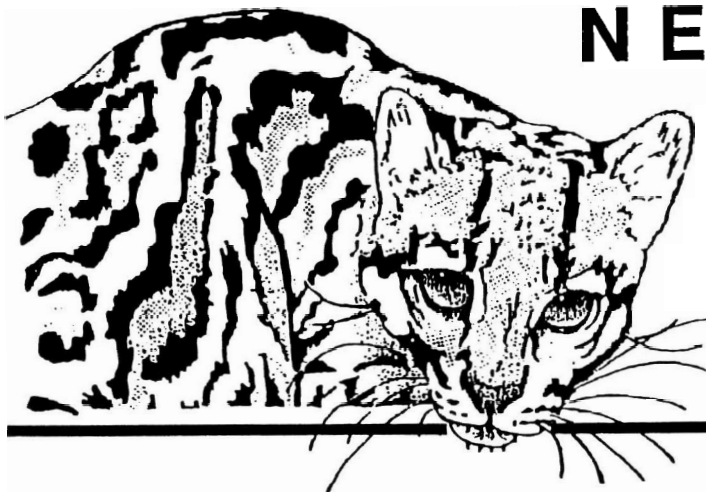


# NEWSLETTER

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*"Ain't nothin' like a box!"* Texas member & Term Director Jean Hamil's bobcat "Bob" enjoying all the comforts of home.



# 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.

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**LIOC needs YOU!**

## LIOC Spotlight on:

### *Beatrice Lydecker*

Are we happy here at Pacific Northwest Exotics? You bet we are! Beatrice Lydecker, animal psychic, renowned author and lecturer on pet psychology and nutrition, attends many of our meetings and gives her time graciously to help us better understand what our animals are thinking and feeling, and if they have any complaints.

Over the years, through numerous television and radio interviews, many Americans, Canadians and Europeans have become enlightened about the ESP of animals, thanks to Bea. She has been a guest many times on the Letterman Show, Joan Rivers, Johnny Carson, to name a few, and has been seen in various videos working with many veterinarians across the country. Dr. Marvin Caine, who headed the Cincinnati Zoo for many years, is now a guest speaker around the world who has worked with Bea for many years.

In 1986, Bea and her associate Lydia Hiby came to Portland to do a seminar. She parked her motorhome at Jackie Sinnott's house, stayed for six weeks and made a decision to live in the great Northwest. Then Bea and Lydia took their yearly trip around the U.S., doing seminars and private consultations, came back and Bea acquired a home and 20 acres. Lydia went back to Los Angeles to carry on their work there and Bea moved bag and baggage near the Estacade area. Bea likes the relaxed way of life she has found here, and the mellow climate.

Shortly thereafter, Bea was contacted by Victor Ives, a local radio station owner, and asked to do a daily radio show about animals. Bea did this for weeks and weeks, even with her busy schedule. Callers would ask her to help find lost pets (Bea would mentally contact the animal and get a location where the pet was at.) Many of these calls resulted in Bea sending the owners to a location where their pets were confined behind fences by a man who paid people to steal

pets out of yards. They were then sold to a laboratory for research. Ultimately, and with much help from Bea, this man was caught and convicted.

Soon after arrival in the Beaverton area, Bea was contacted by a Doctor from Lake Oswego and they worked together on natural nutrition for better health. Bea provided the formulas and the doctor produced the products for both people and animals.

Besides Bea's work with animals, she has published two books and is working on a third. She also owns a natural herb, mineral and vitamin company and has helped many people return to good health.

When Bea lived with Jackie she became very friendly with Jackie's cats and developed a fondness for their intelligence and their beauty. Now that Bea is able to attend many of our meetings, she has a kitten from Jackie Vanderwall that gives her lots of pleasure.

Lucky us! You bet!



## Poachers Strike India's Rare Lions

At least 14 Asiatic lions, *Panthera leo persica*, were poached in 1996, and perhaps as many as 20, according to reports from India.

Meanwhile, seizures of tiger skins during 1996 rose to 18 by August and five tigers have been found dead, two of them poisoned and one killed with an axe. Claws of both lions and tigers were recovered.

The figure of 14 poached lions came from the wildlife authorities in Gujarat State where the last 300 Asiatic lions survive in and around the Gir forest. Scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India said they thought up to 20 had been poached.

Lion poaching is a new phenomenon, and lion bones could be used as substitutes for tiger bones in traditional Chinese medicine as they are undistinguishable. However, the lions appear to have been killed primarily for their claws, as carcasses were found with the paws cut off. Claws are made into good-luck pendants. Villagers found wearing them said they paid 500 Rupees (about \$15) for the. A number of arrests have been made.

According to a census in 1995, there were 304 Asiatic lions in and around the Gir sanctuary, but a statistical analysis of the data put the figure at about 250. The lions are the last survivors of a subspecies which once ranged from Macedonia to Northern and central India. By the end of the 19th century fewer than 100 remained, all in the Gir, as a result of gross over-hunting by British colonialists and Indian aristocracy.

Reprinted from IUCN *Cat News*



## Fighting Fleas

Fleas are one of the scourges of summer - and they're no fun the rest of the year either. But conventional treatments can be toxic and may not be worth it to your cat's health, (yours either). What to do? Try these nontoxic treatments from *Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats*.

Of course a healthy lifestyle is the best defense, but the following may also help:

- Use plenty of nutritional (brewer's yeast) and garlic in the daily ration. Use anywhere from one teaspoon to several tablespoons of yeast (depending on animal's size) to each meal.
- Mix fresh garlic (1/4 to a full clove) grated or chopped into each feeding.
- Rinse skin daily with a lemon rinse.
- Indoors don't forget to treat carpets with a borax powder that reduces infestation.
- Clean or change bedding weekly until infestation is under control.

Don't forget fleas carry tapeworms and roundworms, so if you have fleas have your cat checked for these pests as well.



## LIOC Trivia

Which current LIOC officer has held office the longest?

*Shirley Wagner. First elected as a Term Director at the Board's inception in 1974, she was re-elected (every two years) and served continuously through 1987. At that time she was elected to serve as a Life Director, a position in which she serves today. Prior to being elected in 1974, Shirley served as LIOC's Membership Secretary under Catherine Cisin.*

## A Lesson to be Learned from a Tragic Loss

This past March in Center Hill, Florida, at Robert Baudy's Rare Feline Breeding Center (also known as Savage Kingdom), an incident occurred that should be a lesson to all those in wildlife management, keepers in zoos and LIOC members who have exotic felines.

The lesson is: *check and double check all doors, escape routes, etc. prior to feeding, cleaning, transferring, etc.*

Sadly, a 4-year-old male Siberian tiger that had white genes was killed on Baudy's 40 acre farm by wildlife officers after the cat escaped from its enclosure. The escape occurred when a keeper apparently failed to close doors to the feeding station. The big feline injured the keeper's leg as he ran from the cat.

This was a captive-born, hand-raised cat. The keeper who raised the cat, Ben Heiple, was not on the grounds at the time. In a recent discussion with Ben, he told me he had never had a problem with Nichava and that if he had been there at the time he could have coaxed the tiger back into his enclosure.

According to a worker who was on the grounds at the time and heard the keeper yelling, the cat wanted and tried to get back into his cage (that's where his dinner was) but the law enforcement officers and rescue people interfered with his passage back. Nichava became disoriented and after being darted became spooked and ran.

Since the early 1970's to the present, I have worked for and been associated with Robert Baudy as a full-time, part-time and volunteer, having lived on the compound several different times. Anytime an incident occurred it was always the keeper's fault. Baudy always instructs his help in correct methods, safety measures, and emphasizing to be totally sober, alert, to concentrate on the task at hand, not to talk or yell, to check and double check. He drilled this into all of us many times. In all my years with all his cats, large and small, I never had an escape or caused one of his cats to be injured.

Continued next page



*"Here's a photo of my boy about 33 days before his death. After not working at Savage Kingdom for over a year, we still find time to share a special reunion. He was a very gentle soul, however, lest we not forget, he was born a tiger and destined never to forget that. God bless his not forgotten soul. Let's thank Robert Baudy for his existence and not blame or point fingers or linger but in fond memory over his passing."*

*Ben Heiple*

### A Lesson to be Learned - continued

It saddens me deeply to think that this magnificent beast had to die because of human carelessness. The facilities at Baudy's are superb, extremely well built and secure, exceeding state requirements. The cats are in top shape, have gorgeous coats and seeing them nose to nose recently, they took my breath away with their regal beauty.

What a waste of a life this was to Robert. If he had been on the compound at the time, Nichava would still be alive, and the keeper would be uninjured. Baudy, a long-time animal trainer, prior to starting his breeding compound forty years ago, can take his whip, and long poles, walk into any big cat's arena and walk the cat back into his holding area. I have watched him do this many times during the performances. When his compound was open to the public, we put on tiger, lion and leopard performances three days a week. We never had an escape!

Unfortunately, Nichava's bloodline will not be carried on. Tempest, an orange female housed with Nichava gave birth to two normal

cubs. She had gone into an enclosure within her compound that was encircling some vegetation. The entrance door to this small area shut behind her and she couldn't get out to where her food and water were. Robert went in that evening and propped open the door. He then shut her off from the babies only to discover one had died. He immediately took the live one to the vet but alas, it also died. Tempest had evidently been traumatized by the activity in March and her babies were born prematurely. So now, Nichava's spirit remains only in the hearts and minds of Baudy, Ben and the others at the Rare Feline Breeding Center who knew and loved him.

Our sincere regrets to Robert Emil Baudy, long-time friend of LIOC and the best friend exotics cats ever had. If it weren't for him, many of us would never have had the privilege to share our lives with these magnificent creatures. I am honored to be allowed to know this man and visit with his felines.

BeeJay Lester

### MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



# AZA Regional Collection Plans How they Work

By Alan H. Shoemaker, Curator of Mammals  
Riverbanks Zoological Park & Gardens

## Introduction

As conservation programs within the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA - formerly AAZPA) mature, the need for the AZA to make recommendations to its members about their collection planning has increased. Following early work by the Crocodile Advisory Group in developing a collection plan that would increase emphasis on some species while advising against keeping others, one Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) after another has risen to the challenge, examining the conservation needs of their impacted species as well as polling AZA institutions to better define the interest level and number of "spaces" available for the various taxons. Although all faunal groups, mammals, birds and poikiotherms, are involved in this analytical process, several mammal TAGs got an early start on this planning process because of the heightened degree of regulation placed on them by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Commerce as well as by various state and local regulatory agencies. This situation arose because mammals, unlike any other groups of animals, are rarely brought into captivity from nature, and even their importation from captive-born sources in other regions of the world is both expensive and time-consuming.

The basic plan TAGs are charge with developing is known as the Regional Collection Plan (RCP). By following these plans, zoos will hopefully get the most "bang for their buck", emphasizing species within their collections whose populations in the wild are in peril and would thus benefit from nationally coordinated management plans while simultaneously meeting institutional exhibit and financial needs. In the process, many TAGs have been forced to move from an idealistic approach to a more realistic

one that all levels of zoo staff can support. Although planning needs vary among mammalian Orders, most TAGs which have gone through the planning process have examined their species' conservation and legal status, specimen availability, exhibit and educational value, husbandry needs, founder size of the present population, and the likelihood that additional animals can be obtained from other regions or the wild. It makes little sense for TAGs to recommend species that few zoos are interested in, are able to keep alive, can financially afford, have very small founder which are unlikely to ever be augmented from other sources, or for which we cannot maintain a self-sustaining population.

While all this sounds very logical and objective, the actual development of RCPs has been anything but simple. Rather, RCPs will be living documents for the years to come, with later developing RCPs benefiting from the experiences of earlier ones. To help both other TAGs and AZA members better understand the planning process and its implications, experience from other TAGs are offered for both their historical and educational value.

## Felid TAG

The Felid TAG approach regional planning with the best of intentions because the family Felidae is extremely popular and has proportionately more endangered or otherwise regulated species than any other mammalian family commonly held in zoos (Wildt et al, 1992) This TAG already has a number of Specie Survival Plans (SSP) in place including one for tigers (*Panthera tigris*), lion (*P. leo*), jaguar (*P. onca*), snow leopard (*P. uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), and cheetah (*Acinonyx*

### Regional Collection Plan - continued

*jubatus*). Additionally, studbooks are available for six other species not presently managed by a SSP.

Regardless, it becomes readily apparent during the initial planning process that nine species of felids, African golden cat (*Felis auratus*), bay cat (*F. badia*), kodkod (*F. guigna*), Andean mountain cat (*F. jacobita*), Spanish lynx (*Lynx pardina*), Iriomote cat, (*F. iriomotensis*), flat-headed cat (*F. planiceps*), Chinese desert cat (*F. bieti*), and marbled cat (*F. marmorata*), were not suitable for captive maintenance because they were not present in zoos and in most cases, were never likely to become available. An additional eight species, margay (*F. wiedii*), jaguarundi (*F. yagouaroundi*), leopard cat (*F. bengalensis*), jungle cat (*F. chaus*), Geoffroy's cat (*F. geoffroyi*), wild cats (*F. sylvestrus*), Asian golden cats (*F. temminckii*), and pampas cat (*F. colocolo*), are present in such low numbers that barring large scale importations, would never be suitable for any kind of long-term program. Of these seventeen species, over half are regulated by Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife, Fauna, and Flora (CITES) and/or the Endangered Species Act, further complicating any zoo's individual decision to proceed with importation plans unsupported by the TAG just because they are favorites of the staff.

The Felid TAG's biggest problem arose when it tried to select species for greater emphasis. Using a "Noah's Ark" approach, rusty-spotted cat (*F. rubiginosa*), black-footed cat (*F. nigripes*), tigrina (*F. tigrina*), fishing cat (*F. viverrina*), Brazilian ocelot (*F. pardalis mitis*), Turkmenian caracal (*Lynx caracal michaeli*), sand cat (*F. margarita*), and Pallas cat (*F. manul*), were recommended as the candidates best able to meet both conservation and exhibit needs of small felids. Unfortunately, the reality of specimen availability set in when zoos contacted the TAG for assistance in acquiring specimens from this list. It turned out that four of these eight species were not

realistically going to be available in the foreseeable future, and that specimens of at least three of the other four species were best obtained from other regions if the management efforts were to be meaningful. This realization was quite a blow to the TAG. Many zoos are financially or otherwise unable to import animals, even from locations in Europe, and at least for the short term, many small cats maintained by zoos of North America will have to represent species not recommended for long-term efforts. While TAGs must be responsible for the needs of the taxon, this lesson proved that its member constituents also have needs that are equally important. The most recent revision of the Felid TAGs RCP is an attempt to address these concerns and to be more "reality based".

Condensed from Animal Keepers' Forum  
Contributed by Wayne Layton



## FWS Gives Grant To Friends of Animals

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has given two conservation grants to Friends of Animals, a radical animal rights group, and the American Animal Welfare Foundation has complained. The latest grant was nearly \$40,000.

"While preservation of threatened or endangered species is a laudable goal, there is no justification for granting taxpayer funds to one of the nation's most outspoken extreme animal rights organizations," said AAWF President, Harold DeHart. In the letter to FWS, DeHart said that FoA "conducts ongoing campaigns against family farming, wildlife management, and hunting" and that its activities include hunt sabotage and endorsement of the actions of the Animal Liberation Front.



## The Amazing Liver

Continually performing myriad functions, the liver is the powerhouse of the body. From its central location below the diaphragm and above the intestines, the liver orchestrates the complex chemical interactions that are an essential part of the cat's daily life.

The liver is the largest organ in a cat's body (just as the human liver is the largest organ in the human body). Since the feline liver works in the same way as other mammalian livers, much of what you are about to read applies to both you and your cat!

While some might argue that other organs (such as the heart) are also incredible, the liver never ceases to amaze-if for no other reason than its mastery of so *many* functions. One key function is facilitating the digestion of food (see box "One of Many job Descriptions" on next page.) More specifically, the liver manufactures *bile* (essential for the absorption of fats); stores and releases energy when needed; synthesizes certain fats and a major portion of the body's proteins; stores iron and certain vitamins; creates blood-clotting agents and certain hormones; reprocesses red blood cells (by creating *bilirubin*, a breakdown product of red blood cells); detoxifies toxic substances (such as drugs); and breaks down the toxic waste products of digestion so the cat's body may readily excrete them. The list goes on and on.

### Almost Perfect

After extolling its virtues, we must point out, however, that the feline liver *does* have its downside. For instance, the cat's liver has low levels of the enzyme *glucuronyl transferase*. Consequently, a cat cannot metabolize and rid itself of certain drugs as efficiently as other mammalian species. So owners should not medicate their cats with any aspirin-based products or products containing *acetaminophen* (such as Tylenol, Aspirin Free Anacin or Aspirin Free Excedrin). When well-meaning

owners give these human medications to their cats, the resulting buildup of toxins can have dire consequences. "It can kill cats," warns Dr. Mary Labato, staff veterinarian at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. (Occasionally, though, for certain conditions, a veterinarian may prescribe small doses of aspirin on a carefully monitored basis.)

Another problem can arise because the cat's liver is unable to manufacture the amino acid *arginine* (The cat's diet must supply it.) The body uses arginine to detoxify ammonia (a toxic byproduct of protein synthesis) and form *urea*, part of the sequence of biological events that ultimately leads to ridding the body of waste products in the form of urine. If for some reason (such as a nutritionally inadequate diet or anorexia) a cat develops an arginine deficiency, the level of toxic ammonia in the blood will become too high and could cause neurological abnormalities in the brain (*hepatic encephalopathy*).

### Diseases of the Liver

Because the liver is responsible for so many functions, it is vulnerable to an array of infections and injuries that can affect the performance of these functions. However, on the whole, the liver is remarkably resilient. Indeed, other than liver disease brought about secondary to other conditions (feline infectious peritonitis [FIP], toxoplasmosis, and lymphosarcoma), there are only three major feline liver diseases. These are hepatic lipidosis, cholangiohepatitis, and hepatic portosystemic shunts.

### Hepatic Lipidosis

Hepatic lipidosis (also known as "fatty liver disease") is a relatively common feline disease. As its name implies, fatty liver disease can develop when too much fat accumulates within the individual cells of the liver. Left untreated, hepatic lipidosis is a life-threatening

The Amazing Liver - continued

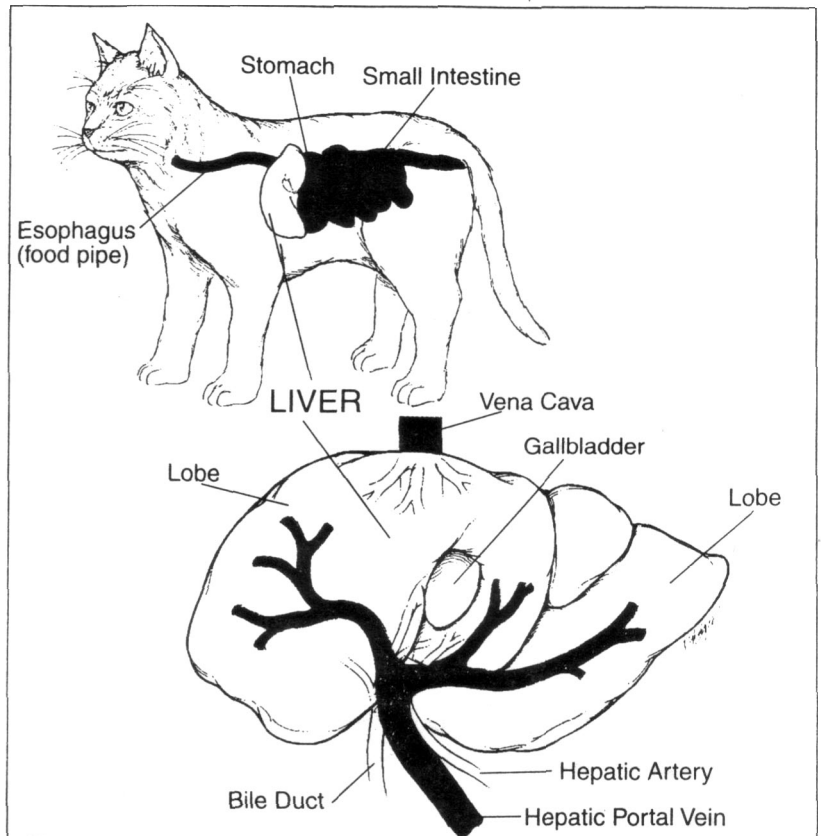
One of Many Job Descriptions

The Greek physician and writer Galen (A. D. 130?-200?) had great respect for the liver. Galen believed that in the liver "Natural Spirits" mixed with blood and food from the digestive tract to form a concoction that journeyed through the large veins of the body, feeding hungry tissues as it went. If you exclude Galen's theory of "Natural Spirits," the early physician had, in essence, put his finger on one of the major functions of the liver—its role in the digestion of food.

The liver consists of a number of sections or lobes, which, in turn, are composed of thousands of much smaller units (lobules). Deoxygenated blood, carrying nutrients absorbed from the digestive tract, arrives at the liver via the hepatic portal vein. (The hepatic artery conveys oxygenated blood.)

The role of the liver in digestion is very complex. To give you a flavor, here are several of the liver's digestive accomplishments:

- ① Bile—a yellow-green chemical "cocktail" composed of many substances, including water, electrolytes, bilirubin (a major component), hormones, cholesterol, salts of bile acids, and so on—is constantly produced in the liver.
- ② From the liver, bile travels via ducts to the gallbladder. There it is concentrated (by losing water) and released into the duodenum (the



- beginning of the small intestine) on an "as needed" basis.
- ③ When food (now in a liquid form after passing through the stomach) travels through the small intestine, bile aids the absorption of nutrients into the blood. The absorbed nutrients enter the liver via the hepatic portal vein, where they are processed to create the essential resources of the body.
- ④ Only a small percentage of bilirubin is absorbed with the nutrients and returns to the liver. The remaining bilirubin continues through the intestines and is either excreted in the stool (giving the stool its distinctive color) or circulates around the body in the bloodstream. Eventually, bilirubin reaches the kidneys and a very small amount is excreted in the urine.

condition. If treated, the prognosis is reasonable hopeful.

Although veterinarians can pinpoint causes (obesity and diabetes mellitus) of certain types of hepatic lipidosis, there is a frustrating (and not uncommon) form of the disease that has

no known cause - *idiopathic hepatic lipidosis*. When the cause is unknown, veterinarians can prescribe effective treatment but cannot be confident that the disease is under control. Fortunately, in most cases, the condition does not recur following treatment.

### **The Amazing Liver - Continued**

But idiopathic hepatic lipidosis is not completely baffling. The condition seems to occur in cats that were obese but have recently stopped eating and have dramatically begun to lose weight. Furthermore, although it can appear in younger cats of either gender, it is more common in middle-aged and older male cats. Regardless of the patient, the treatment is standard: get the cat to eat normally as soon as possible. However, as owners who have treated a sick cat know, when a cat goes off its munchies, getting it to eat is easier said than done. Because time is of the essence in treating this condition, a veterinarian "jump starts" the process by mechanically feeding the cat-usually through a tube inserted and fixed in place in the cat's stomach via an incision in the cat's belly (a gastrostomy tube). (There are also other ways to insert a tube into a cat's stomach - such as via the nose.)

The cat's owner plays a major role in treatment. Once the veterinarian stabilizes the cat's condition and inserts a feeding tube, the animal can go home. At home, you will need to feed your cat via the feeding tube for at least 6 weeks - possibly several months. Most owners quickly become adept at feeding their cat the several highly nutritious meals it needs each day. And certainly a feeding tube causes the cat no significant discomfort.

Although we do not know what causes idiopathic hepatic lipidosis, early action can make a difference. If your cat stops eating for several days, don't wait - take it to your veterinarian. For cats, abstaining from food for even a few days is potentially hazardous. And, if your cat is obese - more than 15 percent over its optimum weight - *never* put it on a crash diet. Instead, work out a weight-reduction program with your veterinarian. This may involve changing your cat's diet. (If in doubt as to whether your cat is obese, check if you can feel your cat's ribs).

### **Cholangiohepatitis**

Another treatment challenge for

veterinarians is cholangiohepatitis. No one knows for sure whether it is a collection of similar diseases or manifestations of the same disease at various stages. And as with idiopathic hepatic lipidosis, no one knows precisely what causes it. We do know, however, cholangiohepatitis is an inflammation that affects the *biliary system* (the bile, bile ducts and gallbladder). (See illustration on previous page). Because no one knows the cause, treatment usually consists of supportive care with a course of antibiotics and steroid treatment. Sadly, the prognosis for a cat with cholangiohepatitis is not good. The disease often results in liver failure.

### **Hepatic Portosystemic Shunts**

A hepatic portosystemic shunt is more commonly a congenital problem (one a cat is born with) than an acquired one. There are several shunts internal and external to the liver that transport blood to the liver.

Before a kitten is born, open shunts direct the blood to bypass the fetal liver because the mother's liver takes care of the fetus's needs. When the kitten is born, however, the shunts should close, thereby directing blood to the kitten's liver. If the shunts do not close, blood continues to bypass the liver. The liver is consequently "starved" of blood, and the kitten fails to develop as it should. Depending on which shunts are malfunctioning, surgery can sometimes correct the problem.

### **Problematic Parasites**

In addition to hepatic disease, two parasites can cause liver problems. One is *Toxoplasma gondii*, which can cause toxoplasmosis. Although most cats with toxoplasmosis are asymptomatic, the parasite can cause liver damage in a cat. But toxoplasmosis is primarily a concern because of its potential for transmission to at-risk humans, such as pregnant women (The parasite can cause harm to human fetuses). Anyone at risk should either have another household member change the litter box or, if this is not feasible, change the litter wearing protective gloves and thoroughly wash

### The Amazing Liver - continued

hand afterward.

For folks who live in southern regions, *liver flukes* - which cats may ingest when munching on lizards carrying liver fluke larvae - can be a concern. Evidence of the parasite showup in a cat's stool. Even if your cat appears healthy, have your cat's stool screened annually for parasites. If required, your veterinarian will prescribe an effective worming treatment that will take care of the problem.

### Diagnosing Liver Problems

Often a cat has liver disease for some time before it exhibits signs of a problem. And even when signs do appear, they are so general (not eating, anorexia, dehydration, vomiting, fever, seizures, and so on) they could be signs of any one of a number of diseases. So if your cat shows any of these signs, take it to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

A diagnosis of liver disease depends on laboratory tests. Blood tests can reveal many liver function abnormalities. But there is only one reliable way to get an accurate diagnosis-a liver biopsy. (Veterinarians obtain biopsies in several ways.)

Despite this litany of potential liver problems, most of the time all is well. Given how many jobs it performs, the lively liver is remarkably trouble free. What's amazing is what doesn't go wrong!

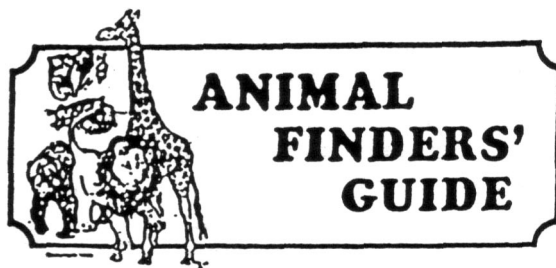
Reprinted from CATNIP, a publication of the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine

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## The Classifieds

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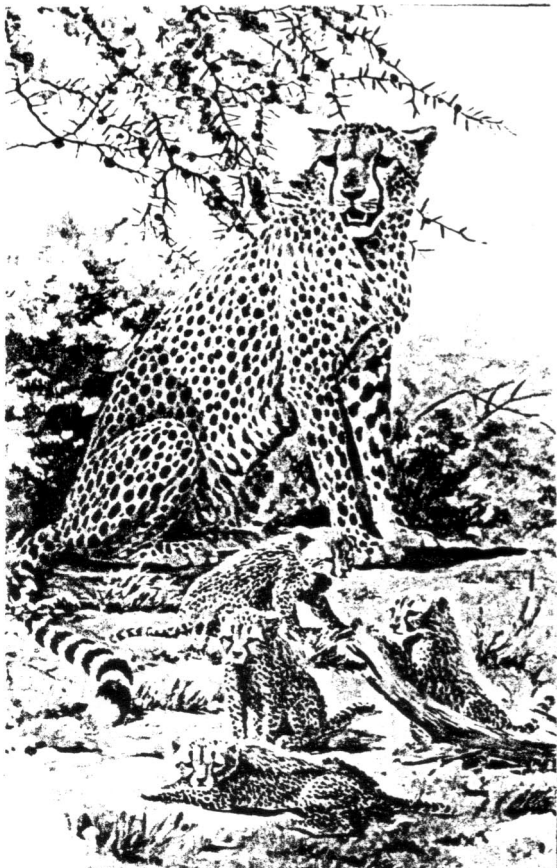
Articles and photos for the Newsletter are always needed  
.....Get the point?

## *Cheetah Family Ties*

Cheetahs may lead the solitary life preferred by most wild cats, but many opt for family living. Male siblings sometimes form alliances that last a lifetime and may eventually include nonrelated males. Most cheetah families, however, are single-mom affairs. After a 90-day gestation period, females give birth to litters of three to six cubs, which they raise on their own.

For the first three weeks of life, the cubs remain in dens hidden in tall vegetation. To keep her brood safe from such formidable predators as lions, leopards and hyenas, the new mother must move her cubs frequently. Still mortality is high, claiming 70 percent of cheetah cubs.

The responsibility of providing for herself and her young is a heavy burden. Wisely choosing to abandon kills rather than defend them against formidable rivals, cheetahs lose 10 percent of their hard-earned catches.



The mother calls her cubs to a fresh kill with a characteristic chirruping call. The young eat first, and when everyone's full, the family curls up together and purrs.

Play is an important part of family life, reinforcing social bonds and giving the youngsters the opportunity to develop the hunting and defensive skills they will need later in life. A mother often joins in the fun, or at least show amazing patience, as her youngsters paw, chew, lick and jump on her and each other.

At three months the cubs begin to follow their mother on the hunt. But the real lessons begin at age 6 months of age, when, during organized practice sessions, the mother presents still-live prey to the cubs to chase, pin and eventually kill. It is not until after 10 months of age, however that cheetahs become effective hunters. Until that time, the cubs are completely dependent on their mother for food.

Once they have learned all that mom can teach them, the family will stay together for two to five months longer, hunting cooperatively and enjoying the good times -such as a quiet moment basking together in the sun or a session of mutual grooming.

Reprinted from *Animals*

## **Antibacterial Disinfectants May do More Harm than Good**

Preliminary research has indicated that household antibacterial disinfectants may be a causative agent in creating resistant strains of bacteria.

Remember, one of the most effective (and safest) disinfectants, which acts as a viricide as well, is plain ole chlorine bleach (Clorox or an equivalent). Diluted in water, it can be used to disinfect bedding in the wash, cage floors, carriers, food dishes, and toys. Just be sure to rinse thoroughly after washing.

**Readers  
Write**



**Texas Ban Fails**

Dear Shirley,

I'm writing to update you on developments regarding the proposed legislative bans of "dangerous wild animals" in Texas. Because of the diligent efforts of my husband, and many other big cat lovers and owners in Texas, Senate Bill 1235 passed the senate, but *did not* get out of the House's County Affairs committee. We monitored the legislation daily on the internet and were in constant contact with the lawmakers fervently opposing these proposed bills. The senate bill that passed was modified somewhat, but was still unacceptable to those of us who have loved these animals and sacrificed for them, not to mention the money, time and effort that has been invested for several years. We have also paid permit fees to the State of Texas and done everything through the proper channels trying to abide by the laws. I do think that people who have exotic cats illegally and don't provide for them properly should have them taken away and be penalized, but to take everyone's rights away because of a few isolated

incidents perpetrated by irresponsible individuals is extreme. Needless to say our Representatives, Senators and Governor heard these and many other stories and the results were good.

Hopefully we can form a Texas association before the next legislative session so that we can be prepared for anything that might arise in the future. If we're lucky, there won't be any incidents in the next couple of years such as the bobcat that was roaming freely in the house in North Dallas and bit a child. What a shame that the bobcat lost its life over the inappropriate and ill-advised actions of the owner.

If there is any interest in forming an Association in Texas, please contact:

Gary Holliman - (214) 760-7664 or  
Choice Atkins (903) 989-2660

Thanks again to all the cat owners in Texas who responded to this legislative threat. Because of these people, our beloved cats can continue living peacefully with responsible owners.

Sincerely  
Carol Holliman



**We don't care how you get there....  
As long as you do!**



**August 7-10th  
Jacksonville, Florida**

Call 1-800-874-3000 for reservations



## *Guest Editorial*

### *So, you want to own an exotic cat?*

If you do, here are some of the questions you should ask yourself, and some facts you should ponder.

**Can you provide a lifetime of care for this animal?** Exotic cats may have a life expectancy of up to 20 years. These are definitely not animals that can be dropped off at the local humane society.

**Will you be able to find and provide good veterinary care?** This is something that must be arranged prior to acquiring a cat. Also, keep in mind that with a domestic animal medical costs are high, but with exotics, fees can skyrocket.

**How do you feel about getting bitten?** If somehow you think "your" exotic cat will be different than others, think again. These are wild cats and given the right circumstances they will bite. Example: if frightened, sick or injured.

**Can you spend the amount of time necessary for your cat to receive quality attention?** If you can't - why bother? It is a documented fact that these animals are less stressed and far healthier if there is plenty of daily interaction with their caregivers, whether owner or zookeeper. It makes life a lot more fun and pleasurable for both of you.

**Can you cope with the destructiveness of these creatures?** Granted, most localities require some sort of caging for these cats, but many of us also provide primary care for the smaller ones in our homes. They can and most likely will attempt to chew on furniture and eliminate on your carpet. Many of these behaviors can

be modified with a lot of attention. A "safe" place (enclosure) for the cat. When you are not around must be provided for the animal's safety and your piece of mind. Let's face it though, if you want the animal to share your life, "House Beautiful" magazine will definitely not be doing an article on you. You will have to weight the joys of sharing your home with these amazing felines or having an immaculate home.

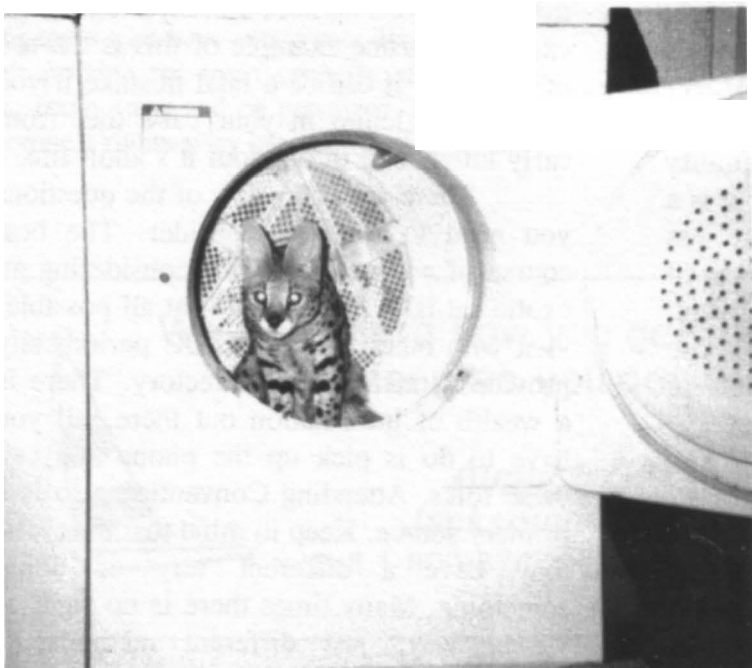
**How about educating yourself on the best possible nutrition and providing it?** Unfortunately, there is no one book you can buy. So, you will have to seek out other owners or if you are one of the real lucky ones, you might find a knowledgeable veterinarian who can assist you. Sadly, the majority of vets do not have experience with exotics. A prime example of this is the use of calcium - it can be a fatal mistake if you don't use calcium in your cat's diet from early kittenhood throughout it's adult life.

These are just a few of the questions you need to ask and consider. The best course of action for anyone considering an exotic cat is to talk to and if at all possible, visit with other owners. LIOC periodically provides a membership directory. There is a wealth of information out there, all you have to do is pick up the phone and call these folks. Attending Convention also is a primary source. Keep in mind that everyone may have a different way of doing something. Many times there is no right or wrong way, just different methods of approach.

Scarlett Bellingham



This handsome guy, is Rajah, (clouded leopard) who shares his home with Donna Amos.



This is Alex. Caregivers April & Jim Bailey of Indiana tell us Alex loves to steal clothes fresh from the dryer. "She loves for us to chase her to get our socks back."





## *Animal Happiness*

By Vicki Hearne  
Harper Collins \$20

Since the heyday of Greek academy, 200 years ago, philosophers have struggled to find characteristics that set men apart from other animals. Man has been, variously, the "rational animal," "the animal that makes promises," the "featherless biped" - a notion refuted decisively by the student who hurled a plucked chicken over the academy wall. It is one of Vicki Hearne's purposes to reduce the barriers between species, to proclaim that when Ludwig Wittgenstein said, "If a lion could talk, we wouldn't be able to understand him," he made a mistake of the fact because lion trainers listen to lion talk all the time.

Hearne's book *Animal Happiness*, is an eclectic collection of essays about all sorts of animals: lions, orangutans, leopards, cats, horses, frogs - even one sensitive scorpion who absolutely hates it that human beings loathe her. Many of the shorter pieces were published in the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* and are an agreeable way of easing into the more difficult essays at the end of the book, where Hearne confronts some of the grandest animal issues: animal rights, animal language, animal consciousness.

Hearne began her career as an animal trainer and poet. It is an achievement that she has become a fellow of Yale's Institute for Social and Policy Studies and extraordinary that

she remains a working animal trainer, one who views that work as a genuine distinction. For trainer Hearne, the test of our theories about animals is a pragmatic one. In her earlier book, *Adam's Task*, she mocked academic theoreticians: "one of the reasons I was the audience for so many lectures on the wrongness of the trainer's way of thinking was that the psychologists and philosophers had to bring their animals to me because they couldn't housebreak them or induce them to leave off chewing up the children." Elsewhere she remarks that philosopher Stanley Cavell's "work is hampered by the fact that he has cats but no dogs."

Hearne's thinking is in striking contrast to those animal theorists who reason backward from theories on human consciousness, sideways from religious notions of "soul-less" animals, or those animal-rights philosophers who argue, Spinoza-like, from "self-evident" first principles. In the first big animal-rights tract, *Animal Liberation*, Peter Singer asserts that he is concerned only with animal suffering, that otherwise he is not "especially interested" in animals; nor is he "inordinately fond of cats, dogs and horses, in the way so many people are."

It is safe to say that Vicki Hearne is "interested" in animals and may even be "inordinately fond" of them. She is, however no sentimentalist. I suspect the word "cute" does not exist in her vocabulary. She is not particularly interested in wild animals as "wild animals". About orangutan trainer Bobby Berosini she says, "An orang trainer, like a monk or nun, gives up the usual solaces of the world for the sake of his or her animals. A dog and a trainer or a horse and a trainer, do not have to meet each other halfway; they are already in the same social space. An orangutan and a trainer must travel some conceptual space to meet each other and work together. That this is possible, what implications it has for the possibilities of mutual respect - this begins to strike me as a matter of the utmost importance."

Continued on page 18



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

### Meeting Report - April 20, 1997

The meeting was well attended by local members and guests. As usual, Ethel brought an assortment of small cats to show, including Geoffroys, a Chaus kitten, and several hybrids. Bob & Suzette brought a very well-behaved serval girl named Savannah, and Jan Merris brought two really cute serval kittens still on the bottle. Marve & Sandy Hammersley have one of Jan's kittens from a previous litter, who lives in the house with a bobcat and domestics.

Because of the many questions and comments regarding the obvious absence of Boomerang (bobcat), Shirley gave a presentation on "What to expect from your cats as it grows up" His many "fans" were very disappointed that he had not made an appearance.

Bob & Suzette told about their experience buying a supposedly *hand-raised* serval kitten, sight unseen from what they thought was a reputable breeder. What they got was a beautiful but unhandlable cat that they have never been able to socialize.

Shirley told the group about her recent experience with a bite from a bobcat that had the symptoms of the "dumb form of rabies". Even tho' the cat received all possible medical treatment, she was making no improvement from the paralysis which was affecting her and at the end of the week, the decision was made to euthanize her and have her tested for rabies. The test was negative, so Shirley did not have to undergo the injections of vaccine. The cause of

the bobcat's paralysis remains a mystery.

Ethel distributed new medical handouts for members and guests to read at their convenience. Shirley had a display table with her *wildcat* t-shirts, rubber stamps, stationary and samples of engravings for sale; and an assortment of cat-related items were raffled off, so nobody left empty-handed.

We were happy to have several new members join and look forward to seeing them again soon.

Shirley Malar  
Secretary

*Newsflash* - Shirley & Darryl are the proud new godparents of 3 Siberian lynx kittens born April 30th. We think there are two boys and a girl. The last pair of kittens, now two years old, have turned out to be exceptional!

### Books - continued

Characteristically, Hearne begins her discussion of animal rights with an account of a particular animal, her Airedale terrier, Drummer, and what he does at a training session. Hearne does not doubt that rights relationships do occur between a trainer and her dog: "Obedience is reciprocal, and you cannot get responses from a dog to whom you do not respond accurately." She does not believe, however, that abstract organizations like humane societies or the state can grant any particular dog its rights because the dog cannot conceive of the rights in question. Hearne's account is the most sophisticated I've seen. It justifies the skilled animal trainer's discomfort when confronted by an animal-rights movement that seems philosophically contemptuous of animals.

Although *Animal Happiness* is philosophy, it is joyous philosophy, never didactic nor shrill. It stays very close to real dogs (and cats and lions and scorpions), appreciates their jokes, poems, and quietude. In animal beauty and mystery, Vicki Hearne finds joy. "All happiness," she reminds us, "is animal happiness."

Reprinted from Smithsonian



## May Meeting Report

The May meeting was held at the home of Jay & Rhea Barbaeu this month. It was a nice day so we gathered out on the patio.

Members & guest enjoyed playing with the 7 dalmatian puppies. Along with the puppies, one of Jan Merris' serval kittens was present, as was Carol Stiles with 3 serval and 2 caracal kittens. Steve Belknap was there with 5 beautiful bengal kittens and Jackie Vanderwall was accompanied by one of her 1/4 chaus kittens. Lots of babies at this meeting.

After introductions we talked about any problems people might be having with their animals.

Gayle brought up convention, telling people where and when and trying to find out who might be going. She gave a little talk about what goes on at convention and a little of LIOC's history.

President Andy gave everyone a copy of what he wants to present to LIOC's Board for possible changes. This will be discussed at our next meeting. He also gave us a list of items that he had be doing. We talked about the changes going on in Texas and feel that the Legal Affairs Director should have a column in the Newsletter to keep all members informed as to any possible changes that affect our animals. We all agreed this would be a great idea.

We voted to make Bea Lydecker a member of our group, as she has helped many of our members and their animals. We also voted to amend our by-laws concerning the Branch paying LIOC dues for the officers.

As the afternoon progressed, everyone was ready to play with the kittens and pups and

of course to visit. So after the raffle and dollar game, we adjourned the meeting. Our next meeting will be held at Todd & Carole Stiles.

See ya there  
Gayle



*Chuckles*

Ever wonder what the folks at the jet propulsion laboratory of NASA do? How they spend you tax dollars? This came from them:

Here's a suggestion for anyone trying to find home for kittens:

Place an ad in *Aviation Week*, or *Defense Electronics Magazine*:

"The Mark I Charismatic Autonomous Terminator (CAT) system is a family of intelligent, stealthy, terminal-homing mouse-seeking missiles featuring multi-sensor targeting with dual night-vision devices, and neural-net architecture."

"The CAT's self-righting inertial platform allows launch from any attitude. Integrated multi-aspect attack profile with indefinite-loiter mode insure a wide lethality envelope. Upon target engagement, the CAT deploys four (4) clusters of retractable submunitions in addition to the primary warhead, providing an enhanced radius of destruction"

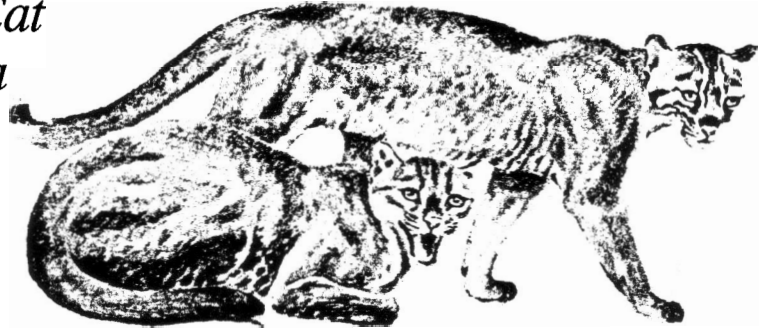
"The CAT uses regular or exotic solid or liquid fuel and is equipped with a low-signature exhaust-obscuration system."

"Firmware and connectors compatible with any unit of the Mark I series guarantee unlimited expansion capability, making the CAT system a cost-effective countermeasure to the projected spectrum of rodent-threat scenarios well into the next century."

"The CAT is now available\* from Acme Anti-Roadrunner Systems Division of McDonald Dynamics. See us at the Paris Air Show or contact....."

\*Cannot be shipped to Iraq.

## The African Golden Cat in South-West Uganda



By Timothy Davenport

The extinction of the leopard from Bwindi Mountain Gorilla National Park in the mid-1970's, has led the golden cat to be arguably the dominant carnivore in the Park. The forest was only gazetted as a National Park in 1991, prior to which it fell under Forest Department jurisdiction. During the 1960's to 1980's, the forest was intensively and selectively logged, both legally and illegally, resulting in a radical alteration in vegetative composition (ironically, this may favour the mountain gorilla and, possibly, also the golden cat). Accompanying all the activity in the forest, there was widespread hunting which wiped out the leopard and forest buffalo, and greatly reduced the forest elephant, duiker and bushbuck populations.

The reduction in herbivore density may have had more of a profound impact on local ecology than first realized. A locally common climber (*Seriostachys scandensis*), known locally as *omuna*, which is an important source of nectar for beekeepers in the area, is currently undergoing an extremely successful regeneration. It is possible that the depletion of herbivorous mammals (notably duikers, which favor the young plant), and previously restrained mass regeneration through browsing pressure, has produced a 'scandens trap', suppressing light-demanding secondary forest trees.

Since the forest was afforded National Park status, hunting has largely been eradicated and it would appear that herbivore density has greatly increased since the last census was carried out in 1984. I performed a very ad hoc duiker census around the Ruhija area at an altitude of about 2,500 meters, which supported

this view.

In *Wild Cats*, (Nowell and Jackson, 1996), it is stated that predation by the golden cat on domestic livestock "appears to be rather rare". My own view (admittedly both unquantitative and unsubstantiated) is somewhat different. Rather, I believe the cat may be a bold opportunist (possibly reflected by its catholic diet) that will take anything, including domestic animals, depending upon the local conditions, a fact which may of considerable relevance to its conservation.

During my time in Bwindi, I spoke to members of the local communities (Diet) directly surrounding the forest and was able to build up a very rough idea of the golden cat (locally called "embaka") situation. According to the local people from Buhoma and Nteko (low altitude), Kitahwira (mid-altitude) to Mbaramezi and Ruhija (high altitude), the cat is still seen in all areas.

There is a general local consensus that the cat regularly takes chicken, goats and sheep. I have also heard from three separate sources that it has also taken domestic cats, and on one occasion a hunter's dog. However, almost all the people I have spoken to have stated that the taking of livestock has been greatly reduced over the past few years. They claim that the cat is now rarer, although of course this may simply be that, since the duiker population has increased within the forest, the cat no longer needs to hunt in the surrounding villages. Indeed, the BaTwa, who generally know the forest considerably better than the Diet, tell me that the cat is no rarer now than it used to be.

I have looked at only three skats from

### Golden Cat - continued

different parts of Bwindi and all contained duiker hair (probably the black-fronted). One also contained the lower jaw of a rodent. I was working in the forest with a MuTwa, Calebo Ngambaneza, whose knowledge of local ecology is possibly unparalleled; in March we tracked a golden cat as it pursued a black-fronted duiker for approximately 50 meters along a forest trail. He claims to have seen the cats on duiker carcasses on at least four separate occasions, each time during daylight hours. The black-fronted is the only predominantly diurnal duiker in Bwindi (the yellow-backed being too large for the golden cat), and one may possibly assume that if this species provides the bulk of the cat's diet in Bwindi, then the cat may at the very least be crepuscular.

In contrast, the situation in the Semliki forest, an extension of Zaire's Ituri, appears to be somewhat different. The Bwamba people claim that the cat exists, but does not take livestock. However, the human population pressure here is much less than in Bwindi, and historically the only significant hunting of herbivores has been carried out by the BaTwa (who number only about 40 people) on what was/is a relatively sustainable basis.

The dynamics of the cat's food preference and human activity in the forests, and their relevance to the animals' conservation seems complex. Our Forest Department work has tended to show that increased human disturbance within the forests increases rodent diversity (the more common species) and abundance. However, herbivore density is undoubtedly reduced drastically by hunting pressure. The situation in Bwindi, where rodent diversity and abundance are particularly high (a result of human activity, diverse vegetation, altitudinal range, location, etc.), is of interest. It seems that the cats are prepared to run the gauntlet of human retribution outside the park, in order to take domestic livestock when duiker numbers are low, even if there is an abundance of other prey items within the forest.

Reprinted from *IUCN Cat News*

## RSPCA Targets Australian Circuses

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals accused circuses of causing animal suffering and urged an end to the use of wild animals in the shows. The campaign got underway in early April and included advertisements on radio, television, and in print that accused circuses of causing "severe psychological damage" by cruelly confining animals.

The RSPCA intent is to ban caged animals in circuses.

The Circus Foundation of Australia has responded with threats of lawsuits for defamation and a study commissioned by the RSPCA that concluded circuses do not cause suffering by their nature and that circus animals have a better standard of life than animals in the wild.

"The animals enjoy the travel, new locations and performing, but most importantly - their interaction with man," animal behaviorist Dr. Marthe Kiley-Worthington said in the RSPCA study.

Many of the performing animals have been bred in captivity for 10 or more generations. Some cities have refused temporary permits to the country's 15 animal circuses, but the Victorian government has drafted a law that prohibits such refusals if circuses meet all other requirements.

Reprinted from *NALA Newsletter*

## Moving?



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

# Bolivia Developing Wilderness Park for Tourism

The government is teaming up with private investors to build a program of "ecological tourism" it hopes will bring in \$1 billion a year.

An important part of the plan is this huge wilderness park, the size of West Virginia, carved out of a remote area on the border with Brazil in 1976.

During a boat trip on the Guapore River, through dense rain forest, a group of environmental scientists and other visitors saw 60 species of birds, dozens of types of orchids, crocodiles, river otters and dolphins.

The park, named for a Bolivian scientist murdered by drug traffickers in 1986, contains more than 500 species of birds, as many as all North America, said Guy Cox, a British ornithologist studying at Louisiana State University.

Cox is investigating the effects of logging in adjacent areas on the bird population.

The project is financed by the Nature Conservancy and the Parks in Peril program of the U.S. Agency for International Development. "Bolivia is among the countries with the most diversity in the world, with over 40 percent of the bird species in South America found within its boundaries," Cox said, following a macaw through his binoculars.

Visitors to the park fly from Santa Cruz across nearly 400 miles of farmland and forests to a camp run by the Friends of Nature foundation, founded in 1989 to preserve Bolivian wilderness areas and open them to scientists and limited tourism.

The foundation, also financed by the Nature Conservancy and USAID, built the

comfortable Flor de Oro base camp on the Guapore, which forms part of the frontier with Brazil. It also has trained forest rangers and established trails and campsites in the park.

One function of the rangers is to keep out Brazilian loggers who used to cross the Guapore and cut down precious mahogany trees, and drug gangs who once had cocaine labs in the park. Kempff was killed when he landed at an airstrip controlled by traffickers.

"This park has become an ecological buffer zone," said Hermes Justiniano, a nature photographer who directs the foundation. On the Brazilian side of the river, the rain forest has been virtually obliterated by loggers and settlers.

Scientists supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and Conservation International in Washington, D.C., are studying wildlife in the park. Species include jaguars, tapir, deer, maned wolves, spider and howler monkeys, giant anteaters, turtles, piranhas and the endangered river otter.

Five scientists from the University of Nottingham, England, have identified 65 river otters in the park, out of a global population estimated at 1,000. "This places the park as a vital stronghold to one of the world's most endangered mammal species," the Friends of Nature Foundation said in a statement.

For the tourism development program in national parks, "the government will provide the basic infrastructure needed for tourism while the private sector will provide the basic services," said Ricardo Rojas, Secretary of Tourism. He hopes to attract at least \$300 million of foreign investment by 1997 and generate \$1 billion a year in foreign exchange - equal to

## **Bolivia - continued**

Bolivia's current legal export earnings - within a decade.

Fewer than 400 people visited the Noel Kempff park in 1993. "We have come to realize that Bolivia has great cultural traditions and a pristine and diverse environment to offer visitors," Rojas said. "We must now develop the services needed to attract visitors." He emphasized the need to protect the wilderness areas, as did Justiniano of the Friends of Nature Foundation.

"The first role of the national park is the conservation of natural diversity, and second any other activity such as tourism." Justiniano said on a trip to two spectacular waterfalls reachable only by a day-long boat trip and another day trekking through the forest.

Of last year's visitors to Noel Kempff, only about 40 reached the second waterfall, which plunges 200 feet down a rock face, creating a rainbow at the bottom. No signs of civilization are visible from the falls.

Justiniano said his foundation is developing a master plan for the park and hopes for 1,000 visitors in 1995, but that the most it can handle each year without damage is about 2,000. "The greatest danger is the deterioration of ecologically fragile areas," he said.

Another foundation project is developing programs to help the few people who live in or on the edges of the park, descendants of workers brought in as rubber tappers in the 1940's. After the development of synthetic rubber, the tappers were thrown out of work and turned to hunting. Now, their children and grandchildren want to be tour guides or park rangers.

"For communities near the parks, the income generated by ecotourism can grow in importance," Justiniano said. "You cannot preserve a park without taking into consideration the people who live around it."

The foundation and foreign donors are supporting efforts to triple the size of Noel Kempff Park, which would make it one of the largest protected wilderness areas in South America.

"Most international donors realize that

Bolivia has a small population density and the potential of setting aside land for biodiversity and protected areas," said Gary Hunniset, an environmental expert for the World Bank. "That potential for rational development and preservation is hard to find in many places."

By Peter McFarren (AP)

Contributed by Jean Hamil

## **Baby-clothes for Snow Leopards**

The International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT) and a Mongolian partner have crafted a program to supply families in snow leopard habitat with baby-clothes and good quality flour. In return, the families, chosen as having shown concern for the snow leopard, will be expected to provide information about the cat and its prey.

The need for flour and children's clothing at a fair price was proposed by the local people in the Southern Gobi in response to a request to define their greatest needs. At present they have to buy from Chinese traders who visit the area twice a year.

"I expected to see high-cost items like schools, new gers (Mongolian style tents), and jeeps on the most-wanted list," said Rod Jackson, Conservation Director of the ISLT. "I was delighted when they said good quality flour and children's clothing at a fair price,"

The program has been organized in conjunction with the Mongolian Association for Nature and the Environment.

Jackson explains: "Thanks to its philosophy of learning from in-country individuals and organizations, ISLT long ago abandoned the 'fence it off and patrol it' tactic in place of shared partnerships involving local people at all levels," adding that the prospects of the new program in Mongolia were encouraging.



*Our sincerest condolences to Ron Eldridge on the loss of his beloved serval, Kobi, due to cancer. We feel as if we knew Kobi personally, having watched him grow up via Ron's wonderful photos in the Newsletter.*