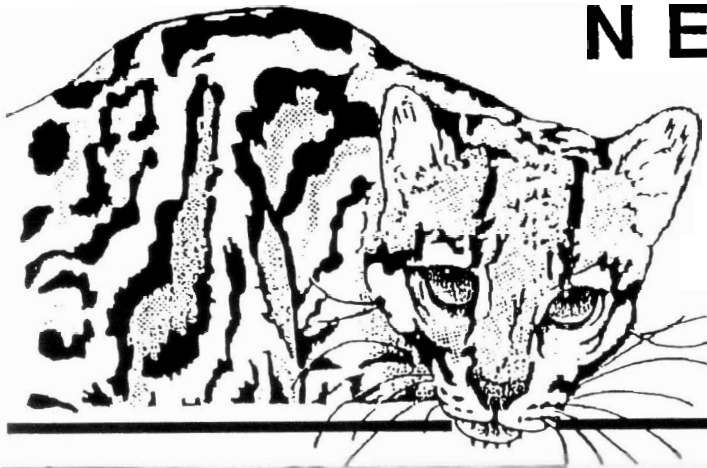
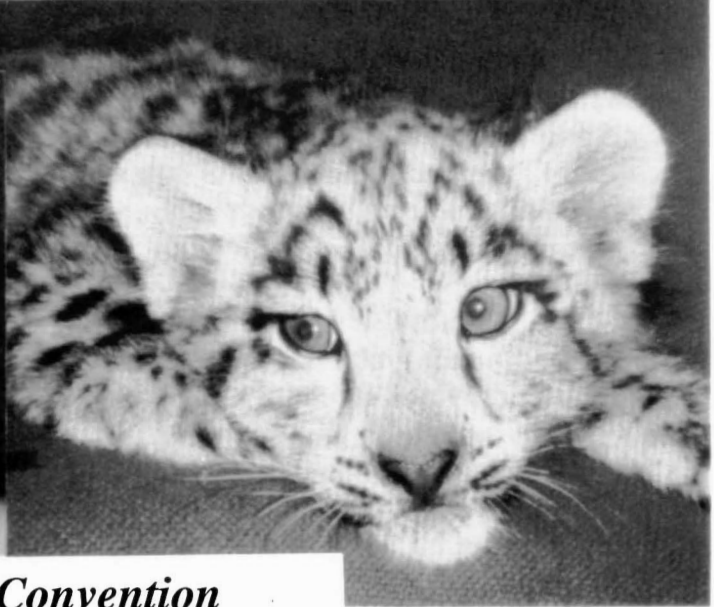
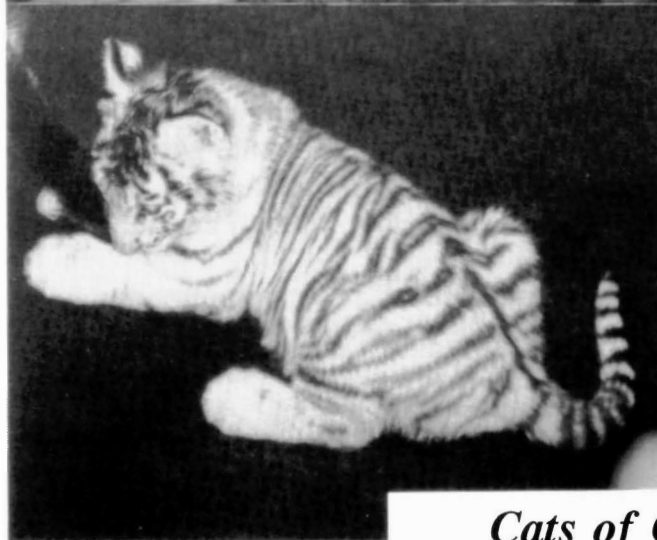
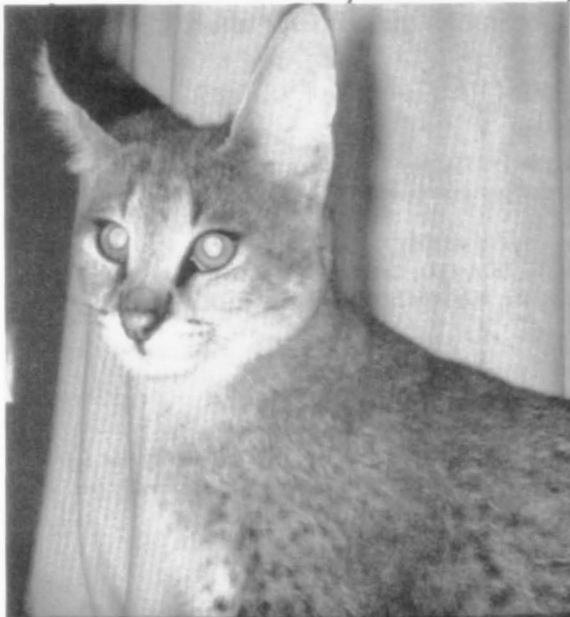


NEWSLETTER



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Cats of Convention
See Convention Report on Page 3 for all the details



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!



1997 Convention Jacksonville, Florida

At Thursday's membership meeting the board asked for any ideas, requests and input from the general membership. Requests were made for the LIOC board to make changes to parts of the constitution. The board explained that these changes have to be made by a vote from the general membership and the board doesn't have the right to make changes to the constitution. The most prominent topic of discussion was LIOC's finances. The general consensus was that a \$5.00 increase in membership dues was needed and warranted.

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker, Marvin Heirlmeier, was delayed by storms while traveling from Indiana. He didn't arrive until dinner time. Marvin and his 10 1/2 year old male serval Hush has visited over 700 different nursing and convalescent centers of the last 10 years with a total of 4000 visits. Hush is an exceptional serval! Hush has had approximately 900,000 people scratch his ears and has been in 12,000 patients beds. Marvin dedicates himself to help make the day a little happier for the lonely confined people.

Guest Speaker's Presentations

Sherry Blanchette presented her new book "Cougars Knows to Tale" a manual for responsible husbandry of privately owned captive bred cougars. She and her husband Jean shared from their personal experiences on raising, training, caging and handling of captive bred cougars.

George Stowers, LIOC Director of Conservation & Education, reviewed the 1997 LIOC Captive Wild Feline Census and a comparison of LIOC and AZA exotic cat populations. The statistical figures gave us a good sense of the number of captive exotic cats and where they are, i.e., AZA and LIOC. In summary, there are approximately an equal number of wild felines, ~ 1200, held by members of the LIOC and AZA. Based on the ~ 1200 reported wild felines owned by LIOC members, assuming that between 10% to 20% of private owners belong to LIOC, and that individual private owners who do not belong to LIOC have on average the same number of cats per owner as members do, then the total number of cats in private hands in the US would be between 12,000 and 24,000. It was noted that this represents both a significant genetic resource for captive conservation efforts and growth potential for LIOC.

George also reported on the results of the Private Cat Facility Working Group session held during the AZA Felid TAG meeting, in Escondido, CA last March. The meeting produced a framework for future discussions aimed at improving cooperation and coordination between the AZA and Private Cat Facilities. George stated that he believes that such cooperation is vital to the long term preservation of the privilege of private ownership of wild felines.

George presented a Code of Conduct for Private Owners of Wild Felines, that has been adopted by the LIOC Board of Directors as an official policy of the LIOC ESCF, Inc. The Board of Directors urges members to implement the principals embodied in this code into their husbandry practices. Certificates of the LIOC-ESCF's Code of Conduct will be sent to all current and new members. Members are urged to sign and frame this certificate as a constant reminder of the responsibility they have assumed and to inform others of the commitment they have made.

Ron Eldridge BVSc,MS, presentation was centered on the new emerging African nations and the new way they are looking at conservation of their natural resources. Specifics included the cheetah and the many ways the Africans and other representatives are working together for a common cause...to save the cheetah from extinction. Ron discussed the need for researchers to work with Africans and try to save the cheetah's habitat through education and biomedical research. We were told that all of us can help...zoological institutions, universities, and conservation organizations such as LIOC. We all have the ability to influence change.

Craig Cylke showed a video of Ellijah Wildlife Rehab Center where they provide rehab space for animals in need for eventual release into the wild. We really enjoyed watching the bobcat run up the mountain as it was released into the North Georgia woods after healing at the center. Following the video Craig talked about their educational programs, the eastern cougar's habitats, available food in the wild, concentrating mostly on conservation of habitats in the North Georgia area. For more information call Craig at 706-276-2980.

Robert Baudy world renown animal handler and trainer spoke about a recent tragic loss of his 4-year old Siberian tiger, Nichava, (who carried a rare gene) at his Rare Feline Breeding Center, also known as Savage Kingdom. Robert stressed the importance of being totally sober and alert, to concentrate on the task at hand, to always check and double check doors, gates, and latches, know where the cat is at all times and don't turn your back and don't run. Assure that the proper handling and safety measures are being used at all times because anytime an incident happens it is always through human error.

A Time with the Exotic Cats

Following the guest speakers we all spent quality time with the cats. Carole Lewis brought her 3 month old snow leopard named Hercules. Judy Watson brought her 3 month old South American Cougar named Jayla. Robert Baudy brought a pair of 3 month old male white tigers named Yalu and Yalie. Craig and Debbie Cylke brought their 3 month old Western Cougar named Commanche. Marvin Hierlmeier brought his 10 year old Serval named Hush. Nanette McGann brought her 4 month old female Serval/Caracal cross named Aftica. Craig and Jana Londre brought their Serval/Caracal cross named Rajah, brother to Aftica.

Awards, Raffles and Acknowledgements

Robert Baudy received the 31st Lotty for outstanding service to exotic cats and LIOC. Robert has successfully breed 27 different species of exotic cats, most notably the snow leopards and clouded leopards.

Lorien Vigne received the Douglas/Engler Breeders Award for her achievements with ocelots. The LIOC Newsletter Reporter of the year was Lynn Culver. An acknowledgement was awarded to Hush the serval for his service in visiting nursing homes for the past 10 years and was accepted by Marvin Hierlmeier. The Newsletter Photo contest was won by Craig Cylke's photo of three cougar cubs born to Sedona, the wild cougar from Arizona.

The 40 years of LIOC newsletters were raffled and the winner was Gerald May. The life size ceramic cheetah was raffled and won by Shirley Wagner. The eight table

centerpieces of 3 dimensional cheetah plates were raffled from the Exotic Feline Educational Society Branch of LIOC, handmade by Ethel Hauser. The Pacific Northwest Exotics Branch of LIOC raffled a surprise envelope of \$100.00 won by Judith Moore.

A porcelain Russian Lynx was donated and raffled, from the friends of LIOC, with the funds to be applied to the trust fund for 13 year old Ashley Wheeler's future education.

JB Anderson, our auctioneer, was surprised by Ron Eldridge who volunteered to be his assistant filling in for Vanna, (aka Jeff Bellingham). Ron tried on the spotted raincoat and opened up the umbrellas for us. He displayed the auction items to the bidders, we all had a fun time, and bidding generously raised over \$3000.00 for LIOC.

Sunday Breakfast Meeting:

This meeting began with a thank you to the first time attendees for traveling so far in blind faith that they would learn from the sessions. A thank you to all who attended and for their contribution to LIOC. It costs time and money to travel and their participation was greatly valuable because LIOC is as good as its participation. Members can help LIOC grow by educating anyone around them about exotic cats. (The average person doesn't know what a Caracal and a Serval is.) If members know of someone who has exotic cats, would they please ask if they are aware of LIOC. The breeders were asked to please tell their customers about the resource of LIOC. A sincere thank you was given to those who brought their cats and gave to this conference.

Barbara Wilton recapped the LIOC board meeting. The formal report of the meeting's minutes will be in the next newsletter. Shirley Wagner is retiring as our newsletter editor as of the Nov/Dec issue. Shirley will continue serving as a life director on the LIOC board. A thank you to Shirley was given for her 23 years service as the editor. Sherry Blanchette has been appointed the LIOC newsletter editor as of Jan/Feb 1998. The 1998 LIOC Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana and hosted by LIOC member Joe Taft.

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley



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

Medetomidine and Rubber-padded Leg-hold Traps in Venezuelan Cat Studies

By Rafael Hoogesteijn*, Roy McBride**, Melvin Sunquist*,
Almira Hoogesteijn *** and Laura Farrell*

As part of an ongoing research project on predation problems of jaguar and puma on beef cattle, felids were captured for measuring, sampling and radio-collaring at Hato Pinero, Cojedes State, Central Llanos of Venezuela. In the initial stage of this project, five felids were captured: one adult male jaguar (*Panthera onca*), one adult female jaguar, one adult female puma (*Panthera concolor*), and two female ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*). Chasing with dogs was not used as a capture method due to high ambient temperatures before midday, because the chase in combination with the anesthetic would increase the risk of an elevated body temperature in the tranquilized felid. Instead we used rubber-padded leg-hold traps (The Livestock Protection Co. Alpine, Texas). This method had the additional advantages that it allowed having all the veterinary gear near the tranquilized felid, and avoided the danger involved for the felids, dogs and researchers.

For the immobilization, we used a combination of the central alpha₂ adrenoceptor agonist, Medetomidine, in combination with the dissociative anaesthetic, Ketamine hydrochloride, delivered with a Telinject air-compressed blowpipe. This drug combination was chosen because of the excellent reports in the literature (zoos and/or captive conditions) which indicated better anaesthesia of carnivores than the commonly used Xylazine-Ketamine combination. Also Medetomidine has the additional advantage of the possible use of a reversing agent (Atipamezole, an alpha₂ adrenoceptor antagonist) that can be injected immediately after procedures. Since this was the first time that the tranquilizer Medetomidine had been used in free-ranging felids, we felt it was important to report our findings.

Rubber-padded leg-hold traps were set

along trails used by cats and near streams and lagoons. They were also set in small openings left at one side of stick enclosures containing pigs or goats as baits, or around recently consumed prey items. All leg-hold traps were checked early in the morning. Animals captured were cautiously and silently approached, weight was visually estimated, and a syringe dart with the drug combination was prepared. The doses utilized for the estimated weights were: Medetomidine (concentration 10 mg/ml, 10 ml vial): 50 mg/kg, Ketamine (concentration 200mg/ml, 20 ml vial): 2 mg/kg. Doses were so small that the 1 ml syringe had to be completed with distilled water. Medetomidine, Zetamine and Atipamezole were kindly donated to the project for experimental use by Orion Corporation and Wildlife Pharmaceutical.

After the felid was tranquilized, the foot was taken out of the trap, and the animal was brought to a shaded area, where it was examined, treated, measured, weighted, radio-collared and blood, feces, and hair samples were taken. Additional treatment included the injection of a long-acting antibiotic, Ivermectin (to prevent screw worm infections, which are very common in the Llanos), Ringer-lactate solution (1-2 liters in the big cats to prevent dehydration after fighting the trap), ophthalmic ointment (to protect the eyes, which were also covered with a clean dark cloth), betadine and a larvicidal spray (to treat any small wound or scratch on the skin).

Atipamezole (concentration 5mg/ml, 10 ml vial), was injected when the handling of the animal was finished, or when it showed signs of spontaneous recovery, at a dose three times higher (150 mg/kg) than the Medetomidine dose previously used (50 mg/kg).

The species of felid immobilized, sex,

Medetomidine - continued

Table - Data on the Immobilization of Wild Felids in the Central Llanos of Venezuela

Felid Species Sex	Puma Female	Jaguar Female	Jaguar Male	Ocelot Female	Ocelot Male
Estimated age (years)	10-12	4-5	19-20	2	12
Actual weight (kg)	42	46	82	5.4	7
Medetomidine dosis (mg/kg)	48	87	36	184	43
Ketamine dosis (mg/kg)	1.9	3.48	1.46	3.7	7.7
Induction time (min)	4	3	2	3	5
Handling duration (min)	61	130	63	52	82
Atipamezole dosis (mg/kg)	119	163	122	551	128
Recovery	Spont.	Induced	Spont.	Induced	Induced
Date (1996)	21 Feb	13 Mar	22 Mar	14 Mar	18 Mar

Induction time = Time interval between injection and recumbency or first handling
 Handling duration = Time interval between the animal being first handled until spontaneous recovery or until the antagonist was administered

estimated age, actual weight, the doses of Medetomidine, Ketamine and Atipamezole they received in relation to their weight, the induction time (interval between injection and recumbency or first handling), the duration of handling (interval between first handling until spontaneous recover or until the antagonist was administered), and the type of recovery (spontaneous or atipamezole induced) are shown in the table.

The Medetomidine and Ketamine combination given in a single dart, rapidly induced a calm and complete immobilization, characterized by stable heart and respiratory rates, stable rectal temperatures, good mucous membrane color, and good myorelaxation in all felids treated. Atipamezole, resulted in calm and uneventful recoveries. Some animals recovered spontaneously, in approximately one hour after darting. No side effects such as vomiting, overheating (in this very hot climate) or jerking of the limb muscles were noted in any of the tranquilized animals - even in the case of large or small doses. No deaths, during or after the immobilization occurred. Dart volumes were very small. All animals were successfully radio-tracked for at least four month after being immobilized.

One recommendation arising from this experience with free-ranging felids is the use of

a slightly higher dose of Medetomidine (60-70 mg/kg) than the dosage utilized in zoo conditions in this combination with 2 mg/kg of Ketamine. Many of the tranquilized felids recovered spontaneously and too soon, and this can be inconvenient. This recommendation also takes into account the high security margin shown by this tranquilizing agent. We used up to 184 mg/kg for one ocelot and 87 mg/kg for one jaguar, with no complications. Other authors report very high doses of Medetomidine and Medetomidine/Ketamine combinations, administered to pregnant animals, or animals that had to be euthanized, because of medical or management reasons, without any signs of adverse effects related to the immobilization.

One possible disadvantage of Medetomidine is its relatively high cost. Originally we also thought of using the cheaper Tylazol/Ketamine combination, successfully utilized in the immobilization of wild jaguars. It has the disadvantage that after the Tylazol solution has been reconstituted, its shelf-life is very short, and the doses are much larger, so the final price (per animal) is probably higher after immobilizing many carnivores offer a shorter or longer period of time in a research project or zoo situation.

With all these advantages, an increased use of Medetomidine-Ketamine combination and

Medetomidine - continued

the reversal with Atipamezole in the immobilization, capture and sedation of wild carnivores should be anticipated.

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Key to Photos

All are listed L-R. Pages 12-13:

- 1) Diane Hermann, Carole Lewis
- 2) Anne Amadon, Marvin Hierlmeier, Mark & Sheila Jenkins, Jenny Amadon, Bob Turner.
- 3) J.B. & Reva Anderson with Pricilla & Beanie Baby hatchlings.
- 4) Debbie Waldin & J.B. Anderson.
- 5) Paul Ramses, Loreon Vigne.
- 6) Wendy Goffena, Bonnie Pederson, Arlene Goffena.
- 7) Richard Smith, Mark & Sheila Jenkins.
- 8) Carin Carmichael, Karen Jusseaume.
- 9) Marvin Hierlmeier with Hush.
- 10) Judy & Terry Moore.
- 11) Kathy Tesdale, Gayle Schaecher.
- 12) Jayne Lynn, Brittney & Craig Londre.
- 13) Cassie & Dave Palkovich.
- 14) Debbie & Clyde Cylke.
- 15) Gwen Oberlin, Terry Moore.
- 16) Jean & Sherry Blanchette
- 17) Britteny Londre.
- 18) Jessie Brown.
- 19) Kelly Jean & Tom Buckley.
- 20) Jana Londre.

Page 24: 1) Paige MacKenzie-Schaffer. 2) Judy Greene, Jean Hatfield. 3) Barbara Wilton, Danny Treanor, Ethel Hauser, Lynn Culver. 4) Carol Stiles, Jackie Vanderwall. 5) Ron Eldridge (aka Vanna II). 6) Judy Ward. 7) BeeJay Lester, George Stowers. 8) Your Board of Directors - back L-R: Jean Hamil, George Stowers, Kelly Jean Buckley, John Perry, Barbara Wilton, Front L-R: Nann McGann, Carin Carmichael, Shirley Wagner, J.B. Anderson, 10) Ron Eldridge

We're so pleased to see lots of new faces! Please forgive us if we misnamed one of you, or if a name was spelled incorrectly. Promise we'll get it right next year!



Guest Editorial



Hi. I'm going to take a moment to introduce you to the other exotic owners. You don't hear from us in the Newsletter, we usually miss meetings, and we lurk on FELINES-L. It's not that we don't want to get involved - we're just not sure how?

We've figured it out - the exotic community is split into two camps - zoos and private breeders. Each camp has a certain set of benefits and drawbacks, and it's usually easy to tell who's who. Still, there are some zoos who are in favor of responsible ownership, and some private breeders who believe that more private ownership will only increase existing problems. But these two groups have one thing in common....they're the ones with the cats.

And that is why we are hesitant. We don't have cats yet. So how can we sign up? The community is about exotic ownership and we're not there.

Maybe we don't have the money; or it's illegal in our area; or we haven't found a breeder we trust. No cats, no experience, no stories to share. What is left for the "other" exotic owners?

Plenty.

We are the voice of inexperience. We ask "stupid" questions and sometimes provoke thought on matters you assumed were cut-and-dried. We can be vets, artists, biologists, ecologists, or just animal lovers. We want, we *need*, to participate in your community. We may become the next generation of exotic cat breeders or zookeepers. We may change your perceptions of responsible animal husbandry. We may make the same mistakes or brand-new ones.

Being an exotic owner isn't a destination, it is a journey. It starts early on, long before you have the means and motivation to acquire your first cat. Simply owning a cat doesn't confer wisdom. It's the long haul of

fleas, trips to the vet, spraying, clawing, biting, playing, litters born in the wee hours of the morning, and maturing over the lives of our charges that offers some small understanding of the realities of exotic ownership.

So where do we, the "non-owning" exotic people fit in?

Everywhere.

We want to talk, to make our dreams - your dreams - happen. But it takes great courage to stand up in a room of people who you're sure know more than you do, and talk openly and honestly.

So, here I am. My name is Kirsten Oulton and I've been studying, reading, painting and dreaming of my first exotic for more than ten years. I've turned down at least a dozen cats before I was ready for the responsibility - a fact I'm very proud of. I may not be entering the "owners" clubs quickly as I had hoped, but I am doing my very best to do this right - for me, and my cats.

Some of us will never own - and that is perfect. Not everyone is ready to make that commitment. But non-owners should have an important place in the community. We are your first audience when you are trying to spread the word. And we do have some thoughts to share.

Well, I'll probably miss the Convention. I'm a little sad, I want to meet George Stowers, who works so hard to promote an understanding of responsible ownership. I would love to meet Ethel Hauser. One day I worked up the courage to call her and ask about her Geoffroys - and she was so pleasant and open that it gave me the strength to keep on trying to make my dream a reality. And folks like John Perry & Pat Quillen, who have both had fantastic success with the smaller cats. I won't get to meet any of you this year, but I have the best excuse - I may become the owner of a beautiful serval kitten.

So, wish me luck, and take a moment the next time you notice a silent participant in the meetings and initiate a dialogue. We want to talk to you, we're just not sure how to.

Kirsten Oulton

The End of a Trail: The Cheetah in India



by Divyabhanusinh
Banyan Books,
59 Regal Bldg.
New Delhi, 110 001, India

One evening in 1947, the Maharajah of the state of Korea in central India spotted three cheetahs in his headlights. He picked up his rifle and shot them all - with two bullets. They were the last physical evidence of cheetahs in India, although a handful of sightings were reported in the 1950s.

Three hundred years earlier the Moghul Emperor of India, Akbar, had a collection of 1,000 cheetahs, and his son, Jehangir, wrote that Akbar had owned 9,000 during his lifetime. They were used for hunting antelopes and gazelles. It was the cheetahs heyday, but that demand took a heavy toll on the wild population.

Divyabhanusinh has devoted long years to research on the history of the cheetah in India. Starting with the prehistoric cave paintings, where the cheetah was among many animals depicted, he has gleaned references to cheetah-like animals in Sanskrit and Classical Greek and Roman literature.

Illustrated manuals on catching, training and caring for cheetahs were produced in India. One produced by the Baroda Court in 1924 distinguished the Indian cheetah as having a black tip to its tail, compared to an African cheetah's white tip. Cheetahs in 67 out of 89 Moghul period paintings have black tips.

This work traces the cheetah from prehistoric times through history, to its ultimate extinction on the Indian subcontinent, in our

own century.

While the book is indispensable for scientists and field managers involved with the study and conservation of the cheetah, it is written in an easy, informative style and is of equal interest to any person concerned about the conservation of nature. It is the only comprehensive work ever written on the cheetah in India.

Now Available

LIOC Caging & Handling Guidelines

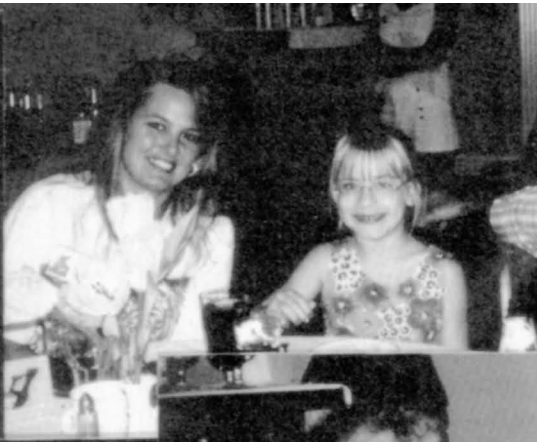


34 pages of practical tips and guidelines for proper caging and handling of exotic cats.

Includes diagrams on construction of proper equipment for any size feline, including squeeze cages, collars, leashes and much much more.

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LIOC
3730 Belle Isle Lane
Mobile, AL 36619





Meat vs. Vegetables in the Diet

By Ron S. Eldridge, BVSc

Destructive cat diet myths abound. Most of what has been written about feline nutrition is either inaccurate, overly technical, or totally useless on any practical level. With this in mind, we can see why someone would want to place their cat on a vegetarian diet thinking it would be good for the animal's health.

Cats are *obligate carnivores*; this means they must eat meat. Putting a cat on an all plant diet would be a death sentence for the animal. Cats cannot be vegetarians. Felines have short intestines whereas humans have much longer ones. Therefore, cats are unable to digest vegetable protein effectively in order to utilize it.

Cats are also unable to convert beta-carotene (which is present in plants) to Vitamin A as we humans can. In order to obtain the very necessary Vitamin A, felines must consume preformed Vitamin A which is available from animal tissue (meat).

Only a high-quality protein source such as lean muscle meat (beef, lamb, chicken, etc.) should be fed to cats. Proteins are the building blocks needed by cats for normal growth and development. Protein is also needed to repair and replace tissue, promote and sustain an effective immune system, fuel the very active feline metabolism, and developing muscle mass. If proteins are the building blocks, amino acids are the material which makes up these blocks. Because cats cannot store excess protein, they must replenish their supply through their daily dietary intake. Protein requirements are much higher in the cat than for humans. While humans may survive on a vegetarian diet, cats cannot.

Fats are also important to feline wellbeing. They are composed of fatty acids. The ones of prime importance to felines are linoleic and arachidonic. These unsaturated fatty acids are called essential because they cannot be manufactured by the cat's body and must be

obtained through its diet. Linoleic can come from vegetable sources, but arachidonic acid must be obtained from animal fat. It's OK to feed your cat an occasional raw vegetable, but remember that your cat's primary diet must have an ample supply of protein and fat. Cats need an average of 3 grams per pound of body weight and kittens need more - 8-9 grams per pound of body weight.

Fat to cats is like ice cream to a human - they love it! A cat's diet can consist of up to 65% fat. This type of fat can only come from meat. This is the type of fat humans are warned not to eat, but for the obligate feline carnivore, it is a must to ensure a healthy and vigorous life.

Exxon Decides Against Using the Real Thing

They can put a tiger in your tank, but Exxon station owners shouldn't even think about trotting a real tiger around their business.

Exxon's marketing department in Houston banned the use of live tigers in service station promotions after getting complaints from PETA, a Washington based animal rights group.

Henceforth, Exxon said, appearances by its signature tiger will be limited to people in tiger costumes, topiary tigers and other tamer displays.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals had complained that an exotic animal trainer mistreated the tigers later used at promotion of an Exxon station in Sanford, Fl. The trainer called the allegations unsubstantiated and shot back that he will now no longer do business with Exxon because of the 1989 oil tanker spill that fouled the Alaskan coastline.

Contributed by Jean Hamil



Our June meeting was held at the home of Todd & Carole Stiles in Eagle Creek. We enjoyed seeing Carole's serval and caracals.

Steve Belknap was there with his 4 male bengal kittens which are in need of new homes. Jackie Vanderwall brought her two male 1/4 Jungle Cat kittens also looking for new homes. George and Val Stein came with the female bengal kitten they had gotten from Steve. Since the kitten was due for her second shot, Steve gave a demonstration on the proper way to give inoculations.

Ginger Becken attended with her new caracal kitten. John & Joann Gunzer came down from Redmond to pick up their new serval kitten. David Demars was also picking up a serval kitten.

Thank goodness the weather was so nice, as this allowed us to hold the meeting outdoors. We had 31 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Andy started off the meeting with introductions. We kind of got sidetracked when we got to Bea Lydecker, as she wanted to explain her problems with the case of her dogs vs animal control. She did prevail with this problem.

Carole announced caracal kittens were expected any day, and that she and Todd were expecting a human arrival in February - what great news! Joann mentioned her missing serval. Later, Bea Lydecker talked with her about it and gave her some new clues as to where she

might look.

Gayle gave the treasury report. She passed around a letter she had gotten from Peru about a jaguar study being done and also announced that the Governor of Texas had vetoed the ban bill. We talked about sending him a "good job" letter.

Kathy Tesdal announce that her hedge hog had died and that she would be getting another after Convention.

We discussed Convention, Gayle again gave the dates, the price and all the fun it would be. So far, 5 of our members will be attending.

Rachel Warner told us about an air filter system that she sells. Val Stien added to her talk, as she has one and told everyone how great they are.



Hostess with the mostess - caracal April Stiles

USDA Wants Help in Establishing Exotic Animal Handling Standards

The Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment under the Animal Welfare Act for handling and training exotic or wild animals.

USDA also needs input on training and experience requirements for trainers and handlers of potentially dangerous exotic or wild animals.

The establishment of exotic animal training standards is in response to public concerns, said Michael V. Dunn, assistant secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. Several recent events have clearly shown that there is a need within the industry to set down universal training standards.

This proposal is published in the July 24th, Federal Register.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before September 22. Send an original and three (3) copies of comments to:



Pacific Northwest Exotics - continued

George Stien is working on getting together a meeting with Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Dept. of Agriculture and the animal breeders early in 1998. He asked for input.

With all the business taken care of the meeting was adjourned. We had the raffle and dollar game which Joann won. She donated half of it back to the club. The remainder of the day was spent visiting and playing with all the kittens present.

Our July meeting will be held at Dwaynes in Seaside.

See ya in Jacksonville
Gayle Schaecher

Docket No. 97-001-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Rd., Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Comments received are available for public viewing at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th St & Independence Ave., Washington, D.C., Mon-Fri (except holidays) from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Persons wishing access are requested to call in advance to 202-690-2817.

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A Word of Thanks....



To Sharon Roe, for the concept, for finding, borrowing and copying a complete set of Newsletters to be donated to the Club; and to Carin Carmichael who graciously (and with held breath, I'm sure) parted with her collection temporarily, and to Jean Torland and Justin Roe who helped assemble and index the sets.



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

**Meeting Report
June 22, 1997**

The meeting was called to order by President Ethel Hauser. First on the agenda was the convention. Barbara gave the information of the LIOC ESCF and the convention. All were invited to participate. If they could not attend, they were encouraged to participate by donating items for the auction or the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Suzette Armstrong gave a report on an exotic cat care book she bought from *Walk on the Wildside*. It is very well written and full of valuable information for a novice or experienced cat owner. Terri Kauffman and John Smith are going to visit the facility in January. They will be staying there and will take a tour with a handler which will enable them to go in and actually work (play?) with the cats. They were told not to wear perfumes, etc. (Good advice for anyone visiting cats).

Suzette has two baby servals. She wanted to know when she should pull them from the mother. Everyone in the family can handle the kittens and play with them; teenagers included. In fact, "Mama Cat" loves the waterbed and she brings the kittens into the bedroom at night and puts them in bed with Suzette for her to babysit! No reason to pull those kittens!

There was a discussion on feeding kittens. Ethel has nine safari babies. Some are past the bottle stage - some aren't. She said her vet told her to put vegetable oil or Wesson oil in the formula to loosen the stool if necessary.

Ethel has had several litters this year, but she ran into one problem which had never come up before. One of the kits had an eye which did not open. She kept eye ointment on it but nothing seemed to work. She finally took the kitten to the vet. He used Gentocin Ophthalmic ointment and then opened the eye very slowly and carefully. He said that if the eyes are not open by the 12th day, they should be seen by a vet, since blindness can result.

The Hauser compound had two Geoffroy's babies recently. They were in the house and Ethel was bottle feeding. All was well. Last week she got up early and fed the babies. All was still OK. One hour later one of the kits was dead. It had no diarrhea, no temperature, no clues as to a problem. Ethel took the kitten to the vet for an autopsy which showed the kit had a twisted bowel. There was no warning and nothing anyone could have done. Ethel is now closely watching a litter of black Geoffroy's.

Ethel picked up some liquid calcium recently in California. It is called *Neocalglucon*. She gives 1/2cc daily to lactating queens and/or pregnant females; and 1-2 drops in kitten formula. She is having a much higher birthrate and heavier bodyweight in the kits. She is going to look into buying it in bulk so it will be available to other members.

Marvin Hammersly reported on ethoxyquins in Science Diet and Iams, to name a couple of the foods he knows of. They have lost two police dogs on the Albany Police Force because of it. Marvin is going to try to obtain a report for submission to the newsletter. Karen Donoyan said that California breeders were losing kittens to tumors caused by preservatives in cat food; especially the dry variety. We are trying to obtain this article for publication also. Watch your labels!

Someone asked why we don't advertise our meetings in the newspaper. Ethel answered by telling a story about a friend in California who advertised kittens for sale in a public newspaper. He started getting harassing phone calls and someone staked out his house. Ethel

EFES....continued

told him not to leave the house, but on the third day when everything finally seemed quiet, he ran out to the drug store. in the 20 minutes that he was gone, someone broke into the garage and injured one of his cats by poking her with a stick. He was still being harassed on phone, so the police put a tracer on his line. They eventually arrested the woman who injured the cat. Another friend in California lost his cat when someone broke the lock off the cage and stole it or turned it loose. We certainly want to contact people who are sincerely interested in our causes, but it kind of falls into the same category as "selective breeding".

John Smith, a Koi breeder warned us about purchasing "feeder" goldfish from pet stores for our cats. They have a high probability of being contaminated with coccidiosis, especially the imported ones. It was asked if freezing kills this. Some say "yes" and some "no".

About a year ago, David Hill purchased a Safari from a lady who got the kitten from Ethel. David was told the cat would weigh 40-50 pounds and live to a ripe old age. The cat was not friendly and David's wife was afraid of it. Ethel suggested David build a cage in the back yard for "Bob" to reduce the stress on them all. In the meantime, David fell in love with "Sam", a young Safari Ethel owned. The feeling was mutual - Sam loved David too. David finally took Sam home. Ethel told David to build another cage next to Bob's for Sam to stay in during the day. Would you believe Bob is now eating out of their hands and sleeping in the bedroom? Sam sleeps in the bed.

There was a lively discussion on spaying and neutering to prevent spraying. It was suggested that the use of "Pampers" when a kitten was young would discourage spraying as an adult, however at least one member has tried this method without success. Spraying is a *fact of life* when owning an exotic, and although neutering a male at a young age may have some effect on the activity, it is no guarantee. The behavior in females seems to be unaffected by spaying. Marking territory is a natural behavior and just has to be accepted as part of an exotic's

personality

After showing the cats which included: chaus, ocelot, leopard cat, Geoffroys, bengal & safari, the meeting was adjourned.

Reminder: In the fall we will be electing new officers and there will be a speakout at the School for the Deaf. Please plan on participating if you can.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Wilton



We Have A New Branch!

The Cascade Branch in Washington state has joined LIOC's Family. Address & contact are on page 2.



USDA Proposes Fencing Requirements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to require that perimeter fencing be placed around outdoor areas of sheltered and outdoor housing facilities for cats, dogs, rabbits, marine mammals and certain other animals.

"Adding this requirement for these additional categories of animals would serve to protect the safety and well being of the animals," said W. Ron DeHaven, acting deputy administrator for animal care with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a part of the USDA's marketing and regulatory programs mission area.

Although it has been APHIS' policy that such fences should be in place around sheltered and outdoor housing facilities for such animals, there have been no provisions in the regulations requiring their use. APHIS officials believe that between 90 and 95 percent of the affected businesses already meet the proposed perimeter fence requirement.

Contributed by John Perry

Our Sincerest Condolences

to Al Porges and Ashley Wheeler on the loss of Peggy, Al's fiance (they just announced their engagement last month) and Ashley's mother.

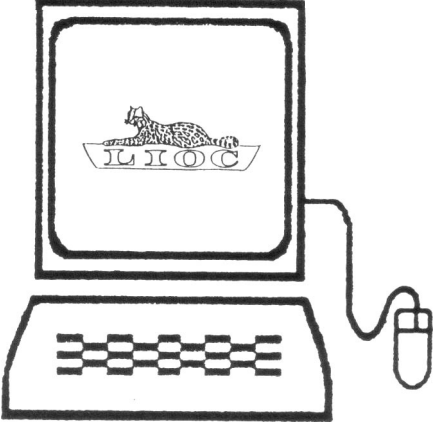
Convention-goers will remember Peggy's bright smile and outgoing personality. Though a newcomer to Convention, she certainly didn't remain one, endearing herself to all.

Peggy died suddenly on July 16th. Ashley, thirteen years old, is now motherless and fatherless. In lieu of flowers, a memorial trust has been set up to assist in Ashley's education.

Contributions may be sent to:

*The Ashley J. Wheeler Memorial Trust
c/o Bowditch & Dewey Attorneys at Law
161 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, MA 01701*

To the attention of James Manrahan



Check Us Out!

L I O C ' s W e b s i t e i s :
<http://www.lioc.org/>

Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Director of Education & Conservation by Email - gstowers@mint.net. Please send computer readable text files (e-mail is fine or ASCII text files on disc.)

Running Ghosts

By Jim Merritt

In 1804, when the Lewis & Clark expedition first encountered pronghorn antelope in what is now South Dakota, their swiftness left the explorers gasping. For Meriwether Lewis, the sight of a group of pronghorns fleeing before him recalled "the rapid flight of birds. I can safely venture....that the speed of this animal is equal if not superior to that of the finest blooded courser."

While a mounted thoroughbred can sprint at 45 mph for short distances, a pronghorn can cruise at that speed for several miles, and in bursts it can reach 60 mph. With ideally proportioned legs and outsized lungs, trachea and heart, the pronghorn is a perfect running machine.

In a sense, nature has "over-engineered" the pronghorn, which is far faster than it needs to be to survive. Biologists have long questioned by the pronghorn evolved to be so fleet of foot that it leaves its natural enemies - wolves and coyotes - literally in the dust. Now they may have an answer.

John A. Byers, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Idaho who's been studying pronghorns on the National Bison Range in Montana since 1981, believes they are in a sense fleeing the ghosts of awesomely speedy but now extinct predators - the North American cheetah and the long-legged hyeana - that pursued them on the plains at the end of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago. In a setting far more hostile than today's the pronghorns of that era contended as well with lions, jaguars, short-faced bears and sabre-toothed cats.

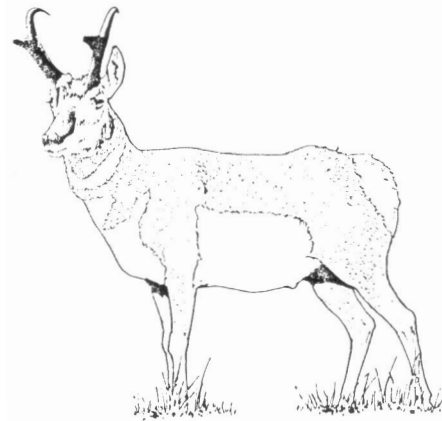
In response to this rogue's gallery of predators, the pronghorn also evolved eagle-like vision, the most accurate of any mammal's. Its strategy for survival, then and now, involves maintaining visual contact with an enemy while keeping at a safe distance.

Natural selection can work both ways, and it would be reasonable to assume that

without relentless culling by ice-age super predators, pronghorns might have lost a set in the 5,000 generations since cheetahs chased them. Not so, according to Byers, whose book *American Pronghorn: Social Adaptations and the Ghosts of Predators Past*, was recently published by the University of Chicago Press. "If you measure the lengths of an animal's leg bones," he says, "their ratio tells you something about running speed - the lower the ratio, the faster the animal." Biologists have compared these ratios in contemporary pronghorns with those in their fossil ancestors and have found "essentially no difference."

Reprinted from *Field & Stream*

Contributed by Ethel Hauser



New Member Handbooks Available

New member handbooks are now available. You were sent initially sent one when you joined LIOC. The handbook contains our Constitution and By-laws (with the exception of by-laws passed or amended at the most recent convention).

If you would like a copy please notify
Kelly Jean Buckley, Member Services
P.O.Box 22085,
Phoenix, AZ 84028

Email: kjbuck@phnx.uswest.net

A Note From this Year's Lotty Recipient

What a great gathering of cat lovers in Jacksonville, Florida recently. It was truly wonderful (and a nice vacation for me) to be with all the LIOC members and felines. I enjoyed the good food, good times and the companionship of everyone. It was delightful to meet and make new friends; especially it was a pleasure to renew my acquaintance with so many people whom I have known over the years but have not seen in ages.

I also appreciate the affection shown me by the convention goers. It was indeed an honor to be presented with the 1997 Lotty and I thank each and every member for their kindness. It is a privilege to be associated with such a fine and dedicated group of feline devotees.

I will continue to assist LIOC, its members and the wild and wonderful cats of the world in the future to the best of my ability.

Thank you all so very much.

Respectfully
Robert Emil Baudy



l-r: Kelly Jean Buckley (last year's recipient),
Robert Baudy, Shirley Wagner

Grim Update on Norwegian Lynx

The Norwegian government published their *Predator Report* recently. Based on what appears to be political, not scientific reasoning, the following appears in the section of the management plan referring to lynx:

"The lynx is still to be managed in such a way that viable populations and reproduction are being maintained in large areas. However, the population density must be regulated according to damage potential in the different areas. New populations must not be established in areas where there are currently no, or very few lynxes, and where there are high densities of domestic animals...."

"For the lynx one should put increased emphasis on limiting the damages when hunting quotas are set in the different regions. One should also have a closer cooperation between different counties in this context....In areas of large damage potential, one can harvest more than what can be defined as the year's reproduction. For certain predefined counties of large damage potential, and where there are small lynx populations, the Department suggests that lynx hunting should be permitted with no fixed quotas within the hunting season."

Shedding some light on this "management plan" is the public comment in Norwegian newspapers by four local mayors in the northern part of the country, complaining the hunting quota was not high enough.

At the close of the 1997 lynx hunt, 95 lynx were killed - the most within a short period of time in over 100 years. In 1996, 84 lynx were killed.

Sweden too has authorized the killing of an estimated 98-140 lynx whose habitat lies within open ranges of reindeer grazing pastures. Pressure in the former Soviet Union is increasing as tiger populations dwindle and lynx are becoming quick substitutes for the trade and traffic in traditional Asian medicines. Poaching for the fur trade is also on the rise.

Readers Write



Dear Shirley,

Perhaps someone would have a suggestion as to how to go about removing the mats from the back of my serval.

Josh is a healthy, 11 year old, whose fine undercoat, grown every winter, regularly forms hard, impenetrable balls on his back in the summer. I've tried the following:

- cutting them out. This is dangerous, the scissors have to be sharp (safety scissors don't work) and we usually wind up with a little spilled blood (mine), whereupon I give up.

- combing & brushing. This is useless as we are talking hard, firmly embedded mats.

- I've considered calling a vet & anaesthetizing Josh, but would rather avoid this for the obvious reasons.

- I've read some behavior modification material, you know, making it a fun thing, such as distracting him with food (nope), letting him indulge in his favorite pastime, sliming my shoes & ankles, as I cut. He's not having it.

- I even tried a muzzle, he tore it off in milliseconds.

Any ideas would be appreciated.

Suzanne Hatton

Reply: It would seem anaesthetizing and clipping the mats out is the only practical solution.

However, a way can be found to prevent the mats from forming. Most cats can groom themselves unless they are obese and cannot reach their backs; or flea dirt adds to the matting process. Both these problems have obvious solutions. After current mats are removed, preventive action, a couple of swipes down the back with a stiff brush daily will prevent further mats from forming.

Apologies due.....

It was reported erroneously in the last issue that the meeting of the Felid Taxon Advisory Group recently held in Escondido, California was sponsored by Pat Quillen of SOS Care and the San Diego Zoo.

The Felid TAG meeting is a function of AZA, and was only *hosted* by Ms. Quillen. The San Diego Zoo had no direct involvement. Our regrets to those involved for this error.

Forget Something?

Someone did not pick up the cheetah plate from the centerpiece that they won at convention. If it is yours, please let Barbara Wilton know.

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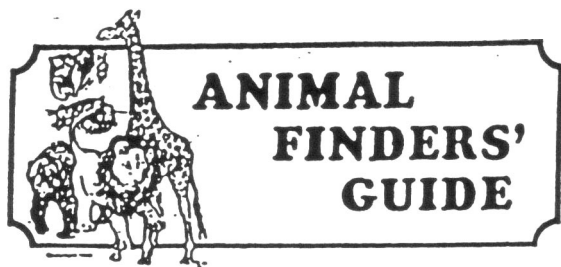
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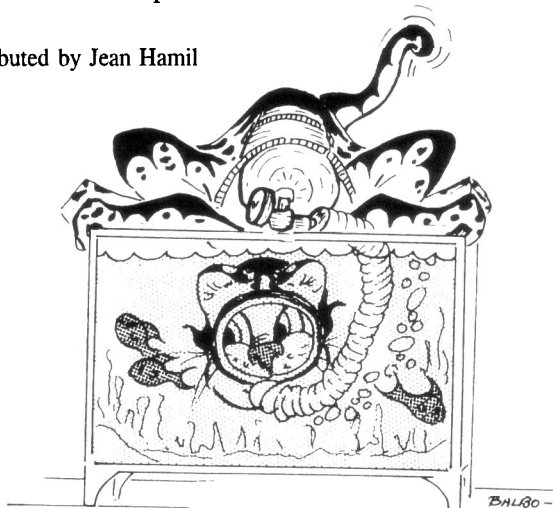
New Siberian Tiger Count Gives Hope

Recently released field survey results verify that the critically endangered Siberian tiger population in the Russian far east has grown over the past few years to a near viable level of between 415 and 475 animals, thanks to improved anti-poaching and protection efforts by the U.S. government, World Wildlife Fund and other groups. The last complete tiger survey in 1985, identified only about 250 tigers, and the population was further devastated by poaching in the early 1990s.

"The new survey results show that, with focused and concerted efforts, we can reverse the decline of the tiger populations" says Bill Eichbaum, who directs WWF's activities in Russia. "It is critical to continue building on this progress to ensure a full recovery of Russia's tigers."

WWF is helping to run four anti-poaching brigades in eastern Siberia, training wildlife personnel to monitor tiger populations, and building awareness in schools and local communities to the tiger's plight. WWF also established a TRAFFIC office in Moscow last year to focus on the illegal trade of tigers and other threatened species.

Contributed by Jean Hamil



Never underestimate an Ocelot.

