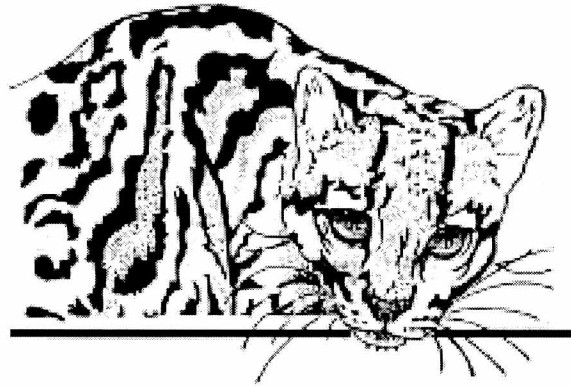
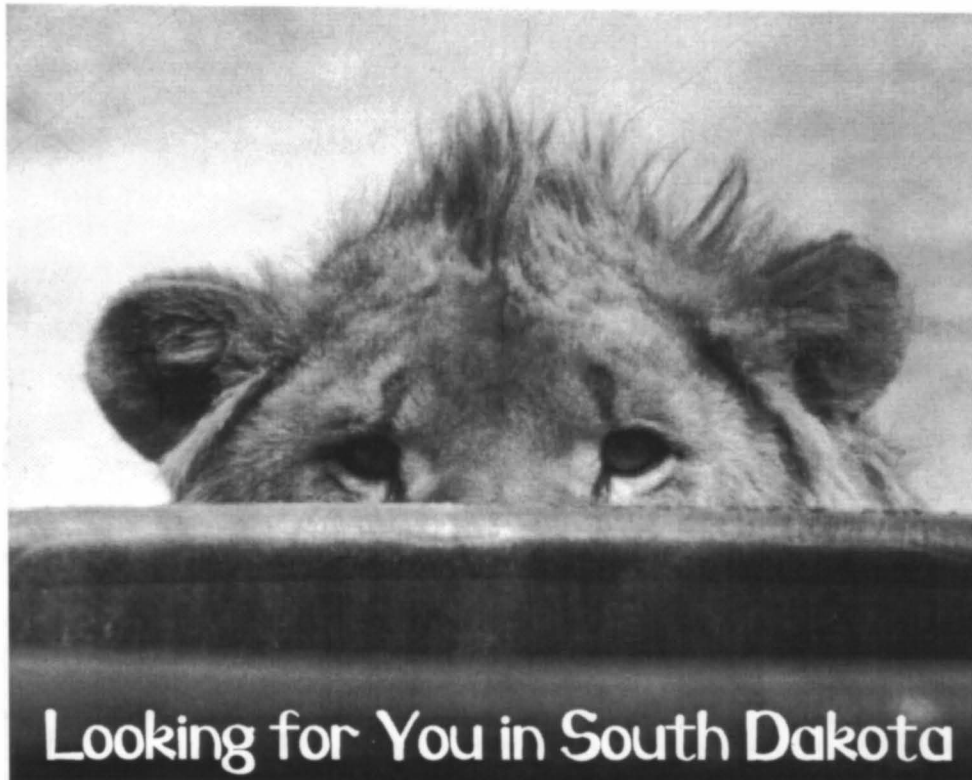


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**ENDANGERED SPECIES  
CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.**

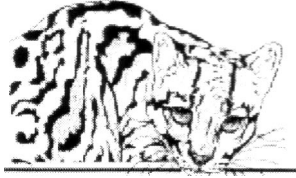


**Volume 43, Issue 2 - March/April 1999**



**Looking for You in South Dakota**

**(See Page 4 for details)**



*LIOC*

**Long Island Ocelot Club, Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.**

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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### AGENDA ITEMS SOUGHT

If you have an item to be discussed at the General membership Meeting, please put it in the form of a motion and submit no later than July 5, 1999 to:  
Sharon Roe  
LIOC  
29641 NE Timmen Rd.  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Animal Finder's Guide  
Sherry Blanchette  
Kelly Jean Buckley  
Peggy Hayes  
Tonya Jones  
James Peddie  
George Stowers  
Shirley Wagner  
Nancy Ward  
Barbara Wilton

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Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Vice President, Email: [gstowers@aiusa.com](mailto:gstowers@aiusa.com)  
Please send computer readable text files (email is fine or ASCII text files on disc.)

for contributions to this newsletter. This is YOUR newsletter. ALL contributions—new or old, long or short, technical or humorous personal story, article or advertisement—are welcome and needed. I'll be happy to assist with writing and/or editing. Calls, emails, or faxes are welcome.

Marge Maxwell, Editor

PS: Thanks to Jana Londré and Ken Lockwood for your contributions. They did not make it in time for this issue but will be in the next.

# 1999 LIOC 29TH

## Site Visit to South Dakota for 1999 LIOC Convention

by Kelly Jean Buckley

We visited this year's LIOC convention hosts, Jim and Judy at Wildcat Valley Resort. Together they helped to familiarize us with the area and plan for the upcoming LIOC convention. A day of touring was arranged for August 6. Convention attendees will enjoy lunch at their place following a visit to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Jim and Judy have collected cat items for years and they have a great gift shop where no two spotted things are alike! Everyone is welcome to

visit Wildcat Valley on their own before, during, or after the convention. In the afternoon, we will make a short shopping stop in Keystone, South Dakota, and then travel to visit Bear Country, which is a drive through Wildlife Park. The Park features 12 groups of animals and a walk through the wildlife center with small animals and park offspring. The evening on this day will be free time. The Hotel Alex Johnson was built when a luxury hotel meant that there was one bathroom on each floor. When the hotel was converted, they placed



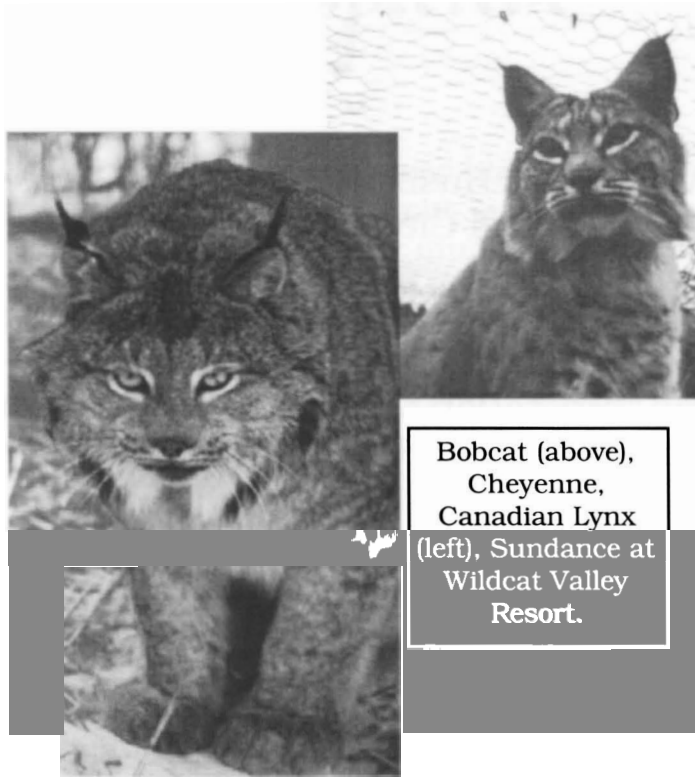
the bathrooms, within rooms wherever they would fit. For this reason, all of the rooms are different. Some rooms have only showers, some with tubs and some with Jacuzzi tubs. The lobby is decorated with the original brick paved floor and branded fireplace mantle. Complimentary fresh hot coffee is available each morning in the lobby. The hotel has original art everywhere and a wonderful gift shop. The month of August is when the Alex Johnson sells out fast, so please reserve your rooms for the LIOC convention ASAP. See you there!

Moglee (top) was a rescued cougar. A caracal, Shania, and dog friend, Bucket (below), at Wildcat Valley Resort.



# ANNUAL CONVENTION

August 4 - 8 at Rapid City, South Dakota



Bobcat (above),  
Cheyenne,  
Canadian Lynx  
(left), Sundance at  
Wildcat Valley  
Resort.

Hotel Alex Johnson  
CALL 1-800-888-2539  
Identify yourself with  
GROUP #G8171 to reserve  
your room for \$79.00 each  
night, double occupancy.  
The Exotic Cats are  
Welcome!

(Less than 30 pounds) LIOC convention attendees can take advantage of the \$79.00 room rate if you plan to come a few days early to vacation in Rapid City. The Alex Johnson requires notice when you make your reservations, as to which cats you are bringing to the convention, and a \$50.00 room deposit, \$25.00 is non-refundable.

**REGISTER for the 1999  
LIOC Convention by June  
10. Please send \$85.00  
payment to:**

LIOC-ESCF, Inc.  
PO Box 22085  
Phoenix, Arizona 85028

(After June 10 the fee will be  
\$110.00)

NOTE: Please send your choice of  
Beef or Chicken for the  
Saturday night Banquet.

## Service with a Smile

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote: "I would very much like to bring my cat with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner: "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a cat steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a cat in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a cat run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your cat is welcome at my hotel. And, if your cat will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."

# **Wild Feline Husbandry Course**

A Pre-conference Course at the 1999 LIOC Convention

On August 4, 1999 an eight hour Wild Feline Husbandry Training Course will be held at the Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, South Dakota.

This course will provide students with the knowledge required to practice responsible captive husbandry of wild felines as set forth in the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation's Code of Conduct for Private Owners of Wild Felines. Topics that will be covered include the following:

- **Natural History of Wild Felines**
- **Conservation & Regulatory Agencies**
- **Permits**
- **Facility Design & Handling Equipment**
- **Nutrition**
- **Health Care**
- **Disposition & Handling**
- **Behavior Conditioning**
- **Contingency Planning**

This course is being held the day before, and at the same location, as the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation's Annual Convention, and is suitable for both novices and "Old Hands" who want improve their level of knowledge.

Tuition: \$45.00

Cut Off Date: 7/15/99

Payable to:

LIOC

29641 NE Timmen Rd.

Ridgefield, WA 98642

Any questions? Contact the LIOC's Conservation & Education Director, Sherry Blanchette, (804) 263-6652 or [MSFWILDCAT@AOL.COM](mailto:MSFWILDCAT@AOL.COM)

## President's Perspective

Have you ever noticed how a lot of non-profit corporations put out a wish list in order to obtain much needed items? There are a lot of items I would put on our wish list and the first two would be MARGAYS and OCELOTS. We hear so much now about saving endangered species. I don't recall any big pushes to save these two particular species. We do have the knowledge now to save and reproduce these cats. I wish they would send us a few hundred.

Next on my wish list would be members. We are making headway in this department which is very encouraging. Computers and our web site have helped immensely. It is more difficult now to attract people than in the hey-day when we could walk our "pets" down the street! There is much more commitment required now. You have to accept the fact that "Uncle Sam" is sitting on your shoulder. You are subject to inspections and regulations and exotic cats are not pets anymore. However, it is not all bad. We all want the best for our cats. They need room to run and play or just lay in the sun. They need a room for privacy. They need good food and vitamins and proper medical care. One thing they don't need is an owner who wants an exotic for the wrong reasons such as protection, status symbol, or a fur farmer who wants to raise cats for the fur trade. I've seen all these things!

The last thing on my list today would be more branches. I recall when we had branches in New England States, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Northern and Southern California and Oregon/Washington. We have gained two branches in recent years, one in Washington and the Midwest Branch which covers several states. Wouldn't you like to belong to a branch? It is great to be able to visit with cat owners who have so much in common. It is like a mini-convention at every meeting. If you are interested in forming a branch, contact Kelly Jean Buckley in Member Services. She can supply you with the necessary information and forms.

See you at our "Big Branch" Convention in Rapid City, S.D. in August.



Barbara Wilton, LIOC President

## **Fifteen Endangered Species Threatened by INS Project**

Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, and the Frontera Audubon Society today announced that they have sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue to the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), and to the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the proposed Operation Rio Grande. The groups contend that the project will ruin some of the last remaining habitat for ocelots and jaguarundis, two endangered cat species. They filed their notice with the intent to sue the government for violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in south Texas.

"INS and the Army Corps have legal obligations under the ESA and NEPA that they have not lived up to, and we intend to make sure that they do so," said Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen. "These folks are supposed to be protecting us and our borders, not destroying rare cat habitat."

A project of the INS, Operation Rio Grande proposes to rebuild roads and burn vegetation and construct fences, lighting systems, and boat ramps along roughly 100 miles of land adjacent to the Rio Grande River. INS claims that such activities are needed to better monitor drug trafficking and illegal immigration. The groups charge that such construction and activities will adversely affect several critically endangered species and will disturb important wildlife habitat on which thousands of plant and animal species rely.

"All these fences are going to do is to kill off some of the last remaining wild ocelots and jaguarundis in the region," said Dr. Melissa Grigione, conservation biologist with Defenders.

The lower Rio Grande Valley, which

includes Starr, Hildago, and Cameron counties and where the project has already begun construction, is home to more than 2,200 species of plant and animal, making it one of the most biologically diverse regions in the United States. The valley also serves as a temporary home to thousands of migratory birds each season. Only five percent of the valley's historic habitat remains today, most of it lost to human encroachment. Fifteen endangered species call the valley home, including ocelots, jaguarundis, Aplomado falcons, and piping plovers. All four of these critically endangered species on the brink of extinction.

"Fifty miles of floodlights along the Rio Grande will impact everything from moths and butterflies to birds, bats, and cats," said Jim Chapman, Rio Grande Valley Group Leader for the Sierra Club. "For INS to say otherwise flies in the faces of common sense as well as good science."

Schlickeisen agreed and added, "Jaguarundi and ocelots don't recognize borders. They need to be able to roam freely in what little habitat man has left for them. Fragmenting this habitat even further could most surely mean the end for these two magnificent creatures and, quite possibly, for several more species. That's a price too high to pay, and this project must stop immediately."

Defenders and the other groups are asking that all activities associated with Operation Rio Grande cease immediately until the appropriate measures can be taken to ensure long-term survival of species in the region. INS has released a draft environmental assessment and a biological assessment, but the groups charge that both documents are deficient



and error-laden. The groups request that INS obtain a biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required by the provisions of the ESA, and prepare an environmental impact statement as required by NEPA.

"We know INS has already started this project by placing portable lights in places like Brownsville, and they're planning on putting up permanent 1,000 watt lights, razor fencing, and electric lines of all kinds," explained Schlickeisen. "INS may be hoping to shed light on the area, but what they're really doing is pushing numerous endangered species further into the shadows of existence."

Defenders and the other groups are being represented in the case by the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Meyer and Glitzenstein.



### Antsy Problems?

Try sprinkling used coffee grounds around the perimeter of your cage. Ants don't like this and will leave. It can't hurt the cat or environment (or the ants for that matter - they just avoid the area). Don't drink coffee? Ask your neighbors, family, or co-workers to save their grounds for you. If your friends and neighbors garden and have a problem with rabbits, offer them your litter box droppings. Rabbits will avoid a cat's territory.

Contributed by Shirley Wagner

## Rites of Passage

Some of the most poignant moments I spend as a veterinarian are those spent with my clients assisting the transition of my animal patients from this world to the next. When living becomes a burden, whether from pain or loss of normal functions, I can help a family by ensuring that their beloved pet has an easy passing. Making this final decision is painful, and I have often felt powerless to comfort the grieving owners.

That was before I met Shane.

I had been called to examine a ten-year-old blue heeler named Belker who had developed a serious health problem. The dog's owners - Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane - were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer.

I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on.

Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me - I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

By Robin Downing, D.V.M.  
from Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's  
Soul

## **Report on the 1999 Mid-Year Meeting of the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group**

By: George N. Stowers, Vice-President LIOC-ESCF

On March 5-7 I attended the 1999 Mid Year Meeting of the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group. The meeting was hosted this year by Disney's Wild Animal Kingdom and was held at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. About 125 individuals attended the meeting with representation from many AZA institutions, individuals involved in wild feline research/ conservation, and members from the private sector, including Private (non-AZA) Zoos, Rescue/Rehabilitation, Conservation Breeders, and Individual Private Owners. As was the case last year I was provided with the opportunity to make a presentation on the LIOC-ESCF activities during the last year. The report I gave was well received by the attendees. Following the presentation several individuals from outside the private sector privately expressing appreciation and support for our efforts to promote responsibility in private captive husbandry. The following summarizes my presentation:

During 1998, the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation continued its efforts to promote responsibility in private captive husbandry of wild felines.

In response to recommendations made by the Private Sector Working Group at the 1998 midyear meeting of the AZA Felid TAG the LIOC-ESCF has:

- √ Adopted policies that promote registration of private sector cats with ISIS and the appropriate PMPS, and permanent identification of animals using either tattoos or microchips.
- √ Purchased a copy of SPARKS from ISIS and is in the process of

establishing a private sector database to be shared with ISIS and interested PNWS.

- √ Designated an LIOC member as liaison between the LIOC-ESCF and the Felid TAG.

Other significant activities undertaken by the LIOC-ESCF this year include:

- √ Initiation of a project to develop a set of model regulations which can be provided to regulatory agencies interested in receiving input from the private sector.
- √ Development of a introductory level wild feline husbandry course that covers the rudiments of responsible captive husbandry including permits, nutrition, basic health care, facility design, handling, and contingency planning.
- √ Completion of a survey of injuries resulting from private captive husbandry of non-domestic cats. Data was collected during the latter part of 1998 via an anonymous survey distributed via the LIOC-ESCF Newsletter, two exotic animal industry publications, and the Internet. Completed questionnaires were received from 126 private owners with a combined total of over 5000 cat-years of experience. The data gathered allowed quantification of the risk private husbandry presents to the owner, family members/employees, and the general public in various situations including authorized contact, unauthorized contact, and escape. Three levels of injury severity were recognized; requiring first aid, professional care,

and fatal. In order to allow comparison to other activities, risk was calculated in injuries per cat-year of exposure. Attachment 1 (page 12) summarizes the results.

### **Conclusion:**

Based on the data available as a result of this survey, the risk of injury associated that private captive husbandry of wild felines appears to be comparable to the risk associated with other more common and widely accepted activities such as ownership of domestic dogs and operation of motor vehicles.

For example, for privately held non-domestic cats the overall risk of injury (to owners, their family/employees, and the general public) requiring professional care is 1.2 E-2 per cat-year while for domestic dogs the probability is 1.5 E-2. (Source: January 1998, Journal of the American Medical Association). It is postulated that the added level of caution normally exercised in the handling and containment of non-domestic cats, beyond that which is normally exercised with domestic dogs, accounts for this result.

The probability of an injury to a member of the general public requiring professional medical attention was 7.6 E-4 per cat-year. For comparative purposes the probability of an individual other than the driver/passenger (general public) being injured by a motor vehicle is about 1.7 E-2 per vehicle-year. (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA) No injuries to a member of the general public resulting from the escape of a privately held non-domestic cat were reported as part of this survey.

No fatalities were reported by those responding to the survey. This suggests the risk of fatal injury resulting from

private captive husbandry of non-domestic cats is less than  $<1.9 \text{ E-4}$  per cat-year exposure. The actual risk may in fact be lower but there was insufficient data to make this determination. For comparison the risk of being fatally injured by a motor vehicle in the U.S. is about  $1.8 \text{ E-4}$  per vehicle-year. (Source: NHTSA)

### **END OF REPORT**

This year the Private Sector was broken down into two separate Working Groups: One group for the major conservation breeders (Penny Andrews - Hexagon Farms, Pat Quillan SOS Care, Joe Maynard - Exotic Feline Breeding Compound, John Aynes - Oak Hill, Gordon Blankstine - Mountain View Farms Conservation & Breeding Center, Karen Hughes - White Oak Plantation, Nancy Schonwalter - Carnivore Preservation Trust, etc.) and another group the rest of the private sector. I participated in this second group. The major focus of this session was to formally define the various stakeholder groups within the private sector, and what each group wanted in regard to their relationship with the AZA. The results of this Working Group session will be reported in the newsletter once the meeting report has been formally issued.

Cats sleep fat,  
And walk thin. Cats, when they sleep, slump,  
When they wake, pull in-  
And where the plump's been  
There's skin.  
Cats walk then.

Cats sleep in a lump.  
Jump in a streak.  
Cats when they jump are sleek  
As a grape slipping its skin  
They have a technique  
Oh, cats don't creak,  
They sneak...

Rosalie Moore

**Attachment 1**  
 LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation  
 Private Wild Feline Captive Husbandry Safety Survey  
 March 1999

CATEGORY	TOTAL	AVG.	RISK	MAX	MIN
Responses	126				
Cat Years Experience	5241	41.6			
Cat Years Experience with Large Cats	1985	15.8		207	0
Cat Years Experience with Small Cats	32561	25.8		875	0
Years of Breeding Experience	2411	19.1		884	0
Injuries of All Types	635	5.0			
Injuries Requiring First Aid	573	4.5			
Injuries Requiring Professional Care	62	0.5			
Fatal Injuries	01	0.0			
Number of Escapes	75	0.6			
Injuries to Owner	491	3.9			
Injuries to Family Member/Employee	120	1.0			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact	17	0.1			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact	7	0.1			
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape	0	0.0			
Injuries to Owner Requiring First Aid	453.	3.6	8.6E-02	100	0
Injuries to Owner Requiring Professional Care	38	0.3	7.3E-03	6	0
Injuries to Family Member/Employee Requiring First Aid	104	0.8	2.0E-02	15	0
Injuries to Family Member/Employee Requiring Professional Care	16	0.1	3.1 E-03	2	0
Fatal Injuries to Family Member/Employee	0	0.0	< 1.91 E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact Requiring First Aid	13	0.1	2.5E-03	2	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact Requiring Professional Care	4	0.0	7.6E-04	2	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Authorized Contact	0	0.0	< 1. 91 E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact Requiring First Aid	3	0.0	5.7E-04	1	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact Requiring Professional Care	4	0.0	7.6E-04	1	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Unauthorized Contact	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape Requiring First Aid	0	0.0	< 1. 91 E-4	0	0
Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape Requiring Professional Care	0	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	0
Fatal Injuries to Member of the General Public Resulting from Escape	01	0.0	< 1.91E-4	0	

\* Risk = Injuries per cat-year exposure.

## Norman's Extraordinary Tale

by Nancy Ward

I used to publish a magazine called The Canadian Conservationist's Journal. It was a small publication geared to sharing information and education amongst private zoo owners and keepers of exotic animals. The "Journal" was also frequently involved in providing factual information to the Canadian press who unfortunately often would tarnish the integrity of those keeping exotic species due to misinformation fed to them by opposing animal rights extremist. We had several victories against these groups and prevented some townships from banning exotic animals within their jurisdiction.

I gave up producing the Journal in January of 1998 primarily due to a personal tragedy. I was reading your Nov./Dec. 1998 issue and I noticed an article in there on winterizing animal dens using pine or cedar shavings (page 19) and I felt compelled to write to you to share my tragedy which involved using pine shavings with the hope it may spare somebody else the pain I experienced.

I have kept various species of exotic felines and other exotic animals including primates, a wolf and numerous parrots at my sanctuary, Lilac Grove, for the past 9 years now.

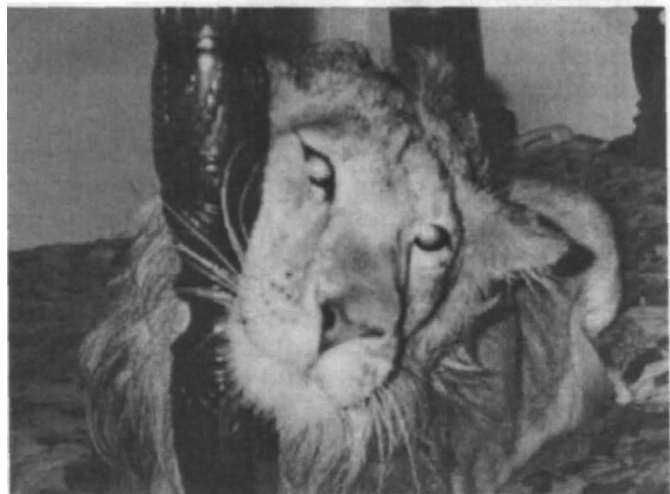
In the fall of 1993 I adopted a ten-hour old male lion cub. I named him Norman. From the beginning Norman was very different from other big cats I had bottle fed in that he seemed to go weak if he was not fed every one and a half to two hours. Other cubs I had bottle raised, I fed every four hours. In the wild, as we all know, lionesses often leave their young for up to 48 hours when they are off hunting. With that in mind I consulted my Veterinarian thinking Norman might be hypo-glycemic. My vet, however felt Norman's problem probably stemmed from getting a poor start since he did not nurse on his Mother and recommended I put him on antibiotics.

Norman's condition persisted throughout his cubhood and he was also constantly plagued with ear infections that would be very slow to heal. Because of this, Norman and I became very close. He would not eat unless I hand fed him, and was very cowardly and unsure of himself unless I was with him. For example, on one occasion my 86 year old great Aunt, who is barely 4'1" tall, scared him so badly by peeking at him through the patio doors, that he ran upstairs and

tried to get under my bed. He was three years old, 400 plus pounds at the time, but would only come back out once I went up to reassure him. Because of this and his dependence on me, Norman became more of a child to me than a pet. So, in spite the criticism from all the "experts" who proclaimed he would surely kill me once he reached two years of age, I continued to allow him to live in my home with me including sleeping on my bed with me at night.

By the time Norman was four years old he was still as gentle as ever and most of the nay sayers who had taken the time to visit my facility, were now convinced that he was indeed a very special animal. Meeting Norman convinced them that animals can be as 'individual' in temperament as humans can be. Everybody who met him, loved him including my neighbors who at first were terrified to have him in the vicinity. But my house was getting too small for him to move around comfortably so I decided to build him a comfortable enclosure of his own where he would have space to be a lion but would still always be welcome into the house if he chose to come in. I also decided to get him a mate.

In the summer of 1997 I purchased a female cub for Norman for his fourth birthday. I named her Madison and, unlike Norman, she was full of mischief and energy. Norm tolerated her and was always careful not to hurt her (as he had been raised around my Yorkies.) He was always very good around animals much smaller than himself even when they tugged at his mane and pestered him). I enjoyed watching her pester him to play with her and thought perhaps she would help him become more independant. But to my surprise, Norman never really took an interest in her and was still very much an over grown baby, attached to me. I also noticed he would get possessive of me if she tried to take my attention from him which was something he had



never done with any of the other animals including other big cats I had raised while he was growing up.

One day, when Madison was about five months old, she decided she was going to steal Norman's blanket out from under him as he lay sleeping in my room. For lack of better words to describe what happened next, all hell broke loose. In my panic, I broke the cardinal rule of breaking up a fight between two animals, but I wasn't thinking of anything but keeping them from hurting each other. I got between them and discharged a small fire extinguisher. True to his nature, Norman backed off (testament that he was a very gentle lion as any other would have

surely killed me for my stupidity) and I was able to separate them. From that point on, Norman hated Madison, so I put him outside during the day in his yard as she was still too small to be left outside and by then it was fall.

I filled his den with pine shavings instead of straw thinking the pine would be more comfortable for him to lay on as he was used to sleeping on a bed. But, within 48 hours of Norm sleeping on pine shavings he broke out in a terrible rash along the side of his body he was sleeping on, from the side of his face right down his tail. I immediately called my vet who prescribed antibiotics. I suggested Norman might be allergic to the shavings but my vet insisted he couldn't be as pine shavings were often used as animal bedding.

I remembered back to a time when I had fed Norm turkeys from a local turkey farm and he had broken out into a similar rash around his mouth and on his tongue. I stopped feeding the turkeys and Norm's condition improved dramatically within a few days. The situation with the shavings was so similar I called the farmer to ask him about the substrate he used to maintain his turkeys and he informed me he used pine shavings. I immediately removed the pine shavings from Norman's den. But after being on the shavings for less than two complete days

Norman's body was riddled in sores and he was licking himself raw.

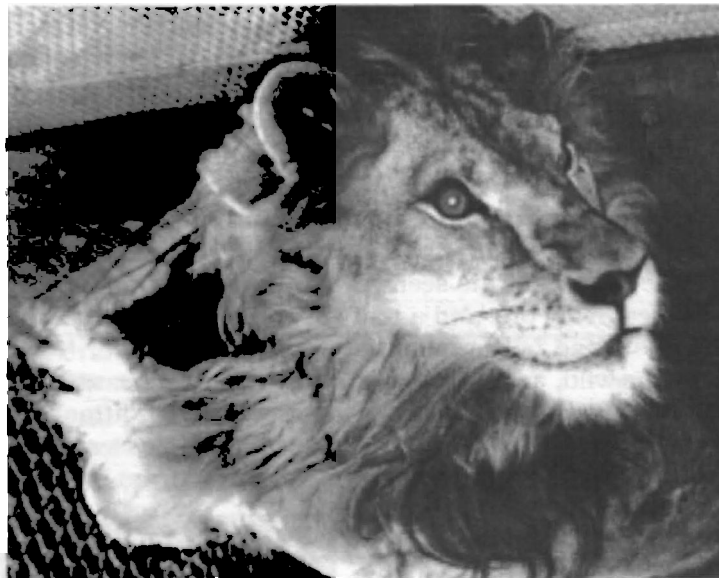
I followed the vet's advice and put him on the antibiotics but a month went by and I saw no improvement. So I called members of LIOC who I greatly respect for their knowledge and expertise. They agreed some exotic cats could be allergic to pine shavings and graciously tried to help me to determine how to treat Norman's sores which were getting worse by the day as he would not stop licking them. They suggested numerous things including homeopathic remedies to speed up his healing. I ran their suggestions by my vet, however he had little faith in homeopathic medicine and decided Norman needed more antibiotics. I followed his advice as this man had been my vet for 8 years but was growing skeptical because by this point, Norman had been on antibiotics three times and still would not heal.

After another week of seeing no improvement and Norman looking worse than ever, I decided to go with the homeopathic approach of bathing his sores four times daily in aloe and vitamin E cream to soothe the itching

as well as putting on a topical antiseptic cream to prevent infection. This seemed to improve his condition a little bit and made him more comfortable, but by then he was losing weight as well.

I increased his food intake to double his normal ration and supplemented him with a high calorie protein shake which included Esbilac, yogurt, a dozen eggs, ground beef, a multi

vitamin, omino, extra vitamin C, extra B vitamins, and a taurine capsule. This increased his appetite dramatically (he went from eating 15 pounds of meat a day-when he was healthy- to 35 plus) but was still losing weight, especially in his hind quarters. (He did not have worms as he had been wormed regularly.) I went back to feeding him every two hours like I had when he was a cub, (I had been feeding him 3 times a day since he was weaned at 18 months of age, as he did not do well on one feeding a day) and after two weeks he seemed to have more energy and appeared to be



healing, although very slowly.

I continued to bathe his sores for the next two weeks after those changes but was very frustrated that his sores were still very raw, so I consulted my vet again but he was still convinced Norman's problem was just "dermatitis" aggravated by his licking. Again he prescribed antibiotics and suggested that the loss of weight in spite his increased appetite was from stress associated with being ill. He said he would call to check on Norman again in a few days. I stayed with Norman coaxing him to eat to keep his strength up. But his condition dramatically worsened after less than 24 hours on the fourth course of antibiotics.

My friend, who is a medical doctor and often volunteers at my sanctuary, got on the phone to try to locate another vet who might be able to give us some insight as to what was ailing Norman. He felt this was definitely much more than an allergic reaction to the shavings due to Norman's medical history and was concerned that the antibiotics had not helped and may in fact be harming him as he explained some antibiotics taken over a prolonged period of time can be toxic. I continued to feed Norman like I had when he was a cub and the next morning when I woke up he was sitting up looking at me. I cuddled him for a while thinking he was over the worst of it and after a while went down to the fridge to get his Christmas present, a huge roast. He rubbed his head on my head like he always did when I brought him something but instead of waiting for me to cut it up for him (he liked me to do that) he took the roast from me, laid back down and put his head on it. He just laid there looking at me. I figured he was still worn out so I laid down beside him and talked to him like I did when he was sick as a baby. We stayed like that all afternoon and as he licked my head, I convinced myself he was going to be all right.

In hindsight he was trying to say good bye to me. My friend called me later that day to tell me he had found a website posted by Cornell University that described Feline Diabetes and that Norman had all the symptoms. Norman had not healed in spite of being on all those antibiotics because he was diabetic. But, sadly, we discovered this too late. Norman went into shock and died in my arms minutes after I got off the phone.

Norman was unlike any lion I had ever met and he extended the gentleness and love he showed to me to everyone who met him. The day he died, Christmas day, a part of me died too as he was my motivation for doing practically everything I was involved with in regards to

conservation. He was everything to me and no matter how many other animals I may have, there will never be another Norman.

I've not talked about this publicly and isolated myself from the animal community including giving up my Journal and placing many of my other animals because I couldn't bare to talk about it and because of the loss and guilt I feel that I followed my former vet's advice blindly and did not push him harder to look beyond Norman's symptoms to determine what was really bothering him. Had I done that, Norman might still be here today touching the lives of all the people who met him with his enormous heart and gentle nature. But feeling sorry for myself isn't helping me get over this and I feel the only way to get over this is to try to help someone else who might be going through the same thing. This is why I decided to come forward to share this with the members of LIOC.

I can only pray Norman's death will not be in vain and that this experience might help save the life of another. Please tell your members if they use pine shavings or any type of substrate as bedding in their animal's den to make absolutely sure the animal is not allergic to it, especially if the animal has a tendency towards being sickly (a weak immune system or other allergies) or has any of the symptoms I described that plagued my Norman. Had I done that, I may have been able to keep Norman's diabetes in check with just good nutrition at regular intervals (as I had unknowingly controlled it all his life by feeding him several meals a day) and lots of TLC. Feline diabetes does not have to end in the death of the cat. It can be maintained through diet and, if necessary, insulin.

Diabetics are at greater risk once they develop an injury or a sore as they do not heal properly and often die of complications due to infection, just as in humans.

Norman was not obese, he was on the small side compared to his brother and his father. I was told by the zoo I got Norman from that Norman's mother died of an unknown illness after being on antibiotics for a prolonged period of time as well. Norman's diet consisted of beef, goat, deer, chicken backs and necks, turkey necks and drum sticks, and pork hocks or a pork roast as a treat (he loved pork). Occasionally he would get a bowl of esbilac with eggs when he wasn't feeling well.

**There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.**

## Onychectomy in the Exotic Feline

by James Peddie

A current technique for onychectomy in exotic large cats is to remove the claw with its germinal tissue. One should retain the flexor process of the third phalanx to which the deep digital flexor tendon is attached. Amputating the claw in this manner preserves the normal anatomic and functional activities of the feline paw.

### Surgical Technique

Anesthesia is induced with a combination of Ketamine hydrochloride, acepromazine maleate, and atropine sulfate. Endotracheal intubation and inhalant anesthesia are used to maintain an adequate depth of anesthesia. Surgical preparation consists of clipping the patient's hair on the nail sheath and liberally cleansing the extended claw with alcohol to remove dirt and debris around the base of the nail.

An Esmarch tourniquet is applied to the leg starting at the paw and extending above the elbow on the foreleg and to above the hock on the rear leg. The proximal end of the Esmarch tourniquet is secured with a conventional tourniquet (Fig. A). After securing the proximal tourniquet the Esmarch bandage is unwound to expose the paw up to the region of the carpus or the tarsus (Fig. B).

The claw is removed using a White's nail trimmer on the smaller exotic felids or a scalpel and a Gigli wire saw on the larger felids. Two cuts are made, both with the patient's nail extended (Fig. C). The first cut is on the dorsal surface of the digit at the articulation between the second and third phalanges. This articulation can be palpated as a depression proximal to the nail bed on the dorsal surface of the digit. The second cut is made parallel to the bottom of the foot, to the depth of the first cut, forming a 90° angle at the point where the two cuts intersect (Fig. D). Care must be taken with the second cut to ensure that a margin of skin is excised with the claw. If this is not done, germinal nail tissue will remain and will lead to the development of scars and subsequent abscessation.

When the two cuts are made as described, the flexor process of the third phalanx with its attaching deep digital flexor tendon remains. Preservation of this structure results in a paw that is anatomically more correct and is better

functioning. Several horizontal mattress sutures using an absorbable suture material are usually required to bring the edges of the skin flaps into apposition.

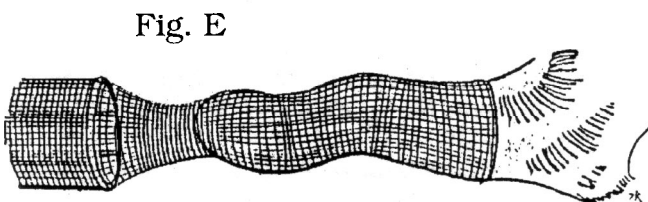
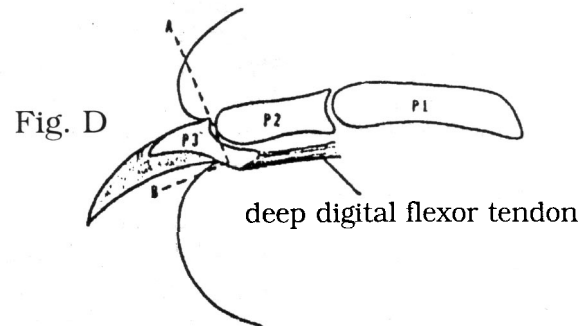
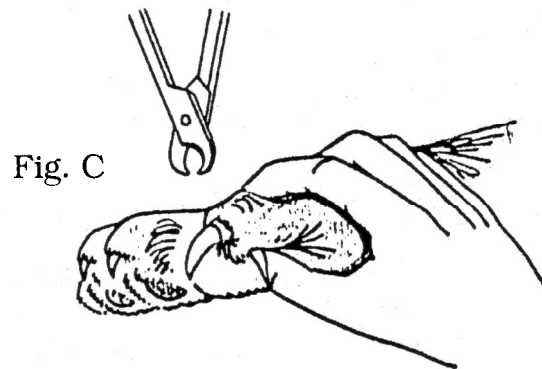
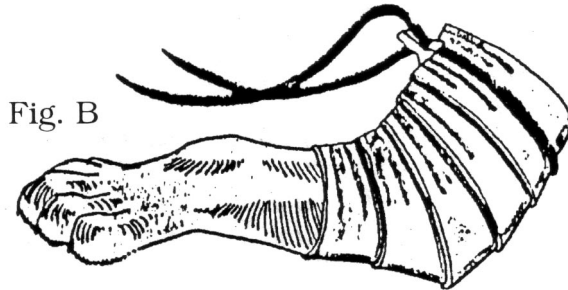
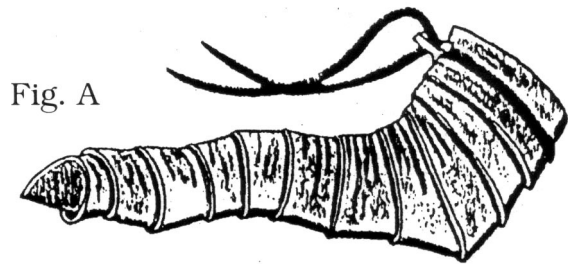
Bandages are applied to promote hemostasis and postoperative hygiene. Another objective of bandaging is to "milk" the skin of digits distally down over the site of the amputation. A piece of two-inch tape, long enough to encircle the leg, is folded lengthwise so that the adhesive surface is exposed on both sides. The folded tape is placed loosely around the leg just proximal to the carpal or tarsal area. Tube gauze is then applied by passing the foot and lower leg through the center of the applicator and by attaching the end of the gauze to the folded band of adhesive tape. With an assistant holding the gauze anchoring it to the tape, firm even pressure is applied to the gauze as it is pulled distally over the paw (Fig. D). The tube gauze is secured immediately distal to the paw by rotating the applicator. The applicator is returned with loose application of gauze, and the previous steps are repeated three to six times. The direction of increasing tension is always distal. Elasticized tape is then applied over the gauze and is extended upward to attach to hair proximal to the gauze. Following this maneuver, the tourniquet should be removed; it is desirable to see a small amount of hemorrhage, which indicates adequate perfusion of the digits. If bleeding becomes profuse, one must reapply the tourniquet and retape the paw with slightly more pressure.

Postoperative care consists of an injection of benzathine penicillin G and the recommendations are that: (1) the patient should be well bedded with dry sawdust or straw for the next 10 days, and (2) if the patient has not removed the bandages by the fifth postoperative day, the tape on the proximal end of the bandage should be cut, leaving the gauze intact; the patient usually removes the bandages prior to this time.

### References and Suggested Readings

- Fowler, M. E. *Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1978.
- Stunkard, J. A. and Miller, J. C. An outline guide to general anesthesia in exotic species. *VM, SAC*, 69:1181, 1974.





## To Declaw Or Not To Declaw

What's Your Opinion?  
Everyone Has One!  
Share Your Opinion!

Most of you have your own reasons to have your cat declawed or not to have your cat declawed. Let your opinion be heard. Write or email me your opinion and the next newsletter issue will publish the results without identifying any names of respondents (unless you ask for your name to be published.)

Should any exotic cat be declawed?  
Do any of the following factors affect the decision:

- Size of cat?
- Type of cat?
- Behavior characteristics of the cat?
- Habitat of the cat (outside vs. in side)?
- Type of procedure used?
- Who owns the cat?

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Bowling Green, KY 42101

Or Email: [liontriumphant@mindspring.com](mailto:liontriumphant@mindspring.com)

Fig. A: The Esmarch bandage is applied from distal to proximal on the limb and is secured with a tourniquet. Fig. B: The Esmarch bandage is unwound to expose the distal end of the limb. Fig. C: The claw is extended by applying pressure to the digital pad, and a White's nail trimmer is used to make the two cuts to remove the nail. Fig. D: The sequence, location, and angle of the two cuts used to remove the nail with its germinal tissue are illustrated by the lines A and B. Note that the flexor process of the third phalanx (P3), with its attachment of the deep digital flexor tendon, is left intact. Fig. E: Tube gauze of an approximate size is anchored proximally and is applied to the paw while continuous pressure is applied to milk the skin distally.

## **The Rescue Of Corky, The Cross Eyed Cougar** **by Sherry Blanchette, Meadow Sweet Farms**

Corky was just two weeks old—a tiny, terrified, huddled mass of spotted fur, cowering in the back of a large dog crate and covered in lion cub feces. At first glance it was obvious that this little guy couldn't see out of his right eye, a cataract reflected nothing but a clouded hazy blue. A closer look revealed that he was also cross-eyed.

Emory and Diane Bolton had never been to an exotic animal auction before and this was their first trip to Ohio. Not new to exotics the Boltons raised rare breed Macaws and Cockatoos for years. They were animal lovers and had rescued several dogs. They never considered themselves cat people though.

Seeing the tiny frightened kitten, they knew the only way to save this little guy was to try and buy him. For \$500.00 dollars, all the cash they had to their name, the Boltons, bought Corky. The dealers told the Boltons that Corky was a hybrid ocelot kitten and wouldn't get bigger than a house cat.

Knowing Corky didn't stand much of a chance they brought him home and diligently began the painstaking journey of trying to save this little one's life. Six months and thousands of dollars later Corky was healthy and happy but he was growing fast and was already much bigger than the expected house cat size and his spots were fading.

None of the city veterinarians that examined Corky could tell the Boltons what kind of hybrid cat they had. It wasn't until Corky was almost two the Bolton realized that Corky wasn't a hybrid ocelot cross after all, but a 140 pound mountain lion.

### **The Confiscation:**

On December 4<sup>th</sup> 1998 while Emory Bolton and his wife Diane were looking for property in Florida, a state that would allow them to keep Corky, the New Jersey Department of Fish Game and Wildlife and the SPCA, were at the Boltons New Jersey home.

The "Authorities" told the Boltons two daughters, 22 and 16, who were home at the time, that they had received a complaint that there were abused animals at the residence. The authorities did not have a search warrant, nor do they need one in New Jersey when a complaint is filed on cruelty and abuse of animals. The SPCA has the authority by law to enter premises at

anytime.

A thorough search was done of the home. Photos were taken of the contents of the Boltons refrigerator, daughters bedrooms, contents of cabinet and drawers. The report filed by the Investigator states: " *in the kitchen was a large birdcage with a white macaw. In the front bedroom was a dog. Both animals had food and water. The birdcage needed cleaning. We then asked if there was a large cat in the house Ms. H said yes, "would you like to see Corky?"*

*Ms. H took us down to the basement in a front room where we found an approx. 100 pound mountain lion in a chain linked fence cage. In the basement were two more macaws and what appeared to be a breeding area for African Grays with an unknown number of birds. We were told they were sitting on eggs. Pictures were taken of the mountain lion and macaws..... 11:00 PM Fish and Game arrived at the scene and removed the mountain lion."*

According to Danni, the Bolton's 16 year old daughter, the authorities physically restrained her and kept her from the room where they darted Corky with a tranquilizer gun, several times. They dragged Corky up the stairs and out by his paws, his head dragging on the ground. Danni said that she was terrified that night at what was happening. She says she still has nightmares. Corky was placed in a local zoo. The location was not revealed to the Boltons.

### **Charges against Bolton:**

New Jersey Department of Fish Game and Wildlife (DFGW) charged Bolton for having a mountain lion without a permit. Bolton was given the minimum fine of \$250.00 to pay, which he did. Bolton was told that he could pick his cougar up and move it to an approved facility out of state. He was told he had better do it quickly because Bolton was being charged \$25.00 per day for Corky's care.

The DFGW in New Jersey had approved a facility in VA. MSF CENTER FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF EXOTIC/WILD FELINES INC. The facility Corky was supposed to be moved to had been in contact with DFGW and had been ready to move Corky, when DFGW decided at the last minute, not to release the cougar.

SPCA then filed three cruelty and abuse charges against Bolton, three weeks after the

confiscation;

1. Keeping a mountain lion confined.
2. Declawing a mountain lion.
3. No veterinary care for a mountain lion.

There were no charges filed of cruelty and abuse to Boltons other animals. The SPCA and the DFGW never did a follow up on the birds, dog or domestic cat found at the residence that night.

All animal cruelty and abuse charges in New Jersey are considered a felony. They carry with them a six month jail sentence and up to \$5,000 in fines for each offense.

An attempt had been made to pressure Mr. Bolton into a plea bargain of "lesser" charges of disturbing the peace. Knowing even if he were charged with the lesser crime, all of his animals would be confiscated anyway and he would never be able to own a pet in New Jersey.

Bolton knew the only charge he was guilty of was owning a mountain lion without a state permit.

The first two charges had no local, state or federal law backing them up. Had it been investigated before the charges were brought up, they would have found that Corky had had excellent well documented veterinary care.

#### **In Court:**

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the court room was filled with the media and Corky supporters. Many supporters wore T-shirts that read FREE CORKY, and LET OUR CORKY GO. Others wore shirts with pictures of cougars, tigers, and lions. There were hand painted signs that pleaded with the court to release Corky and calling the confiscation a Gestapo tactic.

In court the investigator repeatedly acknowledged that Corky was a very friendly cat when they had arrived at the Bolton's home. He said that he charged Bolton with cruelty because Corky was declawed and could never be released into the wild. He admitted that he never checked to see if Corky had a vet or medical history. He also stated that he felt that the Federal USDA laws were wrong and needed to be "adjusted". The Judge dismissed all the charges against Bolton because the state could not prove its case.

Had Bolton lost to these charges, a precedent would have been set in which to establish future exotic animal laws in New Jersey.

#### **The Zoo and VA:**

When Corky was picked up at the zoo, Bolton and myself, were led to a room that had all the blinds drawn and we were guarded by a zoo employee. We were not allowed to be present when the zoo veterinarian examined Corky. Nor

were we allowed to be present when zoo personnel loaded Corky into Boltons vehicle. A police escort awaited us, as we left the zoo property.

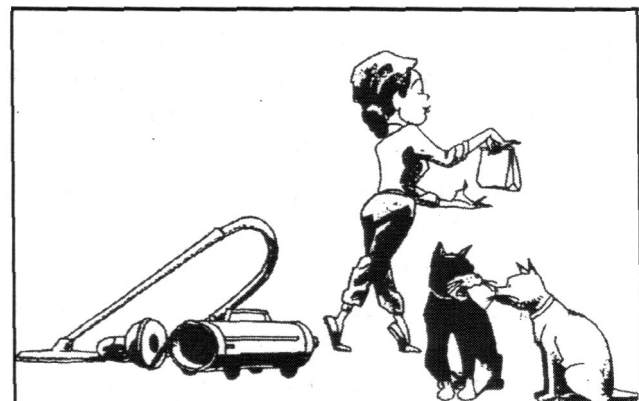
After two and a half months at the zoo, Corky was emaciated, dehydrated, and he suffered open infected oozing sores on his paw pads as well as mouth and tongue sores. Corky had received no veterinary care, nor had a vet examined him until the day he was released from the zoo. He was put on display and not in quarantine. Bolton was charged over \$600.00 for Corky's care. The zoo is now under federal investigation for cruelty.

In Virginia, Corky was eating 8 - 12 pounds of food a day at first, that has tapered off to a more normal 4-6 pounds. His sores are healing and he is beginning to play like a happy cougar should. Corky misses the Boltons terribly. In the near future Bolton hopes to get all of his permits and bring Corky back home to New Jersey. Meanwhile, the family is commuting 200 miles every couple of weeks to visit Corky on weekends.

#### **Conclusion:**

This is a very unusual case in that the charges were dropped and the Judge returned Corky back to the Boltons custody. Most confiscation sagas do not end on such a happy note. Bolton and Corky were very fortunate.

Normally, when an owner is found not to have the proper local, state, and federal permits and licenses, the owner is charged and fined. The animal is confiscated and euthanized, often before the case is heard in court.



**"Never mind how loud it purrs... Did you see the size of that hairball?"**

## Notes for a New Employee

by Peggy Hayes

Even if you were raised on a farm, you are now entering new territory where the critters and even the smells are different. However, basic principles are the same: all have to be cleaned, watered, fed, and sheltered.

Although you are feeling insecure and half afraid, and all is strange, try to get into the habit of LOOKING. Look at every animal every day! Notice patterns: who comes to eat first, last, etc. Count them. If the pattern is interrupted, or one doesn't come to eat as normal, something is wrong. If there are hiding places where trouble may lurk, or a sick animal may hide, count them every time you pass the pen. Standing and watching is not the same as "standing around."

Each farm is run in a different manner and until you learn the routine, only do exactly what you were told to do. This saves worry for your boss and possibly your life and limbs. However, most employers do not mind if you grab a broom and clean up or rake up in safe places, and other general housekeeping chores if you are temporarily out of a list of things to do. Sitting parched on a stool while waiting to be told the next thing to do is usually not appreciated. You have a legitimate reason to sit only while in the bathroom or while eating. Your feet got tired? Change shoes during the day or try Nike Airs.

Look at a place when you first go there and remember your overall impression. If things look out of place or messy and cluttered, don't just adjust and leave them. You will eventually learn where they belong; put them away. People tend to stack things up in any convenient place to put away later, and never find the time later. If cages and

pens are scrappy and run-down, it may be that you could repair or clean up around them if you just don't get used to it as the owner did. A few flowers planted in a corner works wonders. The old refrigerator shelf-wire that was slapped on the cage just to make do until later, well, it's later now and you may find time to replace it with appropriate material. It does not hurt to carry a pen and paper and jot ideas down as noticed. There are many things that are just waiting for a "rainy day" to get done and you can find time if you try. Check with your boss. Bosses usually appreciate offers of help, but also like to know what you are planning to do. After a few months (or years) you don't have to ask much anymore, as you just KNOW.

Every day and sometimes more than once, each animal needs to be watered and fed. Feeding means the main diet plus something whether it's hay, fresh foods, cuttlebone, vitamins sprinkled on, or whatever. Try not to be so rushed that you have no time to watch while they eat. This is the highlight of the day for the animal and I especially like to hear their happy munching sounds. It makes all the other work worthwhile.

A sleeping place should be thought about for each different animal: roost pole, nest box, or tree to get under. Consider heat, cold, moisture and wind. Is the shelter adequate? Don't be afraid to ask. Most people are making out the best they can, but if you have a good suggestion that is effective, it will be used if it is affordable.

Birds need two resting places so they can move from one to another. There should be roads for travelling,

ways to maneuver in the cage, tree limbs or whatever is needed for squirrels, binturongs or lemurs, etc.

Think.

Is there something that can be done for amusement or "toys" for spare time entertainment?

The other need is sex and most folks try to plan for that.

Look for problems and think of ways to remedy them.

Are any animals dragging dishes around or upsetting them? Try to tie them down some way.

Dirty water? Set it up on concrete or plywood.

Are any animals fighting through the fences? Put up sight barriers or move somebody.

Knocking all the seeds out of the dish? Make a cover with a small headhole.

Donkeys hog all the food? Give ducks theirs in a corner fixed so that only they can fit into it.

The water dish is in an unhandy place that you can't reach to dump and clean? Tie a wire or string onto it or use a pole to reach it. Or move it. If it is convenient, it gets done LOTS MORE!

Develop a system for doing chores. If you always start at one corner and work around the same pattern each time, you don't have to wake up in the middle of the night and wonder if you have forgotten anybody.

If you see twine, wire, or tools lying around, pick them up. Don't think someone else will or should. It is not your moral responsibility to TEACH the other person to pick up after himself, because HE left it there. Pick it up and put it away. Maybe he was going to come back and use it again, but if it is in the proper place, at least he can find it!

Do ask before doing things until you get the feel of the place and know

what the owner has in mind. No one wants his tool room moved into another barn without advance warning, but getting it straightened up is really a big help. Maybe the tool room should be moved. Don't be afraid to suggest it if you are willing to do the work involved in your "spare time."

The owner is concerned for the animals so if you see something that could be done better, say so. Most people don't want to spend any extra money, but there is usually some way that it can be done with materials on hand. There is no need to expect him to build a new compound just to satisfy your expectations.

No one has ever been upset if trash gets picked up and disposed of.

There is a fine line between acting like an employee and acting like the animals belong to you. Find it, you need the caring feeling in order to do a good job. However, they are still HIS, not yours!

Keep your own standards high. Maybe water dishes/tubs don't get changed every day, but you should feel free to scrub and clean them whenever YOU feel they are getting slimy. Cages should be cleaned regularly, but if you find a quick hosing in one spot will save you having to spend a lot of time later, then hit it the quick lick as you pass. Just because you are told to clean in the morning doesn't mean you can't do it again later if needed. What you are doing is for the animal, not the person. Well, really for both, but keep the animals' needs in mind and satisfy them, and the owner will be satisfied also.

One of the finest things that can be said about you is that the world is a better place to live in because you are in it.

## **Third Lynx Dies Following Reintroduction In Southwestern Colorado**

DENVER (AP) - Another Canadian lynx set free in the high country as part of Colorado's efforts to reintroduce the cats to the state is dead, wildlife officials said Monday. The female, the third tuft-eared cat to die this year, apparently starved to death even though it caught and ate a coyote and a snowshoe hare, said Division of Wildlife spokesman Todd Malmsbury. "The other two (that died) to our knowledge had not eaten at all," said Malmsbury, who is still waiting for the lynx's necropsy to be completed. "This one we even observed eating and it looked to be in good physical condition ... There may be some mitigating factor here." The dead cat's body was discovered Friday, the same day biologists released four more Canada lynx in Colorado's southern mountains. The division's goal is to reintroduce 50 to 55 animals into the wilderness this spring as the first phase of a three-year, \$1.4 million project. Animal activists have asked wildlife officials to discontinue the controversial program, contending the cats cannot be reintroduced successfully. There are now nine cats, four females and five males, roaming Colorado's mountains, and at least one more female will be released Friday, Malmsbury said. In addition, eight lynx are in a holding facility in southern Colorado and will be released into the wild sometime next month, he said. Colorado's lynx population was declared endangered after the last was found in 1973 just outside the Vail ski area. The secretive, nocturnal animals aren't welcome by everyone. Ranchers, farmers and outfitters went to court unsuccessfully to try to stop their reintroduction, claiming it would result in further restrictions on their activities.

### **Correction to MEFES minutes in Jan./Feb. issue:**

**Raymond A. Beckley wanted to emphasize that he is not professionally affiliated with the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. He is a daily visitor to the Kovler Lion House and they are members of the zoo. He did provide some research for his friends, the lion zoo keepers but he does not belong to the zoo research team. His aim is to "foster a better understanding of LIOC at Lincoln Park Zoo."**

**Thanks from all LIOC members, Ray, for your dedication to the LIOC cause!**

## **Researchers request:**

MSF-CCPW/EF has an on-going Eastern Cougar research project. You are invited to take part. If you own cougars or you have experience with captive raised/wild cougars, I would be very interested in your opinions. This project is for better understanding of wild vs. captive behavior. Documentation of such observations as coloration, tail length, and stimuli will aid in our search for the elusive Eastern Puma (*Felis Concolor* Endangered/Extinct) here in Appalachia.

MEADOW SWEET FARMS CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF WILD EXOTIC FELINES INC. is requesting the following information on cougars in the private sector.

AGE:  
SEX:  
SUBSPECIES IF KNOWN:  
SIZE:  
WEIGHT:  
TAIL LENGTH:  
COLORATION:  
DIET:  
GENERAL BEHAVIOR:  
WHAT STIMULI ATTRACTS YOUR COUGAR:

Please give your opinions:

In your experience with cougars:

1. What do you feel would be the behavior of a captive raised cougar if released into the wild?
2. Do you believe there could be a black color phase in some cougars? Why? Why not?
3. What do you think could contribute to a shortened tail (1-1.5 feet) in wild cougar populations?
4. Tell us about your relationship and experiences with cougars.
5. Have you ever seen a cougar in the wild? What was your experience?

Thanks.

All answers can be snail-mailed or emailed to:  
Sherry Blanchette, Director  
Meadow Sweet Farms Center For Conservation  
and Preservation of Wild/Exotic Felines Inc.  
Attention: Eastern Cougar Project  
PO BOX 251  
LOVINGSTON, VA. 22949

EMAIL: MSFWILDCAT@AOL.COM  
Phone: (804) 263-6652



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**UNDER HIS WING**

An article in National Geographic several years ago painted an incredible picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked the bird over with a stick. Upon doing so, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings. Instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise, she could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had singed her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.



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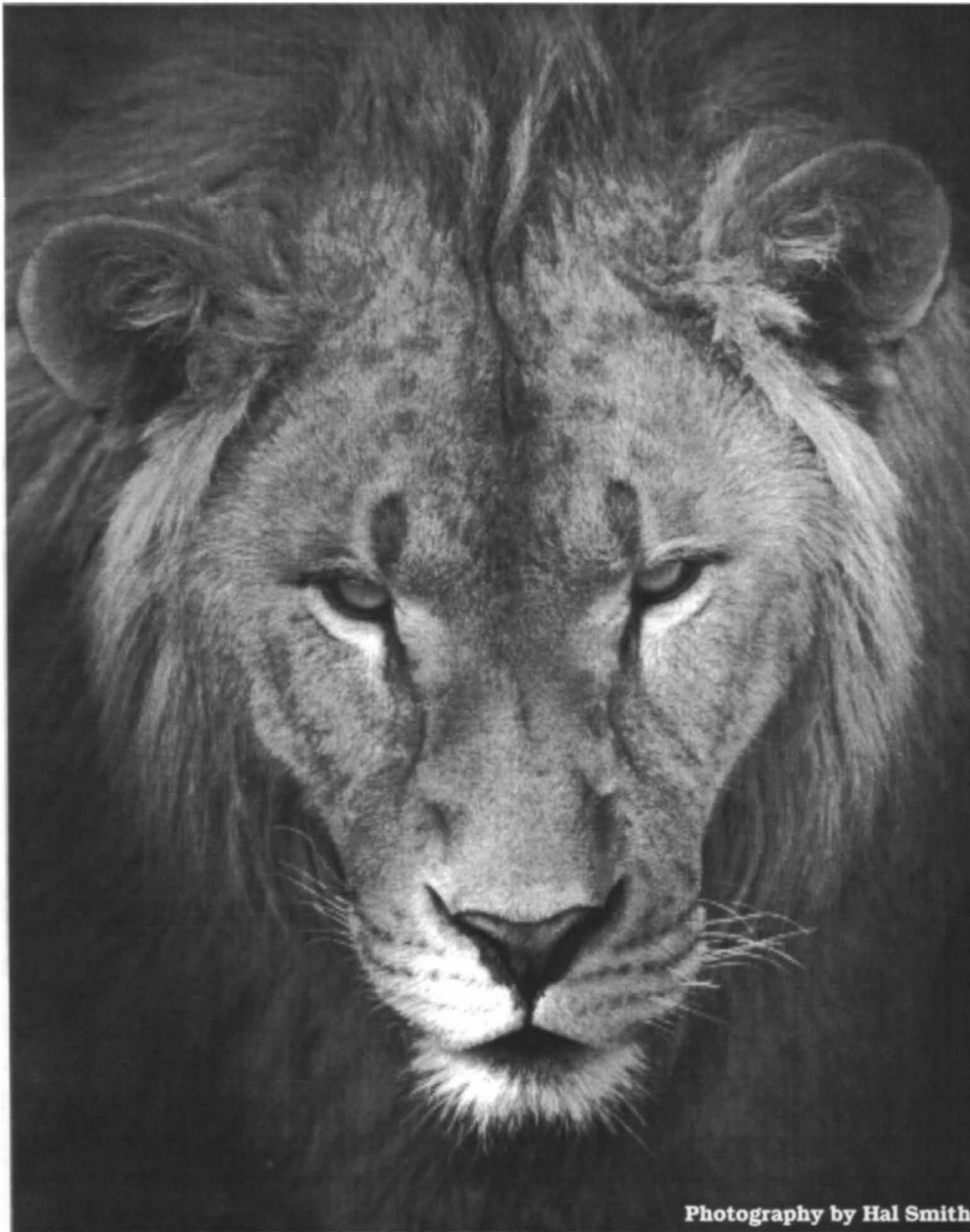
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## *The Lion*

*Strange spirit with inky hair,  
Tail tufted stiff in rage,  
I saw with sudden stare  
Leap on the printed page.*

*The stillness of its roar  
From midnight deserts torn  
Clove silence to the core  
Like the blare of a great horn.*

*I saw the sudden sky:  
Cities in crumbling sand;  
The stars fall wheeling by:  
The lion roaring stand:*

*The stars fall wheeling by,  
Their silent, silver stain,  
Cold on his glittering eye,  
Cold on his carven mane.*

*The full-orbed Moon shone down,  
The silence was so loud,  
From jaws wide-open thrown  
His voice hung like a cloud.*

*Earth shrank to blackest air:  
That spirit stiff in rage  
Into some midnight lair  
Leapt from the printed page.*

*W. J. Turner*