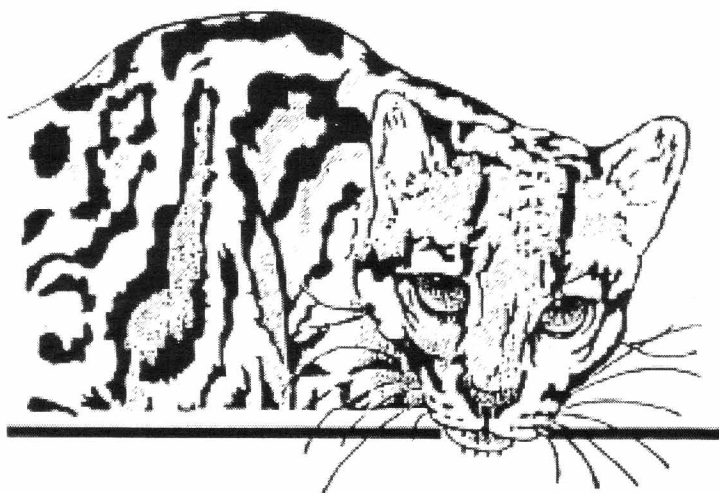
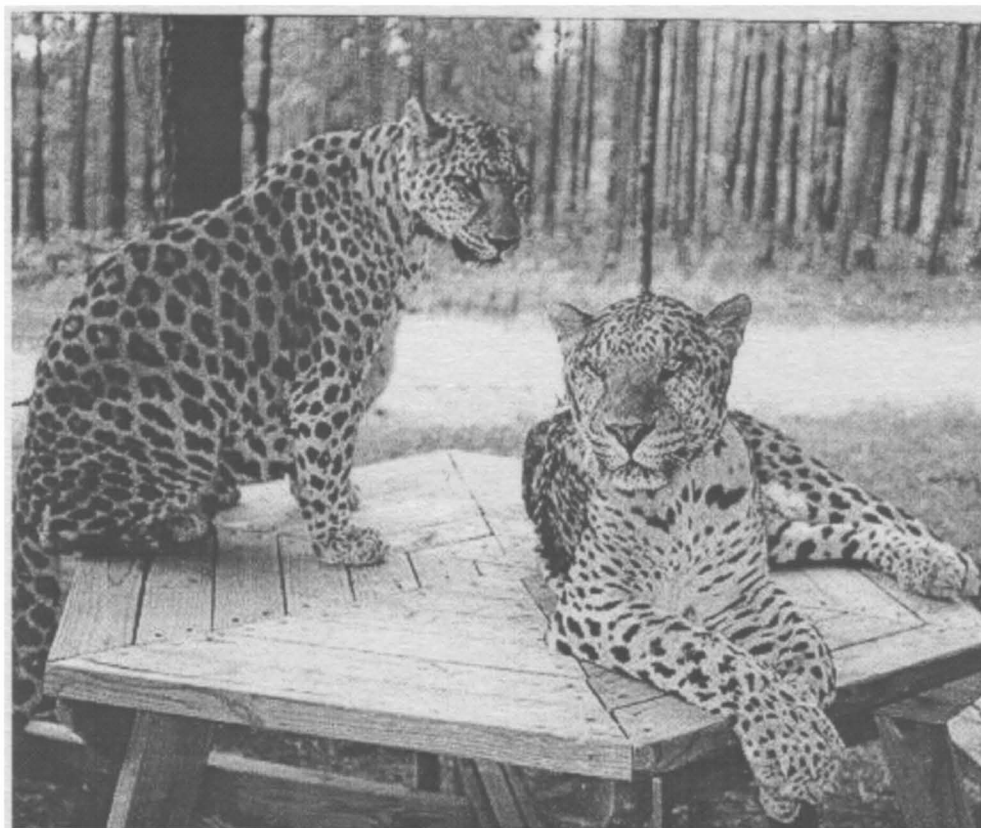


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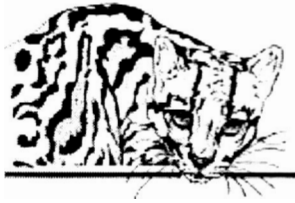
ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



Volume 42, Issue 6 - November/December 1998



Zeus and Athena are getting back to their fit and trim sizes at Shea Park. See page 4 for story.



LIOC

This Newsletter is published bimonthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a nonprofit (Federal I.D. 59-2048618) noncommercial 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 bylaws, 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 felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects 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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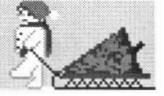
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President's Perspective



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I feel the end of this year is a perfect time to thank all of the members of LIOC-ESCF and especially the Life Directors and Term Directors for another great year. We have made many advances especially in the field of recognition. I know that the computer age has had a lot to do with it. But every exotic cat owner is a representative of LIOC. This includes exotic cat owners who are not members of LIOC. This is where our job of education is so important. If you know anyone who owns an exotic cat, please assist them in any way you can to educate them particularly in the field of public safety. Help them with caging if necessary. Do they have a good security system? Who is their veterinarian? What are they feeding? Encourage them to join LIOC, but being a member of LIOC is not as important as the care and security of the cat. And remember, we are all in the same basket. If you find a bad apple in there, educate. We are all judged by one. My thanks and best wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Barbara Wilton, President

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Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Director of Edu/Conserv, Email: gstowers@aiusa.com Please send computer readable text files (email is fine or ASCII text files on disc.)

Thanks to Animal finders Guide and Exotic Market Review for running the LIOC's Wild Feline Husbandry Safety Survey in your publications. I encourage those from LIOC who have not yet responded to please to do so before January 1.

George Stowers

Interview with Eric Holm Animal Trainer Director of SHEA Park

Interviewer: Herald Maxwell (Max)

Max: Tell me about yourself and SHEA Park.

Eric: SHEA Park stands for Safe Haven for Endangered Animals and has been established for three years near Charlotte, NC. The concept has been in the works for seven years. David [his brother] and I have trained exotic animals for twelve years. Since kids we have been around exotics. We have trained exotic cats for movies and TV programs. We have worked on movie sets such as *Ace Ventura* (Jim Carey), *Road to Wellville* (Anthony Hopkins/Matthew Broderick), Disney's *Jungle Book*, and *The War* (with Kevin Costner). Various TV sets we have worked on include two episodes of *Saturday Night Live*, *David Letterman*, several PBS specials, and many TV commercials. We have trained animals to do whatever the scripts called for such as walk from point A to point B, sit on a couch, etc. When we were doing movie and TV work, we got tired of moving around and seeing how animals were treated abroad. There were many times we didn't want to move on and the animals didn't either. We felt it was time we gave back to the animals to make up for some of the harshness and indignities we witnessed them endure. We dreamed of buying a large track of land and developing it into a habitat for exotics, in fact, all types of animals. We wanted to start a sanctuary for endangered species. We

saved personal money from our movie and TV jobs. We worked different jobs such as nonprofit Bingo until we could purchase the property.

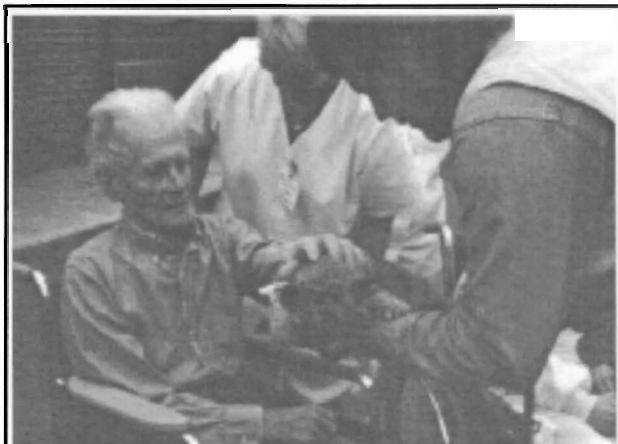
Max: How many animals do you work with?

Eric: We have 32 animals on hand. They range from lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, primates, European Brown Bear, domestic hoof stock, Kangaroos, and down to little hedgehogs. However, we do not breed animals. We have trained snow, clouded, European, and Asian leopards as well as lions, tigers, jaguars, and others.

Max: Tell me about training big cats.

Eric: We start training large cats when they are about six months of age. Smaller than that, it's basic obedience training. With a full grown cat new to us, we work them inside the cats' perimeter fencing. We see if he has any desire to be with humans. If the cat is personable and wants to interact, we continue. If the animals does not want human contact, we shelter them, feed them, and let them live out their lives. If we can work with them, we put a leash on him, walk him around in his area and let him get used to us on the other end. We walk him first in his area since he is comfortable with that.

While in training if the cat is frustrated, flops around, and is uncooperative, the best thing to do is walk out of the area. Get out of the situation, don't push it. Come back the next day. I use a heavy gauge chain with a swivel, quick snap, two thumb latches, one for main hook up and one for safety in case one breaks. You "collar" the chain around the cat's neck and loop it back into itself. You have the chain tight enough so that you are able to slip your hand into it up to your palm. It is loose enough for the cat to be comfortable but not slip out of it if he backs up and tries to get loose. You have a swivel in the middle of the chain with the cat on one end and you on the other. The swivel keeps the chain from knotting up if the animal turns around. You use the large quick snap on your end that hooks around your wrist tight enough to be able to open



Dave showing baby to nursing home patient.

your hand but it won't slip off.

Max: So you don't use a large ring on the end of your chain to hold on to?

Eric: No, I am familiar with that school of thought. I have witnessed where trainers using rings have lost temporarily control of the cat when it bolted and they were unable to hang on. I wrap the chain around my wrist risking injury to myself in order to at least be there when the cat bolts to the other side of the set. Hopefully, I am then able to prevent any damage to persons or property.

Max: Do you double chain your cats when you take them out?

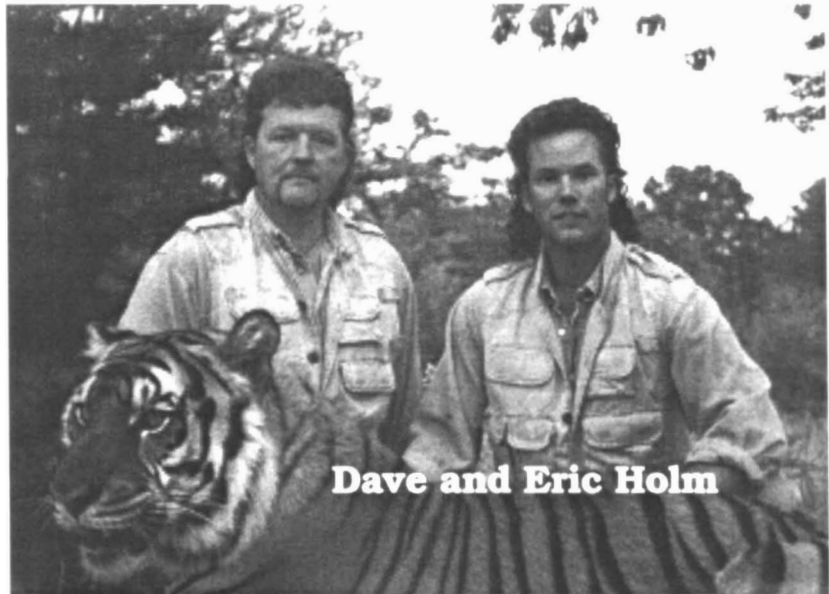
Eric: If we have a cat that is known to misbehave or we are unsure of, we do double leash with two trainers. Well trained cats we single leash with one trainer. Never train a cat by yourself. Always have someone there just in case you need help.

Max: What commands besides the word "NO" do you use in training?

Eric: "No" is the basic command. Make sure the cat knows that word first and foremost in any form. Then you start with "Leave It." Leave it to us is used when an animal gets possessive. It is a basic command that they are messing up and have gone too far. Always give the animal's name first, then the command. Don't use baby talk when training. "Down" is used to get them to lie down. "Back" when you are going into a gate. The animal must back up when you are trying to enter the area. He can't greet you while you are entering. You can greet him first through the fence or after you enter the area, but not while you are trying to enter the area. We have seen more escapes that way.

Max: Let's talk a little about cages.

Eric: We have had the opportunity to see many facilities for cats and have helped to build more than twice as many as we have. We have seen many techniques. We have sort of gleaned from the best and formed our own standards. First, one should look at the cat's native habitat as well as the nature of the cat. Are they climbers, quick runners? Build the largest facility that you can afford. Most of us are operating on a limited income. Not many of us are self-made millionaires. If you have a serval who likes to run and climb, but doesn't need a lot of height, go ahead and build a seven foot pen and a minimum of 12' by 25'. Make it long so he can run. Have some trees to climb on and platforms to lay on, a small home



Dave and Eric Holm

to hide in from people and have privacy. With leopards, we build 12' high, 25' by 50'. With bigger cats you want water areas with nice large square areas 50' by 50' to roam around in. We put their house right in the middle. All of our habitats have trees around but none near the fence so they could climb and jump out. They police the area and mark their area. Cats love to sit up high to satisfy that feeling of superiority and to look out over their vast riches. All of our animals have someone to play with and keep occupied.

Max: What about entertainment?

Eric: You can make up toys inexpensively such as things that rattle or things they can push around. They like boomer balls and tires on chains hanging about four feet off the ground between two trees. They can chew on it, pull on it, or jump through it. We make a rattle with PVC pipes that we put rocks in with a cap on both ends and they love to kick it around. They like logs to chew on. Don't put in small chew toys that they can swallow.

Max: My lions love to play "King of the Hill" with bales of hay. I sometimes hard freeze water in a two liter coke bottle with a feather sticking out of the top of it. They go nuts trying to get the feather out of it and slapping it around.

Eric: Yes, a happy cat is a much safer cat. Bowling balls are great. They can even break them. We can't keep enough bowling balls.

Max: What do you use for personal safety?

Eric: If a big cat is biting you or has taken you possession, one effective method is to spray pepper spray directly into eyes as close as you can. It is safe enough for the animal causing no permanent injury. Fire extinguishers (CO₂) sprayed



Chip, 6 years old and Dale, 4, came to us with a sad story. You see, Dale has most of his tail bitten off and most zoo's would not exhibit him in such a condition. We agreed to give him a permanent home as long as his long term friend, Chip, could go with him. Both are great guys who love to go on walks around the park, happily riding on someone's shoulder.

in the face or at two animals fighting is very effective.

I witnessed a man mauled by his own mature lion. The lion bit the man in his hind end and became possessive and would not let go. The other trainers present beat the lion with a stick and tried to pry his mouth open with a shovel while screaming and yelling NO. They finally shot the animal approximately seven times before he died. This was totally unnecessary.

My preference is a small stick which can be inserted into a big cat's mouth jabbing the back of the animal's throat causing him to gag. Believe me, he will let go of what he has in his mouth. The stick is like a ¼ inch dowel stick (the width of a CB antenna.) We wrap tape around one end to make a handle. I once was present when a lion bit a peacock. I stuck the small stick into the side of his mouth jabbing the back of his throat. He immediately let go of the peacock which ran away safely.

Max: Tell me about the diet for your cats.

Eric: We do like Nebraska, but if you are not able to afford it, you should supplement their diet with Chaparral, a vitamin supplement. We feed them red meat, some chicken, turkey, and vary their diet with other types of meat supplementing with Chaparral daily. Always have one day a week of fasting. This helps acids build back up in their body and helps the digestive system.

Max: Do you work with smaller cats like servals and caracals?

Eric: Yes, but we don't have that many who come our way or need rescuing. Most people start with smaller cats and fall in love with them. The big cats we rescue are the cats that get too big too fast for a personal pet, zoos that have been shut down, breeding facilities that can't take anymore, etc. I currently have a waiting list of fifteen cats waiting for good homes, mostly lions. We seldom get smaller cats.

Max: What would you recommend for someone starting out as a new exotic pet owner?

Eric: First, people who are going to have exotics need to check out the ordinances before doing anything. Be sure the animals you are going to house are welcome. Interested persons need to educate themselves about the cats next. I would recommend a serval or caracal. I wouldn't start out with a bobcat because they take more attention and they are a little more aggressive with more potential for hazards. Your servals and caracals are the best ones since you can work on basic cat needs of diet, housing, vet care, etc. Even they sometimes have a bad attitude one day and you can see on a smaller scale how quick and ferocious it happens. Cats will take a bite at some time, the bigger the cat, the bigger the bite. Watch out the most for leopards. Generally speaking, the leopards are the most dangerous, the quickest, and hardest to train. Next is the jaguar which can be loving one minute and aggressive the next. The odds are that owner and trainers of big cats will at one time or another take a bite. We have had bites ourselves but no one around us ever has.

Max: Tell me about financing for a nonprofit organization.

Eric: You need some capital put away to begin with. It takes large amounts of money to care for these big cats in fencing, housing, feeding, vet care, etc.

Bingo was a good fund raiser for us since we could do that two to three nights a week and work with the cats during the day. In movie and TV you have to travel and care of animals at home is a problem. There are many other ways to reach for donations while trying to capture the public's heart to take care of the animals as humans should. That is what we are put here for. We go out and try to educate people on how to take care



Bugsy is a Hill Kangaroo. He is 6 months out of the pouch. He loves to suck on his favorite toy, a stuffed bunny.



J.C., Pandora, and Cecilia are adult lions that came with some minor health problems but have since recovered nicely. The girls seem to adore J.C. and all three love their new larger 2000 sq ft home, with a couple of houses and a perfect deck for lounging.

of animals, domestic or exotic. Ask for donations as needed. If we need a certain habitat, we go out and present the need. Here's our animals, here is what we are trying to do, here is how we think, here is how much we need. Could you help us with this financially?

Max: What about education programs?

Eric: We go to a lot of elementary schools and nursing homes. We load up smaller animals like primates, hedgehogs, lemurs, baby kangaroos, and any baby cats we may have. We use a lot of primates in our education program. We secure and observe the area, check out entrances and exits, clear everything with the principal. Make sure everyone is comfortable with the arrangements. Introduce yourself, tell them what you will be bringing out, do your exhibit. Select an animal you completely trust and let kids come down to look at and pet it.

We felt that domestics were being looked over and not getting proper care. As many are so concerned with saving endangered species, we feel it is important to emphasize proper care for **all** animals even normal house or yard pets.

Max: What about laws and ordinances? Are you for state laws?

Eric: Yes, we need state laws. USDA is a good agency. They really do try. I'd like to see them a little more user-friendly. People get nervous when they come to inspect. It should be a nice friendly visit and they have good basic rules and regulations. They are just a minimum. They are for the welfare of the animal whereas state laws are usually for the welfare of the people. Counties should not have restrictions for animals other than domestic. It is our opinion that states should regulate exotic animals. Counties sometimes have a knee-jerk reaction and ban all exotics so they don't have to deal with them. This is detrimental

to the existence of the cats. This is happening day by day and before long we will have only a few states these animals can be in. Where are they all going to go? These animals are being regulated out of existence. Are they all going to be put to sleep? That is as wrong as you can get.

When you want to house all the endangered species that you can that need a home, you have to go to a state that is state-regulated. Otherwise, at some point you will find a neighbor who is upset with what you are doing. You don't want to go down that legal road. People who are going to have exotics need to check out the ordinances before doing anything. Be sure the animals you are going to house are welcome.

Max: Do you have any closing remarks?

Eric: We need more people to be care-takers of the animals. We do not scoff at new people coming into the business but we want them to know what they are getting into. All exotic cat owners can be hurt by a newcomer's mistakes. That's why education is so important. We need to educate the trainers/owners to safely handle and keep their animals. Then, with good public relations and an educated public, it may prevent politicians from passing excessively restrictive laws. These animals very existence depends on us.

Please visit our web site and email us at www.apl.jhu.edu/~shea .

Max: In closing, Eric, I want to thank you for what you are doing. We need more people like you who are responsible, committed, and have a genuine love for animals. As natural habitats for these beautiful creatures is encroached daily by man, without such people as you, their extinction is inevitable.

"For in the end...

**We will conserve only what we love.
We will love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are
taught."**

Baba Dioum



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST EXOTICS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 20, 1998**

Our September, 1998, regular meeting was at the home of Katie Schenk and was called to order by President, Dwayne J. Kaptur. Following the introduction of the members and visitors present, the minutes of the August 1998 meeting were read by Secretary/Treasurer Ginger Becken. Ginger also provided us with the treasurer's report.

We then discussed animal husbandry issues, concerns and problems. Bob & Colette Griffith brought a squeeze cage for the members to inspect and critique, as the gentleman who made the cage wanted to know what improvements or changes he should incorporate when making future squeeze cages. The cage received very positive remarks. If you would like to learn more about the squeeze cages or how to acquire them, please contact Bob or Colette Griffith

It was pointed out that Sunnyside Veterinarian Clinic has a squeeze cage available to PNWE members free of charge, however, a refundable security deposit is required, but will be returned upon returning the cage to the clinic.

Katie Schenk described her difficulties with Sadaka's "potty" habits. Apparently, Sadaka chooses to relieve herself in all the wrong places, ignoring Katie's efforts to encourage litter box use. Suggestions came forth to address this problem including placing shredded newspaper in the litter box, trying different litter, maintaining a clean box, using a squirt bottle to discourage unacceptable behavior, as well as, moisturizing the floor of the box. Good luck, Katie!

While on the discussion of "potty" issues, it was pointed out that spinach leaves encourage healthy feline bowel function. Bamboo leaves have also been identified effective for this purpose. It was pointed out that primates love bamboo. Jackie Sinnott has a surplus supply of live

bamboo plants and has repeatedly offered them to PNWE members free of charge. If you're interested in acquiring some, please check with Jackie to learn if her offer is still valid.

David Becken suggested checking with animal supply retailers to learn if they would provide a discount card for PNWE members, encouraging us to shop at their establishments by providing us a discount on all purchases. David indicated he would check into this further.

Several animal feed and meat outlets were suggested as potential suppliers for our animals' needs. If you're interested in learning more about this, please contact Ginger Becken.

To encourage a cooperative effort in providing dietary needs for our animals, we would like to learn of your needs, i.e., what do you use, brands, quantities, costs, as well as, how far do you travel to get your supplies? Perhaps if we network and purchase in large volumes, we'll realize a savings and/or ease of acquisition for everybody! On the same thought, would we benefit by having a common freezer? The membership would like to hear from you.

Terrie Kaufman suggested that if the "cooperative purchase program" becomes workable and successful, participants would be able to make a monthly \$5.00 donation to the PNWE's legal defense fund.

Steve Belknap indicated he'll bring his animal food & supply catalogs to our next meeting. Thank you, Steve.

We have recently learned that the American Zoological and Aquaria Association (AZA) is redefining their membership to include private animal owners who exhibit or breed their animals. Please contact Ginger Becken to learn more about this revision.

Andy Turudic provided us an update on the status of the petition that we submitted to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

Andy Turudic moved, and Colette Griffith seconded that we authorize payment in the amount of \$300 to have the recommended attorney review the petition we submitted to the Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners, the Multnomah County Animal Control Ordinance and videos of the hearings. This fee includes the attorney's recommendations for further action. The motion carried.

It was decided to delay discussing the merits of incorporating and/or registering our club name until we receive the attorney's comments.

In other business, it was moved and seconded that we initiate a committee of 3 members to examine the merits of creating and/or associating with a national organization to defend and protect private animal ownership

rights. The motion carried. The committee members include Andy Turudic, Steve Belknap and John Smith.

Bob & Colette Griffith and Terrie Kaufman donated \$50 to our legal defense fund. Thank you Bob, Colette & Terrie. We appreciate your support!

David & Ginger Becken will donate \$200 to the PNWE legal defense fund for each qualified real estate listing referral they receive from a PNWE member that results in a sale. The Becken's will issue the funds to PNWE upon the closing of the transaction. Thank you David and Ginger!

Bob and Colette Griffith have been and continue to donate 33% of their artwork sales' proceeds to PNWE. Again, thank you for your generous support!

It was suggested that we have adequate quantities of both PNWE and LIOC membership applications available for distribution at all PNWE meetings,

Once again, it's that time of year when we need to be thinking about nominating officers for next year. If you would like to occupy a specific office, please let it be known.

Agenda items for October, 1998 meeting-

- 1) Do we want to divide the Secretary/Treasurer office and make it a 2 person function?
- 2) Andy Turudic to provide the attorney's comments in regard to the PNWE petition submitted to the Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners.
- 3) Discuss legal strategies to counter the Multnomah County Animal Control Ordinance.
- 4) Decide if we should incorporate and/or register our club name.
- 5) Learn of those who are interested in holding a PNWE office in 1999.

Before the meeting was adjourned, we had the Dollar and Raffle games. Gayle Schaecher won the Dollar Game and donated her winnings to the club. Thank you Gayle!

Many participants in the Raffle Game became proud owners of some very nice offerings!

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 1998, 1 PM at the home of John Smith & Terrie Kaufman. We look forward to seeing you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Dwayne J. Kaptur
President, Pacific Northwest Exotics



October Meeting Minutes by Laurisa Watkins

The last meeting was held on October 19, 1998 at Marc and Laurisa's apartment in Seattle. This was the first meeting we had in our apartment and where we allowed visiting kitties. We had a great turn out with 16 people (including four new people), three lynxes, three adult domestics (hiding in the bedroom) and a closely supervised baby domestic. Jennifer gave an excellent talk on the pros and cons of declawing and received lots of questions. Additionally, we had a surprise visit by the Seattle Department of Animal Control who had gotten a report that someone from the apartment was walking a "wild" animal on the street. After assuring them that: 1). "Yes, there was a lynx in the apartment and it is very much under control." 2). "Yes, we are aware of the laws and the kitty doesn't live here.", and 3). "Sure, you can come inside and pet the lynx." (Something they had never done before), everything turned out OK. However, it was a very good example of how important it is to remain on good terms with your neighbors and how fast something can potentially go bad if you don't have your ducks in a row. We also discussed the next meeting where we will do our upcoming election of officers. After the business was over, everyone stayed around for a little bit to chat and help clean up.

Exotic Feline Educational Society

meeting 10/12/98

PUD Building -Vancouver Washington

The meeting was called to order by Ethel Hauser. We had several new members and visitors to be introduced. We discussed their interests in exotic cats.

Ethel read an article from the Colombian Newspaper in regards to Lynx returning to Colorado after a twenty-five year absence. The Colorado Wildlife Commission approved a controversial plan to reintroduce Lynx to the Weminuche Wilderness, a remote area in the eastern end of the San Juan National Forest. Forty Lynx will be bought from trappers from Alaska, British Columbia, The Yukon, and North West Territories, flown and driven to the High Mountain Wilderness in December.

Barbara Wilton gave a report on the convention in Indianapolis. She explained some of the motions approved by the board. She clarified issues such as the importance of tattooing or micro chips and registering cats. George Stowers, Term Director, is distributing questionnaires in regards to LIOC having our own count of injuries to humans caused by exotic cats. The news media or officials can always come up with a lot of statistics but are they accurate? At that point Ethel came up with a current newspaper report on cougar attacks. The big problem is the encroachment of humans into cougar territory.

To prevent cougar attacks on the trail:

1. Make noise when hiking to avoid surprising a cougar.
2. Keep children in sight.
3. Don't hike alone.
4. If approached by a cougar, do not run. Talk calmly, try to look bigger by raising your arms or opening your jacket and

slowly back away. Pick up small children to keep them from running.

5. Fight back if attacked. Kick, punch and yell. Try to remain standing and throw rocks or whack the cougar with a stick, anything to persuade it you are a potential danger, not prey.

To prevent cougar attacks at home:

1. Clear brush away from house and yard to eliminate hiding places.
2. Don't put out salt blocks or hay to attract deer and elk, which in turn attracts cougars.
3. Keep dogs and cats inside at night.
4. Don't let children play in the yard unwatched or alone.

We also had a discussion on the use of Cedar shavings brought up by some recent internet communications with Shirley Malar. The predominate volatiles of Cedar are terpenes. These can be a mild to intense skin irritant causing burning and swelling and can be absorbed by the pads. If inhaled they can cause lung irritation to respiratory distress. If ingested they can cause GI distress and possible liver toxicosis. A lot depends on actual exposure and the state of the materials oxidation. Some pine woods are also high in terpenes. There are plenty of woods in chip form which are fine for cat bedding, although the cedars are often chosen for their strong insect repellent properties, not good for cats though. Play it to safe with bedding chips from soft woods.

It would be best to stay away from cedar in any chip or pulverized form. All varieties or cedar contain some volatile oils that can lead to serious health compromises. The Western Red Cedar, used mostly for shakes and some decking and wall covers is the lowest in oils. If used as aged, smooth surface lumber, cats can tolerate it.

Cats present were Chaus, Black Geoffroy, a marbled queen Bengal and a spotted male. Rod Black showed his 6

month old F4 Bengal.

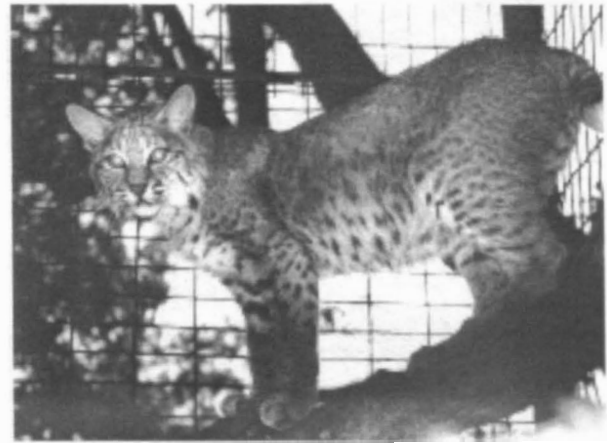
The formal meeting was adjourned but we hung around to snack and talk.

Submitted by Barbara Wilton, Secretary

Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society: Minutes from October 17, 1998 Meeting

Twelve members, three guests, and two cats attended. The meeting was held at the home and camp grounds of member, Jackie Leeg. Jackie has a log cabin on a man-made lake in Robards, KY. He provided us with a wonderful meal of ribs and tenderloin. Tonya Jones brought Ceasar (caracal) and Marvin brought Hush (serval) to the meeting. Bob Turner, president, called the meeting to order. Tonya read the minutes from the last meeting and gave a treasurer's report. Bob told us of a letter he had sent to all of the other LIOC branches voicing his opinion of not starting a new organization separate from LIOC in order to remain united in our cause of preserving exotic cats.

We discussed the term of officers. It was voted at the last meeting for officers to hold office for two years. Bob made a suggestion that more people might be interested in running if it was for one year instead of two. Please send your vote concerning this matter by December 1.



We have extended the time for submitting your nomination for President and Vice-President to December 1st. After this date I will send out a ballot for all members to cast their votes. Thus far, nominees are as follows: Bob Turner, President; Steve Hahn, Vice-President; Tonya Jones, Secretary/Treasurer; Gary Dutcher, Rescue and Placement Director; Herald Maxwell (Max), New Member Director; Monte Francis, Official Photographer; and Mike and Tonya Jones, Educational Directors. Gary Dutcher is also chairman for developing the husbandry manual for wild felines. Monte Francis is co-chairman.

We will be voting on a logo for MFES. The January meeting will be held January 16th at Gary Dutcher's home in Ft. Wayne, ID. The April meeting will be held at Max's home in Bowling Green, KY.

Respectfully
submitted,
Tonya Jones

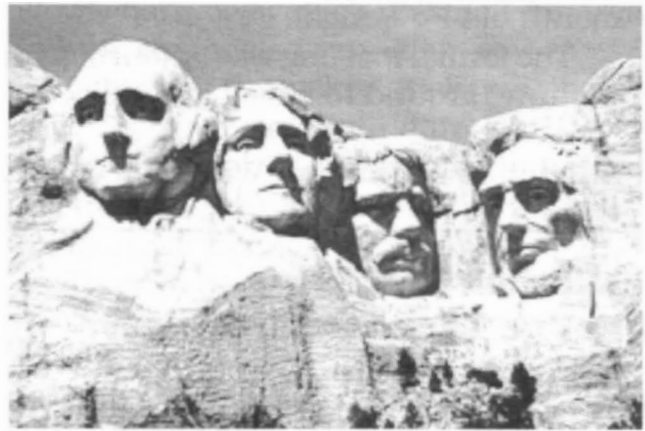




BULLDOZER

Here are some photos of our Canadian Lynx named Bulldozer, we call him "Dozie." He was born June 1, 1997 and now weighs 31 pounds. We adopted him when he was three weeks old so we've been through it all. Thanks to Shirley Wagner, we persevered through the rough times. We're so grateful we did because he's the sweetest cat in the world. We're amazed at how gentle and loving he's become and also what a clown he can be.

Jodi Wenzel - Alabama



1999 LIOC CONVENTION Rapid City, South Dakota

Centrally located in the U.S., Rapid City offers accessibility to a combination of some of the most beautiful and interesting attractions in America. Mt. Rushmore is spectacular, a 20 minute drive takes us through gorgeous mountain scenery. There's Crazy Horse, Black Hills Forest, Custer State Park, and five National Parks, and so much to do. Come for the LIOC convention, August 4-8, 1999 and stay for a vacation!

CONVENTION HOSTS JUDY PENLAND & JIM MORROW WILDCAT VALLEY RESORT

Their Resort is home to four Cougars, one Sib. Lynx, five Can. Lynx, two Bobcats, four Servals, four Caracals, 4 skunks, three foxes and six prairie dogs. The Rapid City Humane Society also provides them with wild animals in need of rehabilitation that are eventually released into Custer State Park. They have a 5000 sq. ft. meeting room, a gift shop, and lots of cats to love. Judy and Jim are excited about hosting the LIOC annual convention. We are invited to visit Wildcat Valley Resort. More LIOC convention and Rapid City Hotel information in upcoming newsletters! The exotic cats will be welcome at the hotel.



SAVANNAH CATS!

Billy and Joyce Sroufe started the BJ Game Farm in Oklahoma 17 years ago, raising and training race horses. After twelve years they retired and had a bunch of big empty barns. Billy brought home a male bob cat, which of course, was named Bobbie. They still have Bobbie and their farm has grown to have fifteen servals, three caracals, four bobcats, two sib.lynx, two euro.lynx, and savannah cats. They also raise antelope and swans. The above photo is two males, F1 Savannahs at two months old.

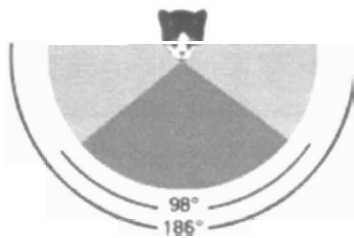
The Savannah cats at the BJ Game Farm are a cross between the Egyptian Mau domestic and the Serval. They are breeding the fourth Generation of Savannah cats and will soon know if the males are fertile. Joyce will be a guest speaker for the second year at the West Chester Domestic Cat Show in White Plains New York, to speak on the Savannah cat. Joyce feels that people have an interest in the exotics, but sometimes want to start

with a smaller hybrid cat, rather than an exotic. She said the Savannah cats are very affectionate and have more of a dog like personality, very calm and quiet, and they prefer the floor to a person's lap. They love to play fetch, and if you're not ready, they will drop their toy into your food or drink to get your attention! When asked which cat was Joyce's favorite, she couldn't choose as she likes the individuality of all her cats. The photo below is a female, F2 Savannah at four months old.



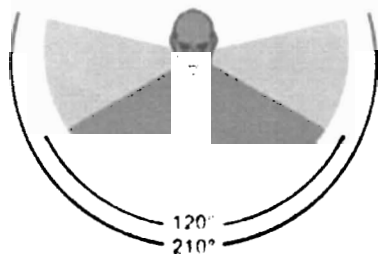
The Eye of the Cat

Cats rely primarily on their senses of sight and hearing to locate prey. They have excellent day and night vision.



Stalking and pouncing on prey from a distance requires accurate depth perception. The eyes of the cat face forward, allowing both eyes to work together. The overlapping fields of vision between the right and left eyes greatly improve the cat's ability to judge distances and the sizes of objects.

Humans also need to be able to accurately judge distances and sizes in order to grasp and handle objects. As a result, humans have extremely well-developed binocular vision. Although humans cannot see in the dark as well as cats, humans can better judge distances and sizes!



Reprinted with permission from Cats: Wild to Mild

NIGHT STALKER

Most cats hunt at night, their eyes being much better adapted for seeing in dim light than ours.

Human **Puma** **Lynx**



One reason for the cat's excellent night vision is that its eyes have very large pupils. Large pupils let more light into the retina. The bigger the pupils are, the larger the lenses must be. Relative to their size, cats have larger lenses than we do. And cats that are more nocturnal, such as the lynx, have relatively larger lenses than more diurnal species, such as the puma.

The pupil acts as a window into the eye, opening and shutting to control the amount of light that enters. In dim light, the pupil opens in order to let in more light. In bright light, the pupil closes to protect the retina. When it's dark, a cat's pupils can open much wider than ours and let in more light.

Compare the pupil size of the human, the puma, and the lynx.

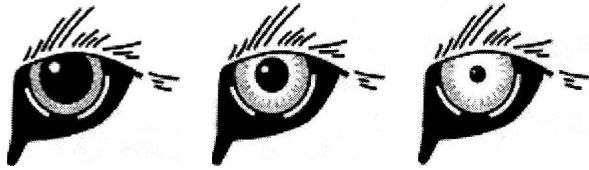


How do you explain the fact that the human pupil appears larger than the puma's and the puma's seems larger than that of the lynx?

Answer:

Although the lynx actually has the largest pupil, he was photographed in the brightest light, so his pupil has closed as much as possible to protect his retina. The human was photographed in relatively dim light, so her pupil appears large.

In the Eyes of the Beholder



Domestic cats and most small wild cats have pupils that are nearly round when open wide, but shrink to vertical slits in bright light. All the larger cats, and a few small species, have round pupils that shrink to tiny dots in bright light, like those of humans.



Oh, the innocence and trust of a child and a kitten.

Is There A Lefty In The House?

You probably think you know your cat pretty well. But do you know whether your cat is right-pawed or left-pawed? Only about one in every ten humans is left handed, but among animals, being left-pawed, hoofed, or flippered is much more common. Try this experiment to learn which paw your cat favors.

You will need:

- a cardboard toilet paper tube
- tape
- cat treats
- paper and pencil

1. Lay the cardboard tube horizontally on the floor and secure it in place with tape.
2. Bring your cat over to investigate this strange new item.
3. Show your cat a treat, then place the treat inside the tube.
4. This is where your job as researcher begins. Watch carefully, and see which paw your cat uses to get the treat out of the tube. Record whether it was the right or the left paw.
5. Repeat the test ten times, watching and recording which paw is used each time. If your cat loses interest, you might have to take a break and finish the test later. But try and get all ten test results.
6. Which paw did your cat use most often? This will indicate whether it is right- or left-pawed. If your cat used each paw equally well, it is *ambidextrous*. Do you know any ambidextrous humans?

Reprinted with permission from Cats: Wild to Mild

1998 ELECTION RESULTS

Barbara Wilton as President

George Stowers as Vice-President

Sharon Roe as Secretary/Treasurer

Kelly Jean Buckley as Term Director for Member Services

*Sherry Blanchette as Term Director for
Education and Conservation*

*Janna Londré as Term Director for
Advertising and Publicity*

Mark Jenkins as Term Director for Legal Affairs

LIOC Members,

Please join me in congratulating all of these elected officers. We look forward to working with each of them. Thanks to all for your participating votes.

Marge Maxwell, Editor



Caring is Sharing

by Shirley Wagner

We all joined LIOC to obtain information on the best way to care for our feline wards or to learn more about the responsibilities involved before we made the decision to take one into our homes.

LIOC, being no better than it's members, must rely upon each of you for this information. It was, after all, a few pioneers who were willing to share their experiences that was the beginning of this organization.

Toward this end, do fill out the safety questionnaire sent to you in the last newsletter. If you've lost or discarded yours, call, write, or email George Stowers or Kelly Jean Buckley (page 2) for another. Even with just one cat your experiences enhance the veracity of this information.

A calendar is also a handy tool. Record weight-gain of your kitten, developmental info, when they opened their eyes, cut their teeth, came into estrus (each cycle), gestation periods, etc. Record any milestone, no matter how trivial and keep these, from year to year. By sharing your documentation you are making a valuable contribution to the conservation of these animals.

Do not believe you have nothing to contribute; even a question is a valuable way to share. Others may not know the answer either, but we can ask and share the answers in the newsletter.

An article about your experiences will help others and make the newsletter more interesting.

This is what LIOC is—a network of folks with a common interest and goal. Remember, Caring is Sharing!

WANTED: OLD OR NEW

Your stories of experiences with exotic cats, successes, trials, failures, lessons learned, veterinarian findings, news about wild cats, legal issues, etc. are needed for **our** newsletter. Our organization is about sharing and bonding together on the unified issue of caring for and preserving our cats. PLEASE correspond with me by using snail mail or email to send your experiences to share with others through our newsletter. Pictures always enhance the stories. Please send them by regular mail and I will return them after scanning them. Glossy pictures (like Brittney Londré's picture on p. 15) scan much better retaining the original detail. Matte finish pictures (like the Holms' picture on p. 5) scan grainy because the scanner also scans the texture of the paper. So please send glossy if possible.

Thank you for becoming a more active member of LIOC by contributing your input into our worthy cause.

You can contact me at the following:

Marge Maxwell, Editor
PO Box 101
Bowling Green, KY 42101
502-846-1991
liontriumphant@mindspring.com



AFTERMATH OF GEORGES LESSONS LEARNED

by Shirley Wagner

I thank each of you who've called to check on us after the storm. For those who haven't heard, we received 18 inches of water in our riverside home as a result of the flooding Georges caused. Our home is over 40 years old and had never flooded before. However, due to all the right circumstances at exactly the wrong time the river rose incredibly fast and high.

Thankfully we were fully insured and some things can be replaced and neither we nor our animal family were harmed. During storms we bring Tres (ocelot) into the home. In hurricanes one never knows when trees or roofs may drop onto even the strongest cage so she is put in a carrier and brought indoors. Inside, her carrier is placed into a large dog crate. During Georges worst we decided to leave her in the carrier 'til the worst was over. So when the water began to rise it was easy to pick up the carrier and place it high above the water.

Believe me, there is not enough "up" places to move things. But I learned from it and will pass this hard earned wisdom on. Invest in ziplock bags! We lost most photographs and a lot of memorabilia. If the rain comes in from the roof a top shelf gets wet, if water rises, bottom drawers get wet - whatever, whichever something is lost. When the contractor leaves and I start putting things back, anything normally stored in a shoebox, on a shelf, under the bed or in the bottom of a closet will be in a Rubbermaid container or ziplock bag!

We're sorta "camping out" in the house. I'm told we should be able to start putting things back before Christmas. However, this will negate my usual no holds barred Christmas. This year we'll

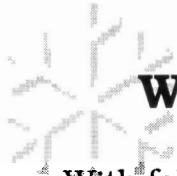


forgo the trees and garland (a wreath on the mantle will have to suffice). I'll miss this, as many of you know I'm a total Christmas freak, but next year will be all that more special for it. Also to be missed will be the Creche on the bookcase, but the reason for the season will be in our hearts nevertheless.

It is in this vein that I remind each of you of what is truly important in this life—loved ones (animal and human). Friends who take time to listen in times of sadness and rejoice with us in our good fortune.

So from the Wagner home to yours, we thank you for your concern and prayers and wish you the very best for this Holiday Season.

As with many animals in the world today, many if not all of the wild cats species face the possibility of extinction. For some, the Tiger, Spanish Lynx, and Snow Leopard, the threat is so serious that it is probable that these animals will in fact disappear from their natural habitat if the present decline in numbers is not halted. Nature can no longer stop their demise—only with man's intervention through diverse conservation programs can there be hope to save these animals.



Winterizing

With fall and winter looming in the not too distant future, we need to consider using one of the new non-toxic types of anti-freeze that are now available. Although we don't anticipate our critters coming in contact with this substance, you never know and better safe than sorry is always wise. This is especially important to those whose interior cage is in a garage or in close proximity. As I found out recently, we never know when a hose will spring a leak spraying this toxic (and very attractive) substance where we don't want it to be.

Now is also the time to refresh bedding (cedar or pine chips) in our cats' sleeping boxes, giving an extra layer to ward off the chill air. To block the north wind, corrugated fiberglass panels, attached with "s" hooks to the chain link are easy and quick. Pull out those heat lamps, checking the cords carefully. Cords can be protected by running them through PVC pipe. Heating pads (with the cords protected of course) can be placed under sleeping boxes. These boxes can be fitted with a false bottom to accommodate a heating pad, or placed on risers with heavy foil positioned under the pad to reflect heat upward. Of course commercially available "animal proof" products are also available, but please remember our exotics are ever so more inventive than the usual domestic so take the "animal proof" with a handful of salt and give serious thought to the worse case scenario, protecting against disaster.

Historically Speaking

Many folks wonder why we have Life Directors. There are many reasons. First we must remember that Life Directors have been elected by you, the members of LIOC.

They are folks who are long-time members, who have demonstrated their interest in and devotion to LIOC and the cats. By being elected for Life, they do not have to consider being reelected and therefore have only one interest—that which is best for LIOC and the long-term interests of the cats and members who care for them.

Life directors also perform numerous tasks, mostly unheralded. They act as a sounding board for the other officers and directors, they are LIOC's memory, what has been tried and whether it failed or succeeded in the past. They constitute the Trustees of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund. They count ballots in the election process. They've published the member directory and booklist and assisted in many special projects over the years.

Since they do not have "assigned" duties, many think they do nothing. But in every aspect of the running of LIOC the Life Directors take a part. Because they have no specific assigned duties, they are available to help whenever needed.

They are truly the backbone and memory of LIOC.



Book Review:

WILD CATS: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan

Introduction

This book is the combined work of over 200 specialists on wild cats from all over the world. It reviews the status and conservation needs of all the 36 species of wild cats. There are chapters discussing habitat, management, research, trade, captive breeding and re-introduction. Over 100 priority conservation projects are listed in the action plan. Professional wildlife photographers have donated spectacular photos of very rare cats.

The compilers hope this work will provide wildlife officials, managers and research scientists with a reference book to assist them in conserving wild cats.

Wild Cats opens with a Foreword by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author of the best-seller "The Tribe of Tiger" (Simon and Schuster, New York, 1994)

- An introduction to the Cat Action Plan and the Cat Specialist Group
- A Chapter on taxonomy: Taxonomists have argued about the classification of the wild cats for two centuries since the seminal work of the Swedish natural scientist, Linnaeus. The compilers of the action plan have chosen to use the latest classification by Dr Christopher Wozencraft for practical reasons, without prejudice, because it is likely to be used in international and national legislation for the immediate future. This chapter reviews the history of classification, as well as the modern technique of genetic research, which is contributing to the clarification of felid evolution and relationships.

The main body of the book is divided into three parts:

Part I: Species data sheets

There are data sheets for all the 36 species of wild cats. They include a list of local names throughout their range; description and behaviour; biology; habitat and distribution; population status; legal protection status; occurrence in protected areas; and major threats. Where a cat is found in several regions, a principal account is given for its major range, and supplementary accounts for other regions. Detailed range maps are provided for each species.

A unique method of assessing the relative vulnerability of all species has been developed, based on their geographical range, number of habitats used and their body size. The method, which is explained in detail, has been used to assess not only the overall vulnerability of each species, but its vulnerability within the regions in which it is found.

Part II: Major Issues in Cat Conservation

The survival of the wild cats depends on a number of major factors, which are dealt with in six chapters.

Cats and Habitat Loss Human expansion, settlement and activities are rapidly converting wild lands into areas which are often unsuitable for wild cats, thereby leading to a decline in numbers. The status of various habitat types is reviewed and critical habitats for cats highlighted. The protected area system is considered in the light of the needs of wild cats.

Management of Big Cats Cats are supreme predators. The big cats - lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, snow leopards, cheetahs and pumas — often pose serious problems in livestock areas. These problems are reviewed, as well as methods of minimizing stock losses, not only by management of the cats themselves, but by employing enlightened methods of managing and protecting livestock.

Research The species accounts show how little is known about even familiar wild cats. It is important to know more of their ecology, biology and habitat preferences in order to be more effective in conserving them. The necessary research is reviewed and gaps are highlighted.

Trade Spotted cat furs have been highly prized for centuries and exploitation reached a recent peak in the 1960s and 1970s. Fear that many species were threatened with extinction led to a public outcry against use of wild furs. Meanwhile, the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reduced this exploitation by banning international commerce in the most threatened species and imposing licencing controls on others in order to monitor trade to obtain early warning of potential threats. The relatively common bobcat and Canadian lynx are given special attention because management of these species has been introduced in order to produce a sustainable yield, which does not endanger them locally or throughout North America. The management systems are examined in the light of their suitability for use in conserving other species of wild cats.

Cats in Captivity Since time immemorial wild cats have been kept in captivity as pets, useful companions for hunting and to control rodents, and for the pleasure of people. In recent times, as threats of extinction have increased, scientific captive breeding to maintain species has become a matter of international cooperation between zoos and institutions specializing in reproductive biology and genetic management. At the same time, zoos are changing from being mere display centres to becoming important educational centres. The status of various species in captivity is reviewed, along with recommendations for future developments.

Reintroduction Re-introducing species to places where they have been extirpated or severely reduced in number is seen as a future possibility. But it is a more complicated matter than it might appear, with political and social, as well as technical, aspects. Experience with various cats is reviewed and the recommendations of the IUCN Re-introduction Specialist Group explained.

Part III: An Action Plan for Conservation of the Wild Cats The Action Plan lists over 100 priority projects for wild cat conservation in the 1990s.

References Over 1,500 references are given to documentation which has been used to compile the species accounts and discussion chapters.

Book available from:

IUCN Publications Services Unit
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
119c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK

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Kristin Nowell and Peter Jackson
IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
1996
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Anitbacterials Questionable

We're hearing a lot these days about super-bugs that are resistant to antibiotics. With this in mind, antibacterial cleaning solutions are nothing but cleaners that have antibiotic agents added. These too can contribute to resistant strains of bacteria.

Remember, one of the best antibacterial, virucidal and non-toxic agents we have available to us for cleaning our cages, bedding, etc. is Clorox. Many vets recommend a solution of one part Clorox to 30 parts water. It kills most harmful bacteria on contact, is inexpensive, can be added to the wash when cleaning bedding, and can be used to soak carriers, bowls, toys or any porous object in. Better yet, bacteria and viruses do not build up a tolerance to it. As with any cleaning agent, just remember to rinse thoroughly.

Track Cat's Tracks?

Available now in many pet catalogs is a "Cat Finder." This consists of a tag which attaches to the cat's collar. It is accompanied by a device which will cause the tag to beep when a button is pressed. This finder comes with up to three tags and the equivalent number of buttons to locate each animal separately. If you have a cat that frequently dashes at gates or doors, this could prevent disaster in the event of an escape. Although many folks hesitate to keep a collar on their cat, it can prevent disaster, letting others know the cat is a "pet" should it escape. The addition of this tag, especially to small easily hidden cats, may save its life and prevent the necessity of an "all out alert" in the neighborhood.

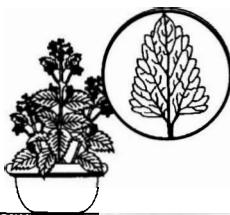
The fewer incidents of this type we have, the less our neighbors are likely to perceive our animals as a threat. Even though it's unlikely a larger cat is going to be hard to see, it's the perception that we are taking every precaution that is sometimes important to those living in the vicinity.

Something To Grow On!

Most cats love the taste and smell of a special plant called **catnip**. Even normally dignified cats will chew it, sniff it, and roll around in it like kittens. No one knows for sure why cats love catnip, but we do know that a certain chemical in the plant makes some cats go crazy, while other cats don't. This taste for catnip is an inherited trait. Some species of large cats react to catnip, too. Scientists have done studies to show that lions, snow leopards, and jaguars all react to the plant, although not as strongly as domestic cats.

Catnip is a plant you can grow from seed on your own. It can be grown in a garden or indoors, near a window. Catnip is not hard to grow; it only needs some sunlight and a little water every few days. It will take about two weeks to get the seeds to sprout, and then in three months the plant will be mature. Catnip is a perennial plant and will grow back year after year.

To grow catnip:



- Buy the seeds from a local garden center or pet store. Follow the directions on the seed packet. If you grow your catnip indoors, keep it out of your cat's reach so it doesn't get eaten before it's ready!
- When the plant is mature, pull up a few stalks at a time and tie them into bundles. Hang the bundles upside down in a dry indoor place out of reach of your cat. When the plant is dry and crumbly, crush it up into a plastic bag for storage.
- Give your cat a pinch at a time, or stuff some into a cat toy or sock!



The small details of Christmas that make the season joyous for pet owners may be hazardous for pets. During the holidays, pets may be in the background while owners shop or entertain guests leaving animals vulnerable to three big dangers: chocolate, tinsel, and ribbons.

Chocolate has a toxic ingredient, theobromine, which can be fatal at high enough dosages. Chocolate is also bad for our cats' teeth and could lead to weight problems.

Swallowing tinsel and Christmas ribbons can also damage pets' digestive systems. They can cause an obstruction because the shape of cats' intestines is not straight and the tinsel or ribbon can saw through the intestine causing leakage into the abdomen. If the abdomen is cut or there's an intestinal blockage, it means pain for the animal and great expense for the owner. Treating a blockage includes X-rays, and possibly a laparotomy (a surgical operation on the intestine).

The telltale signs to watch for are vomiting and diarrhea; Christmas

decorations may also get stuck around a cat's tongue. If we cut it off from around the tongue it may pass through by itself but sometimes it does require surgery. Other Christmas dangers include turkey bones which can splinter and perforate the intestine, and turkey skin, which is high in fat and can cause intestinal problems.

It is recommended to give pet treats rather than chocolate, putting tinsel up high on the tree, and putting ribbons where your cat can't reach them.

Oops, Sorry!

In the last issue in the article, LIOC Election History, a terrible typing mistake was made. Ed Strickland, a past Term Director in 1993, is very much alive. Please accept my apology, Ed and family.

Sincerely,
Marge Maxwell

Two other oversights for which we apologize are as follows:

Jean Hamil: currently serves on the board as Director of Advertising and Publicity

Katie Knight-Moncierno: President 1993/94





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
1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full Page	\$100.00
Back Page	\$125.00

Now Available

LIOC Caging and 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:

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Mobile, AL 36619



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Notify Member Services
See page 2 for address/email



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



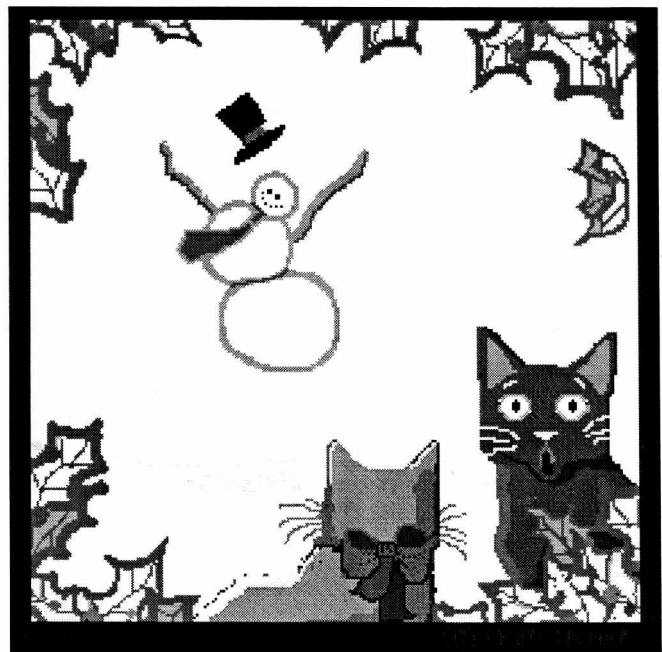
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email: animalfinder@thnet.com



*Lord
our God,
the heavens are
the work of your hands,
the moon and stars you made;
the earth and the sea, and every
living creature, great and small, came
into being by your word. Even a sparrow's
fall does not go unnoticed by your caring eye. May
this tree remind us of your love and the gift You gave
through Jesus Christ your only begotten Son,
offering life
and beauty
to our world.*

Lighting this tree, we hope in His promise.