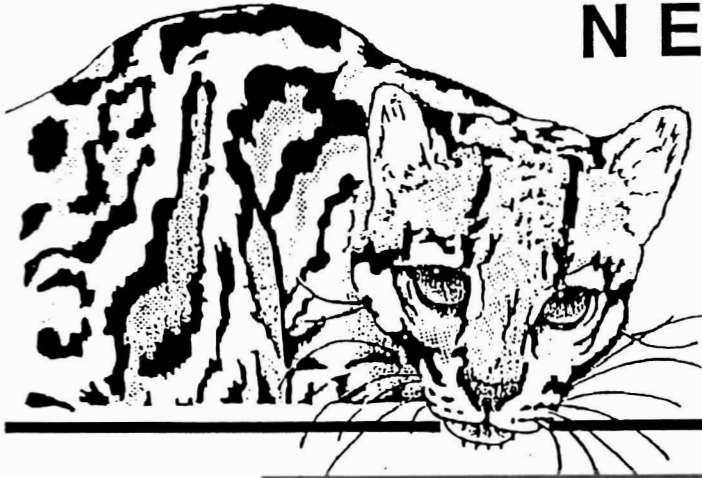
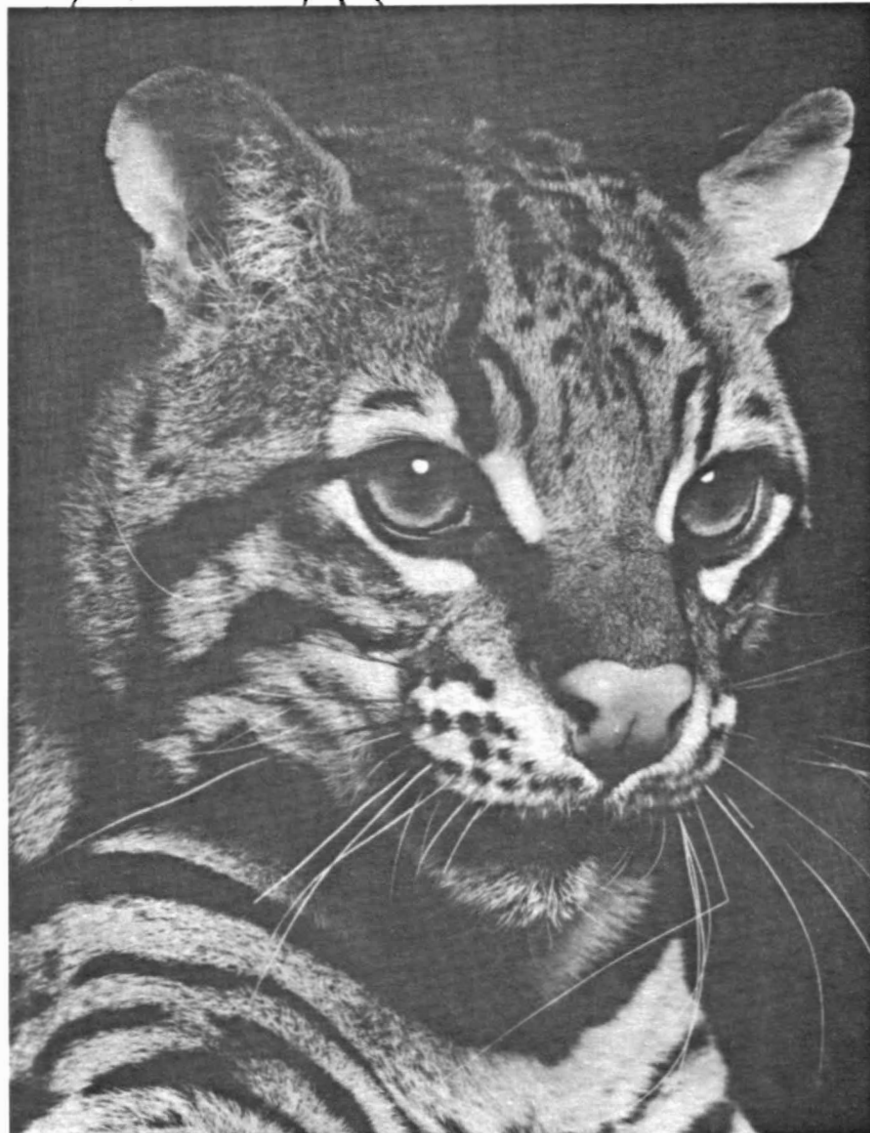


NEWSLETTER



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Pharaoh, rules over Isis Oasis. For his story see page 5



LIOC

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 feline are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subject will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Please submit all material to the Managing Editor.

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LIOC needs YOU!

The PHANTOM HOST WANTS YOU! Time's running out!! Save \$25.00!!! Register for the 1995 LIOC Convention by June 15. Send \$85.00 payment to LIOC-ESCF, Inc. PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028. (After June 15, the fee will be \$110.00)

Incredibly beautiful Colorado Springs is your destination, August 16-20. Enjoy sharing cat "tails", knowledgeable speakers, laughter-filled parties, delicious meals, and fun touring times.

Relax in the luxury of your Embassy Suite. Call 1-719-599-9100 to make your reservations for memories to last a lifetime.

"Tidbits" Continued...35 YEARS LATER!

SMALL CATS		BIG CATS		HYBRID CATS	
4	Black Footed Cat	1	Cheetah	55	Bengal (Leopard Cat/Domestic)
100	Bobcat	104	Cougar	1	Bobcat/Jungle Cat
51	Caracal	5	Jaguar	3	Bobcat/Lynx
19	Chaus (Jungle Cat)	11	Leopard	3	Bobcat Pixi
7	Fishing Cat	13	Asiatic Leopard	7	Chaus/Domestic (Jungle/Dom.)
34	Geoffroy	1	African Leopard	1	Jaguar/Leopard
1	Gordon Cat	1	Amurian Leopard	8	Safari (Geoffroy/Domestic)
5	Indian Desert Cat	10	Snow Leopard	8	Savannah (Serval/Domestic)
9	Leopard Cat	19	Lion	The 1960 LIOC cat census totaled 79 cats and in 1995 LIOC's cat census totals 712 CATS! These totals include cats that have been reported by their owners on membership renewal forms, and do not include cats whose owners have not filled out the "how many cats do you have?" form. We believe our cat family is much larger. Please include your cats on your renewal form, then we'll have a more accurate cat census next January 1996.	
1	Clouded Leopard	3	Black Panther		
16	Canadian Lynx	13	Tiger		
2	Eurasian Lynx	6	Bengal Tiger		
2	Irkutsk Lynx	21	Siberian Tiger		
11	Siberian Lynx				
11	Margay				
18	Ocelot →				
5	Oncilla				
2	Rusty Spotted Cat				
120	Serval				

Floridians Angered About Texas Cougars

When one of Russell Davis' calves was found dead in late October, state officials blamed it on barbed wire. He insisted it had been attacked by a Texas cougar.

When another calf died a month later, Davis says the state reluctantly admitted cougars - released into the area by the state - were the culprits.

Now Davis and about 250 other North Florida residents have signed a petition saying their livestock are still being attacked and want the cats taken away.

State officials released 19 cougars in North Florida in 1993 to determine whether the endangered Florida panther, which they believe once lived in the region, could survive there. The panthers now live in the Big Cypress National Preserve in south Florida.

The cougars are closely linked genetically to the panthers, and officials want to monitor how they respond to the area before attempting to restore panthers to the region. A plan to cross-breed the two animals was also being considered.

Of the 19 cougars released in '93, only 9 still roam the area; four were killed and six were removed after stalking livestock or interacting with humans.

Residents accuse game and fish officials of covering up problems that raise doubts as to whether the panther protection program can work.

"They're not being honest," said Michael Carter, who lost seven exotic game animals to the cougars. "It's lack of integrity."

Lt. Col. Larry Martin, region director for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said there had been "very few" cougar attacks on livestock. He said each

would be considered when the program comes under review in June.

"We will look at the big picture," Martin said. "We need to save the Florida panther. It's Florida's most prestigious mammal."



New Flea Collars Proving Toxic

Amitraz is a chemical recently added to flea and tick collars and is reportedly causing lethal poisoning after accidental ingestion. Signs of toxicity including acute onset of weakness, lethargy, slow heart rate, depression, dilated pupils and tense abdomen. Veterinarians may also detect an elevated blood glucose level, low blood pressure and low body temperature.

Since most owners may not know their pet has ingested a piece of the collar, vets may treat symptoms wrongly. Atropine is commonly used to treat dangerously low heart rates caused by other disorders. However, in the case of amitraz poisoning, atropine should be avoided. Yohimbine is recommended instead. Amitraz ingestion is relatively new and therefore may be unfamiliar to many veterinarians. Appropriate treatment is imperative to survival.



My ocelot, Pharaoh was born 12 years ago at our compound in northern California. Since that time he has been a joy and a marvel. His mother and father were Karma and Milo, brother and sister from different litters by Trilby and Caesar. These cats were known to LIOC in the early days through periodic stories I would write about their "true romance". Both cat couples lived to a ripe old age and were entirely devoted to each other the whole time.

Pharaoh is the ocelot you may have seen in the September issue of *LIFE Magazine*, who also took the photo of him portrayed on the cover. When she and her partner, David Liittschwager came to capture an ocelot on film for their forthcoming book an exhibit at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Pharaoh was the obvious choice. His cage is open to all for he truly loves and accepts humans. They were able to put a lot of camera equipment in his habitat and spend all day shooting while this lovable cat posed without anyone else needing to stand by.

There is a bench in Pharaoh's cage called the "hugging seat". He loves people to come in and sit on it. Then he comes from his perch above, down a ladder directly over it and through their left arm, sits on their lap and reaches up with both paws and hugs them with many friendly rubs and kisses. It has thrilled a myriad of adults and children alike.

I tried to breed Pharaoh with a female I'd gotten who had no tail, having had an accident during her time with her previous owner. She was sullen and unhappy and did little to create romance, sitting

glumly in the corner of their indoor space most of the time until one day she just up and died.

Pharaoh was photographed for the book *Vavra's Cats*, which featured all kinds of cats, both wild and domestic, posing alone and with interesting people and all wearing exotic jewelry. Pharaoh was shown standing in a bed of ivy wearing an ancient South American necklace. He looked stunning! His latest claim to fame is the spectacular photos of him in the book *Witness*, again by Susan Middleton and David Liittschwager, which also resulted in a major exhibit at the Academy of Sciences. This exhibit featured huge prints of each of the photos in the book which depicts both animal and plant life endangered in North America. Those interested in the book can obtain it from Chronicle Books, 275 Fifth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

A new mate was sent for Pharaoh a while back and though she was adorable and delightful in nature, it took awhile for the two to accept each other. However the good news is that about six months ago a wonderful female cub was born from their new found love and we welcomed her into our ever-expanding cat family.

Her name is Ankh, short for Ankhseamon, who was in real life the wife of King Tut. There is a young male ocelot here waiting for her to become a little more mature and then, probably when it is spring, we will introduce them. Of course, King Tut is his name. Most of our cats have ancient Egyptian names as befitting the decor we maintain at Isis Oasis. This is the retreat center I started after leaving San

Pharaoh continued

Francisco, when they outlawed exotics in the city.

At this moment, Sheeba, Pharaoh's mate is living in our solarium. I noticed she was looking a little chubby and her nipples seemed to have lengthened and pinkened. These, of course, are signs of pregnancy so I am forced to separate the two lovers. Although I am quite happy about the possibility, I am faced with getting new permits as I am finding out that breeding is no longer permitted without a breeders License. So, although I applied some time ago I am finding out there is more to it than

I suspected and more papers must be submitted and letters from experts and the scientific community need to be obtained. So, a great many aspects need to be covered before I can have offspring that will not be in violation. I do have an exhibitor's license with Fish and Game and the U.S.D.A. but that is not valid for the natural process of birth.

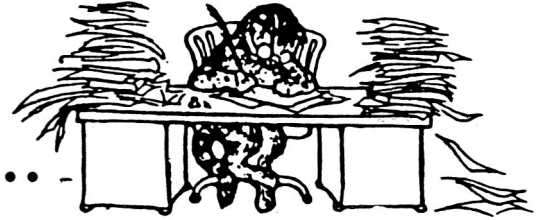
While many people are won over, as they visit here, to the concept of keeping animals in captivity. But I am called upon to clarify the differences between captive and wild animals quite often and must explain it to those who cannot understand how anyone can keep an animal in a caged environment.

Loreon Vigne



Pharaoh's grandparents - Trilby & Caesar

Readers Write.....



Dear LIOC,

I haven't written anything since my clouded leopard died in 1993. But time has healed my hurt somewhat and I want to share a few things with members.

I recently received a leaflet issued by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), entitled *The 10 Most Cruel (but not unusual) Acts*. It covers mostly domestics; failure to spay/neuter, letting animals roam, etc. Number 8 affects us. I do not agree with it completely, but do understand why it is being said:

"Buying Exotic Animals: Very few exotic animals make suitable household pets. Unfortunately, most people don't realize that fact until after they've bought one. Every year, hundreds of exotic animals show up at humane shelters because their owners can no longer control them. A monkey or a ferret is better off in the wild where it belongs."

Please screen prospective owners thoroughly. And be available after you place a kitten to help them over the rough spots. And, finally, be willing to help replace the animal if it does not work out. We should all take the attitude that we are responsible for each and every animal we produce for life!

Secondly, I have met two of our members from Louisiana, Jackie and Larry Bowling, who recently moved to the North Jacksonville area here in Florida. They live about 10 miles from me and it's wonderful

to have LIOCers to share exotic cat talk with. Their caging facility is wonderful and their two felines are gorgeous. Cato is their male ocelot and Conan their male serval. Larry and Jackie have been so helpful and encouraging. I thought I'd never get another exotic because I was devastated by the loss of my margays and my clouded. But now my desire to get a serval is renewed and I have started erecting a new facility. The Bowlings have helped me raze the old margay cage and set up the new chain link. Jean Hatfield in Davie has been giving me moral support and hopefully will direct me to an available cat in 1995.

Thirdly, I have a tale to relate on the Florida Game Commission (FGC). I have paid my \$100 permit for Class II cats for 7 years. This past July I failed to send in the money since I had no cat and no prospects. But, a bird rehab facility had taken in a Florida bobcat kitten found on a highway injured and very sick. They nursed him back to health along with their vet and at age 5 months he needed to be placed in a permitted home (so they thought) with a larger and stronger facility. So, I sent in my \$100 check to renew my permit for a Class II. The cat was very "tame" and humanized; I had clipped his claws before bringing him home. After only two days he was adjusting well to me and his new home, and playing with a tennis ball, eating well, etc.

The FGC inspector called and wanted to come by even though it wasn't time to inspect my monkey (Class III). The inspector said I could not keep a "rehab"

Readers Write....continued

cat unless it was permanently injured. She also told me my clouded leopard facility was not adequate. She also cited me for not having my permit in hand (although I presented the copy of the form and check).

She confiscated the cat (using my transport kennel) and took it to a rehab facility but would not reveal which one. I called Tallahassee to speak to one of the top officers but could not reach him. I left word that this humanized cat should not be released back into the wild as the inspector indicated would be done.

How sad that the state cares so little for its wildlife. A permit to kill a Florida bobcat is \$8; a permit to own one is \$100. Well my permit is now in hand but I still do not have the bobcat back. I only hope someone, somewhere is caring for him and that he doesn't have to go back to the woods to get shot by a trophy hunter.

In the meanwhile I am continuing my search for a serval.

BeeJay Lester
(904)249-2015

CLOSE TO HOME



"Our idiot veterinarian said that the cat has a serious tartar problem and recommended that I try flossing her teeth!"

Call for Agenda Items

Each year at convention a General Membership meeting is held. This is the time the general membership can ask the Officers & Directors to discuss and vote on items which may affect LIOC.

If you have any motion you wish to place before the Board, please send it to:

Ken Hatfield
President LIOC
1260 Perimeter Rd
Troutdale, OR 97060

All items must be received no later than July 1, 1995.

The Real Price of Furcoats

- 55 wild mink
- 35 ranch mink
- 27 raccoons
- 40 sables
- 11 lynx
- 18 red foxes
- 11 silver foxes
- 100 chinchillas
- 30 Rex rabbits
- 9 beavers
- 30 muskrats
- 15 bobcats
- 25 skunks
- 14 otters
- 125 ermines
- 30 opossums
- 100 squirrels

Bill Aimed at Canned Hunts

House Bill 1202 has been introduced with the stated goal of ending "canned hunts". Called the "*Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act of 1995*", some fear this legislation could impact on other activities such as travelling circuses as well.

H.R. 1202 reads as follows:

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interstate-connected conduct relating to exotic animals.

A Bill

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act of 1995".

Section 2. Transport or possession of exotic animals for purposes of killing or injuring them

(a) IN GENERAL - Chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

48 Exotic Animals

(a) Whoever, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly transfers, transports, or possesses a confined exotic animal, for the purpose of allowing the killing or injuring of that animal for entertainment or the collection of a trophy, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) As used in this section -

(1) the term "confined exotic animal" means a mammal of a species not historically indigenous to the United States that in fact has been held in captivity for the

shorter of -

(A) the greater part of the animal's life;

or

(B) a period of one year; whether or not the defendant knew the length of captivity; and

(2) the term "captivity" does not include any period during which the animal-

(A) lives as it would in the wild, surviving primarily by foraging for naturally occurring food, roaming at will over an open area of at least 1,000 acres; and

(B) has the opportunity to avoid hunters.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT

- The table of sections at the end of Chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"48. Exotic Animals."

USDA to Tighten Rules on Dealers

The Agriculture Department says it is strengthening its Animal Welfare Act regulations to ensure that animal dealers and exhibitors keep accurate and complete records.

The USDA is amending the regulations to require that dealers, exhibitors and operators of auction sales certify they are in compliance with the regulations before applying for a license renewal.

Dealers and exhibitors also will be required to use certain forms to make, keep and maintain animal identification records required by the regulations.

The final rule was published in the March 15th Federal Register and will become effective April 14, 1995.

Oregon Battles to Save Measure 18

Last year, Oregon voters approved Measure 18 by nearly 44,000 votes. The measure prohibited the hunting and baiting of bears and cougars with dogs.

Legislation has now been introduced that would in large part destroy this effort.

House Bill 2584, introduced by Rep. Bill Markham would repeal Measure 18. By-passing the democratic process this legislation would override the will of the people.

House Bill 2570, introduced by Rep. Larry Sowa, would not repeal Measure 18 but would allow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to lend its name to paid advertisements, to participate in press conferences and to lobby against any wildlife protection initiative. Do Oregon taxpayers want their money spent by a government agency in this way?

You should voice your concerns on these issues by writing to your state Senator and Representative at: State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310 Phone 986-1180.

You may also wish to contact Governor John Kitzhaber and urge him to veto any legislation that would repeal or weaken Measure 18.

For more information you may also contact the Oregon Bear & Cougar Coalition P.O.Box 82776, Portland, OR 97272 (503) 232-8626

Lotty Recipients to Meet

At Convention this year, past Lotty recipients will meet to discuss the rules for this annual award. Please see John Perry or Shirley Wagner for the time of this meeting. See you there.

Legislative Alert

Alabama - Members in Alabama are encouraged to write their State Representatives and Senators encouraging them to vote YES on House bill 46 and Senate bill 269.

These bills will rescind Section 8 of the Livestock Definition Act which was passed last year. Section 8 prohibits ownership of "felidae or canidae for which there is no approved rabies vaccine."

We are all aware that the approval process requires sacrificing of the animal and could not be tested on most exotics due to the cost and risk to endangered species. Though aimed at the wolf-hybrid faction, this law effectively banned ownership.

You may also contact Rep. Lindsey and Senator Hap Meyers who chair the Agriculture Committee in the House and Senate and encourage them to pass the bills to the floor for a vote.

Additionally in Alabama, House bill 290, sponsored by Rep. Nelson Papucci has been introduced supposedly to strengthen the anti-cruelty statutes. Although we all support this effort, this bill would allow for the "appointment" of humane officers who would have the power to enter your property and confiscate you animals without a warrant. It then requires you to pay the cost incurred even if you are found innocent of charges. Needless to say, ask your representatives to vote **NO** on House Bill 290.

Your Editor would like to hear from others on whether rabies vaccine is administered to exotics in your state.

Snow Leopard



Part 2 of 6 Parts

Breeding and Reproduction

By Ron Eldridge, BVS

Amongst all of the world's great cats, the snow leopard is probably the biggest mystery. Even the natives of the Himalayas refer to the snow leopard as the "Ghost Leopard".

Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*), are reclusive except during the breeding season. Both the male and female can be seen interacting and hunting together during this time. Mating occurs from January through March. Females care for their cubs for nearly two years after birth.

A considerable problem for solitary hunters is finding each other when the female is in estrus. Scent marking and vocalization are methods used by snow leopards to find each other. Vocalization during the breeding season is a time when eerie *yowls* may echo throughout the night. One biologist heard a snow leopard call out for a mate over fifty times in approximately one hour. He observed the cat sitting like a dog with his head thrown back, reminiscent of wolves howling at night.

Scent marking is very prominent during the mating season as well. Both the male and female will scent their territories. Scent marking patterns of the snow leopard include urine spraying, scraping with the hind feet, and head and neck rubbing. The scent marked areas serve as "road signs" to the snow leopards. The addition of sex hormonal products to the urine and body secretions brings about a change in their odor to tell the male that the female is ready to mate. The male snow leopard also increases his rate of urine spraying at this time. The male will expand his home range in search of females during the breeding season. The leopards test the urine marks of other snows by drawing the odor over the vomeronasal organ in the roof of the mouth. The facial expression caused by this action is called "flehmen".

The snow leopard breeds at the end of winter when the female comes into season. If she does not mate, she comes into season again for up to 70 days (table 1.0)

After mating, the female makes a nest among the rocks. She gives birth to two to four cubs after a gestation period of 93-110 days. Much darker than their mother, the cubs are blind for the first week, but they start to crawl within ten days. (table 1.2). At two months old they can run and eat solid food as well as suckle milk. By mid-summer they follow their mother to hunt, staying with her until they are nearly two years old.

Some zoo studies suggest that snow leopards mate for life. However, most field conservation biologists can find no evidence to substantiate the conclusions of the zoo studies. Field studies all show that the snow leopard leads a life of solitude except for the brief mating period.

When the male snow leopard locates the female, there is usually a prolonged

Snow Leopard....continued

TABLE 1.0 ESTRUS AND CONCEPTION

SPECIES	COPULATION FREQ PER DAY	AVG ESTRUS	PROBABILITY OF CONCEPTION PER ESTRUS
SNOW LEOPARD	5-15	3-8	0.5 +
CHEETAH	3-5	5-14	NO DATA
LION	100	6-7	0.2-0.25

SOURCE: EATON (1976a)

TABLE 1.2 NEONATAL DATA

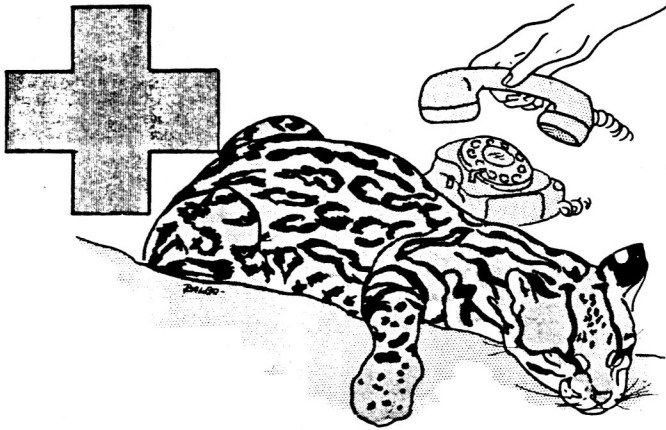
SPECIES	GESTATION DAYS	WGT AT BIRTH (g)	DAILY WGT GAINS (g)	EYES OPEN	LITTER SIZE
SNOW LEOPARD	99	470	48	8	2-4
(Range of Days)	(93-110)	(320-708)	(29-75)	(7-9)	-
CLOUDED LEOPARD	88	145	23	2-11	1-5
(Range of Days)	(85-92)	(140-150)	NO DATA	NO DATA	-
CHEETAH	92	270	50	7	1-5
(Range of Days)	(90-95)	(250-300)	(40-50)	(7-11)	

SOURCE: EWER (1973); HEMMER (1976b)

courtship. Initially, the female resists the male's advances even though she acts provocatively towards him. Reassuring these dangerous felines that their intentions towards each other are mutual is accomplished by increased amounts of visual and vocal communications.

For those of us who have been in the

presence of this magnificent creature of the snow-covered mountains, we can only hope and pray that the snow leopard will always be out there for us to see and experience. Hopefully, through conservation and education we can impact on the snow leopard's survival...the ghost leopard must not become just a ghostly memory!



Intestinal Blockage

By Scarlett Bellingham

Cats are curious creatures, and one of the most common causes of death is death by misadventure, very often by ingesting something inedible. This causes an intestinal blockage.

Intestinal blockages are extremely serious and life-threatening. I have found an extremely effective method of treating such blockage. This is not a first aid method that you would use if your cat is straining to defecate, vomiting, or appears dehydrated.... if your cat is showing one or all of these symptoms you must take him to the veterinary **immediately!** The time to administer this treatment is as soon after you believe your cat has eaten something he shouldn't have or even suspect he has. This treatment is harmless and will not harm your animal. I use plain, ordinary Vaseline (please do not use the baby powder scented kind - cats are repelled by that smell).

Keep in mind that a generous tablespoon of vaseline was used by our grandparents and great-grandparents as a home-remedy laxative. The consistency of vaseline makes it far safer to administer than mineral oil. Mineral oil, if inhaled or aspirated will coat the lungs and can cause

pneumonia. Most of my cats will simply eat vaseline out of my hand. If your cat won't, try and stick it down his mouth - it is pretty hard to spit out as it sticks like peanut butter.

You can also put the vaseline in the microwave and melt it down to liquid form and then mix it with your cat's favorite food. I use ground chicken or turkey and "mush" the whole thing together, placing some of the ground chicken or turkey that does not have vaseline in it on top.

I am not giving exact amounts to be used as I've found that the more you can get into them the better. Try to at least get 2-3 tablespoons into the animal (for a small to medium sized cat, more for the bigger guys) repeating every 3-4 hours for a 24 hour period. The event, of course, that you are waiting for is a bowel movement. If there is none in 24 hours, take your cat to the vet.

I have a caracal that had an operation to have a blockage removed. Unknown to me, he had eaten a dishcloth and a styrofoam tray that meat comes on from the grocery store. We almost lost him and because of his appetite for this type of thing, we put childproof locks on all our

Intestinal Blockage...continued cupboards.

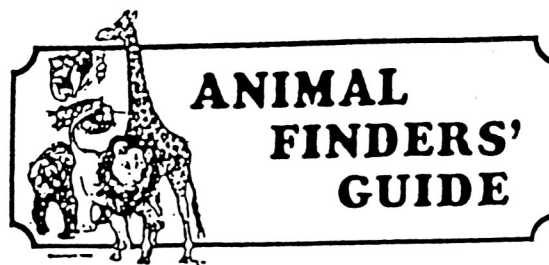
Shortly after his recovery from the operation, he stole a leather glove and consumed the entire article except for one finger which we found. I was desperate and immediately started the vaseline. Lo & behold, he kept going to the litter box and having bowel movements. I became the official kitty box inspector and slowly, it took about five days, but the entire glove, in pieces, emerged. He had regular bowel movements, which of course were quite messy with all the vaseline that was going through him, but I gave it to him religiously every day until I was satisfied that he had passed the entire glove. I am positive that if this cat had not received this treatment he would have required another operation. If that had been required, who knows what the outcome might have been and if he would have survived?

The only other tip I can give is that you can also melt the vaseline down and fill the largest syringe you can get (sans needle) and while someone holds the cat, put the tip of the syringe in the corner of the cat's mouth slowly pushing the plunger to expel the vaseline. Remember to make sure when heating vaseline to let it cool sufficiently before giving to the cat!

If you believe your cat may be blocked, do not give him any food with bone in it even if that is his regular diet. The bone just seems to catch on the material causing the blockage and compounds the problem. I mentioned previously that I use ground chicken or turkey and that seems to work well, Zupreem or canned Science Diet or any soft food that the animal prefers, even "junk" canned foods will suffice in a pinch. Remember, you must be inventive and fool your cat into thinking he's getting a treat.

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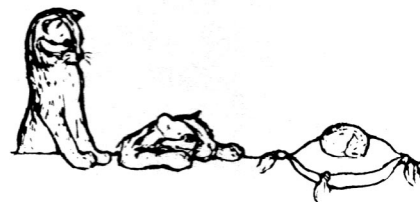
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The March meeting was held in Beaverton, Oregon at the home of Gayle & Clem Schaecher. We kind of got a late start as it was a beautiful, sunny day and for Oregon in March, sun is a bit unusual!

Steve Belknap welcomed both members and guest. After introductions we had a real question and answer debate.

We have a fellow out there that had bought a cougar out of state. Apparently, the guy that sold him the cat didn't know Oregon rules and regulations (or didn't care). Nor did he give the guy any idea of what to feed the cat once she was off the bottle. He was feeding the cat (now 8 months old) one can of ZuPreem a day along with a handful of dry cat food. He couldn't understand why she was so rowdy.

The group tried to explain that first his cougar needed more food. She also needs a larger cage, that she can't be trained like a dog, and advised him to try to get legal. He lives in a very well populated neighborhood. We all suggested he try and find another location; one with fewer children around. To make a long, sad story short, after finding out all the information he needed to know to have a cougar legally, and to care for it properly, he doesn't want to bother and is now looking for a home for

her. Quite often our group runs into exotic owners that get their animals without knowing what they are getting into.

Steve announced he had all kinds of babies and that Bab's Jungle Cat was expecting any day and that his Siberian Lynx might be expecting. Babies on hand at Steve's are a wallabie, twin sugar gliders and twin marmosets. He also has 3 or 4 monkeys that are expecting.

Gayle said that Bambi (Jungle cat) and Jackson are breeding now.

Carole Stiles brought her female caracal to the meeting. She is now about 6 months old and is beautiful. Steve also had his wallabie baby there.

We were pleased that new members from Bend were able to get over the mountain to join us. Without further business, we spent the rest of the day playing with the babies. Carole won the dollar game.

April Meeting

The meeting was held at the Pleasant Hill Grange. Hosting this meeting was our President, Steve Belknap. We had a great showing of different species as we had a large area to put up different cages.

The Schaechers brought Kisa, Siberian lynx, Chris Christensen brought one of his hedgehogs that ran around stealing the hearts of all. Jackie Vanderwall brought Rudi, the Coati, Mike brought his black ChowChow as Bea Lydecker was going to do a reading on her. Jackie Sinnot brought her father's dog as Bea was going to give her a home. Steve brought his twin Marmoset babies and his wallabie baby.

Steve started off by welcoming members and guests. We discussed various problems. Andy and Luisa had their attorney visit us and give an update on the problems

Pacific Northwest Exotics...continued

with their neighbors. Steve reported that Babs, jungle cat did have 5 babies but they didn't make it.

Jan Merris reported her serval was expecting and Jackie Vanderwall reported her Bengal was too.

We again talked about calendars and decided it would be a good fund raiser. We will be placing orders and see how they sell.

Everyone surprised me with a birthday cake (my birthday was the day before) and a tidy sum of cash to help with Convention expenses this year. What a surprise! (You don't know how much this meant to me. Thank you ever so much)

We had our usual raffle of many nice gifts and Clem won the dollar pool. Since Bea Lydecker was with us to do readings, we adjourned the formal meeting.

Our next meeting will be at the Lanas' in Gresham.

Respectfully submitted,



Gayle Schaecher

In Africa every morning, a gazelle awakens knowing that it must outrun the fastest lion if it wants to survive.

Every morning a lion wakes up knowing that it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve.

So, it makes no difference whether you are a lion or a gazelle: when the sun comes up you had better be running!




Meeting Report

Our March meeting was held at the home of Pam and Brian Riley on March 18th. We had 20 people in attendance (15 members and 5 guests). We all had a great time chatting and playing with the cats in attendance; Pam and Brian's cougars, serval, jungle and bengal cats and Robin & Philip Elstein's cougar, Cindy.

We discussed commercial feeds for exotics, the animal activists role in trying to free a 23 year captive bear, JoJo, at Spyke's Groves and a 25 year captive killer whale, Lolita, at Miami Seaquarium. We also discussed the laws and regulations regarding Florida Class II wildlife as pets and again discussed the grass-roots organization, Putting People First. While most people do not like the name of this group, we must look past this and see the progress they have made in fighting animal activists on all levels.

Our next meeting will be in May - probably at Alan Rigerman's home. Hope to see more members there!

Respectfully submitted



Secretary

MEMBERSHIP/GUEST MEETING February 19, 1995



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Due to the resignation of Larry Torland as President, the meeting was opened by the new EFES President, Rod Black. Rod advised that an executive board meeting was held prior to this meeting in which he was asked to complete the balance of the president's term. He accepted this responsibility. The board also voted to have Sandy Hammersley fill the Vice President's position. Sandy accepted this responsibility, and will complete the balance of the Vice Presidents term.

Rod expressed the board members and officer's appreciation for Larry's contribution and efforts this past year. Larry assured the membership he would continue to be active as a member in this organization.

- Rod introduced the board members, officers, and LIOC board members.
- Ethel Hauser introduced several guests in attendance.
- Barbara Wilton gave a brief history of LIOC.
- Jean Torland advised that the deadline for sign up for the ZooZnooze is Feb. 20th.
- Jean also pointed out the special donation for our raffle. A friend and non-member of EFES, Brenda Messling, hand crafted a wonderful Corn Husk doll. Brenda uses all natural fibers and dyes in making her dolls. She has a great love for the wild cats, but is unable to own one as she has no electricity and no means of storing the food required.
- Sharon Roe acknowledged and welcomed new members Edward and Phyllis McLane, and Joann Gunzer.
- Sharon also acknowledged members Shane & Robyn Nielsen and Larry & Leona Ellis, for their financial contribution to EFES. It is very appreciated. These extra dollars help pay the ongoing operating costs.
- Colette Griffiths displayed her beautiful "Cat Photography" quilt. This quilt is made up of (25) 8 x10 color photos of members cats screened into the quilt. Colette is donating this wonderful item to EFES to be used as a fund-raiser.
- Colette talked about another quilt project currently in process. Designed by Arla Hertz, and quilted by Colette, this quilt is dubbed the "Cougar." quilt, and will also be donated to EFES to be used as a fund-raiser.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Featured speaker and member, Larry Torland:

Larry displayed a huge color poster of his four year old Bobcat "Impulse." He quickly explained that Impulse would be stressed if taken from her home environment, so we had to settle for a poster of his precious feline. He told us that Impulse received her name, because she was purchased on an impulse. He expressed the tremendous responsibility involved in caring for an exotic feline, and said Impulse has forever changed their lives.. He gave a brief history on the bobcat, stating the bobcat is the "pit bull" of the cat world. You must learn to recognize the body language of an exotic feline. When bobcats lay their ears back, twitch their tale, and stare intently, you need to respect their space to. Always respect the cats environment. Larry and Jean built a 25' x 50' enclosure, filled with objects and obstacles to give Impulse an environmentally rich enclosure. Larry expressed how important it was to spend time with your feline. He spends hours with Impulse, hand feeding her, interacting in play, and taking naps in her cage. Upon a visit, you may find Larry laying snoozing on one of the cedar platforms, with Impulse fast asleep on his chest.



Larry shared a special story with us about his relationship with Impulse. As can be suspected, the love between these two is very strong. One feeding time, he decided to lay down as for a nap. Impulse quickly took her usual place, laying on his chest. Instead of snoozing, he fed her a chicken neck, and quickly learned his mistake. Of course, Impulse started eating the meat, but didn't bother to jump off to do so. Chewing and growling the entire time, Impulse ate her dinner. Can you imagine not trying to move, breath, twitch, sweat, or look the least bit hungry, while a bobcat chomped down a chicken neck within an inch or two from your face. Fortunately there was no mishap. Love prevailed, but dare say, he will never do that again.

Ken Hatfield speaks about "Lactobacillus"

Lactobacillus is a freeze dried supplement, consisting of components that are required in order for an animal to develop proper intestinal flora. Intestinal flora is digestive bacteria. This "good" bacteria controls the harmful bacteria caused by the infection.

- *It is used on newborn kittens that are being bottle raised, and who have not had an opportunity to nurse on their mother.*
- *It is used in treatment of gastro intestinal disorders, because it will cause the development of high numbers of good intestinal bacteria which will crowd out the damaging bacteria and pathogens.*
- *It is used when antibiotics are administered. Antibiotics kill the natural intestinal bacterial flora. Using lactobacillus provides the essential new intestinal bacteria flora.*

Other cats exhibited and talked about:

- *Rod Black brought his F2 Safari cat "Shadow", and his rescue cat "General, a F1 Safari*
- *Shirley Malar brought her Bobcat "Boomerang"*
- *Ethel Hauser brought her Geoffrey "Niki", F1 Safari, "Tia", and her Ocelot "Punkin"*
- *Judith Hendricks brought her F3 Bengal, "Sonny." Judith introduced her guest, Tami Cornelius. Judith and Tami will be breeding European wild cats with domestics, and Jungle cats with Abyssinians. Their cattery is called "Sasquatch Cattery."*
- *Bob Griffiths brought their Bengal "Munchkin," and Munchkin's buddy "Cocoa", a orange house cat*

The raffle was a big hit due to the many wonderful donations. A guest won the Corn Husk Doll, and a catch pole was won by Steve Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone visited while enjoying the treats.

MEMBERSHIP/GUEST MEETING March 19, 1995

Hosted by Marv & Sandy Hammersley



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

For the first time, our meeting was held in Albany, OR. Vice President, Sandy Hammersley, made the arrangements for our meeting to held at the Fairmont Grange. Bringing our meeting place closer to members who have traveled distances to attend previous functions made this meeting very special. It is a great facility, and accommodated the large turnout of members and guests. We all look forward to meeting here again.

Rod Black began our meeting by introducing the officers, board members, and LIOC board members. Barbara Wilton gave a brief history of LIOC.

The officers and board members awarded Larry Torland with a plaque to express their appreciation for the effort and contributions Larry made as the EFES President in 1994.



- *Sandy Hammersley exhibited her 1-1/2 year old female Serval and talked on the history and temperament of this species.*
- *Sharon Roe exhibited a Serval kitten and gave a talk on comparison between the Servals and Caracals, two species of small cats that she raises.*
- *Shirley Malar exhibited her 10 month old Bobcat and gave a brief overview of this species. She had recently exhibited this feline at a local school, and received several thank you letters that she shared with us.*
- *Rod Black exhibited his hybrid feline, a Leopard Cat domestic cross, and spoke on this particular cats personality traits.*
- *Don and Arla Hertz exhibited one of their domestic cats, and spoke on raising a domestic with an exotic feline.*

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Ethel Hauser talks on DECLAWING

Cats have an innate ability to extend (expose) and retract (sheath) their claws' thanks to tendons above and below the toe bones. Declawing (onychectomy) is one of the most controversial issues in feline medicine. This is an irreversible procedure carried out under general anesthesia. The procedure is an amputation of the claw (including the cells responsible for claw growth) and part, or all, of the terminal toe bone. Only licensed veterinarians should perform this procedure.

For exotic felines held in private ownership, declawing is a necessity. It is not easy to catch up your full grown feline in your lap and give it a nail clipping. There are several valid reasons behind this important decision to declaw.

- *An owner and/or a veterinarian must be able to handle or control the feline under stressful circumstances, or in situations involving medical attention and subsequent care.*
- *Although declawing compromises a cat's ability to defend itself, in captivity, the reasons for defense are not present. They are provided with their own environment (enclosure), and provided with food and water by their caretakers. When confronting a feline in various situations during daily interaction, a feline is easier to manage when there are no claws to contend with.*
- *In instances where a feline breaks free of its enclosure, etc., recapturing is also less dangerous to those involved in its re-capture.*

Colette Griffiths talks on CAT SCRATCH FEVER

*Over 22,00 people in the U.S. are affected each year by cat scratch disease. Approximately 41% of domestic cats carry the bacteria, *Rochalimaea henselae*, which causes this disease. People become infected by receiving a scratch or bite from an infected cat. This bacteria causes a low grade fever, general malaise and swollen*

lymph nodes near the site of the scratch. The symptoms can mimic many other diseases, so it is very important for sick people to tell their physician that they own a cat. If a scratch or bite occurs, thoroughly wash the area with soap and water and notify your doctor.

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

**March Award was presented to
Steve Johnson**

For his extraordinary effort in assisting A.J. & Cherie Kielian in their legal action brought on by the Washington department of Wildlife. Steve spent personal dollars and hours in telephone communications, travel, and time to support these members in their fight to continue to operate a licensed facility in this state.

The raffle was a success. The special prints, books, and other fantastic items donated by members made it a difficult choice for those who were lucky to have their number drawn. We adjourned the meeting to visit and to enjoy the goodies.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon L. Roe
Secretary

Why Convention? - An Historic Overview

In the infancy of LIOC it was "Catherine's Club" and Convention, as we know it today was nonexistent. What did occur annually was Catherine's picnic, held in her backyard on Long Island in September.

I attended the last such gathering (I held the appointed office of Secretary then) and there met Catherine Cisin, face to face, for the first time along with other historically significant (to LIOC at least) characters, among them Gene Brill, LIOC's first Secretary and a founding member, Mike Balbo, Dr. Roger Harmon and many others.

Catherine's picnic included her famous deviled clams, a local delicacy of which Catherine did not partake, but which this southern gal found delicious! Since the picnic was "potluck" and I was determined to contribute, I hauled six pecan pies aboard the airplane from Mobile, Alabama to New York City. A rental car was then employed for the lengthy drive to Amagansett. This in itself is a tale as my flight was delayed and the compact car I had requested was given to someone else. I found myself with a full-size car I was thoroughly unfamiliar with to make the hazardous trip through traffic I was totally unprepared for being from a

Convention.....continued

part of the country that at that time didn't even know about 4 lanes.

Anyway, it was at that meeting in 1971 that Catherine turned the editing and production of the Newsletter over to Robert Peraner. Roger Harmon, then President of our SouthWestern Branch was also there and suggested that the gathering be moved around the country to let folks in different locales attend more easily. Having made that suggestion, Catherine in her wisdom, announced that Roger and the SouthWestern Branch would be the perfect ones to host the 1972 gathering - and so it was.

Therefore, our first Convention was held in Dallas, Texas. The convention logo, used to this day, prominently features a jaguar in honor of Dr. Harmon and his cat, Safari. Roger's idea to attract a larger geographic sampling of LIOC members worked - it was there I met the Hatfields & Dave Salisbury from Florida, D'Arcy Bancroft from Canada, John Jackson, Bob & Lil Smith of California and many, many more....seventy people in all as well as three ocelots, a black leopard, cougar, bobcat and two margays. Those were the days - cats were not only allowed but welcomed at our gatherings! The human attendance was over double what we've seen in the last few years.

Because of the drastic drop in convention attendance, you might ask how has it changed? Because of the "formalization" of LIOC, the adoption of by-laws and governing by a Board of Directors rather than Catherine alone, we now have two formal meetings: the General Membership meeting, where those attending have the opportunity to address the Board and make their wishes known, and for the Officers & Directors the Executive meeting. Branch Reps are welcome here to observe

the business the Board conducts. Their input is welcome, but they do not have a vote. Sunday morning the contents of this meeting are reported back to the membership. Surely this small amount of business doesn't prevent folks from attending? Then what does?

Of course, back in the good ole days LIOC had no formal programs, no indexes, no goals, it was all very informal. Today, chances are if you go to convention you might be asked to think, contribute, or heavens forbid, do something! But, is that such a high price to pay for the privilege of an exotic? Or is it more than offset by the camaraderie of other folks who understand spotted fever?

Some have complained that when they went to convention they felt left out. Could it be that this was because they didn't join in? We are all strangers the first time we go anywhere - but in LIOC it is never for long. Those who come and join in will never be excluded - they might be asked to do something and that is a true form of acceptance - or is it that those who claim to be shut out were asked to do something and refused?

I do know that over the years there are oh so many people, no - close friends - who were first met at convention. It is only there each year that I have a chance to see them. Perhaps, in this hectic effort to catch up and visit with each of them, new friends are slighted, not intentionally, but slighted just the same. If that is the case, I am truly sorry. Convention is all to short a span of time.

Some others have complained about the lack of formal educational programs. Each year we attempt to have speakers who are both interesting and educational, but it is difficult to always find something of interest to the novice and old timer alike.

Convention....continued

However there is no lack of educational material - spend just one hour conversing in earnest with Ken Hatfield, John Perry, Ethel Hauser, or so many others too numerous to name and you can learn more than is printed in any book I know of. The old adage, "Seek and you shall find" is certainly applicable here. The whole convention is a learning experience, the sources are varied and endless.

You meet folks whose names you see frequently in the Newsletter, and I guarantee that after these three or four days, you'll have made many lifelong friends. Folks who will be available to you at any hour of the day or night (they are now, you just don't know it.)

Yes, it does cost to attend convention. We try to keep cost down as much as we can. However, I can remember "bunking in" with others to lower the cost (call the host and see if someone might be willing to share if you don't know someone now who is going), keeping a cooler full of snack in the room to reduce eating out expense. If there's a will there's a way! Besides my involvement on the Board which mandates my attendance, I wouldn't miss convention for anything short of an emergency. I have a payroll deduction dedicated to financing the annual trip - yes, it's that important to me. I can proudly say I've never missed convention (some profound thanks here to friends who have helped make this possible in lean years).

The presentation of awards at banquet has been expanded over the years to include our auction (begun by the Florida Chapter in 197). Even if you can't attend, you can donate to the auction.

Admittedly, there were a few years when political wrangling made it a less enjoyable time than others. But worth it,

you bet! I always tell newcomers to the Board that LIOC is about cats, but it is the Board's job to deal with the people who keep the cats - that's politics!

Yes, it was worth it to meet and be able to stroke Khayam the cheetah from World Wildlife Safari and Laurie Marker her keeper who trained her to hunt on her own; to listen to renowned geneticist Dr. Centerwall; to visit with Dr. Murray Fowler who wrote the book on exotic medicine; to see slides and learn of the artificial insemination work being done by Dr. Stephen Seager - all before they were well known. These are just some of the stars of past conventions.

Yes, it was worth the sleep lost (you just can't seem to escape the hospitality room at a reasonable hour it seems), the money expended (who needs a cruise to the Bahamas anyway?). What it amounts to, I guess, is priorities. How important is LIOC, and your cats to you? Without LIOC and folks you've met or found through LIOC, how much would you know? Would you even have your cat?

Involvement is a price that should be willingly paid. We constantly preach that you get out of LIOC what is put into it. So very many special people have put so very much into LIOC for many years. Each and everyone is a goldmine of knowledge and a source of devotion to the exotic feline. Those who regularly attend convention are especially priceless. Each is a friend, whether you know them or not. And to think, you too could be counted with this group.

Come to convention, join in the fun, you might be asked to do something, and I guarantee you'll learn something in the process. Please come up and introduce yourself - I'd love to meet you.

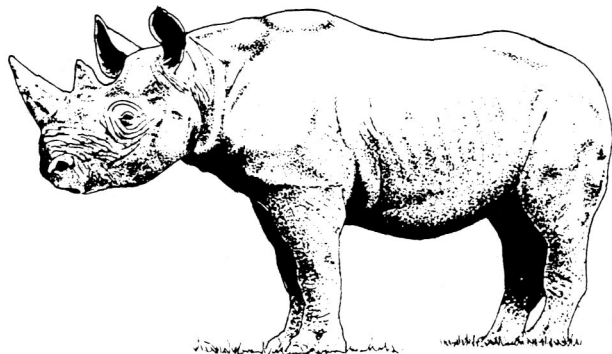
Using Wildlife - South Africa takes a renegade stance in conservation's great debate.

By Joni Praded

Just outside the high metal fence surrounding South Africa's Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park, Nicolena Mumbé hacks weeds out of a garden she and eight other women recently planted. The youngest of her many children run down the neatly planted rows of vegetables while their mother swings her machete from side to side. The oldest one stays concealed behind some tall, leafy stalks. Like the other children, he is naked. Unlike them, he is old enough to feel uncomfortable about that fact in the presence of the fully clothed journalists who've come to view his mother's bountiful crop. Poverty is no stranger to his community; his only set of clothes must be saved for school.

On the other side of the fence, three white rhinos stop grazing to cross the park's access road. Casually, they stroll in front of some tourists who've just driven into the park credited with bringing the world's white rhino population from just 30 in the 1920's to 5,600 today.

white rhinoceros



To Gumbe and her fellow villagers, the rhinos and the park are a mixed blessing. The Natal Parks Board (NPB) which runs Hluhluwe-Umfolozi, buys her excess crops to stock the restaurant at the park's main camp. But when the animals maneuver past the park's fences, says NPB spokesperson Jeff Gainsford, the village's love-hate relationship with the 238,000-acre park turns sour. Rhinos can graze through many crops. And lions can take cattle; they also took a few people when they were first reintroduced here.

"A lot of these folks are living at the subsistence level and conservation is a total luxury." says Gainsford. "When lions do get out, they quickly get converted to curios." For decades, Gumbe's village was not just cut off from park proceeds, it was literally cut off from the park itself. "In the past," says Gainsford, "fences were erected to keep people out. Now they keep animals in."

The NPB runs 60 sanctuaries in the province of Natal, home to the Zulu Nation. Here, it manages more than 10 percent of the province's land. Add to that the region's many private reserves and the reserves under local KwaZulu management, and a full 28 percent of Natal is conservation land. Natal, however is also home to an increasingly disenfranchised human population. It is the political stronghold of the Inkhata Freedom Party, which had threatened to boycott South Africa's first all-race elections. And it is also the site of

Using Wildlife...cont.

increasing bloodshed that has put the region under emergency rule.

No one can predict what Natal's uncertain political future will hold for its people or wildlife that they currently protect there. But many conservationists say political realities like Natal's will shape the future of their programs. Asked if animals can hold their own in regions where they compete for resources with growing numbers of people, South Africa's wildlife guardians frequently cite a rule their continent is coming to live by: *"Wildlife will have to pay its own way if it is going to stay."* And they have adopted conservation's latest buzzword: "Sustainable use".

Sustainable use means different things to different people. Programs adopting the moniker have involved everything from subsistence-level wildlife harvests to ecotourism, game farming, sport-hunting, and trading in animal parts.

The NPB, for instance, helps support some communities through its proceeds. It pays out about \$10 million in wages to members of local communities each year. Having just built new accommodations to attract more tourists, the NPB predicts that figure will grow - if political instability doesn't scare visitors away. The agency has even sparked a small curio industry, where villagers make and sell crafts to tourists. Local goodwill is also being fostered through direct use: people living near parks can harvest thatching grass, reeds, firewood, and other materials; they can also purchase meat at a marginal cost when park animals are culled. When the park offered the meat for free, the people were offended.

But not all sustainable-use ventures are so community oriented. In South Africa, the use-it-or-lose-it battle cry is complicated by a long, controversial history of

consumptive wildlife use. Because all of South Africa's reserves are fenced, animals cannot migrate out of them to find food and water or expand their territories. To keep ecosystems in check, say the nation's wildlife managers, extensive culling programs are carried out. Where money can be made from that, all the better they say.

Hence, animals are rounded up from national park land and sold at wildlife auctions. Buyers range from local game farmers who ranch the animals for their meat, to private reserve owners running eco or sport hunting operations, to international animal dealers feeding the zoo trade. In Kruger National Park, a reserve larger than Israel, the most controversial cull of all occurs: there, 3 to 5 percent of the park's 7,500 elephants are killed each year. And on private reserves, and in some NPB areas, international sport-hunters can shoot a leopard for \$3,500, a rhino for \$30,000 and up and a number of other animals for the right price.

Many conservation groups inside and outside South Africa say programs like these have financed the nation's extensive wildlife protection systems. And they insist the rest of Africa needs to ignore negative Western attitudes toward consumptive use and follow their lead. "Consumptive use of wildlife is probably going to be the salvation of much of Africa" predicts John Hanks, chief executive of the Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF), a branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

In the international animal-protection community, though, many disagree. Says Teresa Telecky of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), "If South Africa thinks it can boost its economic situation on the back of wildlife, it is gravely mistaken." Her group recognizes subsistence wildlife use as valid and low-impact ecotourism as

Using Wildlife...cont.

promising; but it adamantly opposes sport-hunting, and it advocates controlling elephant populations by contraceptives rather than culls.

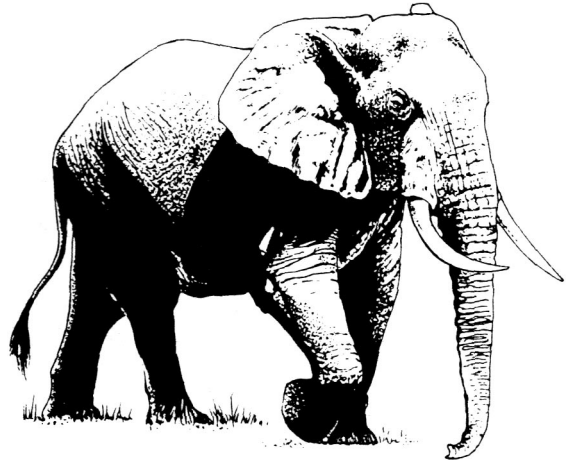
South Africa is a land blessed with intense natural beauty and a bevy of animal species most countries eyeing ecotourism dollars would lust after. Yet, the nation's political stigma during its apartheid past kept many tourists at bay. While both the government and innovative ecotourism entrepreneurs are working to reverse that trend, the nation still attracts only 0.2 percent of the world's tourists - and tour officials await the outcome of the elections and the halt of recent political violence to predict whether that figure will rise or fall.

Such realities have prompted SANF and southern Africa's Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to actively promote sustainable use at all levels, not just tourism. Heralding programs like Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE - in which local villagers earn money from wildlife by selling hunting licenses or starting their own tour programs on property they manage - they say they've taken the only approach they can in an imperfect world. Still, Says Michael Devlin of EWT, checks must be put into place to make sure wildlife isn't over-consumed. To that end, the EWT and SANF have introduced TRAFFIC, a wildlife-trade monitoring unit, to South Africa.

Yet Teleky and others doubt that an increased South African wildlife trade could ever be adequately policed. Branded the "wildlife outlaw of the 1980s" the nation's ports are among the leading outposts for smuggling illegal wildlife products - even if its parks seem able to limit poaching within their own boundaries.

Nowhere, though, are the wildlife-use battlelines more keenly drawn than in

African elephant



the debates over culling elephants, lifting the international band on trading ivory, and stockpiling rhino horn for eventual sale.

"There's so much opposition to consumptive use by international conservationists and agencies. But no one has ever asked them who's going to pay the bills," complains SANF's Hanks. One way to pay those bills, claim South African wildlife officials, is to resume the highly controversial trade in ivory, banned at the 1989 meeting of the nations belonging to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In a draft proposal for this year's CITES meeting, South Africa has asked to downlist the nation's elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II opening up transnational trade in ivory by 1996, and in hides and other parts immediately.

South Africa has asked to do the same for its white rhino population. Its draft proposal calls for the rhino to be downlisted and, by 1996, for South Africa to be allowed to sell off its stockpiled horns.

banded together with some of its neighbors, South Africa is among a "southern block" of
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Colombian Program Trains Animals for Return to Wild

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

Alerted by the flapping of wings, the jungle cat spotted its prey and pounced.

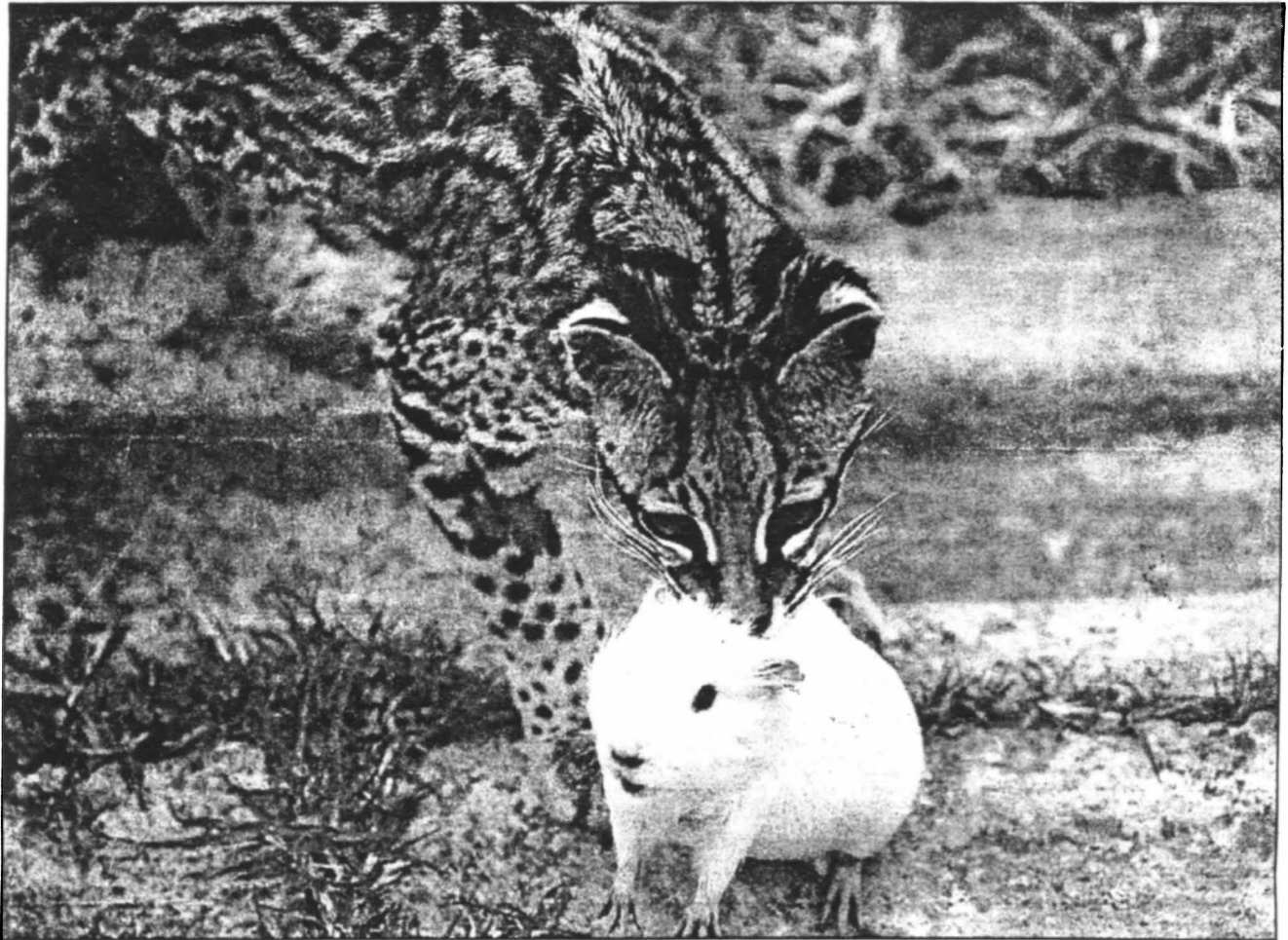
A swipe of a furry, clawed paw across the neck and the bird was dead. The margay, a small cat native to Latin America, clamped the game hen in its jaws and padded deeper into its cage.

"He's learning well," naturalist Fernando Londono murmured approvingly as the margay deftly ripped away feathers and sank fangs into hot flesh.

The margay is an honor student at a center run by the London-based World Society for the Protection of Animals that trains animals to return to the wild. The animals come from lawmen who raid gangs involved in the illicit trade of live wild animals.

It has become a \$10 billion-a-year business worldwide - third only to the trafficking of drugs and arms.

Traffickers can buy a macaw for \$100 in South America and sell it for up to \$6,000 in North America or Europe. Animals are often shipped under appalling



The Associated Press

An ocelot carries a guinea pig before killing and eating it in wildlife center at Bogota.

conditions. Parrots are jammed into suitcases and crates, their beaks and wings bound.

The animals that wind up in the society's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, set amid Andean grasslands on the outskirts of Bogata, Columbia have a chance at living in the wild again.

The margay, called a "tigrillo" (little tiger) in Spanish, is learning to fend for itself so rapidly that workers plan to release it into the jungle within a few months.

The rehabilitation center, one of a handful in the world, has returned hundreds of animals to the wild since it opened three years ago. Society officials don't know the survival rate because released animals are not tracked by radio transmitter.

Naturalist Bill Toone, who helped direct the attempt to return endangered California condors to the wild, is critical of naturalists who try to release numerous species.

"The only thing they've done is make themselves feel better, because the animals are dying where they can't see them," Toone said from San Diego. But Jean Patrick Le Duc, spokesman for the United Nations' Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), applauds the Columbian program.

"Police are reluctant to confiscate animals because they don't know what to do with them," Le Duc said from Geneva. "But, if they have a center like the one in Bogata to turn to, they're more likely to confiscate animals, and that helps us enforce the convention."

Animals brought to the society's rehabilitation center are take to its clinic for blood and fecal tests as well as x-rays before release.



*"Some cats is blind,
and stone-deaf some,
But ain't no cat
wuz ever dumb."*

*Anthony Henderson Euwer
American poet & writer*



Using Wildlife....continued

African nations expected to prompt a ferocious debate at this years CITES meeting. There is no practical way to determine whether rhino horn or elephant ivory is from a legal or illegal source - and there is much concern that resuming trade will only fuel the demise of elephants and rhino elsewhere in Africa.

In the meantime, South African conservationists say they must operate in a world that misunderstands them. Hanks says their predicament was played out not long ago in Pilanesburg National Park: "An American hunter was prepared to pay one half million to shoot an aging rhino we were going to cull soon anyway. That money would have run an entire smallish game park for a year. But, we turned it down because of the international outcry there would have been."

One wonders: what might the old rhino's fate have been in the New South Africa?

Reprinted from Animals.

Next issue we'll take a look at a private "reserve" created soley for eco-tourism, called Phinda. The Zulu phrase *phinda izulweni* means "the return of the animals."



*You've seen this
guy before - it's
Ron Eldridge's
serval, Kobi. I
guess you can say
he's all grown up!*

