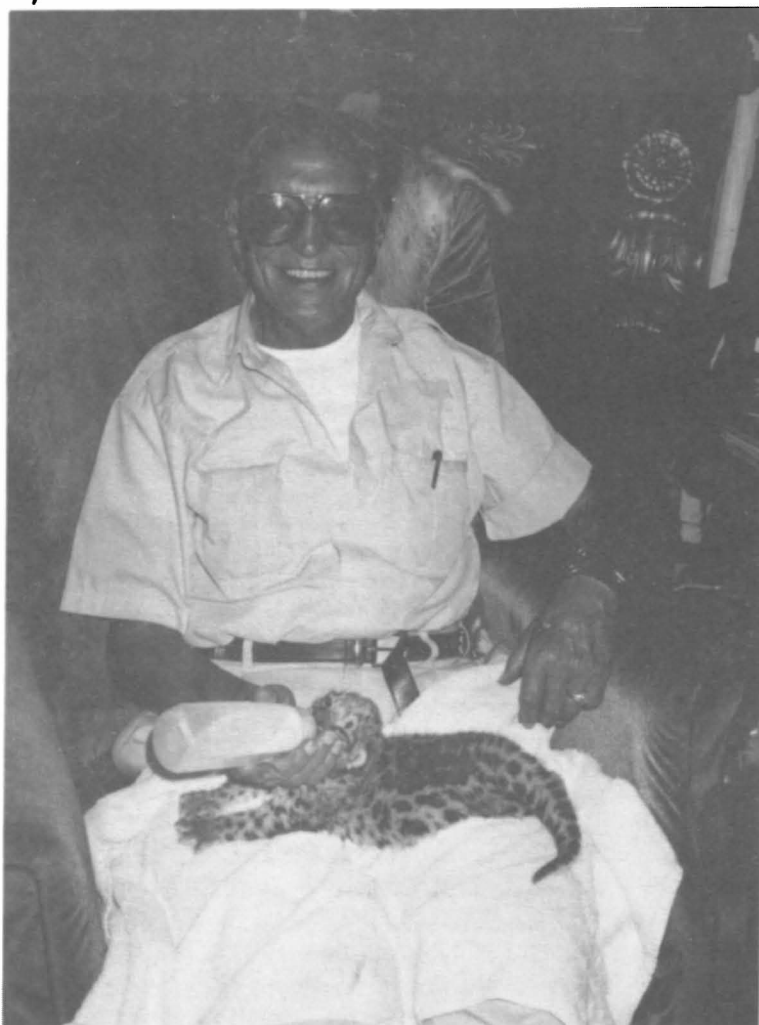


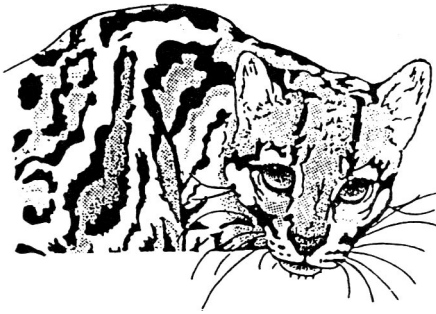
NEWSLETTER

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Robert Baudy with a baby snow leopard. A book on Robert's life and experiences has just been published. For the details, see page 10.



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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Pacific Northwest Exotics	Steve Belknap	P.O. Box 205, Gresham, OR 97030 Gayle Schaecher (503) 663-4137
Sunshine State Exotics	Robert Merkel	4640 S.W. 29th Terrace, Dania, FL 33312 (954) 963-3116

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Canada	Scarlett Bellingham	P.O. Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba ROA1E0, Canada (204) 388-4845

LIOC needs YOU!

The Parkwood Inn, Brunswick, Maine is your destination for the 1996 LIOC Convention, August 8-11. CALL 1-800-349-7181 to reserve your room for \$79.00 each night double occupancy. The Parkwood Inn will only hold LIOC's low room rate until July 1, so...HURRY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS. (AFTER JULY 1, the room rate will be \$109.00 each night.) The \$79.00 room rate includes a free deluxe continental breakfast each morning. The Inn doesn't serve "hot breakfast."

Register for the 1996 LIOC Convention by June 15. Please send \$95.00 payment to LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028 (After June 15 the fee will be \$120.00) Note: Send your choice* of either chicken or lobster for the Friday, Traditional Lobster Bake AND send your choice** of either chicken or salmon, for the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. If you don't choose, you'll get chicken for both events.

Freeport Taxi provides 24 hour service and looks forward to transporting LIOC Convention attendees from the Portland Jetport to The Parkwood Inn. Freeport Taxi operates full size station wagons which will accomodate both guests and felines. The fare from the Portland Jetport to the Parkwood Inn, Brunswick is \$35.00 flat rate (one way). They will track the flight information, greet and assist LIOC members at the baggage claim area (holding a sign "LIOC") and provide a comfortable 40 minute ride to the Inn. Call 207-865-9494 to make reservations.

The CATS are welcome! (Less than 30 lbs.) The Parkwood Inn requires notice when you make your reservations, as to which cats you are bringing to the convention, and a \$100.00 room deposit, of which \$75.00 is refundable.

IMPORTANT: This information must be sent to George Stowers, our Director of Legal Affairs, 8 Meadowhill Drive, Farmingdale, ME 04344 or call George at 207-622-9201. The state of Maine requires an import permit for every incoming cat, at no cost to you. George will complete the import permit forms for you.

The state of Maine also requires that each incoming cat has its health certificate, adult vaccination for rabies, state or federal possession permits, and that there will be no selling of cats. All incoming cats must go home.

Wednesday, August 7, the Hospitality Room will be open for early travelers.

Thursday, the General Membership Meeting will start around 3:00pm. Our evening begins with a **DELICIOUS BUFFET DINNER** and **SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT**.

Friday morning we will start our day with a trip to Casco Bay Lines and enjoy a 2-hour ferry cruise to Bailey's Island. For lunch you will dine by the Sea, enjoying a "Traditional Lobster Bake." (Send your choice* of either chicken or Lobster.) We will then travel to Land's End Gift Shop located at the tip of Bailey's Island. Accommodations have been made for physically challenged individuals.

Saturday's agenda includes guest speakers, a visit with attending felines and videos. The evening's festivities will begin with the **Banquet Dinner**, your choice**, **Flame Grilled Salmon**, charred with dill olive oil and served with citrus butter, OR **Chicken Valdostana**, chicken breast with fontina cheese, prosciutto ham and rosemary butter. Following our dinner the **Auctioneer**, aka **JB Anderson**, will start the bidding!

Sunday morning the final convention **banquet meeting** will include a "HOT" breakfast. You will learn about old business and any new projects from the board and where the 1997 LIOC convention will be held!

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley



President's Perspective

I felt the article *Ready----Action Speaks Louder than Words*, in the March/April Newsletter did not represent the majority of cougars in captivity. I know it sounds very idealistic to walk your cat through malls, have picture taking sessions with the public and take in the local marina on the way to a film shoot, but realistically, that is not the way things are.

Having been involved for the past 20 plus years in the rescue or salvation of several "pet" cougars, Herb and I are well aware of the pitfalls that bring the cats to us - generally through the local authorities any place in the northwest. Some of the more common complaints are:

1. walking the cougar around town.
2. improper caging and/or security
3. no permits
4. Illegal
 - A. in city limits
 - B. improper or no papers (such as licensed USDA Breeder)

Previous owner complaints:

1. children in the home
2. don't have room for a "big cat" - he was cute when we bought him.
3. destroying house or furniture
4. can't afford to buy food
5. "was I supposed to declaw it?"
6. odor

Of the eight cougars we have adopted, two we were able to use in our educational program. However, when Whiskers reached 180 pounds, he was retired. On more than one

occasion one of the cats would single out someone in the audience and take a sudden and intense dislike to that individual. Once we had to ask a young man to leave the exhibit. We did have control of the cat but it is impossible to control people.

Taking on the care of a cougar, or any large cat, is a big responsibility. I'm afraid I have to disagree with Mr. Raber on his statement "I hope that we conveyed that being wild is learned and also in the eyes of the beholder". We try to teach people that these are wild animals with animal instincts. They just happen to have been born in captivity. They still have natural instincts of self preservation.

It was an interesting and very readable article, but please folks, unless you have 24 hours a day for 15-20 yhears to devote to a project like this, let's use a little common sense. Mr. Raber apparently didn't learn anything from having his hand broken in three places trying to control Cougar on a walk. Does he really think he could control a 240 pound cat under adverse conditions? Will he be so smug when he says "because he wanted to"? The chances of an individual, young or old, being hurt is always present. Lawsuits and bad publicity are extremely detrimental to all of us wishing private ownership of exotics.

By the way, Mr. Raber is not an LIOC member.

Did you know?.....

Photos that appear in the Newsletter are automatically entered in the **Photo Contest** at Convention. They are displayed at the banquet and those attending vote on the winner.

Do send us photos of your cat for the "LIOC Gallery" - who knows - you might be the winner!

LIOC

Spotlight on:

AL PORGES



Al with Vet Med student Nicole Richard

By Ron Eldridge, BVSc, MS

Al is best known in LIOC circles for attending almost all of the conventions for the past fourteen years, hosting the 1990 LIOC Convention in Boston, "The Freedom Trail", and his work in the preservation of the magnificent snow leopard.

In addition to these "best knowns", Al also served two continuous terms as Director of Education and Conservation and President of the past LIOC New England Chapter.

The most recent project Al agreed to undertake, is the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine's Selective Program. Students at Tufts have the equivalent of one or two afternoons a week each semester to devote to a professional or personal development endeavor. This selective program was established to provide students with an opportunity to personalize their educational process. The intent is to foster networking and development of clinical, discipline-based, e.g. wildlife, international

veterinary medicine, etc.), or research skills and experiences that will influence their career opportunities.

In April of 1996, two students of veterinary medicine spent the day with Al at his facility. When the students first set their eyes on Al's two snow leopards, Verushka, a 6 year-old female and Rangkul, a twelve year-old male, you could see the awe and wonder in their eyes. The students asked many questions about nutrition, various food nutrients, ration formulation, enclosure care and maintenance, transportation and of course, "can we get up close and personal with Verushka?" You, who know Al, realize that the only answer he could give is, "of course."

Later, after refreshments, they spent time with two bobcats and the lynx. The students again with questions about care, feeding, immunizations, tasked Al until the end of the day. Their last question was, "When can we come back?" "Anytime, of course." said Al.

AL PORGES - Continued

The Tufts Selective Program allows the student to spend up to two days per week with their mentor/instructor. At the end of the semester the student receives a written evaluation from the instructor and one credit towards their DVM degree.

Al is also helping Brown University undergraduate student who is studying biology. She will be starting a summer program for students interested in careers working with animals. Naturally, she loves cats. Is there no end to Al's ability to do everything?

If you are wondering how I can remember all the details of this day...well, I was one of the students!

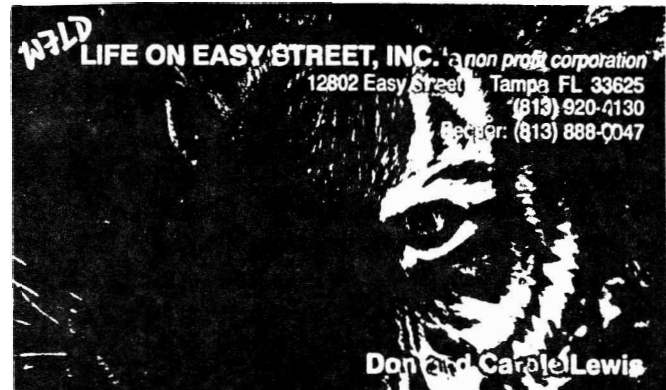
On a more personal note about Al Porges, I cannot remember one single time when this gentleman ever refused to help someone in need. Helping place a cat, many times at his own facility, caring for a member's sick cat, or just comforting another person with words of sympathy for a departed cat.

We are all very fortunate to have a person like Al in our membership. I know that I am a better person for having a friend and colleague like Al Porges.

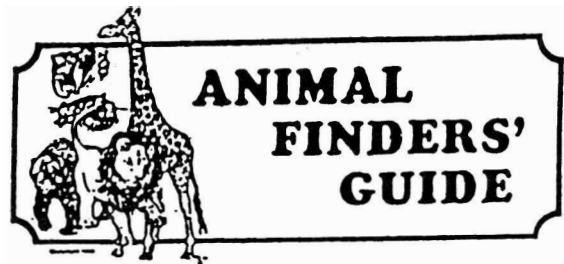
The Classifieds

All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. LIOC ESCF Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. LIOC ESCF Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription or ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted: all ads must a) contain name of business or individual, b) state whether the individual is owner or broker, c) show state and phone number or full address. For further information regarding advertising with LIOC ESCF Inc. contact the Term Director for Advertising & Publicity as listed inside the front cover of this Newsletter.

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(919) 639-3566



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18 Issues a year. Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry. Exotic animals, auctions, products & services advertised. \$25 a year. P.O. Box 99, Prairie Creek, Indiana 47869

Would like to hear from breeders of **Rusty spotted cats** for possible future purchase. Also munchkin kittens to sell/retail only.
Contact: Chris, 1130 N. Church St.
Austin, IN 47102-1010 (812) 794-3276

A Honey of a Treat

By Amy Shojai

Jingles, a gray tabby with white cat, delicately noses the treat and licks his lips. One sniff has black, lop-eared Butch flopping and rolling in ecstasy. Nineteen-year-old Smokey's eyes droop as she drools and rubs her whiskers against the treat.

No, it's not catnip. These cats are indulging in honeysuckle.

Joanne & Henry Wegiel, owners of The Cat House specialty store in Calgary, Alberta Canada, believe they're the first and only retailers of honeysuckle for cats. How did they find out about the feline affinity for honeysuckle? The bushes grew in the backyard of the home where Joanne was raised, and the family cats used them as scratching posts.

The strong kitty attraction was discovered when the time came to prune the tree. "It was so comical," Joanne says, laughing. "The cats weren't just clawing it, they were *hanging* from it." The scent even attracted cats from across the alley and two doors down, and soon there were half-a-dozen cats indulging in a honeysuckle party. "We got such a kick out of it," says Joanne. "It was a nice, cheap way to entertain the cats and keep them happy." Over the years, Joanne and Henry have given honeysuckle as Christmas gifts for friends' cats. "It's a treat many people don't know about."

When Joanne & her husband decided to open The Cat House, it was only natural that they would stock honeysuckle treats. They're sold as slices (cross-sections of the honeysuckle branch) and sticks in various sizes. According to Joanne, the larger sticks make excellent scratching posts.

Why haven't more people noticed that cats like honeysuckle? It may be that only this particular type of honeysuckle has the kitty-approved aroma. There are over 25 species of honeysuckle plants - an assortment of vines, shrubs and rangy trees grow throughout the

world.

The Cat House variety is *Lonicera tartaria*, which was first recognized in the mountain regions of Europe. The species has been transplanted, intentionally or otherwise, since it is not native to western Canada.

Honeysuckle is planted in the Calgary area as a decorative shrub - deep pink or white flowers appear mid-May to early June, followed by red berries. "If you don't prune the bushes, they'll grow tall as a house with trunks 4 to 5 inches in diameter," Joanne says. "Most people don't let them grow that big because they get scrubby looking."

What is it about honeysuckle that makes cats react? And is it safe? Mike Ellis with the Texas Poison Control for the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston says they've received no reports about adverse reactions. No studies have been done to determine exactly why cats react the way they do. As for safety, Ellis continues, "If you look at general information, the whole *Lonicera* genus was included in a list of plants that at one time was temporarily considered acceptable for food."

"We've either given away or sold literally tens of thousands of pieces of honeysuckle with no problems," says Joanne. "Honeysuckle simply affects the cat's sense of smell. It gives them extreme pleasure through their olfactory nerves."

Although honeysuckle wood is extremely hard, Joanne cautions that cats should not be permitted to chew on the slices since there's a slight chance a piece could break off and cause the cat to choke. The sticks are less apt to crack, splinter or splinter than the slices (the bark simple shreds to ribbons); still Joanne is inclined to play it safe. She does not recommend it for cats that like to chew on everything. "However," she continues, "few cats actually chew on honeysuckle. Most prefer to just lick the wood." Wetting the honeysuckle seems to bring out the aroma. Cats "under the influence"

Honeysuckle - continued

tend to become extremely affectionate and loving.

Do all cats react to honeysuckle? Studies have shown that a catnip reaction is an inherited tendency, with only about two-thirds of cats responding. Although no research has been done on honeysuckle, Joanne thinks more cats react to honeysuckle than catnip. "Over the past three years of talking to all these people, it seems about 90 percent of cats go for honeysuckle."

Constant exposure may decrease the effect, but this varies from one cat to the next. One of Joanne's housecats has indulged daily for years. "First thing every morning, Wiley leads us to his 'loving post' Joanne says, laughing. "He rubs his face against it, then claws at it and hugs it."

Other cats seem to need to be "in the mood" for a honeysuckle binge. Joanne's shop cat, Lesley Anne, is exposed to honeysuckle all the time and she's rather blase' about the whole thing. "But once or twice a week, a customer will put a stick on the counter to buy," Joanne says, "and Lesley Anne will jump up on the counter and claim it. The other day I saw her do a face-plant into our basket of samples. Whenever we get fresh cut honeysuckle, she's in the box inhaling it."

How long does the effect last? "A slice will interest a cat for at least a year; a stick will last several years," Joanne says. "We have a stick that's been out in our yard rain and shine for five years, and it still attracts the neighbors' cats."

If you decide to treat your cat to honeysuckle, be warned - some cats may get demanding. "A man traveling through Calgary bought a stick for his bobcat," Joanne recounts. "When he came back the next day and bought four more sticks, I asked if the bobcat liked it, and the man said, 'Like it? I couldn't get it away from him!'"

To receive a copy of their mail-order catalog, send \$3 US or CAD - (will be credited to your first order) to: The Cat House, 110 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary AB T2N 4R9 or call (403)228-2287

Reprinted from CATS, contributed by Kelley Jean Buckley

Constitutional Amendment Proposed

A motion has been made to amend LIOC's Constitution. The amendment is as follows:

Article VII, Section 2: The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation, make recommendations to the Corporation, appoint the Editor of the Newsletter, approve a balanced annual budget and shall perform such other duties as specified in this Constitution and By-laws.

Although LIOC's by-laws require the Secretary/Treasurer to prepare a budget to the Board for a vote at the annual meeting, neither the constitution nor the by-laws require that the Board approve a *balanced* budget. As prudent managers of LIOC's monies, the Board should be bound to live within a budget. Since by-laws may be changed by Board vote, it is felt that this should be a part of our Constitution, which requires a vote of the entire membership to change.

Secondly, the requirement that the Board appoint a Membership Secretary has been eliminated as these duties have been assumed by the Member Services Term Director. At the time the Constitution was written, the Term Directors did not have assigned responsibilities as are now set forth in our by-laws.

Please complete the ballot contained in this Newsletter and mail it by July 1st to:

Barbara Wilton, President
LIOC
7800 S.E. Luther Rd.
Portland, OR 97206



Gerber Baby Foods Harmful to Cats

The following comes from Volume 207, No. 11, December 1, 1995 publication of the AVMA:

Views - Letters to the Editor:

Onion Powder in Baby Food May Induce Anemia in Cats

It is common in veterinary practice to tempt sick and debilitated animals to eat by offering them a food that we consider to be highly palatable. One such product is commercially available baby food.

It has come to the attention of the veterinarians in our hospital through the investigative tenacity of an astute client, that the manufacturer of one of the most popular brands of baby foods (Gerber) began adding onion powder to their meat varieties. The aforementioned client was referred to us because her cat developed a regenerative anemia associated with marked heinz body formation. She had begun feeding her cat turkey baby food approximately 2 weeks prior to the presentation. The anemia and heinz body formation resolved within three days after discontinuing the diet containing onion powder. Another veterinarian caring for another cat with a similar case history and hematological data described resolution of the problem after discontinuing feeding of the same brand of baby food containing onion powder.

Onions have been known to cause oxidative damage to canine and feline RBC (red blood count) (specifically to the hemoglobin molecule.) The structural differences of feline hemoglobin make it more sensitive to oxidative damage. The affected RBC undergo accelerated destruction by intravascular fragmentation of extravascular phagocytosis by the spleen.

There has not been a scientific cause and effect established for the described observations; however, these clinical findings are strongly

suggestive of onion toxicosis. Therefore, it would be appear strongly prudent that we read the labels of baby food and other non-pet food products to ensure that the food does not contain onion powder before we feed it to small animals.

Andrew J. Kaplan, DVM
Mill Valley, CA.

At this writing, Beechnut baby food meats are still pure. LIOC *strongly* recommends our members discontinue using any Gerber meat product. Beechnut, however still produces acceptable, unadulterated baby meats.

When contacted, the folks at Gerber were most unconcerned with our plight as, after all, their products is intended for human babies. Those wishing to comment to Gerber should write:

Mr. Al Piergallini, CEO
Gerber Products Company
445 State Street
Fremont, MI 49413

Environmentalists Sue USDI

Thirteen environmental organizations and two private individuals have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failure to list the lynx under the Endangered Species Act in December, 1994, despite recommendations from their own field biologists. The species is on the brink of extinction in part because clear-cutting and road building through forest lands have splintered and isolated lynx populations.

BAUDY

The Animal Man

A biographical book has been recently published about one of LIOC's supporters, an internationally recognized wildlife breeder and trainer (especially exotic felines), namely **Robert E. Baudy** of the Rare Feline Breeding Center, Inc., and Savage Kingdom in Center Hill, Florida.

The book is a fascinating account of this unique individual and his felines, with lots of photos. Beginning with his early years in France, his World War II experiences, the start of his animal training in Europe, his eventual move to America with his animal acts, his locating in Florida to begin his breeding compound, his various escapades with animals and people, and his goal to conserve the endangered species of cats.



This photo appeared on the cover of the November-December, 1968, issue of LIOC's Newsletter when Robert was performing with the Shrine Circus



For those of us who have been involved with his compound and with Baudy, it reiterates our respect for him and for his dedication. Whether the reader agrees with his methods or is shocked by his shenanigans, anyone who adores exotic cats should read this volume. The book is just fun to read. It gives many insights into Baudy that were unknown to even those of us close to him. His multi-talented personality is explored in an easy reading manner.

The book also makes mention of two long-time LIOC members: yours truly, BeeJay Lester and Gladys Lewis (now deceased), both of whom contributed much time, money, effort and sweat to help Baudy raise his cats and clean his cages over many years.

Robert E. Baudy is truly an endangered species himself, a legend in his own time. His message for future generations that prefaces this volume is a must for our members to read.

Baudy, The Animal Man, by Baudy with Sandra Thompson is available to LIOC members for \$29.95 in paperback. Order directly from:

Robert Baudy
P.O. Box 100
Centerhill, FL 33514

BeeJay Lester



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

E.F.E.S. MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 21, 1996

We had a good turnout and a 'full-house' for our second business meeting of the year which was held at the home of Pat Parker.

Ethel Hauser, President, opened the meeting with a statement of her personal goals regarding the direction of the club. In keeping with the by-laws of E.F.E.S. she will be focusing on the educational aspects of exotic felines both for members who own or are interested in owning cats, and in educational programs for the public. Dr. Richard Weidenaar of Orchards Veterinary Clinic will be providing medical information to be distributed as handouts to assist Ethel with the technical side of health care of exotics.

We discussed our obligation to continue the "Adopt-A-Highway" clean-up project. We can count on Ethel Hauser, Herb & Barbara Wilton, Chuck Tuma, Buzzi Nelson, Pat Parker, Don & Carol Scholes, Bob Slocam, Darryl Scheel, Sandy Hammersley and (mom) Tony to participate on the clean-up crew. Club members may be accompanied by a non-member if they would like to bring a friend. Sandy will confirm dates with the Highway Department. If anyone else would like to volunteer to help, contact Ethel Hauser at (360) 892-9994.

All of the items belonging to the club have been returned except the photo album. If you would like to donate photos taken at meetings, or pictures of your cats to include in the album, either send them to Shirley Malar, secretary, or bring them to a meeting. Please write your name, the cats name, and type of cat on the back of each photo.

Only a few people responded to the "Breeders Book" questionnaire, so we have included the form again with these minutes. If you would like to be listed please return the completed form as soon as possible. You may include photos if you wish. If you have already returned your form and would like to submit photos you may send them separately. Please write pertinent information on the back of each photo.

The subject of bringing domestic cats to the meetings was discussed and due to health risks involved it was decided that domestics will not be allowed to attend meetings. Bengals and Safaris are considered to be exotic, but if your cats are exposed to domestics who run loose, please be very careful about exposing other E.F.E.S. cats to any possible transmissible diseases.

WARNINGS:

Ethel reported that Gerber Baby Food, which has been the most popular canned baby food for kitten formulas, has added salt, onion, and garlic which has been attributed to death by dehydration in kittens. As of this date, we are told Beechnut Baby Food is

still OK to use. Locally, it is available at Cub Foods. We will get additional information by the next newsletter, but in the interim, please do not feed your kittens Gerber Baby Food labeled "New Improved Formula".

Sandy Hammersley announced recent research that indicates that the preservatives BHT and BHA contained in Science Diet have been found to be carcinogenic. Alternate preservatives which appear to be safe are TOCATOL and Vitamin E Oil.

The next meeting will be a guest meeting on June 30th (Note: 4th Sunday) at the home of Donna Amos in Winston, OR. This meeting will be a Bar-B-Q Picnic, so **bring your own lunch** and Donna will have the grill going if you want to do some outdoor cooking. Donna has Servals, Snow Leopard, Clouded Leopards, Ocelots, Jungle Cats / Chaus, Tiger, Bengals, and a variety of other animals, so bring your camera and plenty of film.

No children under 16 years old and NO CATS or other pets please.

Donna lives very close to ' Wildlife Safari ' so you might want to drive down early and go through the park before the meeting. The admission is \$11.95 per person and there is a seniors discount. There may also be a 2 for 1 admission ticket in some entertainment books. Meeting notices containing additional information and a map to Donna's house will be mailed approximately 2 weeks before the meeting to all E.F.E.S. members.

There was some discussion regarding allowing children under the 16 years of age to attend the meetings, but because of the many potential problems that may be encountered, it was decided that the current rules would stand, but we may host a special 'children's meeting' under circumstances that allow us more control and security than a normal meeting.

Printed educational materials will be handed out at meetings at no charge. They will also be mailed to members on request at no charge for the materials, however, the member requesting the materials must send a self-addressed **stamped** envelope or cover postage.

The group attending talked about how much they enjoyed having this meeting in a members home. It was decided that business meetings would be held in members homes as long as the club does not outgrow this option. We talked about scheduling the meeting at Gary Carder's home in Seattle to coincide with the Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show which is held the last weekend of September and attending the show as a field trip. Shirley will call Gary to see if this will be workable with his schedule and firm plans will be announced later.

Ethel brought a Bengal and a young Geoffrey to share with the members. It was nice to see the cats at a business meeting. We had the usual dollar game and raffle and adjourned the meeting for snacks and conversation. It was a very enjoyable meeting with a lot of friendly faces present.



Shirley Malar
Secretary



February Meeting

Our meeting was held in the home of Chris and Lynette in Portland. This was also a baby shower for Luisa Turudie.

We had very little business but did have our election of officers. Our new officers are:

President: Andy Turudie
Vice President: Steve Belknap
Secretary/Treasurer: Bhea Barbeau

We also received the sad news that Chris and Lynette have been transferred to Washington. They will be moving as soon as they find a new place up there where they can have their serval.

Another of our members, Dana Spohn has also moved to Boise, Idaho. She was at this meeting and wanted information on getting a LIOC branch started there. Gayle gave her this information. Maybe, in the near future, we will have a branch in Idaho.

Next we shifted to the baby shower for Luisa. And she was really showered with all kinds of baby stuff. She really looks good after having four beautiful babies. She had three boys and a girl. The rest of the day was spent visiting and enjoying Chris & Lynette's serval.

March Meeting

Jackie Sinnott hosted our meeting at her home in Beaverton. It was a small turnout as it was the last weekend of spring break.

It is always nice to go to Jackie's and

see the ocelots and bobcats.

Andy, our new President, welcomed members and guests. Our guest owns a Bengal/Chaus hybrid.

Gayle reported that Ore. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife had still not completed the draft of their new rules yet. They had stated that it was more difficult than they had thought. It could be even as late as winter or even next year before they can get it done. (The longer it takes the better we like it).

Steve Belknap reported that it has been a long time since he has had an U.S.D.A. inspection. Their Oregon office is in Salem and the flood hit there hard. The Ore. Dept. of Agriculture lost everything so we're wondering if the same happened to USDA.

Andy gave a little report on their on going legal problems.....bad neighborhood.

Luisa reported the babies (human) are really growing. At birth they weighed 2 and three pounds. Now, at 10 weeks, they are up to 9 pounds.

We sold a couple more calendars. We only have a couple left that will be sold at a discount. The meeting was adjourned and we spent the rest of the day visiting with the cats and people present.

Submitted by
Gayle Schaecher

Moving?



*Don't miss any issues
Notify Member Services Promptly
(See Page 2 for address)*

Revised Re-introduction Guidelines

Revised guidelines on reintroduction of species have been approved by the IUCN Council.

The guidelines have been prepared by the Reintroduction Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission. The cover not only reintroduction of a species to an area from which it has been extirpated, but also translocation to, and re-enforcement/supplementation of, an existing population, as well as conservation/benign introductions - an attempt to establish a species for conservation purposes outside its recorded distribution. It is stressed that they are just guidelines and do not represent an inflexible code of conduct.

The guidelines state: "The principal aim of any reintroduction should be to establish a viable, free-ranging population in the wild, of a species, subspecies or race, which has become globally or locally extinct, or extirpated, in the wild. It should be reintroduced within the species' former natural habitat and range and should require minimal long-term management.

The objectives of a reintroduction may include: to enhance the long-term survival of a species; to re-establish a keystone species (in the ecological or cultural sense) in an ecosystem; to maintain and/or restore natural biodiversity; to provide long-term economic benefits to the local and/or national economy; to promote conservation awareness, or a combination of these.

A reintroduction requires a multidisciplinary approach involving a team of persons drawn from a variety of backgrounds. As well as government personnel, they may include persons from governmental natural resource management agencies, non-governmental organizations, funding bodies, universities, veterinary institutions, zoos (and private animal breeders) and/or botanic gardens, with a full range of suitable expertise. Team leaders should be responsible for coordination

between the various bodies and provision should be made for publicity and public education about the project."

Stating that each reintroduction proposal should be rigorously reviewed on its individual merits, the guidelines warn that reintroduction "is always a very lengthy, complex and expensive process."

Reprinted from *Cat News*



Needs YOU!

Please take a moment to share a picture of your cat with us, along with a few words about him (and yourself).

A easier way you've found to do something?.....

We desperately need new artwork - can you draw?

The Newsletter is only as good as our members make it - won't you help?

Are We Vaccinating Too Much?

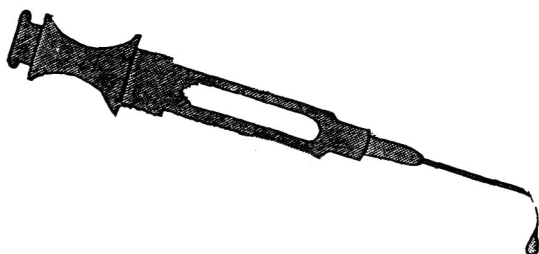
Michael Lemmon, D.V.M.

That is the title of an article in the August 15, 1995, issue of the *Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association*. This article prepared by Carin A. Smith, D.V.M., includes interviews with four of the foremost experts in the field.

The four experts are professors from Cornell University, University of Wisconsin and Colorado State University. They discuss the long-term immunity derived from modified live virus vaccines. (Ed. Note: modified live vaccines should never be used on exotics.) They feel these vaccines give protection against distemper and parvo in dogs and panleukopenia (feline distemper) in cats for at least three to four years and perhaps even for the life of the animal.

They also discuss a growing concern over the increasing incidence of serious health problems resulting from vaccination. Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), fibrosarcoma (a type of cancer), and diseases of the immune system are among the diseases covered.

The lack of effectiveness of certain vaccines was also noted. Feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) vaccines have questionable efficacy according to independent studies. Coronavirus and Lyme disease vaccines were not highly regarded and therefore not recommended.



Some states require the rabies vaccines to be given annually. Rabies vaccines have been tested and shown to be protective for at least three years, so why should the states' laws require they be given annually? In conclusion, they all agreed that annual vaccinations, for the most part, were unnecessary.

Current Veterinary Therapy XI, a standard reference for veterinarians states in a section on "Annual Vaccinations" that "this practice lacks scientific validity or verification. Immunity to viruses persists for years or for the life of the animal. Successful vaccination for most bacterial pathogens produces an immunologic memory that remains for years. The practice of annual vaccination in our opinion should be considered of questionable efficacy."

It is also stated on the vaccine company's instructions that the vaccine should be given to healthy animals. Any pet who has chronic health problems such as skin problems, ear problems, and/or digestive problems should not be given vaccines. This should also include health problems that have been or currently are being suppressed with corticosteroids, antibiotics or other drugs.

Some experts also recommend that vaccines not be given to pets under six weeks of age.

Avoid vaccines in female dogs thirty days before their heat period, during their heat period, during pregnancy and also during their nursing. As pets get older, their immune systems become less effective and they are even susceptible to vaccine side effects.

In more than thirty years of veterinary experience, I have observed a wide variety of reactions to vaccines. I have seen the apparently mild reactions of a minor skin rash or a few days of lethargy ranging all the way to severe convulsions, cancer, and even vaccine-induced anaphylactic death. I have also seen a great number of vaccinated pets who seemed to be

Vaccines - continued

relatively healthy their entire lives; but it has been my observation that there has been a greater increase of chronic disease in pets over the last thirty years, in large part, to the greater frequency of vaccines given. Vaccines have a very strong effect on the immune system and are being incriminated more and more in chronic immune-related diseases such as allergies, autoimmune diseases and injection site cancers in cats. I believe that pet owners should be advised of these potential side effects of vaccine.

Reprinted from Animal Guardian The views reflected are those of Dr. Lemmon and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publication - Contributed by Jean Hamil

Cambodia Agrees to Forest Sellout

Amid protests from opposition leaders, environmental groups and even King Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian officials have signed 30 contracts with foreign companies to log a huge portion of the country's rainforest, some 16 million acres filled with rare wildlife and inhabited by tribal people whose way of life depends on the land.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, one of Cambodia's two Prime Ministers, has said that an unspecified number of contracts would be honored. Among these was one granting a 60-year logging concession on 1.9 million acres to Samling, a Malaysian company whose record has been attacked by environmental groups.

It is not known how much rainforest remains in Cambodia. Many experts believe only about 17.3 million acres are left of Cambodia's forest lands. The country's forest cover has shrunk dramatically in the past 25 years from more than 70 percent of the country to only about 20 percent today.

Reprinted from *Animals*



Readers Write



Dear LIOC,

I have finally acquired my first exotic cat, a male western cougar, I've named Bubba.

I have always dreamed of having large cats because they have always fascinated me with their grace and power.

In the past, I have always had a list of reasons why the time wasn't right, or I wasn't living in an area hospitable to large cats, but now everything has fallen into place and I am getting started with what hopefully will be a collection of several species including tigers, leopards and perhaps hopefully someday, snow leopards.

I'm a new member and feel that I will gain more knowledge from the articles and stories written and submitted by LIOC members.

Enclosed is a picture of Bubba at 10 days old.

Yours truly,
George Carlson
Box 161, RD #2
Puxsutawney, PA 15767

The Strange Case of Two of the Congo's Last Lions

Two male lions were shot dead in Congo's Odzala National Park after killing two men and trying to attack a hunter trying to shoot them.

Bob Dowsett, Chief of an ECOFAC project in the area, takes up the story:

"I am certain that Odzala remains the only area with a viable lion population, not only in the Congo, but in the whole of this part of forested central Africa. It forms the northern limit of the savannas in the Congo, but because of its isolation has avoided the excessive overhunting of the Lefini and other areas. There is a good population of buffalo and no obvious lack of food therefore. The savannas of Odzala are in fact in the Domaine de Chasse (hunting zone) and the Reserve de Faune (faunal reserve) and have been slightly hunted in the past in the former area. But it seems that never more than one or two were killed a year in the 1970's when lions were reported as common by a professional hunter. He even reported a pride of a dozen at times. There was never any man-eating in the past. It does not seem to me that numbers were exaggerated in order to justify hunting.

In recent years, lions have been seen very rarely and never more than three or four together. We have discussed this with many guards, hunters and others who have long known the area: very few have ever even seen a lion. A professional hunter has again been active in our buffer zone for the past three years, during which he has seen lions only about four times and rarely tracks. I have been here since November, 1993, and have not seen a lion, nor have I heard one. A pair used to visit our camp a couple times a month.

We started clearing an airstrip with hand labor in January and often found the tracks of two lions there. It is evident that the population is very small, surely fewer than 20-30 and one wonders how it can be viable.

During my absence on leave in Europe in May/June their behavior changed. Tragically no one present interpreted the signs that to me now indicate clearly that trouble was possible. People started seeing two males, especially on the airstrip when a grader started work there. These lions started prowling around the camp and lying nearby. The lions chased vehicles. The task of cutting grass around the camp was evidently neglected, judging by the state it was on my return in mid-July.

In spite of all this, two workers took a stroll just before midnight and were attacked, with one escaping and one eaten, just 50 meters from my hut, which was not occupied then. Fortunately, a professional hunter, with the aid of our expert in construction, was able to kill these two males, but not before they had attempted to pull the pair down from the platform they had constructed.

The younger lion had shotgun wounds in the jaw and one foot, which were not recent. It had been noted that he walked with slight difficulty, but it was unlikely to be the sole explanation of his turning man-eater. However, it did mean that he could not properly pull down the man he caught and so he escaped. The man that died was caught by the uninjured lion.

What may have led to their behavior? I make several suggestions, believing the answer to be a combination of them, not in any order of priority.

1. Lions are certainly scarcer now and

Congo's Last Lions....continued

never in large prides, just small and apparently family groups of two to four as a rule, so handling buffaloes as prey may have presented problems. Since my arrival here a series of male buffaloes, heavily scarred, have taken up residence around camp, occasionally dying or disappearing eventually. One night, one was attacked unsuccessfully in front of my hut. We wonder if this decrease in lions is not the result of disease and it will be interesting to know the result of an analysis of tissue samples from the lions which were shot.

2. The noise of the grader was an unfamiliar one which apparently attracted the lions.

3. One had already been shot at by a poacher and so would have had reason not to like people very much, but we have had up to 40 to 50 people here in camp for the past two years, so the lions must have had prior opportunity. Moreover, my wife and I often visited the airstrip on foot earlier this year, returning the two kilometers to camp in the dark when the lions were certainly in the area judging from their tracks.

4. The area around the camp was greatly neglected during my absence and there was a good deal of cover in which they could lie up. In fact, just after my return with a half dozen people in mid-July (all the rest having fled the park,) a female, presumably one which used to accompany one of the males, laid up one night near our huts. I burnt the cover the next day and we have not seen any signs of her since.

5. June was the start of the hunting season and the professional hunter was based at our camp pending setting up one of his own. Thus a good deal of meat started appearing in camp, and this has also left us with the expected hyena problem.

6. It is certain that lions in camp at night, seeing two figures walking by them, would have been tempted and one can hardly blame them for that. Once they had eaten the one man completely, except for a few bones, they realized that humans are easy prey.

Although the hunter put out a buffalo as bait, it was the waiting hunters who were the intended victims on the second occasion.

It is an old story, well known everywhere in Africa, but the people here have little knowledge of the bush and even less of lions. They failed completely to foresee an incident which has killed one man and two fine lions, perhaps among the last we have. It has greatly complicated our work with the local people who already for the most part regard wild animals with fear rather than the deep knowledge one might expect."

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News

In the Dark?



***There are over 60
lighthouses on the Maine coast!
Come visit them and attend
Convention '96.***

TIGER GENOME RESOURCE BANK PLANNED

An action plan has been prepared to create a Tiger Genome Resource Bank aimed at maintaining genetic variation of captive and wild populations, which may be threatened by inbreeding.

The plan, the first of its kind for any wild species, has been prepared by scientists at the U.S. National Zoo, IUCN Captive Breeding Specialist Group, the Felid Taxon Advisory Group of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), National Cancer Institute, Minnesota Zoo and the National Institutes of Health. It is led by Dr. David Wildt at the National Zoo.

According to the plan, a resource of frozen tiger semen and eventually embryos, will be used interactively with the living populations to periodically infuse genetic material among diverse captive and wild stocks or preserve genes from previous generations.

The plan notes that the loss of genetic diversity in wild tiger populations is unknown, but it appears to be inevitable because of overall small numbers and habitat fragmentation. About 250 individuals are required within a tiger subspecies to sustain adequate gene diversity, defined as 90% of current gene diversity for 100 years.

It has been calculated that, for certain subspecies, a natural, free-ranging population would require about 25,000-50,000 km. Such vast areas no longer exist within tiger range.

It is hoped that those working on free-living tigers in Russia, Indonesia and India might be interested in cooperating with the Resource Bank in collecting, storing or exchanging biomaterials.

The plan declares that the Genome Resource bank would not be merely a static warehouse of biological material, but would serve a vital, interactive role between living populations of captive and free-ranging species.

Did you know there's now a book available on long-time LIOC member Robert Baudy? For more information see page 10.



Cats Also Infected With Mad Cow Disease!

In the May issue of *DISCOVER* magazine, it is reported that British zoo cats - ocelots, cheetahs, and pumas have also contracted bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease. All the cats had been fed on raw beef. BSE is thought to be caused by a type of protein, dubbed a prion, that damages the brain by somehow converting a normal, harmless version of the same protein into new ones that clump together and block molecular traffic in the brain, killing cells and leaving spaces where once there were nerves.

No cases of BSE have been reported in the U.S. Extremely rare in humans (about one person in a million will get the human form) it has an incubation period of up to 30 years.



Above: vet Students, Nichole Richard and Ron Eldridge, pose with Verushka at Al Porges' compound - more on page 5



Below: two of Jackie Sinott's ocelots enjoy their greens

