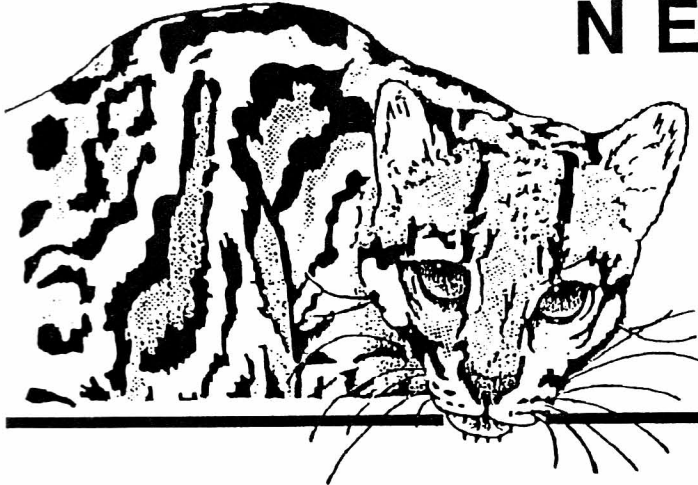
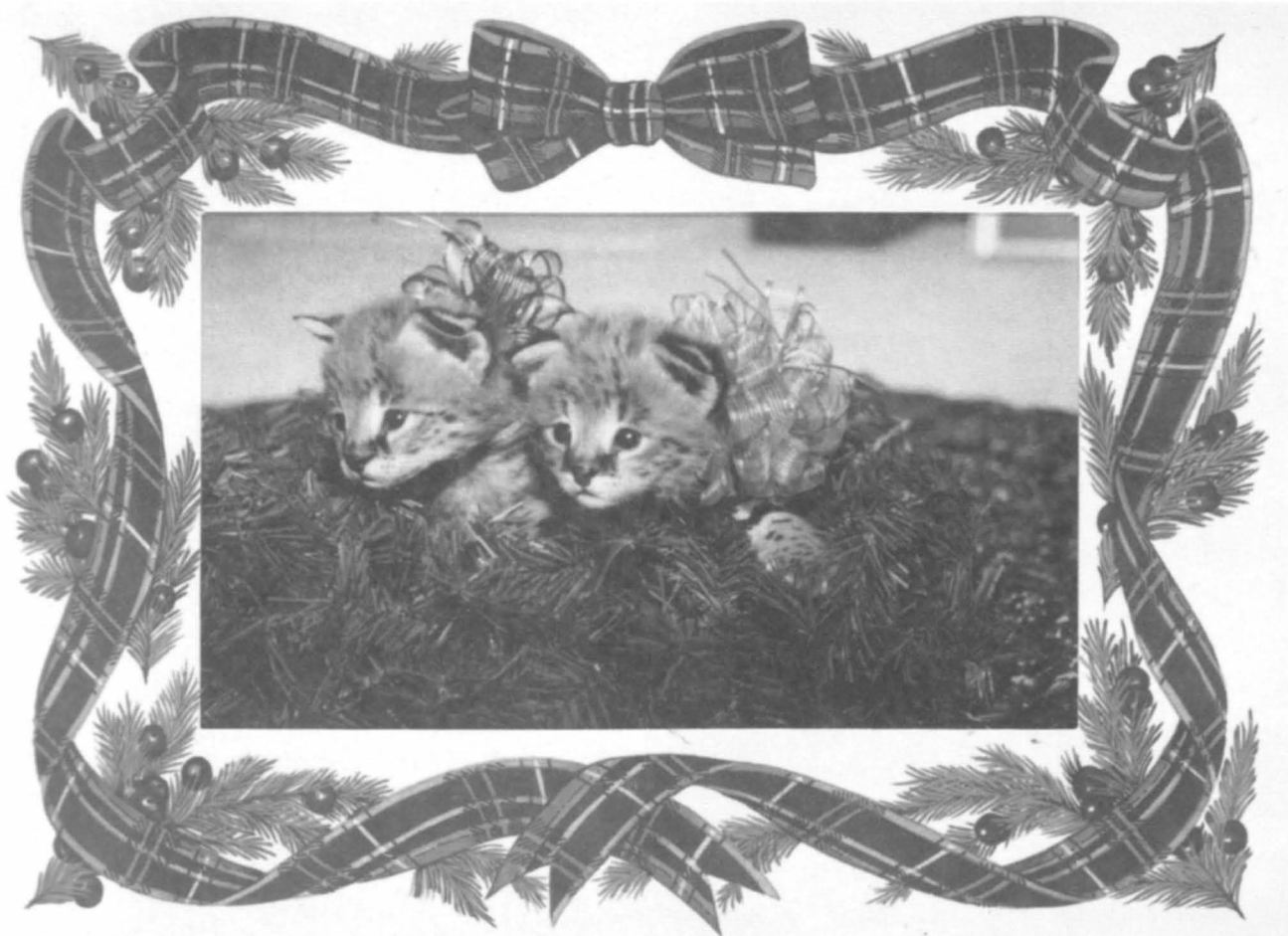


NEWSLETTER



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Shoo's Sasha (f) & Rhompa (m) at 3-1/2 weeks - Sharon shares more on servals in the next issue.



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. Deadline for the next issue is the 15th of even-numbered months. Please submit all material to the 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 Email: 74632.2053@compuserve.com
<u>Officers</u>		
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 (360)887-8563 Email: Email: cscs88a@prodigy.com
<u>Term Directors</u>		
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 E-mail: gstowers@mint.net
Advertising & Publicity	Jean Hamil	31307 Debbi, Magnolia, TX 77355 (713)356-2076
<u>Life Directors</u>		
	J.B. Anderson	Rt 4, Box 2190, Lake Rd. 54-37, Osage Beach, MO 65065 (573) 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 Email: jperr@landolakes.com
	Shirley Wagner	3730 Belle Isle Ln, Mobile, AL 36619 (334)433-5418 days 661-1342 nites Fax: (334)433-5422
<u>Branches</u>		
Exotic Feline		
Educational Society	Ethel Hauser	14622 N.E. 99th St., Vancouver, WA 98662 (360)892-9994
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
<u>Regional Contacts</u>		
Northeast	George Stowers	8 Meadowhill Dr., Farmingdale, ME 04344 (207)622-9201
Southeast	Jean Hatfield	1991 S.W. 136th Ave., Davie, FL 33325 (954)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 ROA1EO, Canada (204)388-4845

LIOC needs YOU!

Inquiry Targets Roadside Zoos

A flood of complaints by British tourists about conditions in Florida zoos has prompted the London-based World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) to launch Zoo Inquiry, a campaign to reform substandard zoos in the United States, especially roadside attractions.

Of 21 zoos investigated, only 3 passed inspection. Among numerous problems found were malnutrition, cages and pens that were too small and/or did not provide protection from the elements, lack of veterinary care to sick and injured animals, and inadequate or missing safety barriers between dangerous animals and the public.

WSPA enlisted the help of John Gripper, a British wildlife veterinarian and zoo inspector, to investigate. According to his report, zoos accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) received higher marks, but smaller roadside attractions, which are at least 10 times more numerous, had "grave deficiencies in animal welfare, conservation and education."

Zoogoers can assist WSPA in its campaign by filling out questionnaires to rate their local zoos. Copies of the questionnaire can be obtained by writing: Zoo Inquiry, WSPA, P.O.Box 190, Boston, MA 02130.

Reprinted from *Animals*

A publication of the Massachusetts SPCA

This article in various forms has appeared around the country. Because one of the "roadside zoos" cited was owned by LIOC members Don & Carole Lewis I contacted them as well as WSPA asking for more information. WSPA responded promptly with a 50+ page glossy brochure, printed in 1994. It's main thrust was to discredit the keeping of animals in zoos. It did a laudable job of this as might be imagined. It for the most part was aimed at British institutions. Since then, they have taken aim at Canadian and U.S. Zoos as well. You

may obtain a copy of this by writing to the address above.

Carole Lewis responded by return mail, enclosing a video, pictures which accompany this article, a copy of the comments made by Dr. Gripper and her rebuttal which follows.

The salient points of the "inspection" by Dr. Gripper is excerpted here verbatim.

Accommodation: The accommodation for most animals has been constructed within the last 4 years and has been built to minimum standards. The roofs of the cages were only half covered, and the animals were not fully protected from the elements. Some of the animals could not hide from public view. Most of the cages were barren without any environmental enrichment.



All leopards should have trees.

Food & Drink: A few of the enclosures, such as the lemur, had drinking water bowls at floor level which allowed (Ed. note - does not say it was) for feces contamination.

Zoo Inquirycontinued

Behavior: One of the cougars showed stereotypic pacing behavior. Many of the animals were in cages and enclosures that were in close proximity to other animals which was causing anxiety and stress for the animals concerned.

Animal Health: The animals appeared to be well fed and in good health.

Public Safety: There were no safety barriers in this animal collection to prevent contact between the public and the dangerous animals. None of the cages were secured with a lock at the time of our visit. The fence around the tigers is not stable and is approximately only 6 feet tall and not strong enough to prevent escape.

Education: Members of the public were taken around the zoo and the guide provided information about the animals. Most of the enclosures had notices with the names of the species and some had fuller information about the educational features of the species. There was a leaflet available to the public about the animals in this collection.

Conservation: In my opinion, there was no conservation justification for this collection of animals. Some of the animals were endangered but this zoo took no part in any international breeding program and it is extremely unlikely that any of the animals from this zoo would ever be rehabilitated back into the wild. Breeding was an important part of this animal collection and visitors were given a special showing of the newborn cubs.

Conclusions: This collection of animals is set in forty acres and is in private ownership. Some of the animals have been rescued, but most had been purchased at animal auctions. The questionable practice of the breeding and sale of animals to individuals and zoos is an important source of income. This collection does not regard itself as a zoo and does not charge an entry fee to the public. However, the public can visit by appointment with a \$3. donation.

Verdict: This zoo would have failed inspection under the standards of the U.K. Zoo Licensing Act.



Shere Khan & China Doll have more real estate than most people.

Zoo Inquiry.....continued

Carole responds: I am so glad you asked. We have had several visitors come here who either told us up front or while touring the facility that they did not approve of keeping wild animals in cage. We have always considered these people to be our greatest challenge because is we can educate them, their 'activist' abilities will then be spent in a more positive manner for the well being of the animals. In every case, by the end of the tour, you could see the change in their attitudes and they would be so overwhelmed by all the new experiences (like having a bobcat nuzzle in their hair or being licked half to death by an ocelot) that they would just be gushing over how wrong they had been and what a great life these cats have.

I believe in 'surprise' inspections, but I also believe that things may not always be as they appear. The WSPA report stated that they had seen 7 bengal tigers and 2 other tigers. We hand out a leaflet describing our collection and have listed 7 bengal *cats*, but apparently the investigator did not know the difference between and 8 pound cat and a 500 pound tiger. He said he saw two more leopards than we actually had and one more ocelot, which tells me he saw something he could not identify and called it that.

The inspector stated the pens had been built to "minimum" standards, but the very smallest pen is more than three times the state requirement and many times larger than USDA requirements. The cages were said to be only partially covered, which is true, but I cannot understand why this is a problem. As per the size of the pens, this means that the smallest covered area would be four feet by twelve feet. (in fact it is a roofed area of 10 feet by 12 feet because our pens are built in twos, for compatible pairs or trios, except when they are separated by a dividing door. *Each cat* has a den box into which they may retreat, yet the inspector stated otherwise. This is just not true.

Mr. Gripper stated "most cages were

barren without any environmental enrichment." No one could walk through here and say that. Every single cat has toys, whether they will play with it or not. They have balls, climbing species have ropes & trees or tree limbs, bleached bones, hanging toys, swimming toys and most have plenty of "natural habitat". Forty-eight of our cages are yards, some of them huge, full of natural greenery and many of these are built into



a 20 acre, spring-fed lake. Even the ones on concrete platforms (our smallest) have natural vines, in and over their cages and bird baths and feeders are strategically placed to attract birds into the cat's sight. Inside are branches and shelves and again toys. Our volunteers are our best source of enrichment. We allow trained volunteers to go into the enclosures when possible and play with the cats since many were bottle-raised and need human interaction. Even the cats who don't like to be handled cannot resist a game of chasing the feather or toy on a string.

Our Volunteers, paid staff and ourselves

Zoo Inquiry.....continued

do all feeding and cleaning but all they could find to criticize was the placement of a water dish.

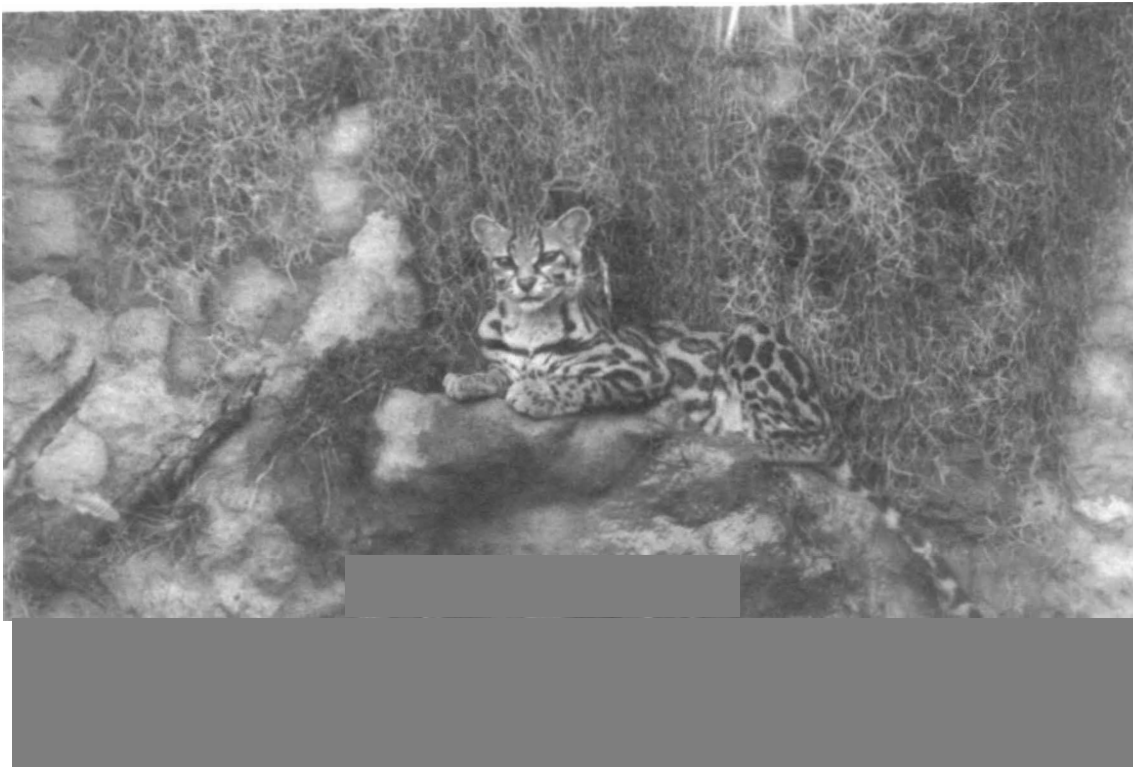
Again, of 120 exotic cats, the inspector could find only one who was pacing. If he had asked, he would have learned that the cat had been confiscated from a drug dealer, passed through a zoo and had just arrived here. The cat settled down within a few weeks and is now quite content. I cannot imagine why Mr. Gripper would state that "many animals were in cages and enclosures that were in close proximity to other animals which was causing stress and anxiety for the animals concerned." After five years of personally caring for these animals, I have learned a few things about stress, and the first clue is that a cat will refuse to eat... but as the inspector noted: "The animals appeared to be well fed and in good health."

The statement "There were no safety barriers in this animal collection" was simply an outright lie. There are barriers around all of the potentially dangerous Class I and Class II animals and no one is allowed to tour without a

guide present. Tours are restricted to 6 persons per guide and no children under 12 are allowed. This might be a good time to point out we are not a zoo and open to public. We do not charge a fee and we invest over \$100,000. of our own money (made in real estate) each year caring for our animals. You must schedule an appointment to visit.

All of our Class I and II animals have combination locks on their gates. The fence around the tiger enclosure is not 6 feet but 9 feet and surround one acre, extending into the lake, and constructed of six gauge welded wire panel. Cat owners know that if a pen is not strong enough, a cat won't be in it. Our tigers have never escaped....which proves the point.

We have bred 14 species here (unhappy cats don't breed). And we all know that zoos do not cooperate with private parties. Why would I quit breeding endangered or threatened species just so I could say I was part of an international breeding program? (Ed. note: the SSP program controls the number of breedings, dictates which animals are to be moved where, and prohibits breeding of any animal which is not "subspecies



Margay Kalua - 15 years and still going strong
enjoys the waterfall in her cat-a-tat.

Zoo Inquiry.....continued

pure" and whose country of origin is not known.)

We do not sell kittens to zoos, fur farms, auctions, circuses or unlicensed individuals. Nor do we place kittens who will grow beyond 110 pound to "pet" homes. When we do sell a kitten, we insist on a written agreement that should the animal have to be given up for any reason, we have the option of bringing it back here to WildLife on Easy Street. Most of the smaller cats are not desirable to zoos as displays and will quickly reach extinction if not bred privately. Mr. Gripper concluded that "the sale of animals is an important source of income." It doesn't take long to spend much more than a person will ever make selling cats. If we had approached this as a business we would have bailed out after the first year.

The photos enclosed are some of our cats. These were taken in the pens they live in. Our ugliest, most "barren" pens are on concrete platforms and are 6-8 feet tall (from the floor up) and 24 feet long. They are all in well shaded areas and have den boxes and roofs, not to mention limbs, platforms, vines, ropes, etc., depending on the occupant and of course, toys. These are temporary (each costing around \$750) until we can build each cat their own "cat-a-tat".

Photos by Jamie Veronica

It's your Editor again folks, I've talked to Florida members who have personally visited the Lewis' compound and am assured there is nothing wrong. We must realize that Florida is a permit state and conducts inspections. Further, The Lewis' are required to have a USDA permit as well and be inspected by them.



Who says there's not place to hide? This is where he lives - not just a "photo pen".

More photos on page 20



Well folks, another year is almost gone. For LIOC it was a hallmark year - 40 years of Newsletter and the inception of the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. 1997 should find the scholarship fund up and running. I do hope you'll see the merit of this and contribute to it generously. It will benefit all exotics to have better trained veterinary care.

1997 presents some challenges as well. The balance budget amendment was passed, mandating your Board to live within its means. An analysis of our Newsletter cost for the past year shows a decrease from 1995 costs - in part by using a less expensive printer, but also in part by reducing the average number of pages in each Newsletter. This where your input is needed. Your officers and directors are reimbursed for costs associated with their office. Many donate these costs and are not reimbursed. However, in all fairness, we cannot require they pay for the expenses of their particular offices. Some are necessarily more burdensome, if done properly, than others. It would be a shame if someone were prohibited from serving in any capacity by the cost. As you know none receive any salary above those reimbursements. LIOC is, and always has been, run on a shoestring, but costs rise.

Essentially, the choice is, a longer newsletter (28-32 pages) or the current 20-24 pages. Happily for your editor, we have plenty of material, but more pages cost more money and dues would have to increase. I try to prioritize the material, but there is more interesting stuff available than space, not to

mention repeats of basic stuff that new members need. Give it some thought, are our dues too high now? or could we squeeze another \$5. out of your budgets?

Please take time this holiday season to reflect on the blessings we each are fortunate to share. Take stock of mistakes made and assess how we can do better in the new year. Resolve to be more patient, understanding and to put little more effort in helping someone in need.

I hope each and every one of you has a joyous Christmas in the company of friends, family and loved ones and a prosperous and healthful New Year!

A handwritten signature that appears to read "Shirley".

Readers Write



Dear Shirley,

I just received the September/October issue of the Newsletter and read "From Under the Editor's Desk", in which you ask cat owners to take the time to familiarize someone with the basic care of their animals.

I am in Albuquerque, N.M. and a member of LIOC. I am also a docent at the Rio Grande Zoo specializing in cats. I would gladly be willing to take care of an LIOC member's cat(s) while they're away.

Please let members in this area know they have someone they can count on.
Thank You.

Sincerely
Rita Faruki
7600 Scotts Pl. N.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
(505) 821-3669 home
(505) 768-6108 work
Email: RTFARUKI@CCGATE.HAC.COM



Children's Books For Christmas

Let the Lynx Come In by Jonathan London, illustrated by Patrick Benson (Candlewick, \$15.99) As the father sleeps one wintry night, a dark shadow looms at the cabin door. Then a wildcat, "still as stone", appears, and one child climbs upon the tawny beast's back and into the forest. A dreamy adventure, accompanied by breathtaking watercolors.

Children Save the Rain Forest by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, photographs by Dan L. Perlman (Cobblehill, \$15.99) A trek deep into Costa Rica's 42,000-acre preserve, conserved for the future by the efforts of children worldwide.

Hawk Hill by Suzie Gilbert, illustrated by Sylvia Long), (Chronicle, \$14.95) When a lonely boy who loves birds begins to share in the rescue of injured raptors, he finds hope, friendship and a profound connection with wild creatures. The striking paintings, paired with an eloquent text, make for the finest natural history title of the year.

Animal Friends: Thirty-one True Life Stories by Dick King-Smith, illustrated by Anita Jeram (Candlewick, \$19.95) From the British dairy farmer turned writer (and the author of *Babe*, the book that became the movie), a bewitching compendium of creatures - affectionate goats to inquisitive badgers.

Tonio's Cat by Mary Calhoun, illustrated by Edward Martinez (Morrow, \$16) Winning over a "skinny old cat with a torn ear and a hind-leg limp" with leftover tostadas and beans, a lonely boy, recently emigrated from Mexico, makes a new life in his California neighborhood. This notable author's story, rich in compassion, deserves a wide audience.

Nearer Nature written and illustrated by Jim Arnosky (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, \$18) An absorbing chronicle of the fields and forests surrounding the author's Vermont farmstead, from the writer and artist who has created dozens of outstanding natural history books for young people.

Condensed from *Smithsonian*

Tigers in Trees

Tigers don't climb trees; so say most accounts of the great cats. But in recent months, tigresses, as far apart as the Sundarbans in India and the Russian far east, climbed high into trees.

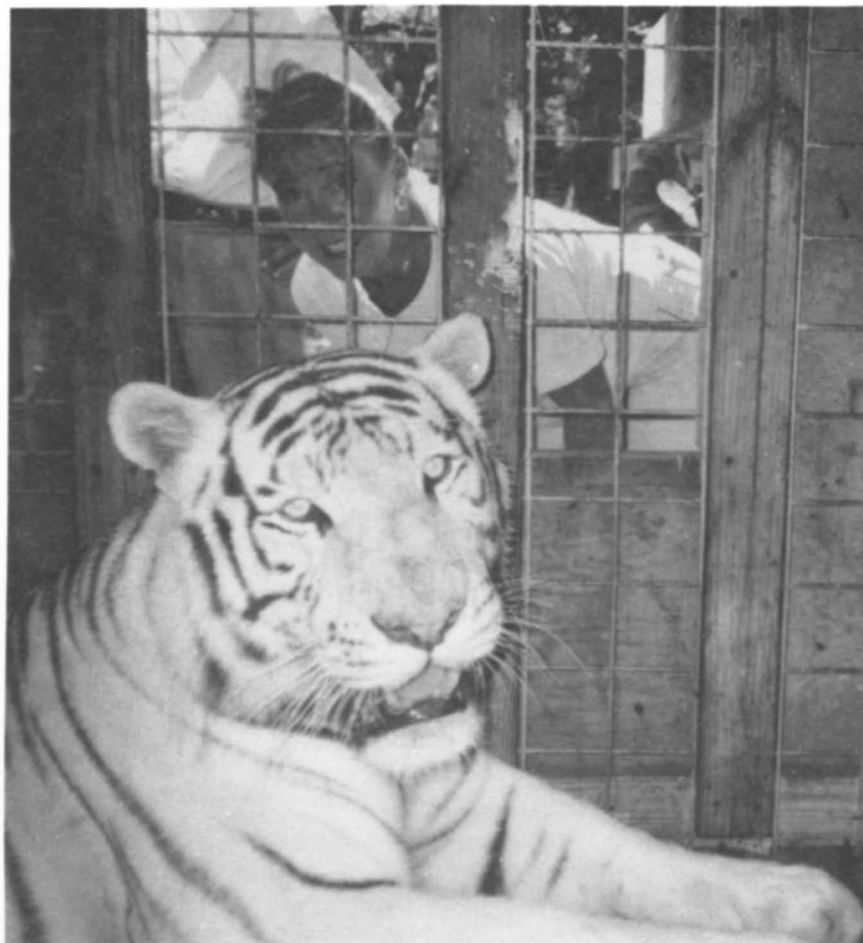
In Russia, researchers were in a helicopter seeking to tranquilize a tigress in order to change the failing battery in her radio collar. When the helicopter hovered low over the tigress to enable a shot from a dart gun, she climbed high in a tree and tried to swat the aircraft, according to Howard Quigley, a leader of the research team from the U.S. based Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute. The tigress was successfully tranquilized later when she descended.

In the Indian Sundarbans, south of Calcutta, a tigress climbed 7.5 meters into a tree when Project Tiger staff were seeking to tranquilize her because she was approaching villages. Pranabes Sanyal, Conservator of Forests, reports that she was darted and dislodged into a fishing net to break her fall to the ground. She was released later in the core area of the tiger reserve.

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News

LIOC Spotlight:

Paige Schaffer



New LIOC member, Paige Schaffer, is shown here with one of Robert Baudy's white Siberian tigers. Paige worked at Lion Country Safari in Irvine, California in the late '70s as a zookeeper, public relations coordinator. She raised lion cubs born there, as well as working with cheetahs and bears. She gave educational talks to the public with the zoo animals, took care of gibbons, spider monkeys, exotic birds and was in charge of the ratite (ostrich & emu) hatchery.

Paige says the lion cubs were raised on ZuPreem after being bottle fed until about age 1-1/2 when they were either sold or put into other zoos since they could not be released back into the pride on the safari grounds. She took the babies home to be bottle fed every three hours and was using KMR formula.

Paige would go to public events off zoo grounds with two female lionesses up until they were a year old and still handleable. She used strong vocal commands for discipline and backed that up with some force if necessary. These cats were not declawed or defanged.

Paige's animal background consists also of being a vet technician assisting in operations, blood work, taking samples, microscope work and some injections when she lived in Boston and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Paige is a member of the Jacksonville, Fl. Zoological Society and is currently the state certified animal control officer for the City of Neptune Beach, Florida. She has a pet African Gray parrot (1-1/2 years old) that says "I love Paige".

Submitted by BeeJay Lester

Hong Kong Returns Seized Leopard Cat Skins to China

A shipment from China of 500 plates of leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) skins, which were seized by the Hong Kong authorities in March of 1996, have been returned to China as no import license had been obtained.

The Hong Kong authorities declared that the plates were said to have originated from 3,145 skins. The shipment had a valid Chinese CITES export permit and all the plates were individually tagged. It was worth about \$40,000. US.

In May, Japanese police in Kanagawa prefecture arrested a dealer whose import of 11 packages declared as containing "Chinese rabbit skins" turned out to contain 320 leopard cat skins. He told police he bought them for about \$8. U.S. per skin in China and could sell them for \$100 per skin in Japan.

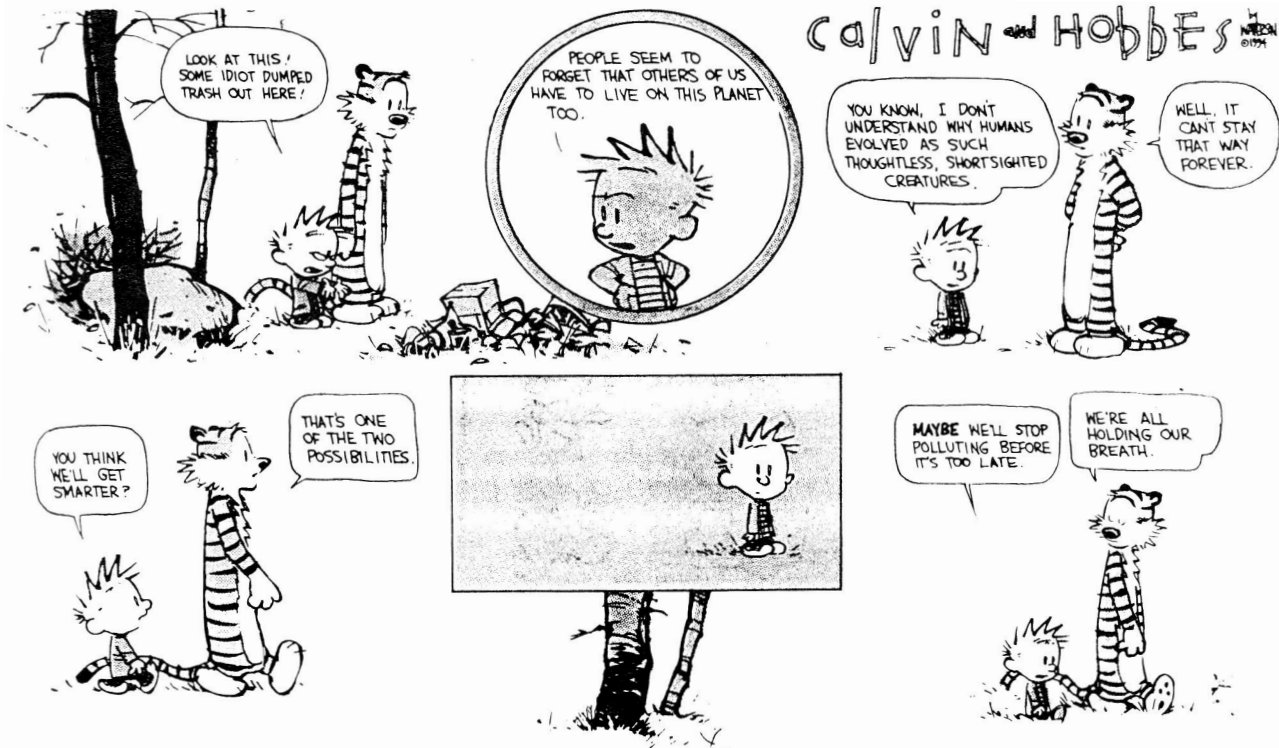
The leopard cat, as a species, is on Appendix II of CITES, which permits licensed trade. This covers the two subspecies found in China *P.b. bengalensis* and *P.b. chinensis*, which the Chinese say number 1.5-2 million in the country. *P.b. bengalensis* is preferred by the

trade because of its superior pattern. However, the populations of this subspecies in India, Bangladesh and Thailand are on Appendix I, which bans trade.

Chinese export of leopard cat skins was suspended in April 1993 at the request of CITES pending a survey of the status of the leopard cat in China and the institution of a management program. At the time, the Chinese authorities declared a stockpile of 803,052 skins, and they said that there had been no legal taking of leopard cats from the wild since 1989.

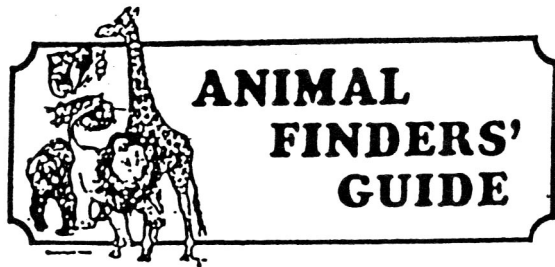
In a notification dated 31 August 1995, the CITES Secretariat said the suspension was lifted as it was satisfied that China "has taken or initiated the action necessary." China's CITES management authority had stated that no exports of skins or products not already held in stock would be permitted until the field survey had been completed and a management program established on the basis of it.

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News

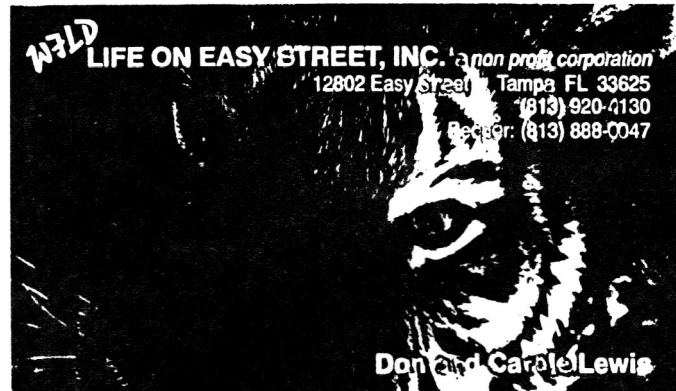


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Shoo's Exotics

Sharon Roe—"Shoo"
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Ridgefield, WA 98642

Kittens due in December!

Time to Move!

We exotic owners tend to be folks with humility - we enjoy our privacy and being left alone. We tend to have experiences in life and with humanity that allow us to see and appreciate the innocence and the honesty in the interactions we have with our four-footed friends. I know when I visit with my cougars that I am always greeted with warmth and unconditional love (except at feeding time). Unlike dealing with people, there is no hidden agenda, just a purr to show affection to the humans who treat them well. Like most members' cats, our cougars are part of the family.

Our cats are always welcome and invited by those humans who knew them. We were not public in disclosing having them, through folks at work, friends and neighbors, would extend invitations for the cats and these people to visit each other - to share in the very unique experience of getting to know America's lion - a gentle, loving and highly intelligent being. Mutchka and Pete both seemed to know which humans were genuine and reflected that genuine affection back to their visitors.

Losing my job in 1993 caused me to seek employment in my field of engineering during times when jobs were scarce. Even though jobs were difficult to find, my wife and I sought a state where I would work that had a friendly policy towards the keeping of our cougars. Friendly laws meant friendly people. We thought we had found a place where cougars ran free in the wild, where the laws and the will of the People permitted the keeping of cougars - Oregon.

We found a place to build our home on a mountain overlooking a valley, with Mount Hood, Jefferson, Adams and St. Helens in the distance. The cougars' home, my wife reasoned, should be just as nice and with a view of the mountains, as well. We built a very large cage for the cats with massive chain link, used in prison construction in Canada, to meet Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) cage

requirements and to make sure that there were no concerns for escape by any neighbors.

The cats moved into their home and have been very happy there since, (Mutchka is a quiet cat - the first time I heard her purr as an adult was on this mountain in her new home). Without meeting our cougars, people around us ("neighbors") decided that our activity was not the right thing to do - it was an "unsocial" activity and they demanded through legal counsel that we get rid of our four-legged family members. We felt that we were in the right, and owed a duty to our cats, happy as they are here, to sue the neighbors - not for money, but rather for the right of our cats to stay where they are happy, to keep our family together, and to defend our right to keep pets.

Two years have passed and we're still in the courts. It appears that this will go to appeal - the county judge decided that a cage that meets or exceeds the ODFW cougar cage requirements, just wasn't safe enough. We've spent a bazillion dollars on lawyers so far. The cats are happy and they can stay until the appeal is heard - that's all that matters.

Meanwhile, our Branch now finds itself working with ODFW to allow to keep cougars in a safe, yet legal and economical manner in the way the new laws and rules are being written. The ODFW folks *appear* to want to work with us, yet have not changed their draft suggestions for the keeping of wildlife after public testimony. A final draft copy will be available **November 15**. Oregon members should make sure they get a copy and read it carefully (Ask for the economic report as well). **Attend the Commission's meeting on December 13th.** (Contact me or Gayle Schaecher for details). Having acquired some legal expertise in the past couple of years the hard way, let me tell you that this is the first time ever that ODFW has excluded any member of the public from acquiring or keeping animals, yet they propose allowing members of private organization (zoos and schools) to do so. This

Time to Movecontinued

legal precedent goes beyond the charter of the Wildlife Commission to provide "fair and equitable utilization of wildlife". Unless these people hear from you, they will do as they please and only satisfy the large and exclusive clubs known as "zoos".

It's the year 2020 and the kids huddle around the fire to listen to their Scout leader: "When I was a child in Missouri, I went to the place where my father worked. He had asked a fellow to bring in a cougar kitten - it was the neatest thing.....had spots, purred, and was real playful. There aren't any cougars in the wild any more - people did not learn from Florida. The ones in the zoos are not doing well - there just aren't enough animals to continue the population, especially since private ownership was made illegal 15 years ago. By the time you grow up, the last cougar will have died off. It's really sad, people say they were great cats."

Andy Turudic
President, Pacific Northwest Exotics

Sad News From Texas



It is with a deep sense of loss that we report the recent passing of two long-time friends from Texas. Elfriede Vickery of Longview and Walter Marshall of West Columbia. Both died quietly in their sleep. Our condolences and deepest sympathies to their spouses John Vickery and Lois Marshall. Felines and their owners alike have lost much with their passing.

Marbled, Golden & Flat-headed Cats Photographed in Sumatra

Camera traps set in Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra have produced shots of rarely seen marbled cat *Profelis marmorata*, Asiatic golden cat *Catopuma temmincki* and flat-headed cat *Prionailurus planiceps*.

The successes were announced by the Indonesian Nature Conservation Department PHPA, which is carrying out collaborative research project with a Sumatran Tiger Project field team in Way Kambas. The project, involving also the IUCN Conservation Breeding-Specialist Group and Taman Safari Indonesia, is sponsored by the Indonesian Institute of Science. The cats were photographed in daylight in old, secondary, lowland forest.

No scientific research has been carried out on these three species, and little is known about their natural history, distribution and conservation status. Following the advice of the compilers of *Wild Cats: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*, Kristin Nowell and Peter Jackson, the flat-headed cat is classified as "Vulnerable" in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Mammals; the golden cat as "Near Threatened"; and the marbled cat as "Data Deficient".

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News

"Way down deep, we're all motivated by the same urges. Cats have the courage to live by them."

Jim Davis
American Cartoonist

Play Behavior and It's Role In Evaluating Animal Health

By James Bousquet

I have long believed that play behavior in captive animals is an expression of high spirits and good health. Therefore, it is an excellent resource we can use on an everyday basis to evaluate the health of our animal collection. An animal that never plays has been damaged developmentally, and is probably severely depressed. Scientific studies indicate that animals, human and nonhuman, must engage in play behavior as youngsters in order to develop the skills necessary to become successful adults. Human and nonhuman young play for developmental learning while adults play as an expression of mental and physical health, as well as the sheer joy of living.

The behavior of captive animals, whether it is normal or abnormal, depends on the richness or emptiness of their lives as youngsters and the quality of their habitat as adults. Captive animals that never play, are depressed, adapt poorly, and have grown up in or are now living in a sterile environment. Finding a way to release normal behaviors through enrichment programs may help developmentally unstable animals. Since play behavior is an excellent indicator of your animals' health, it can be used as a measure of your animals' vigor.

Thankfully, innate behaviors represent a large portion of an animal's behavioral repertoire. By studying our animals' "species typical behavior", we can develop an "ethogram" which will guide the implementation of our animal management program. The propensity of an animal to utilize an innate behavior is controlled by an "innate releasing mechanism" (IRM) which is stimulated by external factors called "releasers". (We create releasers for our animals with enrichment programs.) They release normal species typical behavior by enrichment items, naturalistic

exhibits, and behavior modifications.

How an animal uses its morphological and physiological equipment is of vital adaptive importance, and forms the substance of behavior. The function of behavior is to enable the animal to adjust to external and internal conditions i.e., to maintain homeostasis. The environmental conditions we provide for our animals are the things it uses to maintain homeostasis. So how important is behavior in evaluating our animal collection? It means everything. Behavior is the instruction book we use to guide our efforts to create the perfect habitat for our animals. (An animal that does not behave normally is existing, not living) Play behavior, along with many other normal behaviors, are excellent tools to use in evaluating the health of the animal.

In my article "*Building a Relationship with Your Animals*" (Vol. 20, No.4, April 1993 *Animal Keepers' Forum*), I mentioned how I encouraged my animals to play. I felt it was beneficial to them and I loved to see them cut loose. The latest scientific studies of play behavior clearly show its importance to a healthy lifestyle and further reinforces my belief in the value of encouraging your animals to play. Encouraging your animals to play through the use of rewards, verbal cues, and enrichment items is one of the most important things you can do for them.

Apparently the scientific study of play in human and nonhuman animals has been going on for some time. There has been little agreement on how to define play, but all agree that it is beneficial and necessary for normal development. Renowned naturalist Edward O. Wilson wrote, "No behavioral concept has proved more ill-defined, elusive, controversial and even unfashionable". In a wonderful article in *National Geographic*, "Animals at Play" (Vol. 186, No.6, December 1994) author Dr. Stuart L. Brown described play as "spontaneous

Play.....continued

behavior that has no clear-cut goal and does not conform to a stereotypical pattern. The purpose of play is simply play itself; it appears to be pleasurable."

I believe play does have a goal. It is the release of an abundance of energy only good health can promote. It is the expression of the joy of living for all to see. To animals of the same species it means "see me, I feel good, come play with me." It is also a declaration of fitness and alertness to predators, who I am sure see a listless animal as an easy meal. Predatory animals' play surely displays its alertness and ability to defend its territory. So play is not only an expression of good feelings, it is an overt signal to others of their fitness. It is meant to be seen by others. That's why it is such an important tool for us.



Dr. Stuart's definition of play alluded to the absence of stereotypical behavior. That part of his description brings up a lot of interesting thoughts. Isn't it logical that other enrichment activities which release normal behaviors will further reduce stereotyped behavior? Now we begin to see how important our role is in shaping our animals' lives. The richness or poorness of their lives literally depends on what we provide for them.

In "Building a Relationship with Your Animals", I discussed the micro-management of our animals in order to give them more freedom and a more normal life. This seems to be a contradiction. How can we achieve freedom for our animals if we exert more control over their lives? The real question is how can they behave normally if we don't take control of their lives by providing the releasers they require to behave normally? How normal or abnormal they are depends on how well we meet their species-

specific needs. We must provide the required releasers through research, observations and exhibit modifications to free an animal's innate behavioral repertoire. Once improvements are in place, recognizing and evaluating play behavior will be an excellent source of knowledge in evaluating the quality of the environment you have created.

Stuart described five different types of play behavior which begins with "less complex play" and graduates to "more complex play". I would like to share these with you so you can become more familiar with the behavior patterns associated with play. Stuart describes play patterns as follows;

Solitary Play - many animals and birds play alone. spontaneous solitary games include leaping, twisting the body and boisterous kicking.

Play Fighting - This social behavior involves facial signals and body postures saying "no harm will come." An animal may play carefully with a weaker opponent to prolong the fun.

Object Play - Sticks or rocks often become toys for mammals or birds.

Social Play with Objects and Landscape - play with parts of the environment and throughout the environment teaches animals texture; how their habitat feels.

Complex Social Play - In primates tickling games, tug-of-war, playing with objects together, wrestling and so on helps them develop intricate and creative play behavior.

I hope this description of play will be useful in developing a play ethogram for your animals. Recognizing and encouraging play in your animals will go a long way toward breaking through with them so they can be free to live a more normal life.

Reprinted with compliments of *Animal Keepers Forum* -
Contributed by Wayne Layton

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Vaccine Maker

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a ruling which found that a farm owner was preempted from suing a vaccine maker under state law for contaminated and unsafe animal vaccines that were licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In *Lynnbrook Farms vs. SmithKline Beecham Corp.*, the high court refused to hear an appeal by Lynnbrook Farms on the questions of whether vaccine makers may be held liable under state laws for harm caused by dangerous or unsafe animal vaccines licensed by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Lynnbrook Farms argued that the court should hear the case because the question has "profound significance to all livestock producers, veterinarians, animal vaccine manufacturers, individual states and the general consuming public.

Lynnbrook Farms sued SmithKline Beecham in 1994, alleging its cattle suffered injuries after they were vaccinated with a USDA-licensed animal vaccines and that those vaccines were defective. The federal court ruled that since APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) had declared the vaccines to be safe and efficacious and in compliance with its standards, Lynnbrook Farms was precluded from pursuing claims under state law. The court acknowledged that its ruling would leave consumers of licensed vaccines "with no remedy for injuries and losses that they have suffered," said Lynnbrook's appeal to the Supreme Court.

But SmithKline Beecham argued that the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act and APHIS-imposed requirements that preempted all state law, including common law damage actions, and that the lower courts have ruled in concert on the issue. "In three cases involving the same facts and claims, each court unanimously upheld the validity of APHIS' express declaration of preemption and found that the plaintiffs' claims fall within the scope of the declaration of preemption," said SmithKline Beecham's brief.

In addition, the vaccine maker said imposing tort liability would do little to enhance the safety and efficacy of animal vaccines which have already undergone APHIS' approval process, would subject companies to additional burdens and would diminish animal producers' incentive to use animal vaccines, which would threaten America's food supply. Encouraging animal producers to use vaccines is an important part of APHIS' mission, said SmithKline Beecham. Without comment the High Court refused to hear the case.

Reprinted from *Food Chemical News*
Contributed by John Perry





July Meeting

The meeting was held at Jan & Dick Merris's. It was a beautiful sunny day and attendance was pretty good. In addition to the horse grazing in the front pasture, there were two serval kittens and a caracal kitten to love on.

The calendar order was decided on and Rhea will place that order. If we sell out of these in a short time we'll still have plenty of time to place another order.

A discussion was held about having t-shirts printed with our logo. A few people volunteered to investigate and get back to us at the next meeting on cost, minimum orders, etc. Since our logo is so nice and covers a large variety of animals, I'm sure they would be pretty popular and would make nice gifts for any animal lover.

Andy announced that they had apparently lost their court case and would most likely have to relocate because of their pet cougars. We are all sorry to hear that and will hopefully be able to help them in any way we can. He mentioned that they may need some place to temporarily board them, so if anyone has that ability please let him know.

Best wishes to Jackie V. and we hope she's feeling better soon.

If anyone has articles for the PNW newsletter please mail them to our P.O. box or bring them to the next meeting.

August Meeting

The August meeting was held at Linda & Lucio Ammici's. We were given a tour of their charming home, where we saw their new serval's cage still under construction and viewed the greenhouse with their neat bonsai trees and enjoyed the ponds with their large Koi and pretty water gardens.

Gayle brought Jackie V's chaus/bengal hybrid kittens. They looked pretty much like pure chaus and are available to go to new homes. Give Jackie a call if you're interested.

Although Andy & Luisa were unable to attend, they have indicated that they are considering whether to appeal their court case. In the mean time, Jackie V., Gayle and Steve have all offered them caging space for their cougars if they should need it.

We discussed further the t-shirt/sweatshirts with our logo. And decided to take orders.

The Cougar and Bear Coalition sent another plea for donations but since our treasury is so very low due to ordering calendars, it was decided not to contribute at this time.

The Calendars should be ready in time for the next meeting, so come and get 'em while they're hot.

September Meeting

The meeting was held in the home of John Van Stry. Lucio and Linda brought their serval, Steve brought 5 bengal kittens and a guest brought 2 oicats, plus John's cougar and black leopard were there.

The major topic of conversation was, of course, the upcoming O.D.F.W. meetings. The proposed regularizations were available for all to see and we had a chance to air our opinions on the specific contents of those proposals. It was decided to hold an emergency meeting to further

PNW Meeting....continued

discuss these proposals and come up with a plan of defense to present to the Task Force (of which Gayle is a member).

Due to the importance of this, Gayle invited L.I.O.C. President, Barbara Wilton to our meeting. Barbara is also a member of another branch that needed to be informed.

We would all like to thank Andy for his efforts in obtaining the pertinent administrative rules referred to in the proposals and for his presentation to the Task Force. He did a lot of work in a very short period of time.

We did receive our calendars and they sold like hotcakes. The rest of the day was spent visiting and playing with kittens.

October Meeting

The meeting was held in the home of Carole Stiles, in Eagle Creek. Her two serval kittens were there to greet everyone. Steve Belknap was there with his four bengal kittens and Jackie Vanderwall brought her Jungle Cat hybrid kittens. Before the meeting started, we all went out to see Carole's serval and caracal adults as well as her new pair of caracal kittens. Now she has two unrelated pairs of caracals.

Most of the meeting was a discussion of the O.D.F.W. meetings and the proposals they are attempting to pass. Also what their next steps are and what ours will be.

We were very, very happy to have Bea Lydecker join us. It has been awhile since we've seen her as she's been out of town traveling the U.S.

It was to see all the remodeling that has been done to Carole's house. Even tho' it is much larger, it was run over with members, guests, and kittens.

We had a great time and three kittens went home with new moms.

See ya'll at the next meeting in Zigzag.

Respectfully submitted
Gayle Schaecher

Change in Litterbox Habits May Mean Illness

A sudden change in litterbox habits - urinating outside the box - may be a sign of urinary tract infection or one of several other diseases. Your veterinarian should be consulted. While most urinary tract infections are treatable, quick action may save a life.

If illness is eliminated as a cause, then the next step is to ask yourself the following questions:

Have I changed the type of litter? Have I moved the box? Am I not cleaning the box as often or the amount of litter inside? If you answer "yes" to any of the above questions, change back.

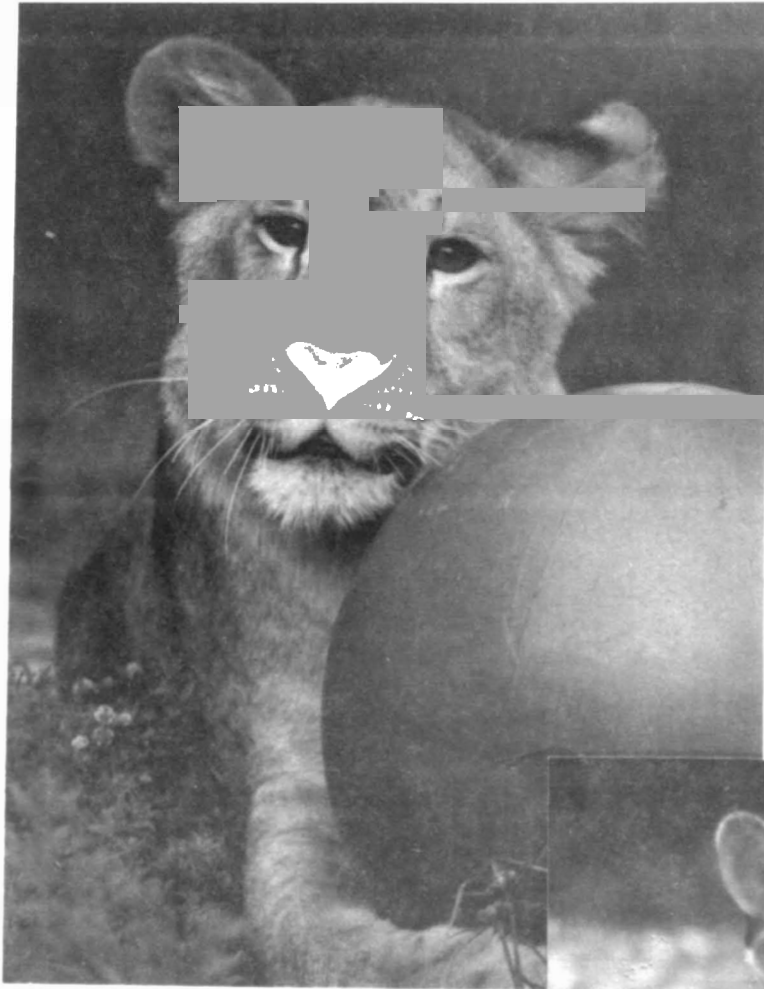
More than likely the problem is around the box. A cat may no longer like where it is located, how it feels, or may have been startled while using the box and fears it now.

Cats are very susceptible to change in pattern and often react poorly to it. Their litterbox habits are usually private, and when a change occurs there is usually a reason.

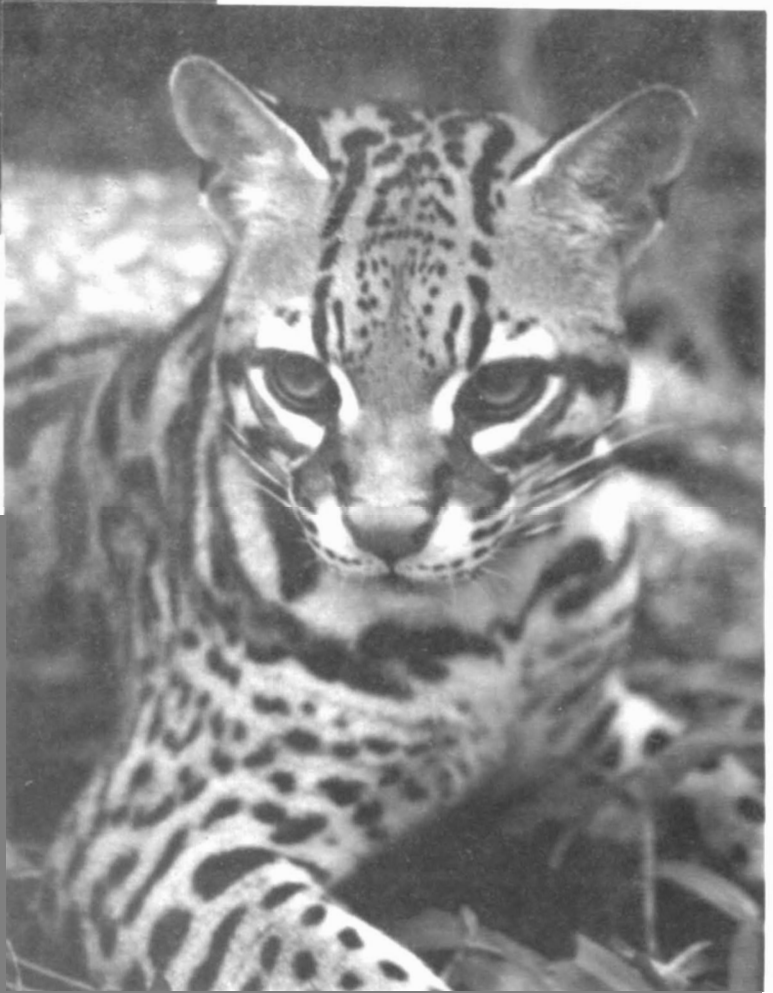
Contributed by Ethel Hauser

Iams Research Finds Problems/Benefits in Pet Foods

The Iams Company announces findings in its cat and dog food studies. At a recent Iams International Nutritional Symposium, Dr. Gregory Reinhart, Iams' director of strategic research, reported on preliminary findings of the benefits of an optimal omega 6:omega-3 ratio on inflammatory bowel disease. He also indicated that chronic diseases such as arthritis and colitis may improve with proper fatty acid balance.



Sarabi, a black-maned lioness who we rescued at an auction in 1995. Photo by Sharon Tolly



Nirvana, a wonderfully typical ocelot