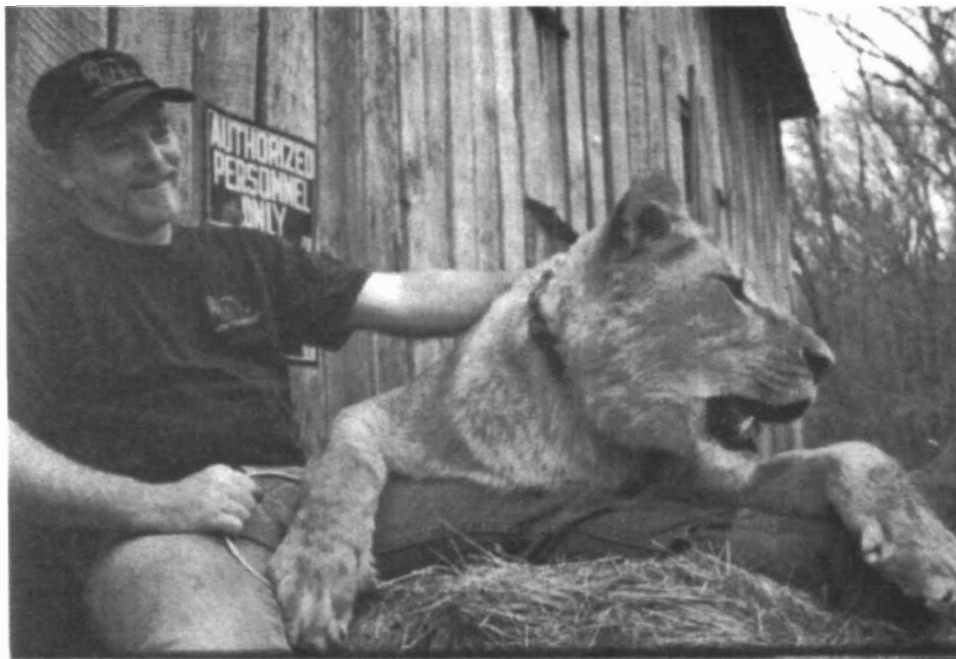


ESOC

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



Volume 42, Issue 4 - July/August 1998



**Who said a dog was man's best friend?
Max and Sheeba (page 11)**



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.

Founder:	Catherine Cisin	Amaganasett, N.Y. 11930
Editor:	Sherry Blanchette	P.O.Box 251, Lovingsston, VA 22949 (804) 263-6652 Email: msfwildcat@aol.com
Officers		
President	Barbara Wilton	7800 S.E. Luther Rd. Portland, OR 97206 (503) 774-1657
Vice President	Scarlett Bellingham	P.O.Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba, ROA 1EO, Canada (104)388-4845 home & fax
Secretary/Treasurer	Sharon Roe	29641 N.E. Timmen Rd., Ridgefield, WA 98642 (360)887-8563 Email: shoo@pacifier.com
Term Directors		
Member Services	Kelly Jean Buckley	P.O. Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028 (602) 996-5935 Email: kjbuck@phnx.uswest.net
Education & Conservation	George Stowers	P.O. Box 80, Lycoming, NY 13093-0080 (315)342-4997 Email:gstowers@aiusa.com
Legal Affairs	Nannett McGann	10100 S.W. 21 Terrace, Miami, FL 33165 (305)553-8192 Email: denofnm@aol.com
Advertising & Publicity	Jean Hamil	31307 Debbi, Magnolia, TX 77355 (281)356-2076
Life Directors		
	J.B. Anderson	1200 Hwy KK., Osage Beach, MO 65065 (573) 348-5092
	Carin C. Sousa	2960 Bay St., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 (850)932-6383
	John Perry	6684 Central Ave. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432 (612)571-7918 nites (612)481-2673 days
	Shirley Wagner	3730 Belle Isle Ln, Mobile, AL 36619 (334)661-1342 Email: ocelots@compuserve.com
Branches		
Cascade	Marc Watkins	2122 8th Ave.N., #402, Seattle, WA 98109 (206)285-3507
Exotic Feline		
Educational Society	Ethel Hauser	14622 N.E. 99th St., Vancouver, WA 98682 (360)892-9994
Pacific Northwest Exotics	Dwayne Kaptur	810 S. Holladay # 14, OR 97138 Gayle Schaecher(503)663-4137
Sunshine State Exotics	David Cassalia,	P.O.Box 7113, Hollywood, FL 33081 (954)966-0406
Regional Contacts		
Northeast	George Stowers	P.O. Box 80, Lycoming, NY 13093-0080 (315)342-4997 Email:gstowers@aiusa.com
Southeast	Jean Hatfield	1991 S.W. 136th Ave., Davie, FL 33325 (954)472-7276
Central	J.B.Anderson	1200 Hwy KK, Osage Beach, MO 65065 (314)348-5092
Northwest	See Branches	
Southwest	Loreon Vigne	20889 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville, CA 95441 (707)857-3524
Canada	Scarlett Bellingham	P.O.Box 722, Niverville, Manitoba ROA1EO, Canada (204)388-4845



President's Perspective

I originally wrote on another topic but got a phone call today which has upset me. It seems Multnomah County, Oregon, has passed a new Exotic Animal Law. (The city of Portland is in Multnomah County.) I was unable to attend the meeting but have been in constant contact with Gayle Schaecher, a member of the Pacific Northwest Exotics (PNWE). She said the section pertaining to exotic felines was not perfect but she could live with it. Multnomah County has banned exotic cats from cougars up through the big cats. Members from Pacific Northwest Exotics pointed out that cougars are not classified as a "big cat." The county did agree with them but banned the cougar anyway. They also banned exotic birds, fish, reptiles, and primates.

Dwayne Kaptur, President of the PNWE, called me about the outcome of the meeting. He felt LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation should have supported the branch better. I know Gayle Schaecher has been on the task force with Oregon Fish and Game for several years and has made great progress in protecting our rights to own exotic cats. The PNWE branch includes any exotic, not just

In This Issue

New Midwest Branch	4
Bleeding Heart	6
Letter to Editor	7
Sharing	8
Here Comes the Pride	10
The Maxwell Pride	11
Nominees	13
Constitution Amendment	13
Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow	14
How to Give Your Cat a Pill	15
Premium Cat Food	16
Handling Young Cats	17
Wildlife on Easy Street	18
Life with Bob	20
Classified	22

cats. I know very little about primates, birds, fish, or reptiles. I assume they all have clubs such as the Simian Society or the Koi Breeders Association. Where were they if their species were being in danger of being banned?

I have attended all of the meetings I could. Daytime meetings are difficult for people who work. PNWE has a majority of LIOC ESCF members on their rolls. I feel that LIOC ESCF was well represented by their membership. Several Exotic Feline Educational Society members from Washington attended evening meetings in Oregon when they could.

LIOC ESCF would like to be able to help every member in every county in the United States. Any idea how many there are? The cost? We do what we can, where we can, when we can.

Looking forward to seeing YOU at the convention!

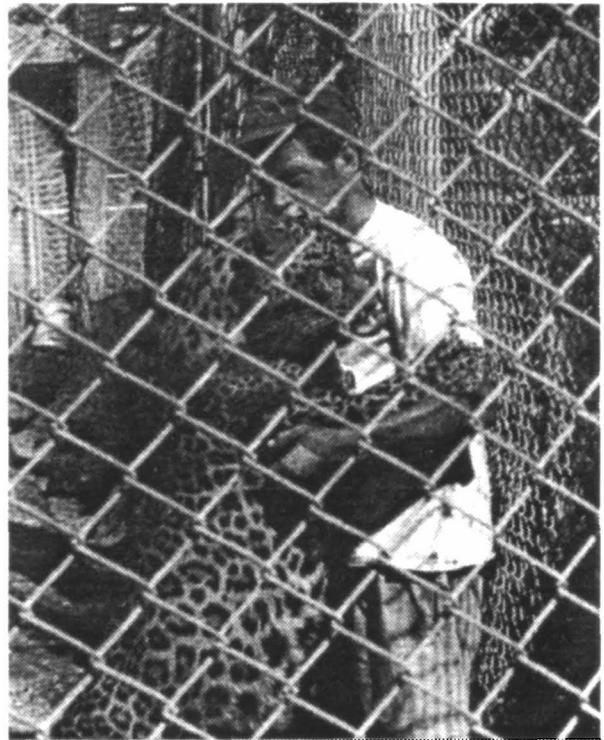
Barbara Wilton, President



New LIOC Branch Formed in Midwest

About 30 people came from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio to the first meeting, Saturday, May 16, 1998 to plan and form the new branch, **Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society**. The day started with a tour of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Center Point Indiana. One group from Kentucky had car trouble on the way, and showed up on Sunday to tour the rescue center. Everyone had a great time showing pictures of their cats and talking to people who love exotic cats.

After the tour, they met at the Crown Point Town Park for the planning meeting. Officers were elected, the branch name and logo were chosen, and branch dues were set. Meetings will be five per year in April, June, August, October, and December. Officers will be elected each October for the following year. The branch will cover the general upper Midwest area. The branch application and by-laws have been prepared and submitted to the LIOC board of directors for approval at the August board meeting in Indianapolis.



Joe Taft - Exotic Feline Rescue Center

Robert L. Turner, President M.E.F.E.S. branch: (condensed letter to members)

A big thank you to Joe Taft for allowing us to tour his facility and pet his five tiger cubs. Thank you to Joe's assistant, Jean Herrberg, for being a great hostess. Thanks to Tonya and Mike Jones for bringing their six week old female serval, with rare reddish spots, and their four month old male caracal. Both were extra gentle. Thanks to Marvin Hierlmeier for bringing his male serval Hush. Thanks to Bill and Diana Johnson for their help on planning the meeting, bringing food, the sloppy joe's were the best I've ever eaten.

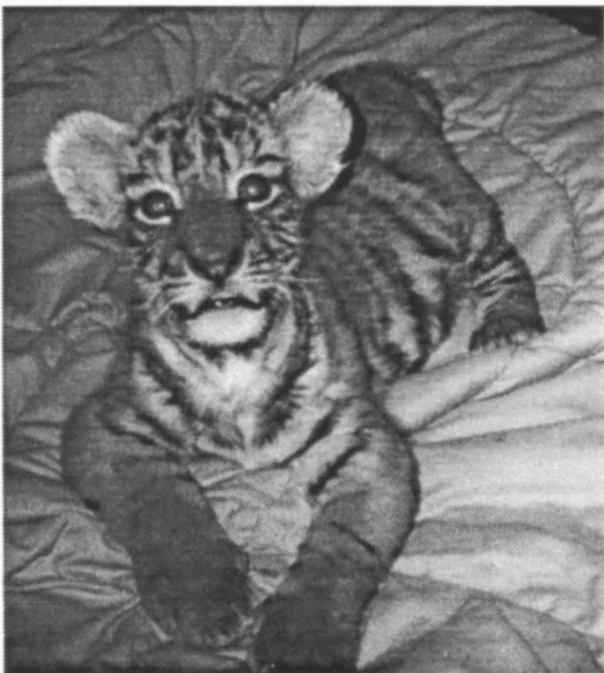
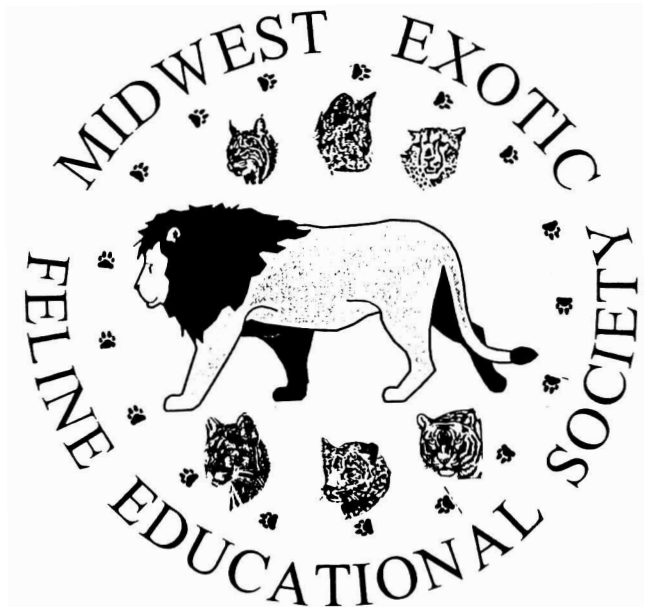
We have a great opportunity to attend this year's LIOC convention to be held in Indianapolis. I went to my first National Convention last year and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed it. You get to meet people who have the same interest in exotic felines, learn from the guest speakers, and you will have a great time on the tours and at the Saturday night banquet/fund raising auction.

Our branch bought a porcelain statue of a pair of leopards for our new branch to donate to the auction. Tonya Jones is our first branch secretary/treasurer. Let's give Tonya a big thank you for taking on the job, and all the support we can by sending her articles, pictures, and feline stories to share with the branch. Steve Hahn is our Vice President and he will be a big help to the branch. Steve, and his wife Cheryl, have a first class cat facility in Mooresville, Indiana.

Please inform anybody who is interested in exotic felines about our new branch. We need all the support we can get to help the branch work with local and state governments for regulations for the good of the exotic felines and for responsible private ownership. We also need to foster good relationships with the zoos in the Midwest area so we can share information between M.E.F.E.S. and the zoos about the care of exotic felines. This is an area on which M.E.F.E.S. will be working.



I look forward to meeting everyone at the national convention and the M.E.F.E.S. meetings. Please help our branch grow. Our efforts are for the benefit of the wildcats. It is our duty to protect the wildcats who are loosing their right to protect themselves. Their Survival is in the balance.





Bleeding Hearts

Anonymous

*The morning since you passed away
The night before that broke my heart
The Bleeding Heart bloomed full today
A birth from death we're all a part.*

*You bare escaped death oft before
So many prayers were said for you
Your birth was from death even more
Than most of your kind ever knew.*

*You never knew your mother's kiss
Nor could you know I wasn't she
And never did you challenge this
As being what your life should be.*

*Though you were sick and oft in pain
You met each day with strength anew
And never did you once complain
Of all your illness put you through.*

*You gave me hope when every morn
I'd come to see with bated breath
For fear this was the day I'd mourn
To see if you had not escaped death.*

*For years now you had grown so strong
That each day I felt more assured
That we had overcome the wrong
Through love and faith we had endured.*

*I called to you, but no reply
And knew my heart was soon to break
Only death could part you and I
And this was more than I can take.*

This poem may be somewhat morbid but all of us who have had much experience in rehabilitation and hand rearing have faced this awful reality. I wrote it in an effort to deal with my grief at losing a great friend. His mother was a wild cat, killed by a car, exposing him and two other unborn cubs. He was the only survivor that night. He miraculously lived for two years and the last year was a healthy and happy one. However, he died suddenly this week with no warning. In this past good year another similar kitten became my daily worry and I was relieved that the first one was strong enough that I could focus my attention on the daily needs of the second. To lose either of them during their critical times would have been more than just failure, it would have been an overwhelming loss at a time when I would not have been emotionally equipped to deal with it. To know that he had a very good year of running and playing and enjoying all life had to offer has helped to soften the blow.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am sad to announce the death of my two cats, Sabra (Bobcat/lynx) and Stoli (FliBole). They died within four hours of each other. The landscaper put Hemlock bark mulch down in the flower beds and within 20 hours one of the cats was dead. Four hours later the second one died. Something in the Hemlock mulch must have been the cause of death. They will be terribly missed as those were the first cats I had owned which had been parents many times. Any information on the effect of mulch affecting exotics would be greatly appreciated.

Al Porges

Reader Response

Dear Al,

First, I want to offer my deepest condolences for your tragic loss. I was concerned about your loss since I also use mulch and wondered if my cats could be in danger. I checked with a number of experts (a horticulture professor at Western Kentucky University, a doctor of veterinary medicine specializing in pathology, and the US Poison Center). They had many questions: Were the cats ingesting the mulch or did they roll in it? Could they have come in contact with other animals which may have been carriers of distemper or other diseases? What were the symptoms prior to expiration? Could a spill of antifreeze have been ingested? Had the area been sprayed for weed or bug control?

All of those I spoke with, however, agreed that the cause of death was most likely not the Hemlock bark but perhaps another ingredient in the mulch. When I first read your letter, I thought of hemlock poison and the cup of Socrates. I learned that there are two kinds of Hemlock common in the US, one being the Eastern Hemlock, a large pine-like evergreen (that has bark) and a weed called Water Hemlock which grows at the water's edge. It is the Water Hemlock (which looks like Queen Ann's lace and doesn't have bark) that is very poisonous, not the evergreen tree. Mulch is made up of anything that goes through a mulcher and may consist any number of plants. You may want to check the origin of the mulch. Some landscapers will treat the mulch with poison to keep down insects. There are many other common plants which may be deadly if consumed. Trimmings (even old and dry) of the Japanese Yew, also called Taxus (an ornamental evergreen) has been the cause of death for many farm animals, as have wild cherry and red maple leaves. Even a field of Ranunculus, sometimes called buttercups, has a low level toxicity.

If all other possibilities have been addressed and removed so that the only variable left was the mulch, then you may want to place random samples in ziplock bags and mail them to the Poison Control Center for analysis. You may also consider exhuming the remains and having the bone marrow tested for type of poison. I do support your quest for knowledge and hope you pursue this until it is resolved. Best of luck!

Herald Maxwell



SHARING - By Robert L. Turner



“Sharing” is about Marvin Hierlmeier and his shared life with a very tame and lovable male African Serval named Hush. Marvin is a personal friend of mine since the time my wife, Pat and I saw this white haired man with his beautiful cat walking along the Ohio river at the Madison Indiana Craft Festival. We were taken by the beauty of Hush. Patty and I are into wildlife rehab and up to that time knew very little about the small wildcats. It was so fortunate that our paths crossed because seven weeks later, we were sharing our lives with a beautiful Serval kitten from Donna Amos.

Marvin has traveled through nine states and parts of Canada, sharing Hush with people in nursing homes. Marvin is an LIOC member from Madison, Indiana and is normally referred to as the “Cat Man” among many

thousands of lonely, mostly forgotten people, in nursing homes, who can call Hush their friend. It is touching to witness this sharing and the personal interaction between Hush and the lonely confined people.

Sharing Hush has been a constant theme of Marvin’s life for the past 10 years. Marvin’s late wife Gracie was in a nursing home in her final days and Marvin saw the loneliness. He is quick to point out that he is not showing Hush, but sharing Hush. Hush is a very special docile Serval, which Marvin says if you are very lucky, comes along but once in your life time. Everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Hush would completely agree with that.

I’ve had the pleasure to travel with Marvin and Hush to visit some of the nursing homes. In the past three years we have traveled to the far northern remote areas of Manitoba and Ontario Canada. The final leg of the trip was by a very noisy float-plane, built in the 30’s. You can only imagine the looks on the native people’s faces when they opened the plane doors and saw this large spotted cat sitting on top of duffel bags, eagerly wanting to jump out of the plane after the one hour trip. Hush made a leaping exit from the plane to the dock, when the guide opened the door. I suspect the guide is still swimming in the lake, as he leaped into the lake upon Hush’s landing on the dock.

The first thing Marvin asked when he got off the plane was “where’s the nursing home?” I suspect they thought that he wanted to check into the nursing home due to his long white Einstein style hair. He got directions and away he went, while all I wanted to do was take a shower and get a little rest. Marvin said “first things first,” and I’m lucky if he shows up for his shower and some rest four hours later.



I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to travel with Marvin and Hush on these far Northern trips to remote areas of Canada. I remember three days each way of vehicle travel with Hush riding up front in the truck with his head on my lap for hours. I also remember how sore I was for not wanting to move and disturb Hush's sleep. Now that's love of a cat!

Not all of our trips up north were rosy. Two years ago, when we were camped out on the Churchill river between the village of Flin Flon and the town of Churchill, on the Hudson Bay, we were trapped in our cabin by nearby forest fires. In all directions you could see forest fire flames and the haunting scene at nighttime. The flames got within two miles of our cabin with no escape for us, except on a small fishing boat. This went on for five days and lucky for us we didn't get harmed. Tragically four fire fighters trying to help a village of Native people up the river from us, lost their lives in a helicopter crash into the river. We did not know about this until we returned to base camp. On our travel back home through Winnipeg, it was an odd feeling reading the newspaper headlines, knowing how close we were to this tragedy.

Marvin has visited and shared Hush with more than 750 different nursing homes with more than 5000 revisits, traveling 30,000 miles a year. They have toured more than 225 county courthouses. An estimated 950,000 people have petted Hush. They have been featured on TV 54 times and featured in more than 400 newspaper articles. Marvin accepts no money for his time and expenses. Hush was born in March 1987. Marvin hopes to continue visiting nursing homes for many years to come as long as Hush is willing. In the new Ohio River Park in Madison, Indiana there is a decorative street light and a sidewalk named in honor of Hush. Marvin and Hush attended their first LIOC convention in Florida last year.

Almost every day around noon, the two head out, not knowing where they will end up, which could be up to 200 miles away from home. One thing for sure, one or more nursing homes will get a visit by this white haired man and his beautiful spotted wildcat. Many of us attach "hero" to film stars or sport stars (in my case, Indy driver Mario Andretti), but now Marvin and Hush are my heros. I hope that if I ever have to go live at a nursing home, that there will be a Marvin and Hush making the rounds saying "hi-hi-hi" how are you doing? I know someday, Marvin and Hush will ride into the sunset in heaven looking for nursing homes and God will smile on them for their wonderful sharing.



Here Comes the Pride

Most species of cats lead solitary lives, but a few live together in groups called prides.



BEHAVIOR

A pride is usually made up of one or two males and several females. The females are all closely related to one another and share the tasks of hunting for food and raising cubs. The main role of the male is to sire young and defend the pride against outsiders.

In the wild lions are a model of cooperative hunting. True, sometimes an individual will stalk a wildebeest and take it down unassisted. But lions have other more ingenious methods of catching their food. Sometimes they go out in pairs and split up. One lion chases its unsuspecting prey straight into the other lion. Sometimes they go out in large groups and fan out. Then, closing in on their quarry from every direction, the animal they've earmarked for dinner doesn't have a chance of getting out alive.

Of course, lions' diet is widely varied. They'll take buffaloes, giraffes, zebras — you name it. An adult can eat up to 22 pounds of meat at a single sitting. After

that sort of Thanksgiving-size feast, they might lie around a carcass for several days, alternately snacking and napping. Lions sleep about twenty hours a day.

Did you know that lions have nine distinct ways of vocalizing? To keep contact with each other as the pride moves around, for instance, they issue continual grunts, like radar blips transmitted between submarines. Roars are reserved, mainly, for two occasions. After a kill, they roar as a kind of feline dinner bell. For an hour or so after sundown, they roar to stake out their territory for the night. There's no missing these sounds. If you're standing near a lion, even a half-hearted growl is hard to ignore. But humans can hear a loud roar up to five miles away.

PRIDE OWNERSHIP

The life of a young male lion is dangerous. He is often forced to leave his mother's pride by the dominant male. He then must find and conquer another pride in order to reproduce. Battles between males for pride ownership are serious fights that may end in death. The purpose of the lion's mane is to protect the neck when males fight each other.

Males may work in small teams of two to four to take over a pride. Immediately after the takeover, the victorious males often kill the pride's cubs. This causes the pride females to be ready for mating within days.



The Maxwell Pride

by Herald and Marge Maxwell

We, Max and Marge, got married and became an institution. We had a little girl and became a family. We obtained two female lion cubs and became a pride. Life as we knew it changed forever. One of the lions had multiple fractures from a severe calcium deficiency.

The veterinarian's recommendation was to administer megadoses of calcium and lixotinic combined with a diet of Zu-preen and restrict any walking for two weeks. The alternative was to put her down. Selecting the first and only option, she quickly recovered and is now a very healthy, affectionate lioness.



TRAINING

The glory of childhood fantasies of Born Free once again danced in our heads. We made a commitment to keep and care for the lions their entire lives. We searched the library for some reading material on how to raise lions... well nothing there, then to the pet store,



hmmm, no help there. We'll call the zoo... they'll be glad to help with information... oops, wrong again. Finally we found someone who lived nearby who had graduated from a school in Florida for handling big cats. (Thank goodness, finally some help!) Watching and assisting in walking her tigers, leopard and lion, Max learned quickly to respect the awesome power of these majestic beings. Walk with double chain, fence with double door and double check everything. There's no room for error, not even the first time, and never wrestle with the cubs. They will only repeat it later when they are 400-800 pounds. Teach them the "NO" word while they're small. She told me about the LIOC, Nebraska, Zu-preen, USDA APHIS license, and the name of a great vet. Max learned more from her than she will ever know, and only wished he'd spent much more time gleaning from her knowledge. One day she said to him, "If you keep the cats, they will become your life." Little did we realize how prophetic and profound those words were.

The Maxwell Pride - Continued

PROTECTING THE PRIDE

Not only do we have the expense and daily responsibility of providing food, water, and shelter, we have found that protection from media exploitation and animal activists has been the most costly. We have uncovered plots to cut our fence to free the lions, attempts to seize our lions by changing local laws, and even poisoning them with tainted food. We finally relocated to another state primarily because of this harassment. However, lions attract attention. Once again the media came to exploit but with our previous experience, we would not allow them access. Thus far, our "pride" life here has been relatively uneventful and rewarding, thank goodness!

We are now a not-for-profit Kentucky corporation, Project Noah Inc., an animal rescue and sanctuary. We have recently rescued a Canadian lynx and a capuchin monkey. We are currently looking for a larger tract of land to meet the needs of this expanding sanctuary. We soon hope to follow up this story with a new location and the outcome of our expanding pride.



A Prayer

Oh Lord,

*Give us the gentleness of the rabbit,
the working ability of the beaver,
the courage of the lion,
the cunning of the fox,
the bravery of the tiger, and
the fortitude and resilience of the coyote.
We need the lovely family life of the wolf,
whose members care for each other in
sincere devotion.*

*We need the common sense of the horse
and strength of the ox,
and the humor, comedy, and simple
playfulness of the sea otter and the
squirrels who chase each other around
trees.*

*We also need the concentration and swift
striking ability of the snake when an
enemy is near.*

*We need to copy those masters of good
grooming, affection, and relaxation— our
cats,
and the loyalty and devotion to a job or
leader that the dog has.*

*And finally, we need to top all of the
above with the sheer joy of the songbirds
at dawn, heralding the new day and
forgetting the past.*

*Animals seem to go about their daily lives
without dwelling on the past or the future
with complete trust in Our Creator, and
this we need most of all.*

Amen.



Nominees Announced

The following have been nominated for the 1999-2000 Board of Directors. Their biographies and the ballot will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

President:

Andy Turudic
Barbara Wilton

Vice President:

George Stowers
John Van Stry

Secretary/Treasurer:

Sharon Roe

TERM DIRECTORS

Member Services:

Kelly Jean Buckley

Legal Affairs:

Mark Jenkins
Andy Turudic

Advertising/Publicity:

Jana Londre

Education/Conservation:

Sherry Blanchette

Constitutional Amendment Passes

The vote to amend Article V, Section 3 of our Constitution passed by a vote of 91 to 22. This change takes effect August 1, 1998.

That section now reads: A member shall be considered properly nominated by the membership if he is willing to assume the office and there are two (2) valid LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. members' signatures on the document presenting his name to the nominating committee and if the document is mailed to the Committee by March 20th of the election year. Any nominee for the President of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. shall have been elected and served at least one term of office in another position of the Board of Directors of the organization or shall have been a paying member in good standing for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years to include the election year.

Please update your Membership Handbooks to reflect this change.

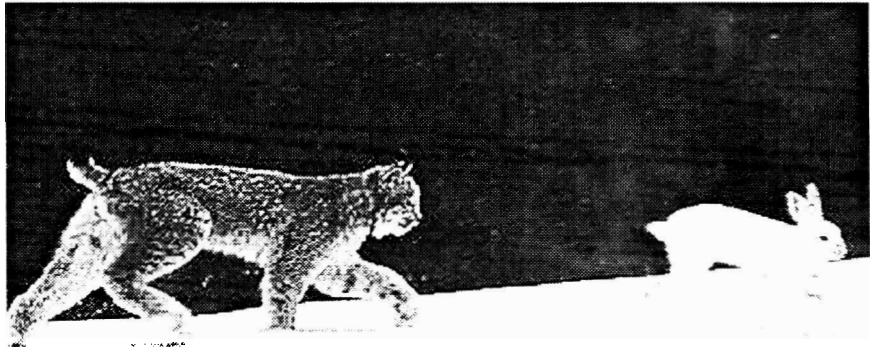
Did You Know...

Poinsettias are NOT poisonous. Around the 1920's a young child in the south sea islands was found dead. Nearby a Poinsettia was missing a few leaves. It was believed and broadcast that his consumption of the leaves was the cause of death. It wasn't until the 1970s after intense and costly research that this belief that Poinsettias are poisonous was proven to only be a myth. For hundreds of years prior to this past century many believed tomatoes were deadly, probably because of their red color. It is important to keep poisonous plants out of reach of our beloved cats.

Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow

The Canadian lynx, and its favorite prey, the snowshoe hare, combine to tell one of nature's most fascinating stories of balance, dependence, and sustainability.

The snowshoe hare's numbers vary widely, from a peak of thousands of animals per square mile down to only one or two in the same area a number of years later—depending on a variety of environmental factors. One of those factors is the lynx, whose population varies in



Tony Stone Images/Vancouver

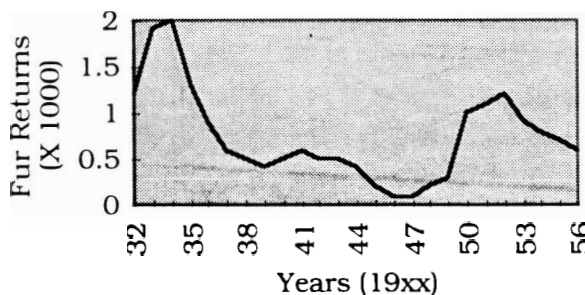
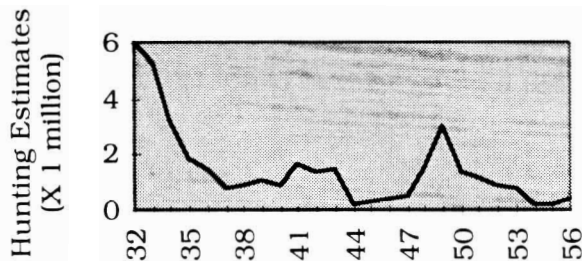
direct relation to the rabbit population. Thus, when there are plenty of hares available, the population of lynx increases. Then, as the lynx reduce the number of rabbits, the number of lynx diminish in proportion, which allows the rabbit population to swell again setting the stage for the cycle to begin again. The numbers of snowshoe hares tend to reach a peak every ten to fifteen years. The increased food source results in

larger lynx litter sizes, fewer kitten deaths, and a corresponding increase in the lynx population.

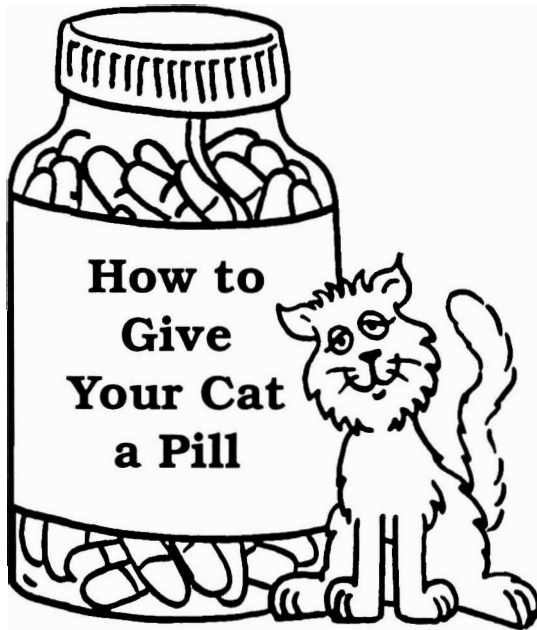
Eventually, the increased number of lynx preying on the hares causes a decline in the hare population. As hares become rare, lynx litter sizes shrink, fewer kittens survive, and lynx numbers decline. This sets the stage for the cycle to begin again.

This graph shows the numbers of snowshoe hares and Canadian lynx over a thirty-year period. Note how the lynx population reaches its peak one or two years after the hares have reached theirs. Why do you think this is the case?

DELAYED REACTION



The lynx respond to the increase in their food supply (hares) by having more kittens. Kittens take time to grow and are not counted as members of the population until they are adults, about one year old.



1. Grasp cat firmly in your arms. Cradle its head on your elbow, just as if you were giving a baby a bottle. Coo confidently, "That's a nice kitty." Drop pill into its mouth.
2. Retrieve cat from top of lamp and pill from under sofa.
3. Follow same procedure as in 1, but hold cat's front paws down with left hand and back paws down with elbow of right arm. Poke pill into its mouth with right forefinger.
4. Retrieve cat from under bed. Get new pill from bottle. (Resist impulse to get new cat.)
5. Again proceed as in 1, except when you have cat firmly cradled in bottle-feeding position, sit down on edge of chair, fold your torso over cat, bring your right hand over your left elbow, open cat's mouth by lifting the upper



- jaw and pop the pill in—quickly. Since your head is down by your knees, you won't be able to see what you're doing. That's just as well.
6. Leave cat hanging on drapes. Leave the pill in your hair.
 7. If you're a woman, have a good cry. If you're a man, have a good cry.
 8. Now pull yourself together. Who's the boss here anyway? Retrieve cat and pill. Assuming position 1, say sternly, "Who's the boss here, anyway?" Open cat's mouth, take pill and...
 9. This isn't working, is it? Collapse and think. Aha! Those flashing claws are causing the chaos.
 10. Crawl to linen closet. Drag back large beach towel. Spread towel on floor.
 11. Retrieve cat from kitchen counter and pill from potted plant.
 12. Spread cat on towel near one end with its head over long edge.
 13. Flatten cat's front and back legs over its stomach. (Resist impulse to flatten cat.)
 14. Roll cat in towel. Work fast; time and tabbies wait for no man.
 15. R e s u m e position 1. Rotate your left hand to cat's head. Press its mouth at the jaw hinges.
 16. Drop pill into cat's mouth and poke gently. Voila! It's done.
 17. Vacuum up loose fur (cat's.) Apply bandages to wounds (yours.)

Take two aspirins and lie down!!

Premium Cat Food vs. Vegetarian Diet

by Ronald S. Eldridge, BVS



Destructive cat diet myths abound and 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 will be good for the animal's health.

Cats are obligate carnivores (meat eaters). Putting a cat on a completely all plant diet would pronounce a death sentence for the animal. Cats cannot be vegetarians and thrive. Felines have short intestines and humans have long ones. Therefore, cats are unable to utilize vegetable protein effectively.

Cats cannot convert beta-carotene which is present in plants to vitamin A as we humans can. Cats must consume preformed vitamin A which can only be obtained from animal tissue.

Only high quality protein source from lean animal muscle meat (beef, lamb, chicken) should be fed to cats. Proteins are the building blocks needed by the cat for normal growth and development. Protein is also needed to repair/replace animal tissue, promote and sustain a high-powered immune system, provide fuel for the very active feline metabolism, and develop muscle mass. If proteins are blocks, amino acids are the sand that makes up these blocks. Because cats cannot store excess protein they must replenish their supply through daily dietary intake. Protein requirements are much higher than

those for humans. Humans can survive on an all vegetarian diet—cats cannot.

Fats are composed of fatty acids. The fats of prime importance for your cat 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 diet. Linoleic and linolenic 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 your cat's primary diet must have an ample supply of protein and fat. While cats need three grams of protein and fat per pound of body weight, kittens need eight to nine grams per pound of body weight.

Fat to a cat 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 kind of saturated fat that doctors tell us humans not to eat but for the obligate feline carnivore, it's a must to live healthier and more vigorous lives.

In conclusion, feeding your cat a commercially produced diet is the best choice for its overall good health. Homemade and other alternative diets are strongly discouraged. Trying to replicate a high quality commercial feline diet would be very difficult and costly for any cat owner. As I have pointed out, the implementation of an all vegetarian diet for your cat can only lead to a very poor health picture at best and most likely its eventual demise.



Advice for Handling Young Cats

by TJ (Tiger John)

THINK BIG

What is cute and "fun" in a baby, is what s/he is going to learn to do when s/he is an adult and that may not be FUN for you in later years! For example, a friend of mine has a tiger. It was "fun" when she was a baby and she would run up and throw herself into his lap and wrap her arms around him. Now that she is almost 300 pounds, it is not fun when she tries to throw herself into his lap (she is twice his size) and knocks him on the ground.

When you look at a baby, think 500+ pounds and try to think ahead to the day when s/he is bigger than you are. Even if s/he loves you and only wants to show that love, s/he could hurt you just by being BIG!

Right now is the time to be gentle but firm. Begin to teach the baby that some things are NOT to be done. When s/he runs up to you to jump into your lap, hold your hand out and let the little head run into your hand. Slow her/him down, stop him, and then YOU be the one to start petting the baby and telling it that it is a good cat. S/he will become used to the idea that YOU are the one who initiates petting, not him.

CHEWING

About chewing furniture...some things you can't win. Trying to teach a baby

not to chew on furniture may be one behavior you can't change. But you can try by giving her/him a piece of dried cowhide or a beef leg bone. Be careful about what you give a baby. S/he will chew and try to swallow it so you have to make sure you don't give it a toy animal with buttons for eyes (he will chew them off and swallow) or any kind of stuffing that could hurt when ripped open (and he eats the inside.)

When s/he starts to chew on YOU, you need to quickly teach that behavior as a NO-NO. Gently pinch the nose shut and say NO firmly. Your cat will (we hope!) learn that biting you means s/he can't breathe and a loud noise will happen. Some people say to "thump" a cat on the nose with a finger. I did that with my Serval. She just ignored the thump and chewed harder, but she does not like to have her nose (gently) pinched shut.

MEAL TIME

Some cats fight for food while others lick blood off of human fingers without biting. To try to develop the latter, start YOUNG with petting your cat and talking in a low voice at EVERY meal. While this may not work with all cats, I have done this with my Serval right from the very first time I put solid food in front of her. I have always been able to touch and talk to her while she eats.

Wildlife on Easy Street

A non-profit big cat sanctuary

by Carole Lewis

It has been four heart wrenching hours that the little darling of Easy Street has been in surgery. We are all praying, all waiting breathlessly for word as two veterinarians and a staff of technicians hover around the stainless steel table. The life of one of the sweetest little cougars ever to chirp his way into my heart lays motionless before me and I feel helpless. He had been so sick with a nondescript virus that I had thought surely would cost him his life. One day he was healthy and mischievous, the next he wasn't eating and by the third day he had a feeding tube installed in his esophagus and was having series of shots throughout the day and night to battle the infection and slow the vomiting. Every day he looked worse instead of better. X-rays had been negative, blood tests weren't of much more help and every day he was hating the shots more and more. Finally he took a turn for the better and began eating on his own. We removed the feeding tube and were thrilled to be on the road to recovery.

Again he stopped eating. He was rushed back to the vet and the feeding tube was reinstalled. We were scolded by our vet for removing the first tube because each insertion would cause scarring that could lead to constriction. Again all of the shots, the pills, the bags and bags of fluids that he had to endure. We were more cautious as he improved this time and left the tube in place long after he

was back to eating like his old self. Aggressive isn't even descriptive enough to convey the flying food when he would attack the plate. He had always been that way since arriving here.



Before he got sick, Fleetwood and his sister Enya were out of their cages more than they were in them. They spent many nights a week with cabin guests and were always out doing events, riding in the car or walking around the yard. I left them suited up in their harnesses most of the time. It was easy to hook them up, but they spent so much time on the go, it was more convenient to leave them on. They got so much handling and petting by so many people in the course of the day that I never worried about the harness getting too tight or rubbing the skin.

Now I was sure he was over this insidious virus that has struck almost every cougar here. I hadn't lost any of them to it, but it had been borderline in almost every case before they got better. These two cubs were only six months old when it hit them and there were several nights in the worst of it that I would get up fully expecting them to be dead. Now it was over. Enya had overcome the virus much more quickly and had been back to running and romping for about a week, when I finally felt Fleetwood was ready to go back into the same cage with her. He walked to his new pen that had just been built while he was sick. It was over 1200 square feet of trees and vines and bushes and Enya! He had the greatest time. About six hours later one of the workers called me and said she thought Fleetwood was choking. He was crying and gagging, but I couldn't see anything in his mouth or lodged in his throat. Again he was rushed back to the vet.

Many x-rays later with no results the vet decided to open him up and in addition to peritonitis, they discover that his intestines are laced and permeated with purple nylon and worst of it is a rupture where the harness buckle he has swallowed has burst through the intestinal wall, causing massive internal bleeding. For hours they cut away at the tangle of 3/4 inch nylon that has frayed and spread like a cancer through his little gut. I have raised hundreds of cats and never had I seen one chew its harness off. I had never seen Fleetwood

even seen to notice that his wasn't a part of him. The day I found the purple harness all chewed up, I just assumed that Enya had helped him out of it. I didn't notice the buckle was missing as I threw away the slobbery remains. I have no one to blame but myself.

I could have insisted that every time they went anywhere the harnesses would immediately come off when they returned. It would not have taken more than a few seconds to safe guard him against the pain and the danger he now faces. The style of harness I use has the plastic quick connects because they are so much more convenient than the traditional metal buckle. They really aren't safe. I've had a lot of cats unsnap them, but my cats are so docile it has never been a big deal. It is another case though where convenience has compromised safety. What if there were a loud car backfire or some other unexpected thing that would cause a well mannered cat to bolt? I could be agonizing over a car and cat collision right now. The plastic quick connect did not show on the x-ray when he first got sick, nor now. Had he swallowed a metal buckle, we would have spotted it weeks before. This also goes to show that cats who will spit out perfectly good food will swallow things like harnesses, toys, sticks, rocks and you name it and we have pulled it out of a cat's stomach. You can never be too careful nor too paranoid when you are dealing with an exotic cat. I am thankful that I didn't have to learn this lesson at the cost of this dear one's life.

Life with Bob...HUM

by Sherry Blanchette

If anyone is thinking of a bobcat as a house cat here's a slice from my life, maybe it will be helpful:

I live with bobcats in the house. We like high strung cats; our domestics are Siamese. We have the time it takes to have these cats in the house.

☛ Bob takes a lot of time! Bobcats are action packed and always looking for adventure. WARNING: Your life will never be the same!

☛ Bob is messy. You can't keep the house straight with a bobcat. Our house is decorated for bobcats; that is, very little regular furniture and what has to remain standing is screwed into wood like lamps and nic nacs. The wall clock is even screwed in.

☛ Bob is a computer nerd. Bob is forever adding footnotes to my emails or sending them off before I finish them. Who knows what he types and sends off when I'm not looking. Bob has developed a weird late night taste for unplugged modem lines. I have to keep a supply on hand (hidden.)

☛ Bob is smell activated! Garlic, cloves, cinnamon, curry, smelly socks and armpits are among his favorites. Cow pies, sheep, goat and llama poo are the ultimate perfume. If this is on your shoes, watch out, Bob is super glued, as soon as you walk in the door, to your feet. It is very difficult to remove a boot that is surrounded by bobcat.



☛ Bob can be embarrassing with company. Bob is very "social" with guests (he is a professional deodorant tester). He shows no qualms about checking out if the guest is male or female. This is unnerving to folks who aren't familiar with bobcat protocol.

☛ Bob loves to roll in the dirty laundry and dishes. Bob takes possession and hides it for future undaunted rolls. I just found a paper plate with remnants of left over chili under the sofa. I wondered why Bob had "red mud looking stuff" stuck to him.

☛ Bob is aerial. He likes to be up off the ground so he adores shelves. Our house has a lot of them, built just for cats like him. Sometimes he pretends he is Mary Poppins without the umbrella. Guess who is usually there to break his plummet to Earth? I hate it when he plays this game!!!!

☛ Bob is suicidal. He is miserable if he can't see what is going on. He will stop short of breaking his neck to see what is happening. His passion and joy is to rip and snort at high death defying speeds through the house. Bobcats can move faster than the speed of light if something imaginary is chasing them.

☛ Bob takes on other animal

persona. Out in his run, he scales the fence like a squirrel and climbs upside down clinging like a bat from the top.

☘ Bob has watched too many old gangster movies. There isn't a door he hasn't learned to open. (He hasn't figured out the latching hook & eye yet) but he is working on it. He is an escape artist (everything is fenced in so he can't get far, I hope) and he is a thief. He is happiest when stealing the cougar's food out of the sink while it is being prepared. You can offer him some, but to him if it isn't stolen, it isn't worth it.

☘ Bob has x-ray vision. Bob knows what is in the shopping bags, refrigerator, and pantry. He isn't shy about helping himself, when you are not looking.



☘ Bob knows how to suck up. He loves to give hugs and kisses especially after he has been really bad all day!

☘ Bob is fearless. There isn't anything that he is afraid of or will not challenge including the big cats and dogs.

☘ Bob is fierce. He can be pretty

fierce when he wants! Bob will use his teeth before he uses his claws. This is very seldom, but I don't want anyone to think it won't happen. If I had the choice between handling a mad bobcat and a mad cougar, I would take the cougar.

☘ Bob is psychotic. Bob is a normal bobcat with "psycho kitty" tendencies (like most cats). When in "psycho mode," multiply what I have told you by 100%.

☘ Bob suffers from selective hearing and delusions. Poor dear, this comes on him suddenly when he is caught engaging in a misadventure. He will give you his most innocent big eyed look, "WHO ME?" or "I DIDN'T HEAR YOU!" "BUT WAIT! I DIDN'T DO IT! IT WAS REALLY THE OTHER BOBCAT. HE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO....." "I WAS BEING GOOD, REALLY...!"

Living with a bobcat is like living with a perpetual two year old that has jet packs and roller skates. We adore Bob, he fits into our lifestyle and family. Bobcats as homies aren't for everyone, especially if you value the calm, quiet, peaceful life. Those words just aren't in a bobcat's vocabulary!

Back Cover: Krasavitza Dama Kochka, in Russian, means "Most Beautiful Lady Cat." Kochka, the beloved companion of Texas member Jim Steinmeyer, died recently of kidney failure.

Each morning Kochka joined Jim in bed for quality visiting time. A gentle, elegant lady, Kochka graciously accepted like the royalty she was, the admiration and attentions of many visitors to Jim's home. She will linger lovingly in the memory of all who knew her.



All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. LIOC-ESCF Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. LIOC-ESCF Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription or ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only LIOC members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes and no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual. Ads must state whether the individual is a private owner or broker. Full current address with a phone number must be stated in the ad.

Ad Rates for submitted photo ready ads:
1 column inch "Classified" \$10.00
¼ page \$25.00
½ page \$50.00
FULL PAGE \$100.00
BACK PAGE \$125.00

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.

Send \$5.00 (US) plus \$1.25 postage to:

LIOC
3730 Belle Isle Lane
Mobile, Al 36619



Mainely Felids Wild Feline Husbandry Manual

Comprehensive introduction to responsible captive husbandry of wild felines for the novice. Information on: permits, caging, nutrition, handling and much more! 42 pages. Send \$15 to: Mainely Felids, Dept. D, P.O. Box 80, Lycoming, NY 13093-0080



ANIMAL FINDERS' GUIDE

18 issues per year for only \$25.00

Single issue price \$2.00

Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry.

Exotic animals, products, & services.

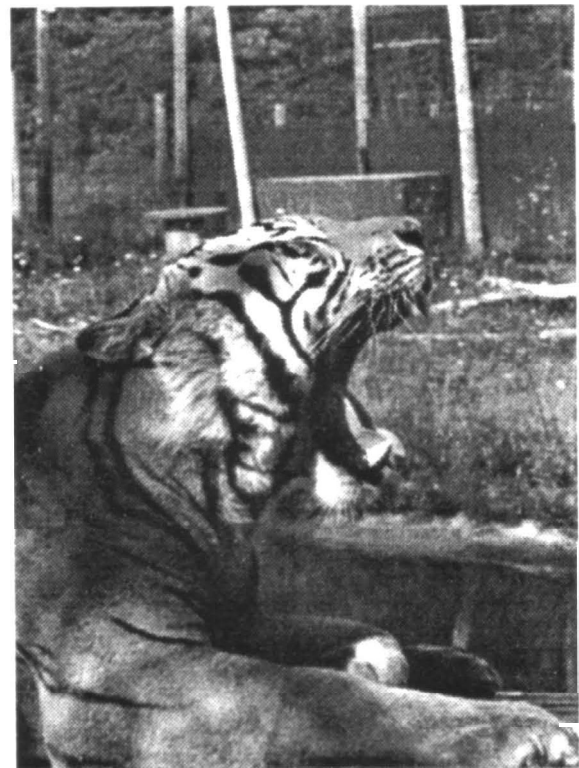
Auctions and shows

PO Box 99 • Prairie Creek, IN 47869

812-898-2678 or fax 812-898-2013

Visit our website at www.animalfindersguide.com

email: animalfinder@thnet.com



Odie - 4 years old
Exotic Feline Rescue Center
Center Point, Indiana

Visit our Web Site!
<http://www.lioc.org>

Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Director of Edu/Conserv, E-mail gstowers@aiusa.com Please send computer readable text files (e-mail is fine or ASCII text files on disc). Thank you.

Moving?



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

LIOC T-SHIRTS



50/50 COTTON - FRUIT OF THE LOOM
COLOR NATURAL
SIZES: MEDIUM, LARGE, XLARGE, XXLARGE

\$15.00 EACH

(Includes Shipping & Handling)

Please make checks payable to:
LIOC ESCF, Inc.
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, Arizona 85028



Judy Watson's cougar, Jayla, visited us at the 1997 LIOC convention in Florida. Now at 13 months old she's healthy and happy.

Kochka

*Is that a leopard in the grass, or
only shadows on the lawn?
Your eyes, so big and shinning bright,
It's me that they are fastened on.
So graceful and so elegant, most surely
you are but a dream.
So playful and so much sublime, part imp,
part angel, part regal Queen.
Pretty Kochka, Lady Cat, you make me think
of a future day,
When the adder, children will not fear
and the lamb with the lion will lay.
You are a gift from God no doubt
though mountains are your habitat,
But now you share with us our home,
Sweet Princess, Oh sweet Lady Cat.*



*In Memorium
Krasavitza Dama Kochka
1988 - 1998
Owner: Jim Steinmeyer
(See page 21)*