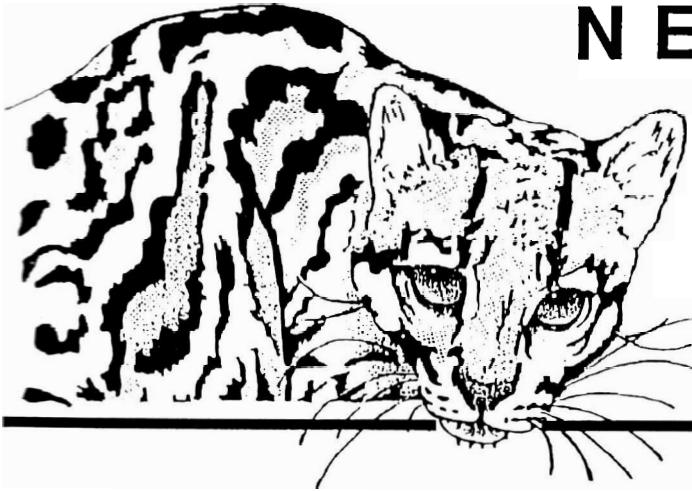


NEWSLETTER



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Ken Hatfield - In Memorium



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.

Founder: Catherine Cisin Amaganasett, N.Y. 11930

Editor: Shirley Wagner 3730 Belle Isle Ln, Mobile, Al. 36619 (334) 661-1342 nites, (334) 433-5418 days
Fax (334) 433-5422

Officers

President Barbara Wilton 7800 S.E. Luther Rd. Portland, OR 97206 (503) 774-1657
Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Roe 29641 N.E. Timmen Rd., Ridgefield, WA 98642 (206) 887-8563

Term Directors

Member Services Kelly Jean Buckley P.O. Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028 (602) 996-5935
Education & Conservation Scarlett Bellingham P.O. Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba ROA 1EO, Canada (204) 388-4845 home & fax
Legal Affairs George Stowers 8 Meadowhill Dr., Farmingdale, ME 04344 (207) 622-9201
Advertising & Publicity Jean Hamil 31307 Debbs, Magnolia, TX 77355 (713) 356-2076

Life Directors

J.B. Anderson Rt 4, Box 2190, Lake Rd. 54-37, Osage Beach, MO 65065 (314) 348-5092
Carin C. Sousa 2960 Bay St., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (904) 932-6383
John Perry 6684 Central Ave. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432 (612) 571-7918 nites (612) 481-2673 days
Shirley Wagner 3730 Belle Isle Ln, Mobile, AL 36619 (334) 433-5418 days 661-1342 nites
Fax: (334) 433-5422

Branches

Exotic Feline

Educational Society Rod Black 1260 N.W. Perimeter Rd., Troutdale, OR 97060 (503) 666-5814
Pacific Northwest Exotics Steve Belknap P.O. Box 205, Gresham, OR 97030 Gayle Schaecher (503) 663-4137
Sunshine State Exotics David Cassalia P.O. Box 7113, Hollywood, FL 33081-1113 (305) 966-0406

Regional Contacts

Northeast George Stowers 8 Meadowhill Dr., Farmingdale, ME 04344 (207) 622-9201
Southeast Jean Hatfield 1991 S.W. 136th Ave., Davie, FL 33325 (305) 472-7276
Central J.B. Anderson Rt 4, Box 2190, Lake Rd. 54-37, 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 P.O. Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba ROA 1EO, Canada (204) 388-4845

LIOC needs YOU!

The End of an Era

Kenneth I. Hatfield

August 14, 1929 - October 17, 1995

LIOC's President, Ken Hatfield, lost his fight with cancer on Tuesday, October 17th. To all who knew Ken it is a grievous loss. To those who have loved an exotic cat, but did not know him, it is through his dedication and efforts, that LIOC exists as it is today. And in large part, that we have the knowledge of these animals that we have today.

Born in Hazel, Kentucky, Ken served in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. His entire professional life was spent in the field of general aviation. For the past several years, as owner of Hatfield Enterprises, he had spent time overhauling airplane engines for single engine racing planes, several of which had won top honors.

He is survived by his father, Wiley Hatfield, two daughters, Connie Hatfield and Reva Flaherty and a grandson, Brian Flaherty. Although he spent the last years in Portland, Oregon, Ken was laid to rest in Florida, his longtime home, close to his remaining family.

Ken joined LIOC in 1961 and was our 210th member. The 1973 Lotty was awarded to Ken. He became LIOC's first elected President in 1974. He led LIOC in that capacity until 1986 and served also as a Life Director from 1974 until 1992. He came forward to again work as LIOC's President in 1995.

He also served as President of the Florida Chapter of LIOC from 1971-79 and was instrumental in working with the Florida Fish and Freshwater Game Commission to ensure a reasonable permit bill that would allow members to keep cats in Florida. He testified before the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a recognized expert on exotic felids. After moving to Oregon he was an active member of the Exotic Feline

Educational Society and their President for the past 12 years.

Probably best known for the ocelots produced in the Florida compound, Ken's first exotic was a margay. At the peak of the compound close to 100 cats made their home with the Hatfields....among them, cheetah, cougar, jaguar, margay, ocelot and geoffroys.



Ken & friend at convention

- continued next page

Hatfield ...continued

Throughout his life, whenever a cat or a cat owner needed Ken, he was there to offer whatever help he could. Ken shared his knowledge freely and is cited in Murray Fowler's text on exotic medicine. He was totally unselfish in his support of private owners and dedicated to the cause of captive propagation and the rights of individuals to keep exotic cats.

In the later years, Ken frequently took in derelicts, mostly alcoholics. He provided them a home and food whether they were able to show up for work or not. A religious person Ken attended church often. Bible verses were often carried in a pocket to be referred to when things got rough.....a favorite expression was: "I had a talk with J.C....."

In his memory, LIOC's Officers & Directors have voted to establish a scholarship fund to encourage veterinary students to take courses in exotic medicine. So many learned so much from Ken Hatfield, who shared his knowledge for the sake of the animals he loved. It is a small tribute for a man who truly lived his life for our cats. Thank you Ken.

Introduced Texas Cougar Gives Birth

A female Texas cougar released into the wild in south Florida to breed with Florida panther males has given birth to two cubs.

The female cougar was one of eight in a experimental release program. It seeks to restore genetic variety that the endangered Florida cats have lost because of inbreeding.

A male and female cub were born in late September in the Big Cypress National Preserve, said Tom Logan, head of wildlife research for the state Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. The cats will be classified as Florida panthers and will be protected by both state and federal laws.

Both cubs have been tagged with electronic transponders and will be fitted with radio collars when they are 8 months old.

FWS In Cyberspace

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) now offers Computer users access to conservation and management information on the nation's fish and wildlife resources. The new World Wide Web server's "home pages" contains summaries of virtually every aspect of the Service's numerous activities and programs.

For example, a user can find a current listing of the world's endangered and threatened species, information concerning recreational activities on more than 500 national wildlife refuges and tips for travelers.

The server was established to provide a "front door" for the agency on the internet and a link to almost all other internet servers maintained by the USFWS. Director Mollie Beattie says that modern wildlife conservation increasingly depends on the effective sharing of information.

Accessing the World Wide Web server requires a computer program that can communicate with hyper-text transfer protocol (Http) such as Mosaic.

The internet address is:
[Http://www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

Information is also available to those with only internet e-mail text transfer capabilities through a separate "dial-a-file" library server. Send an e-mail message to: R9IRMLIB@mail.fws.gov. Type "SEND HELP" on the subject line, and you will be sent a user's guide, including an index of topics in the library. No text is necessary in the body of the message.

Reprinted from Sports Afield



TJ & Kira's Continuing Adventures

By Nanette McGann

It is hard for me to believe TJ was two years old the end of April. Having a serval in the house has been a different experience than sharing the house with Kira (caracal). Realizing that each cat is as individual as we humans, TJ has still been surprising.

I have tried to keep the "house rules" to a minimum. The cats are not allowed in the kitchen, so there is the "**No Kitchen Rule**". Since the arrival of TJ, the *kitchen* now includes the bar area. It seems that TJ rather enjoys knocking down wine bottles....Kira used to lie on the bar and peer around the corner to watch me in the kitchen. Unfortunately for Kira, TJ can stand on top of the bar and reach the shelf above it. This shelf is the home of expensive crystal, so the top of the bar is now off limits

for both cats. The top of the TV cabinet is also off limits. When Kira was a kitten, it took one NO!" and one spray with a squirt bottle containing water to convince her this was not a pleasant place to be. I had a much tougher time with TJ. Since the squirt bottle went unnoticed by TJ, I added some vinegar. Well, it has become something of a chuckle when guests visit. You see, TJ really likes the vinegar spray. I have only to pick up the bottle and call TJ's name and over he romps, sits up, squints his eyes, opens his mouth a bit, and waits to be squirted. One of my friends thought this was so cute that she picked up the bottle and was giving him quite a spraying, when I mentioned that I was not too thrilled by the thought of sharing a bed with a serval that reeked of vinegar. She



TJ sharing Capuccino with a friend

TJ & Kira - continued

laughingly apologized and stopped the game. I slept with a vinegar-smelling serval that night.

House rules also include that the cats not hurt each other, me, or my guests. "No bite" has been something both cats learned as kittens and there is yet to be a violation of this rule - except the couple of times my hand happened to be holding TJ's favorite "snake toy". TJ has trouble differentiating between where the toy ends and my hand begins. He just looks surprised when all of a sudden, during our game, I have dropped the toy on the floor and he still has my hand in his mouth. Even then I only suffered a small break in the skin from those sharp canine teeth of his. I tell other people that they play with the snake toy and TJ at some risk and explain TJ's view of this game.

The breaking of house rules has consequences. The offender is banished to their room. Kira seldom breaks any rules because she really wants to be in the living room. Kira is also easier to banish because she will go to her room when told to. TJ, of course, does not like to be scolded or banished. At this point, a serious chase around the livingroom ensues. TJ running at top speed over any furniture obstacle; while I am going around. By the time I catch up to him, he has half-forgotten whatever "No!" started the chase and hopes I am now joining him in a new game. He is so funny, and such a love that it is mostly impossible for me to grab him to place him in his room without laughing. Servals are almost impossible for two hands to hold - let alone when the person attached to the hands is laughing uncontrollably.

I read George Stowers' **ServalSpeak** article in the Jan/Feb, 1995, Newsletter with interest and a smile. It seemed to me that George has certainly learned to read his Max perhaps a bit better than I have been able to read my TJ. Kira's eyes are very expressive. I have come to believe that she is a cat that understands every word I say to her. Her eyes have always told me exactly what she is thinking, so I have found myself at a real disadvantage with regard to reading TJ by looking into his eyes. He has

only one expression. His eyes always look a bit surprised as if to say, "Who? Me?; Did you mean ME?" It is almost as if no one is home in there. His body language is another matter. He fluffs up his fur when he's being petted and loved especially his tail and ridge along his



TJ on his shelf

back. I have never seen him do this when he is afraid. He has only one vocalization usually. He makes this sort of cough/bark noise which he uses when he wants me to let go of him. He also uses it when he wants something. Mostly, he is one silent kitty. Until a couple of weeks ago, I had never heard him hiss. Finally, he actually hissed back at Kira. I was really surprised!

TJ & Kira - continued



Kira - pretty even without her tufts

From what I had previously experienced with servals, I thought one of their favorite things was to hiss. I thought it strange that TJ did not hiss or meow. He has in the last two weeks actually hissed twice at company, although it was quite soft - almost under his breath. TJ does purr quite frequently and often quite loudly. Kira purrs occasionally, but so softly that it is something I feel rather than hear. TJ seems to have a heart of gold - and a large one at that. He is also a bit of a stinker. He often glances over his shoulder to see if I'm watching. If I am, I know he's planning some mischief - when he sees this, he casually changes direction as if that were his plan all along.

I believe that the nicest thing I have ever done for Kira is to get her TJ. I often hear them playing together in their room when I'm busy in another part of the house. If I have been busy all day, or feeling a bit poorly, I sleep in their room at night. I would probably do this more often but for two reasons. While Kira will settle

down immediately on the bed, TJ spends 45 minutes *guarding* the perimeter of the mattress...he literally marches stiff-legged around and around, and around and around. This makes it difficult to fall asleep. But I guess I would have trouble falling asleep while laughing anyway.

And then there is Kira. I believe Kira gets up in the middle of the night to consume large quantities of water so that she can pee on the quilt. Once I am aware that she has done this, I am immediately doing laundry - sometimes in the wee hours of the morning. This is probably the only problem I have with Kira. It could be worse. Since Kira was about 12 weeks old she has used the litter box on command. Certainly the first time it was a coincidence. I must have told her she was so smart and so good for five minutes. She never forgot. She till beams at me when she uses the litter box when I tell her to. It does not hurt that custom that she may not come out of her room until and unless the litter



TJ & Kira - continued

box is used. Kira really would prefer to use the quilt instead of the litterbox all the time. I just think it's too hard on the washing machine and embarrassing if there is company in the house.

In the evening, I get out the quilt and curl up on the couch to watch TV or read while the cats play with each other. After they run around a bit, they attempt to include me. They both like to "fetch", and TJ loves playing "sneak up and pounce". For any of you serval people out there, I would suggest that you never play "peak-a-boo" with a serval. The swelling goes down and the green goes away, but a pounce on your nose is something you will not soon forget.

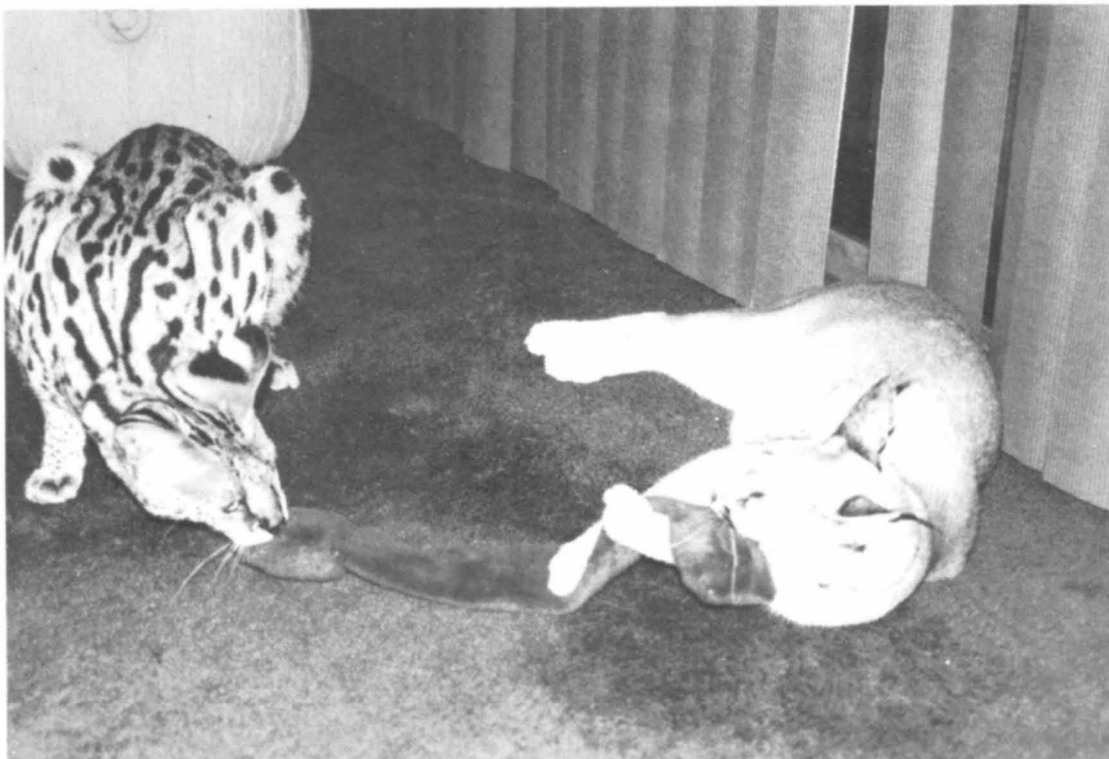
Some of my favorite observations - a few might interest others who have "house kitties" .:

Kira no longer maintains her once long, and lovely caracal ear tufts. This is apparently due to some serval genetic gene thing, most likely suppressed in the wild....you see, it is TJ, the mad barber at work. TJ eats Kira's ear tufts & she lets him. TJ isn't the only house-serval displaying this quirk. The Bellinghams' serval Zaire, has three sets of caracal ears he keeps trimmed.

I bought the Tellington Touch video in a weak moment on night. I have been amazed by Kira's response to these touches. Very late at night she will chirp at me, come over and curl up on top of me to be petted & stroked. As she relaxes she sometimes rolls over on her back, places her head under my chin and licks me while purring ever so softly. This cat who normally truly gets miffed if any attempt is made to touch her feet will stretch out her leg, spread her toes apart and actually let my fingers get between them for these touches. I find myself wondering what the effect of these touches would have on a cat's personality if they started as a young kitten.

My discovery and use of a pine-pelleted kitty litter made by Nature's Way, has been most pleasant. The solid waste is removed and flushed. The litter box gets a little shake and that is that. As the pellets get wet they turn to sawdust. This is less tracking, no urine smell, just a hint of pine. I empty the box & start over every two to three *weeks*. The pine goes into the garden as mulch.

Nature's Miracle is a wonderful product for the occasional accident. This stuff looks and smells like plain water. I have poured this stuff



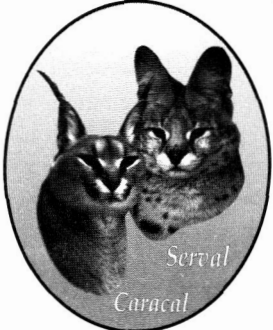
TJ & Kira - continued

on the floor, carpet, pillows, and on many other surfaces. Any pet "mess", stain or odor is truly removed.

TJ will play fetch, sit, sit up and respond to "TJ, kiss-kiss" with a lick or two. He used to jump up and put his paws around my neck in response to : "TJ- UP" He has modified this to suit himself. He decides for himself, when; but he jumps straight up into the air with no attempt to touch me, but very close. He expects to be caught---to end up actually sitting in my arms. When this happens as he plans, he snuggles into my neck, purrs loudly and kisses my ear. What a cat!

I do not think that I will ever be able to

put into words all the feelings I have as I consider how fortunate I am to be able to share my world with TJ & Kira. Or the awe I am filled with as they share their world with me. They continually fill me with wonder and a special warmth. As each day ends, I am thankful for their health and happiness and the trust and love we share.



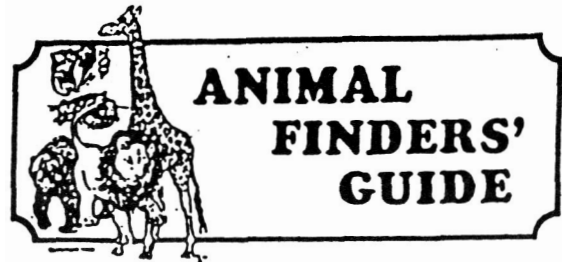
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General Membership Meeting Minutes

Vice President Barbara Wilton opened the meeting in the absence of President Ken Hatfield. Since our Secretary/Treasurer would not arrive until later, the meeting was taped.

Barbara stated that the purpose of the general membership meeting is to give the members an opportunity to voice their concerns and to present ideas and suggestions on what they want LIOC to do for them. The Board of Directors' purpose is to monitor operating funds, administer policies and projects and to provide the membership with six newsletters per year.

Barbara advised that a Convention Committee had been established. It consists of Member Services Director Kelly Jean Buckley, Ethel Hauser and herself. The purpose in having this committee is to provide advice and assistance to those members who volunteer to host convention. If there is no volunteer host, the committee will step in and organize the convention.

Kelly Jean announced that the 1996 convention will be held in Maine. George Stowers, will be hosting with the assistance of the committee.

The small turnout at this convention prompted a discussion of how future attendance could be bolstered. It was decided that a questionnaire would be included in an upcoming newsletter to ascertain if there were things that could be done to improve convention attendance. LIOC's Constitution requires that a meeting be held annually. A two-thirds majority vote would be required to alter this. Currently conventions have been self-supporting.

Ethel Hauser asked the board to consider establishing a Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. This would be used to assist veterinary students take courses in exotic medicine. A lively discussion ensued on ways this might be accomplished. It was asked if the current legal

fund might be diverted for this purpose, but traditionally, past Boards have been explicit in holding it only for its original purpose. It was mentioned that the interest produced by the principal could be used at the Board's discretion.

The next topic covered was ways to increase our membership. Kelly Jean requested on behalf of President Ken Hatfield that LIOC offer a one-time free membership to each member to give to someone of their choice. Kelly Jean noted that the Christmas gift subscription offered in the past at a reduced rate had only generated 20 new memberships. Katie Knight-Montiero suggested a discount for people who micro-chip their animals as a one time inducement to encourage this practice. Chip numbers would be recorded in the data-base as part of our registration program to help track bloodlines, etc.

Kelly Jean then reported on the status of a wild female cougar from Sedona, Arizona. The cat had been hit by a car in June. She survived the incident but will require extensive dental work and will not be able to be returned to the wild. Since LIOC (and Kelly Jean) were instrumental in finding a permanent home for this cat, she will not be euthanized as would normally be the case. (See story next issue.)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Board of Directors Meeting August 18, 1995

Vice President Barbara Wilton called the meeting to order. President Ken Hatfield was absent due to illness. Also absent was Legal Director George Stowers. Present representing the Branches were: Ethel Hauser, Exotic Feline Educational Society; Gayle Schaecher, Pacific Northwest Exotics and Nanette McGann; Sunshine State Exotics.

Member Services Director, Kelly Jean Buckley, reported that since January she had received 68 inquiries which generated 49 new

Minutes - continued

members as well as 18 who had renewed after dropping out.

Advertising Director Jean Hamil reported that there has been little response to her advertising solicitations. It was decided to solicit more from advertisers in other animal-related journals.

Director of Education and Conservation, Scarlett Bellingham advised that she had received numerous inquiries regarding care and that she felt the booklet prepared by George Stowers, *Introduction to Exotic Cat Ownership*, might be appropriate to be made available to the general public. There were some reservations about some of the information contained in it however. The board was asked to re-read this and make their suggestions to Scarlett who will coordinate editing the booklet toward that end.

Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Roe reported that our on-hand operating capital is being depleted at about \$3,000 per year. A heated discussion ensued as to how the budget could be balanced. Since newsletter cost is our largest expenditure, the Editor will look into ways of reducing this cost without significantly lowering the quality. The proposed budget was created based upon the past year's records which were incomplete when received by Sharon at the start of her term. The majority of the Board felt that the actual future income would offset the deficit budget and voted to approve it.

A discussion followed on Ken's request that each current member be allowed to give a free membership to the person of their choosing. While other options such as a 1/2-priced gift were discussed the Board voted 6-3 to approve this measure.

Through LIOC's grant procedure, Northwood Felid Research & Education requested \$750. to allow them to submit samples to a study being conducted by Steve O'Brien from the National Cancer Institute and Dr. Warren Johnson. This research is looking into the genetic make-up of several species of South American felids to determine if distinct subspecies are valid as well as to determine the

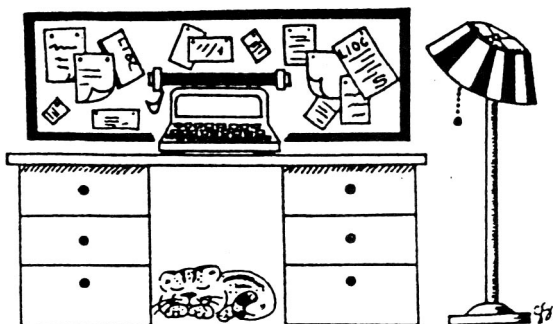
genetic diversity of the various populations. Northwood had several cats in their collection sampled, but lacked funds to sample the remainder. The board felt that by contributing to such research, LIOC would gain credence in the scientific community. Any results will be shared with LIOC and we will be given appropriate credit. The grant was approved.

No other donations were given due to the unknown cost involved in the free membership program.

The board then discussed the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. After much discussion, it was decided that this was a very worthwhile project. It was determined that we would have to form a committee to research the methods by which this could be accomplished, how the scholarships would be awarded, how it would be funded, etc. This committee will report back to the board next year.

After accepting Maine as our meeting site for the 1996 the meeting was adjourned.





FROM UNDER THE EDITOR'S DESK

In an effort to increase our membership LIOC's board made the decision at convention to allow each of you to *recruit a new member at no cost*.

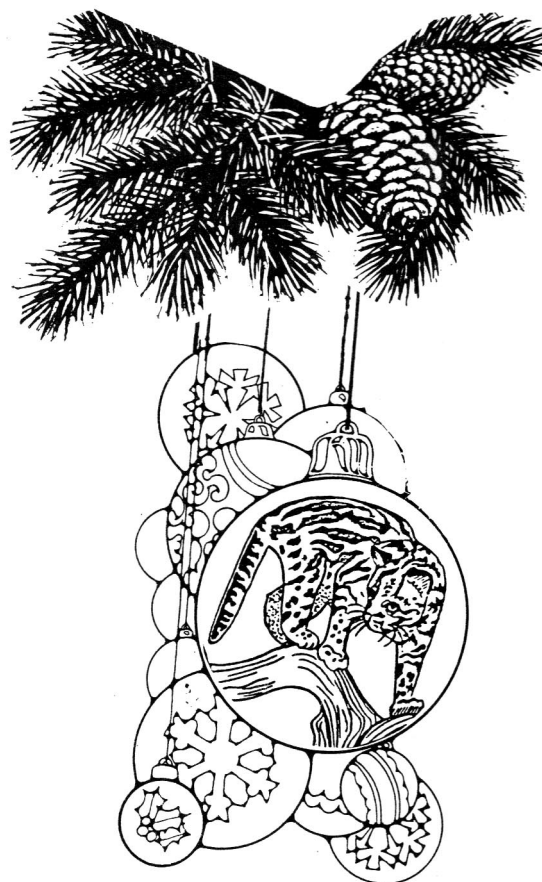
In this issue you will find a form which will enable you to give a free year's membership to the person of your choice. Since this effort is aimed at increasing our membership, we ask that you give this some thought. A neighbor who has known you for years, and perhaps even loves your cats, would not be a likely candidate. They have been exposed and although they might find the Newsletter interesting, they probably would have joined by now if they had a deep interest in the cats.

LIOC's cost of producing the Newsletter will increase by the number of *free* memberships given. It stands to reason therefore, that these memberships should be given to someone who will read the newsletter, benefit from them and hopefully will renew next year. Unfortunately, we cannot extend this offer to anyone who is a past LIOC member.

It is up to you to make these determinations. Please give it some thought as it is your treasury that is paying for this.

As noted in the Board minutes, we are currently operating at a deficit. The Board hopes that this effort will increase income next year (when these folks renew) to put us at a "break even" point. Our other options are to either raise dues, go back to 3rd class postage, or reduce the length and or quality of the newsletter. Costs per newsletter decrease with the number printed so it behooves us to increase membership.

Many of you may also not be aware that our main fund-raising event, the auction is held at our annual convention. With attendance to that event dwindling, it stands to reason that funds raised are also lowered. Please give serious thought to attending next year. Once you attend, I know you'll find it so stimulating, educational and fun that you'll become a regular.





Snow Leopard

Part IV The Snow Leopard and Man

Almost every species of wild cat is threatened in some way with extinction. Relationship between many of the wild cats and humans has been a long and changing one. From the early competition for the same prey to exploitation of the cats' fur and the mutual beneficial relationship with one species, the wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*), which resulted in the many breeds of the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) known today.

The snow leopard's fur is one of the most valued and sought after fur in the world. Although the snow leopard is internationally recognized as an endangered species, and hunting for fur is banned, the high prices paid for its fur continue to make the cat a prime target for poachers. Between the vicissitudes of the fur trade coupled with an acceleration in habitat loss, the snow leopard's survival in the wild seems a best bleak.

The loss of genetic diversity due to inbreeding can also be a problem in zoos. Captive breeding programs are very important as a means of maintaining populations of snow leopards for 300 to 1,000 years, until such time as it is possible to reintroduce them to the wild. This period of survival in captivity has been referred to as the "demographic winter". Simply

stated, this means the amount of time it will take for us (humans) to reach our maximum population and begin to fail again. Zoos, through the Species Survival Plan (SSP), are equalizing the genetic contributions of the original founders and maintaining an effective population size so that loss in genetic diversity is minimized.

Nature has provided the harsh environment and inaccessibility of their native territories to make it difficult for man to seek out and destroy the snow leopard. These factors have helped the cat survive in the wild without our help and interference.

What we are doing is increasing awareness of the problems confronting the snow leopard. The numbers of leopard exchanges between the U.S. and China have increased. Inter-governmental Nature Conservation Protocol activities have been increased to reaffirm the importance of cooperation in wildlife conservation. Other organizations such as the International Snow Leopard Trust in

Snow Leopard - continued

Seattle, the National Ecology Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado and the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of International Affairs, are all working together for the benefit of the snow leopard's survival in the wild.

Zoos, through their education programs are making the general public aware of the future for all species if we continue at the present rate of habitat loss, particularly in tropical forests. We can only hope that all these efforts to increase our awareness of the complex environmental problems and the need to do something now, rather than later, will benefit the most specialized predators the world has ever seen.....the cats.

By Ron Eldridge, BVSc



President's Perspective

Thanks Ken.....

For the years you have given LIOC. I have been in awe of you since we first met in 1974. I don't know how to explain to everyone the many things you have taught me. Everyone who knew you knew how much you loved the cats. You also love people. You taught me to look at both sides of an issue and *not* jump to conclusions. You taught me not to compromise what I believe in, to be honest and fair and, above all, to have faith in the Lord.

I promise you I will do my best to carry on as President of LIOC and pursue the goals you envisioned.

Barbara Wilton

During the Holiday Season, more than ever; our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely

*Thank You and Best Wishes
for the Holiday Season and a
Happy New Year*

*The Officers, Directors and
Staff of LIOC*

Got a minute?

Please use it to fill out and return the convention questionnaire you received with your last issue.



MEMBERSHIP/GUEST MEETING

Our September meeting was held September 9, 1995, at the home of Bob Merkel. We had only 13 people in attendance which included three guests. Bob's two cats, Pasha and Amanda were there in the house with us. Amanda, a four-month old South American Cougar greeted all guests with some hisses and dirty looks. Although she allowed a few strokes from guests, she really had love-eyes only for Bob. Pasha, Bob's four-year old male Caracal hid in the closet in his room. He allowed each of us to come in and say, "hello"; but remained curled up offering only a few hisses as greetings.

Our meeting was called to order by David Cassalia. Sadly, David and Sandra Cassalia explained that it was necessary for them to resign as President and Secretary, respectively. We wish them all the best and hope that they can continue to be a part of our club activities. I hope the entire membership will join me in thanking David and Sandy for all their hard work over the last two years --- they certainly deserve most of the credit for Sunshine State Exotics beginnings and their hard work has kept us together and growing over the last two years! There must have been times when our appreciation for their efforts seemed lacking... SO..... Sandy and David ---THANK YOU from all of us.

Even though our meeting notice emphasized that we planned on electing new officers at this meeting, our member turnout was very small.

New officers are as follows:

President: *Bob Merkel*
Vice President: *Jean Hatfield*
Secretary/Treasurer: *Nanette McGann*

We discussed the various Animal Rights groups active in south Florida. Members of these groups have their letters published in various newspapers and offer their members the use of a designated member of their organization to actually write letters for "those who do not have the time" using the name and address of the person requesting this "service". Members of these groups are active politically and hold office on local council boards for the purpose of pushing through legislation to stop animal exhibition, and breeding. How long before ANY animal ownership is included in their agenda? We all have a vested interest in getting out the word that animal RIGHTS and animal WELFARE are not the same thing.

We have decided to have a Christmas party on December 9, 1995, and to use some of the club's treasury to buy the food. It was decided to try and have this party at TY Park in Hollywood, Florida, in the hopes that we may bring cats. Of course, permission must be secured. Anyone deciding to bring their cat(s) MUST be sure to bring a cage/carrier and a collar and leash for their animal(s).

We spent time catching up with each other and keeping Amanda from running off with the ladies' purses.

We hope to see ALL of our members and friends at the Christmas party and are requesting (ie., DEMANDING) that all who plan to come RSVP by December 1st.

Next meeting scheduled for November 4, 1995, at the home of Alan Rigerman.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette McGann
Secretary



September Meeting

Our meeting was held in the home of Joel & Lana in Gresham, Oregon.

It was a beautiful day so we held the meeting on the patio, enjoying the watching the fish in the large pond adjacent to the patio.

Gayle brought Steve Belknap's chaus kittens that she is caring for. The four little females are really adorable.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is starting up again. Gayle announced that the task force had been called back and that there will be a public meeting October 24th & 26th that will have a question and answer period.



Lana spoke of a rehab compound in Washington she had visited. She will check further to determine whether we could visit as a group. Since there weren't any problems to discuss, we adjourned to spend the rest of the day visiting.



October Meeting

The October meeting was held at Jackie Sinnott's home in Beaverton with her 3 ocelots and 2 bobcats in attendance. Steve Belknap welcomed members and guests and then turned the floor over to Gayle for announcements.

Foremost was the announcement that Ken Hatfield had passed away. The branch decided to wire flowers to the service. There are a few cats in the area that are looking for homes and those who might be interested were asked to contact Gayle.

She reminded everyone about the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department meeting and encouraged all who could to attend. Gayle then told everyone that when ODFW had contacted her to make sure that as a Task Force member, she would be at the meeting, she again asked them about changing the caging requirements for

Pacific Northwest - continued

cougar. The current requirements include bears and are totally wrong for cougars. They asked if our membership would come up with what we thought would be appropriate for cougars, insuring safety for the public. They asked that it be ready for the upcoming meeting. They promised to take it into consideration when drafting the new rules. We did.

Lana gave a report on *Cat Tales*, the compound in Washington she had visited. She brought flyers about them and was quite impressed with the place. She will be in charge of planning a group outing there at a future date.



One of our members reported she was expecting a litter - we of course wanted to know who? She answered "ME!" Everyone is quite excited for her. She's not having 1, nor 2, nor 3, she's expecting 4! We all wish her and her husband well.....how exciting.

We had four of our guests join the Branch and welcome them. We adjourned to spend the remainder of our time visiting.

Submitted by Gayle Schaecher

Postscript - the ODFW meeting in Portland was very fruitful. There was a good turnout and lots of information shared. Gayle submitted our recommendation for cougar cages.



International Small Felid Workshop

The International Small Felid Workshop will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 4th thru the 6th at Harrah's.

The conference will provide an extensive series of speakers on issues relevant to small felid husbandry including: pathology, hand rearing, nutrition, environmental enrichment, Housing on and off exhibit, Field conservation and research projects, IUCN Recommendations for small felids with respect to captive breeding and research as they relate to the new Global Action Plan, Impact of Nutrition on Male Reproduction and others.

Sponsored by the Society for Scientific Care (SOS Care) it is open to the public. Rooms are available at a special rate of \$55 and the workshop fee is \$175.

To register contact SOS Care at (619) 749-3946.



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Due to the absence of Rod Black, (he was in Florida attending the funeral of Ken Hatfield), the meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandy Hammersly.

We had introductions around the room. Sandy informed everyone of the death of Ken Hatfield. He will be sorely missed. He contributed so much to the club.

Our first topic of business was the highway clean-up project. It is also time to get organized for our Christmas centerpiece fund-raising project. We decided to mail out questionnaires for volunteers for both.

Ethel told about the convention in Colorado Springs. It is always such a great time to renew your commitment to the preservation of exotic cats, get together with old friends and make new ones.

Weatherizing was the educational topic for the day. Make sure your cat has a clean, warm and dry refuge - especially if he or she is kept outside. Straw makes a good bedding. It is fairly cheap and easy to clean. Here in the Portland/Vancouver area we are subject to a very cold east wind right off Mount Hood. Your cat should be protected from this wind as well as the rain and snow.

Ethel also explained the use of sodium ascorbic for a cat with a urinary infection. This is a non-acidic form of vitamin C packaged by Natural Animal Nutrition (NAN) of Edgewood, Md. There are 4,000 mg per teaspoon. Ethel uses 1/4 teaspoon per week for kittens and 1/2 teaspoon for adults. She sprinkles it directly on their food for maintenance treatment. If any cat shows blood in their urine she increases the sodium ascorbic and contacts her vet. The cost

is around \$23.50 for a 16 oz. jar but it lasts for a long time. It should be stored in a cool, dry place.

Barbara talked about the use of microchips for cat identification. There are problems involved as all readers do not pick up all chips, there being different types involved.

Shirley Malar reported on an upcoming lecture by Dan and Laurie Marker-Kraus. This is a fund raiser for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Some of us plan on attending not only to support CCF, but it will be great to see Laurie again.

We had a variety of cats in attendance and "show and tell" was handled by Ethel & Shirley. Herb Wilton handled the raffle today while we all enjoyed the goodies.

Submitted by Shirley Malar, Secretary



LIOC member, Rick Armstrong lives in Kansas and has raised a 12 year old Bobcat, a 6 year old Cougar, a 5 1/2 year old white Bengal Tiger, and a 1 year old Hetero-Bengal Tiger named Precious. Precious was born September 23, 1994 in a litter of four cubs. Her mother rejected the cubs and when the owner found them, they were almost frozen. Two cubs died within two weeks and the third died at six weeks. Precious had a rough start with no mother's milk and almost frozen...and she was born deaf. Rick received her at 8 weeks old weighing 10 lbs. The chances weren't good that she would make it. With lots of TLC and feeding around the clock she survived.

As he worked with Precious, she wouldn't respond to his voice, so one day he placed a vacuum cleaner next to her and turned it on. She had no response to the loud sound. Rick started working with her using hand signals to correct bad habits, such as biting. He used his thumb and finger from his lips as he pointed at her and she related the hand signal the same as "no." He kept her inside the house until she was 9 months old. (She did re-arrange a few things in the house, but it was worth it!) With work she picked up his hand signals and responds very well. She had her first birthday weighing 250 lbs. She was raised with a Labrador dog and they continue to play together. When Precious sees Rick coming, she runs to him while "talking" to him. Rick says, "Even though an animal is deaf, people with love and a lot of patience can still have a great companion and friend." (Pictured 8 month old Precious and Rick soaking up the sunshine)

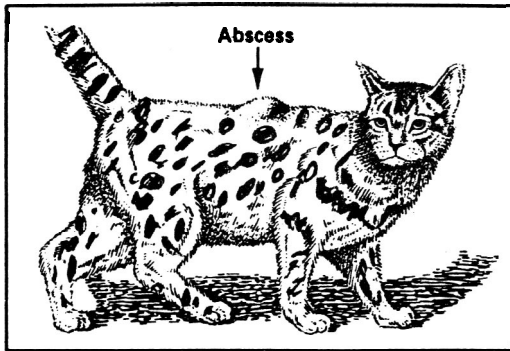


Abscesses and the Feline

Abscesses in cats are serious conditions. Unlike abscesses in humans and dogs, for example, they function deep below the skin and like the legendary iceberg, it is this unseen portion that does the damage.

Cause

Despite the great natural resistance of cats to infection, abscesses are common among them and are caused by any break in the skin through which bacteria can enter. All cats carry lethal bacteria in their mouths and these bacteria cause the vast majority of cat abscesses when they are left behind in a bite wound, or when they are deposited in an open wound by the cat's licking the site.



Bite wounds from fighting are the most common causes of cat abscesses. For this reason most abscesses occur in male cats that have not been castrated. The location of abscesses in cats is very varied but a common site for an abscess in young male cats is the base of the tail. This location usually denotes a bite wound inflicted by a mature tomcat who has been defending his "territory" by attempting to bite off the testicles of inexperienced competitors. (Studies show that a tomcat

marks out a distinct "territory" for himself by spraying landmarks around the perimeter. Other males cross this perimeter at their own risk).

Mouth abscesses, especially in older cats, often come from lack of dental care.

Signs

The signs of an abscess are heat and swelling of the skin, at the site of the infection. The owner can usually feel a soft lump at this location and it will be obvious from the cat's reaction that the area is painful. The cat's temperature rises, and he or she may refuse to eat. Often, the original wound or opening through the skin which the bacteria have penetrated can be seen. Many cat owners first notice an abscess after it has opened and is draining puss.

Complications and Side-Effects

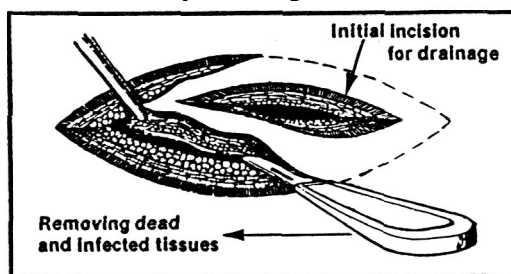
Neglected abscesses may extend into deeper tissues unnoticed by the owner, while the infection itself can enter the bloodstream causing a septicemia (blood poisoning) with subsequent damage to the heart, kidneys and other vital organs. This damage will likely be detected clinically only later in the cat's life. It will also shorten the cat's lifespan by a substantial number of years. Sometimes, such septicemias become overwhelming and actually cause the cat's death at the time of the abscess if left untreated. Bite wounds in the tail and limbs may set up a bone infection necessitating amputation unless treatment is begun early. Bone infections are extremely difficult to treat. Ear abscesses often spread to the brain causing convulsions and a slow, painful death.

Abscess - continued

Abscess wounds on the flanks or other areas where the skin is loose may lead to what is called cellulitis condition. This means that the abscess, instead of localizing in one lump, spreads under the skin throughout the soft tissue areas. This type of infection is difficult to treat and is often let pass unnoticed by the owner because no definite lump forms as a warning. By the time it becomes evident that the cat is ill and does need veterinary attention, deep infection of a very large area may have already set in. At this stage of a cellulitis condition, the cat is often extremely toxic (suffering from the effects of blood poisoning) and will require extensive medical treatment.

Treatment

Most abscesses require both medical and surgical treatment. The cat must be anesthetized if surgery is required. The site of the abscess is surgically prepared by shaving and antiseptic cleaning. If the abscess is not already draining, an incision is made in the abscess to allow drainage. Following this, all dead and infected tissue is removed in order to promote complete and satisfactory healing.



SURGICAL TREATMENT OF AN ABSCESS

There are two schools of thought concerning whether or not to close abscess wounds. Some veterinarians leave the wounds open to drain and heal naturally -

other stitch the wounds closed. Another alternative is paratial closure with a drain left in for a few days. Many factors influence the choices here: the site and extent of the abscess, the condition of the cat, the ability of the owner to continue care at home, etc. Your veterinarian will decide which course is best for your feline.

Whichever method is used, antibiotics are needed to control the infection and prevent recurrences.

Occasionally, an abscess may just be starting to form or fully drained when first seen and it may be possible to clean the wound without sedation and treat with only antibiotics. You should never wait until an abscess occurs or starts draining before starting treatment because of the danger of septicemia and other complications.

Postoperative Care

Following surgery, 3 to 5 days of continuous treatment and close observation are usually necessary, either at home or in the clinic, depending on the severity of the abscess and the condition of the cat. This period may be longer if complications are involved. Following discharge of the cat from the hospital, the owner should watch for a continuance of the healing process. If there are any signs of the abscess re-forming, the cat should again be taken to the veterinarian. Antibiotic medication and ointments may be dispensed for continuing home care.

Avoiding Abscesses

An observant owner may avoid the formation of an abscess in the first place if they begin treatment immediately. Minor wounds should be treated with an antibiotic ointment twice daily and watch closely.

- Continued on page 22

Zoo hopes cougar's third vasectomy will take

The third cut may be the kindest one of all for George, the Texas cougar. Twice he has gone under the knife for a vasectomy, and three times he has fathered cubs after the operations. Now he has had this third....

George better hope this one is successful. If it isn't he'll be neutered.

"If he's still fertile after this, I will be totally amazed," said Salvatore Zeitlin, Dreher Park Zoo veterinarian. George, in fact, is one wild cat, a cougar who has foiled man's attempts to tinker with nature.

He had his first vasectomy before he was released into the wild in 1993. Then, he fathered two litters. He had his second vasectomy last year - and fathered his third litter at the zoo.

Not only that, but he single-handedly gave a cougar-release experiment in northern Florida a bad name with his lifestyle. He attacked a horse, killed a house cat and started hanging around deer feeders, much to the dismay of hunters. He was of course, just doing what comes naturally.

George was one of 19 cougars released in northern Florida to see if Florida panthers could adjust to the region. The experiment ended this June.

But George's involvement - he was known as "T-33" then - ended a year earlier because of his troublemaking ways. He moved to West Palm Beach last December, when Dreher Park Zoo obtained him from the Florida Game & Freshwater Fish Commission.

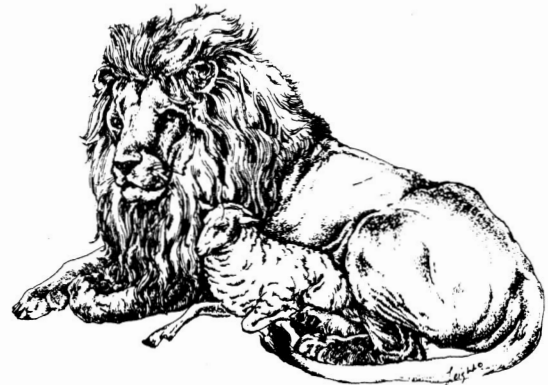
Zoo officials thought he would make a good companion for the zoo's lone Florida hybrid panther, Tayke - especially after he had been sterilized twice.

Tayke and George got along - too well. The next thing zookeepers knew, Tayke was pregnant. Their union produced Colin Patrick, now a 6-month-old cub and a model citizen housed in a pen near the front of the zoo.

Zookeepers didn't want to breed Tayke and George because no other zoo would want Tayke's cubs because she is a hybrid. The state game commission, for example, is having a hard time placing other cougars that were part of the program George flunked. Neutering George will be a last resort.

Zeitlin wants him to follow his true nature. "The best interest was not to neuter him, to let him have a more natural life and normal hormones" he said. But George and Tayke are now in separate sections of the panther exhibit until Zeitlin is confident that George's latest surgery is successful.

By Lori Crouch
Ft.Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel



Abscesses - continued

Many times it is advantageous to keep the wound open (reopening it to administer the ointment) and letting it heal from the inside out. Major wounds might require immediate attention of a veterinarian who can administer an antibiotic injection. This will prevent infection and will prevent problems later.

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring
'cause we finally ate that damn mouse ...

The stockings were hung by the chimney with glue
so they would remain there till Santa is due.

Mommy was nestled all snug in our bed
while Kira was pee-ing a safe distance from her head

TJ was pouncing on his favorite teddy bear
while Kira expanded her latest quilt tear.

Up on the roof there rose such a clatter
that TJ and Kira went to see what was the matter ..

Santa did not know he was bringing toys for us cats --
cardboard and canvas and stuffed furry rats.

Kira watched all not making a sound
when that funny fat person the chimney came down.
TJ grabbed Santa for a big serval hug
and scared that poor man into soiling the rug.

Back up the chimney went Santa with a bounce
barely missing the thrill of Kira's close pounce ...

Santa dashed to his sleigh to continue his run
leaving TJ and Kira still having their fun.

Santa screamed to his reindeer to get out of there quick ---
though the words he was using did not sound like St. Nick.

Mommy woke up because of the noise
and tripped over the mess we made with our toys.
She gathered up the wet quilt from our bed
and walked toward the laundry holding her head ...

"Merry Christmas, you darlings," our Mommy declared,
"I see Santa was here and you sent him off scared ...
Get to sleep now and I'll clean up this mess.
I'll bet next year Santa forgets our address!"



Nanette McGann (TJ & Kira's mom) write: "I just had to finish it..." She's referring to the first stanza which formed Jeff & Scarlett Bellingham's 1993 Christmas card which appeared on the Nov/Dec Newsletter cover last year. Continuing the tradition - Mali caracal at age 9 weeks appears on our back cover this year.

Merry Christmas to All



and to All, A Good Night

CALVIN and HOBBS

