

NEWSLETTER

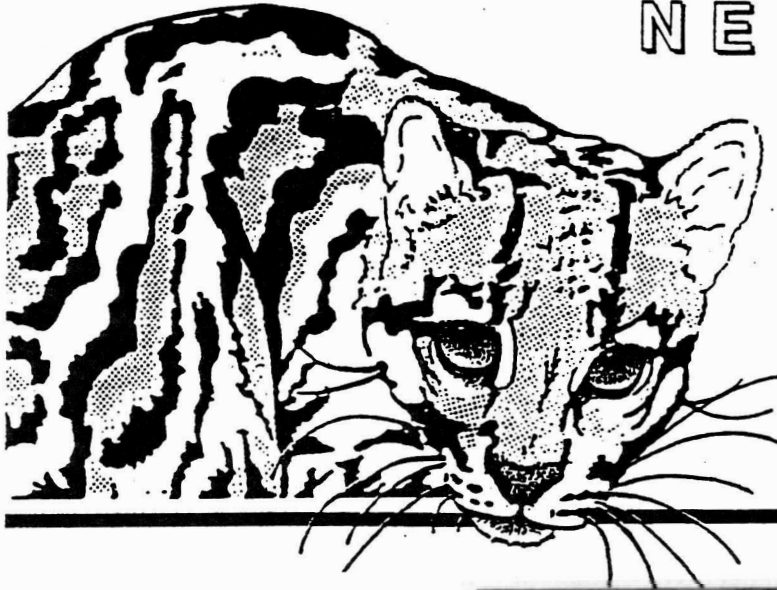


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Gladys Lewis bottle feeds one of the Rare Feline Breeding Center's clouded leopard babies. Gladys passed away recently. She is missed by many, both human and animal.





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.#59-2048618), 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. Persons interested in joining LIOC should contact the Term Director in charge of Member Services.

Since the newsletter consists primarily of articles, photographs, and artwork contributed by our members, we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible. Articles concerning exotic felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Reader's Write column. Please send all newsletter material to the Managing Editor.

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Tribute to the Lady of the Lake

by BeeJay Lester

On December 9, 1991 the grand dame of surrogate mothers to wildlife babies died. Gladys Lewis of Lake Panasoffkee, Florida, lost her life to cancer. It is indeed a tremendous loss not only to the wildlife animals but to those of us who have been fortunate enough to know her.

Gladys was a long time member of the LIOC Florida Chapter. She hosted several LIOC meetings in her lakeside home, she attended chapter and national conventions, gave her friendship and support to many LIOC members and wildlife fanciers who visited her. For her work with wildlife and conservation, she received much media coverage.

Living the life of luxury on the lake, Gladys had never raised any wildlife babies prior to meeting Robert Baudy of Center Hill's Rare Feline Breeding Center. Baudy needed someone to raise his captive-born exotic cat offspring; Gladys had the time and desire to assist. The two paired up, became dear friends, and with Baudy's expertise Gladys became an expert. Over the 20 years or so that she volunteered her efforts, she raised many species of wildlife babies born at Baudy's compound.

Gladys was surrogate mom to bears, hyenas, lemurs, foxes, peafowl, ostrich. Mainly she raised the exotic felines such as snow and clouded leopards, African and Asian leopards, black and spotted jaguars, ocelots, Siberian lynx, bobcats, pumas and white and normal tigers. According to Baudy, Gladys raised over 400 babies for his compound. She was dedicated to the "little ones", faithfully keeping them fed, cleaned and loved.

Unselfishly this lady of the lake nursed newborns at all hours of the night, giving up her bridge games and shopping trips to care for them. Gladys was a gracious and giving hostess who kept such a positive outlook on life that she made her friends feel cheerful just being around her.

Gladys Lewis will surely be missed. We all loved her and will always remember this wonderful, kind lady who so deeply touched our lives.



Gladys Lewis, Robert Baudy & Clouded baby



Test-Tube and Artificial Insemination Successes

More than ever, veterinary medicine is borrowing from the cutting edge of human medicine. Although many of the advances we enjoy - ultrasound, CAT scans, pacemakers and scores of drugs - were first tested in animals, the techniques have come full circle to benefit pets, wild animals, livestock and zoo animals.

Anesthetized by blowdart, a 275 pound Bengal tiger lies motionless under a blue drape. It is January 6, 1990, at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Reproductive physiology student Ann Donoghue carefully pieces the cat's shaved abdomen with a surgical needle attached to threadlike plastic tubing. Her assistant, peering through a laparoscope for guidance, suctions eggs from the tiger's ovaries by vacuum pump and quickly unites them in a petri dish with sperm taken from a sedated 400-0pound white Bengal male.

Two days later, an around-the-clock incubator watch ends. Some 15 embryos just beginning cell division are transferred to the fallopian tubes of a surrogate mother, a 9-year-old Siberian named Nicole. And on April 27, 1990, Nicole gives birth to three cubs, only one of which survives. She is Mary Alice, and she is the world's first test-tube tiger.

Happily, IVF progress is itself accelerating with the birth of Mary Alice, which followed two other IVF successes with wild species: Noah, an Indian Desert cat born at Cincinnati Zoo; and Freezer, a male macaque monkey born at the Baltimore Zoo. Freezer was so named because he developed from a thawed frozen embryo, a technique also used in human fertility labs.

"When we began our embryo work in 1983, I told our research team, "I don't want to go out and reinvent the wheel. I want to use human egg-recovery methods, human sperm-separating methods, and in general, they've worked," says David Wildt, head of the reproductive physiology program at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., which spearheaded the Omaha tiger project.

Every species poses slightly different challenges but lately even the most ambitious notions no longer sound so far fetched. Says Wildt, "There's no reason why we couldn't generate embryos from animals in the field, freeze the embryos, implant them, and produce offspring - without ever removing the animals from the wild."

Another milestone was accomplished on November 5, 1991, when the world's first artificially inseminated (AI) tiger cub was also born at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Ann Donoghue, Drs Leslie Johnston and Douglas Armstrong applied the AI technique July 18, which was first developed by Dr. JoGayle Howard at the National Zoo's NOAHS (New Opportunities for Animal Health Science) Center. With a fiber-optic telescope, or laparoscope, semen is placed directly into the reproductive tract, boosting it toward the eggs so that sperm have a better chance for fertilization.

"For many endangered cat species, sperm need all the help they can get," says Howard, who conducted a fertility survey in the early 1980's of exotic male cats. 20 out of 28 cat species produces an alarming number of sperm abnormalities that added urgency to the quest for sound techniques to aid sluggish sperm in these rare species.

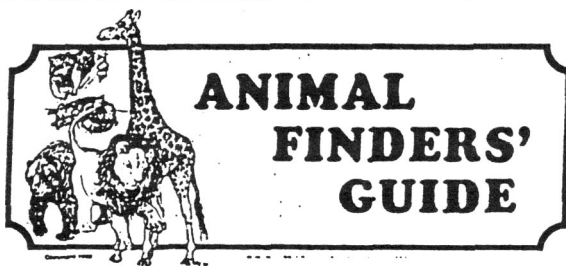
Throughout the 1980s, the decade when people began to take advantage of new breakthroughs in overcoming infertility, Howard, Donoghue, and their colleagues were baffled by the many roadblocks that prevented them from easily applying the methods that worked for humans and cattle to fast-disappearing tigers or cheetahs.

"Many of these problems have been traced to unique characteristics of the species themselves," says David Wildt, a NOAHS research director and head of the National Zoo's Reproductive Physiology Program. "This is one of the reasons that basic research at NOAHS Center is so important."

"When looking back over the years, I definitely see 1991 as a watershed year," Howard says. Beginning in May of 1991 a wave of births resulting from NOAHS team's Artificial Insemination handiwork began. In May a leopard cat, an endangered species indigenous to Southeast Asia, was born at the Bronx Zoo, and seven black-footed ferrets were born at Wyoming. In September, the world's first cheetah cub was born after this AI technique was applied by Howard and the NOAHS Mobile Laboratory Team at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas.

Artificial Insemination and In Vitro Fertilization successes have powerful implications for future management of wild and captive populations of endangered felines by buying time for these rapidly dwindling populations. The future refinement of these techniques will greatly reduce the need to trade and transport breeding adults among zoos. Instead, semen samples or embryos can be traded to produce future generations of felines, even long after genetically valuable individuals have passed on. These techniques may allow wild, free roaming individuals to contribute to the captive gene pool, through the capture of their sperm or eggs only.

Condensed from Test-tube Tiger, by John Grossmann, Special Report, August-October 1991 and the NOAHS Center News, Winter 1991/1992



18 ISSUES A YEAR. Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry. Exotic animals, auctions, products and services advertised. \$25.00 a year. P.O. Box 99, Prairie Creek, Indiana 47869

Texas Cat Country

By Mike Tewes

Sitting quietly and perfectly still, I let the mosquitos feast on my arms and neck. It's 3 a.m. and stillness is everywhere; stars provide the only light. Although I've been awake for 24 hours, I feel no fatigue. I am afraid to move, even to breathe, for fear of being detected by the oncoming predator.

This is the moment I've been waiting for all night. Using radio-telemetry, I have determined that an extremely rare and beautiful ocelot is about to cross the dirt road where I am waiting.

My colleagues and I have been studying ocelots and other cats in Texas for the past nine years. Typically, long periods of boring field research are abruptly interrupted by a few moments of excitement. One such moment is approaching.

Tick-tick-tick. My radio receiver tells me the ocelot is just a few feet away. Slowly I raise my arm, turn on my spotlight, and point the lightbeam into the brush. I see a beautifully spotted ocelot standing on a mesquite limb running parallel to the ground. The cat walks across this convenient bridge, three feet above the dense grass, and jumps down to the edge of the road.

Casually the ocelot strolls across the road less than 10 steps away. Stopping in the middle of the road, the cat looks away from me, and studies the feline shadow cast by my spotlight. Apparently deciding there is no threat, the ocelot continues onward. Finally, it disappears into the brush on the other side of the road. I am not sure the cat ever knew I was standing so close.

This encounter occurred in 1983, yet I remember the details as if it happened yesterday. Why? Because our wild cats are special.

Wild cats represent the crown jewels of the animal kingdom, and Texas has the best collection of such gems in the U.S. Four different species of cats reside in Texas: the cougar, bobcat, ocelot and jaguarundi. The only cat in North America that is absent from our state is the snow-loving lynx of the northern wilderness.

Before we lost the jaguar and margay, six wild cats embellished the Texas landscape. These two cats have vanished and will probably never appear again in the wilds of Texas.

There are 37 species of wild cats in the world. Amazing, right? You probably have only heard of a few of the larger and more glamorous cats, such as the lion, tiger, leopard or cheetah. Few people know about the fishing cat found in the swamps of India, the sand cat that lives on the deserts of North Africa or the small Andean cat native to the mountains of South America.

Nonetheless, cats are similar in many ways. One similarity among felines is that the males are larger than females. Also, most cat species maintain some type of territory that excludes other members of their species.

Wild cats share many of the same behavioral traits you see in a typical housecat: the indifference a tabby cat often exhibits to its surroundings, and the male housecat's habit of scent-marking its territory. And most cats share similar play and hunting traits, behaviors often encountered in the typical house cat.

TEXAS - cont.

Differences also exist among the cats of Texas. Larger cats, such as the mountain lion, usually require more extensive territories for survival than the smaller cats, such as the bobcat. Some cats are habitat generalists, which means they occupy a variety of habitats. Bobcats fall into this category because they use most of the plant communities in Texas. In contrast, ocelots are specialists since they require a narrow range of habitats, primarily ones with an extremely dense brush layer.

The cats of Texas are viewed from a variety of perspectives ranging from good to bad. A person who has suffered personal or economic loss often holds a particular cat in contempt. Other people place a positive value on the cats, appreciating the economic, aesthetic or ecological value of these felines.

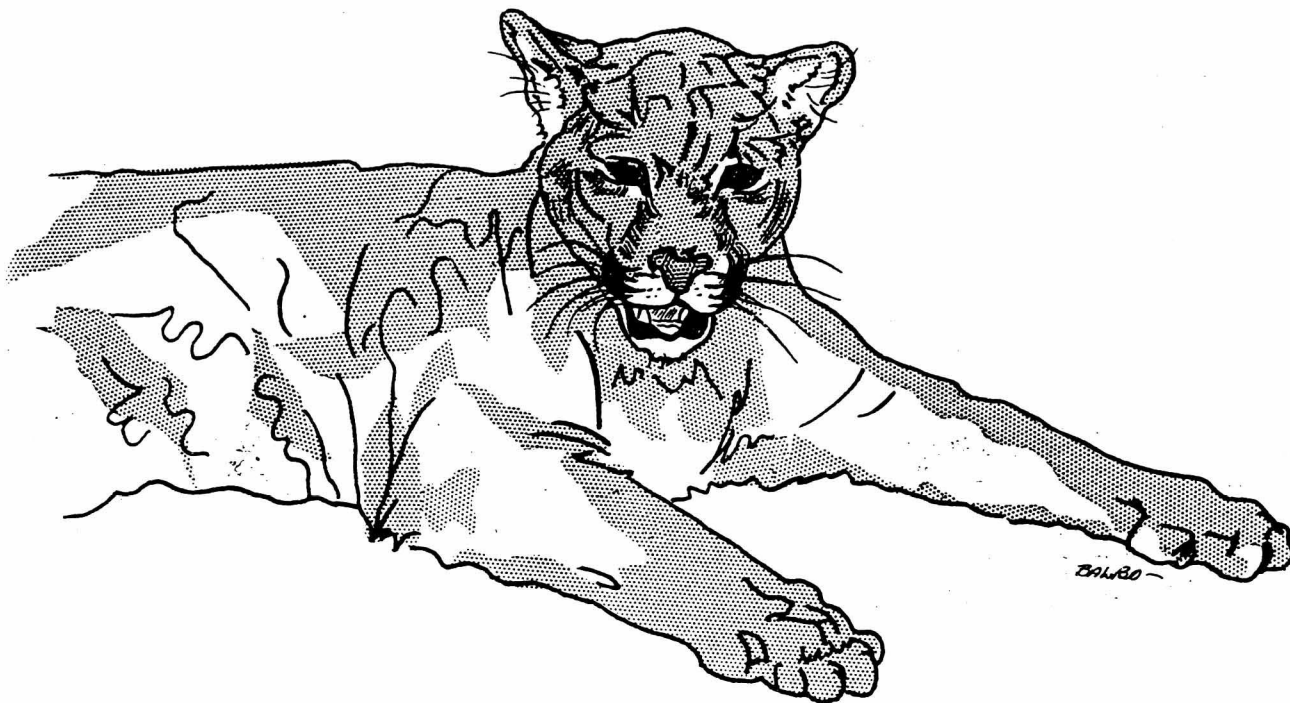
Overall, most of us know little about the predators. Consequently, we began the Feline Research Program at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute of Texas A&I University. Since 1981, we have been studying the rich diversity of cats found in our state. The purpose of this research program is to discover better ways to manage and conserve our crown jewels. Let me tell you their story—a Texas cat tale.

MOUNTAIN LION

Familiar aliases of the mountain lion include cougar, puma and panther. These are all the same cat. You have probably seen a mountain lion in television commercials representing automobiles or on Walt Disney movies.

Back in the 1960's pioneering research by Dr. Maurice Hornocker of Idaho revealed that mountain lions have a complex social system of territories. Territorial boundaries are maintained by scrapes, which are small piles of leaves, grass and branches that are scraped together and urinated upon. This scent-marking informs intruders that a resident lion is present and capable of defending that piece of land. Mountain lions require several square miles for their territories.

An adult mountain lion weighs from 120-180 pounds, with the males larger than the females. The diet of a mountain lion consists primarily of white-tailed deer, feral hogs, javelina and other medium-sized mammals.



TEXAS - cont.

Mountain lions are confined primarily to the mountain ranges of west Texas and many of the larger ranches in the brush country of south Texas. Biologists cannot give an accurate population in Texas, but it is believed to be 300 to 500 animals. Population estimates for most cat species are difficult because cats are generally secretive, nocturnal and wide-ranging.

We especially need an in-depth study of the mountain lions that occur in the brushlands of Texas. Hunters and livestock managers need to better understand the impact of mountain lions on the hunting and livestock industries. And outdoor enthusiasts hope to find ways to increase their chance of seeing one of these big cats.

BOBCAT

The bobcat is the most common wild feline in Texas and in North America. Considerably smaller than the mountain lion, bobcats are closer to a medium-sized dog, usually weighing about 20 to 25 pounds. Contrary to its name, the bobcat does not have a "bobbed" tail. Although shorter than other felines', the bobcat's tail measures from 6 to 8 inches in length.

We recently studied commercial trapping data from Texas and estimate the population ranges from 140,000 to 280,000. In fact, Texas has about 20 percent of the entire population of bobcats located in the U.S. Commercial harvest provides considerable income to trappers.

The bobcat's diet is primarily rabbits and rodents. However, they sometimes eat white-tailed deer and bobwhite quail, a habit that doesn't endear them to hunters.

However, other hunters and landowners are glad to share a small portion of their game in return for an occasional glimpse of a bobcat running down a dirt road or crossing a sendero by a deer blind in the early morning. They also appreciate the cat's value in controlling rabbit and rodent populations.

Of the cats that live in Texas, the bobcat is the most flexible, capable of living in most types of habitats. And if there is enough brush cover along drainage and other corridors, bobcats often enter city limits.

Unlike the adaptable bobcat, the ocelot and jaguarundi occur only in a few locations in the southern part of the state. Both are extremely rare and threatened with statewide extinction and the only populations of ocelot and jaguarundi in the U.S. occur in Texas. Consequently, both cats are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as similar state laws.

OCELOT

The ocelot's yellow fur is adorned with black spots, bars and blotches, and black rings encircle its long tail, giving it the nickname "leopard cat".

Landon Lockett is meticulously searching for accounts of early Texas and he occasionally finds reports of "leopard cats" in central and east Texas during the 1800's. One of the first museum specimens of the ocelot came from Louisiana. But today, the ocelot's distribution is restricted to only two or three locations in the south Texas brush country. The primary population occurs in some of the fragments of habitat remaining in the Rio Grande Valley. Our nine years of ocelot research have focused on this region.

TEXAS - cont.

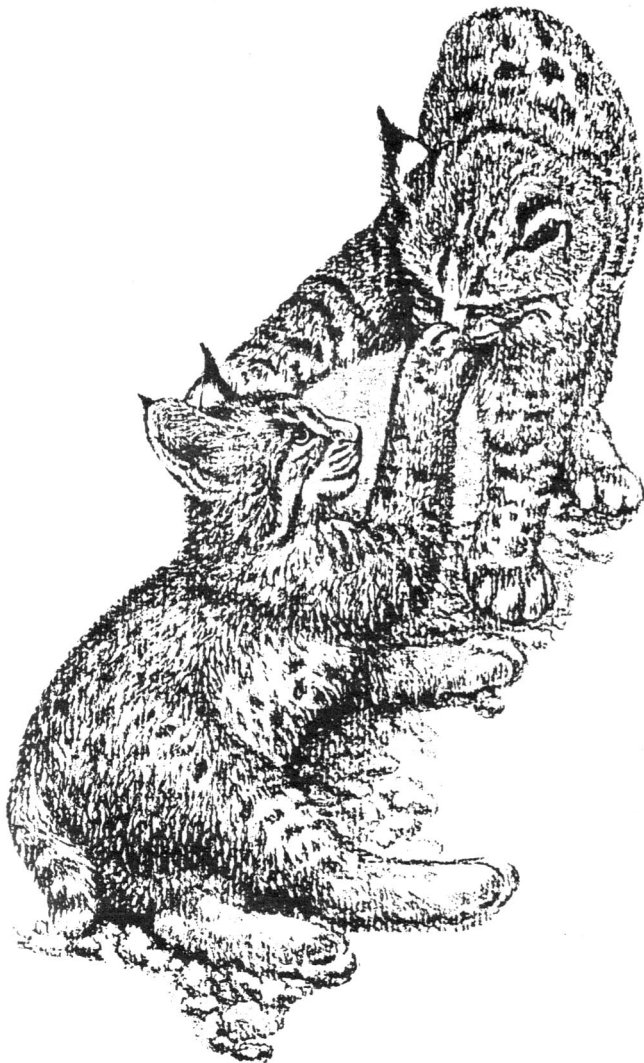
An adult ocelot weighs from 16 to 25 pounds, similar to the bobcat. However, ocelots have a more slender, sinuous stature whereas bobcats appear more stout and robust. During our studies, we have frequently found both cats using the same tract of land.

The ocelot prefers to dine on rabbits and rodents, as does the bobcat. Quail are less important to the ocelot, because few quail inhabit the same dense stands of mixed-brush that the cats select.

The ocelot population in Texas is very small, possibly no more than 80 to 120 individuals. This scarcity may be the result of several factors, the most important of which is the ocelot's dependence on extremely dense brush for long-term survival.

The spotted coat of the ocelot provides excellent camouflage against the sun-dappled ground under the brush canopy. Also, this dense brush provides a fortress against possible enemies such as coyotes and humans.

Fertile soils that were deposited on the Rio Grande delta near Brownsville can support this luxurious growth of dense shrub communities. The problem for the cats is that this same fertile soil is ideal for citrus, vegetables, sugar cane and a variety of other crops produced in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Unless vigorous conservation measures are taken, the ocelot may join the list of species extinct in the U.S.



JAGUARUNDI

Ugly - that's the impression some people develop upon their first view of the jaguarundi. I prefer to think of the jaguarundi as "interesting".

The head of the jaguarundi bears little resemblance to a cat. The ears are short, rounded and widely spaced. The jaguarundi's gait is similar to that of a weasel. This explains the jaguarundi's nickname of "weasel cat" or "otter cat".

The jaguarundi has two color phases - a rusty brown and a gray or black. Interestingly, both color phases can occur in the same litter. Prior to this discovery, naturalists thought each color phase represented a different species.

Jaguarundis range over many areas of South and Central America. Similar to the ocelot, the northern limit of the range is south Texas.

These cats eat rabbits and rodents as well as various birds. In parts of Latin America, the jaguarundi preys on chickens

TEXAS - cont.

and can be a serious problem to poultry producers.

We believe the jaguarundi is the rarest cat in Texas. A road-killed jaguarundi near Brownsville in 1986 represented the first documented case in about 15 years. This records suggests this feline may still reside in our state.

Over several years, we have received hundreds of reports of jaguarundis, black leopards and black panthers from many areas of Texas. Mos of the ranches that we have visited over the years also reported black cats. **However, there has never** been a confirmed occurrence of a jaguarundi outside the Rio Grande Valley. We believe many of these black cat sightings are black feral housecats that flourish in the countryside.

Further, many jaguarundi "sightings" occur in the evening or early morning when light conditions are poor. A backlighted raccoon can be easily mistaken for a jaguarundi, especially when the sighting lasts only a few seconds. I know because it has happened to me.

We are beginning a field study of the jaguarundi in the northeast of Mexico. Jaguarundi are more common in this reagon and studying them will enable biologists to better understand the requirements for a viable population. These results can then be used to assist conservation efforts for the jaguarundi in Texas.

Information is urgently needed because the remaining population of jaguarundis in Texas may be zero to 15 individuals. Sadly, the jaguarundi will probably vanish from our state before we learn its most basic behavioral and ecological patterns.

MARGAY

The margay looks like a smaller version of the ocelot. The spotting pattern on its fur is similar and the tail also has black rings. With a little practice, an observer can distinguish between the two cats by examining the relative size of the body and tail. The margay has a body that is shorter than its tail; the ocelot's tail is shorter than its body.

Very little is known about the biology of the margay in the wild; we are not completely sure it was a bonafide resident of Texas. Its occurrence here is based on a single report by Colonel Coleman in 1857 from Eagle Pass. In those days, officials at the point of entry at the Mexican border often recorded specimens. This margay specimen may have originated in Mexico. Today, no margays are found in Texas.

Margays occur in many regions of Central and South America, but the are a apparently uncommon in most areas. The reason for this low population density is unknown.

The margay is reported to spend more time in trees than the ocelot or jaguarundi. Little is known about its diet preferences. In fact, much of our understanding of the "tropical cats" is based on anecdotes passed from one writer to another. Few facts based on modern field research are available.

JAGUAR

The jaguar is the largest cat in the Western Hemisphere, sometimes weighing over 200 pounds. The jaguar's yellow fur is decorated with black rosettes, similar to the African leopard. One distinguishing feature is the black spot in the center of the jaguar's rosettes, which is lacking in the leopard. Also similar to the leopard, some jaguars have a black color phase.

TEXAS - cont.

These powerful beasts no longer roam parts of Texas, although historical reports of jaguar come from south, central and east Texas during the 1300s. The last documented jaguar occurred in south Texas in the early 1950s.

Some jaguars prey on livestock and can have a local impact on cattle. During one study in the Central American country of Belize, researchers found that injured jaguars were the primary culprits for killing cattle. Researchers speculated that the injured cats were impaired or unable to capture their more elusive natural prey. However, another interpretation is those jaguars that sought cattle were the ones most likely to be shot and injured.

In the early days, jaguars were often the target of many livestock producers since the predators caused significant losses. Predator control activities probably contributed to the eventual extinction of the jaguar from Texas as did loss of habitat.

The jaguar requires several square miles for its territory and has a low reproduction potential. These two factors make even a moderate decline in population difficult to reverse.

Although the other cats we have discussed are little or no direct threat to humans, the jaguar has been known to attack humans. But these events are rare and usually occur under abnormal conditions. Wild cats generally fear humans and avoid them.

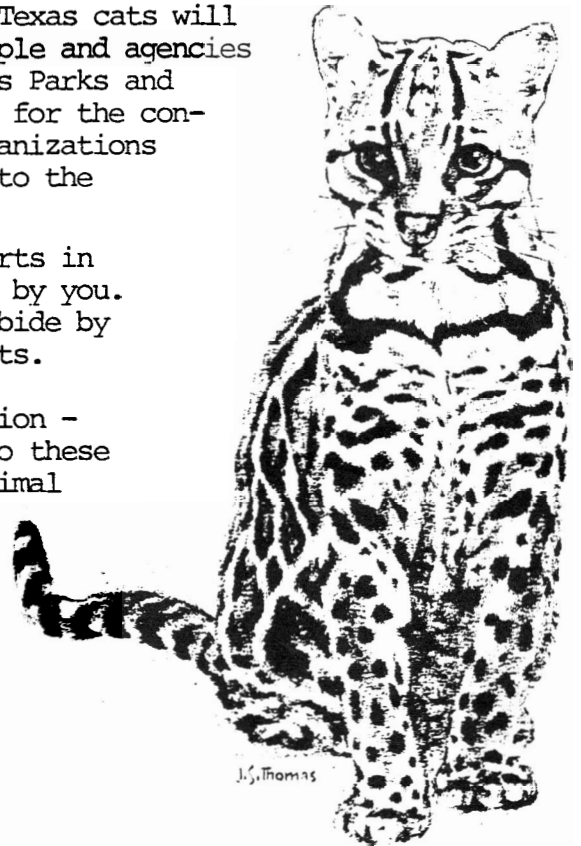
Texas is fortunate to be home to a diversity of wild cats. They represent a variety of sizes, colors and ecological patterns. Our cats also vary in population size - from the common bobcat, to the arare and endangered ocelot and jaguarundi to the extinct jaguar.

The future management of and wellbeing of Texas cats will depend on the cooperative efforts of many people and agencies. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are primarily responsible for the conservation of these cats, and conservation organizations and universities provide critical assistance to the overall effort.

The final success of cat observation efforts in Texas will not be determined by agencies, but by you. Your support can be manifested in many ways. Abide by the laws and regulations pertaining to the cats. Support sporting and conservation groups that endorse reasonable programs for cat conservation - there are many. You may even wish to donate to these important efforts. The crown jewels of the animal kingdom should be appreciated by everyone.

Dr. Michael Tewes is an associate research scientist for the Caesar Cleberg Wildlife Research Institute and coordinator of the Feline Research Program.

Reprinted from Texas Parks & Wildlife
Contributed by Katie Knight-Monteiro



Food, Fiesta and Feline Facts in Ole Tejas at Convention '92

With plenty of the planning in place, Convention '92 is looking like a fun, fact-filled, feline fiesta of the first order. Hosting the Convention, the Crockett Hotel is a fancifully restored historic figure. Fully the perfect size for our group to find fulfilling. With fabulous rooms on a frosted-glass atrium or overlooking the famous Alamo, which is a few footsteps across the street. Find the friendly feature-filled sports lounge on the ground floor for a gracious group getaway. Across the other fareway is the entrance to the fashionable, four-floor RiverCenter shopping mall and the Omni Theatre. You'll find the festival-filled, world-famous Riverwalk under the RiverCenter or by walking the way along the cacophonous cascades across from the Alamo.

Our schedule is fascinating and full, as you see from the facts that follow. The convention cost is not a frivolous fee, but neither are the activities and meals forming your fare. Saturday morning has been set aside for your own significant sightseeing of the special Spirit of Texas, with its hispanic history and creatively crossed cultures in old San Antonio.

Fully fortunately, several stellar speakers have concomitantly committed to pleasing us with their peerless presence. And a few further featured fellows are soon to be signed. So, plan for your party to come to convention, and send in your sum straightaway.

Next Newsletter: Names of notables and comments on cat accommodations. (The hotel has agreed to conditions for cats under 25 lb, but the city has not yet approved the plan.)

Fast Facts

When: August 13-16

Where: The Historic Crockett Hotel on the
Alamo, San Antonio, Texas

Room Cost

\$75 per night, 1-3 persons
Make your own reservations at 800-292-1050.
State that you are with the LIOC ESCF Convention
to get the special rate and be in our block.
Reserve before July 16 to guarantee a room.

Convention Cost

\$90 before April 30
\$100 after April 30
\$110 non-members, includes membership.
Make checks to LIOC ESCF Convention 92.
Mail to Route 3, 410 Mattes, Alvin, TX 77511

Schedule of Events

Thursday evening
Check in at the Hospitality Suite
Get in the Ole Tejas Spirit with friends, old
and new featuring Fajitas and
Margaritas (cash bar)

Friday morning:
Continental Breakfast
Welcome
Speakers

Friday afternoon:
Speakers
Featured Speaker
General Membership Meeting

Friday evening:
Share the spirit of Texas in the Hospitality Suite
Special Event -to be announced (optional)

Saturday morning
On your own on the Riverwalk, Alamo,
RiverCenter, or El Mercado.

Saturday afternoon
Featured Speakers

Saturday evening
Banquet, Awards, and Auction

Sunday morning
Farewell Breakfast

Sunday afternoon
San Antonio Zoo (optional)
or
Seaworld of Texas (optional)

Life Director Candidates

Two longtime LIOC members have accepted nominations for position on the LIOC board as Life Director. Life Directors must, according to by-laws, have previously served on the board. Life Directors oversee adherence to LIOC's purpose and assist in special projects where necessary. Please take the time to vote by filling out the enclosed ballots, and mailing them back immediately.

Carin Carmichael

The last time I was a candidate for office was five years ago and my name was Virginia English then. My presentation that time was accompanied by a file photo taken at some convention with someone's Ocelot sucking my finger. How blase I have become, I think, since I joined LIOC in '67, that I don't even remember where or who.

What an amazing quarter of a century it has been and what a privilege to share time, experiences, successes and failures with the unique individuals and the incredible cats that comprise LIOC.

Thanks to this organization, my experiences with exotics have been varied and many. I have cared for Ocelots, Margays, Leopard Cats, Chaus, Bobcats and once, briefly, a Caracal. I've seen and had the honor to interact with darn near everything else.

There have been many changes in the world and in LIOC and in order for us to overcome the obstacles we face and maintain our right to the privileges we enjoy, we must pull together, never losing sight of our basic reason for existence - to do what is best for our cats.

If I am elected to the office of Life Director, I am determined to direct my efforts toward the unity necessary for us to achieve that goal.

Carin was instrumental in organizing and running the Leopard Cat Information Center, and a major promoter in getting the leopard cat recognized by the CFA. She is the author of numerous articles on the leopard cat, which have appeared in several national cat magazines.

Carin organized the First & Second Annual Cat Care Seminar, held in '72 & '73, and edited and published the transcripts of these seminars. She was recipient of the '82 Lottie award, and coordinator of the '83 LIOC convention in California. In '85-'86 she served as a term director, and in '87-'88, she was Education and Conservation Director.



Life Director Candidates

Jackie Vanderwall

Jackie Vanderwall has been an LIOC member for 15 years. She is active in her local branch and LIOC, having served on the Executive Board of LIOC as Secretary/Treasurer for 5 years, and Membership Secretary for 3 years. She was secretary when the Long Island Ocelot Club became incorporated. In the past 15 years, Jackie has been able to attend all but three of the LIOC conventions.

Locally, Jackie has worked with the other animal folk in helping write Oregon's Exotic Animal Laws. She has worked with the Senate, House of Representatives, and Fish and Game, testifying in behalf of a person's right to own exotic animals. Government agencies, and zoos, often refer people to her that are interested in exotic cats. Jackie has helped recapture, and board large cats. Many of these cats she has kept. She

contributes to the Clouded Leopard Studbook, and belongs to the International Snow Leopard Trust.

Jackie owns, or is owned by, Clouded Leopards, (Kassandra pictured), Snow Leopard, South American Cougars, Jungle Cats, Caracal, Bobcat Lynx, Coatimundis, Grey Wolf and farm cats.

To support her "family", Jackie manages the staffing and payroll for about 800 hospital nursing staff. She works with people, computers, accounting/financial planning/budgets and contract negotiations.



Board Nominations Sought

It is time once again to begin our election process. Officers will take office in January, 1993. LIOC needs dedicated persons, willing to devote the time and energy to see to it that our goals are achieved and services provided in a useful and timely manner.

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

President: LIOC's spokesman, presides over board meetings and convention's general membership meeting.

Vice President: Assists the president with projects as the need arises, and in the president's absence, presides all meetings of the Board.

Secretary/Treasurer: Maintains written minutes of any special, general or board meeting, maintains copies of all organization's documents, oversee's all LIOC funds, provides quarterly financial reports, and a yearly budget.

Also, the four Term Directors:

Advertising and Publicity: solicits advertising for the newsletter and coordinates LIOC's public relations, press releases and LIOC advertisements.

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

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

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

Incumbants will not be running in several offices. The President, and the Advertising and Publicity term director, and the Education and Conservation term director have all declined renomination. Also, the Vice President position is currently not occupied.

To properly nominate a candidate two current members must sign presenting the candidate for nomination no later than March 20, 1992.

Please give this matter some thought and send your nominations to the Secretary/Treasurer, Lynn Culver, Rt. 6 Box BC 56A, Mena, Arkansas 71953 as quickly as possible.

Should you be interested in serving on the board, you may also contact any Board member. All current Board members constitute the Nominating Committee and would be able to place your name in nomination.

Those being nominated must accept the nomination in writing.

Exotic Ambassadors

Donna Amos never thought about raising exotic felines before she started working at Wildlife Safari, in Winston, Oregon as a docent, or volunteer educator. It was at the Safari that she first met private breeders of exotic cats. She started saving money to buy her first cat, a serval in 1980. That first purchase sparked an interest in exotic felines that even today, continues to grow.

Currently Donna cares for five servals, as well as bobcats, caracals, jungle cats, geoffroy cat, snow leopard, Bengals and domestics. Bottle raising them all, she devotes the love and attention that these special felines require.

Donna's breeder servals, Atari and Joko, have sired over 30 kittens. Locating proper homes for their offspring is a source of pride to Donna. Several of her serval kittens are education felines,

Niki Martin, a USDA licensed exhibitor, features her serval Natasha, when she speaks to schools and youth groups about ecology and wildlife conservation. Natasha is a first generation daughter out of Donna's Atari and Joko. Not all servals have the calm, controlled disposition to act as feline ambassadors, especially in front of large groups of children, but Natasha seems to be in her element when mesmerizing and entrancing the younger generation. Niki believes in "positive messages, clear facts, sharing knowledge and working together for a better future for our furred friends". She's pictured here at the Fremont Library in Mundelein, Ill.



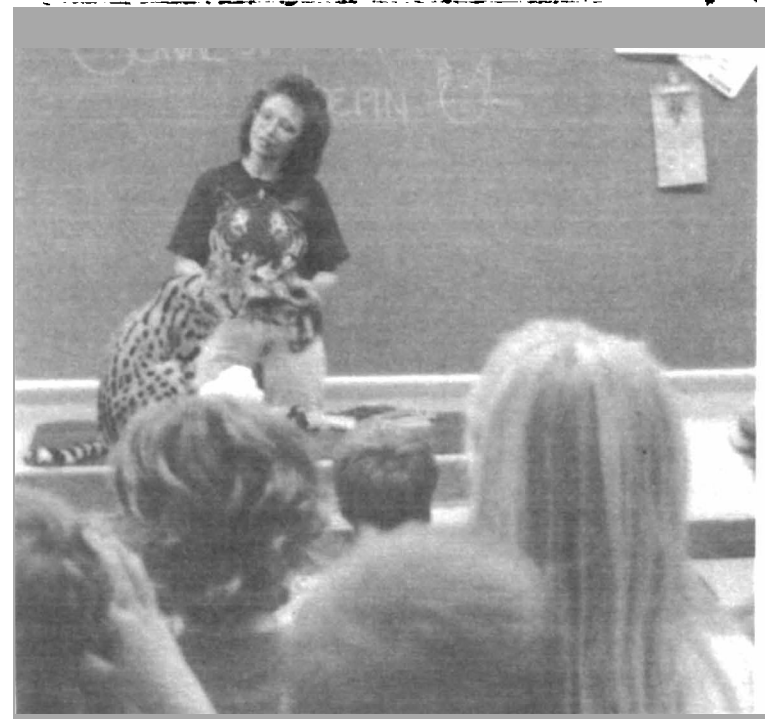
Donna is proud of the fact that when Wildlife Safari wanted a feline for their education and photo duties, they choose her bloodline to be their serval ambassador. They purchased Manta, a younger sister to Natasha. She's pictured here next to Donna at the Safari's education booth.

Exotic Ambassadors

Another of Donna's serval offspring is Hush, who is now 5 years old. Hush's owner, Marvin Hierlimeier is an avid hiker, and together they have walked hundreds of miles, often making friends for wildlife. Marvin also takes Hush into nursing homes, brightening lives and sharing with the elderly Hush's beauty and grace. Marvin says Hush goes boating with him when he's fishing and Hush even enjoys swimming.



Natasha's son, Hoepin, is a second generation ambassador, who has also adjusted to life as a feline ambassador. Niki says "I see answers in the faces of the young people I meet. And the students are my hope for a better future for all exotics and wildlife". He's pictured here with Niki Martin at Traver School, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.



Donna purchased Tillisha the snow leopard as a 14 day old cub in the spring of 1990. Tillisha has been invited to Wildlife Safari as part of their wildlife education program. Tillisha's pictured here with Donna, standing next to the park's ranger Pat. Donna has also been asked to bring Tillisha to some of the Wildlife Safari's education outreach programs at local high schools.





Cheetah Preservation Fund

In the 1991, January/February issue of LIOC, we informed the membership of the Cheetah Preservation Fund, set up within the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation. Laurie Marker-Kraus, cheetah researcher, and International Cheetah Studbook Keeper, and her husband Daniel, have spent almost a year in Namibia, studying the cheetah and have much to report.

Laurie writes, "We are collecting a ton of information, and many people are very interested in the plight of the cheetah. Even farmers and ranchers that have killed many cheetahs listen and are willing to think about farm management practices to reduce their need to eliminate predators. A few have even said they have let cheetah pass by without killing them since talking with us. That makes us feel good.

So far we have covered nearly 2 million acres in our survey. We are looking into the history of wildlife on the farms, predator problems, (cheetah, jackal, lynx and leopard), numbers of cattle, numbers of wildlife, vegetation, availability of water for wildlife, what farmers do to protect their stock, how many cheetahs they have shot, caught or run over!!! Resistance is the name of the game here. If we come on strong against their ways and attitudes doors would close one by one in front of us. We come into their lives and houses out of nowhere and learn from them. And then we tell them what we know about the cheetah. This have worked very well and so far each community that we have been in has been most hospitable and has almost adopted us.

Today, Sunday, I am trying to finish up the Cheetah Studbook. The computer batteries are being charged by our new flexible solar panel (this house doesn't have electricity). Danny, would you believe, is writing to the Skeik Zayed of the United Arab Emirates to ask him if he will help the cheetahs, as all of his royal ancestors always kept many cheetahs as pets and were used as hunting leopards. Wish us luck. We'll try anything to get this effort going full bore. Through the Egyptian Ambassador to Namibia, we are now also writing to Omar Sharif to see if he would become a supporter of our efforts (the Pharaohs always kept cheetah and Omar is Egyptian)"

P.S. Here's an idea we just came up with. Frito Lay has had Chester Cheetah on its bag for awhile. Now they have just come out with Cheetos Paws, cheesy snacks in the shape of cheetah paws. So we want everyone to buy a few bags of Cheetos and tell your friends to do so too. Send the bags from all over the country, with this enclosed note to: Marketing and Promotions Director, Frito Lay, 7701 Legacy Dr., Plano, Texas 75024. We will try to get the Namibian school kids to do it too, as Cheetos are now being sold here. If any of you have contacts with schools or youth groups, maybe they would want to join in this efforts to help raise funds too.

Dear Chester Cheetah,

We love your PAWS, but in Namibia hundreds of cheetahs are being shot by farmers each year. The Cheetah Preservation Fund has developed a permanent base for the conservation of cheetah throughout Africa in Namibia. I hope that you can assist the Cheetah Preservation Fund in this long-term effort for all your brothers and sisters.

Even though the cheetah is the fastest animal on earth, it can not out run extinction. I know that you are safe on each bag, but other cheetahs are not so lucky! Please help.

The Cheetah Preservation Fund within the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation, is a US non-profit organization (501(c)3 number 23-7389749), 211 West Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521, or in Namibia, P.O. Box 247, Windhoek 9000, Namibia, SW Africa.



THE CLASSIFIEDS



IMPORTANT NOTICE

To Advertisers & Purchasers of Endangered Species. Any offer for sale of an endangered species in this publication is contingent upon the conditions set forth in the Endangered Species Act and the acquisition of proper permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and any applicable state and local agencies. For assistance or information, call or write: Federal Wildlife Permit Office, 1000 N. Glebe Rd. Room 611, Arlington, VA. 22201 (703) 235-1903



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The Afternoon of the Lion

by BeeJay Lester

My telephone rang one Saturday afternoon and a voice said, "if you want to pet a 400-pound lion, get up here now!" Well, I grabbed my camera, all LIOC info and pictures, and hurried to a friend's house where in the spacious and jungled backyard was tethered a huge, tawny, georgous male lion. His owner Valerie Wurst, is a 125 pound female who has had the cat since he was 3 months old. He is now age four years, neutered and front paws declawed. She has been in the Orlando area in Florida for a six-month training program with an animal trainer to leash-break her cat. She was enroute to the Carolinas and stopped off in Atlantic Beach, Florida to visit some friends.

Valerie's large truck was parked in front of my house. The cat had to be untethered and walked on a chain to be put in his circus cage inside the truck for the night. Well, the cat balked and would not jump up. After two near-escapes and a tug-of-war backwards (Valerie was pulled across the road by the lion), we finally got the cat inside his cage by pulling his chain through and pushing the cat from behind.

Just seconds later, two police officers arrived and questioned us about "a lion loose in the street." It so happened that this author works for the police department but was off that day. The cops were dispatched and showed up thinking they would find a ferocious feline running about. I said, "What lion? I don't see any

loose lions." But we opened up the truck, showed them Leo and chatted, expaining that the owner had all her permits to allow her to be here in Florida.



It was quite exciting for me to get to meet one of my favorite species of felidae - Panthera leo - since I raised four cubs for almost a year when I worked for Robert Baudy at his compound years ago. The lion is such a vocal and responsive animal when handraised. The cubs knew my voice from a distance and would call to me. Each one had a distinctive personality.

Anyway, the owner of Leo is now a new LIOC member and I hope she will work with us for the benefit of all felines concerned.

BeeJay Lester with new feline friend, Leo, the lion.

Just Do It

The response rate for the membership questionnaire information request has so far, been disappointingly poor. While the initial information gathered has provided some interesting data, which can be extrapolated to suggest the typical LIOC member, it is hardly the type of response we would like for a Member/Breeder Directory.

You will notice that we have again included another membership questionnaire in this issue of the LIOC newsletter. This is for those who have not yet responded. We are holding up publishing the directory, in an effort to gain additional feline information. Many of the members who haven't responded are licensed, multi-cat species breeders. It is you especially, who need to respond. This directory will be distributed to the entire LIOC membership, and will allow many of the potential owners of exotic felines to locate you and begin plans for their future exotic feline commitment. It may take a little time to complete the form, and you may need another piece of paper, but if LIOC is to be effective, it needs the cooperation and support of its members, especially its breeder members.

I would like to remind you that the Member/Breeder Directory will include an advertising section. Include a \$5.00 check, made out to LIOC, and we will publish your business card, advertising your felines, or any services or products you sell, in a special advertising section of the LIOC Member/Breeder Directory.

Initial Questionnaire Responses

So far, 44% of those who responded do not currently own any exotic felines. That leaves 48 LIOC members who have so far responded (either single members or married couples are counted as just one member response) who collectively care for 262 exotic felines.

The cougar is the most commonly owned feline, followed closely by bobcats and servals. 52 cougars are owned by 19 members, 40 bobcats are owned by 17 members, and 33 servals are owned by 15 members. About 50% of these three feline species are in a breeding situation. 15 lynxes belong to six members, and six lynx/bobcat hybrids live with three members. 14 leopards are cared for by four members. 13 Geoffroy's cats belong to six members. 10 caracals are owned by five members. 11 Chaus cats live with three members. 12 Bengal hybrids belong to five members. Four lions are cared for by two LIOC members. One of the problems with such a small sample is how significant a single response can be. For example, there are 32 tigers being cared for by only four LIOC members. That's why its so important for YOU to respond!

Some of the more disturbing findings were that only one breeding pair of margay, and one breeding pair of jaguarundi were counted in this initial response group, and none of the 3 ocelot counted are in a breeding situation. That is a far cry from the roots of this 34 year old organization. Only one clouded leopard was counted. This author can think of more than half a dozen LIOC members, some successful breeders, that have this endangered feline. Of five snow leopards owned by LIOC members, only one is in a breeding situation, and each of the four jaguars owned by LIOC members live without mates.

President's Perspective



Three issues are on my mind as I write this. One organizational, one personal, and one external. First, this is an election year and there are many positions open for which there is no incumbent. I would like to encourage you to get involved with being a member of the LIOC Executive Board. There's no pay, but there's a lot of satisfaction at helping other members. If you've looked at the Newsletter and thought, I know a better way to do that, or said to yourself, why didn't they call me, I've worked out that problem already, then you're a potential candidate. Positions from President on down are open. Please consider sharing some of your time to make this a better organization.

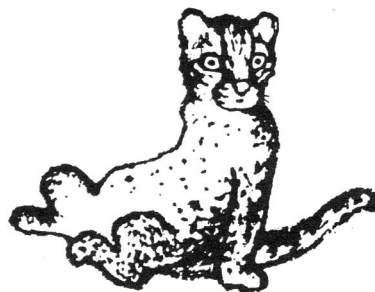
Second, this is winter. In Minnesota, that means very cold temperatures. However, this year it has been damp (so far) rather than bitter cold. This can bring on respiratory diseases for animals without proper protection. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date for Rhino, etc. the cost of vaccination is negligible compared to treatment of respiratory diseases or the heartbreak of losing an animal. I've heard my vet argue that my adult cats didn't need booster shots, but I'd rather be safe than sorry. In talking to him, he agrees that the resistance built up through the shots doesn't last forever, and that the actual duration is very dependent on the individual animal (note: not the species, the particular animal).

Third, January is when many new state legislatures start their activities. I would recommend that everyone get in touch with their representatives to check whether any animal control or animal "welfare" bills are on the docket. Bills are much easier to deal with while they are still in the committee stage than after they are reported to the floor. If you have a potential problem, deal with it, don't run away from it. Most states will provide anyone who asks with copies of proposed legislation that's in committee.

Finally, don't ask me for superbowl tickets, they're probably easier to get where you live than here in Minnesota!

John Perry

HEY!



HOW COME WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU?

SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE TODAY!

Antibody Response to an Inactivated Vaccine for Rhinotracheitis,
Caliciviral Disease, and Panleukopenia in Nondomestic Felids

Mitchell Bush, DVM; R. Charles Povey, BVSc, PhD; Howard Koonse, MS

Vaccinations are an important component of a preventive medical program in zoological collections. Nondomestic felidae share some of the viral diseases of the domestic cat, notably feline panleukopenia FPL, feline viral rhinotracheitis FVR, and feline caliciviral disease FCVD. There is uncertainty as to which vaccine, what amount of vaccine for the larger felids, and which vaccination program to use.

Of major concern is the use of modified live virus (MLV) vaccine in nondomestic felids. Inactivated vaccines have safety advantages, compared to MLV vaccines and are preferred. An inactivated vaccine for protection of domestic cats against FVR, FCVD, and FPL has been tested for safety and efficacy against virulent virus challenge in the domestic cat and was found to induce good immunity. The testing of this vaccine, (Felo-O-Vax PCT, manufactured by Fort Dodge Laboratories, Fort Dodge, Iowa), in nondomestic felids is the subject of this report.

The efficacy of an inactivated (killed) vaccine for the prevention of feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR), feline caliciviral disease (FCVD), and feline panleukopenia (FPL) was tested in 27 nondomestic, healthy adult felids from 7 species. The 27 study animals were on display at the National Zoological Park. They included 10 lions, 5 Bengal tigers 4 clouded leopards 2 bobcats 2 servals 2 puma and 2 jaguars. The vaccine was given IM at the standard domestic cat dose in 19 animals and double this dose in 8 others. The animals were vaccinated either 1, 2, or 3 times.

There was no significant increase of serum-neutralization (SN) antibody titers by doubling the vaccine dose or by administering a 3rd vaccination. The optimal response could be obtained by using the domestic cat vaccination protocol of a single dose given twice, 4 weeks apart. The persistence of the SN titers was evaluated 7 to 9 months later and found to be satisfactory for FVR, FCVD and FPL.

CONCLUSIONS

Caretakers wishing to protect a mature nondomestic feline (over 1 year of age) of unknown vaccination history, would receive the optimal antibody response by administering a single dose of killed vaccine twice, 4 weeks apart. Once effectively vaccinated, a yearly booster of a single dose, killed vaccine is all that is required to continue the proper protection level.

Immature felines (those under one year of age) are acutely susceptible to infectious diseases. This is due in part because the neonatal immune systems are still developing. When vaccinating felines under 3 months of age the maternal antibodies received by nursing the queen's colostrum will interfere with the vaccination efficacy. The vaccination protocol for protection from FVR, FCVD and FPL, in immature felines is a series of three, single dose, killed vaccines, administered 3 to 4 weeks apart, beginning between 6 to 8 weeks of age.

condensed from the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, 1981 Contributed by Tom Chandler

FLORIDA PANTHER CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM

Available Florida panther reproductive and demographic data were analyzed by the Captive Breeding Specialists Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and a Viability Analysis and Species Survival Plan was produced. (Seal and Lacy 1989) They reported that the wild panther population was in decline at a rate of 6 - 10% per year, with a loss of genetic diversity of 3 - 7% per generation. Further, they predicted that, without intervention in the form of a captive breeding program, the subspecies would be extinct within 25 to 40 years due to genetic and demographic factors.

There are numerous morphologic indicators to suggest that the Florida panther has already experienced a notable degree of inbreeding and concomitant genetic loss. These include "kinked tail" and mid-thoracic cowlick traits, very low semen quality with an extremely high abnormal sperm count, the cryptorchidism, and congenital heart defects.

All of the above stress the important of moving ahead quickly and aggressively with captive breeding efforts. The primary goals of this project are to secure in captivity genetic representation of all wild, founder individuals, to stabilize the loss of genetic diversity due to inbreeding, and to increase the number of individuals as a hedge against catastrophies. We have not progressed very well with these tasks. In the two years that have lapsed since the decision to proceed with the program 13 of 27 (48%) identified wild founders have died. Of these 13 animals, only 2 (15.4%) have genetic representation in captivity. Therefore, if we can actually get offspring from all of the 14 remaining founders, we will have representation from only 59% of the individuals which were potentially available at the time this project was approved for implementation. The projected success and long range survival of the panther via captive breeding program was based on the premise that we could maintain 90% of the existing diversity found in the wild for 100 years. However, due to delays imposed by a lawsuit to halt the captive breeding program (Fund for Animals and Holly Jensen verses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), we are probably already well below the 90% level.

Selection of Zoological Institutions

Four different zoological institutions have been identified as participants in the captive breeding effort: White Oak Plantation, Yulee, FL; Miami Metro Zoo, Miami, FL; Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, FL; and Jacksonville Zoo; Jacksonville, FL Before these facilities can receive Florida panthers, they must be permitted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and participate in an investigation of the health and disease profile of their felid collection. At this time only White Oak Plantation has completed the entire screening process.

Proposed selection of animals for captive breeding project

At the beginning of the 1991 capture season, an assessment of the living wild population was made to determine which animals might be appropriate candidates for inclusion in the captive breeding program. Adults and litters were ranked based on the importance of their lineage and the adult's age and previous reproductive history.

Founder representation of panthers removed from the wild

Six panther kittens (3 males and 3 females) 6 to 8 months old, were brought into captivity in the spring of 1991. All captures went smoothly and the kittens were transported directly to White Oak Plantation without incident.

This year's procurement of kittens represents a good start toward the ultimate goal of having complete genetic representation for all wild founders in the captive breeding program. Removing 7 or more kittens per founder would be ideal, however, initially it would be prudent to limit the number to insure that the ultimate survival of the wild population is not adversely effected. The number of kittens a given female contributes can be adjusted once females recycling and productivity following kitten removal has been assessed. At present securing 3 to 4 offspring per founder should be possible over the next few years and would represent 87.5% to 93.8% of all given founders. However, these minimal numbers do not allow for individuals which fail to breed in captivity or should die before reaching sexual maturity.

Health status of captive kittens

All the kittens rapidly adapted to captivity, some were eating within 24 hours of their arrival. None of the animals exhibited the exaggerated escape behavior, nor did they damage their teeth or claws as have other wild panthers placed in more unnatural settings. The average daily weight gain of the captive kittens was comparable to similarly aged wild kittens.

The most serious problem that has been identified in kittens this year is congenital heart defects. The daughter of #11, killed by a car, was determined at necropsy to have had a congenital atrial septal defect. This kitten was dying of congestive heart failure secondary to a congenital atrial septal defect at the time. This was the second panther known to die with this type of cardiac lesion.

Also, it was determined that every panther kitten in the captive breeding program plus the 2 left in the wild had heart murmurs, varying in intensity from mild to severe. Panther kitten #205's murmur was so severe it could be felt through the chest wall. A cardiac evaluation of this kitten indicates that the tricuspid valve (the heart valve between the right atria and right ventricle) is congenitally deformed. Thus, blood is forced backwards into the right atria when the heart ventricles contract with has resulted in an overloading of the right side of her heart causing subsequent enlargement and dilatation. The anomaly in this kitten is very severe and the prognosis for long term survival is poor. She is currently in good health but, cardiologists predict that within 6 months to 2 years, she will experience cardiac failure and die. It should be noted that she is the result of a consanguineous mating, sired by male #12. He also sired the kitten which had the lethal atrial septal defect this spring, and further, only 1 of 6 of his other offspring has an audibly normal heart.

The source of the murmurs in the other kittens has not yet been resolved. Definitive causes for most cardia deformatives generally have not been determined, but because of the documented inbreeding, lowered genetic diversity, and the high incidence of these animals in the panther populations a genetic basis is suspected.

Readers Write



Dearest Members of LIOC,

I have recently written you about a female bobcat named Aurey. I told you about how Aurey came from an abusive home and how I was attempting to deal with the results of that abuse. In this letter I will tell you how after a long struggle, that attempt failed. Allow me please to set the scene. I was in South Dakota, stationed there by the Air Force, and scheduled to get out. I was moving to Virginia where the possession of bobcats as "pets" is illegal without a special permit.

In order for me to keep Aurey in Virginia and get a permit I had to prove that she was a cuddly pet. She would have to be examined by a veterinarian in Virginia, and required to have a full medical history, which she had. My vet in Rapid City, S.D. requested Aurey be brought in his office inside a carry kennel. This was because of her unpredictable behavior. The woman who owned Aurey prior to me kept her in a small rabbit hutch in the back of her trailer. This is one of the abuses Aurey suffered because inside this box she was never able to stand or stretch. This caused Aurey to become claustrophobic in enclosed places or carry kennels. This was the one fear of Aurey's I was never able to overcome,

The woman had sold Aurey to a police officer who, with the aid of his night stick, tried his hand at lion taming. In the month he had the cat he beat the fear of people into the cat. Since Aurey and I lived alone for nine months I was able to gain her trust and touch Aurey. I was able to pet and play with her. I was never able to put Aurey inside a carry kennel without the biggest fight. It was on the day that I had to take Aurey to the vet for her pre-departure physical that I made the hardest decision of my life. I was attempting to put Aurey inside the carry kennel for the trip when she lost all control of herself and entered a state of pure traumatic shock. She began shaking, defacating and urinating uncontrollably. Her eyes looked like that of a Jew during the Holocaust. It was on that day, November 9, 1991 that I took Aurey to the vet and gave her peace. Aurey shall sleep in the bosom of Bast forever. This cruelty that Aurey had to endure spawned an investigation by me.

Being fairly new to the "exotic cats as pets" scene, I wanted to know just what kind of system had allowed this to happen. It was all too easy for me to find out. Aurey had been purchased by the woman at the Chamberlain Exotic Animal Auction in Chamberlain, South Dakota. She also purchased a male bobcat and a female cougar. I met the woman and her cats househunting; she was the manager of a trailer park. We were talking about cougars when she asked me two questions that just

floored me. She asked me how large her cougar would get and what she should feed her cats. But at the same time, she said she took care of all their vet needs. To make a story short, all her cats have now died.

Now wouldn't it be in our best interest to insure none of our cats become fodder for Animal Auctions? And while we're at it, lets close down these auctions. I know that because of the woman above, South Dakota may push a bill to make the private ownership of exotic felines illegal, as well as the auctions. There are some people in South Dakota who are pushing pretty hard. In closing, please don't let what happened to these three cats nappen to your kittens. I am also looking to give a cougar, or caracal kitten a very good home.

Sincerely,

Robert Merkel

19 Little Creek Ln. Fredericksburg, VA. 22405

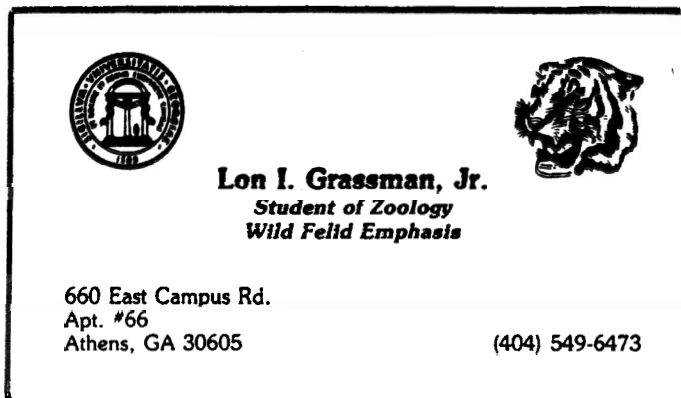
703-371-2769

Editors Comment: Auctions are designed for the informed and experienced dealers who already know the husbandry needs of the species and recognize the signs and signals of trouble. For these people, auctions are a necessary means of trading a variety of stock in a central location. If private ownership of exotic animals is to be legal and possible, than trade must also be legal. Novices have no **business** patronizing auctions. One is much wiser to purchase from a licensed U.S.D.A. breeder. Get references, verify the reputation and reliability of the breeder and his/her felines before you adopt!

Dear LIOC members,

My name is Lon Grassman. I am a zoology student at the University of Georgia. My interest lie with wild cats, specifically in ecology studies. At present I am compiling a collection of felid skulls. I would like to request of breeders and collectors who are not to sentimental about their felines, that when they experience a feline death, they consider sending me their feline's head. The skull need not be cleaned, and I do not need any bobcat or hybrid feline skulls. I will gladly pay for postage and any other expenses incurred. Thank you very much.

Lon Grassman, Jr.
660 East Campus Rd.
Athens, GA. 30605



Note from a Novice



By George Stowers

My wife and I are both life long cat people. Although we both had dogs in our homes while growing up, we prefer the more independent disposition of cats. In late 1990 we decided we would like to have an animal somewhat larger than a domestic cat around the house. Following conventional wisdom on the matter we briefly considered the usual assortment of medium to large dogs. Collies, Irish Setters, Golden Retrievers, and Irish Wolf Hounds were all examined and found to be unsuitable. Next we decided to try and find a larger than average breed of domestic cat. Several trips to the state library, examination of ads in CATS and CAT FANCY magazines, and letters to experts on domestic cats convinced us that even the most robust domestic was smaller than we were looking for. Then we saw an ad for the LIOC listed under Exotic/Experimental in CAT FANCY. HMMMMMMMMMMMM. . . now there was a thought.

A letter to the address given in the ad produced a quick response from Barbara Wilton who offered several options and suggested we talk with Karen Jesseaume. Karen provided additional helpful information and suggested we talk with Al Porges. A quick phone call to Al resulted in an invitation to his home in Stoughton, MA. Al spent several hours talking with us about exotics. He described the various types of cats, the basic differences between exotics and domestics, and special licenses/permits that are needed in most states. We also discussed the need for a proper diet, special precautions to take when dealing with veterinary care and a wealth of other useful information. Then he took us out and introduced us to his cats. . . Al's bobcats were interesting, but our close up visit with his pair of snow leopards was, as my daughter says, awesome! Before we left Al suggested that a serval might be what we were looking for and suggested we contact Scarlett Bellingham, and Fred Boyajian as potential sources. Al also urged us to join LIOC.

During the next several months we joined the LIOC, contacted Fred and Scarlet and applied for the necessary permits. In July I visited Fred Boyajian and his cats while in Atlanta on business. At Fred's I met my first: serval, ocelot, caracal and geoffroy's. Fred also provided me with my first hands-on experience with exotics. When his 25 pound ocelot jumped into my arms and began nibbling playfully on my left bicept, any remaining doubts about owning an exotic evaporated. Later, over dinner, Fred and I spent several hours talking about his cats and the proper care of exotics.

In late August Scarlett Bellingham called to tell me she had a serval kitten available and asked if I was interested? In mid September my family and I drove to Logan Airport in Boston to pick up Max. Understandingly excited from the flight and the sudden change in surroundings, Max was a small, quaking, hissing, bundle of energy when we got home. My wife and I stayed up with him until he quieted down and we all dropped off to sleep in the wee hours of the next morning. An extensive list of information was sent with Max

concerning proper diet, vaccination schedule, and tips on general care. During the next few weeks Scarlett provided a tremendous amount of assistance, calling several times to see how we were doing and answering any questions we had.

Max is now 14 weeks old, weighs 8 pounds, and is gaining just over half a pound a week. Aggressively playful as only a kitten can be, he is just beginning to understand what NO! and DON'T BITE! mean. He has responded well to litter training and enjoys free rein of our home. Max is all we had hoped he would be. . . and more! My family and I would like to thank the LIOC, and all those who gave so freely of their time and knowledge. Your efforts are turely appreciated.

Maine is currently considering new regulations pertaining to private ownership of wild animals and has expressed an interest in receiving input from permittees within the state. I am working with Katie Knight-Monteiro to provide some sensible recommendations. I am also attempting to help make the LIOC more visible by uploading information about exotic cats and the LIOC into the Pet SIG (section) of the Compuserve Information Service. Lynn Culver and Katie are helping me with this effort. Keep up the good work!

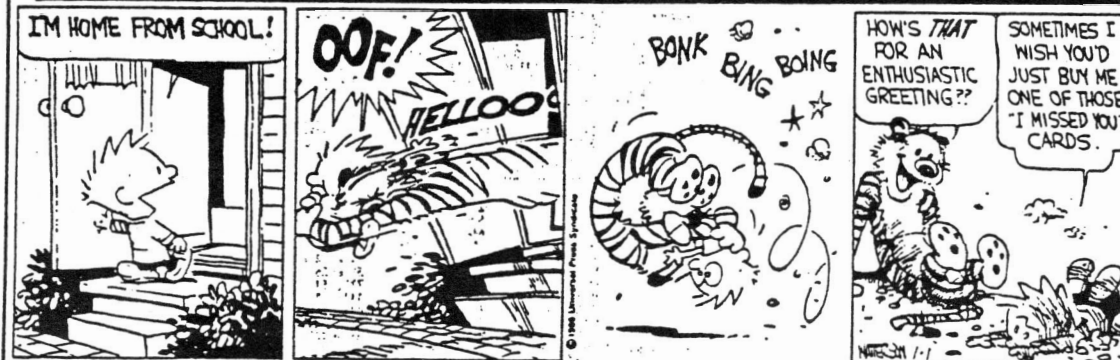
THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson



Bizarro By DAN PIRARO



CALVIN and HOBBS



To Nepo and Tipa

By Jack Spiers

Gwen, our three year old Geoffroy's queen gave birth on July 12 to twin kittens, the male weighing 4 1/2 ounces, and the female weighing 3 1/2 ounces. Since Gwen was believed to have been wild caught and had eaten a litter of kittens born in March, we took these kittens at twenty-four hours old to be bottle fed.

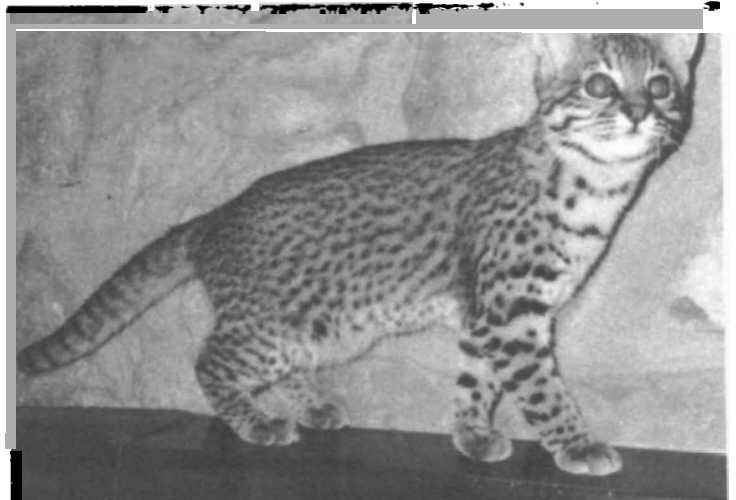
All went well until the fourth day. The kittens had made good weight gains when suddenly Tipa, the female, went into the waning syndrome, refusing her bottle entirely. Her breathing became rapid, shallow, and irregular. I knew she was dying. I had read that there was little to do for this malady, but believing that doing something is usually better than doing nothing, I injected subcutaneously six cc's of sterile water, electrolytes, granulated white sugar, and a small amount of antibiotics. Three hours later Tipa took her bottle. She has never had another droopy moment. My wife, Billie says that the sugar must have made her hyper.

Tipa comes on to strangers just a bit gingerly at times, but her brother Nepo has never met a stranger. Nepo lives with Donna Amos out in Oregon now. I sure was proud of him when Donna told me that upon arrival he promptly hopped out of his kennel and onto her shoulder for a bit of loving. Hi Donna! Please say, "Pata pata" to Nepo for me. You know what it means.

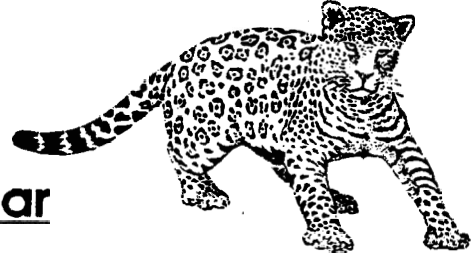
We will be adding three young mature females to our breeding program next month. They are scheduled to arrive from Ravensdam Zoo Limited in England the week of January 6, 1992. We expect them to like our big male of twelve to fourteen pounds, Lance. Mr. Pepe tells us that these queens are ochre rather than grey, which is the color we prefer.

We will be adding heat and light to the Geoffroy's cats' living quarters during January in an attempt to bring the queens into estrus. This will have been preceded by three cool months of large feedings on fresh frozen red meats from road-killed deer and farm cattle fatalities at calving time. Our cats spoiled to this type of meat all but refuse the store bought meats, and I suspect it is that they smell the preservatives.

We are making plans to import a few Geoffroy's from Bolivia this summer. We trust that this will enhance the very limited gene pool with which we now work.



Nepo 4 1/2 months, 5 pounds



Chiquita Jaguar

As we reported last issue, Chiquita jaguar died August 8th, at fourteen years of age. Her caretaker, J.B. Anderson, has provided the following information in hopes it may help others.

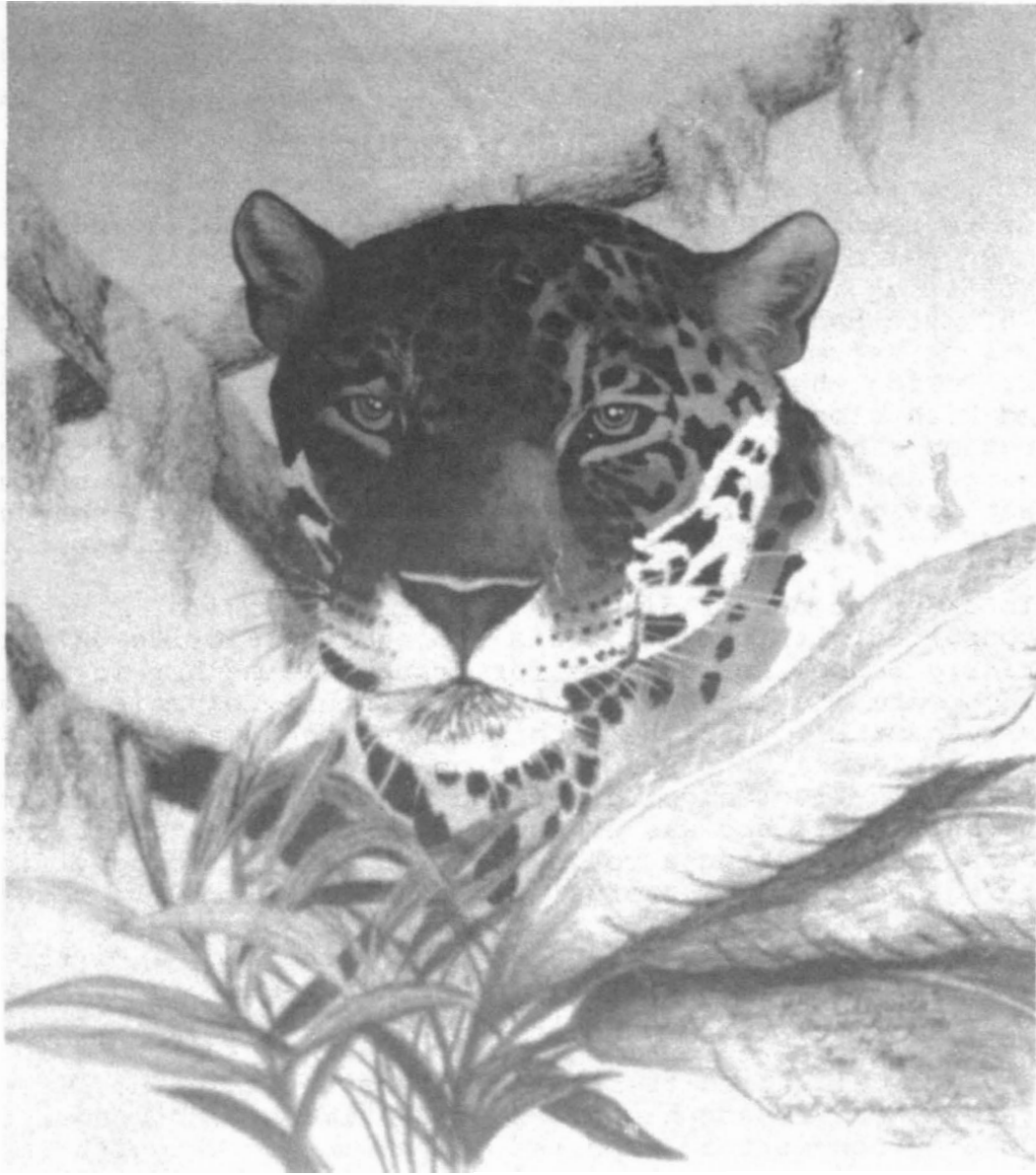
Chiquita had been healthy throughout her life. Prior to the arrival of her mate, she had been on Ovaban for approximately two years. During the early part of July she developed a vaginal discharge tinged with blood. Smears were taken without conclusive results. She was put on a broad-spectrum antibiotic (Vatril) and although the discharge abated, her appetite decreased. Since she was not eating she was not getting her medication and the discharge reappeared. Her attitude was great and in all other respects she appeared a healthy cat.

In order to better diagnose and treat Chiquita, J.B. and his vet consulted with the St. Louis Zoo and the Florida University Veterinary School for dosages for tranquilizing her so that she could be transported to the University of Missouri-Columbia Teaching Veterinary Hospital. J.B. held Chiquita as the tranquilizer was administered (Telazol). She was placed on oxygen and IV fluids in a specially constructed crate for the lengthy ride. She never came out of the anesthesia and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. J.B. was spared making a rough decision as the necropsy findings were: "adenocarcinoma, uterus, with peritoneal carcinomatosis, pyometra".

Several factors could have been contributing. J.B. stresses that Chiquita was handled every day of her life, and of course was calm when the anesthesia was administered whereas most "zoo" cats, unused to handling are in an excited state when they are tranquilized. Dosages are calculated to take into consideration the adrenalin output and this is one reason highly excited animals take longer to go down and come up sooner than expected. Also, one of Chiquita's adrenal glands was totally atrophied and the other surrounded by tumors. This of course was unknown until the necropsy. It is of great consolation to J.B. that Chiquita's last memories were of being held in his arms.

Chiquita as bred by Robert Baudy out of Macho & Babe and raised by Gladys Lewis. She has been featured throughout her life in the Newsletter and portrayed in a limited edition print by Charles Frace' entitled "First Light". J.B. reports that Pepe', her mate, is still calling for her and of course the Andersons miss her greatly. Chiquita's skull was donated to the University of Missouri Biology Department and her pelt will be used in teaching conservation and ecology. Chiquita though gone, will continue being an inspiration through the artwork she graces and the students who will learn more about these amazing animals through her.

The picture on the back cover is a limited edition, mixed media of Chiquita by Myrna Peterson entitled J.B.'s Chiquita.



J.B.'s Chiquita, mixed media painting by Myrna Peterson

The sun created the jaguar to be his representative on earth. He gave him the yellow coat of his power and he gave the voice of thunder which is the voice of God. -- Tucano Amazon Indian Myth

The Arawak Indians say that "everything has jaguar", a feeling that seems to be the root of the man-jaguar transformation rituals still performed today. It is the jaguarness that the shaman (tribal medicine man) must master, and this is why he must become a jaguar himself. In a sense, the person who "becomes" a jaguar is a man shorn of his cultural restrictions. His alter ego is free to act out his deepest desires and fears. Thus man borrows, for a time, the jaguar's power. By mastering the jaguar's ambivalent power, the shaman can orient the energy into channels which will prevent harm to others - or bring it on. from Kingdom of Cats, National Wildlife Federation