chaus hybrid kittens, John Van Stry and 3 chaus hybrids, Doug from Everett was there with one of his serval kids and Steve and Don had their snow leopard along. Of course hosting cats were Jerry's 2 bobcats and the Siberian lynx.

A mid-June trip to Bandon Game Farm was discussed. Gayle felt this would be the best time and hopefully plenty of babies would be present.

We adjourned to visit, snack and play with the cats.

Submitted by
Gayle Schaecher

ANNOUNCING AN LIOC CLIPPING SERVICE

Due to the constant threat against private ownership of exotic felines, (see related article page__) I have decided to begin a collection of articles about private ownership of exotic felines, which I will make available to any LIOC member, for the cost of photo-copying and postage.

I am interested in positive articles about breeders, researchers, sanctuaries, or private owners. These can be recent, or old articles. I urge all LIOC members to photo-copy any articles they have in their possession about themselves or others that show private ownership in a positive light.

I would also like to collect articles about escapes, maulings, or county closings. Forewarned is forearmed. The Humane Society has them, we should too.

Persons wishing for photocopies of these articles, should call or write to find out the number of reprints in the current collection, and therefore the cost. Payment should be made to LIOC.

Lets see some member involvement here. Its simple, painless, and someday, it may be your county your fighting to keep open!

Send clippings or requests for clippings to LIOC secretary, Lynn Culver, Route 6 Box BC56A, Mena, Arkansas 71953 phone at (501) 394-5235