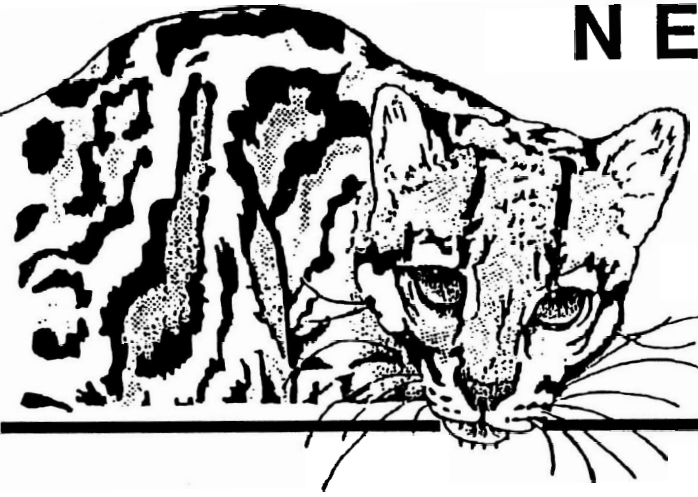
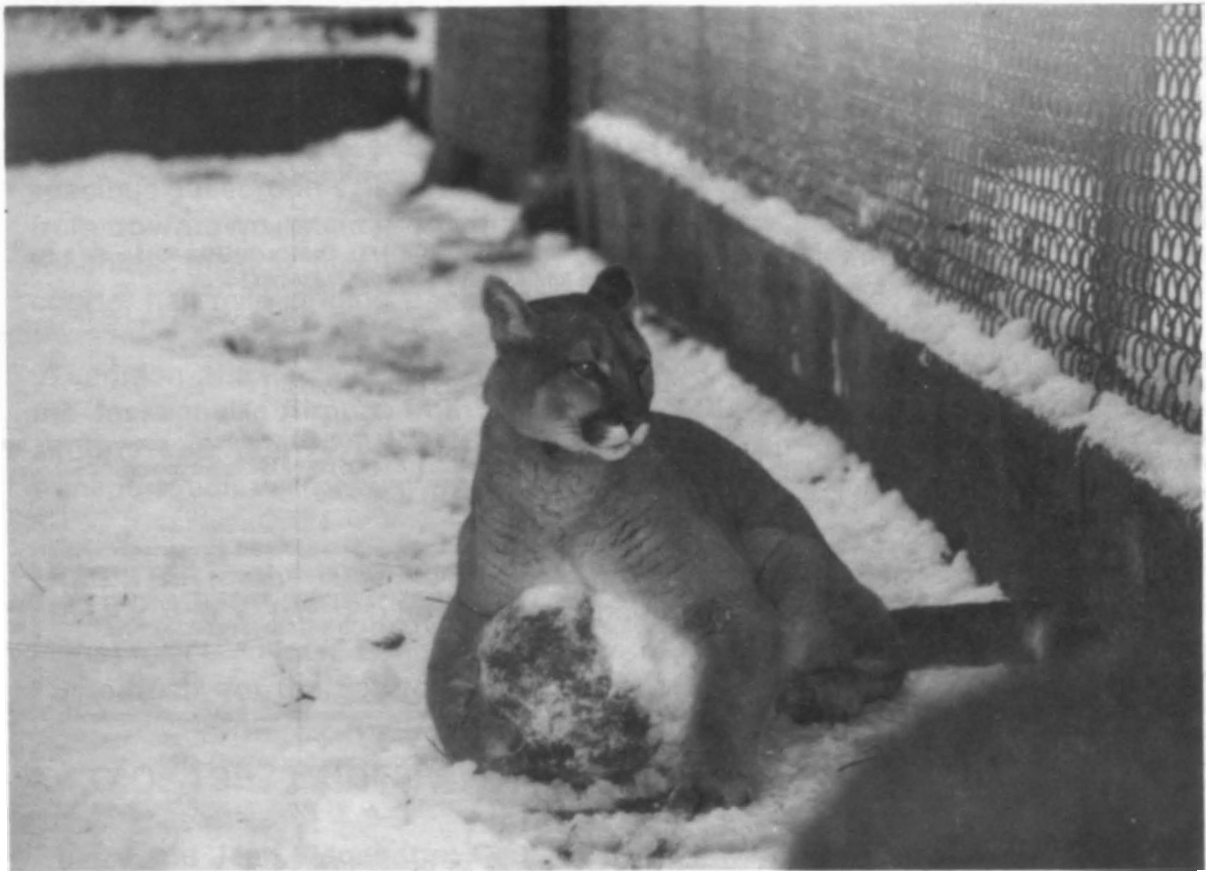


NEWSLETTER



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Mutchka, a five year old cougar, frolics with her "all seasons" zoo ball. She shares her home with Luisa & Andy Turudic of Beaverton, Oregon.



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 1st 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
Officers		
President	Barbara Wilton	7800 S.E. Luther Rd. Portland, OR 97206 (503) 774-1657
Vice President	Scarlett Bellingham	P.O.Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba, ROA 1E0, Canada (104)388-4845 home & fax
Secretary/Treasurer	Sharon Roe	29641 N.E. Timmen Rd., Ridgefield, WA 98642 (360)887-8563 Email: cscs88a@prodigy.com
Term Directors		
Member Services	Kelly Jean Buckley	P.O. Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028 (602) 996-5935 Email: kjbuck@phnx.uswest.net
Education & Conservation	George Stowers	8 Meadowhill Dr., Farmingdale, ME 04344 (207)622-9201 Email: gstowers@mint.net
Legal Affairs	Nannett McGann	10100 S.W. 21 Terrace, Miami, FL 33165 (305)553-8192 Email: denofnm@aol.com
Advertising & Publicity	Jean Hamil	31307 Debbi, Magnolia, TX 77355 (713)356-2076
Life Directors		
	J.B. Anderson	1297 Jeffries Rd., 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
	Shirley Wagner	3730 Belle Isle Ln, Mobile, AL 36619 (334)433-5418 days 661-1342 nites Fax: (334)433-5422
Branches		
Exotic Feline		
Educational Society	Ethel Hauser	14622 N.E. 99th St., Vancouver, WA 98682 (360)892-9994
Pacific Northwest Exotics	Steve Belknap	P.O. Box 205, Gresham, OR 97030 Gayle Schaecher(503)663-4137
Sunshine State Exotics	David Cassalia,	P.O.Box 7113, Hollywood, FL 33081 (954)966-0406
Regional Contacts		
Northeast	George Stowers	8 Meadowhill Dr., Farmingdale, ME 04344 (207)622-9201
Southeast	Jean Hatfield	1991 S.W. 136th Ave., Davie, FL 33325 (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 ROA1E0, Canada (204)388-4845

LIOC needs YOU!

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

IF YOU ARE BRINGING AN EXOTIC CAT TO THE CONVENTION
You **MUST** have in your possession an approved Florida Transport form. Please call or write for this form to Nanette McGann, LIOC Director of Legal Affairs, 305-553-8192, 10100 SW 21 Terrace, Miami, FL 33165. There is no charge for this form. Of Course, this does not apply to Florida Residents. Florida residents need to bring a copy of their license with their cats. The Ramada 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. **REMEMBER 30 POUND MAXIMUM.** Thank you!

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.

REGISTER for the 1997 LIOC Convention by June 15. Please send \$85.00 payment to LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028 (After June 15 the fee will be \$110.00) Note: Send your choice of either Chicken Cordon Bleu or Grilled Swordfish, for the Saturday night Banquet Dinner.

L.I.O.C. 1997 CONFERENCE SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Sherry and Jean Blanchette; Cougars Knows To Tale
George Stowers; Review Felid Tag Meeting
Ron Eldridge BVSc, MS; Innovative methodology used by the new emerging African nation - Implication for Cheetah Conservation
Craig Cylke; Eastern Cougar, Almost a Shadow - Reintroduction Project
Robert Baudy; A Bad Day at Savage Kingdom

Following the presentations we'll spend time with our exotic cats. See you in August!

Submitted by: Kelly Jean Buckley

A Close Call for Tigger

Early one Saturday morning, I awoke from my sleep to answer a phone call from the owner of a four-month old bobcat suffering from prolonged diarrhea.

Two months earlier when I first met Tigger bobcat, who had been caught in the wild, he seemed healthy and calm. I counseled the owners about diet, behavior, vaccinations and wormers, and I asked them to stay in touch.

In questioning this bobcat's owner, I learned Tigger had stopped eating and was very weak and seriously dehydrated. Though taken to the vet's a week before, he had not responded to medication.

I told Tigger's owner to go to the nearest store, buy Pedialyte, and if Tigger wouldn't drink it on his own, to feed him by syringe, and that I would dress, gather up my supplies and drive the 50 miles to help her. I stopped at my vet's and picked up Albon, for coccidia, just in case my instincts were correct.

At my destination, I found an undersized bobcat suffering from an alarming level of dehydration. His skin had reached the condition of *tenting*, when it was pinched up, it would stay up for an extended period of time. That meant he was somewhere around 10 percent dehydrated.

I took out my bottle of Lactated Ringer's solution and began warming it up to body temperature. Then I took Tigger's temperature - 97 degrees - three to four degrees below normal.

Tigger positioned himself by the crack of the front door, breathing the cool air from outside, which of course further chilled him. This strange behavior could mean he was seeking an increase in oxygen; nonetheless, I blocked the draft with a towel and wrapped him in a blanket. As soon as I released him, he was right back at the door.

Taking the warm Ringer's, I administered five 10cc bolus subcutaneous injections over a forty minute span. An examination showed chalky white gums, ears and paw-pads cool to the touch, heart beat rapid,

lungs clear and mucous membranes dry. Tigger's hip and thigh bones protruded from his muscles, and his back bone could be felt when stroking his body. His eyes were glazed, he stared off with dilated pupils and never blinked, I worried about shock.

I knew from my reference material that the goals of fluid therapy were to replace the deficit over a 48 to 72 hour period. I anticipated Tigger would remain anorexic for at least another 24 hours while he rehydrated with electrolytes. In fact, to force-feed him now would actually be a cruel form of euthanasia because digesting food draws fluids towards the intestinal tract and away from the circulatory system. And I knew that once he began to eat I would need to continue his fluid supplements.

I estimated Tigger's weight at about four pounds. I calculated he would need 110ml of Lactated Ringer's in the first 24 hours and about 60 ml a day for the next two days. Once I had successfully injected 50cc's of Lactated Ringer's, I called their veterinarian and spoke with her about Tigger. My instincts were correct - a fecal sample taken last week had confirmed the protozoan, coccidia, and she had prescribed Co-trimoxazole. I looked at the bottle of medication they had, it said "2 cc's twice a day". It had been seven days since they had visited the vet's and about 15 cc's were missing. Tigger had not been medicated regularly enough by his owners.

The veterinarian and I discussed the possibility of shock. I was concerned at his subnormal temperature, white gums and dehydrated state and the glazed look in his eyes. He could be in hypovolemic shock from his dehydration which would cause a reduction in circulating blood volume; or he could be in shock from hypoglycemia. I didn't know what amount of nutrition his cat had actually been consuming lately, his condition led me to believe he had been suffering from long term anorexia so his glucose level could be deficient. He might be in shock from septicemia, a condition that

Tigger - continued

results when cell destruction caused by endotoxins produced by bacterial infection reach the stage where the animal is being overwhelmed.

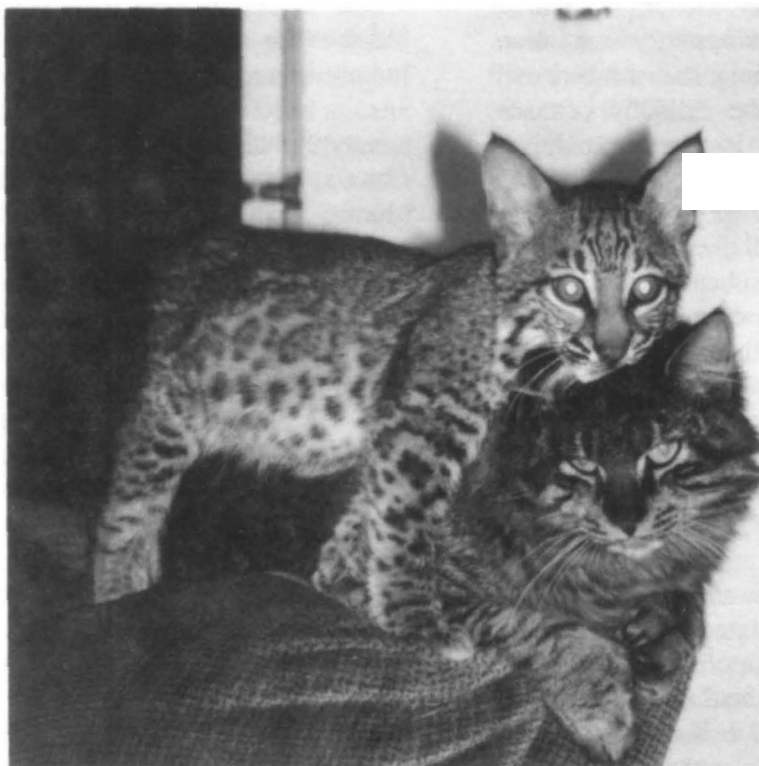
Shock is a life-threatening syndrome that is characterized by a reduced amount of oxygen reaching the peripheral tissues of various organs. Oxidative metabolism, or the breakdown of nutrients using oxygen, requires the use of cellular energy stores and, when they are consumed, organ systems become affected. The kidneys may go into failure from lack of function as nephrons are destroyed by the restricted blood flow and accompanying lack of oxygen. With this loss, fluids, plasma, and even whole blood leak into the intestinal tract leaving the body even more deficient. As the system shuts down, bacterial proliferation occurs. All of these processes make the work of the heart progressively more difficult. If nothing is done

to reverse the situation, the heart eventually fails.

I instructed Tigger's owner to wrap him in a blanket and force him to stay warm. There are many important benefits of heat in shock therapy. It increases the blood to given area due to circulation of cutaneous vessels. It increases the pulse, blood pressure and pulmonary ventilation. It has a sedative and analgesic effect, giving a sense of well-being and generalized muscle relaxation. I drove to her veterinarian for further help.

Dextrose injections would counter hypoglycemic or hypovolemic shock. This kitten was at death's door, I would take no chances. Once at the veterinarian's office, she offered me Soludelpa-Cortes, a cortico-steroid.

Steroid use early in shock therapy has many beneficial effects. It will increase the cardiac output by strengthening the cardiac contractions. It is a vasodilator of the arterioles and venules and this property can assist in the



Tigger, much recovered and Darling

Tigger - continued

delivery of antibiotics when used in septic shock. It will increase the lactic acid metabolism, which is the cellular waste disposal system. It improves the citric acid cycling and increases energy production. It stabilizes the cellular membranes which are often damaged by the lack of oxygen delivery during shock. It maintains and restores capillary endothelial membranes.

While there are many beneficial effects of steroid therapy, there are also trade-offs to consider. Steroids cause a decrease in white blood cell migration from the blood stream into inflammatory tissue. There is a decrease in bacterial killing by the white blood cells and consequently this increases the risk of septicemia. Both these negative factors are gone in a couple of days. I thanked the vet and returned to Tigger's home.

Once again, we warm-water bathed the dextrose solution and then I administered two, 10cc bolus subcutaneous injections of dextrose.

When giving fluid therapy subcutaneously, one must use an isotonic or hypotonic solution, not a hypertonic solution. Lactated Ringer's is isotonic; that means it will not draw fluids out of the cells by osmosis. Dextrose 5% in water is also isotonic. In contrast, Dextrose 5% in Lactated Ringer's is hypertonic. It should only be given orally, or IV because if given SQ, it will draw intestinal fluids out of the animal into the subcutis resulting in an increased level of dehydration. Dextrose 2.5% in 1/2-strength Lactated Ringer's is still isotonic and can be used subcutaneously. Therefore I could mix up a 50/50 mix of the two solutions and be safe. But after a total of 70 cc's of fluid therapy, Tigger was looking much better, his absorption rate was slowing and I didn't want to add more now.

I took his temperature again and it was 96 degrees. I was disappointed - it seemed to me his hypothermia was a sign of impending death. I gave the steroid shot in the thigh muscle. Then I squirted into his mouth 2 cc's of Albon liquid.

Because Tigger's owners were not qualified to care for him, I agreed to take him home for extended nursing. Bart and I are state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitators. We

have an extensive library of reference materials that would assist us in this effort. We could provide a quiet environment, and one-on-one care.

Once home we began a log to track all treatments, symptoms and actions. He was segregated in our bathroom, contained in a large carrier, a ceramic heater warming the room. He would need peace and quiet, sleep and regular treatments. The following is the log of his four days of intensive care:

Saturday:

1:00pm - I gave Tigger 3 cc's of lixatinic vitamins, rich in iron, niacin, thiamine and B-12. Whatever the cause, he was obviously suffering a meolytic crisis, judging from the color of his gums. I followed that syringe with 3 cc's of Pedialyte to wash down the taste, and continue the electrolyte therapy. His temperature was now 98.

3:30pm - I administered two more 10cc bolus subQ of Lactated Ringer's. His temperature was now 100.5, but I felt it was due more to over-heating from the electric blanket under the carrier than from internal body temperature regulation. I turned off the blanket.

6:00pm - I had decided to give Albon every eight hours the first day. Even though he was approximately 16 weeks old, he couldn't have weighed more than 4 pounds. I administered 1.5cc's Albon and followed it with another 3 cc's of Pedialyte. His temperature was 99.

9:00pm - I gave another 3 cc's of lixatinic vitamins. His temperature was still 99.

12:00 midnight. I gave another 1.5cc dose of Albon and 10cc's of Lactated Ringers. I wondered if he would with us in the morning.

Sunday:

6:00 am - Tigger was still alive. I began his morning medications of 1.5cc's of Albon and another 10cc bolus subQ of Ringers Lactate. It was important that he be well hydrated while receiving such a high dose of antibiotics. I felt that he was improving - perhaps the Albon had gotten a grip on the coccidia infection. I gave him another 3 cc's of lixatinic vitamins. And for the first time I offered him some food - a tiny

Tigger - continued

teaspoon of ground turkey. He stiffed and nibbled - three tiny bites total. The act of chewing the ground substance seemed to exhaust him, but it was a good sign overall. I offered him water and he took several drinks. I showed him his litter box and he eliminated a liquid stool folled by three small, semi-formed poops. A definite improvement. At his original home, I had noticed his litter box was full of dried, pancake-shaped poops. The owner didn't realize the importance of removing the fecal matter to prevent reinfection.

8:00am - I offered him water and he drank again. His temperature was 98.4.

11:00am - He still hadn't urinated much, and I knew he was almost completely rehydrated. Now I worried that his condition had caused some kidney damage. I gave another dose of Ringer's subQ, this time only 5cc's because he was not offering resistance to my doctoring. It was a good sign. His temperature had risen to 99.1

12:00 noon - I gave 1.5cc's Albon and 1.5cc's Kaopectate with 1/2 a capsule of lactobacillus powder mixed in. I wanted to calm the intestine and reinoculate them with good flora that was surely destroyed by the coccidia and antibiotics. I folled this with 3 cc's of Pedialyte.

1:00pm - Over the past 30 hours I had turned this kitty into a pin cushion and in his condition he could develop a bacterial infection. I decided to add Clavamox, a broad-spectrum antibiotic to his therapy in case his problems were more complex. I gave 1cc orally and followed it with 3cc's Pedialyte.

3:00pm - He was definitely improving - his time out of the carrier when I doctored him was extended to about 10 minutes. His coat looked much better, he was rehydrated. But I had a suspicion that he was also suffering from worms. He had had a bout with them in January, according to his owners, and judging from the level of cleanliness in his litterbox at home, I felt it likely he could have been re-infected.. His gums did not look any better, in spite of all the iron and B-vitamins in the

lixatinic. He was still very anemic. I judged him strong enough now to add a dose of Strongid-T wormer. I gave .33cc and folled with 6cc's of Pedialyte. He pooped diarrhea on a towel. He ate a teaspoon of ground turkey with calcium powder. His appetite was improving.

4:00pm - I syringe fed him 12-cc's Pedialyte.

4:45pm - Tigger lapped at some water on his own, he urinated and ate 1 teaspoon ground turkey with calcium. I was relieved to see his kidneys functioning.

6:45pm - Tigger ate 1/2 teaspoon of turkey and drank water from a bowl.

8:15pm - I reduced his Albon to 1 cc and would give it at 8 hour intervals for the next 24 hours. I followed with 12 cc's of Pedialyte and another 1 cc kaopectate with lactobacillus powder mixed in.

8:45pm - he ate 1/2 teaspoon of turkey and drank water on his own. He was strong enough that I couldn't take his temperature without significant opposition, and since there was more important nursing to be done, I stopped attempting to monitor it.

9:30pm - Tigger drank water and urinated again.

11:30 - Tigger ate 1 teaspoon of turkey and drank water again.

Monday:

1:00am - I gave 1 cc Clavamox and followed it with 12 cc's Pedialyte.

7:00am - He ate a tablespoon of turkey mixture and I gave him 1 cc of Albon. I decided to cut back the Albon to twice a day.

8:30am - I syringe fed him 2cc's lixatinic vitamins and 9cc's Pedialyte and he ate another 1/2 teaspoon of turkey with calcium and drank water on his own.

10:15am - He downed another 1/2 teaspoon of turkey with calcium and drank water. I was pleased with his renewed interest in food, and wished to keep his meals small, nutritious and frequent. I didn't want to overload his digestive system. It seemed his diarrhea was under control, as the frequency of elimination had slowed.

Tigger - continued

1:00pm - He ate 1 teaspoon of turkey and one chicken liver. I wanted to add liver to his diet as it is naturally rich in iron, B vitamins and important micro-nutrients. I gave .5cc Clavamox and 9cc's Pedialyte. Tigger was still very anemic, his gums showing only a slight bit of pink. Although I hadn't seen any fleas on him, I began to wonder if perhaps with everything else he had wrong, he might also be suffering from flea-induced anemia. A few strokes with a flea comb confirmed my suspicion - I combed 12 fleas from his back and neck.

4:00pm - he ate 1 teaspoon turkey and 1 chicken liver. He produced a normally formed poop, slightly greenish in color, which was due to all the lixatinic I am sure. Upon squashing the poop between a folded piece of paper, I discovered a single dead roundworm. I combed 24 fleas off him and decided he needed a bit more fluid therapy with all the medications I'd given him, so I gave him one more 10cc bolus of Ringers. It was getting challenging to stick him with needles - he was gaining strength.

5:30pm - I combed 18 more fleas off Tigger. He produced a normal stool with another dead roundworm inside. He ate one chicken liver and I gave him 3cc's lixatinic vitamins.

7:30pm - Another 18 fleas came off. He ate 1/2 a liver and 1 teaspoon of turkey. I gave him 1 cc of Albon.

8:00pm - He pooped a whipped-up stool, semi-soft with yellow color. I felt it was perhaps due to a distressed intestinal flora so I gave him another 1cc dose of Kaopectate with lactobacillus powder.

11:00pm - I combed off another 10 fleas, but it was taking longer to find them. That made 82 fleas removed in the past 10 hours, he had to feel better without being constantly bitten. He ate a chicken liver and a teaspoon of turkey. He urinated. I went to bed knowing he was on the mend - if I could just continue to balance needed care with rest and quiet and prevent unnecessary stress, I felt he would survive.

Tuesday:

7:00am - Tigger ate 2 chicken livers with lactobacillus powder sprinkled over them and 1 tablespoon of turkey with calcium. I gave him a 1cc dose of Albon, 3cc's lixatinic vitamins. His stool was a soft-formed yellow. Tigger's gums were finally starting to show more pink, instead of the chalky white they had been. His blood was responding to the iron and vitamin B. It was a work day for me so I left him in the care of my capable husband, Bart.

9:40am - he ate 1/4 cup turkey with 1/2 a calcium pill crushed over it and drank water on his own.

12:30pm - Tigger ate another 1/4 cup turkey and a chicken liver with calcium as well as drinking water. He produced a 4 inch formed poop.

3:30pm - He ate 1/4 cup turkey with calcium, drank water and passed 1.5 inches of formed poop.

6:30pm - he ate 3 tablespoons of turkey with calcium and drank on his own. He ate two chicken wing tips, his first bone consumed since his illness.

8:00pm - He passed a yellow-brown stool. I combed off 10 more fleas.

9:00pm - he urinated

10:30pm - I gave 1cc Albon

Wednesday:

7:00am - gave 1cc Albon. He ate a chicken liver, chicken wing tips and a few bites of neck. His gums were now a definite pinkish red. He passed 1.5 inches of well-formed, orange/brown stool, and actually strained to eliminate it. I combed 10 more fleas off hm. By now I felt he had recovered enough to apply Frontline spot treatment. He was resenting my constant manipulation and Frontline, I knew from experience, would completely eliminate any need for flea combing.

9:30am - He ate another chicken liver, a few bites of ground turkey and passed another 1.5 inches of stool.

2:30pm - He ate chicken parts; a crushed neck, wing tip, crushed ribs, chicken livers, ground turkey and calcium.

Tigger - continued

3:30pm - He passed 1.5 inches of formed stool.

5:00pm - He ate chicken liver, and minced chicken.

5:30pm - he ate bits of beef and pooped 2.5 inches of orange/brown stool. He urinated.

6:30pm - He ate bits of chicken and urinated.

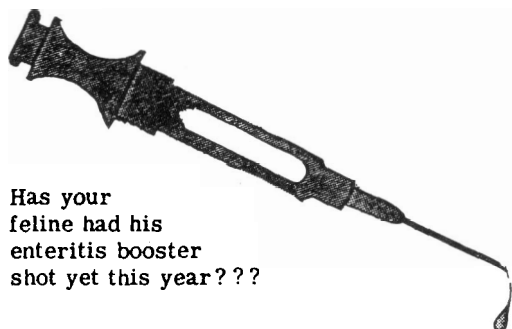
9:30pm - He ate chicken wing tips and chopped chicken.

10:20pm - He passed 3 inches of stool. I gave him 1cc Albon.

After four days of intensive care we felt he was well on his way to recovery. He was playful and active, no longer satisfied to stay locked up in the bathroom. For the next three days he had controlled access to our home while we watched over him. He was recovered enough to return to new caretakers Saturday morning. He will stay on Albon for 14 days total.

We learned much from this experience. We made a new feline friend and we will miss Tigger. He befriended our housecat, Darling and was extremely affectionate towards him. Tigger put up with much needle poking and mouth prying and I feel that overall he has a good personality. I am staying in touch with his new caretakers and have given them several books and tapes on exotic cat care. I feel there will not be a repeat of the neglect in this new home, and am happy to report that this near tragedy has been a successful learning experience for all.

Lynn & Bart Culver
141 Polk 664
Mena, AR 71953



Has your
feline had his
enteritis booster
shot yet this year???



They Don't Have to Die

By Jim Dunlap

This book is designed to help parents, students and teachers learn how to care for, raise and safely release animals back to their natural habitat.

Extensively illustrated, the book is arranged by species and includes notes on acquisition and handling, cage and habitat materials, temperature/light/humidity, dietary requirements and release.

The author is Director of the Plano (Texas) ISD Living Materials Center, which has evolved into a halfway house for injured and abused animals and a living lab for students.

Available from Wordware Publishing, Inc. \$12.95



Cat showers

Texas Proposes Ban on Dangerous Wild Animals

A law has been introduced in both Houses of the Texas Legislature which would ban ownership of animals defined as dangerous. The definition of "dangerous wild animals is as follows:

- 1) lions
- 2) tigers
- 3) ocelots
- 4) cougars
- 5) leopards
- 6) cheetahs
- 7) jaguars
- 8) hyenas
- 9) bears
- 10) lesser pandas
- 11) biturongs
- 12) wolves
- 13) hybrids of lion & tiger
- 14) elephants
- 15) rhinoceroses
- 16) bobcats
- 17) coyotes
- 18) jackals
- 19) wolverines and
- 20) non-human primates

Those currently possessing listed species would be grandfathered in but they would be unable to breed their animals. Further, all animals currently held would have to be microchipped or tattooed and cages certified by a veterinarian. Permits would cost \$35 per animal per year. All licensees would be required to carry \$250,000 worth of liability insurance. Any condition which results in an escape from the cage would be a violation; violations are punishable by fines up to \$1,000 per day, per animal in addition to criminal prosecution if warranted.

While both bills were exempted from the mandatory reading (due to "the importance of this legislation and crowded condition of the calendars create an emergency and an imperative

public necessity".

Senate Bill 1235 passed through committee with no opposition. However it has been removed from the "uncontested calendar".

House Bill 1828 has not left the County Affairs Committee as of this writing.

Members in Texas should contact their state Congressmen and Senator (and ask their friends and relatives to do likewise) and voice their opposition to these bills as it would create a undue hardship on those currently owning these animals in the state; many are endangered species and should be bred, a real danger to the animal exists in trying to tattoo or implant chips in many exotic animals. Copies of these bills are available from the Texas Legislative Website or from your representatives.



President's Perspective

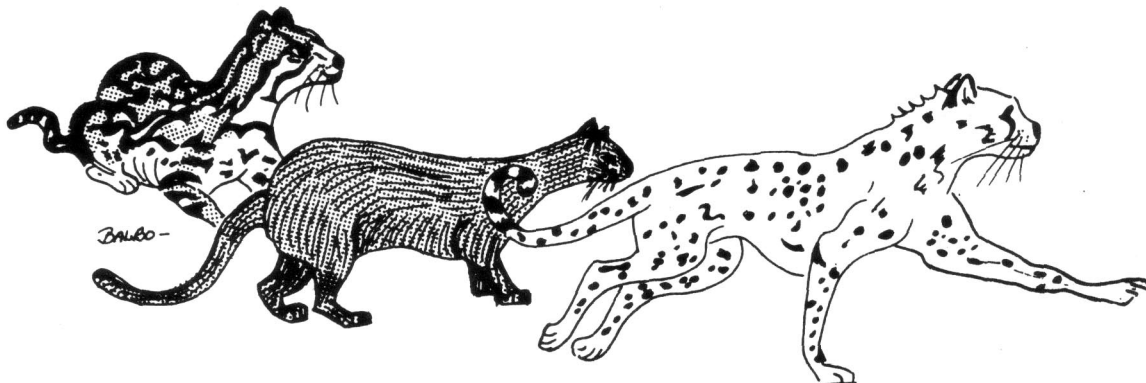
Just want to remind all of you about the reasons for attending Convention. I must admit, we do have a lot of fun visiting, but there is so much more to it than that. This is the one time of the year that your Board of Directors sits down together to discuss the business of LIOC ESFC. We do need input from you. Please send me your ideas and suggestions as soon as possible.

The Convention is designed to be informative for the person anticipating ownership of an exotic, the new owner and the more experienced we are, the more we realize there is always more to learn. Speakers have been recruited from our own ranks. Who knows exotic cats better than we do?

Besides that, we want to meet you. We seldom have the opportunity to just sit and visit. This is it. Please join us.

Barbara Wilton, President

Report on the Mid-Year Meeting of the AZA Felid TAG



On March 14-16, 1997, I attended the mid-year meeting of the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group in Escondido, Ca. The meeting was cosponsored by Pat Quillen of SOS Care, and the San Diego Zoo.

About 35 people attended the meeting, about a third of whom were private owners. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr David Wildt from the National Zoo and Dr. Jill Mellen from Disney's Animal Kingdom (see related story on page).

A variety of interesting and highly informative presentations were made during the meeting. However, I believe a working group session focused on improving the cooperation and coordination between the AZA and private owners may be of greatest interest to the membership of LIOC. On several occasions during the meeting, David Wildt and Jill Mellen stated that they believed that greater cooperation between the AZA and private owners was in the best interest of everyone, the cats, the AZA, private owners and the public. This sentiment was echoed by many of those attending the meeting.

The following is the draft report on the result of the Private Cat Facility (PCF) in which I was a participant. The intent was to provide a framework upon which a protocol for future cooperation and coordination between AZA and private owners can be built.

Definition: Private cat facilities (PCF) are privately owned institutions that maintain

collections of nondomestic felids and are either non-AZA members or are accredited as AZA-related organizations. Their focus may include breeding, exhibition and/or rescue/rehabilitation activities.

Priorities:

1) *to improve communication between AZA and private cat facilities.*

Private cat facilities frequently have difficulty in obtaining information from AZA on various felid conservation issues, such as AZA processes, regulations, management plans and husbandry protocols. Private cat facilities lack a readily available source of information from within AZA, and much published information on cat husbandry is inaccurate. The establishment of a liaison between private cat facilities and the Felid TAG could improve communication between groups. The completion of the small cat husbandry manual will improve access to accepted husbandry knowledge.

2) *To establish and/or revise accreditation/certification procedures for private cat facilities.*

The requirements for AZA accreditation as an AZA related organization are generally acceptable but the time course for the process is frequently too prolonged. Accreditation fees are not tiered to the size of the facility (numbers of cats/species). As an alternative to formal AZA accreditation, PCF should have the option of obtaining a more formal adjunct status, frequently in conjunction with their local zoos

Felid TAG.....continued

and based on personal contacts within the zoos. However, liability issues are a major concern of these zoos with adjunct PCF. Membership in ISIS should be a prerequisite to obtaining either AZA related organization or adjunct status. Adequate record keeping by PCF should be required.

3) To clarify collection management policies of AZA and PCF

The Felid TAG needs to have a clearly defined central philosophy and policies related to goals, acquisition and disposition of animals, husbandry, regional collection planning, record keeping, criteria for PCF involvement, etc. However, many of these policies have been established or are under development. Similarly, each PCF should develop a prospectus defining their individual philosophy, mission and goals.

4) To define the expected roles of private cat facilities in relation to the AZA.

The AZA is interested in PCF primarily as a source of additional cage space. Other lesser roles include supplying expertise with husbandry of certain small cat species, providing founders and their offspring to zoos and allowing animal access for research purposes. In return, the PCF expect the AZA to treat them with common courtesy, provide a source of information on husbandry and conservation issues, allow them to participate in conservation plans (SSP/PMP/Studbook) and have a role in the decision making process*.

5) To maintain confidentiality and security of private cat facilities.

There is some concern by some PCF about compromising security with increased interaction with AZA and involvement with various management plans. However most PCF remain fairly anonymous and security issues for most are not a high priority.

Recommendations:

The AZA/WCMC need to be informed of concerns of PCF and should clarify guidelines for accreditation as AZA related organizations or developing adjunct status. They should be

encouraged to streamline the accreditation process and to establish a tiered fee system based on the size of the facility. Jill Mellen will write a letter to these groups expressing these concerns.

* Information is currently available by attending AZA Conservation Academy courses for SSPs; AZA annual/regional proceedings and Zoo Biology Journal.

During the meeting I had the opportunity to talk with many different people, some with AZA, and some private owners. Although my participation in the meeting was related to my activities on the internet to promote responsible captive husbandry of wild felines through web site *Mainely Felids*, several people were aware that I am the Director of Conservation and Education for LIOC. As a result, the meeting provided me with a unique opportunity to learn something about how LIOC is perceived from outside our organization. I will share what I learned in this area in a future article.

George Stowers
Director, Conservation & Education



Needs YOU!

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

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

We desperately need new artwork - can you draw?

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

Cats: Enrichment in Every Sense

By Graham Law, Head of Carnivores,
Glasgow Zoo, Scotland, U.K.

Adapted from "*Behavioral Enrichment for Cats*," published in Management Guidelines for Exotic Cats, ABWAK, May 1991

Behavioral enrichment for cats can take many forms but often revolves around alternative feeding methods. It has long been a practice in zoos to feed cats once per day, with perhaps one or two days of fasting per week. This is probably acceptable for large cats, such as lions and tigers, but small cats definitely benefit from more frequent food offerings. Feeding small cats three to four times not only breaks up their day but may also help reduce pacing, because the cats do not have to wait until evening to be fed.

It is also good practice to feed whole foods to carnivores to stimulate as much natural behavior as possible. With whole foods, such as dead rabbit and chicken, carnivores pluck the feathers and hair before eating. Even then, consumption is not straightforward when compared with cut up meat or prepared carnivore diets. Intestines, for example, are not normally eaten along with their contents. Cats pull intestines into the mouth with a rasping movement of the tongue and through lightly closed incisor teeth. This action helps rid the intestines of any indigestible plant matter contained within. In short, feeding whole foods is an anatomy lesson for the cat and is far preferable to prepared cat food.

Whole food also helps keep teeth clean, a factor that was often forgotten by people who turned their entire feeding routine over to artificial (prepared) diets. In one zoo where such a feeding method was used for tigers, the animals had to be knocked down every six months in order to have their teeth cleaned.

Although offering food three or four times a day is better than once, this can still be

greatly improved upon by the use of some simple devices. One of the simplest and most effective of these, used for the ocelots at Glasgow, consists of a pile of twigs and branches heaped together to resemble the set-up for a small bonfire. The food - chopped meat and whole eggs in the shell - is hidden between the branches of the woodpile. The ocelots have to

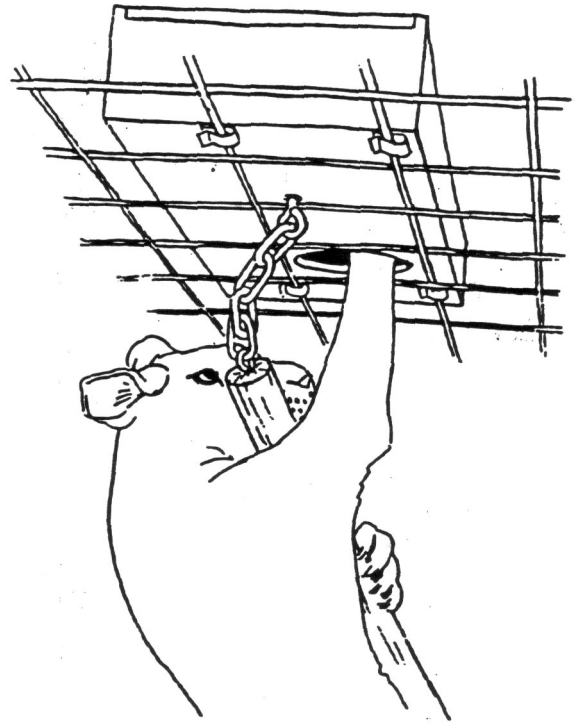


Diagram A

show a great deal of skill and dexterity to both hook out the meat and retrieve the eggs without breaking them. This method of feeding is normally used just after midday, when the ocelots have settled down at the back of the cage for their afternoon sleep. This feed encourages the animals to come down into full public view for a prolonged period of time. It has been found that the cats continue to search for food in the woodpile long after it has all been taken.

Enrichment.....continued

Another method of feeding involves the use of a plastic box with a hole cut in the bottom. A smooth-edged wooden template is fixed around the hole at the bottom of the box, and this is clamped to the mesh roof of the cage. The plastic box can then be filled with meat and the cats have to climb to the roof of the cage in order to get it. To make this task slightly more difficult, access to the box can only be gained by climbing up a swing pole, which is loosely fixed to the roof, but not the floor. The pole lashes about as the cat maintains its balance trying to get the food (see Diagram A). (Ed. note: this would have to be modified if the cat were declawed).

A variety of feeding poles have been tried by the Cat House staff. The most successful and safest were made from pickaxe handles and narrow-gauge wooden brush shafts. A large diameter brace and a bit is used to drill a hole at an angle partly through the wide end of the pickaxe handle. A short section of brush shaft, four to six inches in length, is then whittled to the appropriate diameter and hammered into the hole, and scapulas or large lumps of meat can be suspended from it. A strong wire hook is fixed to the narrow end of the pickaxe handle. The whole thing is then suspended from a high, strong point on the roof (see diagram B).

We use four of these hooks on a regular basis and in different locations to feed African leopards and ocelots. It is essential that these feeding poles are made entirely from wood to avoid the cats injuring themselves when feeding. It is not uncommon for the leopards and ocelots to imbed their claws in the poles and suspend their entire weight from the roof.

Behavioral enrichment does not stop at alternative feeding methods. Many behaviors can be stimulated by giving the animal access to different textures and substrates. The fact that some cats like to cover up their feces, for example, should not be forgotten. These cats obviously have an inherent need to do this and should be supplied with a suitable medium. Peat-filled trays have the advantage of localizing

feces collection, and the nature of the peat breaks down the acid of urine and reduces smell. Such simple techniques may also prevent cats from fouling their water bowls, an undesirable captive trait.

Animals should be exposed to as many different textures and substrates as possible - real rocks, plants, water, trees, gravel and forest bark. In days gone by, concrete floors provided a good surface to disinfect. These floors can be greatly improved by covering them with forest bark. Forest bark, once it is laid, is kinder and more natural on the feet than concrete and usually needs changing only once or twice a year. During this period of time, the wood bark builds up useful bacteria that help break down waste matter. Real plants also have many more uses than artificial ones. Real leaves can be chewed and tasted, and falling leaves not only denote a change of the seasons but also add a change in the substrate that can be played with or crunched under-foot.

Providing a wide variety of natural materials is essential for captive animals that are eventually to be reintroduced. It would be ridiculous to introduce an animal into the natural world that has been housed its entire life in a concrete, metal and glass enclosure with fiberglass logs and trees. For similar reasons, the old routine of shutting cats away into their night dens when the zoo closes (for security reasons) is one that should be avoided at all costs. This is not only damaging because the cat is deprived of its exercise area but also we may be producing generations of cats that have never seen the moon or the stars and are completely unaware of what the world looks like at night.

In recent years, some interesting work has been carried out with smell to elicit behavioral changes. It was found, for instance, that red-bellied tamarins reacted to the scent of a predator when margay odor was added to an area of their enclosure (Nancy G. Caine and Paul J. Weldon, 1989). It is also possible to purchase aerosols of lion scent, which gardeners have found effective in deterring certain animals from their gardens. Would it not, therefore, be possible to stimulate a hunting response in

NGWENYA GLASS

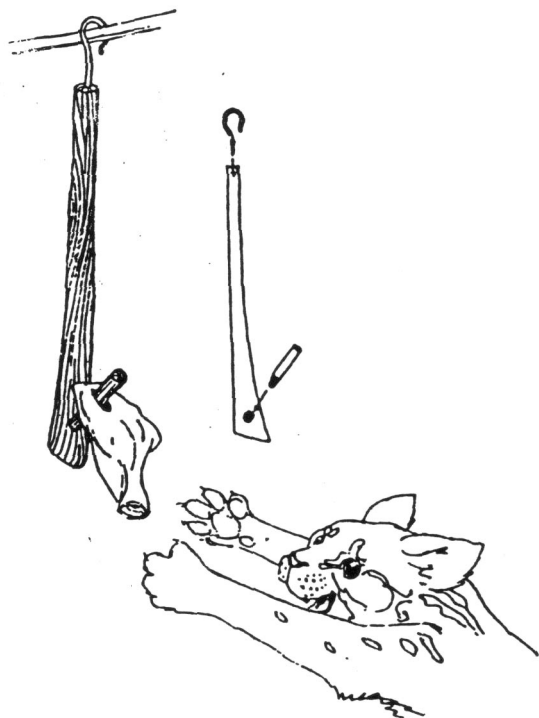
Amongst the mountains that encircle the tiny African Kingdom of Swaziland is one that resembles a basking crocodile. At its summit is the world's most ancient mine (dating back 43,000 years) and at its foot a remote village - *Ngwenya - the crocodile*.

Here, a small group of Swazi craftsmen and women, with age old artistry, breathe life into enchanting interpretations of the animals and birds of Africa, giraffe, hippo, antelope, lions, rhino and many more, imbuing each with its own irresistible personality. Each handmade piece of Ngwenya Glass is crafted from recycled glass collected from all corners of the Kingdom by the children of Swaziland.

Proceeds from the sale of these charming glass animals go to support the crafters as well as supporting *Mkhaya*, a game sanctuary under the personal protection of King Msate III. It is considered among the best protected sanctuaries in Africa and has the endorsement of HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. African elephant, white rhino and roan antelope are among the inhabitants of the Mkhaya preserve.

Ngwenya glass figurines come in two sizes: small about 2 inches, and large -3-4 inches. They are mostly clear but some have a faint tinge of green. Each comes with a card telling about Ngwenya glass which is signed by the creator. Prices are \$22 for the small size and \$35 for the large.

Other African crafts are available as well, all to help others help themselves and protect their habitat and the animals who inhabit it. You may request a catalog by writing: Kingdoms of Africa, P.O. Box 1035, Cumming, GA. 30128 or telephone 770-889-5833.



captive carnivores by using odors of their natural prey species in their enclosures? Cats, in general are known to react strongly to scented soaps and perfumes. They often display cheek-rubbing and kittenlike behavior when exposed to such olfactory stimulants. This alone offers much scope for behavioral enrichment.

The design of animal enclosures should be linked as closely as possible to the senses of the animal it has to house. In the wild, for example, cheetahs are known to seek out high vantage points to view the surrounding territory. Therefore, it is good practice to provide cheetahs with a large earth mound or, better still, a tall viewing platform for them to survey the surrounding area. Cheetahs use their eyes to locate food, and it is good to give them as much visual stimulation as possible.

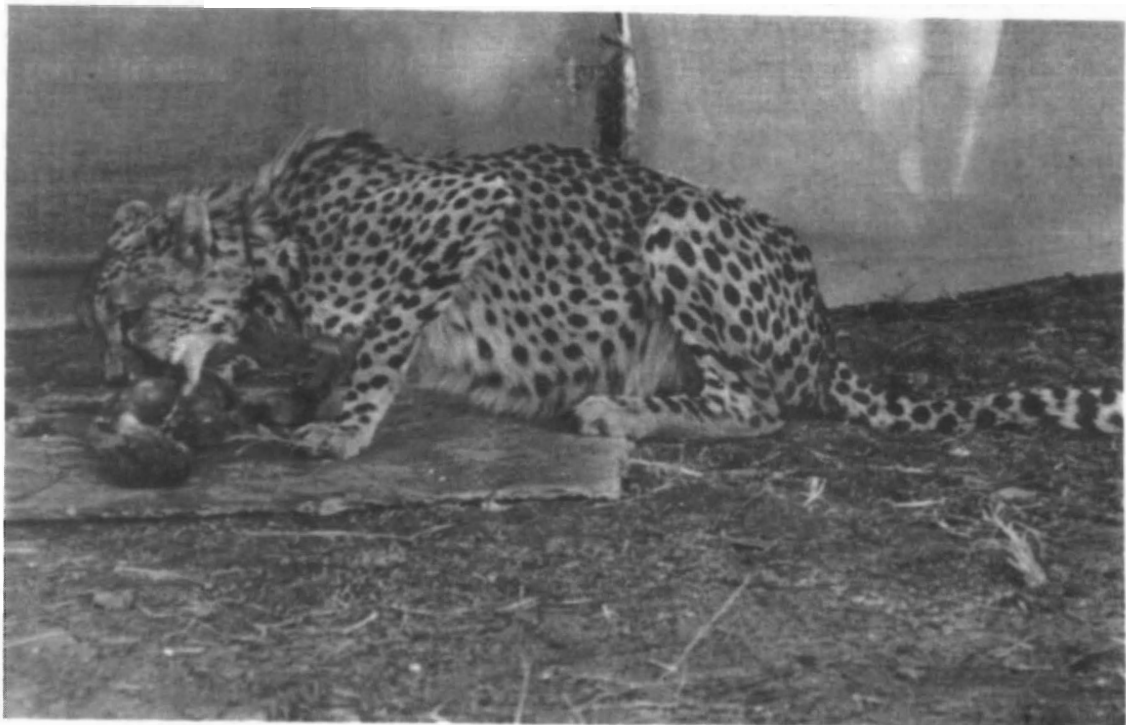
Diagrams by Ben Tripp

Contributed by Wayne Layton
Zookeeper, Ross Park Zoo



LIOC member and vet student Ron Eldridge recently spent time in Namibia volunteering his considerable talents at the Cheetah Conservation Trust.

Ron will be sharing his experiences there with us at Convention.





February Meeting Report

The meeting in February was held in the home of Jay and Rhea Barbau. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we took advantage of the weather and held the meeting outdoors on the deck. It was a pretty good turnout, along with Jay and Rhea's wonderful animals there was also a young caracal belonging to Carol Stiles and a baby Snow Macaque belonging to Launa McElwain. Both were very well behaved (the animals and of course Carol and Launa) and were the hit of the meeting.

The nomination and election of officers were held. Your Branch officers are as follows: President: Andy Turudic, Vice President: Steve Belknap and Secretary/Treasurer: Gayle Schaecher. It was also decided by vote that Pacific Northwest Exotics would pay the membership fees to LIOC for the officers. It was also discussed as to whether we should contribute funds to help send our President to the National Convention to represent our group. We will continue this discussion at future meetings and hold a vote by the attending membership.

We discussed at length the concerns of our membership regarding the value of LIOC. We are seeking input from our members as to the benefits they expect or want from LIOC. We will be gathering info during the next meeting on what you expect from LIOC to present to the Board.

We discussed contributing to the Predator Project, an organization protecting predators, particularly bear, wolf and cougar. We will vote on this at an upcoming meeting.

Since Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife discontinued the re-vamping cougar caging requirements, we will continue to offer our opinions and suggestions to them.

An invitation was issued to all PNWE breeders to include a membership to our club with each animal they sell. This is an excellent way for the breeder to stay in touch with their customers and to permit the new owners to draw upon our knowledge as a group when they need answers or help. Membership forms will be available at the meeting from either Gayle or Steve.

A warning was issued to remind everyone of the dangers of ticks and Lyme disease. A member's dog was recently bitten by a tick and got Lyme's disease. Also remember to keep your animal's vaccinations up to date.

Created by Steve Belknap

March/April Meeting Report

Our meeting was held in the lovely home of Jackie Sinnott in Beaverton. It is always nice to go to Jackie's and visit with her wonderful cats.

We would like to first welcome Bob & Colette Griffiths from Washington and David & Ginger Beckens from Portland, who have joined our Branch. We would also like to welcome Kathy Schenk from Boring who came as a visitor.

Jan Merris was at the meeting with one of her serval kittens (Mama had 3) which was a perfect little lady. Launa McElwain was there with her Snow Macaque. The serval and macaque playing together provided us with quite a show.

We had a good sized group attending so we continued our discussion on LIOC and will be putting something together to be put on the Agenda at Convention.

We decided to contribute again to the Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition and also to the Predator Project.

We again have worked on new caging regulations to send to ODFW. Hopefully, these will meet with their approval.

Pacific Northwest Meeting Report - continued

We received word that Carol Stiles would not be able to attend the meeting as her caracal mom was birthing. Her serval is due in May as well. Baby time, love it! Steve Belknap reported his Bengal is due any day, and Jackie Vanderwall has a new litter of 1/4 jungle cat - 3/4 domestics and is expecting Bengals in about a month.

We were sorry that Jay & Rhea were unable to attend. We all wanted to hear about Jay's performance at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville last month. Guess we'll just have to wait. Next month's meeting will be held in their home. It will be nice to see their new caging and the 10 new dalmatian puppies.

Jackie Sinnot gave a talk about the trouble Bea Lydecker has had with animal control. Bea has about 14 dogs that she shows and works with. Animal Control says she can only have 5. To make a long story short, with the support of the Dog Breeders Assn., animal control backed down. It is nice to know that if you fight for your rights.....it can work.

Submitted by Gayle Schaecher

2 Florida Panthers Die After Release

Just six weeks after being released into the wild, two male Florida panthers started acting strangely, then grew weak and died, the State Game Commission said.

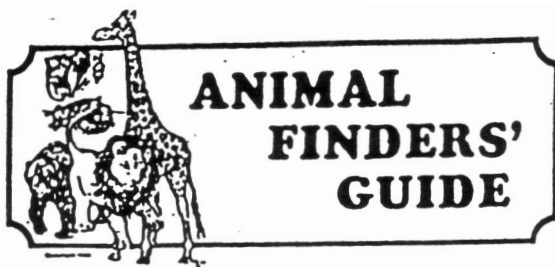
Scientists don't know what killed the cats and are awaiting results of lab tests, according to Henry Cabbage, a spokesman for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The subspecies is among the most critically endangered in North America. Fewer than 50 Florida panthers remain in the wild. Seven live in captivity.

From the *Jacksonville Times-Union*
Contributed by BeeJay Lester

The Classifieds

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Convention Trivia

In what year was the first Lotty presented and to whom?



Gene Brill, LIOC's first
Secretary (appointed by
Catherine Cisin) received the
first Lotty in 1966.

Call for Agenda

In order to put a topic up for discussion at our annual Membership Meeting at Convention in August it must be placed on the Agenda. Our by-laws state that in order for the Board to discuss (and vote) on an item they must be given two weeks notice.

To facilitate this, please send any items you wish to be discussed to our President, Barbara Wilton, no later than June 25th.

This procedure allows your Board of Directors to give the matter some thought, do any needed research and discuss the matter among themselves beforehand.

Send to: Barbara Wilton
7800 S.E. Luther Rd
Portland, OR 97206

Judge Orders Protection for Arizona Jaguars

U.S. District Judge Roger Strand has ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service to place the jaguar on the Endangered Species List and to designate "critical habitat" for four Arizona species recently listed as endangered: cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, the Huachuca water umbel, the Sonora tiger salamander and the Southwest willow flycatcher.

In rulings released Monday and Tuesday, Strand gave the Service 120 days within which to take these actions.

Strand's order effectively undermined an effort by the Arizona Fish & Game Department to prevent the jaguar, the largest cat in the Western Hemisphere, from being listed as endangered.

Reprinted from *The Columbian*
Contributed by Ethel Hauser



Organic Alternatives: Keep Your Animals Safe in Your Gardens

Although aimed at gardening, the following is also applicable for use in or around cages where pests on plantings can also be a problem and pesticides would be dangerous. Ed.

For Slugs

Make a trap by cutting openings (a can opener works well) in the sides of a container with a snap-on lid such a cottage cheese or margarine tub. Make the holes toward the top (open end) of the container. Sink the container in the soil so the holes are just above the soil's surface. Pour in half an inch of beer or yeast mixture (2 tablespoons flour, 1/2 teaspoon brewer's yeast, 1 teaspoon of sugar in 2 cups of warm water). Place lid on the container. Dispose of your catch every few days, rinse well and refill the container. (This would be best used outside the cage as obviously chewed plastic could be hazardous.)

Copper barrier strips or edging available at home and garden centers can also be used to keep slugs away from plants.

For Powdery Mildew and Black Spot

Mix 3 tablespoons baking soda with 2 teaspoons insecticidal soap or ultrafine horticultural oil in 1 gallon of water. Spray directly on affected plants.

For Soft-bodied Insects (Aphids, Mites, Scale)

Mix 1 tablespoon Dr. Bronner's Castile Soap of Ivory Soap with 1 teaspoon vegetable oil in 1 gallon of water. Be sure to use pure soap as detergent will burn plants.

For White Fly, Aphids, Fungus Gnats and Leaf Hoppers

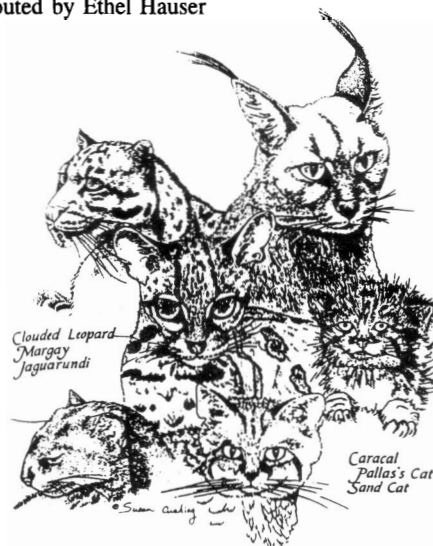
Use a trap made by painting a piece of cardboard with Rustoleum's Chrome Yellow paint. When dry, cover with a thin coat of

Tanglefoot sticky barrier (available at nurseries and garden centers) or Vaseline or oil. Hang (outside cage) around plants. Insects will be attracted and then stick to the trap.

For Ants

Try 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons borax and 2 tablespoons brewer's yeast sprinkled on ants.

Contributed by Ethel Hauser



"The really great thing about cats is their endless variety. One Can pick a cat to fit almost any decor, color scheme, income, personality, mood. But under the fur, whatever the color it may be, there still lies essentially unchanged, one of the world's free souls."

*Eric Gurney
American Cartoonist & Writer*

Cross-breeding Wild and Domestic Cats

In recent years, cat breeders, especially in North America, have experimented in cross-breeding domestic cats with wild species in order to obtain the "wild look".

Leopard cats, *Prionailurus bengalensis*, have been used to produce so-called "Bengals", and bobcats, *Lynx rufus*, to produce "pixie-bobs". In a recent article in TICA TREND, the magazine of "The International Cat Association", a writer said that other cats with an acknowledged wild heritage were awaiting acceptance and development: the "Chausie", derived from the jungle cat, *Felis Chaus*; the "Safari", from Geoffroy's cat, *Oncifelis Geoffroyi*; and the "Savanna cat" from the serval, *Leptailurus serval*. The writer, Anthony Hutcherson, said it was hoped that these hybrids would relieve pressure on the world's wild cats, adding; "Perhaps people will be more concerned over the plight of some of the wild cats if their loving companion is one with a wild heritage."

in response to a request for the view of the Cat Specialist Group, the issue was referred to Dr. Jill Mellen, Conservation Research Coordinator of the Metro Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Oregon. Although prepared as her own opinion, the views she expresses in the following letter to the Northwest Director of the International Cat Association are likely to be supported by other IUCN Cat Group Members:

Thank you for sending me the information on the increasing variety of domestic x wildcat crosses that seem to be gaining popularity among cat fanciers. I was unaware of the substantial increase in the number of felid species involved in these hybridization attempts and their increasing popularity. You asked for my opinion on this issue. Frankly, I'm appalled by this trend.

"As co-chair of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Felid Taxon Advisory Group, it is my job to facilitate the conservation of wild felids through education and through captive propagation of endangered cats. I think most people are aware of some of

the causes for the dramatic decline of wild populations of felids; hunting and loss of habitat. Other reasons for their decline include collection for the pet trade and hybridization with domestic cats.

The primary reason for endangerment of the European Wildcat and the Scottish wildcat is hybridization with domestic cats, i.e., with each of these subspecies, their wild genes are being diluted when they hybridize with free-ranging domestics. These hybrids further compete with the true subspecies representatives, accelerating the spiral to extinction. This is especially relevant to one article you sent me on pixie-bobs. The "breed" is depicted as a "natural hybridization" which is an incorrect label. Domestic cats were *introduced* into North America by humans and so are not a naturally occurring species. Thus, the occasional bobcat x domestic cross is in no way natural, but instead a very real cause of population decline in some species.

I read in a number of articles that the goal of the crosses is to produce a cat that is wild in appearance but domestic in temperament. While I think most cat lovers admire the look of wild felids, I'm very concerned about this selfish need to "own this look". My concern is both the well-being of the individual wild felids that are used for hybridization as well as the impact on the populations of wild cats.

With regard to the well-being of individuals, it appears that there is a perceived need to breed these hybrids back to the wild cat because of sterile F1 males or to somehow "rejuvenate" the wild look. I question whether these individual wild cats are housed adequately. The American Zoo and Aquarium Association provides standards for small cats that dictate a substantial amount of room in which to maintain wild cats, as well as expensive and complex dietary requirements. Do you have a sense for whether these requirements are being met for the leopard cats, servals, bobcats and geoffroy's cats, etc. that are being used? These guidelines

Cross-breeding....continued

have been shared with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Also, I would hope that these wild cats were legally obtained (as opposed to illegally obtained, wild-caught animals) and that the owners have the appropriate permits to hold these wild cats.

With regards to populations of wild cats in captivity, my greatest concern about these hybridizations is the apparent total disregard for what a species is all about. Each of these species of cat evolved over thousands of years, each to its own niche in nature. I think it is so presumptuous of humans to want to "mix & match" the genes of these beautiful creatures in an attempt to acquire 'a domestic temperament with the appearance of the wild leopard' and by doing so diluting the wild genes that it took nature thousands of years to create.

Captive breeding programs in zoos involve the creation of breeding strategies designed to maintain self-sustaining populations of endangered species. Every pairing is designed to minimize the average inbreeding coefficient of the population and to equalize the genetic representation of each animal. These captive populations serve as a kind of biological (rather than biblical) Noah's ark. The potential exists in some cases to reintroduce these animals back into the wild. Since we don't know which genes are necessary for survival in the wild, it is important to minimize the loss of genetic diversity in our captive breeding programs. Again, in my opinion, the hybridization of wild cat specie to domestic cats serves only to dilute an already small gene pool or captive wild cats. It does nothing to enhance the conservation of endangered cats, but instead supports the further loss of genetic material.

For my Ph.D. dissertation, I spent hundred of hours studying the behavior of 20 species of small cats in captivity, including domestic cats. One of the most surprising findings was the striking similarity between the wild cat species and the domestic cat in terms of scent marking, solitary and social behaviors. I found that one of my best guides to the insight into wild cats was my own domestic tabby at

home. I find it interesting that cat fanciers seem so taken with exotic cats when, in fact, the domestic cat already shares so many of the same traits as its wild counterparts. Absent in the domestics though are the undesirable "shyness", aggressiveness, and pervasive scent marking. I urge the International Cat Association to reconsider its support of wild x domestic cat "breeds".

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News



Black Hole of the Zoo World

If you never thought there was a fast track in the zoo world, think again. Disney has created it. To staff its 500-acre, \$760 million Animal Kingdom, due to open in Orlando, Fla. in the spring of '98, the company is drawing the best and brightest young professionals from the country's top zoos.

"Disney's the black hole of the zoo world," grumbles an exec at Washington's National Zoo, which has already lost three staffers to Disney. "Everybody's being sucked into it." The lure: top dollar, plus the promise of a world-class zoological collection, with theme rides among the animals roaming through re-creation of an African savanna and an Asian jungle. "It opens career chances for lots of people," says zoo expert Michael Hutchins. "It will influence the entire zoo world."

Reprinted from *Newsweek*

Congress Looks at Two Amendments to the Animal Welfare Act

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering two amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that will affect those who sell animals. HR 594 would eliminate Class B Dealers (the U.S.D.A. permit required of those selling exotics), and HR 635 would expand the definition of *dealer* to include all who sell animals for research, teaching, exhibition or pets.

Both bills further the agendas of the animal rights activists to control breeding and animal-based research and could have far reaching consequences.

HR 635 would could seriously affect hobby breeders of domestic cats and dogs, for it includes as dealers anyone who sells or offers for sale any animal, alive or dead, for research, experimentation, teaching, hunting, security, breeding or as a pet. It includes pounds and shelters, auction sites, flea markets and any other venue where the selling of animals takes place including pet stores.

The bill does give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to exempt those who conduct a small amount of business, but the exemption is not part of the law. The U.S.D.A. currently exempts from it's regulations private humane shelters and small scale breeders of which is defined as having gross sales under \$500 per year. Current regulations also spare cat or dog breeders who keep fewer than four intact females and sell only the offspring of those animals directly to the public but not to pet stores or dealers or to research facilities. It is anticipated that if passed, these would still be exempt from the new definition of dealer.

The bill further prohibits licenses if the applicant has committed a violation of the AWA, and Marine Mammal Act, the Endangered Species Act or any other federal law regarding the treatment or recordkeeping of animals. A

dealer who has committed a violation and had his license suspended until the violation was corrected, cannot get that license renewed if this bill becomes law.

Both bills were introduced in early February and have been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

By Norma Bennett Woolf

Condensed from the *National Animal Interest Alliance Newsletter*;



Small Exotics Covered by USDA

In another move, the USDA, under the Animal Welfare Act, has ruled that pet stores that sell prairie dogs, sugar gliders, squirrels and other exotic pocket pets, must apply for a Class B license under the current regulations. It is assumed that these would be licensed as dealers if the bill is passed to eliminate that classification. Pet stores dealing in these animals must submit to an inspection before the license is granted. Once a license is granted, follow-up inspections will take place on complaint or at least every three years.

1997 LIOC Cat Census

SMALL CATS		BIG CATS		HYBRID CATS	
2	Black Footed Cat	1	Cheetah	58	Bengal (Leopard Cat/Domestic)
130	Bobcat	183	Cougar	16	Savannah (Serval/Domestic)
73	Caracal	11	Jaguar	3	Bobcat/Lynx
40	Chaus (Jungle Cat)	28	Leopard	4	Bobcat Pixi
15	Fishing Cat	7	Asiatic Leopard	4	Chaus/Domestic (Jungle/Dom.)
66	Geoffroy	1	African Leopard	3	Caracal/Lynx
2	Gordon Cat	10	Amurian Leopard	5	Safari (Geoffroy/Domestic)
21	Indian Desert Cat	22	Snow Leopard	7	Lion/Tiger
11	Leopard Cat	3	Chinese Leopard	The 1997 LIOC cat census totals 1229 CATS! These totals include cats that have been reported by their owners on membership renewal forms, and do not include cats whose owners have not filled out the "how many cats do you have?" form. Thank you for your participation! We could be especially accurate if you would include your cats sub-species on your renewal form, i.e., Bengal Tiger or Siberian Tiger, rather than listing "Tiger" and Canadian Lynx or Siberian Lynx, etc., rather than listing "Lynx." Submitted by: Kelly Jean Buckley	
4	Clouded Leopard	73	Lion		
48	Canadian Lynx	41	Tiger		
7	Eurasian Lynx	14	Bengal Tiger		
2	Irkutsk Lynx	53	Siberian Tiger		
40	Siberian Lynx				
14	Margay				
31	Ocelot				
5	Oncilla				
5	Rusty Spotted Cat				
163	Serval				
2	Pallas Cat				
1	Temmincki Golden				

If your passin' thru Dodge City, Kansas ask anyone in town where the "Cat Man" lives and you'll be able to visit Charlie the cougar and Precious the Bengal Tiger who lives with LIOC member Rick Armstrong.

