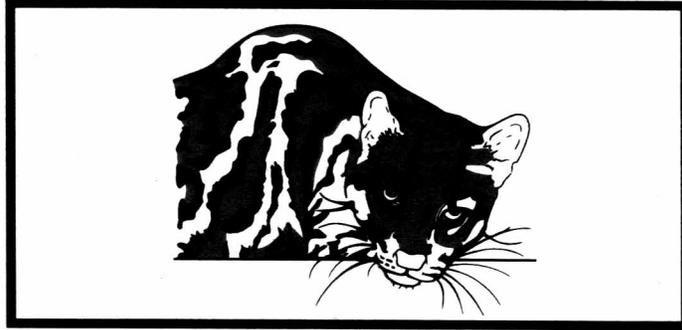


LIOC

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2 - MARCH/APRIL 1998



**CAROL LEWIS'S AU"ROARA"
PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK.**

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.

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.

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

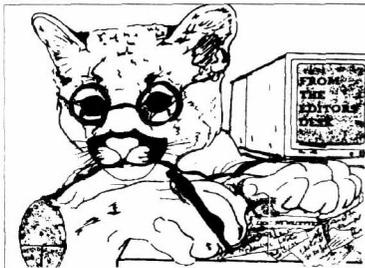
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C O V E R I N G T H E
E D I T O R S D E S K

KITTENS KITTENS KITTENS:

Spring is the time when thoughts turn toward kittens. This issue is dedicated to helping new owners with information on kitten care.

There are many ways to approach responsible husbandry for non-domestic felines. If you are a new owner or you are thinking about sharing your life with a non-domestic feline it is important to remember there might be several correct ways to do the same thing.

Do your homework before committing to a species. Talk with as many owners and breeders as possible. Spend time with their cats.

Be honest with yourself. Wild felines require long term commitment, a stable lifestyle, money, time, and most importantly love.

LIOC-ESCF's members collectively share a wealth of experience and knowledge that can not be found any where else. Many are very willing to share their knowledge and experience. For resource people in your area, please see page 2 for the Regional contact nearest to you.

NO LIONS, NO TIGERS, NO BIG CATS:

Washington State almost banned all big cats. This

is a wake up call to all of us who own exotic animals. What almost happened in Washington and Oregon States recently, could happen in any state.

UNSUNG HEROS:

Each year hundreds of wild non-domestic felines suffer horrible atrocities at the hands of irresponsible owners. Meet one LIOC member who helps these felines find health, happiness and new responsible loving homes.

30 YEARS:

In THIS AND THAT Shirley Wagner shares from her life's dedication to ocelots, margays and oncillas.

STUFF HAPPENS:

Timely advice from Caren Sousa on how to be sure that your cat will always be cared for.

CATS AND THEIR PEOPLE:

May/June issue will feature cats with their people. If you have any photos of you and your cat that you would like to share please send them in!

In your service for the cats,

Sherry

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE



Joe Taft's Kimba

On February 22, I attended a meeting at the home of John Smith and Terri Kaufman in Vancouver, Washington. Exotic cat owners from Oregon and Washington State attended.

The main topic of conversation was to put together a workable set of rules and regulations which would allow exotic cat owners the freedom to own exotics and also satisfy the public safety concerns. Of course we were talking "cats" only. Other exotic species owners will have to come up with their own rules and regulations.

Copies of the current legislation being considered by the state of Washington were distributed. There were several areas which needed clarification and/or inclusion and some we felt should be deleted. I requested the Washingtonians present, be furnished with current copies of legislation being considered by Oregon State Fish and Game.

Gayle Schaecher of Pacific North West Exotics was on the task force and spent two or three years working with OSFG. I talked with Gayle recently and she said they have not been adopted yet. She thinks that OSFG are still working on the sections covering other exotics. The feline section is complete however and is acceptable to both sides.

We are hoping to keep a low profile but want to have an acceptable set of rules and regulations we can present to the Washington State officials when the time is right.

Naturally, when you get a room full of exotic cat owners, more things are discussed than the topic of the day. Several people told about getting their first exotic and the lack of information available on laws, diet, veterinary care and caging.

It was suggested LIOC-ESCF should educate new owners

before they obtain a cat. How ideal!

Of course, most people including yours truly in (1967) never heard of LIOC-ESCF (then the LONG Island Ocelot Club, before we got the cat.

Hopefully, we are beginning to turn things around. A lot more people are looking to the computer web sites for information on everything. Lo and Behold! We are there!

We may have to get an assistant for Membership Services Director Kelly Jean Buckley to keep up with the inquiries. People who may have never considered and exotic are contacting us. More people than ever are wanting information on; licenses, diet, and medical. Well, we don't sell cats but we are here to help with everything else!

See You at Convention!

Barbara Wilton,
President LIOC-ESCF



Serval, E'Leisha Kaufman-Smith calls a meeting of her own to discuss exotic cat owners in Washington State and Oregon.



Political leader at a young age Serval E' Leisha Kaufman- Smith demonstrates the importance of keeping a low profile and doing the paperwork.

**1998 L.I.O.C. Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.
28th annual conference - August 6-9 - Indianapolis, Indiana**

REGISTER for the 1998 LIOC Convention by June 15. Please send \$85.00 payment to LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028 (After June 15 the fee will be \$110.00) **NOTE:** Please send your choice of either Roast Prime Rib or Stuffed Chicken Breast, for the Saturday night Banquet.

LIOC 1998 CONFERENCE SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Paul Gerding, Jr., DVM MS

Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

Diagnosis and Treatment of Ocular Disorders of Exotic Felines.

David Mallory, Cougar Haven

Experiences with Rescued Lions and Tigers.

George Stowers, Director of Education & Conservation - LIOC ESCF, Inc.

Beyond 2000, The Future of Private Ownership.

Professor Thomas J. Burke, DVM MS

College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois

General Health Care/Preventive Medicine, A Veterinarian's Perspective.

Dr. Jenni Spencer, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, Alabama

Immunological Virological Studies of the Lion and Cheetah in Southern Africa.

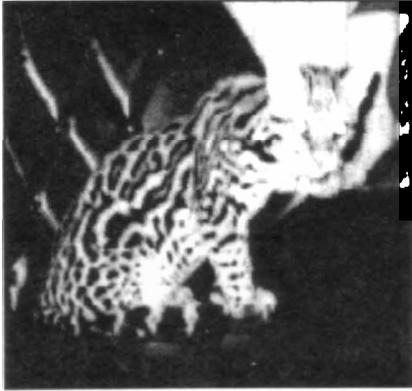
Serosurvey of certain parasites in North American Wild Felids.

The Ramada Inn Indianapolis Airport is your destination for the 1998 LIOC convention, August 6-9. Call **1-317-244-3361** to reserve your room for \$79.00 each night, double occupancy. **FREE** Transportation to and from the airport terminal is provided by using the courtesy phones in baggage claim area.

The Ramada Inn has 288 guest rooms, large meeting and banquet space, a full service restaurant, a lounge offering a lighter menu, multi screen TV's, pool tables, electronic darts, and a juke box, indoor swimming pool, and gift shop.

The Exotic Cats are welcome in Indiana and at the Ramada Inn! (Less than 30 pounds) The Ramada Inn requires notice when you make your reservations, as to which cats you are bringing to the convention, and a \$50.00 room deposit, \$25.00 is non-refundable.

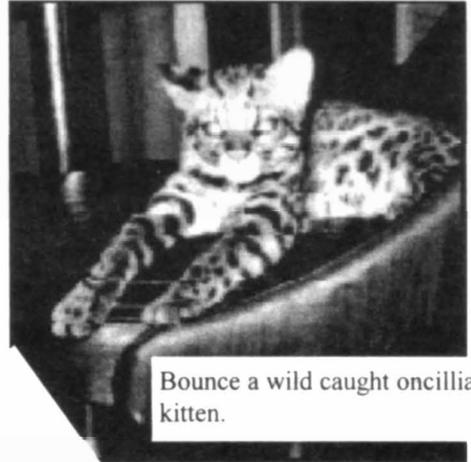
Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley



"Pi" a jungle born ocelot from Ecuador. Carlos Barrera was the Club's source in those days. You contacted him and the kitten was shipped directly to you. Very little custom hassels. It avoids going through the commercial dealer compounds where so many of the little guys contracted distemper and were eventually lost.

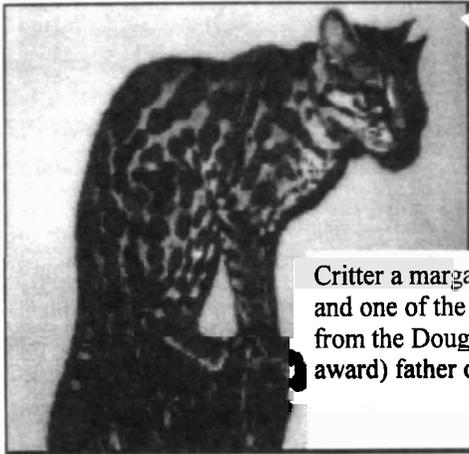


6 month old Colombian oncilla kitten



Bounce a wild caught oncilla kitten.

30 YEARS



Critter a margay (note the tail!) - our stud cat and one of the first domestic born margays from the Douglas compound (Douglas/ Engler award) father of all our margays.



Margays always go UP.



Sundae (Sister) playing with a pinecone.



We got Tuffy at 3 years of age-Critter wasn't old enough at that point to be a stud, but when he figured it out!

Tuffy was wild caught and insisted that I be in her pen with her when she delivered each of her kits. Her favorite place was on top of the fridge.

30 Years of Ocelots, Oncillas & Margays

My LIOC membership card reads -367, meaning I joined in March of 1967. At that time, almost 800 members had joined before me, but as with most, I was ecstatic at finding folks who understood my fascination with exotic felines. I first found out it was possible to own an ocelot when I found one in a pet store. That one was sold, but a little research led me to LIOC, Catherine Cisin and an exporter in Ecuador. That ocelot, named Pi, turned out to be one of the exceptional ones. He went everywhere, and was as tame as dog in spite of being wild-caught and a by-product of the fur trade.

Through the following years I've been privileged to know the greats of LIOC - Catherine, Bill Engler, the Douglasses and Hatfields and so very many more. Besides the ocelots, I've bred oncillas and margays and shared my home with several other species as well. Each, human and critter, gave something back. And so I feel compelled to do likewise.

There are few hard and fast rules in life, but I thought I'd share those that I've learned regarding exotic cats over the last thirty years. Some are very un-scientific but they work. Some are common sense, but we all need to be reminded of them, and others are just my observations, period.

First and foremost is diet. No matter what formula or diet you raise a cat on, it is imperative: calcium, calcium, calcium, for the first 18 months. This is the most common problem I hear about. And it's not just any calcium. In order to carry oxygen and nutrients to the body, blood values must be 2:1 calcium to phosphorus. If this ratio is off, the body goes to the only available source of calcium, the bones and robs them of it. You must provide pure calcium (calcium carbonate) - not one that contains any phosphorus. If you then wean to a calcium rich diet (such as whole chicken parts including bones), you'll probably be OK. The skin is a good source of fat which is essential for

proper nutrition and a shiny coat. The skin (especially on necks) can be removed if the coat becomes too slick, or the animal too heavy. Yes, include a good vitamin *and* mineral supplement. Even one designed for domestics will do if your cat is of equal size, or two a day for a larger cat. Zoological vitamins are nice (and not that expensive for even the biggest cat.)

Now, why are so many of you out there cooking your cat's chicken? It depletes many of the natural nutrients, and your cat certainly wouldn't do it in the wild. In all my years in LIOC I've heard of only a couple of cases of salmonella. I wouldn't be surprised if in those isolated cases the victim didn't have a compromised immune system to begin with. Although I do wash my hands, I don't disinfect every counter in my kitchen or constantly microwave the sponge I use to wipe up and I'd venture to guess thousands of pounds of raw chicken have passed through it over the years. That folks is no exaggeration! I've always bought "human quality" meat for my cats and stored it as if it were for us - much of it was shared come to think of it. The point is, common sense prevails. Feed at night when temperatures are lowest if heat is a factor, and remove remnants promptly. Some find a light coating of vegetable oil (liquid or spray) helps deter flies, and a sprinkle of table salt in the summer helps too. Remember pregnant queens need more nutrients (and calcium) as does any cat going into winter weather.

Bill Engler always recommended a diet of 3/4 parts poultry and 1/4 part organ or red meat for the small cats. The big guys can take more red meat (look at their diet in the wild). I've pretty much followed this rule of thumb. I've used chicken necks as a base, as well as drumsticks and thighs. But always with vitamins and mineral supplements and always raw.

Don't believe anyone who maintains that you should feed so many ounces of food per pound of cat.....the species are different! I

30 Years - continued

once found it necessary to board my 5 oncillas - total weight of the 5 of them no more 20 pounds. The person with whom they stayed while I did some major remodeling had kept jaguars (and other large cats) for years. Bottom line is my 20 pounds of oncillas ate as much chicken as his 300 pounds of jaguars. Like humans some servals eat their fill and stay slim, others become obese. If your cat is gaining weight cut back a bit. Varying your feeding time slightly will help prevent your cat from panicking over food. Toward the same end, feed cats separately if possible so they don't compete for food. Even if you have to put them in their carriers for dinner.

Since most kittens are at some point bottle-fed, and most formulas contain a meat babyfood, I've continued to occasionally give some as a treat. This comes in handy when a cat is ill. Many times it will lap the same formula even when it is off its feed. If all else fails, a large syringe can be employed to force feed without too much struggle if the cat has retained it's taste for this treat. Or even mixed with Nutri-Cal (a high-caloric supplement) and smeared on the cat's flank or foot where it will be licked off. If your cat is so sick it is not grooming you are several days late taking it to a vet!

A trick learned from Bill Engler - what we called "Engler's Goop" is a mixture of Esbilac powder, raw egg yolk (no raw whites which inhibits biotin absorption) and cod liver oil (a teaspoon full at most) with enough Pedilite or water to make it a thick liquid. For some reason this will tempt a sick cat when other treats won't. Again, a little Nutrical can be mixed in for good measure. B-12 is good for stimulating an appetite.

Now, speaking of Vets - I don't want an expert, thank you very much. It seems no matter what, cats are cats for the most part, with the exception of distemper in the South American species (more about that later). I want a vet that says, "I don't know, who can we call?" and then do it. My vet of 30+ years does not hesitate to pick up a phone and call who ever I

recommend. He explains his thinking to me and we make the decision. He values my input as he knows I know my cats. He understands when I call to check if he's had anything "nasty" (read infectious) in the office before I bring a cat in. Why take a chance on exposing your cat to a virus if you don't have to?

If you've had need to use antibiotics for a sick animal, follow up with a couple days of lactobacillus. This restores the *good* bacteria in the gut which aids in the digestive process. Antibiotics don't differentiate between good and bad bugs but kill them all. It's available at the drugstore without a prescription. Buttermilk and cultured yogurt also contain lactobacillus.

On the other hand neither my vet nor any of his folks have so much as been scratched by my cats. No matter the size of your cat, it is up to you to have the proper equipment to handle them in a pinch. My first ocelot as I previously mentioned had the temperament of my poodle. But when he became ill and had all his natural equipment, he did not want to be bothered. And believe me you cannot handle a 30-40 cat with claws that doesn't want to be bothered. Because of this, treatment was delayed, in part hoping he would get better and then while we rounded up the equipment necessary to handle him.

If I had declawed him he would have gotten to the vet sooner, and the same goes for the equipment if I had it on hand.....he might not have died. Your cat does not need it's claws. You will react better to it knowing it can't inadvertently claw you. Your vet will be more confident in your ability to control it. It really is the best way to go if your cat is larger than a Geoffroys. I tried again with a captive born margay to the same conclusion - we didn't lose him, but found out after another near disaster that the claws gotta go! It's so much easier on them to do it early while they're young.

On the other hand leave those teeth alone! The worst bite I ever received was from a defanged margay. The canine teeth are pressure sensitive and is how the cat gauges how hard to bite. You can teach them not to bite.

30 Years - continued

Biting is not reflexive they can control it, and teeth can be avoided if the cat is intent on biting you if you don't have to worry about 18 razor-sharp claws as well. Without those fangs, mom cats will have a more difficult time raising kittens. As when they attempt to move them (and they will) well....if they don't know how hard they're biting....

Vaccinations are important! Over the years, as I mentioned especially with the South American cats (and I believe all of them - better safe than sorry) we learned to use an extended and some think excessive schedule for distemper (panleukopenia). I vaccinate on the old schedule of 6, 8, 16, weeks and at 6 months and then annually. If you have a good relationship with your vet, he may not mind giving you the vaccine to administer (it's usually quite simple to vaccinate a female in heat yourself, as she has her minds on other things.

Kittens should be allowed to nurse if at all possible - the colostrum which the kitten gets via mother's milk in the first 24 hours carries the immunities a kitten needs for the first six weeks. We don't know exactly when the kittens immune system is developed well enough to accept vaccine so we prolong the schedule.

It is imperative - **never** use anything but a *killed* vaccine - of any kind! If it doesn't come in a killed version, don't use it. If your vet doesn't have it - make him order it! A modified live vaccine can give an exotic the disease you are attempting to prevent.

On the subject of equipment - cultivate your cat's reliance on a carrier. Leave it in their pen or enclosure as a den-box. Use it to bring them in the house. Make them go in it and take *it* out and then walk them. If this is done, it won't be a source of torture to get them into it to go to the vet. If you must entice your cat into a carrier - try a little Deep Heat or Ben Gay on a tissue, or even a perfume they're partial to. You can also, if your cat wears a collar, use a long lead to pull the cat into the carrier. The lead once attached to the collar is then passed through the back of the carrier and

the cat worked (pulled into) it. Not too graceful but expedient in a clinch.

While were on the subject of caging, and such, remember when cleaning any product containing phenol is a no-no! Inside or out, anywhere your cat comes in contact with a surface, be careful - they have this habit of licking feet. Mild soap and to disinfect there's nothing been proven better than clorox. Then rinse thoroughly!

All cages should have a safety entrance - no exceptions! I prefer one big enough to hold you and a wheel barrow. Think out your cage layout and do a bit more than you have to....a little larger, a little stronger, it's worth it. Do not skimp on the cage - you will regret it. A slot (chute) to feed your cat without entering the cage is not a luxury! It is a necessity in the event of an emergency where someone else must feed for you. Ideally, you should have your cage before your cat. Don't get that cute kitten and think you've got lots of time to build the cage - they grow up quickly. Time flies when you're having fun and before you know it you're tempted to throw up something just to have it now. At the very least start planning, buying and building the day your kitten arrives (or the next at the latest).

Be aware of the dangers outside the cage as well. Having constructed beautiful indoor/outdoor facilities in my new home I was sure they were perfect. The indoor portion was in the garage, secure in cold weather. The wire fastened to the inside so it would be secure if the cat pushed against it. What I didn't count on was leaving the garage door open in warm weather and having my doberman push the wire *in* from the outside. Stripping nailed around the wire on the inside of the cage corrected that but not without an escape. Fortunately my neighbors knew of my cats (more on that later) and called when their dog caught the cat on top of their woodpile. Dog barking - bright lights, poor scared little cat. Carrier to the rescue! Put down in front of her, (she was too scared to pick up and at only 3 pound did have her claws) but she dashed in the carrier with a sigh (so it seemed)

30 Years - continued of relief.

Start small - tigers are magnificent but so are their appetites. They may cost less because they are easy to breed, but they cost much, much, more to house and feed. They really aren't good pets (oops - there's that word) You can't keep them in the house - couches aren't made to support 400 pounds. Just loving you they can send you to the hospital. One member had a lovely lion named Numa - he was quite a doll, so very loving. Rubbing up against her one day, he caught her up against a wall and broke 4 ribs - hers, not his. She found out then about having someone ready to help out and having cages one didn't have to enter to feed, as she was laid up for awhile.

Realize that your cat needs a place of its own. One where it can be a cat - pen, room, no matter, just a place of its very own.

Our cats are a very special joy. Unfortunately not everyone understands our penchant nor approves of it. It is best that our cats remain private as for the most part they do not enjoy being paraded or on view. Respect this. If you want a cat for public consumption, you want one for the wrong reasons. Think it over. Respect your neighbors concerns and address them. Talk to them about your cat, and familiarize them with your precautions. Offer to let their children visit, but only by appointment when supervised. Don't endanger your cat by trying to keep one in spite of local laws! Get your permits or move where they are legal.

Remember they are a long lived responsibility. They, more than likely will not get along with small children, so if you haven't yet started your family, you might want to postpone getting a feline. Small children and exotics just don't work. Both demand a lot of attention and unfortunately it will be separate attention. Wait until your kids are at least in school and then be aware it still might not work. The older the better where kids are concerned.

Come to Convention and talk to folks before you get a cat. Come to Convention after you get your cat - there are hundreds of years experience just wandering around just waiting

for a chance to help you with whatever you need. Where else can you talk about your cats nonstop for three days? Arrange to visit with folks who have the species you are interested in, visit them if at all possible. Talk to others who have it and learn as much as you can beforehand. Always double check information - there's more than one way to do many things, some are better than others. Research your breeder before buying that kitten. Be patient, your cat can last you 20 years if you take care. It's a major investment in time, effort and money, but one that can reward you ten fold.

In the near future, I hope to continue this with some hard learned lessons on breeding and kitten-raising.

Shirley Wagner
Life Director



**LIOC'S
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
PRIVATE OWNERS OF WILD
FELINES**

Available from Membership Services

LEA & NALA'S STORY

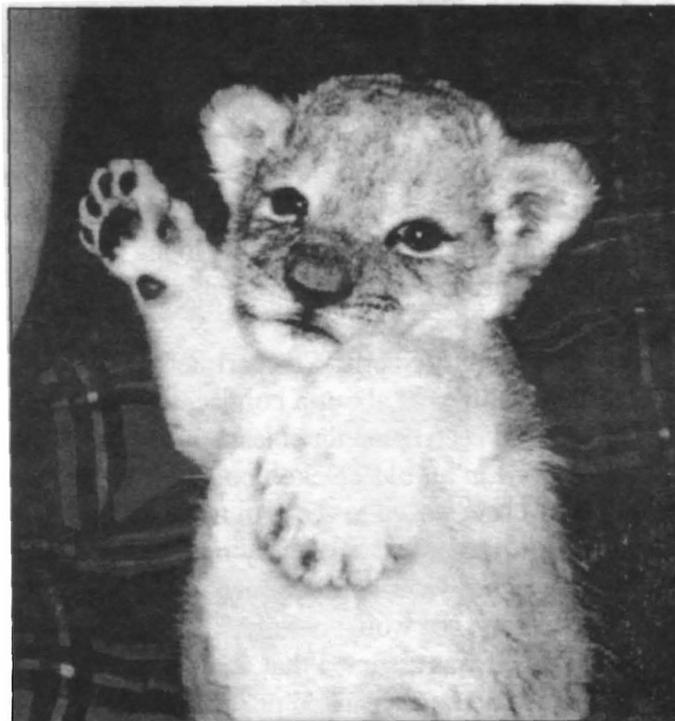
Lea and Nala were born on September 29, 1997. Nala was brought to the University of Illinois teaching hospital on October 13. She was presented with total body stiffness (only being able to move the tip of her tail), and respiratory difficulties. She was diagnosed with tetanus (lockjaw) and treatment was started. After two treatments of antitoxin, antibiotics, and muscle relaxants, she began to respond and gain weight.

Nine days later, October 22, Lea was brought in to be checked. (Photo of Lea was taken on October 18) It turned out they both had contracted tendons in the left rear leg which was probably a birth defect. After Nala gained some weight and strength, both cubs were taken to surgery to have the tendons cut and the tension released. Nala also had an external fixator placed on her right rear leg as it was fully extended and could not bend. The day after surgery, Nala was on her feet for the first time! With physical therapy and much TLC from the people at the Veterinary School, both cubs have steadily gained weight and become very playful.

As the cubs grew, they were diagnosed as having luxated patellas (knee caps) which is what caused the tendon contraction. The knee cap is shifted to the outside of the leg instead of being in the normal position facing forward. Lea was anesthetized and x-rays were taken of her left leg prior to doing more surgery. Upon manipulation it was discovered that there was not enough tendon and muscle to stretch, to replace the patella where it should be. It was decided not to do surgery as it may do more harm than good. They will always walk with a limp.

As of January 13, 1998, Lea weighs 26.2 pounds and Nala weighs 23.4 pounds. This spring they will go to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center and will live together in a big open enclosure with downed trees to climb on, and underground dens to sleep in.

Submitted by Jean Herrberg



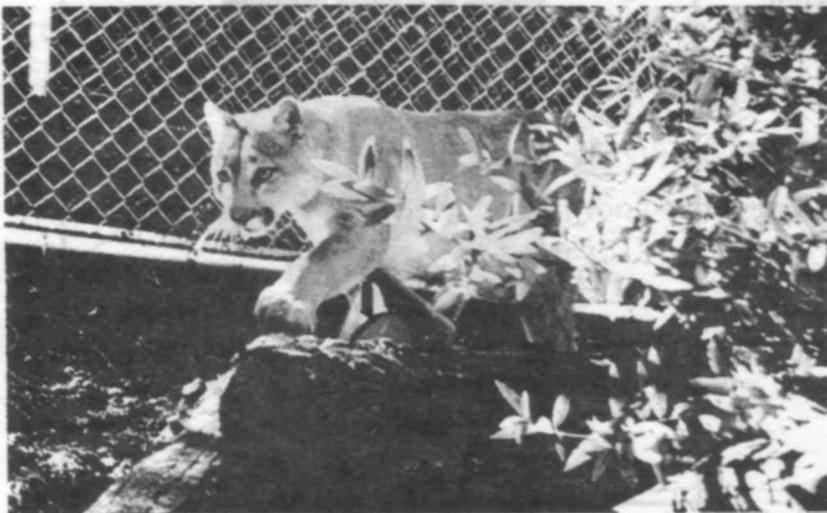
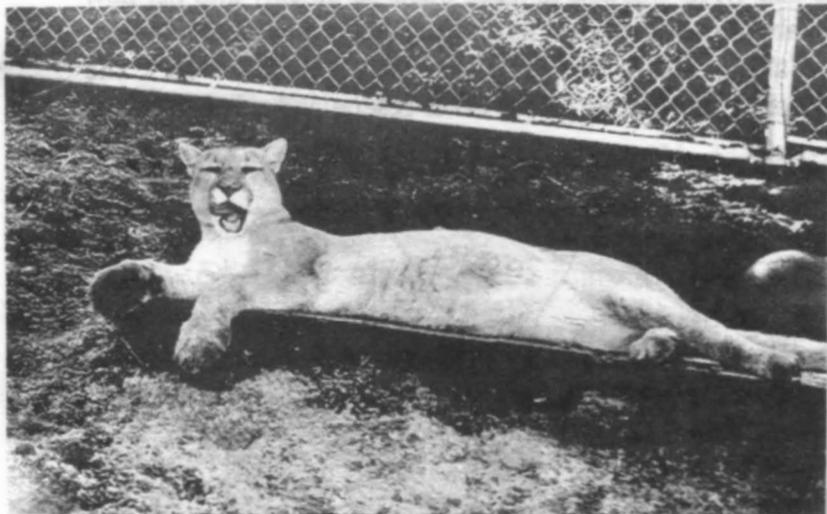
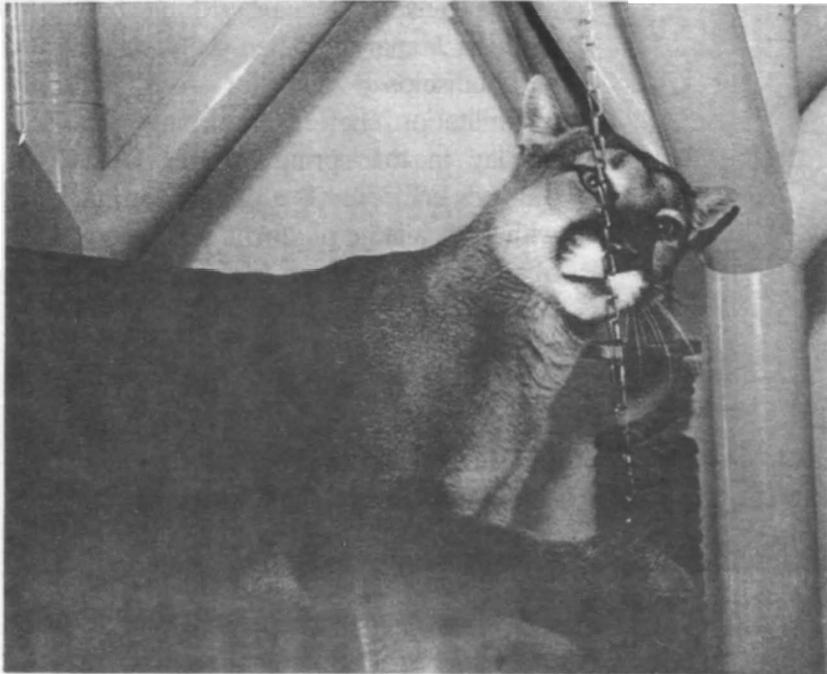
ABUSED COUGAR REHABILITATED BY WILD ABOUT CATS

By Kelly Jean Buckley



There are many exotic felines who thank their lucky stars that special people are champions for their survival. Without these people who operate rescue and rehab facilities these cats would have no hope for the future. The general public hears about the initial rescue of a cat usually through by the news media and then eventually about where the cat is finally placed. The tragic story is told, and the public pours out their money to help feed and house the cat in it's new permanent home. What the public doesn't know is that there are facilities, middle men if you will, that truly bring the cats health back with rehabilitation, and who are responsible for the placement of the rescued animal. Unfortunately, very little money, if any, is given to these rescue centers for the veterinarian care, food or housing during rehabilitation. Those of you who do this know the costs involved. The following is a recap of the rescue of Susie the cougar, her deplorable living conditions before her rescue, her rehabilitation, and her final placement into a safe, permanent home.

On September 18, 1997, the Lyon County Sheriff's Department, in Nevada, contacted Wild About Cats (WAC), located in Auburn, California, about a confiscated six year old cougar named Susie. Neighbors complained that no one had been home for at least three weeks. Susie had been discovered in what appeared to be a junk yard in an old chicken coop. She had no cover from the rain and lightning, and had been tied to a 23" chain staked to the ground for six years. It appeared that she had not eaten for weeks. She couldn't move her head very much and could just pivot her back end around from side to side. There was no water source, only a barrel full of urine and feces which, in an effort to keep her sitting area sanitary, she would back into it to relieve herself. It is unknown how long it had been since she had water. It was assumed that she had eaten snow and gotten liquid from the chickens she'd been fed. Susie had never walked or jumped.



The Sheriff's department asked Dawn Simas, Director of WAC, if she could take the cougar for rehabilitation, and find a good home for her. Upon arrival at WAC on October 6, while still sedated, she was given a full physical exam and vaccinations. Her teeth had been filed down from chewing the wall of the confined space in which she had been. She only weighed 50 pounds and was severely malnourished. The black tip of her tail was missing and X-rays showed that it had been severed long ago.

About 6 weeks later, she was taken in for spay surgery and X-rays. At that time her weight was over 70 pounds. Susie has not been able to chirp or talk like a normal cougar. This may be due to throat damage from the chain that held her. She made little coughing sounds as a greeting and quietly purred for one of WAC's volunteers, Debi Riboni, who was her favorite. It was very moving to watch her discover a toy, jump on a platform, eat grass and even to learn to walk straight, all for the first time. When she discovered the fresh water in a large bucket, she initially stuck her entire head into the water, not realizing that there was water in the bucket. After sputtering the water out of her nose, she drank for 15 minutes. Her recovery was recorded and watched carefully. When she was strong enough, it was time to find a new home for her.

On December 6, almost three months after her rescue, she went to her new home at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, California. She will live the remainder of her life with caring people and a comfortable home.

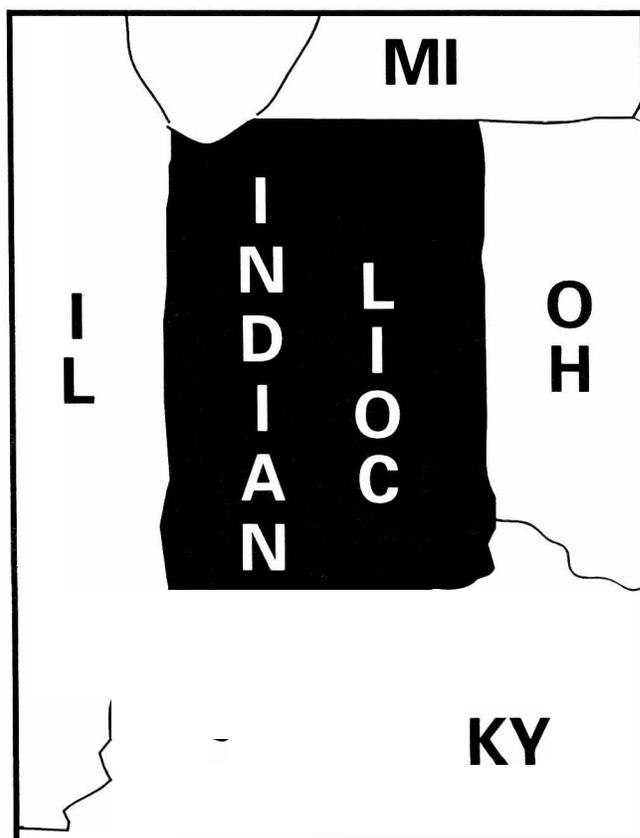


She was displayed in an indoor exhibit, at the museum's main exhibit hall through January 4. Then she went to an undisclosed site for rest and rehabilitation before returning for display in the spring. Her large outdoor enclosure is a natural setting with trees, a large platform, and plenty of toys. The museum typically keeps animals on display for about three months at a time, moving them to off-site homes to reduce their stress before they go back on display. WAC's third and final inspection of the cougar's new home found her weighing 80 pounds, very relaxed, and playful.

This is one very tragic story that has a hopeful ending. The 60 days rehabilitation for Susie required spay surgery, x-rays, stitches, vaccinations, straw bedding, and a diet of 264 pounds of Nebraska diet, chicken and venison. It was fortunate that WAC was able to place Susie so quickly into her new home. If you are interested in information about exotic cat rescue and rehabilitation, please contact Dawn Simas at Wild About Cats, 530-887-5532 or visit their web site <<http://pages.prodigy.com/cats>> for additional information about other rescue and rehab facilities across the country.

A Group of Indiana LIOC members are trying to form a LIOC-ESCF branch in Indiana or if enough interest from the surrounding states possibly a midwest branch. A planning meeting will be held Saturday, May 16, 1998 at Joe Taft's Exotic Feline Rescue Center.

**Anyone interested please contact:
Pat or Bob Turner
Phone #: 317-831-0817
Address: 1345 Dayhuff Road
Mooreville, IN 46158**



Tiger Missing Link Foundation

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About Tiger Missing Link

Brian Werner

Director

Our non-profit organization deals with tiger conservation by conserving genetic diversity and eliminating all inbreeding. We are working with private breeders, wildlife conservation groups, and AZA accredited zoos to register all tigers and eventually DNA test them. All information will be maintained in our database so that breeding tigers can be properly matched and eliminate any cross breeding or inbreeding. The organization currently has a database of private sector owned tigers, known as the *American Tiger Registry (A.T.R.)*. We are targeting private owners, refuge parks, circuses and any other tiger holdings within the US. Through genetic testing, we can determine how valuable these tigers are to tiger conservation as a whole. The program is intended to reinforce, not to replace wild populations. With a "Genetic Insurance Policy", we can use captive tigers as a backup for the recovery or reinforcement of wild populations which are currently too small and fragmented for long-term survival.



Lynn Culver feeds her cougar kitten

BOTTLE FEEDING

When bottle feeding kittens never hold the kittens so they are laying on their backs. Always hold them upright or have their tummies across your lap. Feeding kittens while they are on their backs can cause them to aspirate the formula into their lungs which can kill them. Be sure to burp kittens when done feeding or even during feeding if they drink fast. Also if when feeding any formula comes out of the nose, the formula is coming out of the bottle too fast. Stop feeding, clear formula out of the mouth and nose and change to a nipple with a smaller hole.

To clear nose, hold kitten upside down (so head is lower than body) and gently pat them on their back.

There are several good formulas available that work well for the different types of kittens. one good point to remember is that the age of kitten determines how frequently it should be bottled fed.

1 day to 1 week old: Feed every 2 hours around the clock.

1 week to 2 weeks old: Feed every 2 1/2 to 3 hours around the clock.

2 weeks to 3 weeks old: Feed every 3 1/2 hours around the clock.

3 weeks to 4 1/2 weeks old: Feed every 4 hours around the clock.

After 4 1/2 weeks old the kittens can go all night without a feeding if you feed them late, 11:00 to 11:30 PM, and then early in the morning, 6:00 AM.

Don't forget that kittens need to be stimulated to go potty before and after each feeding. As they progress they will increase their intake of food. If they don't, try feeding them more often.

They also should be weighed every other day if you are bottle feeding them to make sure that they are gaining weight. Always weigh them before you feed but after you have stimulated them to go potty.

FORMULAS

The best of course is mother's own milk, but if you have a mother reject her kittens or when you wean kittens from the mother, here are some different formulas to choose from that work for most.

1 cup cold water

1/2 cup Esbilac powder 1/2 crushed Pet-Cal calcium tablet

1 drop per kitten liquid baby vitamin without iron

Mix well in blender, then strain well to refrigerator. Discard any unused formula after 24 hours.

For cougars add 1/2 oz. of whipping cream per 2 1/2 oz. of mixed formula.

As kittens get older, add 1 teaspoon of Baby Beef, Veal, Chicken or Turkey to the formula. If they tolerate it for a couple of days, slowly add more meat to make the formula richer. If diarrhea occurs, leave the meat out of the formula. (Do not use baby food that contains onion powder. Gerber contains onion powder)



Diarrhea is often the first sign of over feeding.

FORMULAS

6 scoops Esbilac powder 2 oz. canned milk (Carnation 6 oz. cold water 1/4 cooked egg yolk or 1/4 teaspoon Baby Food 1/2 crushed Pet-Cal calcium tablet 1 drop per kitten liquid baby vitamin without iron. Mix well in blender, then strain well to refrigerator. Discard any unused formula after 24 hours.

For cougars add 1/2 oz. of whipping cream per 2 1/2 oz. of mixed formula.

As the kitten progresses, slowly add more egg yolk. If diarrhea begins to occur, reduce the amount of egg yolk.

LAURI'S KITTEN FORMULA

from Dave Hanson by Lauri Aleshire

Perfect Panther Portions

2/3 blender of goats milk (about 3 - 4 cups)

2 scoops KMR kitten formula powder

1/4 teaspoon calcium (about 1/2 Pet-Cal tablet)

Pieces of beef or horse liver

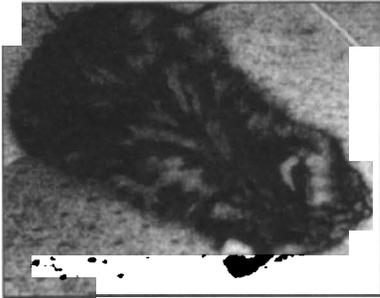
Puree mixture and store in a glass jar in the refrigerator a maximum of 3 days. With the liver included, the mixture will be thick and will need to be blended very well or strained to allow it to flow through the nipple.

At about 2 weeks old, start gradually adding liver to the formula mixture. As the kittens grow, keep increasing the amount of liver until the formula is paste like, and the kitten is ready for meat.

DIARRHEA

LYNN CULVER

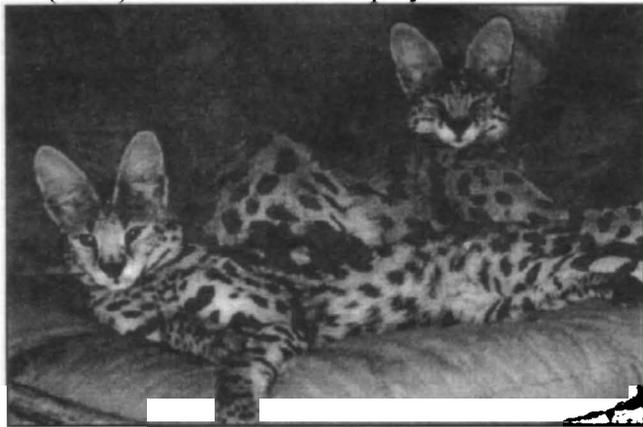
Diarrhea in kittens can be very dangerous and even fatal as it can quickly dehydrate a small animal. A slight case of it can be expected when the cub begins teething at about three weeks. A single cc a day of Kaopectate mixed into the formula can help. Lactobacillis capsules, about three a day, added to the formula can also help. Don't let it go on for more than a day without seeing a vet. It could be worms, coccidia, bad formula or too rich a formula. There are antibiotics that can help so see a vet. our first batch of cubs all got diarrhea at about seven weeks of age. It ran its course in about a week and I never knew the cause. I took them to the vet, a few tests were run and problems ruled out. They were very active and eating well so the vet wasn't too worried. Be very careful however as kittens can quickly become dehydrated. They must have plenty to drink when they have diarrhea.



LIKE MOST BABIES KITTENS NEED THEIR NAPS.

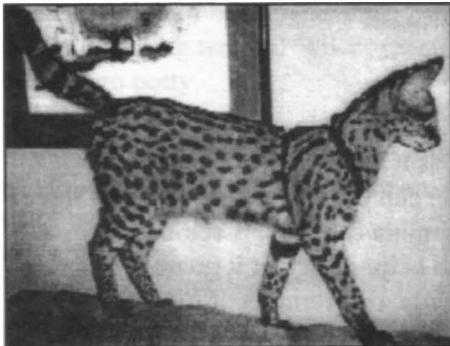
E'Leisha Kaufman-Smith taking a little siesta. Rest is vital to a kittens neurological and physical development. Stress can kill a kitten. Stressors can be; temperature changes, new formula, to much auditory and visual stimulation, constantly being picked up etc..

PLAYMATES: Ginger Beckens, Koonta 9 months old (back) and Quianna 6 months old (front) take a break from play.



Healthy happy kittens play are curious and will get into all kinds things. Proper toys that are safe are important to their enrichment and keep them from becoming bored. Kitten playgrounds should be designed for the particular species. Tigers, Servals, and Bobcats all love water. A wading pool of some type with a little bit of water to splash around in is their idea of heaven.

HARNESS, COLLARS & LEASHES



BJ Lester 's Sukari & Pat and Robert Turners, Kyra shows the proper way to wear a harness, collar and leash. Harness's are very effective. Get your kitten use to a collar and leash/harness at an early age. Cats are not dogs They walk when *they* want to walk. Praise is a very important tool for training! Always end your training on a positive note. Using food as a reward is not recommended.

CHOW TIME !



Mark and Sheila Jenkins Klandagi is always ready for dinner time. Growing kittens require the correct balance of calcium and phosphorus. A sole diet of red meat and organ meats will result in a severe and often fatal nutritional bone disease. Check with your vet on what you should be feeding your kitten and the correct supplements you should use.

PREDATOR PLAY



Ginger Becken's 2 ½ month old caracal Rubin is after something! Predator play is important to the healthy growth and development of all wild felines. It is never a good idea though, to play these games with your cat. Your cat should never think of you as prey. What might start as a cute game when your cat is a kitten could end up being a dangerous game as it grows.

Behavior is very difficult to change once it is learned. Always ask yourself will this behavior be acceptable when my cat is an adult. A cute lion cub grabbing at your feet might seem cute but when the cub is 300 pounds this behavior will be very dangerous. As human caretakers we are the ones who teach our animals what is acceptable and what isn't. Consistency, patience and a training plan is always helpful.



George Carlson's Bubba 11 months old.

DIET AND KITTEN CARE BY DR. JOHN PERRY

I thought I'd share my diet for small cats with you.

- Grind 30 lbs. of skinned turkey necks with 10 lbs. of defatted chicken or turkey gizzards.
- Mix in 3 cups of Chapparel Zoological Vitamins or other yeast-based vitamins.
- Mix in 7-8 lbs. of good quality dry cat food.
- Regrind twice to obtain a good mixture.
- Freeze in 1 cup portions. (I use waxed paper-covered cardboard for trays.) If your cat eats more, you may want to freeze larger amounts per portion.

I feed once a day (in the evening), and do not "fast" the cats by skipping a day, as some zoos do with larger cats.

For kittens, I typically separate them from the mother at 3-4 weeks of age. When I do this, I immediately give them a shot of KILLED VIRUS Distemper cocktail. Every 10-14 days after separation, I repeat the distemper vaccination.

I feed my kittens double strength powdered Esbilac. If you use this, and make more than enough for one feeding, be sure to warm it before the second feeding. I use a syringe for feeding, because I feel this gives me better control than an eye-dropper. I don't squirt milk directly into the mouth; I let the kittens lick it off the end of the syringe. This helps keep the kittens from inhaling milk into their lungs. Also, the kittens will need assistance with urinating and defecating for about 2 weeks.

When the kittens are 6 weeks old, I start offering canned Science Diet Feline Growth food. I begin by blending a tablespoon into the Esbilac to help them make the transition. At seven weeks, if they are still being fussy or pretending to dislike solid food, I tempt them with a bit of chicken, turkey, or cooked hamburger. This usually breaks down the pretense, and afterwards, they will usually eat canned food. While they do, they make all sorts of funny noises, like they are attacking the meat and then telling the world that they killed it.

One point when kittens must be watched is when they are teething, since they may start to have diarrhea problems at this time. If this occurs, I use Kaopectate as a treatment. This must be injected into the mouth, because the cats really dislike it. Also, I recommend that you use the chocolate flavor, since cats with "pink" mouths and faces look funny.

I'd recommend keeping a bottle of Pedialyte and some syringes on hand in case you run into an unexpected case of distemper. Distemper can be treated by giving frequent doses of Kaopectate, and if necessary, subcutaneous injections of Pedialyte, lactated Ringers, or Ringers, to keep them hydrated. This is important, because it is dehydration, and not distemper itself, that causes death.

My vet, who is also a Zoo vet, recommended keeping a frozen vial of lion or tiger serum on hand. If it is necessary to separate the kittens from their mother before they get any of the colostrum (first milk), then they should get a shot of the serum to give them a starter supply of antibodies. For kittens, this can only be done once, since at birth, kittens have no antibodies to the lion serum, but will develop them after the injection. However, one injection (a couple of c.c.'s) should be enough to give the kitten initial protection.





VIEW FROM THE BRANCHES:

ALLIANCE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF EXOTIC FELINES CASCADE BRANCH OF LIOC

LAURISA WATKINS
SECRETARY/TREASURER

PACIFIC N.W. EXOTICS

GAYLE SCHAECHER

EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ETHEL HAUSER



Nov/Dec Meeting Report:

We combined our Nov/Dec meetings for a short business meeting and Christmas Pot Luck party.

Of course the best place was at Jackie Sinnotts in Beaverton. It is always fun to go to Jackies, as her cats always entrain us!

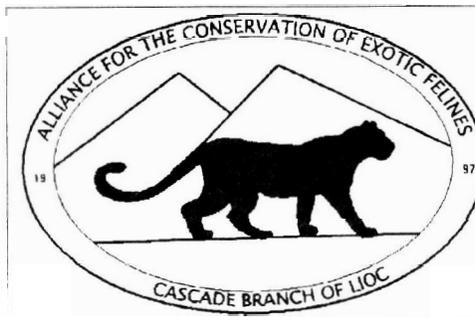
We really had a good turn out, potluck dinners always bring hoards of folks.

Our business meeting was quite short. We talked about the ODFW meeting coming up. The main thing they were going to go over that concerned us was the cougar cage changes.

We had our nominations for officers.

Our 1998 elected Officers are: President—Dwayne Kaptur. Vice President—Jackie Sinnott. Secretary/Treasurer Ginger Beckens. We all agreed to appoint Andy Turdic for public relations.

The business meeting closed with Gail thanking everyone for their help with the care of Jackie Vanderwall's animals. She announced that they were all in their new homes. The rest of the day was spent eating and visiting _____
Gayle Schaecher



Jan/Feb Meeting Report:

January we met at Steve & Jeannie's house in Randle. It was a wild trip up the back road in the back of Steve's truck with all the snow and mud, but we survived. We spent the first part of the day watching Kula play. She is a very beautiful 300 lbs. 13 month old tiger. Our thanks to Greg Anderson for sharing her with us while he relocates. Thanks to all the new people who came to the meeting, it was nice to put faces to all the voices and internet. Steve gave the dates and location for his public presentations at the

Pierce County libraries. Several people said that they were there as support. We discussed having monthly meetings but need a place to meet. Steve and Jeannie spoke up for our annual picnic in July. The hottest topic of the meeting was legislation HB 2807-proposed by Clark County Representative Pennington giving Fish and Wildlife the discretion to identify and prohibit ownership of nonnative wildlife species that are pets and a threat to physical safety of Washington State citizens. Specifically, instituting a total ban on tigers and other members of the felidae family whose adult male weight is over 250 lbs. There was no grandfather clause and only gave owners a 30 day relocation time. For now it looks like the bill maybe dead but we will need to keep an eye on it. _____
Laurisa Watkins

STUFF HAPPENS BY CAREN SOUSA

Sometimes, the myriad responsibilities of exotic cat ownership are almost overwhelming. Often, some aspects may be ignored because they are unpleasant or uncomfortable to think about. Nevertheless, it is imperative to face the very real possibility that something could change in your life, making you unable to care for your cat(s).

When I ran a cat hotel, I always asked the owners of incoming cats for an emergency number, and the most frequent answer was "The Veterinarian's number." When I tried, as gently as I could, to explain that I needed the number of a party who would be responsible in the event that something should happen to the owner, my clients were horrified, and often exclaimed, "Nothing's going to happen to me!" "No," I would assure them, "Probably not, as long as we have all contingencies covered." The majority of these people had no plan, had failed to make arrangements with anyone, and flat out didn't want to consider that "stuff happens."

No matter how distressing the facts, they still exist. We are born; we mature; we experience successes, failures, marriages, divorces; we have children, accidents, illnesses; eventually, we die. All of these life events, both joyful and sad, can have an impact on our cats' wellbeing. Accordingly, we must consider the worst scenarios possible so that we can take steps to ensure that our animals will have continued care, should the circumstances go beyond our control.

Often, our thoughts on making such preparations go no further than "My spouse (or children, parents, whomever) will take care of things. Well, maybe not. Have you discussed this with them? Are there funds that are readily accessible to them so that

they will be able to act upon your wishes? Are they as deeply committed to your cats as you are? Will they be able to handle all situations when they are already stressed or grieving?

Some of my customers said they had indeed made arrangements with family members or friends; some had even mentioned a stipend in their wills to enable me to care for their beloved pet. Despite this, let me assure you that, over the course of twenty years of business, I always got full responsibility for the cat, but I never saw a penny. In one case, the family of the "dearly departed" wouldn't even pay the outstanding board bill. One gentleman even had the audacity to tell me "We're giving you the cat."

After encountering these situations, I discovered that when someone mentions their wishes in a will, this often gives little or no assurance that they will be carried out. You need a firm commitment from a person you can trust, and that person needs access to everything that will be necessary as he or she carries out that commitment.

One client really thought matters out in great detail, and even consulted with an attorney. She followed his suggestions and set up a separate savings account in both her name and mine, and also kept instructions by her telephone, explaining that I was to be contacted to pick the cat up, should she, for any reason, be incapacitated or unable to care for the cat. When she opened her account, the teller who assisted her questioned her about our relationship. When the situation was explained to her, the teller was clearly alarmed, and said, "Don't you realize that woman (me) could take your money at any time?" To this, my client replied, "Don't you realize that I am entrusting my precious animal to her?" Unfortunately, her cat passed away due to old age. Nevertheless, the lady remains a good and trusted friend.

Personally, I have tried to always make certain that my pets will always be cared for. When I moved, leaving behind the family members and friends with whom I had made previous arrangements for the care of my pets, I had the good fortune to meet a neighbor who adores my only pet, a dog. He has agreed to care for her in the event that something should render my husband and myself incapable of doing so. As a means of assisting him, I have put together a package, containing all the dog's supplies. It contains everything my neighbor needs to know, along with all my wishes, set down in writing, and a blank check.

Since my pet is an old dog, this dear man has agreed that, if it becomes impossible for him to keep her, or if she seems unhappy, he will not try to find another home for her, but rather, will hold her in his arms while she is painlessly put down. This would be a "first" for him, and I know, would prove very difficult, but in spite of this, I know that I can trust my neighbor to do what I think is best. I hope that all my readers will also be able to find someone as compassionate, and, that if they have not already made preparations, that they will do so, **now**.

I know we don't want to think about unpleasant situations, but it is wise to be prepared. And, after we have made the necessary arrangements, we won't need to think or worry about unpleasant thoughts.

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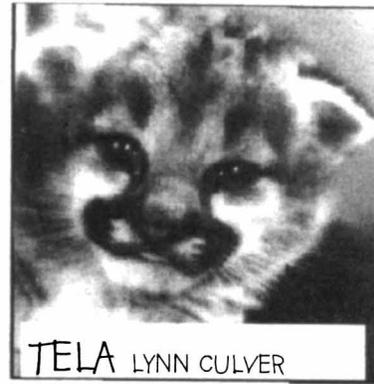
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LIOC'S KITTENS & CUBS



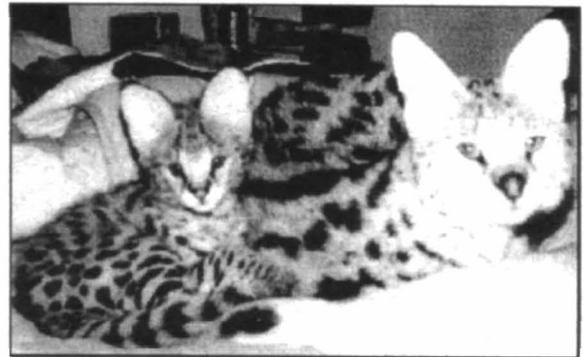
MUFFIN LYNN CULVER



TELA LYNN CULVER



RAJAH DONNA AMOS



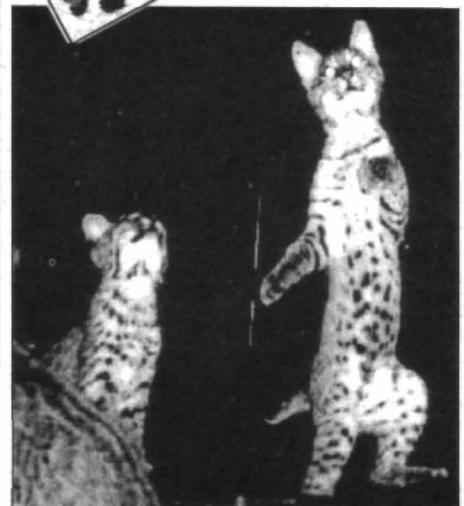
MOM & RAINDROP "TB" AMY RAMUSSEN



RAHJA PLAYING "E.T."
JANA & CRAIG LONDRE



BIGBOY, GIRLIE & SPOT
BOB & NANCY LEAMING



RED, MUFFIN, & FLUFFY
LYNN CULVER

