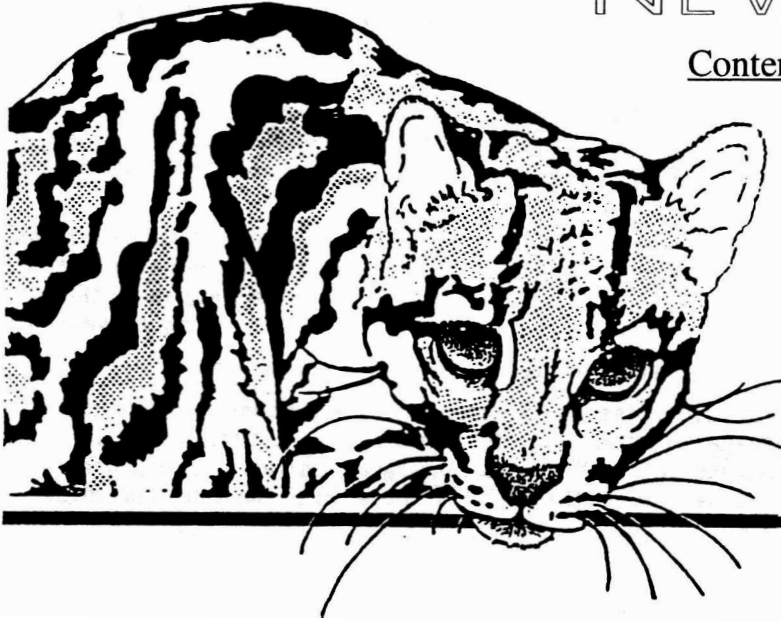


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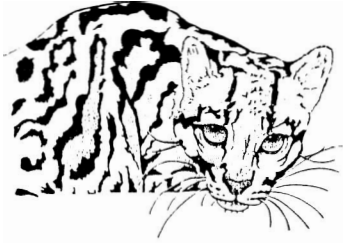


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Bambi Chaus wishes you a very Merry Christmas
-as do the Schaecher's who provide Bambi's home.



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 with international 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 reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. LIOC ESCF, Inc.'s statement of intent is contained in our by-laws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners 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, studies, 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 Readers Write column. Please submit all newsletter material to the Managing Editor.

Editors

Managing Editor Shirley Wagner 3730 Belle Isle Lane Mobile AL 36619 (205) 661-1342

Founder

Catherine Cisin Amagansett NY 11930

Officers

President Katie Knight-Monteiro Rt 3 Box 410 Alvin TX 77511 (713) 585-4144/331-2742
Vice President Gayle Schaecher 10715 SE Orient Dr Boring, OR 97009 (503) 663-4673
Secretary/Treasurer Loreon Vigne 20889 Geyserville Ave Geyserville CA 95441 (707) 857-3524

Life Directors

Dr. John Perry 6684 Central Ave NE Fridley MN 55432 (612) 571-7918/481-2673
Shirley Wagner 3730 Belle Isle Lane Mobile AL 36619 (205) 661-1342
Carin Carmichael 7009 Willoughby Ave Hollywood CA 90038 (213) 874-9817
J.B. Anderson Rt4 Box 2190 Lake Rd 54-37 Osage Beach MO 65065 (314)348-5092

Term Directors

Member Services Barbara Wilton LIOC ESCF INC PO Box 66040 Portland OR 97290
(503) 774-1657
Education & Conservation Ed Strickland 12717 Bullick Hollow Rd Austin TX 78726 (512) 258-8998
Legal Affairs Sharon Roe 10701 SE 15 th Street Vancouver WA 98664 (206) 896-8208
Advertising & Publicity Ron Eldridge 2 Spring St Providence RI 02904 (401) 728-7438

Branches

Exotic Feline Educ'l Society Ethel Hauser 14622 N.E. 99th St. Vancouver WA 98682 (206) 892-9994
Pacific Northwest Exotics Jerry Boyle PO Box 205 Gresham OR 97030 (503-663-4673 Gayle Schaecher)

Regional Contacts

Northeast George Stowers 8 Meadowhill Dr Armingdale, ME 04344 (207) 622-9201
Southeast Jean Hatfield 1991 Southwest 136 Ave Davie FL 33325 (305) 472-7276
Central J.B. Anderson Rt 4 Box 2190 Osage Beach MO 65065 (314) 348-5092
Northwest See Branches
Southwest Loreon Vigne 20889 Geyserville Ave Geyserville CA 95441 (707) 857-3524
Canada Scarlett Bellingham PO Box 722 Niverville Manitoba Canada R0A 1E0 (204) 388-4845

Affiliates

World Pet Society Jan Giacinto Box 570343 Tarzana CA 91357 (818) 345-5140
Animal Finder's Guide Pat Hoctor Box 99 Prairie Creek IN 47969 (812) 898-2701/2678

Convention 1994



Have you heard? The next LIOC Convention is going to be in Tucson, Arizona, August 11-14.

The Westward Look Resort Hotel is our destination.

The Westward Look Resort, an oasis of relaxation and recreation, nestled in the foothills of the Catalina Desert Mountains, is spread over 80 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking Tucson. At night there is a wonderful view of the lights of the city of Tucson.

This is a 4 Diamond/Triple A resort with 244 very spacious rooms. Each room has a private entrance, balcony or patio. The rooms include many amenities: wet bar, coffee maker, mini bar, empty refrigerator (for your own items), and cable TV. In addition, there are 3 pools and spas as well as nature walking trails and 8 tennis courts. There is a choice of restaurants located in the resort. The Group Rate is \$65.00 a night.

The CATS are WELCOME! This resort has welcomed many animal conventions, most recently falcon/bald eagles and a Great Dane group.

(The exotic cats may stay in Arizona for a maximum of 10 days. Owners must have license paperwork for their cat(s). Only owners may handle their own cats. There is a 30 pound maximum).

To introduce myself, I have been an LIOC member since 1980. My husband Tom and I are very pleased to be hosting next years convention. I have thoroughly enjoyed the conventions I have attended and felt inspired to invite all of the members to Arizona for the 1994 convention. Because there is no LIOC Chapter in Arizona, the Exotic Feline Educational Society LIOC Chapter will function as co-hosts.

In the next Newsletter we'll provide information on the day trip to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and Colossal Cave. Details on a speaker will also be included.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our next wonderful convention.

Kelly Jean Buckley

Cougars Collared in Big Bend Park of Texas

The first phase of an ongoing study of mountain lions at Big Ben Ranch State Natural area has ended successfully.

From January through April, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists put radio transmitting collars on four mountain lions and are now tracking their movements by airplane.

The study is designed to estimate populations numbers at Big Bend and collect information on the behavior and life history of mountain lions and document the locations of lions on Big Bend Ranch SNA to help with planning for public use of the site.

"We are in an information gathering mode," said John Herron, TPWD nongame and urban fish and wildlife program leader. "There have been increased sightings mountain lions and

mortalities recently, so we'd like to learn more about their habits in Texas. This study will help provide sound biological data to help make decisions about mountain lions."

To date, department biologists have put radio telemetry collars on one adult male, two adult females and a one-year-old cub that belongs to one of the females. To capture and collar the lions, wildlife biologists used a combination of modern technology and traditional tracking techniques.

"Lots of walking, that's a big part of it," said Mike Pittman, TPWD wildlife biologist in Fort Davis. "We'd go out and hunt for lion tracks or scrapes, then set snares along lion travel corridors." Scrapes are places where lions have dug shallow depressions and urinated to mark territory. The biologists also used specially trained dogs to track mountain lions and identify travel corridors.

Contributed by Jean Hamil

What is "Bergmann's Rule"?

A pioneering evolutionary concept concocted in the 19th century by German physiologist Carl Bergmann without the encumbrance of hard evidence, he supposed that the body size of a mammal should be inversely proportional to average temperatures in the animal's environment. In other words, mammals in hot climates like deserts should be smaller than mammals in cold climates.

Elephants do spring to mind as an immediate contradiction, but most interpretations of the rule assume that Bergmann meant to compare races within a single species, or species of a given genus - not wholesale fauna of a given temperature zone.

And his reasoning is solid: owing to their high surface-to-volume ratios, small animals lose heat much more readily than large ones, so if they find themselves in a hot place, it behooves them to be small.

The great size disparity between the North American and South American cougars is a prime example as is the comparison of grizzly bears to sun bears.

did you know...

- Facial whiskers found on all species of cats are long, stiff and highly sensitive. Each cat's whiskers form a unique pattern. And, much like human fingerprints, no two whisker patterns are alike.

- Three subspecies of tiger have become extinct in the past 50 years: the Javan, Bali and Caspian.

We wish you -

A Quick Recovery

To Catherin Cisin, the LIOC Founder, our best wishes for a quick recovery from your injuries.

To Faye Harmon, longtime member and wife of Roger (previous Life Director), we wish you a speedy recovery from your knee surgery.

New Hope for the Florida Panther

by David Villano

Three days after Hurricane Andrew ripped through south Florida last August, the Associated Press distributed a photograph of a veterinarian at the Jacksonville Zoo holding two two-week-old Florida panther kittens. The caption said the kittens had been rescued dramatically from the rising hurricane floodwaters in Big Cypress National Preserve.

Dave Maehr laughed when told of the caption. As research chief of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Florida Panther recovery project, he had led the team of state and federal wildlife biologists who captured the two kittens. On the day of the capture no one on the team had any idea that a hurricane was about to hit south Florida. The sun was bright, the sky was clear and the air was calm. I was the one who mentioned to Maehr, as I watched him carrying the kittens from their den deep inside the preserve, that a hurricane was "somewhere in the Caribbean but headed this way." His shrug told me that neither he nor the panthers worry too much about Hurricanes.

In 1989 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed a captive-breeding program to try to rescue the panther from threatened extinction. The following year, plans were made to remove up to six kittens from the wild. An opportunity came last August when National Park Service researchers in Big Cypress suspected that a female being monitored by radio telemetry had given birth to a litter because her movement patterns indicated denning behavior. Because researchers knew she was not the product of inbreeding, a problem that plagues the wild population of panthers, her offspring would provide important genetic material for the breeding program. When we entered the den, after waiting patiently for two days in the steamy summer sun for the mother to go off hunting, we found she had given birth to a male and a female, both fortunately healthy. They were the third and fourth kittens to be captured for the breeding program. Six kittens and two subadults were captured in 1991. Breeding could begin this year. The goal is a total population of 130 wild and captive panthers by the year 2000 and 500 by 2010.

Only 30 to 50 adult panthers are believed to survive in the wild, although there is some comfort in the fact that this has been the approximate estimate for a decade and at least the population does not appear to be shrinking. The major concerns have less to do with current numbers than with the animals' genetic condition resulting from inbreeding and with the threats to their habitat.

The most crucial long-term need of the panthers is undoubtedly habitat protection. With something like a thousand new residents arriving daily, Florida is the nation's fastest growing state, and its southwestern region where most of the remaining

panthers prowl has the highest growth rate anywhere in the state. To address the impact on panthers, the Florida Panther Interagency Committee, a federal-state group, has been developing a habitat protection plan identifying high-use areas and outlining acquisition and land-management options.

Even if the two young panthers, numbered 209 and 210, spend their lives in captivity as expected, the hope is that their offspring will one day be released in the wild. Biologists believe captive breeding will produce genetically healthier animals not only for the remaining pockets of habitat in southwestern Florida but also for other parts of historic panther range in the southeastern states. But that depends on mustering public support and financial resources to preserve the big cats' shrinking homeland. Agriculture and urban developments are squeezing the remaining animals onto smaller and smaller parcels, thus limiting dispersal opportunities and encouraging more inbreeding.

Contending that state and federal officials were placing too much emphasis on captive breeding and not enough on habitat issues, a group of environmental activists sued the federal government in 1991 over FWS failure to prepare an environmental impact statement. Officials explained that such a report would take years to complete and that by then the animal could be extinct. As part of a settlement, FWS agreed to complete the habitat protection plan. In its first phase, planners are examining panther habitat requirements and preferences, mapping potential habitat on both public and private lands, recommending areas for consideration as critical habitat and placing all private lands within a high-priority or low priority management category.

Roughly half of the 3 million acres in Florida capable of sustaining panthers is publicly owned. This includes 724,000 acre Big Cypress National Preserve, 74,000 acre Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, 52,000-acre Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and 25,000-acre Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. These lands include a mix of vegetative communities most of which are suitable for panthers.

Unfortunately, the regions' largest public preserve, Everglades National Park with 557,000 acres of land, cannot support a dense panther population because its tree cover is minimal and a large part of the landscape is flooded during much of the year. Panthers can survive here but prefer the upland forests lying to the northwest. In 1991 the last two females in the park died; one probably from mercury poisoning, and afterward the park's last two males wandered northwest in search of mates.

But much of the highest quality panther habitat is privately owned. Maehr says high on his wish list of private lands are the

huge Lykes Brothers property in Glades and Highlands counties, the Babcock property in Charlotte County, the Alico property in Collier and Hendry counties and the Barron Collier and Collier Enterprises property in Collier and Hendry counties. Combined, these five landowners control nearly half a million acres of habitat, much of it already occupied by panthers.

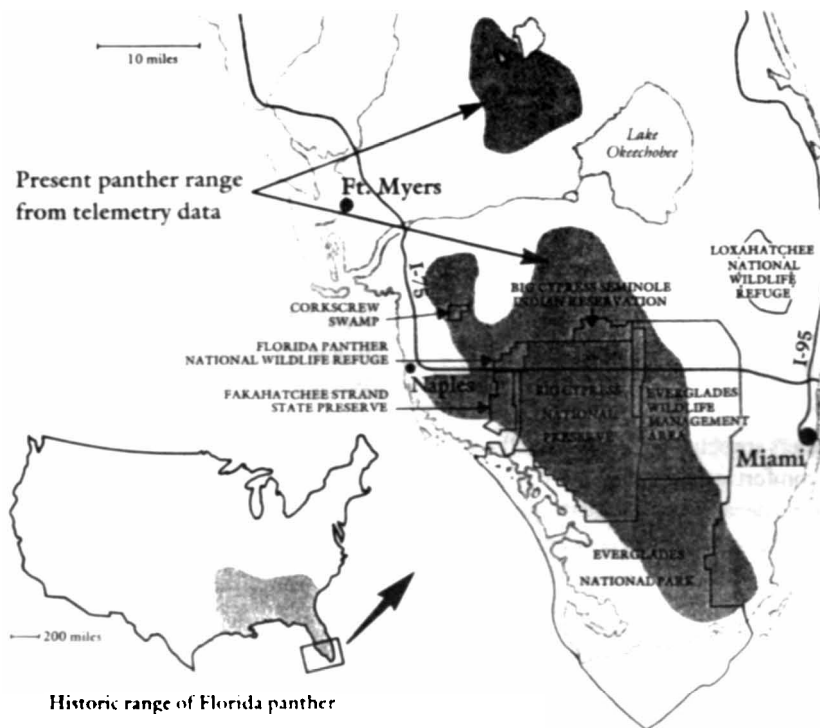
For years panthers roamed freely across both public and private lands. Even with limited agricultural and commercial development, the large tracts of habitat were connected by strips of untouched forest that served as natural corridors. But as these private lands became increasingly fragmented, the movement of these solitary animals became more and more restricted. Commercial and residential development has pushed steadily east from the burgeoning western Florida Coastline, and citrus and cattle interests also covet the interior lands. Citrus growers are moving southward to escape freezing weather.

Landowners have been only marginally sympathetic to wildlife needs. Getting permission to monitor panthers on private property is a constant headache, Maehr says. Some owners allow him to collar panthers with radio-telemetry devices but won't let him and his staff return to monitor the cats. Others require permits before allowing access. Least cooperative, says Maehr, is Lykes Brothers Company, largest private landowner in panther territory with nearly 200,000 acres of prime habitat. Company officials routinely refuse all requests

to collar or track panthers even though a number of cats are known to inhabit the lands. Much of the property is undisturbed, but Maehr is worried that the owners will clear forests for cattle grazing and agriculture. FWS officials estimate the value of the Lykes Brothers property at roughly \$130 million. Rather than acquire title, officials will pursue the least costly option of purchasing the development rights.

Further restricting panther movement is the matrix of roads that cut through southern Florida. Maehr has found that roads create landscape islands that tend to lock wildlife out. A recent study showed that panthers often avoid road-bordered landscape islands of less than 25,000 acres.

Nearly half of all documented panther deaths from 1979-1992 were from vehicle collisions. On average, between one and two panthers a year are killed in road accidents. Last November, a six-month-old uncollared female was struck and killed on State Road 29 east of Naples. State and federal authorities take the problem seriously. In the late 1980's, when Alligator Alley, south Florida's primary east-west highway, was rebuilt as part of Interstate 75, 24 animal underpasses were constructed. Interstate 75 runs through Big Cypress National Preserve and alongside Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. A recent study showed that panthers and other animals often use the underpasses. Florida's Department of Transportation recently announced plans for six similar underpasses along S.R.29, a key north-south artery cutting through some of south Florida's



most heavily used panther habitat.

Other human activity may also have some effect on habitat use. Although deer and hog hunting doesn't seem to impact the panthers' prey supply, there is speculation that the presence of hunters, anglers and other recreational users may discourage panthers from using the habitat. National Park Service biologist Joe Clarke has proposed a study of this question.

The best example of recreational impact may be 40,000-acre South Golden Gate Estates west of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve in Collier County. The property is the remains of a failed housing subdivision sold to 20,000 land speculators and retirees in the 1960's. The land was drained, forever changing its ecological makeup. Ironically, this produced a drier landscape more suitable for panthers and their prey. But the property is also laced with miles of roads that open its interior to hunters, target shooters, illegal trash haulers and other trespassers. Up to five adult panthers could establish ranges on the property, Maehr says, but currently there are none. Maehr speculates that human activity could be scaring them off. The only documented instance of a female panther shifting her home range occurred in 1986 when one moved out of the South Golden Gate Estates property. In contrast, the much smaller Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge only a few miles to the north supports six adult panthers.

The State has begun the laborious process of buying the South Golden Gate Estates property from its 20,000 owners. Roughly 7,000 acres have been acquired, but it may take years to add the remaining land. Once this is done, however, access will be restricted, and panthers are expected to return. Also under way is the 40,000-acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed acquisition, commonly called the CREW project. So far some 14,000 acres have been acquired around the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in northern Collier county. In addition, small private tracts are being added to Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.

Another crucial property is Belle Meade area in southern Collier county. Although developers have been courting the owners for years, county officials hope to purchase the property for a wildlife reserve. Also underway is a complex land swap by the Department of the Interior that will add 86,000 acres of private land to the Big Cypress Preserve. As part of the same deal - now in the final stages - 5,000 acres will be added to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, and 20,000 acres in extreme southwestern Florida will be set aside as Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

But these acquisitions may not be enough. The draft habitat protection plan identifies roughly 1.5 million acres of potential panther habitat now held privately. About 500,000 of those acres are considered crucial and have been placed in the protection plan's high priority category. Another quarter of million acres have been placed in its lower priority category. Todd Logan, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge man-

ager, says the assessed value of the lands in these two categories - excluding lands already slated for acquisition such as the Belle Meade property and the CREW project - is over \$130 million. Neither Congress nor the State of Florida is likely to spend that kind of money on habitat protection anytime soon. Meanwhile, potential panther habitat now in private hands is rapidly being lost.

The competition for land is taking its toll on panther health. As the range fragments, many of the connecting corridors are being closed off. As panthers become increasingly isolated on landscape islands bounded by roads, fences and development, they are resorting to inbreeding. The early signs were ominous: a hereditary cowlick on the back and a kink at the end of the tail. But recently, veterinarians have discovered more serious genetic mutations. Many males are being born with only one descended testicle, and they have high percentages of abnormal sperm.

Two young males captured last year had neither of its testicles descended and were functionally sterile. One of the cats was operated on to correct the condition. It is too early to tell whether the operation was successful. What's more, many kittens examined in the wild have mild heart murmurs. Three born recently have severe congenital heart defects.

The loss of genetic diversity caused by inbreeding can result in a population ill-equipped to compete with epidemics, pollution and other environmental changes. More than half the wild panthers tested have carried feline AIDS antibodies. Some have tested positive for feline leukemia.

All this led wildlife officials to propose the captive breeding program. Panthers taken from the wild - ten in all the last two years and up to eight more per year through 1995 - will be carefully screened and bred with unrelated mates (or as unrelated as possible.) to produce a genetically healthier population.

"Inbreeding is becoming more and more serious and more and more of a concern." says Dennis Jordan, coordinator of the FWS panther recovery program. "That's the importance of the captive population. We can selectively breed individuals to get away from the inbreeding problems that are occurring in the wild. We can't control what happens in the wild, but through captive breeding we can preserve the genetic diversity that remains."

The goal of the captive breeding program is to reintroduce panthers in parts of their historic range. Prime reintroduction sites include the Osceola and Apalachicola national forests in northern Florida and Okefenokee National Wildlife refuge in Georgia. FWS officials are considering other locations in southeastern states. But even if the public agrees to regional reintroduction proposals, and there is concern that some states will not want panthers, the technical problems remain daunting. "There's still a lot of science we need to learn," points out

Chris Belden, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologist coordinating research for the reintroduction program. "There is still a lot we don't know, and there is still a lot of work we need to do before we can reintroduce any animals." For example, commission biologists are monitoring two Texas cougars released in February in the Osceola National Forest. Belden hopes the experiment will help researchers identify problems that can arise in connection with reintroducing big cats in the wild. A similar experiment was launched in 1988 when five sterile Texas cougars were released in the Osceola-Okefenokee area. One animal died of an unknown cause a month later. Another was shot and its body recovered. The radio collar of a third was cut off, and biologists believe that cougar also was shot. The other two ultimately were captured and released in Texas.

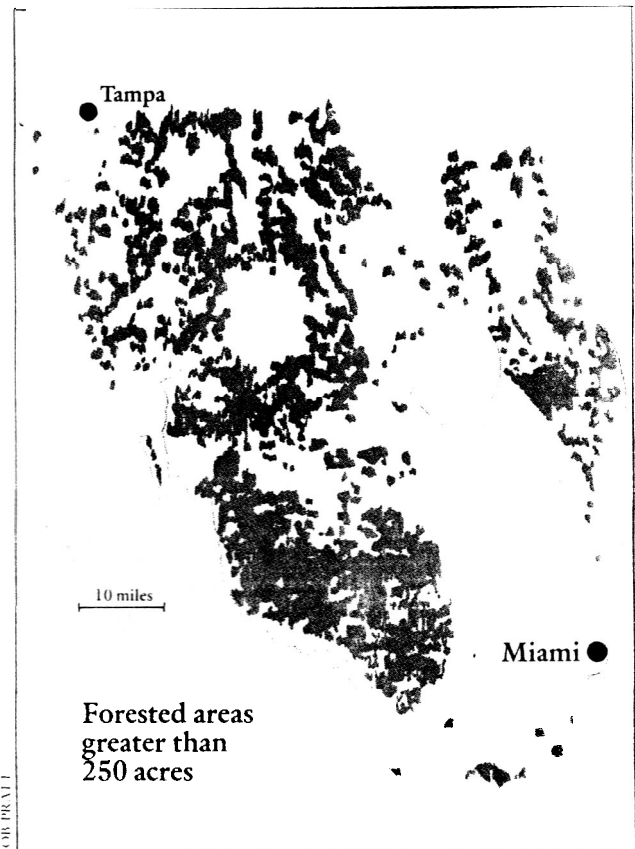
If captive bred panthers are introduced, and Jordan is confident they will be, the animals could carry genetic material from other subspecies. Many experts believe the remnant panthers have become so inbred and their habitat so splintered that even under controlled conditions extinction may loom. Selectively breeding the captured panthers with genetically diverse animals from other subspecies would produce a healthier population. "If the population is in as big genetic trouble as some people say it is, then I don't see that it will recover, and I don't see that it will survive with the continued increase of human development and continued loss of habitat in south Florida," says Maurice Hornocker, director of Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute in Idaho and a nationally known authority on western mountain lions and other big cats. "From a purely biological standpoint the obvious answer is to introduce new, viable, healthy genetic material, which means introducing healthy lions from other parts of the country.

This is an argument that Jordan, Maehr, and other state and federal wildlife officials are taking very seriously. They say that introducing other subspecies, either through the captive breeding program or directly in the wild, can only benefit the panther. Maehr points to the positive impact of a group of South American cougars released accidentally in the Everglades in the 1950s and 1960s. The offspring of captive parents that carried some outside genetic material, the cougars (there were probably seven of them) mated with pure Florida panthers. The progeny were the healthier for it. None of the direct descendants is known to suffer from heart defects, cryptorchidism (abnormally descended testes) or other harmful genetic mutations. These animals are now north of the park or in captivity. Introducing other subspecies, Jordan explains, would recreate the natural gene-mixing that occurred before European settlement, when the population boundaries of three other cougar subspecies overlapped the panther's. "We would be trying to reinstate the historic gene flow that was occurring naturally into the panther population," he says.

Wildlife planners and public officials may be bracing for considerable backlash to a genetic augmentation plan. Some Floridians doubtless will want their state animal to be a purebred, not a cross with other mountain lions. But Jordan says they should not be concerned. The remaining animals are no longer totally characteristic of the historic pure panther. Jordan explains: "What we have right now as Florida panthers are not really what historic Florida panthers were like, because of all the inbreeding and the loss of genetic diversity. So what we would be trying to do is to create an individual more representative of what a healthy Florida panther should be by reinstating the genetic exchange that occurred historically."

But the idea is not a miracle cure for the beleaguered panther. It would only reduce the chances of a sudden population collapse. The real answer lies in a long-term commitment to habitat management and preservation in a state that has shown an insatiable appetite for land. Conservation biologists warn that science can only serve a supportive role in the overall species recovery and protection plan. "Habitat preservation is always going to be the controlling factor," Maehr asserts. "There are all kinds of things you can do to increase the population and make it healthier, but if you've got nowhere to put them, then what's the point?"

Reprinted from Defenders.



Year of the Bobcat

Starvation High in New Hampshire

By Ted Walski, Wildlife Biologist, N.H. Fish & Game Dept.

I couldn't get away from bobcats during March and April, 1993. There were more incidents with bobcats at the tail end of this past winter than during the past 5-10 years. In the past I would rarely encounter bobcat tracks.

It is possible that 50 to 75 percent of the state's limited bobcat populations might have succumbed to starvation this winter. The deep snowcover arrived with the storms of February 12 and 15 and stayed through early April. No crust, for cats to walk on, formed for over a month. My beagle had to be content with walks along the plowed road or packed snowmobile trails. Running rabbits was out of the question and snowshoe hares and/or cottontail rabbits are a primary bobcat prey. The snowshoe hare population gets a lot of pressure from the large fisher and coyote population and has remained low for the past 11 years in the southern half of the state.

In years past I believe bobcat had a far greater opportunity to feed on dead deer found during the winter, or to occasionally kill a small, weak or injured deer. Most hunters now know not to leave a shot deer in the woods overnight. Coyotes will find it and little will be left the next day. A healthy, adult bobcat is a match one on one with a coyote, but its a different story when two or more coyotes gang up. As an example, a farmer after coyotes in Hinsdale put out a road-killed deer to bait coyotes during March. A starving bobcat found the carcass one afternoon but was driven off that night by a pack of coyotes. A conservation officer living near St. Johnsbury, Vermont had better luck. A starving bobcat came onto his land and he put out a road-killed deer for it. The bobcat stayed there about a month feeding on the deer carcass and recovered.

The adult female bobcat that I caught with a net when it wandered into the Tire Warehouse in downtown Keene on March 16th has been kept at an animal rehabilitator's residence and will soon be released. Dr. Lee Pierson of the Cheshire Animal Hospital doctored this bobcat free of charge. He extracted one of the canine teeth, which was broken.

On April 4, I caught another adult, female bobcat with a net in Marlow. This bobcat had lost approximately half of its weight and had porcupine quills in the face area. Dr. Pierson also worked on this bobcat, giving it intravenous injection and pulling out the quills. Unfortunately, this one was too far gone and died the next day. Several days later I had to submit the head to the State Health Lab in Concord for rabies testing as there is a high correlation of rabid animals having porcupine quills.

Bobcats scavenged for anything edible this past winter and came right into neighborhoods. One bobcat visited garbage cans at the Sunapee Mountain Ski Area. Another one in a Vermont town stayed around a woman's porch eating the bird suet and trying to catch songbirds at the feeder. A bobcat in Nelson was shot breaking into a poultry pen. Another at a Conway hotel was caught when it got locked in a pen while trying to kill ducks.

And, in the Sunapee Lake area, Kevin Sargeant of Newport had a hair-raising experience with a large male bobcat. Sargeant was in a blind to observe and photograph wild turkeys when this bobcat walked up to within 10 feet of him in the blind. Fortunately, the startled photographer had the presence of mind to get a great sequence of photos.

Contributed by Al Porges

High iodine diet levels may lead to tumors

According to a new study at the University of Missouri-Columbia, domestic cat foods with high iodine contents significantly alter function of a cat's thyroid gland which may lead to the formation of thyroid tumors or to the activation of existing tumors.

The recommended level of iodine in the domestic cat diet is between 1.1 and 2.3 micromoles/kilogram dry weight a day. Some canned cat foods have 10-60 times that dosage. Because iodine is a necessary nutrient in the diet, high dosages

of the chemical were commonly thought to be harmless.

A survey in New York revealed that one in 300 domestic cats was battling thyroid tumors. If this is true of the entire U.S. cat population, about 200,000 cats a year would require treatment at an estimated cost of \$120 million.

Those of you who add salt to your summer diets to increase liquid intake would be well advised to use non-iodized salt.

A Special Gift

the final part of a continuing story by James Godsmark of LIOC, Canada

Greg Tanner stood on the steps of the Sprucedale Town Hall impatiently shifting his weight from foot to foot. Every thirty seconds, or so, he would quickly glance at his watch, watching as the little black digital number changed: little black bars on a silver-gray background which would magically rearrange themselves every minute. Greg's watch informed him that it was now 8:48. Twelve minutes until the front doors would open. Twelve eternities separating him from his chance to regain Silver.

After several minutes the town clerk, Doug Bradford, slowly strolled around the corner and began to walk up the steps, already fumbling for his keys. "Good morning Mr. Tanner, what are you doing here his early? Do you have some sort of bylaw problem, or do you need to pay a fine?"

"I guess a bylaw problem." Greg replied. "OK, just give me a chance to open everything up here and we'll see what we can do for you; it must be pretty important for you to be here, waiting on the steps, this early." the town clerk observed.

"Believe me, Mr. Bradford, you can't possibly imagine how important it is to me."

"OK, we'll see what we can do. Just give me five minutes." With that, Doug Bradford unlocked the front door, propped it open, and went inside. As Greg stood waiting, the Mayor and then several of the secretaries arrived. After about ten minutes had passed, Greg entered town hall and walked into Doug Bradford's office.

"Thanks for waiting Mr. Tanner, how can I help you now?"

"Well, I seem to have a little problem....."

"I kind of gathered that, Mr. Tanner, but what sort of problem is it?"

Greg swallowed twice, then began to tell Doug Bradford the entire story from start to the emotional finish of earlier that morning. When he had finished, Doug Bradford gave Greg a sympathetic look and said: "That's rough. I think I know where you're coming from, Mr. Tanner; I've never really been a cat person, but I've got my dog, Taz, and I know that if anyone tried to take him from me, they would only be able to do try. They'd have to go through me first, and I don't think that they would particularly like the results. I said that they'd only try because they would not succeed in taking Taz from me. And I'm supposed to enforce the laws in this town!"

Greg knew well how much Doug Bradford was in fact attached to Taz; he had seen Mr. Bradford walking around the countryside with his faithful Fila Brasileiro on many occasions. Indeed, Taz seemed to be a permanent extension of Doug Bradford, absent only when he went to work. Wherever else Doug Bradford went Taz went too.

"Well, can you help me with getting him back Mr. Bradford? There's got to be something in the bylaw.....Silver is just a small cat, he could never hurt anyone, anyway."

Doug walked to a filing cabinet marked 'Current Bylaws 1988-' and slid open the drawer marked A-C. Doug began to rifle through the drawer for about forty seconds before he said, "Aah, her it is, Animal Bylaws." and extracted a file roughly as thick as a Sears catalog. He set it down with a loud thump, and opened it up saying, "Let's see what we can find in here, shall we?"

Doug began to flip past things such as animal trespass, nuisance animals, excessive noise, farm animals, pets and finally, "exotic animals".

"Here we are.", said Doug as he hopped the series of about a dozen sheets stapled together, which he extracted from the file folder.

"Well, Greg, I'm not going to bore you with the three hours worth of mumbo jumbo written here, but it basically defines "exotic animal" as any type of animal which are not normally kept as pets by people. It is illegal in this area to own any sort of exotic animal. So, in other words, apart from your usual farm animals, your domestic dogs and cats, and other run-of-the-mill pets you can't own it. It's spelled out quite clearly here, I'm afraid Mr. Tanner."

"Come on, it's got to say something else Doug."

"Not really, except, oh, I forgot, it is legal to own animals normally raised for fur. I really don't think that will help your cause though, Greg."

Somewhere in the back of Greg's mind a small bell rang. "Who knows, maybe there is still a way somehow. Just out of curiosity, what animals do they classify as 'furbearing animals'?"

"Well, if you insist," Doug licked his fingers, and flipped ahead a few pages. "It lists, and I quote: 'Furbearing animals which are not regulated under this bylaw include: mink, erimine(commmercially ranched), foxes, wolves, lynxes, bobcats....." Doug's voice trailed off, and a look of recognition passed over his face. "What have we here? Maybe we have a nice little loophole for Silver after all. You know, I've got to give you credit Greg, you're not dumb."

"However Doug, isn't there one thing we're overlooking? How do I get a fur licence? And, even if I can, does that mean Silver has to end up as part of a rich lady's coat?" Greg shuddered at the thought of some rich woman, dripping with diamonds, wearing Silver on her back.

"Just let me check for you. I'll have you know that if I can get your cat back for you, you'll have to buy me a beer! Off-duty

of course. All this trouble for a little cat.”

“I’ll buy you an entire brewery if you want! It’s not just for any cat, it’s for my special little boy.” Greg suddenly found himself getting upset again, “You know, you only really figure out how important something is to you when you lose it. I really want him back.”

Doug found the file and forms in question and said, “That’s funny, it doesn’t say much of anything, except that the town will issue a licence for a yearly fee of \$500.00, and this will entitle the person to raise furbearing animals. It doesn’t specify whether or not you actually have to use them for fur. Can you believe that? Here is another example of a badly written bylaw. But, I guess that it will be good enough for you, won’t it Greg? So, if you can give the town \$500.00, I guess I can issue you a fur license.”

Greg began to fumble in his pockets for his chequebook. Luckily he had enough funds in his account to cover it...”Do you take personal cheques, Doug? The Town treasury I mean?

“Of course we do, Greg” Doug let out a short laugh, “What do you pay your property taxes with every year? Your Visa? Or maybe your Sears card?”

“Oh, yeah, that’s right...” Greg wrote out the cheque and handed it to Doug Bradford. Doug stamped it and put it in a cash drawer beneath the counter. He then began to fill out Greg’s new license. As he bent down over the desk, filling it out, he said, “Greg Tanner, bobcat furfarmer. Now there’s a hot one!” Doug punched some keys on the computer and the

printer began to spit out a professional-looking license form. Doug tore it off and asked Greg to sign. “I guess I’d better call animal control and tell them to return your bobcat, as you are legal now.”

“Please do.” Greg smiled.

Doug called animal control and he was just about to put the telephone to his hear when Officer Parker walked in.

“Hang that up Doug, it won’t be necessary.”

“What do you mean Harold?”

“I’ve been in the hallway, listening to you two fight this out with the books for the last ten minutes. They would tell you he’s been adopted anyway.”

“Greg’s eyes grew to the size of saucers and bulged out. “What!?”

“I said, he’s been adopted. Someone who is qualified to keep him expressed interest about an hour ago. He’s being delivered to his new home right now.”

“What do you mean, being delivered, who’s delivering him?”

“Me.”

“Well, where are you taking him!?” Asked Greg, as much anger as fear in his voice.

“Well, I’m not supposed to be telling you, but I can give you a little hint; he works for a large ad agency in the city and his name is Greg Tanner.”

“Huh?”



“So, what’s for dinner?” says Ralph Ferrer’s Daisy Bobcat.

Ranthambhor's Missing Tigers

reprinted, By Sid Montgomery

Ranthambhor in India's northwestern state of Rajasthan is a wildlife paradise. Peafowl are so numerous that in places their plumes litter the ground like fallen leaves. Swamp deer, big as moose, wade in the six big lakes; jackal, hyena, and fox slink through the ruins of a 1,000-year-old fort; mongoose and monkeys scamper around an ancient temple; and 270 species of birds festoon the sturdy dhok trees surrounding the park's lakes.

But Ranthambhor is best known for a single species: the biggest and most spectacular cat on earth. If you wanted to see a tiger, this is where you would come.

Here, at Ranthambhor National Park lies the most famous and dramatic tiger habitat in the world. Researchers have counted as many as 87 of the 600-pound, flame-colored cats. For years, tourists have been virtually assured of seeing a tiger their first day out. But today, you're lucky to see a tiger here at all. Mysteriously, more than half of Ranthambhor's famed tigers have disappeared.

Ever since 28 of the previous year's 45 tigers were noted missing in last spring's census, conservationists, law officers, and government officials have been scrambling to explain what happened to them.

"The photograph hunters have killed the tiger," claims Ammed Singh, manager of two Rajasthan Tourism Development hotels, who says the tigers have fled from the 35,000 tourists who come here every year. "If you had 100 people come to your house every day, you'd be dead too," says Singh.

Ranthambhor's deputy chief director, Dinesh Chandra, sees things differently: "There never were 45 tigers here. Forty-five tigers is too many."

Valmik Thaper, an independent researcher who has been studying the tigers of Ranthambhor since 1977, offers yet another explanation: "Ranthambhor's tigers are victims of poaching and of carelessness." The park's managers have not been sufficiently vigilant in protecting the tigers against poachers or the park against encroaching agriculture and grazing, he claims. "Nobody anymore is answerable or responsible for anything."

The case of Ranthambhor's missing tigers, conservationists warn, constitutes an international emergency, heralding threats to tigers throughout India, where 60 percent of the world's tigers live.

Peter Jackson, chairman of the Cat Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, told his colleagues as 1992 ended that the situation in Ranthambhor is an alarm call that cannot be

ignored. "It is my belief that the end of the tiger is in sight," Jackson said, "possibly within 10 years."

Inquiries into Ranthambhor's missing cats reveal a staggering array of conservation problems that managers admit probably plague parks throughout India. The crisis at this most famous of India's parks, in fact, is forcing officials to reassess one of the most highly touted conservation efforts of the century: India's nationwide multibillion dollar Project Tiger, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

"Last evening my forester saw a tiger here," says Krishna Chandra Joshi, Ranthambhor's research officer, pointing to the right. There, glowing in the sun 25 feet away stands a fawn. Its twin emerges from the forest to join it, standing in the dirt track. Their mother's high-pitched alarm call is sharp as a car horn. Could she be responding to the tiger?

With Ragun Chundawat, an instructor from the Wildlife Institute of India, Joshi scans the ground from impressions of the tiger's paws in the brown dust.

Carrying illegally cut firewood, a villager leads his cattle out of Ranthambhor Park.



Elleanor Briggs

A few hundred yards up the road, they find the trail. "Two days ago we saw a track very similar to this 10 kilometers from here," says Chundawat, looking at a clear impression of the tiger's left hind paw. Bending over, he places a clear plate of glass enclosed in a wooden frame over the track and carefully traces its outline with a green felt-tip pen. He will later transfer the tracing to paper.

Because the tiger's pad is somewhat square, Chundawat knows this is a male. But that's not all: India's tiger hunters maintained that tigers' paw prints, or pug marks, are as individual as human fingerprints. The whole system of tiger census throughout India is based on this Tiger Tracer Technique. Here in the brown dust of Ranthambhor, researchers, like palmists, try to read the fate of the supreme predator the Bengal tiger.

Since Project Tiger was conceived in 1973, tracings and comparisons of tracks like these have yielded estimates of India's tiger population. The soil, trackers reported, bore good news: estimates of the country's tiger population have more than doubled in the past 20 years to more than 4,000. Other than on the Indian subcontinent, tigers live only in Indochina, Siberia and Sumatra. "Project Tiger has been internationally acclaimed as the most successful conservation undertaking in the 20th century," boasts Arun Ghosh, the project's soft-spoken, silver-haired new director.

But the problems revealed at Ranthambhor - always Project Tiger's prime success story - suggest that Project Tiger may be falling short of its reputation.

That may be because the threats to the tiger's survival in India today are more complex and insidious than 20 years ago.

When Project Tiger began, tigers were slaughtered primarily for their skins. Now conservationists face a grisly new wave of poaching: today's smugglers want tigers for their bones. Used in Chinese potions, particularly "tiger wine," the bones are falsely believed to bestow strength and virility. It is alarmingly popular. A Taiwanese trade magazine stated that one tiger wine brewery alone imported 2,000 kilograms (roughly 4,410 pounds) of bone per year to produce 100,000 bottles of wine, killing up to 100 tigers.

This kind of poaching is more difficult to control than the skin trade, conservationists agree, because tiger skins can be easily identified, but tiger bones are almost impossible to tell apart from the bones of legally slaughtered animals used in fertilizer, glue, and gelatin. The bones are so valuable that poachers have been known to leave the tiger's skin and carcass behind.

At least 5 and possibly as many as 20 of Ranthambhor's missing tigers were killed by poachers, authorities believe. Several suspected tiger poachers were arrested last July; but poachers are seldom caught and rarely prosecuted. Of the 212 cases of plant and animal poaching at the park recorded between 1974 and 1992, only 7 have been decided in the courts

and 94 by the forest department. One hundred and seventy-two cases are still pending.

The time has come for renewed efforts to protect the tiger, its habitat, and prey species from poaching," Jackson urges. But at Ranthambhor as well as other parks, rather than tackling



organized networks of poachers and smugglers, forest guards have their hands full trying to protect the park from neighboring villagers. At 8 of the 19 Project Tiger reserves, Jackson said, militants and activists are disrupting park management.

In Ranthambhor, in the past decade, two foresters have been murdered by angry mobs illegally thronging the core area with their cattle. Other Forest Department staff have been beaten and stoned, park Deputy Chief Chandra reports. "Here is one man who was beaten," he says, calling over 50-year old Radhey Sham, whose ramrod straight posture bespeaks great pride in his work. With half a dozen other unarmed forest officers, Sham was trying to repel a gang of more than 60 villagers who sought to seize land for cultivation in the park's protected core area last August. The beatings resulted in broken bones in his arm, and now he still needs help putting on and taking off his coat.

"People have depended on this place for fuel, grass and water for thousands of years," notes Chandra. Mirroring the population explosion India-wide, the number of people living in the 60 villages ringing Ranthambhor's protected core area has grown from 170,000 in 1981, to 200,000 today. Cattle, buffalo, goats, sheep and camels now number more than 100,000. The people and their animals increasingly eye Ranthambhor's off-limits core for scarce resources - and it is becoming more difficult for park guards to keep them out.

The park is also sadly understaffed. Since 1987, Ranthambhor

has changed field directors four times, and in 1991, had no formal field director at all; 10 of 19 forester positions are vacant as well as 21 of 103 forest guards. In addition, there is no veterinary unit and no assistant conservator of forests.

Yet, despite these problems, until last year, censuses at Ranthambhor showed more and more tigers living there year after year - including tiger population increases that experts like Chandra call "biologically absurd." (Chandra cites 1980-82 figures showing a tiger population increase of 33 percent at Ranthambhor.) At Ranthambhor and other tiger reserves as well, officials privately admit that with Project Tiger's reputation at stake, they have felt pressured to inflate their census figures. Many of Ranthambhor's "missing tigers" may never have been there in the first place.

In fact, many biologists now reject the figures presented in the last all-India tiger census in 1989, which estimated 4,334 tigers roamed within Indian borders. Most experts, says Jackson, think the actual figure was more like 3,000. Still, even that figure is a dramatic improvement over the 2,500 tigers estimated in India in the mid 1960s.

"In our tradition, environment has a very high priority," says Ranthambhor research officer Joshi after his morning of tracking. "In the hagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says, 'I live in the trees.'" Joshi bends down to touch the grass growing beside the gravel track next to the ancient sandstone archway at the park's main entrance. "This grass," he says reverently, "will stop bleeding. You cannot find a plant here that does not help human beings."

"The environment is important," he continues, "but India is a very poor country. People need to eat first."

Independent researcher Thaper agrees: "The tiger's destiny is deeply entangled with the cultural traditions and way of life of the people. The future of Ranthambhor National Park therefore is deeply enmeshed in this concept." Acknowledging this fact, in late February, India's union minister of state for environment, Kamil Nath, announced the launch of what he called the Second Phase of Project Tiger: an ambitious program of eco-development to reduce human pressure on the wildlands supporting tigers throughout India. The program will fund better irrigation systems and water conservation ponds in the villages; underwrite replanting projects to improve grasslands and fuelwood plantations in the buffer zones; and promote new strains of cattle for better milk production, so people can get more milk out of fewer cows. The World Bank has pledged \$14 million to help.

Ranthambhor is among the first Project Tiger reserves where the plan will be implemented. Already, other changes are under way: the number of tourist vehicles allowed inside the park has been cut from 60 taxis a day to 6 large buses and caravans, Chandra says. Efforts to refine the tiger census techniques continue. "Ranthambhor has always been one of the best examples of Project Tiger's success," says Project Director Ghosh. "With our new programs, we will make sure it remains so."

A New Branch Formed: Sunshine State Exotics

Our first meeting was held at Jane Baetger's home. We had five new LIOC members in attendance.

We spoke of Dee & Ed's reptiles, Charlie Baetger's birds and Ed's burmese python hatchlings. He had 27 eggs which he incubated in three different mediums, with eight hatchlings. Two eggs had twins! Jane was able to witness this and found it to be quite incredible. We also spoke of Sandra's ordeal with her jungle cat, Keisha's emergency hysterectomy and the strenuous trip Jane's Canadian lynx had from New York to Florida.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Jane and Pam's lynx kittens, Charlie's chameleon, Bowser, and Pam's possum, Miss America.

The first order of business was voting in officers. They are as follows: President: Jane Baetger, Vice President: Sandra Cassalia, Secretary/Treasurer: Pam Riley

Here's a brief introduction of our Officers:

President Jane Baetger has been a member of LIOC for almost 22 years. She has owned almost every kind of exotic cat and now has her Canadian lynx, bobcat-Bobby and Asian leopard cat, Moonbeam. Her son Charlie is a big help as he loves the cats. He is starting to breed birds. She is currently sponsoring Dee & Ed for their Class II permits.

Vice President Sandra Cassalia has been a LIOC member for approximately four years. When she and her husband, Dave, moved to Texas, they began a large-scale exotic animal breeding compound. They have owned everything from snakes to gila monsters; hedgehogs to prairie dogs; marmosets to macaques; and jungle cats to Bengal tigers. She currently breeds jungle cats and bengal cats.

Secretary/Treasurer, Pam Riley is a new member of LIOC, although she has owned jungle cats, bengals and Canadian lynx for almost two years. She has a fantastic F1 Asian leopard hybrid and boy is he a sweetheart!

Lori needs a sponsor to work with for 400 hours to obtain her Class II permit. She wants to get a smaller cat, like a bobcat, although her ultimate goal is and has always been a cougar. She lives in Central Florida, so if anyone in her area can help her, please contact her at 904-734-0765.

Ed will be building squeeze cages for members who request one and will pay for materials. Better get your order in soon, as his wife, DeAnne is due to deliver their baby girl on Thanksgiving. We all wish you will DeAnn!

Sandra's jungle cats, Sidney and Sasha are now breeding and so are Luis' servals, Natasha and Ringo.

Before the meeting was adjourned, we decided on our club name, logo and motto "Devoted to the Welfare of All Exotic Animals."



The September meeting was held in the home of Girley and Linda Crumb. Everyone enjoyed seeing their bobcats, Buck and Wheat as well as their miniature horses and pinchers.

We again talked about the Convention and the problem of canine distemper crossing over to the big cats.

We had lots of demos: Jackie Vanderwall showed how to give shots, Steve Belknapp demonstrated how to use a capture net and Gayle showed how easy it was to handle a cat with a cat mask. We did present a set of cat masks to our vet, Dr. Haveman to use since alot of us go to him with our animals. He did seem very pleased.

Since we had new members present, we talked about the different do's and don'ts and also talked about houseplants. The new folks talked about their bobcat, Bosley. He is from Montana and just beautiful.

Todd and Carole Stiles had their serval kitten, Ricke with them and Steve Belknapp had his two chaus kittens.

We had our usual dollar game which Girley won and of course the raffle. I think everyone went away with something.

The rest of the day was spent playing with kittens, visiting and lunching.

The October meeting was held in the home of Todd and Carole Stiles. It was a treat to see Nutmeg the caracal and of course Ricke the serval, but the highlight was the new baby, Savanha serval. She is a doll and just full of P & V.

Other cats present were Bosley bobcat and a cougar kitten belonging to our President Glen Davis. (Sorry, I can't remember the kid's name). Jan Merris was there with her two serval kittens, (they're still looking for homes).

We discussed getting prepared for the winter. Things do get kinda cold around here for the cats.

Steve Belknapp announced that one of his chaus kittens went to its new home and the other would be leaving in a few days. Gayle announced that Juca and Bambi chaus were together and hopefully breeding.

Kathy Tesdal won the dollar game and we had the usual raffle.

Submitted by Gayle Schaecher.





EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

**September 12, 1993
Meeting Minutes**

Our meeting started with a potluck feast. The weather cooperated so we could be outdoors to enjoy the barbecue.

Ethel Hauser opened the business meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. She asked Pat Parker to submit the financial report. From this report, Pat advised the squeeze cage raffle was a success, therefore enabling EFES to donate \$100.00 to the LIOC ESCF general fund.

15 members were present, and Sharon welcomed three new members:

Richard & Jan Merris
David Born
Robert & Marilee Carroll

Barbara Wilton and Sharon Roë gave an overview of the LIOC ESCF 1993 Convention which was held in San Diego in August. Catalogs and brochures from convention exhibitors were distributed.

Ethel confirmed that EFES would co-host the 1994 Convention with Kelly Jean Buckley which will be held in Tucson, AZ, August 10-14th. She encouraged our membership to make plans now to participate and support Kelly Jean.

FUTURE WORK PARTIES/FUND RAISERS DISCUSSED:

A fund-raising work party is scheduled for December 12th. It will be hosted by Larry & Jean Torland. Ethel announced that Norman Ray, who has expertise in design of floral arrangements, has volunteered to teach and assist us in making Christmas center pieces.

Larry Torland presented Peter Slaney's 1994 Pacific Northwest Calendar as a possible fund-raiser. Larry provided the calendar layout, costs, and potential earnings from sales. Questions were raised and it was decided to research this project further. A report by Larry and Sharon will be submitted at the November business meeting.

Ethel asked Larry to investigate possible river/stream/highway clean up programs that EFES members could support to promote our organization within the community.

Ethel proposed a change in 1994 meeting dates from the second weekend to the third weekend. After discussions, Larry made the motion for the change, it was seconded and carried.

***** GOOD GUY AWARD *****

July & August GOOD GUY AWARD was presented to:

Larry & Jean Torland

for volunteering their time to clean and paint cages at Ethel Hausers'

Sharon distributed copies of the EFES By-Laws. It was decided in order to keep postage costs down, by-laws would be provided to members at meetings upon their request. At future business meetings the by-laws will be discussed.

**MEMBERSHIP/GUEST
MEETING
October 10, 1993**

Ethel opened the meeting by welcoming the 22 persons in attendance. The officers were introduced as well as our featured artist and member, Arla Hertz. Her china paintings on porcelain were displayed along a wall of the meeting hall.

Ethel pointed out the suggestion box for the "Good Guy Award," encouraging people to submit individuals for recognition. She also thanked Jean Torland for providing this box to EFES.

Sharon welcomed new members as follows:

Shirley Alger

Tom & Kelly Jean Buckley

Mark Flanders

Sandy Hartnell

Steve Johnson

Doreen Morelli

Robert & Sue Schwab

Sharon mentioned that the EFES By-Laws are available upon request. The raffle items were displayed, and she introduced John who would be selling raffle tickets.

Sharon pointed out the great bulletin board which our Historian/photographer, Jean Torland, had filled with photos and information of interest. Sharon specifically mentioned Nanette McGann's "Thank You letter for the squeeze cage" which Nanette had won at the 1993 LIOC convention held in San Diego in August. *A request was made for people to donate items, photographs, and/or articles for display for future meetings.*

Another member, Shirley Malar, had order forms available for exotic feline artwork on T-shirts and sweatshirts. The artwork is Shirley's, and several other northwest artists. Samples were being modeled by Larry & Jean Torland, and John Roe.

Rod Black summarized an article on "Hunting and Fishing Tips" as this is the season.

The main topic of the meeting was demonstrating and discussing handling equipment for exotic felines:

--- *Ken demonstrated how to use the pole net and catch pole*

--- *Ken and Ethel showed the small squeeze cage, using Ethel's Bobcat, Tabatha, as the occupant, and demonstrated how it works.*

--- *Sharon displayed the large squeeze cage with her Caracal, Senor Boxxe, as the occupant. As Boxxe appeared to be very contented, we decided not to disturb him with a demonstration. She also displayed and talked about a pair of leather gauntlet gloves, various types of halters, collars, and muzzles.*

****Handouts on suppliers of this equipment was available to anyone interested****

Ethel and Barbara exhibited various species of feline pelts which they have collected through the years. They explained about each feline, their origin, and natural habitat. The majority of these animals were rescued felines. These included the Leopard Cat, Margay, Geoffroy's, Ocelot, Chaus, Bobcat, Serval, and Cougar.

Ethel introduced member and photographer hobbyist, Shirley Aiger, who spoke of her desire to contact those individuals who would be interested in having their feline(s) photographed for a book which she is in the process of publishing. Anyone interested in participating can reach Shirley via Ethel, Barbara, or Sharon.

Sharon reminded everyone of our *Nov. 14th Member/Business meeting to be hosted by new members, Robert & Marilee Carroll*. It was also announced that the next meeting would include nominations for the 1994 officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). *Nominees must be members of EFES and LIOC, and who have attended one year of EFES meetings.*

Sharon announced the *Dec. 12th Fund-raiser Meeting & Work Party at Larry & Jean Torland's shop and home*, and that it would be the christening of Impulse's new home. Ethel advised that, Norman Ray, a retired florist, would be showing us tips and tricks on how to make Christmas centerpieces, which is our fund-raiser item. She said we would be selling the centerpieces for \$7.50 for the small size, and \$10.00 for the large size.

We were reminded that beginning in January 1994, meetings/functions will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars.

The meeting was adjourned for show and tell of the exotic felines in attendance, and to enjoy the refreshments provided by the officers.



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

November 14, 1993
Business Meeting Minutes

Ethel called the meeting to order. She welcomed 20 members, and thanked Bill and Marilee Carroll for hosting this meeting in their home in Molalla, OR. Sharon introduced and welcomed *new members Bob and Colette Griffiths.*

SAD NEWS

Ethel advised of the passing of Elizabeth Ghent. She had been a member of EFES for over 15 years, and was a member who had contributed her time and energy to the welfare of all exotics. For 25 years, she cared for animals in need. She will be missed by all who knew her. The animals have lost a true friend too.

EVENT

Jean Torland told about a scheduled November *Fund Raiser for The Cheetah Conservation Fund operated by Dan Kraus and Laurie Marker-Kraus.* These events will consist of slides, videos, and lectures concerning their conservation strategy for the long term survival of Cheetahs in Namibia, Africa. There are three presentation dates:

Nov. 19th, 7:30 PM @ Washington Zoological Park

Nov. 20th, 7:30 PM @ Humane Society of Seattle

Nov. 21st, 11:00 AM @ "Out-A-Bounz" Sports Bar Restaurant, Lynnwood, WA, which also includes a brunch

TREASURER REPORT

Pat Parker reported we earned \$46.00 in "raffle dollars" at our October meeting. After deducting for operating expenses, the treasury balance is \$246.78. Ethel asked Pat to obtain EFES DBA's in Oregon and Washington. She will also apply for a federal identification number.

FIELD TRIPS:

The membership discussed possible destinations for field trips in 1994. Some of those suggested were:

1. Wolf Haven Howl In
2. Northwest Trek
3. West Coast Game Farm

We need your suggestions and ideas, so be sure to contact one of the officers.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

The following appointed positions are open for 1994-1996:

1. ***Sunshine Member*** - Be that person who sends cards to members who are ill, hospitalized, newlywed, etc.
2. ***Raffler*** - Sell raffle tickets for donated new items, and sell tickets for our "dollar bag." These are our meeting fund raisers and are lots of fun.
3. ***Telephone Tree*** - Be part of a three member network to phone members and guests in your area encouraging attendance and participation in club functions.
4. ***Librarian*** - A person who will be responsible for our library of books and videos. This is a resource for our membership to use.
5. ***Photo Historian*** - Take photographs of our meetings, functions, attendees, felines, and make a permanent record for the club.
6. ***Volunteers -New Projects*** - First proposed project is compiling a handbook of information for potential and existing felines owners

We encourage your participation. Your help will contribute to our growth.



***** GOOD GUY AWARD *****

Sept. & Oct. GOOD GUY AWARD was presented to:
a surprised Ethel Hauser
for her contributions of advice, care, time, and support

EFES LOGO:

Ethel recommended updating the logo to better represent the new name of the organization. She will be working with Shirley Malar to design a logo that will incorporate the felines represented by our club, and portray the intentions of the organization to provide education on felines in general.

BI-LAWS:

The membership read and discussed the Bi-Laws. There were minor revisions made. Please note that one of the revisions was that the annual dues will remain at \$5.00 per family, per year, but that they will now be due and payable in January of each year, regardless of when you join.

NOMINATIONS:

The following were nominated for the 1994-1996 positions:

<i>President</i>	<i>Ken Hatfield</i>
	<i>Larry Torland</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Rod Black</i>
	<i>Sandy Hammersley</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Sharon Roe (unopposed)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Pat Parker</i>
	<i>Barbara Wilton</i>

The ballot is enclosed. Also included is a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for returning this ballot. Ballots must be returned no later than December 20th for your vote to count.

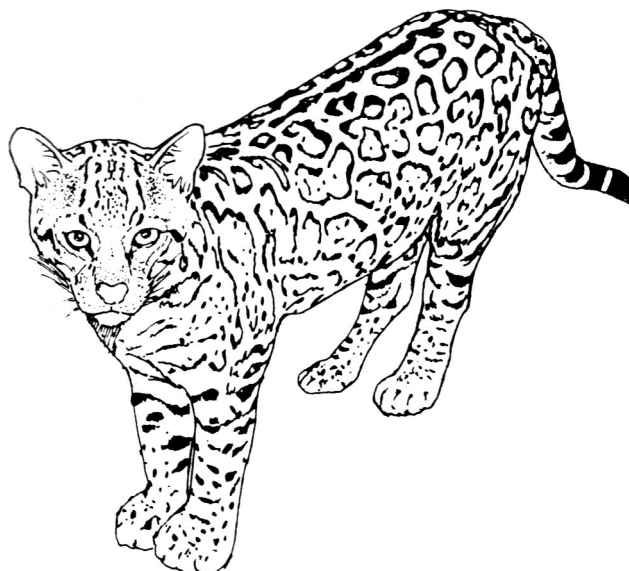
We ended our very productive and successful meeting with lively raffle and dollar bag games. One of our members donated a very popular 1/3 cord of wood. Others donated Christmas decorations, and handmade cross stitched feline kitchen towels. EVERYONE was digging deep in their pockets for dollars!

Of course, no one went home hungry, as we had quite an array of goodies to eat.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Roe

Sharon L. Roe
Secretary/EFES



The Return of Senior Boxxe, part II

-continued from the last issue-

We contacted the city police. The one officer on duty, Officer Russell, advised us that these apartments were outside the city limits and not under their jurisdiction. We called the state police, who said they couldn't respond as there was no report filed and the city police had not asked for assistance. The officers who took the call initially either didn't complete the report or it was sitting in a stack of paperwork in the station. Officer Russell, who informed us that he had been on the force for 13 years, was obviously not very energetic. He told us that we had no evidence, only 'hearsay', and to go out and talk with these hispanics ourselves. We went back to the station to talk to Tom again, and he decided he would take us to these apartments after he got off work at 10:00 pm. He felt he should be with us as he knew these people. Boxxe became someone else's mission, Tom's.

In the mean time, since the police were of no help, Jim decided to check with the local bikers. these fellows, whom we never did see, also would be on the lookout for Boxxe. Jim checked with them every few hours for news.

So, here we were, the four of us in a small town following Tom, someone we barely knew. Driving miles outside of town to knock on doors of strangers at 10:30 pm. We arrived at these five very dark, dreary housing units. They were all dark except for very dim lights on in #3 and #5. The hispanics and their families were at #3. The suspected thief answered the door and confronted all of our faces in his. He pretended not to know English, but Tom was aware of this ploy. We told him we knew the cat had been there and that all we wanted was the cat back. Jim waved \$400 in his face. I told him, "Cash for cat!" and promised him, "No police."

These people were not very coherent, they were either on drugs or alcohol. It was very frustrating knowing how close we were to Boxxe, that he could be in the other room. Yet, we were unable to reach him. We got nowhere.

There was a house very close by which we decided to check. Amy, a teenager, was very helpful. After seeing a photo of Boxxe, she confirmed that she had seen him with these suspected hispanics at about noon on Sunday at Unit #5. She said that the hispanics that had Boxxe were driving a 1979 or -80 two-door dark-blue Chevette. She didn't have the license number but felt that these fellows were either relatives of those people in unit 5 or were close friends as they were a lot.

Again, we contacted Officer Russell, but without a statement from the witness and no license plate number, he wouldn't do anything. This new fact led to a caravan of all our vehicles

going to all the hispanic apartments and mobile parks in the area to check for this car. Let me tell you, driving the dirt roads in the country between 11:00 pm and 1:00 am under any other circumstances would have been scary, but we were all driven to find Boxxe and nothing else mattered. as Jean and I were following Jim's truck, Jean told me about a vision that she'd had. She said she saw Boxxe in a white house and that it had trees out front. The next apartment complex that we drove up to was a long white two-story building with trees out front. Out front among all the other cars was a car as described by Amy. We both looked at each other and felt the chills down our back.

The apartment complex was called the 'White House.' Tom knew the manager. After talking with him, Jim, Tom, and Judy went with him to one of the basement apartments. Disappearing from sight, I thought if the people in this apartment had Boxxe they may try to sneak out the back. I found the other exit and covered it until my friends came back out Jean stayed by our car and watched the front. No one answered at the apartment.

The next complex we went to was called the 'Power House.' These names gave me pictures in my mind of hispanic communities warring on each other. At each location there were people mingling around.

All our searching failed to uncover anything more. When we returned to the Tillicum Inn, we called the police again and gave them the new information. I came up against another un-informed officer, apparently, Officer Russell didn't communicate either. This officer, Officer Tolliver, was very negative. After hearing our story, he started to chew me out for going out to the Bugle Apartments without police. He said he had arrested the same hispanics several times and that they were armed with guns and knives.

I informed him that Officer Russell had told us to pursue this ourselves, and it wasn't until after my continued insistence that he agreed to go out with Jean and I to talk to these hispanics again.

Jim and Judy went to check for word from the bikers. It was 1:30 am when we followed Officer Tolliver out to the apartments. He roused the hispanics, and searched their apartments to no avail. We didn't want to wake Amy, so we left a poster with a note in her door to call me at the motel in the morning. At 2:30 am we called it a day.

It's hard to explain all the feelings that came over me, and I'm sure my friends felt them too. The disheartening moments, the fear over Boxxe's fate, and the moments of feeling hope. It was very wearing.

I awoke at 6:30 am. Today, I felt, I was going to get Boxxe back. Amy called at 7:30 am. I asked her if she would submit a statement as an eye witness, as the police would not act without one. She agreed and said her mom would take her to the police station on her school lunch hour to fill this statement.

By 8:00 am Jean and I had located the schools and alerted the school bus drivers and the school principle, who would have an announcement made to all the students. At the post office, we alerted the mail carriers, and then returned to the police station. We confronted Officer Russell, brought him up to date on the events, and still no action, but a promise of action when they had an eye witness report.

I stopped to try to call home and catch John who would be in between ship jobs. the answering machine kicked in. Unable to talk to John, I checked for messages and got word my luggage had been found and was at the Inn.

As we covered all we could in Umatilla, we decided to find the potato processing plants and farms where the majority of migrant workers could be found. Have you ever tried to find a potato plant or farm? they don't use signs in the country. We followed Jim and Judy, making several stops to ask directions, when we finally found our first processing plant. The place appeared to be deserted. Jim drove around the back of the buildings to check for workers while Jean and I stayed out on the road. On the horizon was a cloud of dust headed for us. As it approached, we realized it was a potato truck. Jean jumped out of the car and actually flagged it down. As she was talking to the driver, I saw Jim and Judy drive out of another entrance

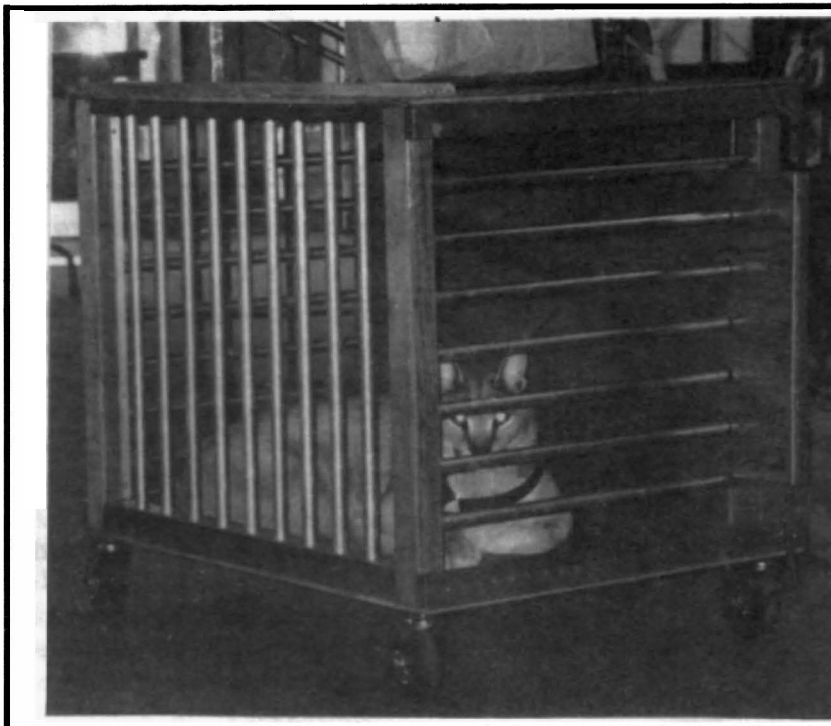
and disappear over the same horizon in a cloud of dust, apparently on another search. Jean jumped back in and said we could follow this driver to the plants where all the other workers were.

As we turned around and headed off down the road, I wondered where Jim and Judy would end up and where we would see them again. We were following this truck for several miles down the road when I asked Judy where were we going. She replied, "I don't know. I didn't ask!" It turned out okay. We ended up at the three exclusive processing plants. We talked with the office personnel and they let us put up the posters in the cafeterias.

We rushed back to the Umatilla police station to meet Amy and her mom at 12:15 pm. Amy filed her statement and we thanked her and her mom for their caring and thoughtfulness in helping to find Boxxe.

I needed to be back in Hermiston for a 1:30 pm appointment with the Hermiston Herald, the local newspaper who agreed to do an article about Boxxe's disappearance, so off we were again. Afterwards, we stopped at the county health clinic, the veterinarian office, hospitals, and the county sheriff's office. The county officers were very understanding and helpful. They would have an officer meet us in Umatilla as we needed to be back at BoJac's at 4:00 pm to meet Shirley, who was coming in from Portland.

On the way back to Umatilla, we stopped by the Inn to pick up my luggage, which was found in a field by Mark, an apartment manager. Upon walking into the motel office, the manager



Senor Boxxe
in the squeeze
cage made by
EFES

said, "Here's your bag. I'm glad you found your cat." I said, "What?" He replied, "They have him at City Hall." I was tired, exasperated and said, don't play games, I can't take it. He said, "Really, they found your cat!"

At that point, I cried, hugged him, ran out to the car to tell Jean, and we headed for City Hall. As we passed BoJac's, I saw Jim and Judy in the parking lot. Judy was talking with the county sheriff who arrived before us. I jumped out of the moving car and yelled where is he.

Judy tried to play dumb, but couldn't keep a straight face. Jim was standing beside his truck, and in the truck beside him lay Boxxe in a carrier, licking himself clean, very oblivious of the excitement around him.


We all hugged and cried. Jim said that a lady named Alicia Pedalis brought Boxxe into the City Hall. She didn't want a reward, just a photograph of Boxxe. She said she saw him on the highway on Sunday, picked him up and took him home for the night.

All we have is her address. We never got to meet her. City Hall called the motel, who informed Jim and Judy. Judy said that Jim went to City Hall, picked Boxxe up off the floor and cried while Boxxe licked his face. Judy said that this was one the few times that Jim cried since he lost Harley, his cougar who had died in a forest fire last year.

I picked Boxxe up, who laid back in my arms, very calm while a scratched his neck. Other than a little gaunt, dirty and stinky, he looked healthy and contented. The look on his face, was "Gee mom, what took you so long?" We all cried and hugged each other, and joked about Boxxe being at an all night mexican party, thus deciding to give him the new name of Senor Boxxe.

We couldn't leave town without saying our goodbyes. We went across the street to the gas station to show Tom the cat we had been searching for. There were tears in his eyes. All he wanted was to have his picture taken with Boxxe, and a picture of Boxxe with his kids.

the entire time Boxxe was missing, I wasn't hungry I was famished now, and so was everyone else. We decided to eat at BoJac's before starting back home. This time, Boxxe went inside the restaurant with us. Of course he was in his carrier, but that didn't last long. The waitresses, the cook, and people who had seen the posters, had to see Boxxe. He was quite the celebrity, and he enjoyed every minute of it.

Before leaving town, we drove to the apartment complex to thank Mark and to show him Boxxe. He offered to babysit if we ever came through Umatilla again. All the way home, Boxxe laid in my lap, dozing on and off. Each time he woke up, he licked my face and cuddled closer. It would probably be the only time he would snuggle so close to my face with both paws around my neck.  loved every precious minute of it.

This event taught all of us a lesson. **Never** leave your animal unattended, even though you have **taken precautions**. It only took a minute for Boxxe to vanish. **I have him back** because I was very fortunate to have friends, **and to come across** those strangers who cared enough about an animal, **to unquestionably** put time and effort into bringing him home. **There truly** are those that care, and I'm thankful for them.



Monterey Poaching - justice prevails

Almost three years ago, authorities **arrested** Floyd and Dawn Patterson at their Monterey County ranch for **setting up** illegal "canned hunts" of **endangered** tigers, leopards, and protected mountain lions. **The big cats** were kept in cages while "hunters" paid up to \$3000. for the privilege of shooting these magnificent animals at point blank range.

After two years of appeals of a jury verdict, Floyd Patterson was ordered to begin serving his sentence of 180 days in jail for his role in promoting the stunt. His wife, who was originally against the cat hunt plan, is putting in community service time. Mr. Patterson has been ordered to pay fines and fees of \$28,000, far more than he received from the sale of opportunities to kill endangered cats.

WILD CAT SPECIES OF THE
WORLD

By Richard Green
Basset Publications, Softcover,
163 pages, color illustrations

When asked to name a known wild cat species, most people mention the more popular species which are seen in zoos such as lions, tigers, etc. WILD CAT SPECIES OF THE WORLD reveals information about the well-known species and many lesser known ones.

The author opens the book with a brief biological description of the family Felidae - the cat family. This is followed by chapters which give the vital statistics, description, distribution, habitat, habits, breeding, development of the young, and the status and systematics of each species. All currently known subspecies are listed together with their International Species Indexing System (ISIS) classification numbers and respective ranges.

As an example, when studying the Pallas cat, the reader will learn that it can be found on the eastern shores of the Caspian sea, in Afghanistan, Ladak, Mongolia, western China, and neighboring parts of southern Russia. The reader will discover that the Pallas cat prefers open terrain such as steppe, desert or treeless rocky mountains, and has a peculiar mating call which sounds like the cross



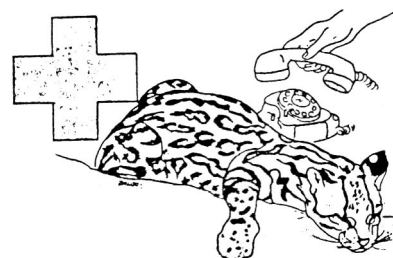
between a small dog barking and an owl screeching. Should the reader wish to see what this cat looks like, it is pictured in a section of color photographs which show many of the species discussed in the book.

Richard Green has held a number of positions in zoological gardens, both in the United Kingdom and Australia where he gained his knowledge of wild animals. He has been awarded the City and Guilds Animal Management certificate.

This book will be of interest to feline enthusiasts who have an interest in the wild cats and to professionals who work with and study them.

To order send a check or money order for £15.00 (overseas airmail postage included), to Basset Publications, 60 North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF, England.

Reviewed by Bridget Cohen



KNOW YOUR VET'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

California bobcat bill defeated

Senator Tom Hayden and Mark Palmer, Executive Director of The Mountain Lion Foundation, appeared before the California Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee in support of Hayden's S.B.380, a bill to outlaw sport hunting and commercial trapping of bobcats.

Last year about 300 people trapped bobcats for fur in California, while another 400 shot bobcats for sport. Palmer contends the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) ignored the interests of about 30 million people who live in California and who care about the bobcats's survival.

The Committee thought otherwise. An avalanche of letters and phone calls from angry hunters and trappers rolled in...most claiming that S.B. 380 was an attempt to end all hunting in California.

The final vote was four "Noes" and three "Ayes", with four members of the Committee not voting (which amounts to a no vote, since a bill needs at least 6 votes to move out of committee).

The DFG joined bobcat hunters and trappers in opposing S.B.380, stating that there is "no biological reason" to stop trapping and hunting of bobcats. Supporters of S.B.380 responded that it has everything to do with ethics and the need to make sure that the public, who technically own wildlife resources, are indeed happy to let "their" bobcats be executed for fur and fun. A small minority of profiteers and hunters have monopolized the fate of bobcats and other wildlife species in California.

S.B.380 was defeated, but it is not dead. A strong bill was introduced that outlawed all exploitation of bobcats immediately.

Please send a letter today to your state Senator, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you do not know who your state senator is, contact your local Registrar of Voters. Urge them to support S.B.380.

Reprinted from The Mountain Lion Foundation

Boycott to save tigers

In a disturbing report in their Spring, 1993 Journal, Earth Institute calls for a boycott of companies with business ties to Taiwan in order to halt the trade in tiger, rhino and other endangered species product through that country.

Taiwan now has the world's highest per-capita income. Luxury goods abound in local markets. Unfortunately, these products include wine distilled from tiger bones, rhino horn (an estimated 77% of Taiwan's pharmacies - 10,500 shops - stock rhino horn) and bear gall bladders many illegally poached from the U.S.

Just say no to goods made in Taiwan. America provides the largest market for consumer goods produced in Taiwan. Please shun the "made in Taiwan" label when you buy and write to Mr. Mou-shih Ding, Senior Representative, Taiwan Coordination Council for North American Affairs, 4201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. Tell him that until Taiwan demonstrates its resolve to stop trading in endangered species, you will not buy products made in Taiwan.

Neither China or Taiwan have signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which has 120 signatory nations. CITES has threatened to impose trade sanctions on Taiwan and China. China has given pharmaceutical companies until November to sell off their stock of tiger and rhino, though Chinese medical encyclopedias still recommend rhino horn as a cure for hot tempers and toxins and tiger bones stir-fried with vinegar or wine to bring down a fever and to reinforce sinews and bones.

The ban has left Chinese tiger farms where the animals have been bred to be slaughtered in limbo. At Felid in Heilongjian province near the Russian border, 69 Siberian tigers were reported dying of malnutrition in August after the government cut subsidies for the local breeding farm.

While Westerners balk at such cruelty, for the Chinese it has been a way of life. Animals are often treated with disdain. The China Youth Daily reported that 130 animals at the Shanghai Zoo died as the result of abuse by visitor over the last three months alone. Most of them had been fed large amounts of plastic, metal bottlecaps and handkerchiefs. One visitor poked the eye of an hippo with an umbrella, and the zoo did not exhibit its pair or rare golden monkeys for almost a decade fearing abuse by visitors.

STATUS OF THE AMUR LEOPARD

STATUS IN THE WILD

The Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) is one of the most distinctive and the most northerly of all leopard subspecies. It is also among the most critically endangered mammals in the world. It is believed to be extinct in South Korea and either extinct or critically endangered in China. Its status in North Korea is unknown. About 15-25 were thought to survive in the Russian far east before the present wave of uncontrolled poaching occurred in this region. Almost certainly fewer now survive and the Russian Amur leopard population may be approaching extinction.

STATUS IN CAPTIVITY

The 1991 International Leopard Studbook lists 129 Amur leopards in 34 collections. The captive population is faced with three major problems:

1. Strong genetic over-representation of two founders (F2 and F3)
2. High levels of inbreeding in many animals derived from F2 and F3.
3. Hybridization (see below)

Founder F2 was almost certainly not *Panthera pardus orientalis*. It was obtained from Hong Kong and its place of birth is unknown. Furthermore, most experts now agree that its coat pattern and body morphology is highly atypical of the subspecies *P.p.orientalis*. These atypical traits are now expressed in most animals derived from the F2/F3 founders pair. Furthermore, this line also produces melanistic animals, which have never been recorded among Amur leopards in the wild. Although the appearance of melanism as a spontaneous mutation is not completely impossible, it seems more likely that the gene was brought into the captive "Amur leopard" population through founder F2. Melanism has been recorded in the wild in the Himalayan leopard (*Panthera pardus pernigra*) which is another thick coated and cold-adapted subspecies. Founder F2 and many of its offspring resemble the Himalayan leopard much more closely than they resemble *P.p. orientalis*. In addition to founder F2, the origin and subspecies identity of founder F89 may also be questionable.

Only few living captive Amure leopards have received a genetic contribution from F89, but most have (often strong) genetic contribution from F2. Of the 130 Amur leopards in captivity outside China and Korea, only seven males and two females are not related to founder F2 and can, therefore, be considered pure *P.p.orientalis*. All of these nine

animals are either wild caught or derived from the Pyongyang Zoo (North Korea). At present, only one of the two females is paired to a pure male and, so far, no pure offspring have been produced from these nine animals (although a number of hybrids have). There is an additional pair of pure Amur leopards of North Korean origin in the Beijing zoo (China) and an unknown number of animals in the Pyongyang Zoo which are not registered in the studbook. However these animals may not be available for a coordinated breeding program.

CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM

With only two pure females and seven males potentially available for a coordinated

breeding program, establishing a genetically healthy purebred population of Amur leopards may be difficult, but not impossible. To achieve this goal, an Amur leopard breeding station is now planned in the Russian far east and it is hoped that a few juvenile leopards can be obtained from the wild to supplement the captive-bred population.

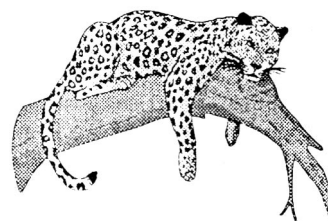
Establishment of the Amur Leopard Breeding Station is spearheaded by Anatoley P. Bragin, the world's leading authority on this rare cat, who is concerned that the Amur leopard will slip into extinction soon.

The 190-hectare compound has already been obtained close to where the last wild Amur leopards survive in the Russian far east. However, establishment of the complete breeding center can only happen if enough financial support and logistic support can be obtained from the international community. Another alliance is needed, like one between the AAZPA tiger SSP and Indonesian

authorities which led to the building of the Sumatran tiger breeding compound in Indonesia.

The widely accepted fact that much of the existing captive population is hybridized should be discussed as a matter of some urgency and recommendations should be drawn up as to how to manage both the pure and the hybrid populations.

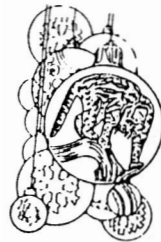
Reprinted from CCSGB News



PEACE ON EARTH

Peace on earth, Goodwill to all,
To every creature, large and small
Peace on earth, the time has come
To heal this planet we call home.
Hand to paw and heart to heart,
Side by side, from worlds apart.
All together, beast and man.
One worthy goal, one common plan.

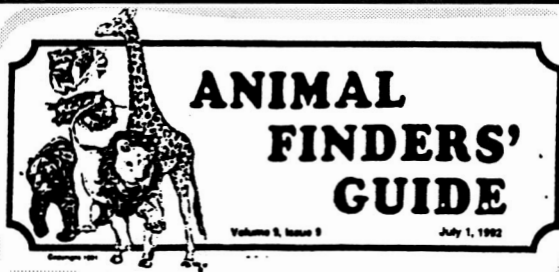
Cleaner water, fresher air,
Trees and flowers everywhere.
Children laughing, hand-in-hand,
In every town, in every land.
Peace on earth, it can be done.
It's a race that can be won.
Peace on earth, it can come true.
For peace on earth begins with you.



Glad Findings

The Classifieds

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