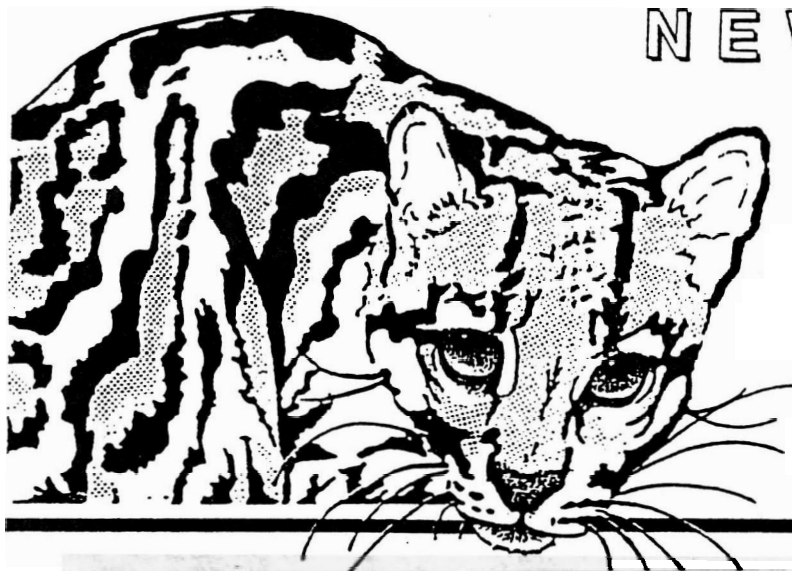
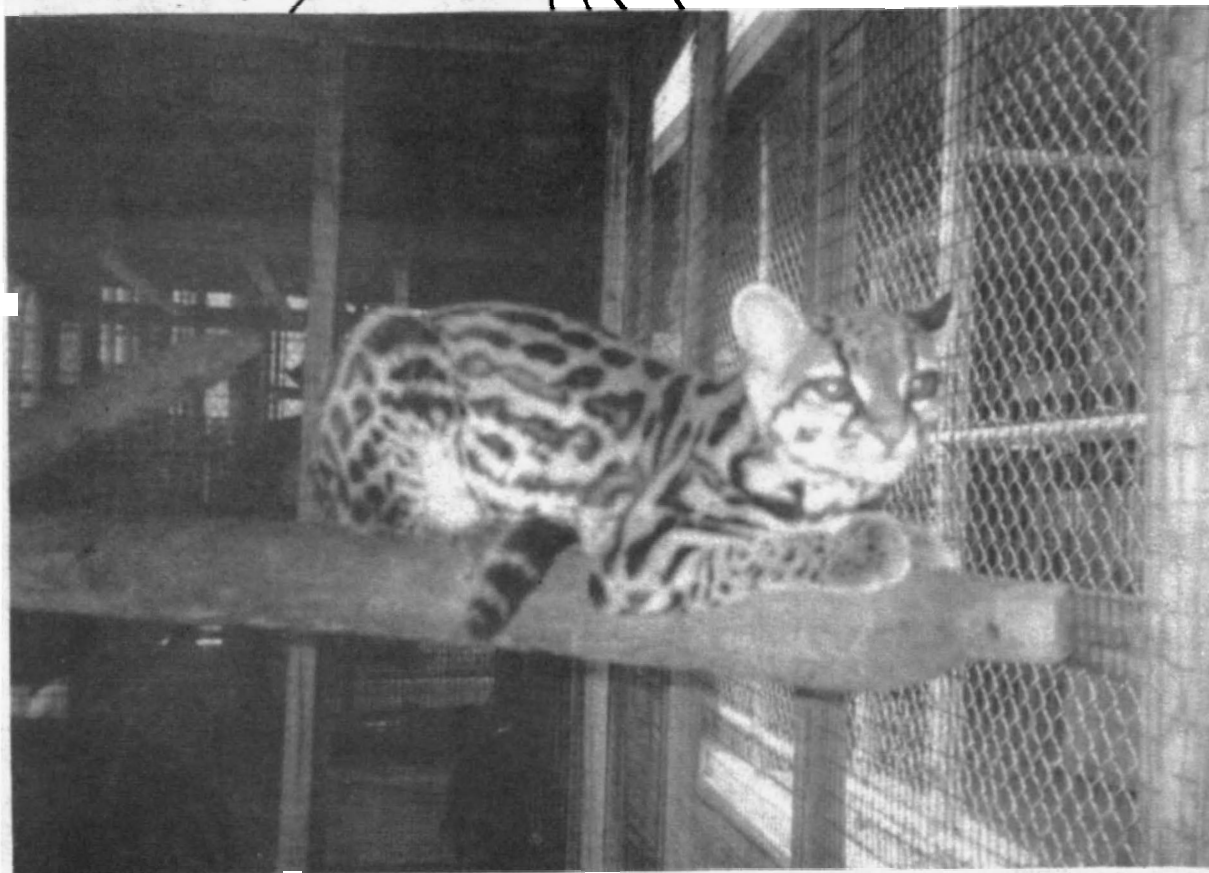


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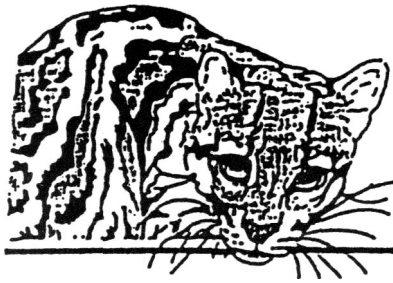


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This little male margay resides at the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Vernon Yates, owner, and Debra Parker work hard to care for not only margays, but tigers, cougars, leopards, bobcats, as well as other species of wildlife. Jayne Anderson, who took this photo, visited with Vernon recently and found his cats to be very well-fed and healthy.



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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IRIOMOTE CAT: KING OF THE NIGHT

By Shigeki Yasuma

Today you can travel from Tokyo to the island of Irimote in a very short time. With planes and highspeed boats, it is easy to get there in a day. But when I first visited the place, in 1965, the trip took about a week. I boarded a boat in Tokyo and then had to change to ships at Okinawa for Ishigaki, a neighboring island. Service from Ishigaki to Iriomote was sporadic, with only one boat leaving every three days.

Iriomote is one of the Yaeyama islands, the southernmost group of Japan's Ryukyu chain. Often called the Galapagos of the Orient, the Yaeyamas are home to an incredible variety of native birds, butterflies, and plants. Iriomote, lying only about 120 miles east of Taiwan, is shaped like a distorted square. It has an area of 110 square miles and is composed mostly of sandstone and sedimentary rock.

During that first visit I was impressed by the exotic nature of the island. Everything I saw was new to me - thick jungles, mangrove swamps, flying foxes, scorpions. Much of the landscape is hilly; the highest peak, Komi-dake, rises to 1,550 feet. About 80 percent of the island is covered with broadleaf evergreen forest and dense mangrove swamp.

The human population on Iriomote reached about 3,000 during the 1960's a period when a number of immigrants, mainly from Okinawa, settled there. The people lived in small villages occupying the narrow flat areas along the coast. Most of them tended pineapple or sugarcane fields and rice paddies. The roads were narrow and unpaved, there were few shops in which to purchase daily necessities, and people could use electric lights only two hours each night. Many of the pioneers never realized their dreams of economic prosperity and so they gradually left the island. Currently the population is about 1,400 - most of whom subsist on the pineapple or sugarcane farms or work in the tourist industry.

I first went to Iriomote because I had heard of the discovery earlier that same year of the Iriomote cat - a species new to science. In two trips to the island, Mr. Yukio Togawa, a writer and naturalist, had been told of the cat's existence by islanders and had obtained two skins and three skulls. On his way back to Tokyo, Mr. Togawa stopped off on Okinawa, where he visited Dr. Tetsuo Takara, a professor at the University of Ryukyus, to discuss the wild cat. Because the university did not have the facilities for studying the cat, Dr. Takara loaned another skin and a skull to Mr. Togawa, who took all the specimens to Dr. Yoshinori Imaizumi, a taxonomist at the National Science Museum in Tokyo. Two years later, the animal was declared a new species - *Felis iriomotensis*.

The average adult male Iriomote cat is 20 to 22 inches in length, its long, bushy tail adding another 10 to 12 inches and it weighs about nine pounds - a little heavier than the average domestic cat, with a longer, more rugged body and shorter legs. The female is smaller, weighing around seven pounds. Both sexes look alike. Their backs and upper sides of their tails are dark brown and their sides are grayish brown with lots of blackish spots. From a distance, the animals look dark brown all over. The ears are round with

IRIMOTE CAT - cont.

broad white stripes on the back; white markings run from the forehead down along both sides of the big nose, and white lines circle the eyes.

Seven years elapsed between my first visit to Iriomote and the beginning of my research on the cat. During that time I acquainted myself with all aspects of the island, exploring the forests and coasts, meeting people, observing native animals and plants and taking pictures. I was interested primarily in the island as a whole, but I came to realize that the cat - as the major predator at the top of the food chain - was very important. When all Iriomote Island is considered as an ecosystem, the Iriomote cat is its reigning monarch. By understanding the life of the cat, it would be possible, I felt, to understand the whole nature of the island.

In 1972, at about the time I began to concentrate on the cat, the Japanese government designated *F. iriomotensis* a natural treasure. In 1973, I became a member of a joint Nippon-German project on the Iriomote cat and learned much about wild cats from Dr. Paul Leyhausen, a German ethologist and world-renowned expert on felids. In the same year, accompanied by another member of the team, I succeeded in photographing the cat. And in 1975, I took the first 16mm footage of the Iriomote cat. Each year since the mid-1970s, I have lived on the island for extensive periods to pursue my research.

My first challenge was to find the cats - not an easy task because the species is solitary and largely nocturnal. From talking to wild boar hunters and woodcutters, I learned that it ranged throughout the mountains and forested areas. Though it was not commonly seen, the cat sometimes appeared near villages and beaches. A considerable number of feral cats lived there too, some of which I trapped so that I could study them as well. It was not difficult to distinguish the feral cats from the Iriomotes. Their hair patterns differ, and the urine and feces of the Iriomote cat have a distinctive odor - like the smell of the leaves and flowers of *Acacia confusa* (a local tree), only much stronger.

Each Iriomote cat inhabits a territory of about one square mile, but territories overlap. A loner, the cat is active mainly from evening to early morning. During the day, it rests in crevices of rocks, in tree holes, or on branches. Only a few times have I seen the cats active in daylight. But I have collected more than 800 fecal samples and have discovered that they eat *Eumeces Kishinouyei*, the largest skink in Japan. This lizard is active only in the daytime; it hides in holes in the ground from evening until morning. So the cats must sometimes hunt during the day.

In addition to the skinks, Iriomote cats eat almost all the animals on the island: mammals such as fruit bats and rats; birds such as brown-eared bulbuls, banded cranes, and doves; snakes; frogs; other lizards and insects. And they occasionally catch crabs and fish.

Once I found out where the cats lived and what they ate, I concentrated on studying their feeding behavior. I set up feeding stations and cameras in areas where Iriomote cats were most likely to appear. I attached a device to each camera so that its shutter was automatically tripped whenever the bait was pulled. Sometimes the meat was taken by rats and crows, and I had many problems with the cameras because of the dampness on the island.

One evening, while fixing a broken camera at a feeding station, I heard an animal moving about in the bush. I turned off my light and kept still

IRIOMOTE CAT - cont.

because the animal did not seem to have noticed me. A moment later, an Iriomote cat came out of the bush about six feet away from me. I turned the light on, and two large, golden eyes gleamed in the darkness; I could clearly see the cat's greenish pupils. The next moment the cat jumped into the bush and disappeared. The following day I returned to the feeding area and discovered that the meat had been eaten as usual, which meant the encounter with me had not stopped the cat from feeding there. This encouraged me to try to observe the cats directly.

After securing either a mouse, a rat, or a chicken as bait, I would wait in a tree near where an Iriomote cat usually came to eat. Sometimes I had to wait for six hours before the cat appeared and then I would see it only by the dim light of the moon and stars. I could be sure it had arrived by the sounds of crunching bones as it ate its prey.

Then I began using an ordinary electric lamp to observe the cats. They didn't run away, even when I turned the light on and off.

But waiting for several hours for a cat to arrive was very tiring and it was difficult to continue these observations day in and day out. So I constructed a three-by-six-foot blind in a tree and set up a signal to notify me whenever a cat appeared. This handmade device consisted of a switch mounted on an underground board at the feeding point. The board was close to the surface and the switch was connected to a string either stretched around the feeding point or tied around the bait. When a cat tripped the alarm, a small electric light lit up or a buzzer faintly buzzed in the blind.

From direct observation and from looking at many photos, I have discovered some of the Iriomote cat's hunting habits. After the cat locates its prey, it creeps up to it from behind rocks or grass. The cat then springs at the prey and bites it in the neck, keeping its own head and body still. The bite catches the prey with the right or the left canine, severing the spinal cord - a common killing technique among felids. After killing its prey, the cat drags it to the nearest cover and temporarily abandons it. At this time the cat usually walks out of my sight, but considering the smells and noises, it seems to me that the cat doesn't go far.

After a while, a cat comes back and starts to eat. If the bait is a chicken, the cat plucks it first. Then, bending forward, it eats the animal without touching it with its forelimbs. After the meal, the cat grooms itself and takes a rest, with forelimbs tucked under the chest, as most cats do, especially the small Old World cats. There are a few practices, however, which differ from those of smaller cats: for example; the Iriomote cat does not usually hold the prey with its forelimbs or loosen its bite while attacking. These differences, and the species swiftness in trees, indicate that the Iriomote cat essentially lives in the forests, spending some time each day in trees. I think it has developed the habit of not letting go of its prey in response to the need to catch bats and birds in a dense subtropical rain forests of Iriomote.

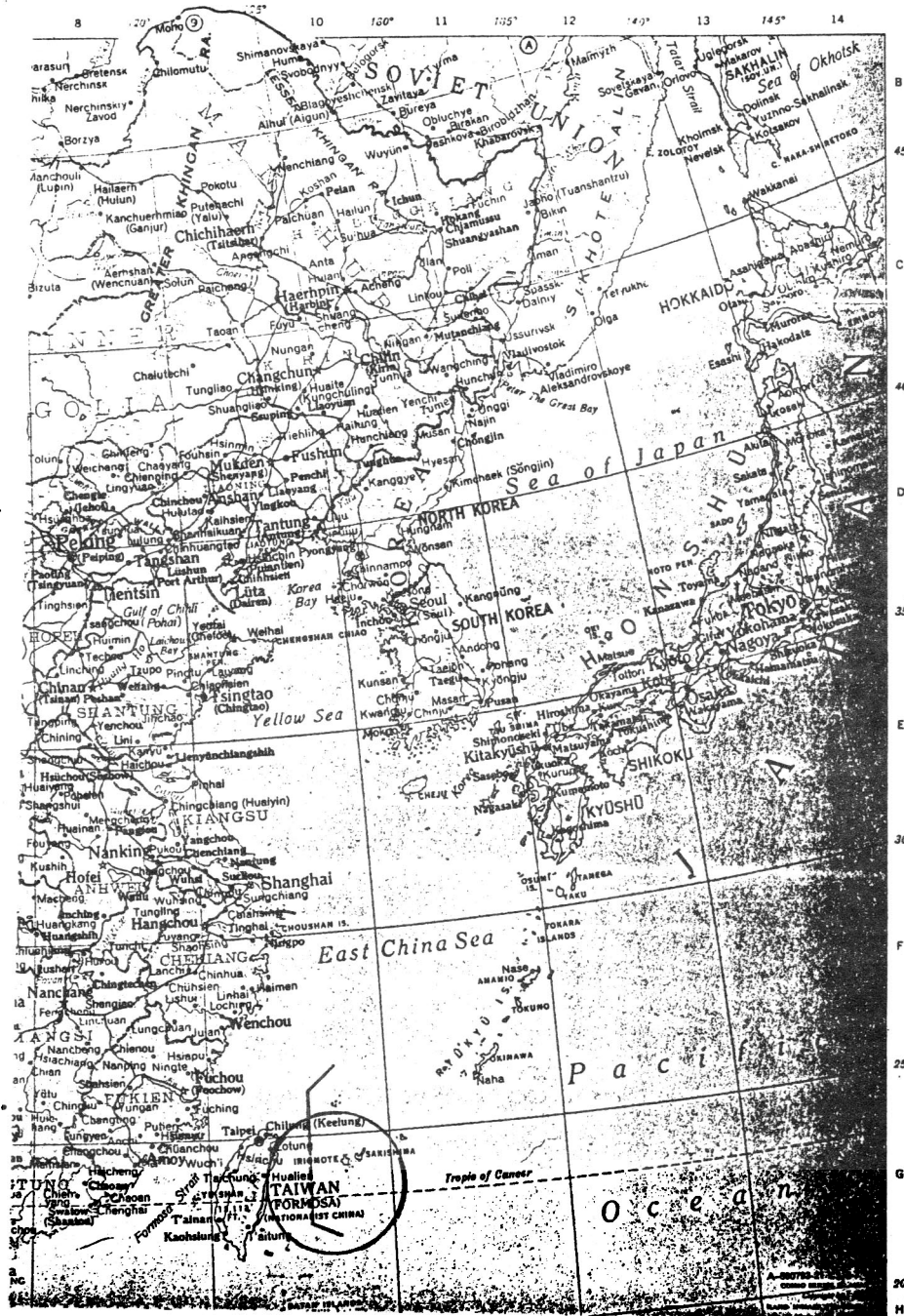
From 1980 to 1986, the Environmental Agency of Japan provided supplementary feeding for Iriomote cats - a project I was against from the beginning. My reasons were that it might affect the cats' behaviour, leading to loss of their natural habits; the food might be eaten by feral cats; the feeding sites might become dirty, attracting rats and flies; and Iriomote cats could become dependent on the food and might develop a new habit of attacking farm chickens.

IRIOMOTE CAT - cont.

According to a 1985 report, published by the researchers from the University of Kyushu and the University of the Ryukyus, the feeding program did cause these problems. They observed fat Iriomote cats who limited their territories to small areas around the feeding sites; cats going back and forth between feeding sites and an increased vulnerability to baited traps. Moreover, cats that the researchers outfitted with identification collars for their study often appeared in villages and attacked chickens. In April, 1986, this feeding project was suspended.

During the course of my research I wanted to know the sexes of the animals I spotted; but Iriomote cats usually keep their tails down making it impossible to see the external sex organs. I noticed, however, that the cats always raise their tails at certain times: when they attack prey, when they pull at the meat at feeding stations, when they jump from high places, when they straighten their backs, and when they descend into a hold or pit. I designed a sex-distinguishing device that made use of the last habit.

To construct the device, I stood a 20-inch-long cylinder on end in a pail. I put a lump of meat at the bottom of the cylinder and hung a step on the side of the pail facing the observation blind. At the beginning the cats were cautious near the device. But soon they recognized that it was not dangerous



CHINA, MONGOLIA, KOREA, JAPAN AND TAIWAN

IRIOMOTE CAT - cont.

and went up the step to get at the meat inside. At the moment the cats crept into the cylinder they raised their tails revealing their external sex organs. So far, I have observed 12 Iriomote cats - 10 adults (six males and four females.) and two youngsters - over a period of 150 days. And I have encountered about 10 Iriomote cats of unknown sex in the mountains.

The cats have two breeding seasons each year: February-March and September-October. They rarely vocalize but in these months, one often hears them crying. Their mating sounds are similar to those of domestic cats, and when they are fighting, they sound like dogs, and even make bow-wow sounds.

Gestation lasts two months, and litters usually contain four kittens. The females often use holes in rocks as their dens, but one woodcutter found a newborn kitten being fed in a hollow tree about six feet above the ground. Young Iriomote cats leave their nests a month or so earlier than domestic kittens, which are not independent until they are four months old. Iriomote kittens born at the end of April or May have been seen alone in July or August. I have not been able to determine if this indicates a permanent separation from their parents. Unfortunately, no one, including me, knows how Iriomote cats raise their young.

I would like to study the life history of these cats from about seven months of age - courtship, pairing, giving birth, rearing and educating the kittens, and how the young are weaned from their parents. To accomplish this I must live on Iriomote for a continuous 12 month period - something I cannot do now because of my busy schedule. **No one is studying the Iriomote cat at present and only amateur photographers have visited the island to take pictures.**

There are about 40 species in the cat family, which some scientists divide into three subfamilies: Felinae, including all the small cats; Pantherinae, big cats such as lions, tigers and leopards; and Acinonychinae, composed of only the cheetah. Dr. Imaizumi believes that the Iriomote cat belongs to a separate subfamily, Metailurinae, which flourished 10 million years ago and is now considered extinct. According to my observations, however, the feeding behavior of the Iriomote cat is similar to that of cats belonging to Felinae, and the pattern on the cat's cheeks is common among Old World cats. In addition, its habit of folding its forelimbs under its chest while resting is a characteristic typical of Old World cats. For these reasons, I think the Iriomote cat belongs to Felinae and is closely related to the fishing cat (*F. viverrinus*) and the leopard cat (*F. bengalensis*) of Asia.

Whatever its origins, *F. iriomotensis* is losing its habitat and faces a future that is dubious at best. The exact number of Iriomote cats is not known, but in the mid-1980s, the researchers from the University of the Ryukyus and Kyushu University, using radio telemetry devices, calculated the number to be between 80 and 100, which is similar to my estimates. Because the species is restricted to Iriomote Island, it has the smallest population and the smallest range of all the wild cat species in the world.

Despite the fact that Japan has set aside a third of the island as a national reserve, has designated the Iriomote cat as a natural treasure, and now prohibits anyone from trapping the animal for any reason, the species' numbers are declining. Curiously, hunting of the Ryukyu wild boar - considered a pest - is allowed even on the national reserve. **And each year, two or three Iriomote cats die in traps set for wild boars.** This kind of inconsistency occurs

IRIOMOTE CAT - cont.

because the laws concerning natural treasures are administered by three different government agencies.

Even the Ryukyu wild boar is threatened with extinction. It occurs on five of the islands in the archipelago, but its total population - estimated at 3,000 ten years ago - has decreased by two-thirds. Hunters report that they are finding fewer and fewer boars.

The problems faced by the Iriomote cat, the Ryukyu wild boar, and other native wildlife are inextricably tied to the economy of the archipelago, which has recently begun to feel the impact of Japan's rapid development. A highway now traverses about a third of Iriomote's coastal area, and there are plans to build a road across the island and through the national reserve to link the southern and northern ends of the highway.

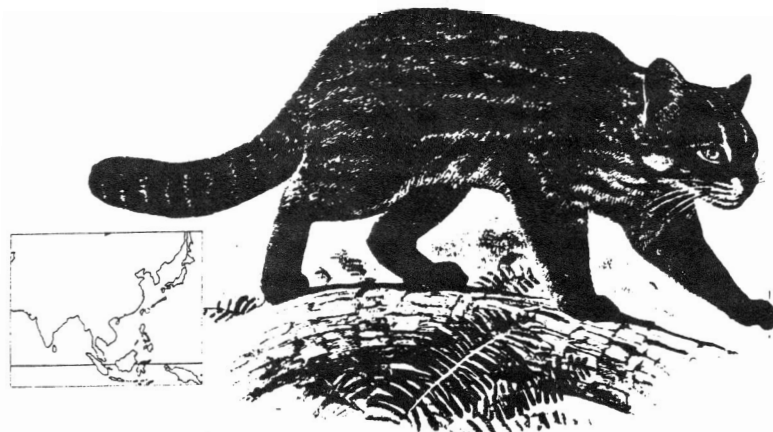
Construction of a large dam in the mountains has been proposed. Its presence would alter the natural flow of water and might pose a serious threat to the mangroves in the estuaries. The archipelago represents the northern limit of mangrove forests in Asia.

By far the most damaging proposal is for a new airport for the island of Ishigaki - now only 40 minutes by boat from Iriomote. Ishigaki already has an airport connecting it to Okinawa, but the proposed airport would provide direct access to Tokyo. Plans call for airport to be built atop the Shiraho coral reef - one of the few remaining viable coral reefs in the region. To make matters worse, construction plans include demolition of a nearby mountain to provide landfill for the airport. The coral would be killed, and erosion from the destruction of the mountain could affect a much larger area, threatening not only wildlife but the livelihoods of local fishermen and farmers.

Island residents have strongly opposed conservation efforts to increase the size of the national reserve and to designate a sanctuary for the Iriomote cat. Rather, they welcome development because it would add much needed revenue to their low and uncertain incomes. But the Island's desire to keep up with the twentieth century may mean the demise of their way of life as well as the native wildlife.

Time is running out for the Iriomote cat. If strict conservation measures are not instituted in the near future, the species may not survive into the twenty-first century.

**In addition to his research on the Iriomote cat, Dr. Yasuma is studying the mammals and ecology of East Kalimantan, Indonesia.



Guest Editorial

I am writing this letter to the entire membership because I'm concerned about our future. Breeding information has traditionally been difficult to acquire from private breeding programs. Some private breeders to include LIOC-ESCF, are too greedy to share their knowledge. Zoos, on the other hand, do not want to share their breeding knowledge with anyone outside the Zoo industry. I have been a student of Zoology ever since I graduated from college and began to realize I really did not learn anything about how to really care for animals. This knowledge is much more difficult to acquire. I have always worked in the more traditional areas of Mammalogy. I am presently enrolled in an internship type of program at our Capitol City Zoo (AAZPA) in Rhode Island.

Often I hear my fellow zoo keepers and Biologist from local colleges and lecture series say that private ownership of exotic felines is wrong and these people only have these "pets" for ego trips. Yes, in part. Not everyone is suitable for exotic animal ownership. In fact, many people have no business at all even to own a household cat or dog!

But I do believe there is a need for private ownership. As Lynn Culver once said, "Experts are not born, they evolve from trial and error, applied studies, dedication and hard work". Much of what we know about ocelot, serval, cougar, and other feline species comes from the daily care and observations of LIOC-ESCF members. The hands-on experience that you have can not be learned in any textbooks. I'm living proof of this. I can write a scientific paper on the Ocelot (*Felis pardalis*), but until just very recently, I had never touched one. (While visiting Lynn and Bart Culver this past April, they introduced me to fellow LIOC member Keith Kerr, owner of the Hot Springs Zoological Park, where I was thrilled to have touched my first ocelot.)

In all the world, there aren't enough zoos to effectively maintain 1% of the species currently threatened. It has been reported by some Genetic experts, that you would need about 100 breeders per species to maintain a healthy gene pool. Zoos, government agencies, and nonprofit groups do not have enough manpower or funds to do this job. That is where people like you and LIOC-ESCF come in.

Our purpose as stated in our Members Handbook is "Preserve, Protect, and Propagate" the felines in captivity. We must help our members become a part of the solution and not the problem the media and government agencies say we are. We should be able to reap sufficient rewards for our own good, so we can perpetuate and improve our effort.

Ken Hatfield's letter to us is a "Warning Order". Many animal lobbying groups are pushing for the elimination of all private ownership of exotic animals. Ken says, "we must multiply our numbers to be effective".

Yes, we must multiply our membership, but, we better start providing education in the care of the feline in captivity. We need to offer regional training sites where a new member or old member can go

to get smart on the animal they want to own. That is another subject for future investigation by our elected officers.

If we don't start working together like the Zoos do thru SSP and other breeding information data exchanges, we as private breeders, are doomed to fail. We can't survive as individuals. We must work together, share information, and publish our findings. In short, we must become more media orientated. We must advertise. LIOC-ESCF needs much more media exposure. Action is the end product of information processing, without it, you can't have usable knowledge.

When we vote for our new term directors, let's be sure we have the commitment that will be required to get the job done. Timing is everything - this is the time for action. Private ownership is in trouble. The Advertising and Publicity, Education and Conservation Directors will be key personal for our "Battle Plan". We must provide education and training for those who need it.

Katie Knight-Monteiro (ExotiCare, Inc.) recently took older Margays from my Zoo. When I informed my supervisor that Katie was one of the LIOC ESCF Directors, and had the education and practical experience to care for these cats and that the two Margays were doing fine, he was surprised and unaware, we had this capability to do this type of professional care. Al Porges is another officer who takes the time needed to train new members. These two individuals and may more of you that have helped new members, deserve our thanks and recognition.

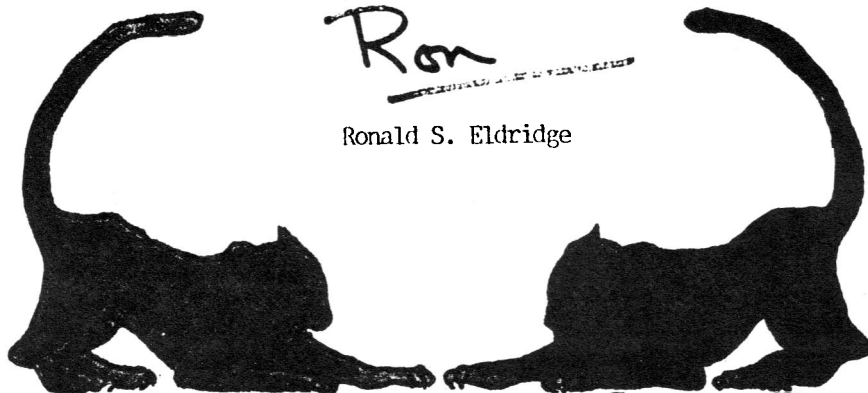
Many of us believe that all our problems will be solved by our government or someone else. If one studies history, especially the founding of our country, it has always been the people, each and everyone of us, acting together, informed and educated that has influenced change. You and I can make a difference.

Pat Hoctor said it much better than I can, when he said, "We must all work together and find answers to the problems we all know exist."

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald S. Eldridge



March 16, 1992

Ms Lynn Culver, LIOC Secretary
Rte. 6 Box BC56A
Mena, AR 71953

Dear Lynn,

As bi-annually provided, We the undersigned, bonafide LIOC-ESCF members in good standing, hereby motion that:

1. That the LIOC-ESCF abolish its Constitution in its entirety.

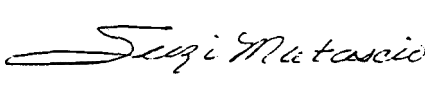
Reason: The Constitution is an entirely superfluous document unnecessarily carried forward from its pre incorporation period. It is poorly written, vague, inconsistent, and posses other structural problems when coupled with Roberts' Rules. All LIOC-ESCF, as a Non-Profit Corporation, needs is its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Whatever is valued in the Constitution can be moved to either document. It will streamline our format and make it easier to understand and amend if necessary.

2. An advisory committee of not less than 3 of non-Board members be established to solicit and recommend organization Article and By-Law reforms to the Board for review and decision at convention, prior to a final Membership vote, determined by a simple majority of respondents. The report of this committee must be reported in its entirety in the Newsletter, along with supporting and rebutting comments, without censorship prior to convention and afterward prior to final member vote.

Reason: The organization suffers from undue dominance and secrecy of the Executive Board who favor rules that only further thier personal viewpoints and not necessarily benefit LIOC members or animals. A non Board advisory committee of members could restore some common sense accountability rules that place the ultimate organization power and Newsletter decisions back in the hands of it Members, when they feel the Board is unresponsive to its wishes.

Sincerely,


Fred Boyajian
927-188


Suzi Mutascio


John Van Stry

Abolish the Constitution . . . ?

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In this issue you will find a motion to abolish our Constitution and incorporate it (in some form) into our Articles of Incorporation. In order to make an informed choice in this matter, it is necessary that you also know the history, the hows & whys, of our evolution - a short history lesson, if you will.

You may know that LIOC was initially formed by Catherine Cisin in the mid-50's, and flourished under her "benign dictatorship" until her resignation in late 1971. At that point, she appointed her successor as Editor (then there were only two true staff members - Editor and Secretary). Over the next year, changes were made in the newsletter which the general membership did not take to heart. It was at the first convention in 1972 that a committee was formed to study the matter and suggest rules by which we could govern ourselves. This committee contained some LIOC greats - among them The Brills, Mike Balbo, Bill Engler, Bob Peraner, John Parmore, Jan Thomas and yours truly, among others - a total of eleven, including attorney William Boyle.

This committee came up with the Constitution (in place today) and the By-laws which were drastically overhauled in 1987. In announcing the drafting committee, (Volume 17 #2) it was stated: "opinions from members are sought and will be given serious and thorough consideration. It is important that your ideas be given now since it is difficult to change or amend a constitution." The constitution is the "core" of our organization and its structure.

In 1980, we incorporated as a non-profit organization. The Articles of Incorporation are a legal requirement, they are also easily amended - they are not meant to be a foundation of our organization. LIOC has grown and evolved - but the constitution has remained intact for all this time, it is our focus.

Having served continuously (except for a short one year in the early 70's) in three different capacities: first as an appointee of Catherine's as Secretary, then as a Term Director from 1972 until my election to Life Director in 1988, I have been bound by the Constitution. I have personally encountered no situation I felt hindered LIOC's operation in working under the current Constitution. The reason I make a point of mentioning this, is that the motion in this issue is two-fold 1) to abolish the constitution, and failing that 2) set up a NON-BOARD committee to make a recommendation. To ask some one who has never worked within our framework to comment on it seems a bit silly. This supposedly is to keep us "insiders" from having input. I must remind you that YOU elect each and every person on the Board - are your decisions not to be trusted?

Since we are in the midst of a general election, it is a good time to stress that it is the people YOU vote for who will govern LIOC for the next two years. As with any elected body, the organization is only as effective as those who serve. Because the Board is democratically elected, it is absurd to think they are not responsive to the members who will or won't re-elect them in two years. Come to Convention, talk with the Candidates, or if that is impossible, write or call them to ask their views. Make an informed choice. This is the way to make a difference.

The issue of abolishing the constitution or incorporating it into the Articles of Incorporation is so much poppycock. Change for change sake. They are separate and distinct instruments. Robert's Rules only suggests areas to be addressed in a "sample" constitution. Ours comply. The Articles are easily amended; the Constitution, our foundation is not and rightly so. To amend the constitution requires a two-thirds vote (as stated in Robert's Rules) of the membership - you can change them. You also elect those who can change the Articles of Incorporation - the Board of Directors. **You are in control.** No Board, even if duly elected should however be able to easily change the foundation of an organization, which is why the Constitution is more difficult to amend.

It is my feeling that during the last two or three terms, entirely too much time has been devoted to working on structural issues such as this - under Fred's presidency, the by-laws were completely rewritten, rather than working on projects which will ultimately benefit the cats. Our Constitution, having served us well for close to twenty years ain't broke - don't fix it. Elect wise leaders and VOTE NO on abolishing the Constitution, as well as NO to wasting more time on meaningless structural changes for changes sake alone. The constitution works, even if it allows motions such as this to be brought up and demands a vote.

Shirley Wagner
Shirley Wagner

John Perry
John Perry
President

Carin Carmichael
Carin Carmichael
Member since 1967

Michael Balbo
Michael Balbo
Past Life Director

Roger Harmon
Roger Harmon
Past Life Director

Jan Giacinto
Jan Giacinto
member since 1963

Katie Knight-Monteiro
Katie Knight-Monteiro
Term Director

Jerry Boyle
Jerry Boyle (1983)
Pres. Pacific N.W. Exotics

Gayle Schaecher
Gayle Schaecher
Member since 1972

Jean Hatfield
Jean Hatfield
Member since 1962

Barbara Wilton
Barbara Wilton
Term Director -1969

Ken Hatfield
Ken Hatfield
Past President &
Life Director

Ethel Hauser
Ethel Hauser
Past Life Director

David Salisbury
David Salisbury
Member since 1964

April 29, 1992

President's Perspective

I appreciate the responses you all made to the USDI request for comments on changing the treatment of captive bread endangered species. The Board will make every effort to keep you posted on developments. The implications are many for us if USDI does make drastic changes. It is important to make sure that the changes are positive ones.

It is with regret that I accepted Ethel Hauser's resignation as life director effective March 31, 1992. Ethel has supported the organization for many years, first as vice-president and then as life director.

In this issue, you have received ballots for voting on three constitutional issues proposed by members. I would strongly urge you to vote **NO** on all three. This is the first time in the sixteen years of my membership that I remember constitutional issues being presented, and unfortunately, these are not such that they should be approved. I want to share my logic in detail.

In the matter of the President having served on the Executive Board prior to being nominated: This is a nice thought in that the President would know how the Board worked and would have had a chance to demonstrate prior commitment to serving the membership. However, I feel it is too restrictive in that it bars too many otherwise qualified people from running. The purpose of having life directors is to provide continuity. They can provide information to a President who has no experience on the Board.

In the matter of the Constitution vs the Articles of Incorporation: First, this is a backwards effort. We should first examine what should or is necessary to do in the way of compatibility between the two documents then make appropriate changes. We shouldn't throw out the Constitution then decide what is to be done. It's like committing suicide and then deciding to look at the problem. The second part of the motion to establish a committee is very restrictive. It makes provision only for non-Board members. The Board is the group that has to interface with the operating documents regularly and is most aware of what the problems and benefits of the articles are. This is not to say that there shouldn't be non-Board participation, but that there should be definite Board participation.

With the forthcoming elections, there will be a large change in Executive Board membership. I feel it would be worth while to take a part of the annual meeting to discuss people's feelings about what the organization is doing, what it ought to be doing, and what it can be doing. (This discussion is to be moderated by an unbiased inside consultant -- namely me, to prevent it from turning into a shouting match.) This will provide input to insure that the new Board gets off to a successful start. My personal emphasis is on what can be put together as information that is needed by owners/breeders. Others may emphasize the political issues. The important target to keep sight of and to avoid getting bogged down, is "What is best for the cats?" For all the organizational/interpersonal disagreement that goes on, it seems that it's most beneficial to talk to specifics around the cats. It seems like 80% of the effort at the national level goes into organizational issues and only 20% into directly cat oriented ones. (Note, this is not financial spending, but time and effort!) A big part of my decision not to run for re-election was to give myself more time for projects oriented toward the welfare of our cats.

Nominations Accepted By Candidates For Board Positions

The following people have accepted nomination to serve on the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. Board of Directors. In the next two issues of the newsletter, candidates will provide biographical information, and answers to questions. Election ballots will be included in the September/October issue of the newsletter. We urge all members to acquaint themselves with these persons and their views on private ownership, conservation, education, and member assistance. Their tenure, if elected as LIOC ESCFI board members, will be from January 1, 1993 to December 31, 1994.

President - Jan Giacinto
Jerry Boyle
Katie Knight-Monteiro

Vice President - Al Porges
Gail Schaecher

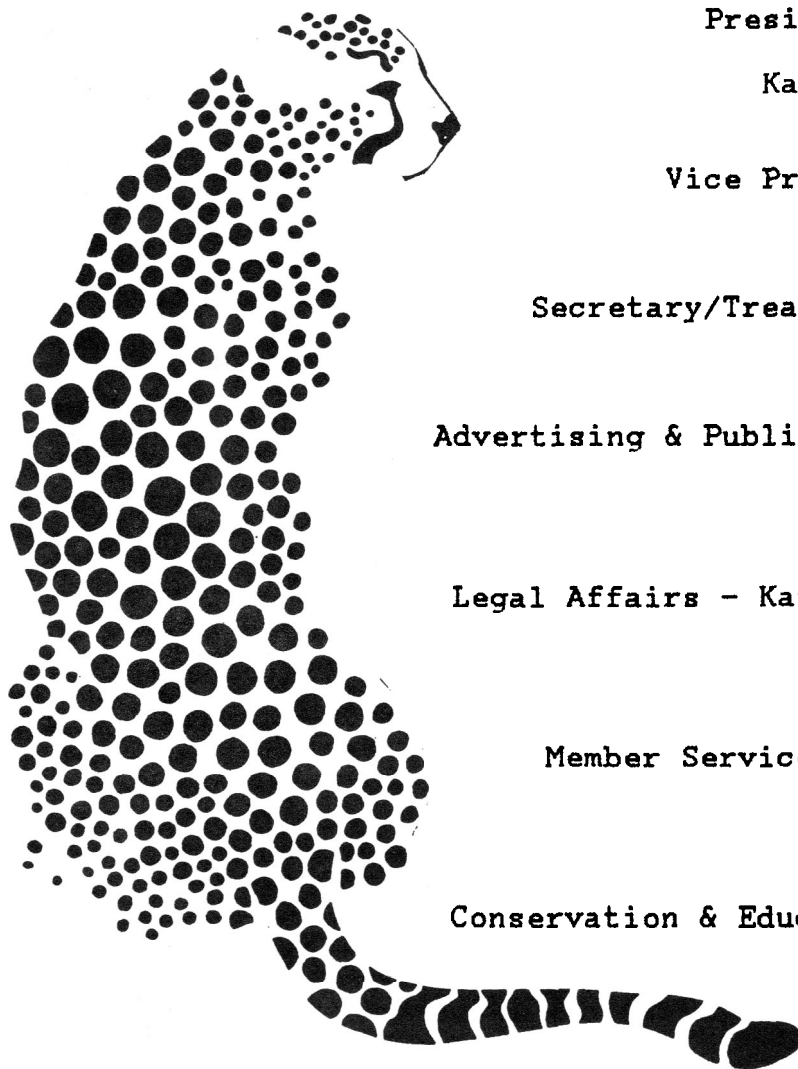
Secretary/Treasurer - Lynn Culver

Advertising & Publicity - Ron Eldridge

Legal Affairs - Katie Knight-Monteiro
Sharon Roe

Member Services - Barbara Wilton
Glen Davis

Conservation & Education - Sharon Roe



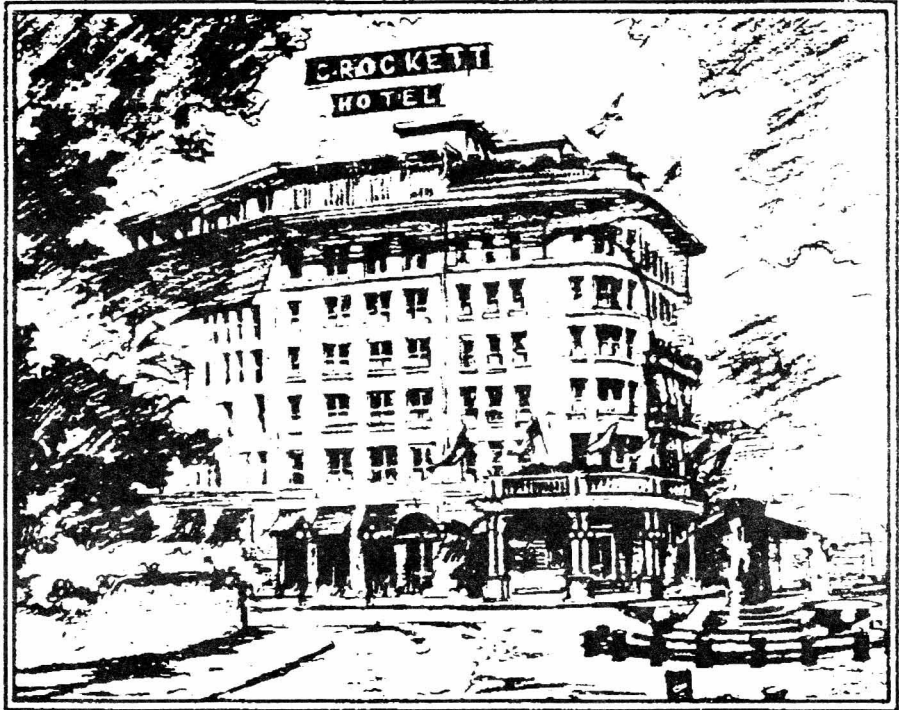
San Antonio Convention goers will have an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with these candidates. Other members will also be given an opportunity to pose questions to these candidates through the newsletter. If you have any questions you would like answered by the candidates, please mail your questions to the secretary, Lynn Culver, at Route 6 Box BC56A, Mena, Arkansas 71953. We will be publishing the questions and the candidate's answers in future newsletters.

READY, SET, GO TO SAN ANTONIO!

CONVENTION '92

UPDATE

San Antonio is historically rich, culturally diverse with simply delightful surroundings. When you arrive at the Crockett Hotel, you know you are in San Antonio. The carefully renovated Crockett Hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Structures.



When you stay at the Crockett, you know you're in a luxurious hotel; landscaped pool, complete with its own waterfall. . . lush, tropical courtyard. . . rooftop hot tub and sundeck.

**Keep
this
date
open!**

August 13-16, 1992

Crockett Hotel

San Antonio, Texas

CONVENTION 1992!

COME TO THE CONVENTION!

SOME OF THE SAN ANTONIO ATTRACTIONS,

The Alamo - Located just ten steps from the Crockett Hotel.

Arneson River Theatre - The river is as much a part of the performance as the performers here. The theater features shows from mariachis to flamenco to opera to country and western music.

Brakenridge Park, Zoo, and Japanese Tea Garden - Explore a world class zoo. Discover the essence of serenity of the wonderful Japanese Tea Garden.

Imax Theater - in Rivercenter Mall - Breathtaking examples of special cinematography on a screen that's six stories high!

Market Square - Filled with colorful crafts, culture food, and fun.

Sea World of Texas - The largest marine life theme park in the world.

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 Texas 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)

DON'T MISS OUR SPECIAL FEATURED SPEAKERS!

Mike Tewes, director, Ceasar Kelberg Wildlife Research Institute & Dr. Steve Garner, D.V.M., of Safari Animal Care

Genetic Variation in Sri Lankan Leopards

S. Miththapala, J. Seidensticker, L.G. Phillips, K.L. Goodrowe, S.B.U. Fernando, L. Forman, and S.J. O'Brien

How much genetically determined variation should be retained in the captive leopard (*Panthera pardus*) population to maintain long-term viability and flexibility to environmental changes? Should leopard subspecies be recognized in designing a long-term captive breeding program? Historically, the geographic distribution of the leopard (*P. pardus*) extended through much of Africa, the Middle East, Asia Minor, South and Southeast Asia, to the Amur Valley in the Asian Far East. Some 27 subspecies, 13 in Africa and 14 in Asia, have been described based on geographic distribution and phenotypic variation Newman's et al.'s (1985) allozyme survey of captive leopards placed them among the most polymorphic of the big cats. There are no genetic data available for any wild population of leopards, but, given the number of subspecies that have been described, it is reasonable to assume that geographically distinct wild populations will differ in the extent and character of genetic variation.

One entree into this question is to examine genetic variation in geographically isolated leopard population. In the present study, we have examined allozyme variation of Sri Lankan leopards, which form one of only two extant island leopards populations; the other is Java.

Using leopards from the collection of the National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka, we conducted a survey of gene variation from electrophoretic data. In this report, we compare our findings with those of Newman et al. (1985) for the general population of captive leopards, and captive-born island leopards. In addition, we wanted to determine whether there were genetic markers among the subspecies of leopards that we examined.

33 leopards were sampled. Seven were wild caught leopards from Sri Lanka (*P. p. kotiya*); 15 were captive-born leopards from this subspecies; 5 were related melanistic leopards, whose founders were *P. p. delacouri* that were obtained from peninsular Malaysia in the mid-1960s; two were leopards of known hybrid lineage of these two subspecies; and four were leopards of unknown status (possibly hybrid)

All samples produced 48 invariant loci but were polymorphic for two loci. This study revealed a detectable decrease in percent polymorphism of *P. pardus kotiya* (Sri Lankan subspecies) compared with that found in the general population of captive leopards derived from mainland founders. Loci polymorphic in captive mainland leopards - Adenosine deaminase (ADA), Esterase-a (ESU-a), Hemoglobin (Hb), and Transferrin (TF) - were invariant in all 33 leopards screened at the National Zoological Garden of Sri Lanka.

The captive-born *delacouri* (Malaysia subspecies) lineage had been inbred to maintain melanism. The level of polymorphism in this inbred lineage was remarkably similar to that found in both wild-caught and captive-born *kotiya* leopards. There are no data from wild caught *delacouri* leopards for comparison.

The level of variation in the kotiya leopards ranks low in comparison with other big cats. The revised values of percentage polymorphism (P) and average heterozygosity (H) for mainland captive leopards in Newman's (1983) study place them with tigers (*Panthera tigris*), among the most polymorphic of big cats. The degree of polymorphism in the kotiya leopards was comparable to free-ranging lions (*Panthera leo*) from the Ngorongoro Crater. Located near the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro lion population is virtually isolated geographically, with only about 36% of the variation observed in Serengeti lions. The reduction observed in the Ngorongoro population was attributed to a demographic bottleneck caused by a *Stomoxys* fly epizootic. The decrease in polymorphism between the leopards in Newman's (1983) study and the Sri Lankan leopards is about 40% and parallels the reduction observed in the isolated lion population. The loci that we found polymorphic in this study were a subset of the variable loci in Newman's study, again paralleling the profile observed in the Ngorongoro and Serengeti lions. Our study also presents further evidence that island populations are usually less variable genetically than mainland conspecifics.

Adenosine phosphoribosyl transferase (APRT) was one of the loci polymorphic in both the Newman et al (1985) study and our study. In both the Newman et al. sample and the delacouri leopards, both alleles that are present are well represented. However, in the kotiya leopards (both wild caught and captive-born), the frequency of the commoner allele is much higher. Both the loss of allele variation and this shift in allele frequency suggest a founder event in history of the Sri Lankan subspecies. We assume that this founder event occurred when Sri Lanka last separated from India by rising sea levels about 10, 000 years BP.

Genetic markers distinguishing delacouri and kotiya subspecies were not observed in this study, although differences in polymorphic loci have been observed that distinguish other subspecies of big cats. Newman et al. (1985) reported allelic differences between tiger subspecies *P. t. altaica* and *P. p. tigris*, and O'Brien et al. (1987) demonstrated biochemical differences between Asian lions (*P. l. persica*) and African lions (*P. l. leo*).

No significant differences in polymorphic loci were observed between the leopard subspecies examined. Overall results revealed a detectable decrease in genetic variability in Sri Lankan leopards compared with a previous study of captive leopards from mainland origins. The maintenance of genetic variation within the captive lineage of *P. p. kotiya* requires careful attention to founder contribution and avoidance of inbreeding. The results of this survey do not provide sufficient information to make management decisions concerning the maintenance of the various subspecies in captive leopard breeding programs. This can be done only when samples from across the leopard's geographic range become available for analysis.

condensed from Zoo Biology October, 1991

contributed by John Perry



Litter Box

Dear Members of LIOC,

The President has issued an opinion on the status of the Membership List and Board policy. However, this is only an opinion, not a By-law, and he can not make Board policy. He should be able to set policies of his administration, but under the watered down version of the By-laws, which he supported, the president is enfeebled from

doing anything other than speak his mind and we are not bound by it.

Further, this is a Member Organization and the Board is planning to distribute a membership roster anyway which we are all duly entitled to as a implicit member benefit. Nowhere in the By-laws is the Board charged with a custodial responsibility for the list. Where are they given these superior member privileges? I insist that we all have equal access to other members for singular and mass communications without running through a Board member, as our basic right.

Ken's letter to the membership was entirely appropriate, not because a board member supported his viewpoint and helped him with the mechanics, without divulging the actual list, not because he was a past officer/director, and not because of its contents. He simply felt strong enough about a particular point of view that he wanted to communicate; to which we are all entitled in a free society.

I further deplore the Board's refusal to print my other letters in this newsletter based on whimsical censorship standards that are not practiced or applied equally to others. They were only critical of the Boards structure and performance. I believe you the membership are entitled to all sides of an issue, not just those of some that have curried favor of a Board member.

Anyway, that's my opinion, I'd like to hear from other members who may call me toll free at 1-800-251-5800.

Fred

Fred Boyajian

PACIFIC NORTHWEST EXOTICS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 1992



Our meeting was hosted by Sharon Roe. We had attendance of 29 members and 8 guests. Darryl and Melanie Scheel brought their male bobcat, Bachu (8 mths), and their Iguana - DINO; Sandy Hammersley brought her male bobcat, Coda (8 mths), Shirley Malar brought her female bobcat, Sara (8 mths), Larry Torland brought his female bobcat, Impulse, and Jackie Vanderwall brought her four 3-week old Chaus kittens. The meeting was held outside in 70° weather, as Sharon's Servals, Oyo and Keko looked on.

Sharon Roe introduced speakers, Ron Walker and Rodney French, from Duro-Test. They provided information on full spectrum lighting for indoor caging/aquarium. Since light affects animal growth and behavior, the sunlight simulating Vita-Lite provides a natural outdoor environment, which stimulates the natural production of Vitamin D in the body. Contact Sharon (206) 896-8208 for additional information.

Jerry Boyle announced:

- The recent tragedy concerning the death of a year old female Liger. A club member was providing temporary caging pending construction of permanent caging in a game farm. The Liger was shot in order to release the arm of a young girl who had put her arm through a feeding hole to pet the cat.
- Recommended restraint equipment, i.e., catch poles, CO₂ guns, and nets.
- An impromptu overnight trip to West Coast Game Park in Bandon, OR, as they currently have four baby bear cubs. The trip is scheduled for the weekend of April 4th and 5th.
- The upcoming visit of Ralph Helfer to Portland tentatively scheduled for May. Ralph will be providing information on the African safari now scheduled for Sept. 14th to Oct. 3rd.
- That several members have been nominated for LIOC offices as follows:

Glen Davis	- Membership Services
Sharon Roe	- Legal Affairs
	- Education & Conservation
Gail Schaecher	- Vice President
Jerry Boyle	- President
- Brought up the LIOC sample letter to be mailed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the "Captive Bred Wildlife Regulation" currently under revision. A copy will be mailed with meeting minutes and next meeting notice. Please make as many copies as needed, and have each copy separately signed by as many friends and relatives as possible. Deadline for mailing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife prior to April 10, 1992.

Sharon Roe announced:

- A trip to Northwest Trek, located near Eatonville, WA is scheduled for April 25th, and would be a special two hour "Keeper Tour" for a maximum 15 persons. This is a behind the scenes tour of animals indigenous to the northwest.
- The 2nd Annual West Coast Exotic Animal & Pet Trade Show scheduled for May 9th and 10th. A group of individuals plan to attend just to see if it would be worthwhile participating next year.

Problems discussed were:

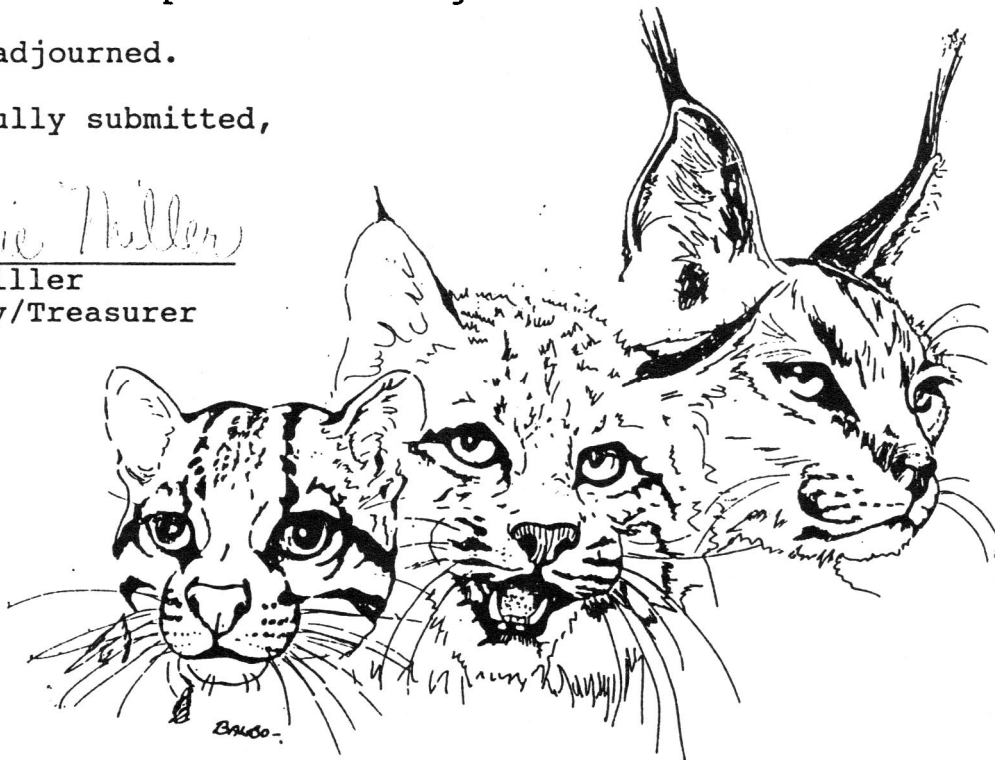
- Larry Torland shared his difficulties in attempting to obtain a facility permit from the City of Portland (OR), to allow them to keep their bobcat. Due to the uncertainty of being legal, the Torland's made the decision to sell their new condo and build a new home outside the city limits, so they can keep Impulse with them.
- Shirley Malar brought up a letter recently mailed to Washington State Game Farm permit holders. This letter stated that bobcats may be sold only by license holders to license holders within the state of Washington. This disallows sales to private parties, however, bobcats can still be sold into other states which allow private ownership.
- Sharon Roe advised that USDA has granted her license, including her requested variance to a 6' perimeter fence, and an extension of an additional year to comply with this requirement.
- Jerry Boyle brought up letters mailed to some members by Ken Hatfield and Doreen Morelli. It was decided to have a letter written to LIOC on behalf of PNWE explaining why members do not appreciate or approve of this type of mailing. Glen Davis volunteered to provide the rough draft.

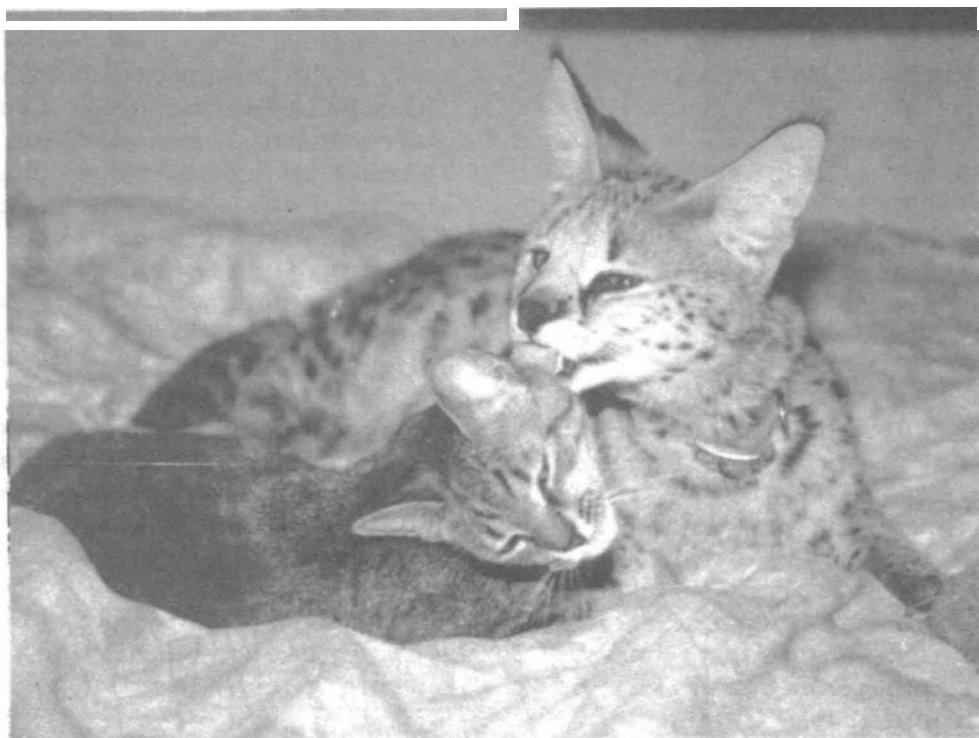
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

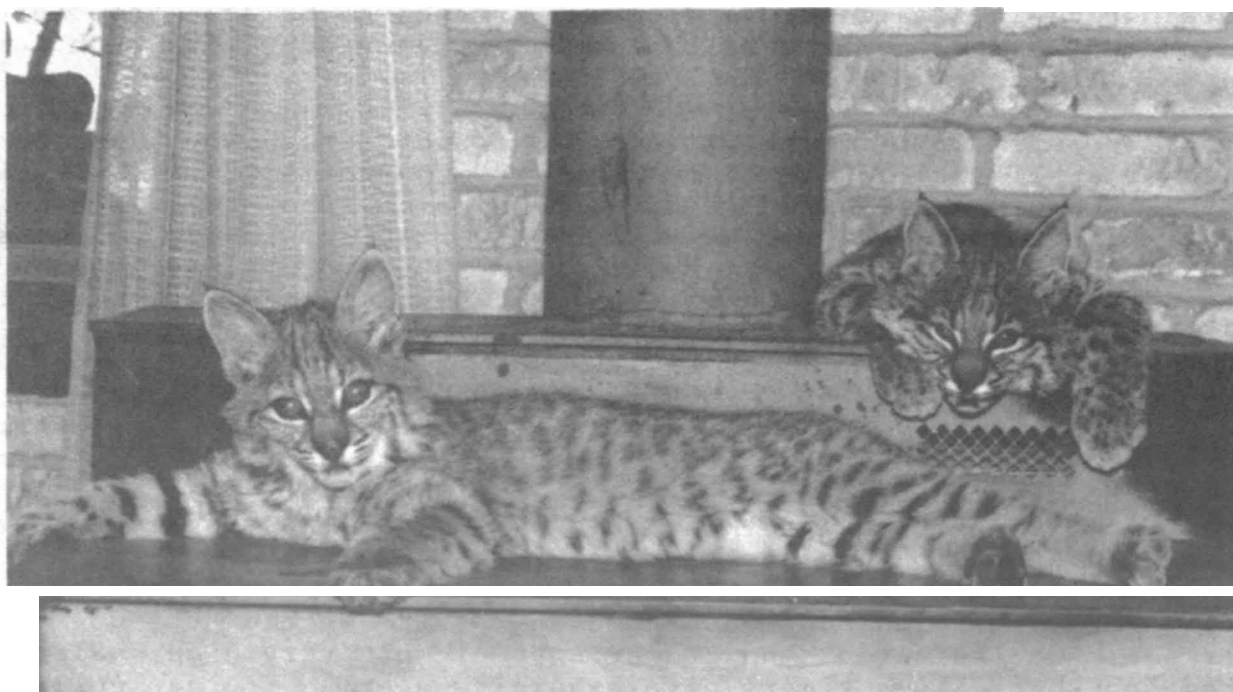
Connie Miller

Connie Miller
Secretary/Treasurer





Serval Brutis, who was raised with domestic Murray, lives at Meadowlake Farm, with Karen Reavis. Brutis and Murray are good buddies.



Bobcats, Comanche and her sister Savage, pictured at five months of age, weigh 15 pounds each. They live with Steve Painovich.



Cougar Cub Makes History

The cougar cub raised its spotted baseball-sized head from its mother's warm rump, and hissed. Then it fell back to sleep. But this sleepy male, born Feb. 10 at Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary in Charlotte County, Florida is not just a cute cub in a cage; It's the product of an innovative effort to establish a captive breeding population of Florida panthers.

"The birth of this kitten doesn't mean all the problems are solved," said Tom Logan, bureau chief of wildlife research for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. "But it represents a significant achievement in the development of this technology. It tells us it will work."

The panther recovery program is a combined effort of the National Zoo in Washington, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the White Oak Plantation near Jacksonville.

Its heavy-duty technology is artificial insemination by laparoscope, developed by the National Zoo. Researchers started using domestic cats as models for big cats 2 1/2 years ago, then moved to cougars as models for panthers, which are a subspecies of cougar. In this technology, female cats are given hormones to bring them into heat, and then sperm is injected directly into the uterus through an incision in the abdomen.

Laparoscopic artificial insemination was necessary because methods of artificial insemination used for many animals won't work for cats. "Cows, horses and a lot of animals come into season, ovulate, give a scent to attract the male; they copulate, and the sperm unites with the egg," Logan said. "Cats are 'stimulated ovulators.' The female may be ready to breed, but the act of copulation is what stimulates her to shed the egg."

"The actual procedure of laproscopic insemination is relatively simple," said Melody Roelke, chief veterinarian for the panther recovery program. "But that doesn't mean it's not hectic. When insemination took place at Octagon in November, a team of veterinarians, reproductive physiologists and anesthesiologists sometimes had seven cougars anesthetized at one time."

"If one male didn't produced enough sperm, we had to go get another one," Roelke said. "And cougar sperm is not very high quality, compared to other cats - tigers have exquisite sperm. You can collect horse sperm and ship it across the country, and it'll be good the next day. In a good male cougar, three or four hours is pushing it, so you can't just wait around."

In all, four female cougars were inseminated at Octagon. Only one, a four-year-old named Twyla, actually turned up pregnant. The birth of Twyla's cub proves that the technology works in cougars and thus, should work in panthers.

If it does, many problems associated with captive breeding in big cats can be eliminated. Only eight Florida panthers are now in captivity, and the goal of the captive breeding program, according to Roelke, is to kick those numbers into the hundreds.

"But if we have to wait for males and females to become comfortable with each other in natural captive breeding, that could take years," she said. "With artificial breeding, we don't even have to bring them together."

"And from a genetic standpoint, it's a big advantage. If we have animals we want to match genetically, we don't have to worry whether they are compatible. We just say, 'Hey, we're going to bring you into heat next week and impregnate you.'"

Roelke expressed optimism for the artificial breeding program, pointing out the National Zoo have produced more than 100 domestic kittens and a 50 percent success rate through the procedure. "I'm not saying we're at that point with the cougar," she said. "But the fact that we have a birth takes us in the right direction. It shows we're on the right track."

By Kevin Lollar, staff writer, News Press 2-22-92

CompuCat

By George Stowers

As you may have read in the January/February issue of our newsletter, I have been attempting to make the LIOC-ESCF more visible and advance our goals by uploading information and responding to questions about exotic cats on the Compuserve Information Service. Since that time I have also joined another major on-line service, PRODIGY. I am please to report that a lively dialog has developed concerning exotic cats on both services. I have received several request for information, numerous comments, and provided the LIOC's mailing address to a couple of individuals who seemed interested in joining our organization.

If any of you out there is a member of either service, I would enjoy hearing from you on-line. On Compuserve you can reach me by leaving a message in the "Cat's Meow" section of the PET SIG. I suggest you use "Exotic Cats" as the subject. My CIS ID # is 70275,1310. On Prodigy I can be reached via the Pets Bulletin Board in the "HomeLife" section under "CATS-EXOTIC". My Prodigy ID # is TMXX12A. Personal notes can of course be sent via E-mail on either service. However, using E-mail will prevent others interested in exotic cats from benefiting from your knowledge, experience and opinions. :-)

More State Laws On Private Ownership

In the March/April 1992 issue of LIOC's newsletter, we presented some state laws governing private ownership of wild and exotic felines. In this issue we continue this information service. We wish to stress that this information is provided for comparison purposes, and is NOT the complete laws of any state, but a brief summary. If you wish to be informed about your state's rules, regulations and laws, you should contact your state's Game and Fish department, (or Natural Resources Dept.), the state legislature, and additionally, several states have turned over the regulation of exotic species to their state Department of Agriculture, so you should contact them also, if you are interested in a non-native species of feline. Additionally, many cities and counties have enacted their own ordinances concerning wild animals in captivity, so you must investigate all levels of government BEFORE acquiring an exotic feline.

New Jersey - All nondomestic cats are considered "potentially dangerous species" and therefore require a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. Persons wishing to apply for this permit must show extensive experience in maintaining the species desired, as well as a working knowledge and expertise in handling such species. They must provide a written statement of purpose for keeping such species, and a written description of housing and caging. Housing facilities must be constructed to prevent public access and contact with the animal. Permit categories are: individual hobby, scientific holding, zoological holding, pet shop, animal dealer, animal exhibitor and animal theatrical agency.

Ohio - Bobcats may be obtained only from a licensed commercial propagator. Possession and propagation of bobcats require a propagation permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Exotic feline husbandry is not regulated by the state of Ohio.

Tennessee - No person may obtain wildlife without first obtaining the appropriate permit from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. Exotic felines are divided into classes. Species inherently dangerous to humans are regulated under Class I. Lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and cougars fall under these permit requirements. Class III felines require no permits except those required by the department of agriculture. Bobcat/domestic cat hybrids are class III and all other felines not listed are class III, except bobcats, which are class IV and not allowed to be possessed in Tennessee except by a zoo or temporary exhibitor or rehabilitation center. To possess Class I wildlife, persons must be over 21 and have two years experience in handling and care. Facilities for such wildlife require a minimum of one acre, and a full time resident caretaker on premises. Commercial propagators must have a 3 acre minimum facility. Plans for quick and safe recapture of any wildlife are required. And there must not be any public contact between Class I felines and the public. Minimum criteria for housing and caging are provided. Tethering of class I felines is not allowed in Tennessee. Class I personal possession fees is \$150 per animal or \$1,000 per facility. Commercial propagator fee for Class I wildlife is \$1,000 per facility. These regulations are currently being challenged by a private lawsuit.

California - All felines require a permit for possession in captivity. Permit types are exhibiting, breeding, brokering or dealing, and fur farming. Applicants must be over 18 years of age, provide a resume outlining experience. Qualifying experience is defined as the equivalent of at least two years, full-time, hands-on general experience caring for wild animals at a facility engaged in similar or directly related activity. This experience shall include a total of one year of hands-on experience by the applicant in specifically caring for wild animals in the same family or closely related taxonomic family as each animal for which a breeding permit is being requested. Also, applicant must provide a letter of recommendation from the facility where applicant gained experience. Further, for a breeding permit, written confirmation from the permittee that the requested breeding authorization is necessary, or that the animal to be bred is rare, threatened or endangered species and that further captive breeding of the species is necessary and desirable. Permit fees are generally \$250 per year, and an inspection fee of \$100.00 per year for two inspections is required. Care, treatment and caging requirements and specifications are also provided.

Florida - Permits from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are required for private possession of wild felines. Class I felines include snow leopards, leopards, jaguars, lions, and tigers. Class II felines are servals, European and Canadian lynx, cougars, bobcats, cheetahs, caracals, Temminck's golden cats, fishing cats, ocelots, and clouded leopards. All other felines are considered Class III. Class III wildlife kept for personal use requires a no-cost permit from the executive director. Permits for personal use of Class I felines are not issued. Persons wishing to possess any captive Class I or II wildlife for purposes of public display or sale shall first obtain a permit. Class I or II permits require that applicant be at least 18 years of age, and have no less than one year of substantial practical experience (To consist of no less than 1000 hours) in the care, feeding, handling, and husbandry of the species for which the permit is sought, or other species within the same biological family. A minimum of 2 references of applicant's stated experience must accompany application. Facility requirements limit the ownership of Class I wildlife to premises consisting of not less than one-quarter acre of land area. Structural caging requirements for each type and class of feline is provided and must be met.

Michigan - The Wildlife Division only regulates those species which are native to the state of Michigan. Possession of cougar and lynx is illegal in Michigan as they appear on the State endangered species list. All other wild feline species would be considered exotic and therefore not regulated by the Wildlife Division. Importation of exotic animals is regulated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

South Carolina - All exotic animals used for exhibition and breeding purposes are regulated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control requires that nondomestic carnivores not be sold as pets. It is illegal to import, release, or introduce any animal that may be reasonably expected to pose a health or safety hazard. (Specifically - cougars, lions, tigers, jaguars, and leopards).

Minutes Of Latest Board Meeting

April 16, 1992, Results of Ballot mailed February 25, 1992

1. To submit the constitutional amendment below to the membership for voting:

Moved by Barbara Wilton and Ethel Hauser:

To add to Article V, Section 3 the following sentence:

To be nominated for the position of President, the nominee shall have served at least one term in another position of the Executive Board.

Approve - A. Porges, L. Culver, E. Hauser, B. Wilton, Disapprove - S. Wagner, J. Perry, K. Knight-Monteiro Motion carries that amendment be submitted to the membership. This motion will be sent out at the same time as the Boyajian motions.

2. The constitution states that all elected officers take office on January first following their election. As written, there is no exception made for special elections.

Moved by John Perry:

To appoint the winner of the special election for Life Director to that position on an interim basis until January 1, 1993.

Approve - A. Porges, L. Culver, S. Wagner, B. Wilton, J. Perry K. Knight-Monteiro Disapprove - E. Hauser. Motion is carried.

3. To release, if requested, a copy of the mailing list to permit a letter supporting Jackie Vanderwall to be sent to the membership.

Approve - S. Wagner, L. Culver, J. Perry Disapprove - E. Hauser, A. Porges, B. Wilton K. Knight-Monteiro Motion fails.

4. To approve the Information Pamphlet, allowing minor type corrections, etc., for reproduction and distribution with inquiries.

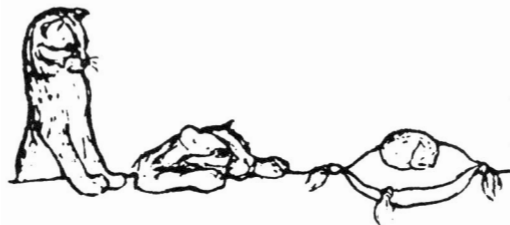
Approve - A. Porges, L. Culver, J. Perry, S. Wagner, B. Wilton, E. Hauser, K. Knight-Monteiro Pamphlet is approved for distribution.

5. To approve expenses associated with a special mailing to the membership on the USDI captive-bred endangered species status on a timely basis to permit membership comment.

Approve - A. Porges, L. Culver, J. Perry, S. Wagner, B. Wilton, E. Hauser, K. Knight-Monteiro

6. To extend the period of nominations until the close of the annual meeting.

Approve - A. Porges, L. Culver, J. Perry Disapprove - E. Hauser, S. Wagner, B. Wilton, K. Knight-Monteiro Motion fails.



New Life Director For LIOC Board

Election ballots from the past Life Director special election have been counted and verified, and we are happy to welcome Carin Carmichael to the working Board of Directors. Congratulations Carin! There was a high degree of membership participation, with both ladies having many supporters.

We wish to thank Jackie Vanderwall for participating in this special election race, as well as all LIOC members who took the time and interest to vote in this election.

LIFE DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

Due to Ethel Hauser's resignation, we are accepting nominations to the position of Life Director. To be eligible, this person must have served previously on the Board of Directors. This serves two purposes: firstly that this person will understand our structure and traditions, and secondly, that since this person technically will serve for life (or until their resignation), they understand going on what is expected of them and are willing to serve. Our Board members are expected to attend the annual meeting at convention each year at their own expense. They serve without pay. Although a Life Director has no assigned duties, they are expected to work on special projects and provide a historical and stabilizing influence. It is a position of much responsibility despite the lack of assigned duties, one of an elder statesman, if you will. Those who qualify by virtue of having served previously (since our incorporation in 1980) are:

J.B. Anderson - Term Director (2 terms 1987-90)
 Fred Boyajian - President (1 term 1987-88)
 Karen Jusseaume - Term Director (2 terms 1985-88)
 Elmer Morgan - Term Director (1 term 1985-86)
 Jackie Vanderwall - Secretary/Treasurer (2 terms 1981-84)
 Suzi Mustacio - Secretary/Treasurer (2 terms 1985-88)
 Vice President (1+ term 1989-resigned 1992)
 Katie Knight-Monteiro - Term Director (1 term 1991-present)
 Lynn Culver - Secretary/Treasurer (1 term 1991-present)
 Al Porges - Term Director (2 terms 1989-present)
 Mary Parker - Term Director (1+ terms 1989-resigned 1991)
 Jeff Bellingham - Term Director (1 term 1989-1990)
 Danny Treanor - Term Director (1 term 1985-86)
 Barbara Wilton - Term Director (2 terms 1989-present)
 Jean Townes - Term Director (2 terms 1980-84)

Technically, Ken Hatfield, Ethel Hauser, Roger Harmon and Catherine Cisin who have previously resigned as Life Directors would also be eligible. Should they care to reconsider their resignations, they also could choose to run again if nominated.

Since we are in the midst of a general election, we would like to put this position on that same ballot later this year. To properly nominate a person for Life Director, two LIOC member signatures are required. Nominations for Life Director must be received by July 10th. Send nominations to Lynn Culver, Rt. 6 Box BC56A, Mena, AR. 71953.

Endangered Species Act - Crisis Management

The U.S. Endangered Species Act is dumb. Really, it's a dumb program.

Nearly everyone knows about it. According to many Americans, the Endangered Species Act wastes money on insignificant flowers and insects and tiny fish and puts people out of work. To others, it's a last ditch-effort to save useful, valuable species, like salmon, from extinction.

To me, it's dumb.

Consider how it works. When someone, usually someone with a significant quantity of political clout, makes enough noise about a rare or threatened species, the U.S. Department of the Interior gets off its collective dead end and reviews the status of the hapless critter. If, indeed, they discover the poor beast or flower or whatever has been run roughshod over for so long that it barely survives, and if political pressure remains intense, the life-form in question is stuck onto a list of threatened or endangered species.

Suddenly, it's no longer so insignificant. It has the power of the federal government behind it (boy, that's a mixed blessing). No federal monies, federal subsidies, or federal agency can contribute to the endangered's demise in any way. No dams may be built, no highways laid, no forests razed.

In addition, scientists are rushed to the aid of the beleaguered. Critical habitats are identified. Threats are analyzed; recovery programs are developed. Sometimes, as in the case of the California condors and Wyoming's black-footed ferrets, all surviving members of the species are captured and conscripted into a captive breeding program in an attempt to bolster numbers high enough to support reintroduction to native habitats.

All of this costs a few dollars. Just getting an endangered species started on the road to recovery takes up to \$4.6 billion. And sometimes it doesn't work. It didn't for the dusky seaside sparrow which breathed its last along the Florida coast several years ago.

What's dumb about the program is that it functions the way our society functions. Crisis management. We've forgotten the old maxim, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We refuse to plan. We will not nip something in the bud. Just let things ride until they threaten to collapse. Then throw lots of money at them.

But even the sacred dollar is powerless to resurrect a defunct species. No government largess can bring back the passenger pigeon, the heath hen, the Carolina parakeet, the Labrador duck.

Of course, there are those who say, "Big deal. We're getting along fine without them." Okay, using that rational, we could get along without western cougars, too. Might as well dispense with coyotes, elk, mule deer, heck, bighorn sheep could go. And what the heck has a hummingbird done for you lately? Why fuss around with the

inconsequential species? We'll do fine with beef cattle, dairy cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and sheep. Maybe keep a robin or two so we don't all have to buy concrete lawn ornaments.

The point is, we don't want to "get along." Nor are we smart enough to. For years, we've treated the Pacific yew tree as so much trash to be cut and burned during logging operations. Now it turns out the yew is providing us with the latest cancer cure, and there aren't enough of them left to supply demand.

There is no question we must stop sending species to their extinction. They are in this world for a reason. Just because some of us are too ignorant to understand this is no reflection on its validity..

But the Endangered Species Act is still dumb. It's dumb because it's crisis management. We know why species become endangered - because we destroy habitats in which said species live.

Let's save ourselves a whole lot of time and money and protect habitats now, before the scientists find another spotted owl. Let's make an Endangered Land Act and identify great parcels of critical habitat. Let's prevent people from destroying them for short-term economic gain. We have enough concrete, enough parking lots, enough stagnant reservoirs, enough eroding cropfields producing surplus food stuffs to be dumped or burned.

Let's call a halt to the destruction now, and we won't have to put up with the expense of saving another endangered species.

More than 500 U.S. species are on the endangered and threatened species list. Scientists estimate that, due to the slow political process of listing, as many as 300 species have disappeared while waiting to get on the list. Only fifteen percent of the current native species nearing extinction are on the list. The Endangered Species Act is up for Congressional reauthorization in 1992. Development interests want to scuttle it. Conservationists want to modify it into a program that works. Which side do you think the public will support?

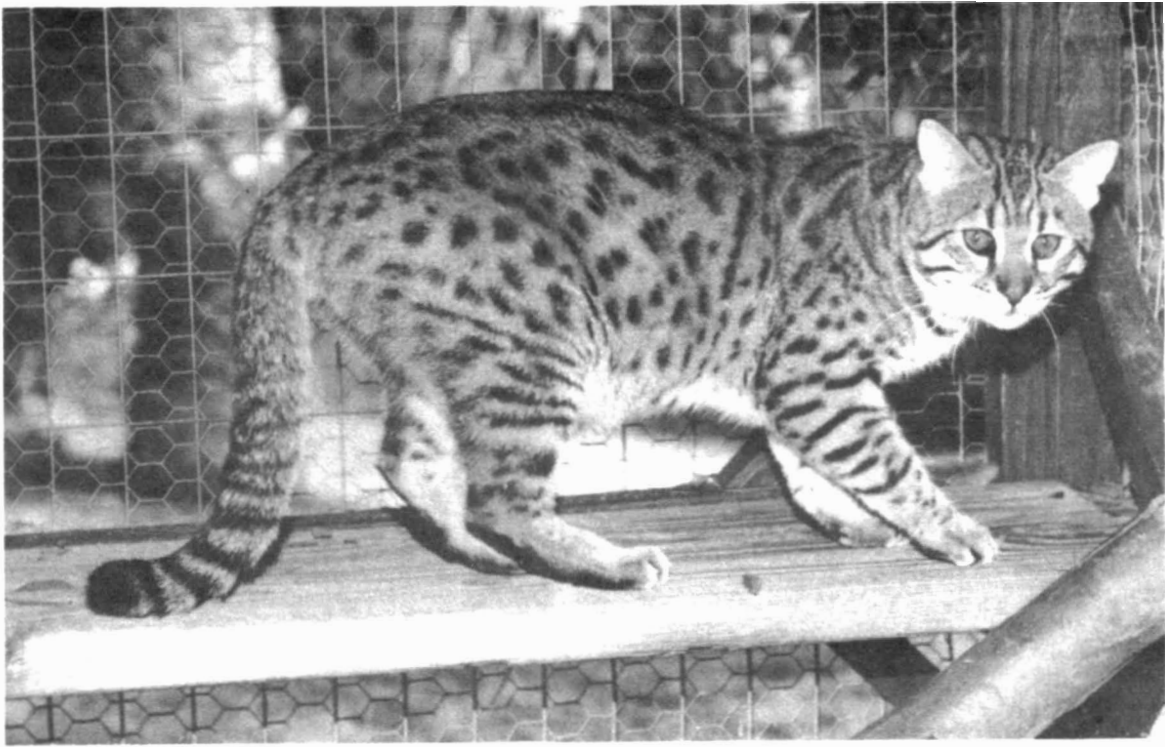
article by Ron Spomer reprinted from Wyoming Wildlife Magazine

contributed by Brenda Messling



JOB WANTED

Responsible man seeks full time or part time work on animal compound. Good references. Willing to relocate. Please leave a message at 213-856-6219. I will return your call promptly.



Ron Eldridge shared his heart and his home with Phoenix, a beautifully spotted male, Asian Leopard Cat F1 hybrid, (*Felis bengalensis*) commonly referred to as the Bengal cat. Born February 18, 1989, he passed away March 18, 1992. The cause of death was Idiopathic Glomerulonephritis. Ron writes, "He gave so much and took so little".