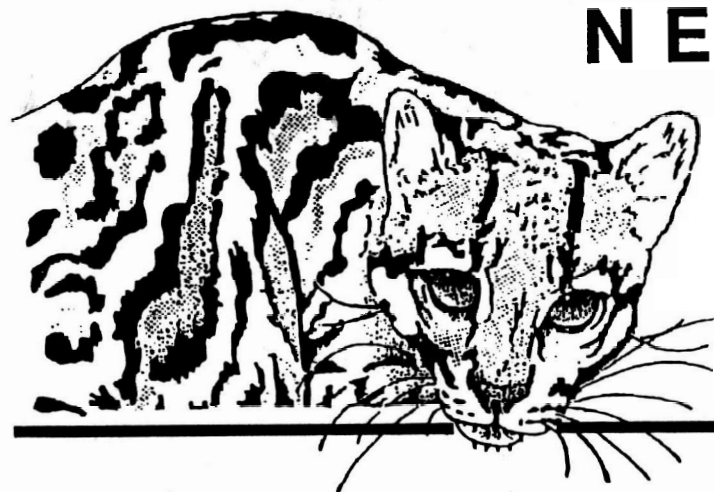


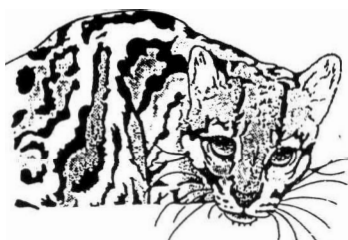
NEWSLETTER

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Sonora, the wild Arizona cougar which was hit by a car and was later placed with LIOC members graced our January cover last year. We begin this year with her cubs.....their story is on page 5.



LIOC

Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.

This Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal I.D. 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members.

The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. LIOC ESCF, Inc.'s Statement of Intent is contained in our by-laws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner LIOC.

Persons interested in joining LIOC should contact the Term Director in charge of Member Services.

Since the Newsletter consists primarily of articles, studies, photographs and artwork contributed by our members, **we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible.** Articles concerning exotic feline are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subject will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Deadline for the next issue is the 15th of even-numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor.

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1997 L.I.O.C. Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. 27th annual conference - August 7-10 - Jacksonville, Florida

The Ramada Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida is your destination for the 1997 LIOC Convention, August 7-10. **Call 1-800-874-3000 to reserve your room for \$72.00 each night double occupancy.** The Ramada Conference Center has 270 spacious guest rooms, is nestled in 19 acres of wooded sanctuary, and is just minutes from downtown, the airport, the fairgrounds, and Jacksonville's beautiful beaches. Amenities include, an Olympic sized swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, volleyball courts, half mile jogging track, cable TV and a family style restaurant.

In addition, the Ramada Conference Center provides **FREE transportation to and from the Jacksonville Airport, from 6:00am to 10:00pm.** Upon arrival to the Jacksonville airport, call 904-724-3410 for a pick up, then retrieve your luggage. Your transportation will be waiting outside at the Hotel Taxi stand.

The CATS are welcome! (Less than 30 pounds) The Ramada Conference Center requires notice when you make your reservations, as to which cats you are bringing to the convention, and a \$25.00 non-refundable room deposit.

The 1997 LIOC convention attendees have been invited to visit a very private conservation center. The center occupies 550 acres of land set aside for the breeding and care of 60 threatened species of animals. The conservation center is part of a plantation which encompasses 7000 acres of woodland in both north Florida and south Georgia. As populations of animals rapidly decline in their natural habitats, intensive management efforts in the wild must be reinforced by captive breeding programs. In some cases captive propagation is the only alternative to extinction. The preservation of species in captivity provides the time to develop strategies that will lead to a species long-term survival.

Have you heard of these unusual animals? Okapi, Gerenuk, Aldabra Tortoise, Maned Wolf, Reticulated Giraffe, Kafue Lechwe and more! Additional species include Tigers, Florida Panthers and Cheetahs. The most uncommon species are chosen, which benefit most from the resources the center has to offer, most notably, space, privacy and climate. A specific program is developed for each species based on biological needs and involves cooperative breeding and research projects with government wildlife agencies and major zoos.

We are scheduled to visit the conservation center in two groups. Those who are attending the annual LIOC board meeting and their guests will enjoy this tour on Thursday, August 7. The balance of the convention attendees will enjoy this tour on Friday, August 8. (Thirty maximum each day) The annual LIOC board meeting is scheduled for Friday morning, August 8. This private conservation center is not open to the public, and it will be our special privilege to tour this facility.

MORE 1997 LIOC CONFERENCE INFORMATION IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS!

Submitted by: Kelly Jean Buckley



Well folks it's 1997. The banner on the front of this Newsletter reads *Volume 41*.....that's forty one years of newsletters.

Of course from 1956 thru 1971 our Founder, Catherine Cisin was also our Editor. In 1972 Robert Peraner took over that chore until the newly formed Board appointed me in 1974. I continued as Editor until 1988 when newly adopted by-laws prohibited the Editor from serving on the Board. When those by-laws were changed in 1989 I again was asked to take on the task. And so it has continued. At times during these years, I stepped down, so to speak to "Managing Editor", as "Associate Editors" were tried out in hopes of finding someone to take over the job on a permanent basis. But that wasn't meant to be it seems.

I have again asked the incoming Board (for it is their task to appoint an Editor for the following two years) to look for my replacement. In order to grow, all things must change. It is my sincere hope that someone will step forward to assume the responsibilities of Editor. Perhaps someone with fresh ideas, and a lot more energy than I find myself with these days.

A thick skin is definitely an asset in this job. You must have time as well to insure that the Newsletter goes to press on schedule. You should have either a basic knowledge of exotics or the willingness to research material which is submitted - erroneous information has the potential to be deadly. A computer definitely would help.

If you are willing to take on such a

responsibility - and it is at times a heavy one - please contact our President Barbara Wilton.

I am not retiring, and expect to continue in my role of Life Director for many years to come, God willing. Of course in that capacity I'll be available to help in any way I'm asked to. But after 23 years I'd sorta like to again look forward to receiving my Newsletter in the mail without knowing what's in it!

On another note, please note the deadline for the next Newsletter is the *15th of even-numbered months*. As we attempt to start paste-up and organizing the next issue the 1st of odd numbered months, this allows time for re-typing and formatting. We encourage you to submit material, but cannot guarantee its use or inclusion in a particular issue. I'm sure you understand the many factors involved in putting together our Newsletter.....after all, it's only as good as you make it.



WHAT A SURPRISE, TIMES THREE! (Plus TWO)

As you recall in the first report (Jan/Feb 1996 newsletter) about Sedona the Cougar, you learned that we had placed her with a four year old handsome male, named Solomon. We were hoping for a mutual courtship between the two, but Sedona was playing hard to get.

Well. . .in the wee hours of the night when no one was around she apparently gave into Solomon and his persuasive ways, because on May 27, she gave birth to three beautiful cubs, two females, and one male.

This was a total surprise to all of us here at the Ellijay Rehab Center, because we had no idea that she had conceived. She always remained hidden in her den area when we came to feed, and would only come down to eat after we left.

On May 27, as we were feeding, we heard some odd cries from her den area. We climbed up the side of the 30' cage wall and looked in. There laid three spotted cubs nursing at her side. She immediately arose and stood over them ready to attack and protect her young. Solomon was still in the cage with her, so we separated them in fear that he might harm the cubs.

We watched her closely for the next four days. She fed and groomed them as a good mother would. During these first few days, her milk supplies the cubs with colostrum which contains the antibodies they need to grow healthy and strong.

Due to a shortage of funds, our pre-release area is not completed at this time. This area would have allowed Sedona to raise her young in a more natural habitat where she could teach them to hunt and kill. These skills must be taught by the mother to assure the survival of her young. Since the cubs will not be released, we will hand raise them and use them in our educational programs. We sedated Sedona to remove the cubs on the sixth day.

The boy we named Arkipus, weighed 27.7oz. One girl we named Jade, weighed 26.2oz and the other girl we named Nakita, weighed 24.1oz. Their eyes were still closed and they were gentle as could be. Through past experience with other cougar births, here at the rehab, we have learned that leaving the cubs with the mother past one weeks time results in the death of one or two, in addition, the ones that survive learn to be aggressive by growling, stamping their paws and spitting at us. This is even before their eyes are open. By taking them early, they are more passive and dependent on us, thus easier to raise and handle.

Their nails had to be trimmed right away. They were long and sharp. All three consumed 1/2oz. to 1oz. of formula every three hours 'round the clock! Their eyes began to open about the 8th-10th day. At two weeks of age they all weighed two pounds, eyes open and we could feel their bottom center teeth starting to come in.

At four weeks, their nails had to be cut again. They weighed 3-3 1/2 pounds, and during each feeding ate 2-4oz, every 5-6 hours. They also had begun interplaying with themselves and with us.

About 5-6 weeks of age their teeth were in and we started teaching them to lap from a bowl. What a mess that was. We also introduced them to strained baby meats, and they loved it, although a complete bath was needed after each feeding. Raw chicken was given to them at age two months, and the milk formula was completely stopped.

Arkipus is still the largest at 25 pounds, but the most loving one of the three. Jade weighs 22 pounds, and has her mothers wild and aggressive behavior. Nakita weighs 21pounds, and has her dads passive but beware of me behavior. Nakita is the one, however, that looks just like her mother.

The day after we took the cubs from Sedona she searched and called for them. But on day two she soon forgot them and was fine. Solomon was returned to her cage, and they are both doing fine again. . .so much so, that on October 11, 1996 she gave birth to two cubs, a female and a male. Named Taleka and Tgali.

Needless to say, Sedona is now living with retired sir Hector who is beyond his prime. Sedona still has her wild streak attitude, but these days she comes down from her den area when we feed and tries to grab the food thru the fencing from us, still all along hissing and growling.

We have received two Eastern Cougars, (Approx. 41 left in the world) born the second week of July, 1996, named Tasha and Cheyenne. To send donations for our wildlife rehab, or for information about our programs and efforts at the Cylke Wildlife Center, contact Craig Cylke, Rt.6, Box 2480, Ellijay, GA 30540. (706-276-2980)

Submitted by, Lynn Kiser

NOTE: Sedona is a native Arizona wild cougar, approx. two years old, that was hit by a car in August 1995. She couldn't be released back into the Arizona wild due to her physical condition resulting from the accident. LIOC was called to find her a safe, permanent home. She was placed at the Cylke Wildlife Rehab Center in September 1995 and has adapted beautifully. The Cylke Wildlife Rehab Center will be welcome guest speakers at the 1997 Convention, in Florida.

Using Enzymes to Treat Animals with Valley Fever

Out of Africa Wildlife Park is owned and operated by my husband and myself in Arizona. We have over 40 exotic cats, bears, wolves, birds, reptiles and many other mammals.

Eight years ago, before we moved to Arizona and opened the park, I had never heard of Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis). That's the deadly word to many animal owners in Arizona and many of the dry desert areas of the southwestern United States. It is a highly infectious disease caused by the fungus *Coccidioides immitis*. This fungus is present in the soil of those areas.



Bobbi & Ajanii

It became a very real word to us when our Siberian lynx became ill with what seemed to be a respiratory problem. Although our veterinarian tried very hard to save him, he died just after being put on the drug Nizarol. This is a common drug prescribed in the treatment of Valley Fever in animals.

Not too long after that loss, we found that two of our young lions also had Valley Fever. Their symptoms were periodic limping and apparent weakness. These two lions had been born under stressful conditions and their immune systems were depressed. Again Nizarol was prescribed. After some time they both died at fourteen months of age. Their death was extremely difficult for us. We had hand raised them since birth. The young male died in our arms.

We have discovered that the land the park is on, by a river, was a grazing area for cattle many years ago. The Valley Fever fungus is a spore growth in the soil from the cattle droppings. Animals, and even people are exposed to it as it is carried through the air. It can affect any individual with a depressed immune system.

Shortly after the loss of our young lions, our snow leopard, Ajanii, was showing signs of labored breathing and weight loss. She was given a habitat that had outside shade coverage and free access to an indoor room cooled by air conditioning. She was tested and diagnosed as having Valley Fever. She had two minor surgeries where liquid had to be extracted from around the lungs, to help her breathing. This procedure relieved her labored breathing for a short time, but then the same problem would return. She was obviously getting worse. The vet didn't really give her much chance of surviving. I couldn't bring myself to give her the normal treatment of

Valley Fever - continued

Nizoral. I felt that it had played a part in the death of the other cats we had lost from Valley Fever. I cared for Ajanii in the best possible way I knew how. I fed her Cornish game hens and prime meat with good vitamins to help her gain weight. She was kept in air-conditioned comfort and kept completely stress free, in her living conditions, going outside as she pleased. I felt she would eventually die from the Valley Fever, but at least I wouldn't be giving her a drug I felt was an extra stress on her organs and would be adding to her death.

Sometime later our vet came across a different drug called Spornox (Itraconazol) that other veterinarians had used with some success in treating Valley Fever. I decided to give it a try at a much lower dosage than prescribed. We had recently discovered Antioxidants (a free radical killer) and enzymes, for healing the immune system and had good results in ourselves. We decided to put Ajanii on the same pills, at a high dosage and that's when we really started seeing great results.

In a short time she showed signs of more energy, weight gain and then her breathing started getting better. Over the months that followed, we saw great improvement. Eventually we took Ajanii off the drug completely, but kept her on the enzymes and antioxidant. I have now lowered the dosages to a normal amount. We also started giving colloidal liquid minerals, sprayed on her food. We have seen Ajanii go from a dying, weak animal, to an energetic, healthy, jumping snow leopard. She has at least as much, if not more energy than any other exotic cat in the park.

Since our discovery of our treatment of Valley Fever, we have had several other animals come down with Valley Fever. We immediately put them on the ERC's Animal Antioxidant and Animal Enzymes, Minerals and Super Blue Green Algae. We are able to build their immune system back up and they don't get seriously ill. And, in time, they are back to leading normal lives again. This process doesn't happen overnight, but it does happen and we haven't lost another animal to the deadly fungus since

using this program.

We now carry these products in our gift shop at the park and we get reports from people that their dogs and cats are showing a turn around from many health problems, even Feline Leukemia.

If your animal is sick, certainly have it checked by your vet. But you can give your animal the best possible chance to recover by helping build their immune system so it can heal itself.



Bobbi Harrison
Co-Owner

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Summary of LIOC Board Minutes August 9, 1996

Board Members present: Anderson, Hamil, Perry, Roe, Sousa, Stowers, Wagner, Wilton. Branch Representative Present: Nann McGann, Florida.

List of nominees for 1997/1998 reviewed: Each position had one nominee as follows: President, Barbara Wilton; Vice President, Scarlett Bellingham; Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Roe; Advertising/Publicity, Jean Hamil; Education/Conservation, George Stowers; Membership Service, Kelly Jean Buckley; Legal Affairs, Nanette McGann

The LIOC Constitution requires an election every two years. Without a membership ballot, an election is not possible, thus, we still have to send out a ballot to the membership for voting.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Advertising/Publicity - Jean Hamil reported having a few advertisers during this past year. She has made phone calls, and sent out inquiries soliciting advertising. Discussion followed regarding establishing a rate form that would be available upon request or mailed to potential advertisers. *Action assignment: John Perry will work with Jean Hamil to develop rate form.*

Legal Affairs - George Stowers reported processing approximately 12 inquiries per month. Most of which, were passed on to him by the Membership Director. Inquirers were provided with the address and contact information in a cover letter form. In some cases, copies of regulations were provided. George stated that since regulations are constantly being updated, copies of regulations on file with LIOC would not be provided.

Education & Conservation - Scarlett Bellingham, not present, no report submitted.

Membership Services - Kelly Jean Buckley provided statistics from Jan. 1995 to August 1996. 101 new members, 26 of which were from inquiries, 8 renewed old memberships, and 43 guest memberships. There was a total of 134 inquiries and 8 dropped memberships.

Kelly Jean summarized the many phone calls handled by this position. People call because they need a permit (they just bought a cat), want a

membership in LIOC, want health care information on medical or nutrition, want to bring a cat into the country, want to travel with their cat across state lines, want to know about national convention, needs to place a cat in a new home, wants to buy a cat, and wants to know who to call, want research information on specific species, have problems with zoning (city, county, some forced to move,) or responding to internet advertisement.

Kelly Jean presented the convention questionnaire results. Members responded that they enjoyed the speakers, education and social contacts. 98% of the responses submitted answered that LIOC should continue to have an annual convention.

The new Membership Directory was discussed. It will be reproduced in the same format, stapled and printed. Goal for distribution is January 1997.

The LIOC Handbook was discussed. It was retyped by John in a better format. Only changes made were revisions to the Constitution since last printing. It will be stapled with no cover.

Motion: Kelly Jean made motion to print and issue a new handbook to all members. Carin seconded motion.

Amendment to motion: John moved to amend this motion for LIOC to print 350 copies, and to provide announcement in the Newsletter that revised handbooks are available upon request. Vote 9 yes - 0 no

Kelly Jean informed the Board that Nancy Ward of the Canadian Conservation Journal was providing her with complimentary issues of their monthly newsletter. Since they graciously printed information of our 1996 LIOC Convention, and are providing their newsletter, Kelly Jean will send a thank you letter and offer an honorary LIOC membership to Nancy Ward. In closing, Kelly Jean provided a summary of which organization or individual is responsible for new members. Animal Finders Guide (LIOC ad response), the internet (posted by George Stowers), Joe Maynard, Exotic Feline Breeding Compound, Jan Giacinto, World Pet Society, EFES branch and the Canadian Conservation Journal.

Minutes - continued

Secretary/Treasurer - Sharon Roe. Before reviewing report details and budget, Sharon pointed out the difference in the report format as compared to 1994/1995. Comparisons in expense and income details are provided.

Reviewed details of income - Advertising/dues/inquiries/miscellaneous - no discussion.

Reviewed details of expense: LIOC incurs additional charges to Canadian members not paying in U.S. currency. It was decided to no longer process membership fees unless properly issued in U.S. currency. Membership Services would notify the member to resolve any discrepancy.

A question came up about checks being written to the State of Maine for permits covering entry of cats going to convention. The accounting system in place, Quicken 4.0 could be adjusted to create a separate category for convention expenses and income where items such as this could be tracked. In doing this, we eliminate the need to have a separate checking account for convention.

Motion: Shirley made the motion to approve the budget. John Seconded. Vote: 9 yes - 0 no.

Sharon made the motion that the Secretary/Treasurer records the minutes of the membership meeting and the board meeting, submits them to the board for approval. Upon approval of minutes, the secretary/treasurer will condense the minutes into a summary form for submitting to the newsletter. Shirley seconded motion. Vote: 9 yes - 0 no.

Scholarship Fund

A committee consisting of Scarlett, Carin and Sharon obtained information from three veterinary colleges and one exotic animal training and management colleges: Tufts University, Washington State University, Colorado State, and Moorpark College. The data was reviewed and it was acknowledged it will take considerable time in working through the larger university networks to determine if a donation by LIOC can be specifically used in the area of exotic feline medicine. It was summarized that LIOC would need to set up this fund for a veterinary student. The problem with this avenue is that a student who has received our scholarship may change their goal as they progress through college. We may want to issue a scholarship to students who attend specific classes related to

exotic feline.

Action assignment: John Perry & J.B. Anderson to develop criteria and submit a rough draft for review by the next board meeting scheduled for November.

Legal Fund: Status and intention of the legal fund was discussed. The board has authorization to distribute the funds from this account. To date, the account is accruing interest with no procedure or policy in place to distribute the funds. In reviewing past board minutes from 1970, it was noted that the legal fund interest may be distributed to the general fund.

Motion: Sharon made the motion to re-classify the Legal Fund as the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. J.B. seconded the motion. Discussion: Changing the purpose of this account gives LIOC a base from which a scholarship fund can build upon. By making this change, LIOC can make a positive step forward.

Amendment to Motion: Shirley made an amendment to the motion as follows: Re-classify the legal fund to the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund, and allow the interest to be used to reimburse any cost incurred in setting up the scholarship fund. Second recorded. Vote: 9 yes - 0 no.

1997 Convention: Nanette McGann offered to have the Sunshine State Exotics, host the 1997 convention in Florida. Nanette will have the help of the convention committee. All agreed to Nanette's offer.

No further business: Motion: Shirley made the motion to adjourn. Carin seconded. Vote: 9 yes - 0 no.

Respectfully submitted



Sharon L. Roe
Secretary/Treasurer

**EXTINCT IS
FOREVER!**
Don't spay or neuter

HOUSING DESIGN FOR AN EXOTIC FELINE

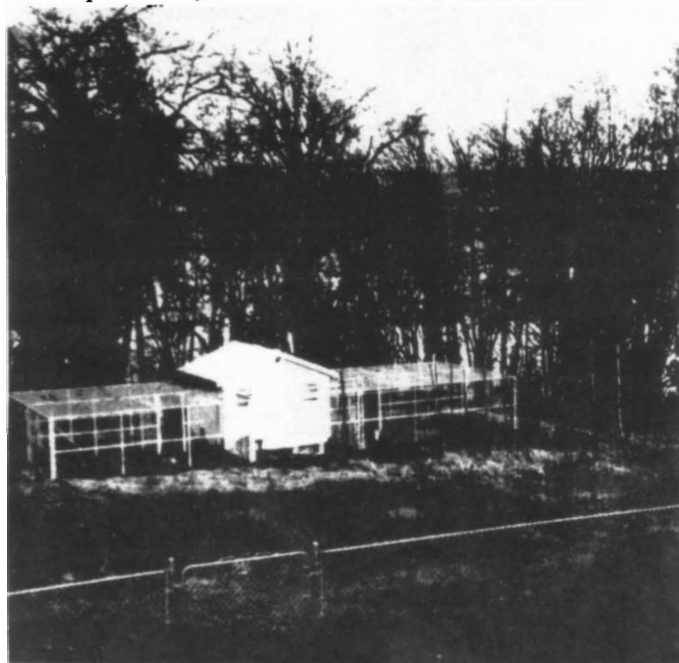
Acquiring an exotic feline results in the eventual need to provide them with *their* space. People who choose to raise their felines in their home as companion animals usually set aside an area, be it a basement or a spare room. In our case, raising the pair of Servals and Caracals in our home lasted until they were two years of age. They had outgrown their indoor caging located in the laundry room, insisted on harassing the birds (finches) by jumping on top of the flight cages, and the males had reached breeding age. Spraying became a problem. Since we decided to let them breed, these reasons prompted us to build an outdoor facility.

Our first structure was a 12' x 12' house with two portable 10'W x 20'L x 8'H cyclone runs attached and enclosed overhead. My article on this housing was printed in the LIOC 1992 July/August issue. We moved in the fall of 1994 and started over with a slightly bigger house, 12' x 14'. We moved the existing cyclone caging and added two more runs, giving each feline their own. Moving at this time of year didn't allow much time for the mud to grow grass. The winter set in leaving the runs bare with the exception of boulders and hanging platforms. Since then, nature has taken control and their living space has become more natural.

The photos on the next pages show a very clean structure, and with the help of a product called Natures Miracle, and a lot of elbow grease, it still is. This sanitizer and deodorizer works wonders on the walls and linoleum floor.

Inside, the house is completely insulated and finished in tile-board walls (like write and wipe). There is a built in adjustable heater, and overhead lighting. Each feline has an indoor living space, 4' x 6', and their own window. The top of their den boxes are level with the bottom of the window

allowing for a leisurely outdoor view on those rainy days. In building the inside wall separations, I decided this time around to build

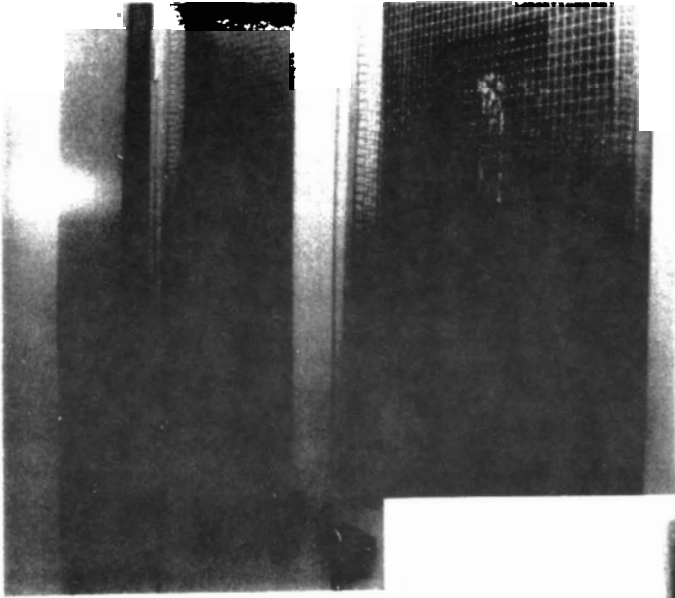


solid walls 4'H, with bird cage wire on the top half. This prevents kids (and some adults) from poking fingers through. Solid walls also prevent the cats from seeing each other which has eliminated spraying.

Ventilation is very important, so there are four *slide windows with screens*, each 2' x 2'.

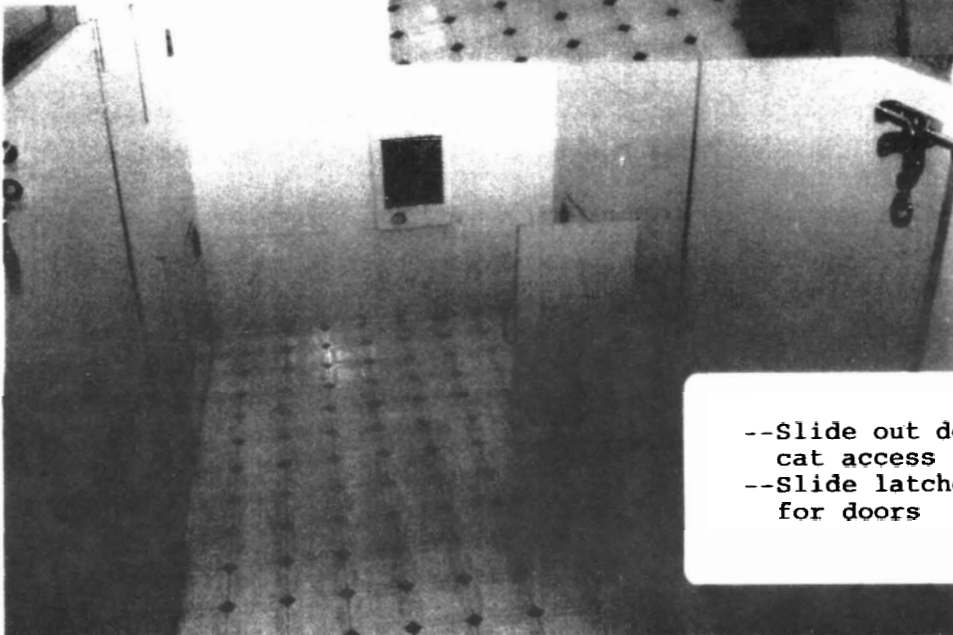
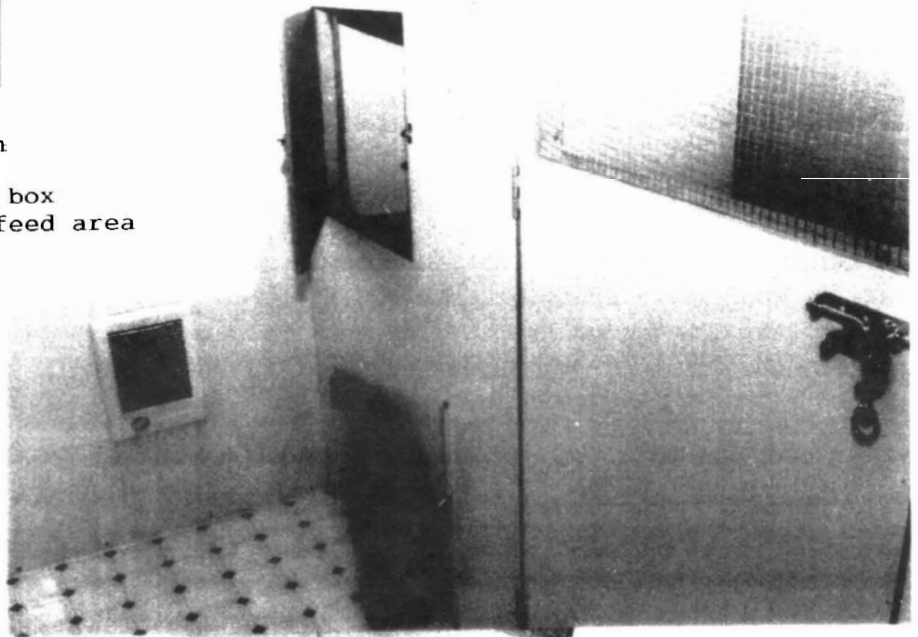
The *den boxes* are 28" square; a good size for these two species of felines. Each cat can stand upright comfortably and two can share a den box with space to spare. I cut out pieces of indoor outdoor carpeting to use for pads inside the boxes. The placement of these boxes are 3' off the ground. The aisle way access door enables you to clean the inside of the box easily. In working with an injured animal or checking on kittens, this height is very comfortable.

Feeder boxes are located in the space underneath the den boxes. A aisle way access door is located at floor level for feeding. The *feeder slide door* is pulled into the aisle way making an opening for the cat to go in to reach their food. Once inside,

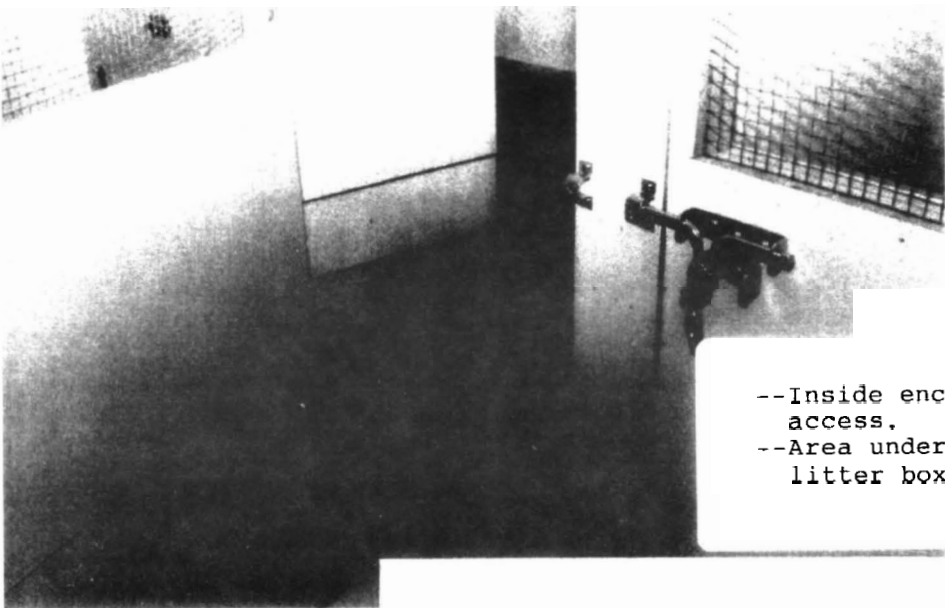


There are four indoor enclosures, each measuring 4'x6', and each with a window.

- In wall heater with adjustable control
- Top entry into den box
- Bottom entry into feed area



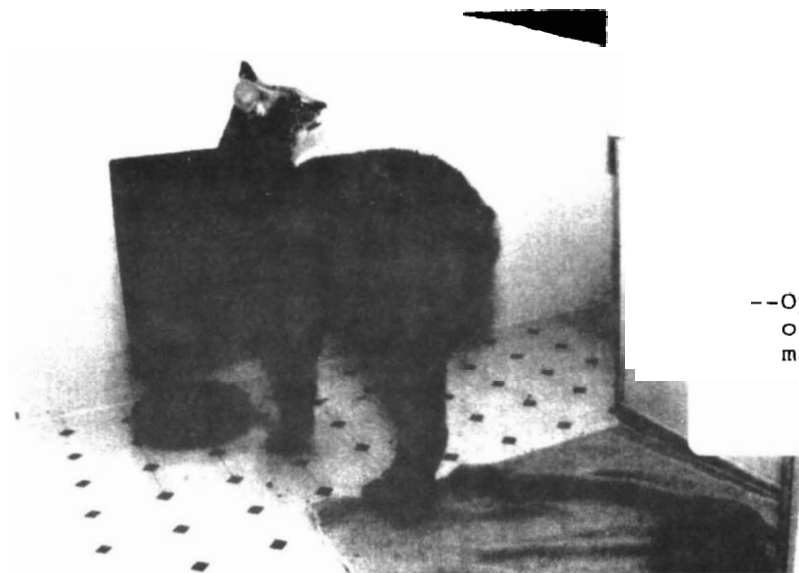
- Slide out door to allow cat access
- Slide latches with fasteners for doors



- Inside enclosure shows cat access.
- Area under platform is for litter box



- Platform gives access to cat into den box
- Note Johnson cat door for outside access



- Oyo, Male Serval first occupant. Added rubber backed mats later for traction.

it is closed so that in the event you have a unmanageable cat, you can safely access the indoor space for cleaning. This closed off area is 28" W x 28"L x 3'H. If you have to be away, this system enables you to have someone else feed or clean without coming in contact with your felines.

The aisle way is 4' wide (which I would recommend increasing by 2'). It is large enough for a squeeze cage to turn around in but not much else. Storage shelves were added later.

Each feline has their own *litter box*, and even though they have the optional outdoor facilities, the Caracals still use their boxes. On the other hand, the Servals prefer nature.

The *linoleum floor* is easy to keep clean, but because it is slippery, I purchased mats which I placed by their cat doors.

One luxury missing is a *water* source. We have plans to put in a water line but it is tied in with digging the pond and the path. For now, we haul a 5-gallon container of water when needed. Fortunately, that is not too often.

Latches on doors are important. I chose to use the slide type with fasteners. These work very easily and fast. The entry door has two locks, and each cyclone cage entry door is locked with a krytonite lock.

Located in the country on 13.5 acres on a dead end road, you wouldn't think locks were necessary, but.....One summer afternoon, I was looking out my kitchen window and was shocked to see two teenagers leaning up against the end of the cage. These girls had wandered up the ridge. They had gone hiking with their cousins who deliberately led them astray and left them to find their way home. Being from out of state, they quickly had become lost and frightened. They had no idea a Caracal could come charging towards them at any moment. After bringing them up to the house, they were surprised to

learn there were "wild cats" in the cages. I was thinking, thank goodness the cages were locked, and that being a hot afternoon, the Caracals were cooler inside than out. My story has a happy ending. We found their aunts house nearby, no fingers were lost, and the Caracals afternoon snooze was not disturbed.

Our future plans are to build a 200' x 400' enclosure which we call the free-range area for the cats. The pond will be inside this enclosure along with trees and a marsh. We are looking forward to the day when we will see the Servals catch birds on the wing and watch the Caracals jump for frogs.



New Website Entices Animal Lovers

Animal lovers around the world flock to a new world wide web site featuring a warehouse of animals-related information, games, help and latest products and services. The site was developed by AniMall Inc.

Animal enthusiasts who want to chat with other like-minded people scattered throughout the world can visit the site at: www.animall.com.

THE ELEGANT SERVAL

The Serval (*Leptilurus serval*) is a medium sized, long slim-legged cat that can be up to 4.5' long, including the tail. Its coloration varies from a golden to a dark brown background. Black stripes (or bars) and various sizes of spots cover the entire body. On the back of the acute ears is a stripe of white, and the eyes are yellowish and have the typical small cat vertical spindle-shaped pupil.



Servals are swift and very agile. They can climb and leap very well. At four months of age, my Servals jumped straight up in the air to the top of a 6' cage, and did so very gracefully. In the wild, they have been captured on film jumping straight into the air to catch birds in flight. In cages, they have been known to climb the sides.

The Serval is known for not being as nocturnal as the majority of wild cats and has been documented hunting during the day. As predators, they feed on rodents, hares, hyraxes, small and young antelopes, birds, and fishes. They locate their prey with their large ears, and stir up their prey by leaping about rather than by stalking and using ambush techniques. In raising kittens, I have watched them pounce on their toys or litter mates. They jump into

the air and come down with both front feet together. An adult can bring a stunning blow to a small creature.



Communication consists of various types of hisses, and vocalizing with a short cough. Body language such as ears back with a loud hiss indicates an unhappy cat. Meows and hisses without ears back may be warnings or hellos. Strangers to their environment may receive an aggressive hiss as a warning, but are timid enough that they do not attack. They will retreat to the security of their den box or cage corner all the while keeping a watchful eye.

Females are sexually receptive just one day at a time, but estrus (heat) may occur several times a year. During estrus, the female will issue short shrill cries for their mate. The gestation period is from 69 to 74 days. One to four kittens are born, and at birth, young weigh on the average of eight ounces. The eyes opening at seven to ten days of age.

Their distribution is found in much of the sub-Saharan Africa, excluding the Southern most part and including the western Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. The unusually long legs and neck make it especially adapted to living in areas with

high grass and shrubs, so their habitat is forest steppes, savannah long-grass environment, and shrubby regions where water is available. They are documented as being most prevalent in the moist savannahs.

The following is a list of books that have articles on Servals:

- *The Cats of Africa*
Maitland Edey
- *Big Cats*
Bruce Mitchell
- *Great Cats*
Dr. John Seidensticker & Dr. Susan Lumpkin
- *The Hunters & The Hunted*
Karl & Kathrine Ammann
- *Kingdom of the Cats*
National Wildlife Federation
- *The Noble Cat*
Howard Loxton
- *Small Cats*
Susan Lumpkin
- *Portraits of the African Wild*
Gerald Cubitt
- *Wild Cats*
IUCN Status Survey/Conservation Action Plan
- *Wild Cat Species of the World*
Richard Green
- *When Lion Could Fly (Children's Book)*
(Short stories of animals from Africa)

The following is a list of features, both physical and behavioral that are found in the small cats and not in the large cats.

1. A fully ossified hyoid apparatus allows purring when inhaling as well as exhaling (continuous purring), but prevents roaring as in the large cats.
2. The hair on the nose does not extend to the tip of the nose as in the large cats.
3. Groom extensively, washing the head (including the ears) with the fore feet.

4. Small cats feed crouched over their prey, not lying down.
5. When the animal is at rest, the tail is usually brought around to the side of the body.
6. The fore paws are usually bent under at the wrist when the animal is at rest.
7. They have vertically elliptical pupils.

Arabian Leopard Faces Extinction

Hunting and land development projects have severely reduced the population of Arabian leopards in the Gulf, bringing it to the edge of extinction. In an attempt to reverse this trend, representatives from four Gulf States met in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to develop a regional wildlife conservation plan to protect this species.

The Arabian Leopard Trust (ALT), a new organization formed to investigate the situation and propose solutions, sponsored the two-day workshop which brought together wildlife experts from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the UAE - the only countries which still have leopards extant. Earlier this year, the ALT funded a scientific study about the animals of the UAE mountains. The study discovered evidence of the presence of the Blanford fox and the Arabian Tahr, a goat-like animal that was believed to have become extinct. While a rare caracal lynx was spotted during the study, there was no evidence of any Arabian leopard in the study area.

Because the leopard has little in the way of natural foods left to survive on, its easiest prey is domestic sheep and goats. The villagers who raise these animals kill the leopards to protect their livestock. Additionally, the animals are still trapped in the UAE and Oman and then sold in the exotic animal markets.

The Arabian Leopard Trust is privately funded but is seeking corporate sponsorship and governmental support for the initial development of a captive breeding center for the leopards.

Touch the Jungle

Adventures in Mexico

It was 25 years ago, in a Mexican jungle six hours south of what is now CanCun, that I first saw a margay. It was a 3-week old kitten, tied up and half-strangled by a piece of dirty twine. The owner had killed its mother for the pelt, and intended to raise this kitten to a size that its pelt would also be of value; about \$40 he figured he could get for it. I had only one \$20 traveler's check left, which was to have paid my bus fare back to a town north of Mexico City where we lived at the time. I offered it to the hunter in exchange for the kitten, but he refused. I spread out the belongings in my backpack and offered him whatever he wanted from there as well. He selected the scuba mask and snorkel, and the margay kitten was mine.

It took three days to hitchhike home. The kitten rode quietly in an unzipped pocket of my backpack, perhaps weakened by hunger, as all we had to eat between us was a tin of milk I had begged from the hunter. When I got home to San Miguel de Allende I presented the little margay to my daughter, who had just celebrated her 15th birthday, with the words "I think every woman should have her very own fur, don't you?" The horrified look on her face before I produced the live kitten spoke volumes.

We and the little margay were in luck. Visiting San Miguel just then was a German woman who traveled throughout the world with her horse, her husband and child, and an ocelot. She gave us the best possible advice we could have gotten on the care and feeding of this exotic species. A veterinarian at the University of Mexico was the one who informed us that we could not expect the kitten to survive if we released it back to the jungle, because it had been taken from its mother too young and wouldn't have learned to hunt. So we returned to the States with the kitten (exactly how is a family secret) and lived happily, but not ever after.

When she was about a year old the margay escaped from the house (by first

unlatching a small window with those incredibly clever feet and then pushing it open) and was killed by a car. We had provided the little margay with the best of care, but in a place that was even less safe than the forest where her mother was killed.

Further Adventures in Guyana

Fifteen years after our margay experience, Rosa and I went on a holiday trip to Guyana and Brazil. It wasn't until we were actually on the plane that we discovered we each had the same secret agenda - to find another margay. It was a fantasy extremely unlikely to come true (we were not stupid enough to think we could smuggle one on a plane for 10 hours without being caught), but it was fun to talk about on the way.

We were both surprised by the fact that wherever we went, someone had a story about an exotic cat. What we find is heartbreaking: pelts on the walls of chic-chic shops in capital cities throughout Latin America. Zoos in which they are kept in cages the size of bathtubs, with no place to hide from people who poke and tease them. An animal exporter who captured one for use in a video but while she was out of town "the boys run out of rice and let it starve to death". A business man who says he has had three but "they all died because I couldn't get the diet right". A jungle farmer who shoots them on sight because his dogs have a tendency to chase them and if they catch one, the cat is likely to injure the dog. A native village where an ocelot had been brought in a month earlier and eaten by the villagers.

But those were just the jungle cats we saw or heard about. There were times, when flying from Mexico to Brazil at night, we seemed never out of sight of fire. The stewardess tells us that the rainforest habitat of jungle cats is being burned to make way for cattle ranches. Other areas, we hear, which become visible from the air only after the fact, are being clearcut or flooded by great

Touch the Jungle...continued

hydroelectric projects. Those of us who love wildcats and travel in the areas where they dwell soon learn that there simply aren't any safe places left for them anywhere in the world.

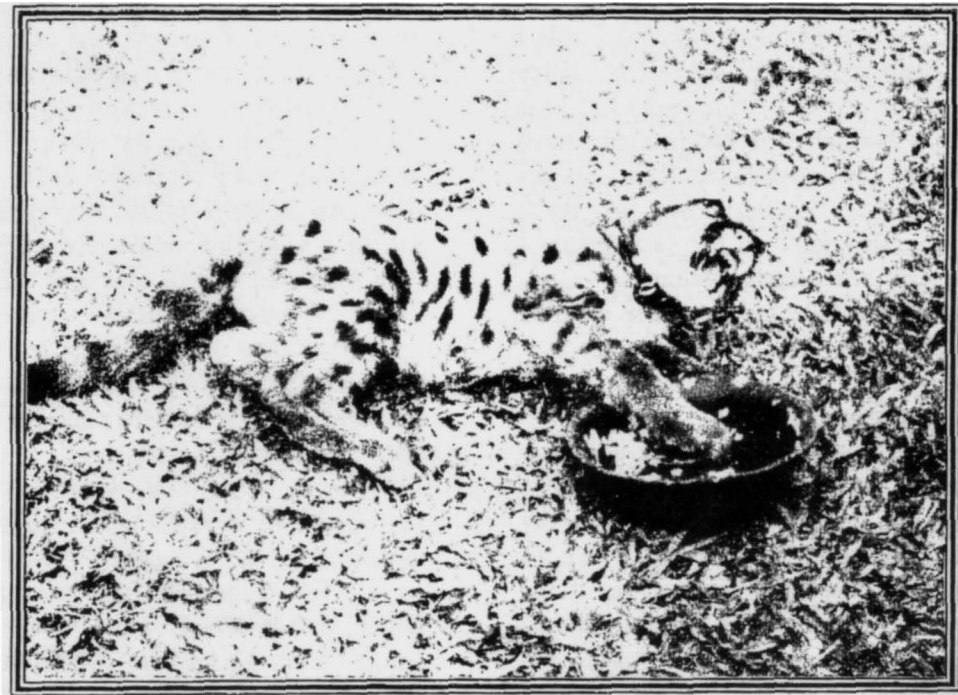
We met a lovely young woman who had two jungle cats that could not stand up. Finding out that I was a veterinarian, she asked if I would take a look at them. For the life of me, I couldn't figure out what they were. By their teeth, they were about six months old, and yet they were about the size of a housecat (maybe 10 pounds each) Their skulls were domed high like a much larger cub, and they had spots like a young ocelot. They were ferociously hungry, and yet they could not or would not stand up to eat. A local veterinary colleague agreed to take x-rays for me. The results were as I expected, these kits had almost no calcium in their bones. Multiple folding fractures crisscrossed their bones like fishnet stockings. Just walking across the floor was enough to break these fragile bones.

The distraught owner who had been sparing no cost to give them only the "best.....red meat foods. I counseled her to feed the a diet of ground bones or egg shells and whole chicken. One kit survived to grow into an almost normal sized cougar.

This experience was what got us started thinking about writing a manual on the care of small jungle cats in captivity, which we now distribute free in tropical countries when we find zoos or owners who need the information. And yet, somehow, that just didn't seem to be enough. There must be something more we could do.

To be continued

By Jona Jordan & Rosa Choukalos
Contributed by Dawn Simas



This Cougar kitten is unable to stand because his bones are so fragile they have cracked and broken in more than a dozen places. (In fact he was so small he looked more like an ocelot kitten when we first saw him.) His diet has since been corrected and he is now healthy, although he will probably never be released back into the jungle.

Lions in Addis Ababa Arouse Speculation about Extinct Races

A South African biologist has speculated that heavily black-maned lions he found in zoos in Addis Ababa could be descendants of the extinct Barbary/Atlas lion, *Panthera l. leo*, or even the Cape lion, *P.l. melanochaitus*.

Hym Ebedes for the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in South Africa said: "The sight of a black-maned lion pacing around his cage in a zoo in Addis Ababa had an undescribably chilling effect on me. This animal was exactly as I had always visualized and pictured the Cape lion, which became extinct about 150 years ago.

The lions originated from the private collection of the former Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, who was overthrown in 1974. Ebedes said it was possible that Haile Selassie, known as the "Lion of Judah", obtained his lions from European zoos which had acquired Cape and Barbary lions before they became extinct.

The last known Cape lion was shot in Natal in 1865 by a General Bisset, while the last Barbary lion was shot in 1920 in Morocco. Both were noted for their rich, black manes which extended to the belly. Wolfgang Frey, a German specialist on rare species, says that he has never found any reference to Haile Selassie receiving lions as a gift from Europe despite a long search. But Roberts (1951) speculated that Dublin Zoo, which bred lions for many generations, might have received lions from the Cape and perpetuated the characteristics.

Frey remarks that "shipping a lion from Europe to Ethiopia was not an easy problem in the pre-war era, while wild lions were always available in Ethiopia. The Addis menagerie sold surplus lions to the nobles and others who kept them as status symbols until the revolution.

Frey said he had traced only one report of a wild lion with a belly mane in Ethiopia, in Awash National Park, but he had found references to lions with enormous manes in that region. There was a picture of a lion with a

profuse mane and a belly mane in a renowned book of mammals, Brehm's Tierleben (1915). This lion was a gift from the Emperor Menelik to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and was reported to have been caught in the area of the Gibbe, about 250 km south-west of Addis.

Discussing the belly mane, Frey quotes the German mammalogist, Helmut Hemmer, as suggesting that it is a feature from an archaic form of lion that had been best preserved in northern Africa and south-west Asia, but also in relict populations in sub-Saharan Africa. If a belly mane were genetically fixed in a lion, environmental conditions, such as climate, might suppress its development, leaving only a modest neck mane.

"This is demonstrated by some Asiatic lions *P.l. persica*, from India which developed belly manes in European zoos," says Frey. "Belly manes were also present in some zoo lions that were brought from Sudan, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, but never in specimens that originated from Central and West Africa, Tanzania or Transvaal.

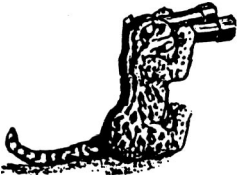
"I have seen many pictures of lions in the Addis menagerie that were taken since the early 1950s, which also showed lions with both types of manes.

In the early 1970s, Hemmer and fellow German mammalogist, Paul Leyhausen, found lions in the Rabat Zoo in Morocco, which had features of the extinct Barbary lion. However, genetic tests have not been carried out, nor a proposed breeding program designed to eliminate any heritage from other subspecies.

Genetic tests of Asiatic lions in India have shown that they are distinct from sub-Saharan lions, but with less difference than that between human races. The two lion groups are estimated to have separated as recently as 100,000 years ago.

Until comparatively recently, lions, and other species, were seldom, if ever, bred

Continued next page



President's Perspective

As President of LIOC ESCF, I want to thank all of you for your support. I know it was redundant to go through the formality of a vote, I hope we can remedy that procedure at the next convention. I do want to welcome Nanette McGann of Florida to the Board as Director of Legal Affairs.

I am not planning any big or drastic changes in LIOC. The completion of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund is foremost with the Board of Directors at this time.

The one cohesive item that holds us all together is the Newsletter. Maybe I should say it is the love of exotic cats, but without the Newsletter, we wouldn't know one another existed. The Newsletter is for you to use. The Editor needs your comments, pictures, articles, etc. Are you looking for a particular cat or have one to sell? Call Jean Hamil, Term Director in charge of Advertising. Kelly Jean Buckley was probably your first contact with LIOC. She handles all inquiries, new members, dues, and address changes. Do you have questions regarding legalities? State laws? Moving? Transportation of exotics? Contact Nan McGann. George Stowers has moved into the position of Term Director of Education & Conservation.

I want all of you to feel free to contact me at any time with your comments, suggestions or just to say 'Hi'. I hope to see you at Convention in August. This is our one opportunity to get to know one another. If you have anything to fax, the number is 503-771-1079.

LIOC needs your help - not only for survival, but to protect and preserve exotic cats. The few ocelots in the United States today are mostly too old for breeding, spayed or neutered, or related to every other available ocelot. We need to work very hard to preserve what we have left, not only ocelots but Geoffroys, leopard cats, cougars, snow leopards and all

other species. They all need our help. Where do we go from here? Unity and knowledge are our only hope.

Barbara Wilton
President.



Lions in Addis Ababa...continued

according to their subspecies or area of origin so that most captive lions today are of mixed origin and are termed "generic".

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News



THE BIRTHS

John Perry reports that one of his Geoffroy's presented him with triplets in early December....two males and one female, all melanistic (black) as is the mom. Interestingly, the sire is spotted. Of 10-12 kittens this combination (spotted sire to this black queen) has produced over the years, *all* have been black.



Readers Write

Dear LIOC:

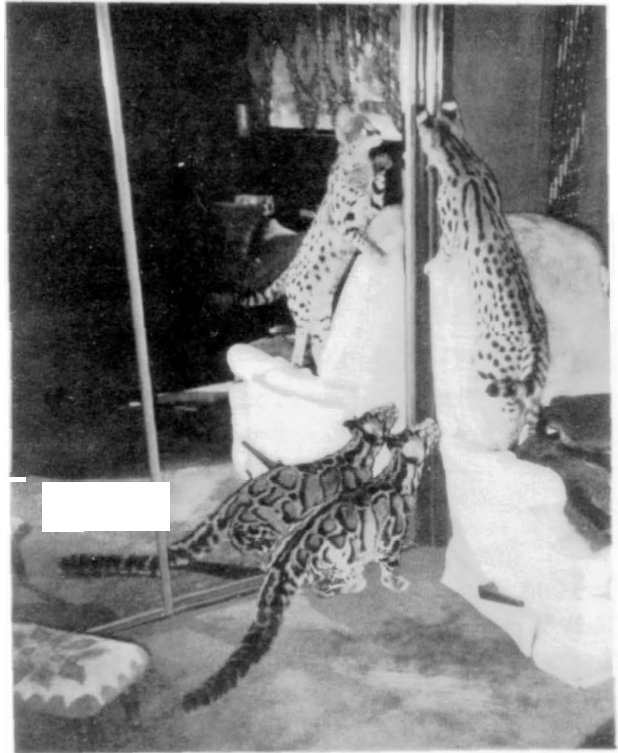
I've been a serval breeder for 17 years but am always looking for a better formula for my kittens. Serval kittens get paper-thin bones (calcium deficiency) so easily if they are not fed the right food.

Pet-ag has come out with seven formulas for all kinds of animals, so please look into this for your animals. Be it a monkey to a squirrel or deer they have it now.

It's called Zoologic Milk Matrix. I'm using 33/40 for my serval kittens....42/25 seems too rich and causes diarrhea.

You may call Debra Hoffman at 1-800-323-0877 and she'll send you information.

Donna Amos



Rajah the clouded & 7 month old Cheko serval are great buddies. They live in the house and sleep with Donna. She relates that Rajah is a wonderful animal that loves people.

LIFE ON EASY STREET, INC. a non profit corporation
12802 Easy Street, Tampa FL 33625
(813) 920-4130
Fax: (813) 888-0047
Don and Carole Lewis

WHETHER YOU LIKE TO WALK ON THE WILD SIDE, OR WANT TO JUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE ON EASY STREET, THIS BIG CAT SANCTUARY IS THE PLACE FOR YOU! YOU CAN VISIT US ON VIDEO BY ORDERING "BIG CAT COMPANIONS" FOR \$28.00 OR YOU CAN READ ABOUT HOW WE RAISE OUR CATS IN "EXOTIC CATS AS HOUSEPETS" FOR \$35.00 OR YOU CAN VISIT US IN PERSON FOR \$75.00 @ NIGHT AND STAY IN A RUSTIC CABIN ON 40 ACRES OF TROPICAL PARADISE. GET TO KNOW & PHOTOGRAPH OVER 100 TAME WILD CATS OF 13 SPECIES.



"If a cat does something, we call it instinct; if we do the same thing, for the same reason, we call it intelligence."

Will Cuppy
American writer



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Meeting Report - December 1, 1996

The meeting was held in the home of Bob and Shirley Slocam in Camas, Washington. They are selling their beautiful home and their flower shop and plan to start a new way of life traveling and living in their motor home.

Guests David & Sue Hill shared some problems they are having with their new Safari and members offered suggestions and shared personal experiences.

Ethel & Barbar have completed the Christmas centerpieces they have been making to sell as a donation to the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund.

We discussed different methods of flea control and Ethel handed out information packets on veterinary and health issues and status on conservation of endangered species.

Ethel shared some photos of "Pixie-Bobs"s sent to her by a breeder, and there was some discussion about them and their origin.

The members in attendance voted to discontinue the "Adopt-a-Highway" road cleanup. Since the majority of the people who originally committed to the project no longer are members of the club, the responsibility has fallen on only a few people, creating a hardship on them. We will send a letter to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Ethel reorted on the speak-out that she, Barbara and Shirley gave at the Good Shepherd Schools in Boring, Oregonss. Shirley and Boomerang did an educational program for Cub Scout Pack #655 in Portland, and Boomerang graced a senior citizens' art class with his

presence, where he posed for photos and rearranged hairstyles.

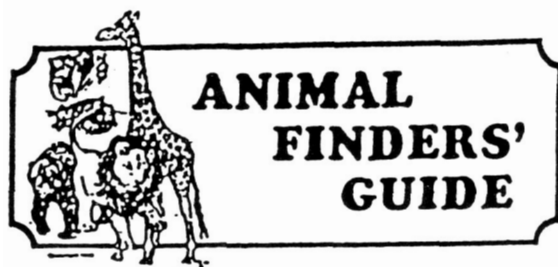
We watched a video on the work being done by Laurie Marker-Kraus and Dan Krauss to save the cheetah in Namibia while we enjoyed a potluck lunch.

Ethel brought several kittens to show and there was apparently a "love connection" between Dave Hill and Samson the safari. I wouldn't be surprised if this was the beginning of a new and wonderful relationship.

Respectfully submitted
Shirley Malar, Secretary

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.



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

Free to good home. (you pay shipping): Geoffroy kitten, male, melanistic, born 12/12/96. Momma took off his left front paw, but otherwise he's doing well. Call John Perry, 612-481-2673 (days), 612-571-7918 (eves).

New Stuff

The following are products recently advertised in catalogs and pet magazines which might be adapted for use in exotics. They should be available through pet stores in the near future.

A better carrier for small animals from Droskocil, the Double Door Delux. Any one who's attempted to load an intractable small cat in a carrier will find this a boon. Besides the conventional door at the front of the carrier, this has another on top! 23"Lx14-1/2Wx12"H it retails for under \$27.

A variety of "cat sacks" and restraining aids are now widely available for cats up to 25 pounds. Some feature zippers or strategically placed holes to allow paws to be pulled through for nail-trimming or to treat leg woundss.

Several varieties of "heating pads" are now available for winter warmth in various sizes. Made to be used inside or out, these are made for animal use with metal spring protected cords to discourage chewing, and are moisture proof as well.

A couple of anti-bacterial handwashes are now available for those of us who might find ourselves going from pen to pen, cat to cat, and find the need to disinfect our hands or tools inbetween. Or are concerned about cleaning surfaces after doctoring an ill animal. *Pet-Pak Inc.* introduces Soricidin Germicidal Towelettes. The towelettes kill disease causing organisms on hard surfaces reducing the risk of cross contamination. Laboratory tested, the towelettes are alcohol free and produce a continuous residual activity for up to six months.

Tropical Magic First Care, by L/M Animal Farms (1-800-332-5623) kills 99.9% of germs and bacteria on skin upon contract. Packaged in 4 ounce bottles, this liquid can be tucked in a pocket. It evaporates quickly, needing no towels or water, leaves no sticky residue and leaves hands soft with a pleasant fragrance.

Advertised for dogs, the *Buster Cube* by Jorgen Kruuse A/S, is a hollow cube divided into compartments that release food or treats

when rolled by the animal's nose or paws. Developed by dog psychologist, it offers mental exercise and stimulation.

Pet odors vanish in candlelight with the *Pet Candles*, by Crystal Candles, a division of Arizona Natural Resources, Inc. The citrus and wood-oil blend works to eliminated pet odors, and burns for up to 50 hours. The natural oils are contained in the candle's cavity and are protected until the candle is burned.

If you've found product you like, and have had good luck adapting to exotic feline use, or has made life a little easier, let us hear about it.

India Bans Tiger Shows for Tourists

"Tiger Shows" in which tigers are hemmed in by elephants or jeeps to allow tours to view them have been banned, despite protests from the tourist industry.

Indian members of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group supported the ban in a formal resolution which said:

"The Cat Specialist Group at its 5th meeting, was unanimously of the opinion that encirclement of tigers by elephants in order to run a "tiger shuttle", permitting people into the circle to see tigers, is completely against the interest of the tiger."

"However, tiger viewing from elephant back or jeep should not be prohibited because of abuses e.g. close encirclement of tigers at Bandhavgarh and Kanha. Instead, the abuses should be eliminated by the imposition of controls and close supervision."

"The worst effects of disturbance by closely encircling elephants are sometimes duplicated by closely following vehicles in Ranthambhore, where on one occasion a tigress and her four cubs were blocked in by vehicles in front and behind them on the road, or, in some cases, the cubs separated from their mother by intervening vehicles. It is not the method of tiger-viewing per se that is at fault, but the lack of supervision, set limits, etc."

Maine member, Bob Ervin, contributed these photos of a wild bobcat which regularly patrolled near a neighbor's house and cleaned out a family of squirrels that lived in the area. According to Bob, this is not a common occurrence, with the cat regularly coming very close to the house.

