

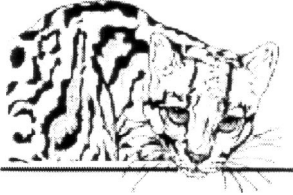
*ENDANGERED SPECIES
CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.*

This Issue Dedicated to
Catherine Cisin

Founder of IIOC
April 15, 1913 - April 25, 1999



Catherine Cisin and Carlotta
(See pages 12-14)



LIOC

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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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

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 Jana Londré
 Ken Lockwood
 John Lussmyer
 Bob Turner
 Shirley Wagner

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

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

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

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:

Barbara Wilton
 7800 SE Luther Rd.
 Portland, OR 97206



"Don't be alarmed, folks..He's completely harmless unless something startles him."

contributed by Rob Craig

**1999 L.I.O.C. ENDANGERED SPECIES
CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.
28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE***

**August 4-8
Rapid City, South Dakota**

REGISTER:

Please send \$85.00 payment per person by June 10, 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.

PRESENTATIONS:

Alan H. Shoemaker, Collection Manager

Riverbanks Zoological Park and Garden - Columbia, South Carolina
"Raising the Bar: The Evolution of Felid Management in Zoos"

Dawn Simas, Founder/Director, Wild About Cats

Wild Feline Rescue, Conservation, and Education - Auburn, California
"In-Situ/Ex-Situ Cheetah Conservation Program: Cheetah, the Spotted Wind"

George Stowers, Vice President, LIOC-ESCF, Inc.

"Briefing on the 1999 Mid-Year meeting of the AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group"

Kelly Jean Buckley, Director Member Services, LIOC-ESCF, Inc.

"Long Island Ocelot Club - 30 Years Ago and Today"

HOTEL ALEX JOHNSON:

CALL 1-800-888-2539 and 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) 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.

* Please note that due to a miscalculation in years, we are now holding our 28th, not 29th, annual convention.

1999 LIOC Cat Census

Small Cats		Big Cats		Hybrid Cats	
1	Asian Golden Cat	7	Cheetah	120	Bengal (Leopard Cat/Domestic)
3	Black Footed Cat	222	Cougar	11	Safari (Geoffroy /Domestic)
145	Bobcat	12	Jaguar	16	Chaus/Domestic (Jungle/Dom.)
79	Caracal	39	Leopard	33	Savannah (Serval/Domestic)
6	European Wild Cat	5	Chinese Leopard	13	Bobcat/Lynx
14	Fishing Cat	9	Amurian Leopard	5	Caraval (Serval /Caracal)
41	Geoffroy Cat	25	Snow Leopard	4	Liger (Lion/Tiger)
3	Gordon Cat	4	Clouded Leopard		
32	Jungle Cat (Chaus)	96	Lion		
13	Leopard Cat	155	Tiger		
52	Canadian Lynx				
51	Eurasian Lynx				
5	Margay				
31	Ocelot				
5	Oncilla				
3	Pallas Cat				
4	Rusty Spotted Cat				
4	Sand Cat				
198	Serval				
690	Total Small Cats	574	Total Big Cats	202	Total Hybrid Cats

The 1960 LIOC cat census totaled 79 cats and in 1999 LIOC's cat census totals 1466 Cats! These totals include cats that have been reported by their owners on membership renewal forms, and do not include cats whose owners have not reported. We do not believe there are more cats, just more participation in reporting. Please include your cats on your renewal form.

Census Year Totals:

1995 712 Cats
 1996 891 Cats
 1997 1229 Cats
 1998 1404 Cats
 1999 1466 Cats

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley

Wild Feline Husbandry Course

August 4, 1999
 Hotel Alex Johnson
 Rapid City, SD

Tuition: \$45.00
 Cut Off Date: July 15, 1999
 Payable to: LIOC
 PO Box 22085
 Phoenix, AZ 85028

Starting an LIOC Branch

by Bob Turner, President, Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society

I procrastinated for weeks when I was considering writing this article for the LIOC newsletter. Most mechanical engineers like myself can put a bolt into a piece of machinery but can't put words into a sentence on paper. I finally got brave and wrote this article in hopes of helping the establishment of other LIOC branches.

I had been a member of LIOC a short time before I decided to attend the 1997 LIOC convention in Jacksonville, FL. Marvin Hierlmier and his serval, Hush, and I headed for the convention driving from Indiana. As we were on our way down to Florida, I was wondering what our first convention would be like. I knew little about LIOC or how many members it had. I was very impressed with the convention and hoped I would be able to attend all the future LIOC conventions. The hard work of the LIOC membership shows in their attempt to save exotic cats from extinction.

After a very enjoyable convention and while we were driving back to Indiana, I was thinking about how and what could be done to increase the LIOC membership. I figured that the LIOC membership could reach 1500 if we could somehow reach half of the private owners of exotic cats who have not heard of LIOC. I felt that we needed more branches. The branch members can beat the bushes and find new members in their local area easier than the national LIOC may be able to do.

When I got home, I called Kelly Jean Buckley, Director of Member Services, for advice on how to start a new branch. Kelly Jean was of tremendous help and made

it easy for me to plan for our first planning meeting. She suggested the following:

- 🐾 Kelly Jean sent me the LIOC list of members in the Midwest area with their name and address printed on address labels. She also sent a new branch packet including a branch application.
- 🐾 Pick a location and meeting time for the first planning meeting. Pick a location that will draw interest. We chose LIOC member Joe Taft's facility with over 70 exotics.
- 🐾 Choose a weekend day during the spring when it is a better chance of pleasant weather.
- 🐾 Have a cookout with the organizers furnishing the main course and attendants bringing the side dishes.
- 🐾 Write an introductory letter and send to the LIOC members in your area. Note: Kelly Jean recommended we organize members here in the Midwest to be in our branch. I first was thinking of a branch from Indiana but we took her advice and included the surrounding states which has worked out great.
- 🐾 Put a notification in the LIOC newsletter about the planning meeting.
- 🐾 If the planning meeting is to be held outside, have a back-up plan in case of rain.
- 🐾 Make name tags for the members that may be attending the meeting.
- 🐾 Provide a sign in sheet including name, address, home phone, fax and email, etc.
- 🐾 Let attendants share their experiences with exotic cats.
- 🐾 Elect the first year officers.
- 🐾 Get suggestions for your branch name and vote on it.

- ❁ Decide on the amount of dues.
- ❁ Decide how many times a year to meet, what day and time.
- ❁ Decide whether the branch wants to publish a newsletter and how often.
- ❁ Ask attendants to be thinking of a suggested club logo and bring recommendations or sketches to the next meeting.
- ❁ After the meeting the president should contact other branches to obtain a copy of their bylaws to use as a guide to draft the new branch bylaws. They should be voted on at the next meeting and submitted along with a branch application to the LIOC President. LIOC officers and directors will vote whether to accept the new branch at the next LIOC board meeting at the next national convention.

We had our planning meeting May 1998. Now a year later, our new branch has approximately 60 members. It was easier and more fun to start a new branch than I thought it would be. Our members have jumped in to help each other when needed.

Almost half of our membership plan to travel 1200 miles to this year's LIOC national convention. Without this branch, I estimate there would be less than ten LIOC members from the Midwest area attending the convention.

I personally consider the LIOC branches to be the "grassroots" road to growth for LIOC. Private exotic cat owners need to unite in the form of LIOC membership to protect our cats. I urge all of you LIOC members in an area where there is not a branch organized to start a branch. Our branch, the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society, has a lot of fun during the weekend of our meeting. For example, our last meeting was April 18 and 22 members met at a steak house the night before for a relaxing dinner together. The next morning 26 members

had breakfast at one member's home. Things just develop like that when you have good people as members. Good people are not hard to find because all people who like exotic cats are good to start with! ❁

Extinction

A Serval's Cry

By Robert Turner

If you're ever going to love me,
Love me now before extinction.
As all the graceful beauty flows,
Love me now while I am living.
If you wait till the beauty is gone,
Then chisel the extinction in stone.
If you have sweet thoughts of me,
Why not save me from extinction.
If you wait till I am forever extinct,
My beauty can never be shared again.
With my ears of elegant delight,
Reminders to listen to my plight.
If you love my spots on golden amber,
Then don't let this loving purr go silent.
If you save me from extinction forever,
I will share my love with you forever.

As free market united force of responsible private owners of exotic cats, we MEFES members aim to show that the private sector can accomplish what the government in most cases cannot.

The Need for Minerals in Your Cat's Diet

by Ron Eldridge, BVS

As with all animals, observation is an important diagnostic tool. Know what is "normal behavior" for your feline. Watch it closely each day for changes. If the cat's habits change, this could be the cause for certain health concerns. Water is an essential source of nutrients for all animals. Consumption depends on type of diet, environment and physiological status of the cat.

Macrominerals

Macrominerals are the major minerals in the animal's nutrition. They are minerals for which the dietary requirements are best expressed as a percent (parts per hundred.) Macrominerals are usually required in larger amounts. They are classified to include six inorganic elements.

Calcium (Ca) is the mineral required in the largest amount in the cat's diet. It must be present in the proper proportions to Phosphorus (P), known as the calcium to phosphorus ratio (Ca:P). Most Ca deficiencies are primarily associated with P excesses. An example would be an animal fed high levels of meat and organ tissue.

Phosphorus is a very important mineral both in the total amount and its ratio to calcium. As the structural substance of bone and teeth, phosphorus combines with oxygen and hydrogen and is found in 80% of all bones and teeth. The soft tissue contains 20% of phosphorus. The ratio is 1:2 with Ca in bones. It has other metabolic functions

such as buffers in the blood, energy utilization and components of many enzymes. Too much phosphorus in the diet can also cause a calcium imbalance.

Sodium (Na) is the main cation of extracellular body fluids. A deficiency of sodium in the diet will cause the animal to exhibit deficiency symptoms faster than other deficiencies. Not many feeds contain enough salt to provide necessary levels of Na in the animal. Symptoms include craving for salt; licking metal, wood, and dirt; anorexia; decline in milk production; shivering; lack of coordination; and even death.

Chloride (Cl) is found both inside and outside the body of cell tissue. Its major role is as an acid base regulator and osmotic balance. Symptoms of deficiencies are the same as Sodium.

Potassium (K) maintains the acid-based and water balance in the cat's body cells. The muscle tissue especially require a high level of potassium. A balance between Na, Ca, and K in the blood plasma is necessary for proper cardiac function. Alfalfa is a good source of potassium. Deficiencies include irregular heart beat, heart lesions, muscle and nerve malfunction, and osmotic imbalance.

Magnesium (Mg) is required in the cat's diet for the activities of many enzymes. The bone tissue contains approximately 70% magnesium. It is needed for bone development and maintenance. Some deficiency symptoms include muscle spasms, skin lesions, retracted head in young, anorexia, reduced productivity, arteriosclerosis,

and grass tetany.

How Minerals Work

These macrominerals assist the cat's body in four basic methods:

1. Acid-base balance. This is sometimes called the electrolyte balance. Na is exchanged or conserved for hydrogen (H), depending on the acid or base conditions. This helps in the regulation of the pH.
2. Osmotic pressure. This is needed to maintain the animal's body fluid balance. Blood and body fluids contain about 0.9% salt (most of which is NaCl). Secretions of the digestive, HCL of the stomach, pancreatic and intestinal juices all contain the element of salt. The salt minerals in these secretions are reabsorbed and used over again so loss via digestion is greatly reduced and negligible.
3. Structural integrity. Potassium (K) and Magnesium (Mg) are necessary for muscle contraction and functioning of many enzymes. Minerals join with an inactive enzyme and then activate it, called coenzyme.
4. Transmembrane potentials. Minerals are needed for a variety of cellular functions such as nerve conduction and muscular contractions.

Importance Of Ca, P, And Vitamin D

Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) encompasses a number of conditions that develop as a result of prolonged deficiencies of calcium or vitamin D or an improper ratio of Ca to P in the diet. Many names are given to the syndrome including osteoporosis, osteomalacia, rickets, and secondary hyperparathyroidism.

MBD should be considered to be a disease caused by poor diet or husbandry mismanagement. Ca is required for the formation of bones and is brought into the body through the gut by vitamin D.

Therefore, deficiency of vitamin D will lead to deficiency of Ca. P is an essential component of bone as well as many other functions. Ca and P are related in a very strict formula controlled by the parathyroid gland. The Ca:P ratio should be 1.4:1. Any ratio of less than 1:1 is highly undesirable and the cat's body cannot function properly. Therefore, when one of the values changes, the other must change to adjust the ratio.

Vitamin D is available in two forms: D2 is plant derived and D3 is animal derived. Vitamin D is activated by the action of sunlight on the skin. The liver and kidneys convert the D3 to an active form and it is used to bring Ca into the blood stream from the gut. Vitamin D deficiency is rarely a cause of MBD.

Problems arise when the Ca:P is not balanced properly. For example, an all meat diet has a ratio of 1:20 which is 20 times as much P as the cat needs. Since the Ca to P ratio must remain at 2:1, calcium must be put into the blood to balance the phosphorus. The only location available for Ca to go into the blood is from the bones. Therefore, the bones are robbed of their calcium to be used to balance the phosphorus that was present for lack of calcium and break or bend or thicken in an effort to compensate. This is called metabolic bone disease.



Mainly 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: Mainly Felids, Dept. D, P.O. Box 80, Lycoming, NY 13093-0080

NAIA Against Terrorism

Two common bonds link the animal experts who come together in the National Animal Interest Alliance - a fierce allegiance to animal welfare through responsible husbandry and an equally vehement abhorrence of violence, threats, and property destruction committed by animal rights activists.

For nearly two decades, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has investigated cases of arson, firebombing, vandalism, threats, and animal releases tied to animal rights organizations that perpetrate and support these crimes. Biomedical researchers and furriers have borne the brunt of the attacks, but livestock farmers, hunters, meat businesses, and entertainers have also felt the sting. Research has been demolished, animals set loose, families threatened, and livelihoods destroyed by criminals who oppose the use of animals for any purpose.

On October 24, 1998, a group of hunters, trappers, biomedical researchers, dog and cat breeders, livestock farmers, and entertainers met at the NAIA Full Circle Summit to reaffirm their common bonds and take action to bring the experts in animal husbandry back to leadership in animal issues. The result? A Request for Action to the US Senate to hold committee hearings on animal rights terrorism; order an audit and initiate legislation that would amend the Animal Enterprises Protection Act; commission a multi-agency task force to investigate acts of animal rights terrorism; and require the IRS to examine the nonprofit status of animal rights organizations that support and publicize the use of terrorism.

In the past 18 months, animal rights terrorists have burned part of a Colorado

ski resort, causing \$12 million in damages; vandalized countless fast food restaurants and meat packing businesses; released tens of thousands of mink, many of them to die on the highways; threatened and demonized biomedical researchers; cut pasture fences; damaged fur businesses and garments; and burned two slaughterhouses and two USDA research facilities.

A concerted federal effort is necessary to end this terrorism, but Congress will not act without compelling support from those who are affected by and abhor such activities. Therefore, NAIA urges all who oppose these crimes and criminals to sign the Request for Action (page 11) and forward it to the Portland, OR, office for presentation to the Senate Judiciary Committee during the next Congressional session. Individuals need only sign and forward the document; organizations should send a letter of endorsement on letterhead along with the signed copy.

(Reprinted from NAIA News)

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

**REQUEST FOR ACTION BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**

To: Senate Judiciary Committee Members

On behalf of: The National Animal Interest Alliance, named organizations and their members, and other concerned citizens

WHEREAS, the Senate Judiciary Committee has oversight of the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, animal enterprises provide food, clothing, sport, enjoyment, and benefit public health and the economy, both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines terrorism as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives"; and

WHEREAS, many animal rights extremist organizations and individuals are engaging in conspiracy that has directly resulted in increased violence against individuals, businesses, medical and agricultural research facilities, government property and breeding facilities and farms, to further their political and objectives; and

WHEREAS, science and academic institutions use and rely upon animals to conduct research and make advancements in the prevention and treatment of disease and illness that affect the health and safety of American citizens and domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, many animal rights organizations, their leaders and followers routinely conspire to promote unlawful activity that violates national policy and law as it concerns public health (disruption of medical research), nutrition (abolishment of dairy and meat products), wildlife management (disruption of hunting, fishing; and trapping), commerce and trade (destruction of businesses engaged in interstate and foreign commerce), destruction of government property and the exportation of animal rights terrorism to foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, many of these animal rights incidences are the direct result of criminal conspiracy by organizations, their leaders, followers and members, to commit crimes across state lines thereby adversely affecting commerce, lawful business, public policy and government approved and financed programs, by use of force, extortion, coercion, threats, violence and arson that have resulted in destruction of personal and real property, personal injury and human death, thereby constituting federal crimes by violating the Animal Enterprise Protection Act [18 USC §431]-, the Hobbs Act [18 USC §.195]; and the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) [18 USC §§1961 *et seq*]; and

WHEREAS, many animal rights organizations openly support and financially contribute to promote unlawful activities, in clear violation against the common interest and public good while maintaining a tax exempt status under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) that is in clear violation of educational or charitable purposes when, in fact, they are operating as action organizations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Senate Judiciary Committee of the United States Congress is respectfully requested

1. to constitute and hold hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee to fully explore the consequences of animal rights terrorism in the nation and internationally;
2. to direct the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies including, but not limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of the Treasury, to constitute a national task force to jointly conduct a study and report to the Congress on the extent and effect of domestic and international animal terrorism on enterprises using animals for food and fiber production, agriculture production and breeding, entertainment, animal breeding, sport hunting, pet ownership, medical and agricultural testing and research; and further, to direct these agencies to immediately prioritize the apprehension and prosecution of individuals and organizations involved in animal rights terrorism resulting in acts of arson, personal and real property destruction, threats, extortion, personal injury, and death,
3. to direct the General Accounting Office to undertake a study to be submitted to the Congress that evaluates the utilization and effectiveness of the current laws as a punishment and a deterrent to those organizations and individuals engaged in unlawful acts, including acts of terrorism against animal enterprises, together with appropriate recommendations for improvement in those laws or additions thereto;
4. to direct the Internal Revenue Service of the Department of the Treasury to vigorously review the tax exempt status of animal rights organizations that advocate, support, fund, or engage in unlawful activities and investigate and take appropriate action to revoke such classification when the facts so dictate and report such findings to Congress; and
5. to specifically and immediately draft and consider legislation that would amend the Animal Enterprise Protection Act [18 USC §431] to increase the sentence of individuals found guilty of violation to up to twenty (20) years in prison and increase the monetary restitution to treble the damage caused by such illegal activities.

Join the Call for Action

ORGANIZATIONS: Please send your endorsement of this Call for Action on your letterhead to: National Animal Interest Alliance, PO Box 66579, Portland, OR 97290; Fax (503)761-1289. **CONCERNED CITIZENS:** Please sign your name and address below and send the signed document to NAIA at the address or fax number above. For more information, email 73314.263@compuserve.com or visit the NAIA web site at www.mainonline.org.

Signature

Date

Print Name and Complete Address

In Memorium of Catherine Cisin

by Shirley Wagner

Since learning of Catherine's passing, I have perused past issues of newsletters she produced in hopes of finding words to illustrate and explain the feelings I am experiencing. I've called a few folks who also knew her. All to no avail; there are no such words.

Catherine was a proper New England lady, a private person. We know she was born Catherine Phelan, on Shelter Island, New York. She moved to Brooklyn at the age of 10 where she was educated. She worked in the publishing business and after her marriage to Harry Cisin, they formed a company that published technical manuals. They moved to Amagansett, where she lived until her death April 25th, 1999.

In the 1950's pet ocelots were common. After purchasing an ocelot and finding no available information, Catherine searched out other owners to share information. Ralph Ferrer related that he found LIOC in the *New York Times* through an ad in the "Personal Notices." It was something to the effect that if you had an ocelot, you were welcome to join others at Catherine's home, the start of the legendary "picnics" to share your experiences. This was 1955 and the earliest beginnings of the Long Island Ocelot Club, although then it was just

the "Ocelot Club."

Because of Catherine's determination to acquire knowledge on the care of her beloved Tercera, we grew as others contacted her for information. She began publishing the Newsletter in 1957 to disseminate this collective, hard-earned knowledge to those across the country who had contacted her.



Catherine and Tercera

Catherine, as I said, was a private person, yet so generous in her love for the exotic feline. Her Club's sole purpose was to promote a better life for the cats and the people who cared for them as much as she did.

Catherine had a quick mind and wit, and was a gracious hostess as I experienced attending the last "picnic" to be held at her home. The potluck picnics became the Annual Meeting of the Long Island Ocelot Club. It was at this meeting in 1971 that she announced her retirement as Editor of the Newsletter. Roger Harmon suggested that perhaps the meetings could be moved around the country to allow more people to attend. "Convention" was born when Catherine promptly assigned Roger the task of coordinating the next meeting.

By this time I was Secretary of LIOC, replacing Gene Brill when she retired. Catherine had taken me up on an offer "to help" without ever meeting me. She had a wisdom about people I witnessed



Catherine Cisin receiving Lotty from Roger Harmon at the 1st National Convention in Dallas, Texas in 1972

repeatedly over the years; being able to instinctively, like our cats, know who was truly working for the cats or just themselves. At one Board meeting a few years later (Catherine served as a Life Director until 1987) she remarked that we had expended a lengthy amount of time without once mentioning "the cats" or anything that would directly help them. For this, she had little patience. Catherine remained active in LIOC until her health made it difficult to travel.

She had an open, inquisitive mind always ready to embrace a new idea that might benefit the cats.

Over the years, I would open the latest note from Catherine (she didn't like to 'chat' on the phone) to find a shell, or leaf or another memento of a walk in the woods or along the beach. She loved nature and reveled in the wonder of it all.

Being a proper New England lady, and embarrassed by any light that shone too brightly her way, it was with many protestations that she accepted the Lotty at our first Convention in 1972. And only

then I believe because it would have been ungracious not to accept because of those presenting it—the previous Lotty recipients. Catherine always admonished us not to refer to Lotty recipients as "winners." You didn't win a Lotty, it was not a prize. It was the Club's way of acknowledging the service of those motivated solely by the desire to help the cats.

Myriads have been helped by Catherine's love of the exotic feline without even knowing it. Though our world is diminished by her passing, I know she will be greeted in the next by her beloved ocelots, Carlotta and Tercera, as well as so many good friends that once gathered in the little beach town of Amagansett, Long Island, New York.

Please share your memories of Catherine with us. Send them to:

Shirley Wagner
3730 Belle Isle Lane
Mobile, AL 36619

????????????????????????????????

Got a topic?

Have you been wanting to know more about some topic? I can do the research for you and maybe publish a newsletter article from it. All you have to do is send me your topic.

Marge Maxwell, Editor

????????????????????????????????

In Her Words

The following is reprinted from the Sept/Oct, 1973 issue of the Newsletter:

Rededication

Each of our newsletters over the past two decades has carried the statement: "The Long Island Ocelot Club is a non-profit, noncommercial club, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of ocelots and other 'exotic' felines."

While methods and approaches may change, our integral purpose does not change. We attempt in ways, large and small, to pattern ourselves after the felines to whom we have committed ourselves. We bear no malice. We uncliothe ourselves to the extent operationally possible, of the encumberments of "civilization." We direct our treatment of every situation which confronts us in absolute truth, unyielding to self-accolades. We have no place for fundamental rivalry. We have no place for exploitation.

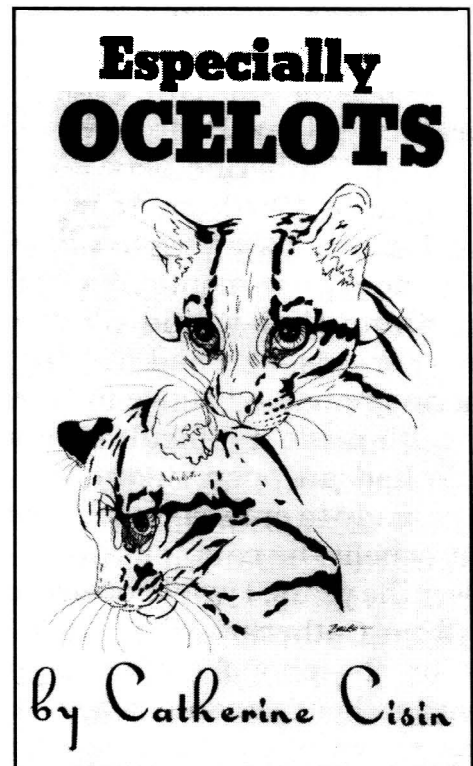
Therefore, like our cats, we fail to understand and sometimes to react to the complexities we are faced with. We slink away from effronteries, but at the same time, do not tolerate abuses. Is the passive acceptance of challenging situations indicative of our imminent demise, as it has been in the terminal days of our sick and/or aging cats?

Perhaps if we really try, we will elevate ourselves to the purity of reaction which our cats, so trustingly and helplessly offer us. What greater tribute than imitation can we offer them? What more dignified respect than love?

Catherine Cisin



Catherine (center) with Gene Brill (left) and Dotty Mulford (right) at the last "picnic" in her home



Catherine Cisin's book, published in 1967, may still be purchased for \$35. Make checks payable to Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund. Send to: KHMSF, 3730 Belle Isle Lane, Mobile, AL 36619

Rahja

by Jana Londré



Daughter,
Brittany,
with Rahja

Rahja is a 2-year old male caraval hybrid weighing approximately 40 pounds. He joined our family at three months old. He has his own room which he shares with our serval, Athena. Rahja sleeps with us and still sucks my finger especially when I am on the phone or in the middle of the night. Rahja's sister, Tika, lives close by with LIOC member, Nanette McGann. He loves to visit her often.

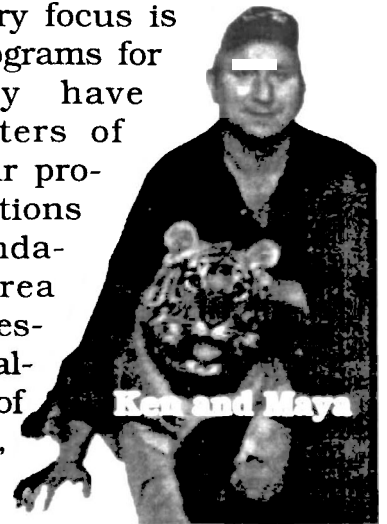
"Rahja!
I need to
fold those
clothes.
You can't
roll on
them!"



Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Center

Susan and Ken Lockwood, managers of Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Center in Wichita, KS (formerly known as Claw Prints), teach children and their community about endangered species, habitat loss, and poaching. They provide homes for tigers, snow leopards, white tigers, lemurs, elk, giraffes, zebras, wallabies, cheetahs, and gazelles at their new facility (owned by Jim Fouts). Their facility is not open to the public but private tours are given by appointment.

Their primary focus is educational programs for schools. They have numerous letters of thanks for their program presentations and recommendations from area schools, businesses (such as Wal-Mart, chamber of Commerce, Jen's Daycare, Cherry Creek Village Nur-



sing Center, and Clarion Hotel), and organizations (such as Pride of the Plains Productions, Lupus Foundation of America, Meridian Avenue Baptist Church, and Muscular Dystrophy Association). On April 22, 1999, they exhibited at an Earth Day festival sponsored by Boeing Corporation in downtown Wichita. Over 150 schools and 10,000 students attended.

Thanks Susan and Ken for your valuable contribution to preserving endangered species!

Visiting Five Exotic Cat Facilities in Indiana

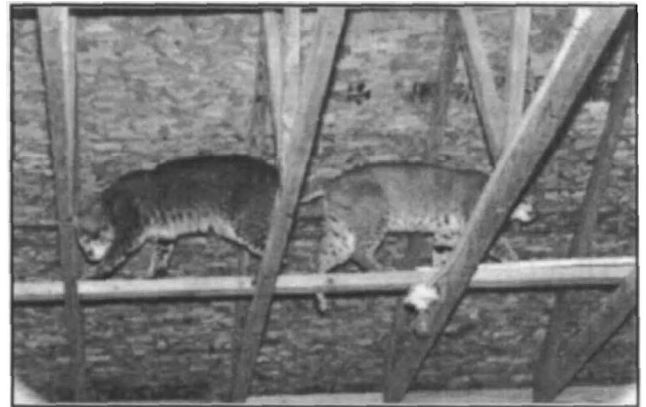
by Kelly Jean Buckley

Upon arrival to Indiana, the first stop was the Exotic Feline Rescue Center operated by Joe Taft. The available cage space has increased in size since our last visit for the LIOC convention in August, 1998. The center has three new 3000sq.ft. lion and tiger cages, two new 2000sq.ft. cages to hold one cougar each, and one new 15,000sq.ft. cage to hold six lions. Thanks to donations to EFRC, the rescue center can provide large habitats for the lions and tigers in need of safe, permanent homes. Financial help is always needed. There are five rescued cougars and a leopard in temporary pens waiting for new large enclosures to be built for them. It was a surprise to find JB and Reva Anderson from Missouri at the center. As we toured around the facility, the music of lions roaring surrounded us.



**Lion from Joe Taft's
Exotic Feline Rescue Center**

That evening, we joined 22 members of the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society for dinner at a restaurant, and they made plans for the next day's branch meeting. It was nice to see so many friends, Carol from Ohio, Max, Marge, Noel and Leann from Kentucky, JB and Reva from Missouri, and Debbie from Oregon. (I'm from Arizona.) All the others were local from Indiana. Marvin, Debbie, and I stayed at Bob and Pat Turner's home. Their cat building is wonderful. If it's cold outside, their servals have heated indoor 10' x 10' rooms, which connect to outdoor runs 100' long. The concept is to allow the serval to run at full speed before having to "put on the brakes."



**"Sure-Footed" bobcats at
Bill and Diana Johnson's "cat house"**

The next morning Bill and Diana Johnson served a traditional Midwestern breakfast to 26 people at their home. They have the most awesome Bobcat house! We noticed the sure-footed bobcats running around in the roof trusses as if they were in a big tree. Bill Johnson is the MEFES branch construction director and he assists



**Sasha, rescued tiger, at
Cougar Valley Farms**

members with design for exotic cat enclosures.

The next facility we visited was Cougar Valley Farms operated by Rob Craig. This is another facility that can use financial help for the cats. Rob has rescued too many cougars, too fast, before the caging has been constructed and available. Certainly, a cougar is better off in a small cage being fed properly, than tied to a rope guarding drugs for a drug dealer. Even so, the enclosures need to be built. Cougar Valley Farms has the land, the licenses, some of the materials, and even some labor to build the enclosures.

We learned of two of the rescue situations from Rob Craig. The first is about Simba the cougar who was discovered in early spring along an Illinois highway. A man had a flat tire, and while changing the tire in the rain, he heard a "squeaking sound like something was hurt" in the nearby weeds. He went to find the source of the sound and found a two month old, malnourished, greasy, shivering, and wheezing baby cougar in a cage lying in the weeds. He picked up the cage and the cougar eventually found his way to the Animal Welfare League in Chicago. Cougar Valley Farms was contacted and picked up the cougar. He was put on an antibiotic and an aggressive diet for replenishment. He's

now a very healthy cougar.

Another rescue was for Sasha the Siberian Tiger. She had been taken off of formula and fed hamburger at one month old. When Sasha arrived to Cougar Valley Farms, she couldn't walk, and had to drag herself around the house with one leg. She cried every time she was touched, picked up, or moved. They had to feed her by hand because she couldn't hold her head up to eat. She spent most of her time lying on a jacket, so they could slide her from room to room. Sasha arrived with a serious calcium deficiency causing brittle bones. She was weak, dehydrated, malnourished, and not expected to live. She was given three shots a day of calcium and other medications, and after 3 weeks without any response to the treatment, there was the discussion of whether or not she would make it. Sasha must have been listening because that evening, out of the blue, she stood up...wobbly, stumbling but standing. The next three weeks she continued getting stronger and eventually worked her way to health. Now, at 3½ years old and almost 400 pounds, she has become a friendly and entertaining cat. She enjoys jumping, swimming, and destroying "guaranteed indestructible" toys. During the group's visit, we noticed Sasha was very calm and relaxed even with the commotion the group made. She obviously feels safe in her environment.

Following the tour of Cougar Valley Farms, the MEFES branch held their meeting. It was nice to see Ron and Rebecca Rathart, who operate Primate Planet, and Mike and Tonya Jones from Kentucky with their caracal, Caesar, and so many others.

The next day we visited Steve and Cheryl Hahn. Their facility is home to

(continued on page 18)


(continued from page 17)

white tigers, a maneless neutered male lion, a cougar, two miniature goats, and a cinnamon black bear. Their bear has an excellent habitat! He lives in a two sided enclosure with a drop gate between. One side is roofed and the other is outdoor with large wood chips for flooring (where the bear delighted in rolling around.) The bear's enclosure is thoroughly cleaned TWICE a day and it showed. I've never seen such a well adjusted healthy bear. In addition to the steel caging and electric drop gates, the most impressive facility function was the squeeze cage (tiger size) and an area for administering on-site veterinary care. In a very short time, all the cats can be examined, teeth cleaned, vaccinated, and treated for any medical needs, then returned to their enclosures. Another plan of action is the transfer cages, which are ready and available in the event that an emergency evacuation is necessary due to dangerous weather.

Thanks to the Indiana folks for great hospitality. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming LIOC convention in South Dakota.



Bear at Steve and Cheryl Hahn's facility



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Two year old male canadian lynx, Jinx, owned by member Kathy Gray. Jinx is watching TV from the inside kingdom, the living room.

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ACEF Branch Meeting Minutes

March 21, 1999: We met at Tibor and Andrea's house. There were 3 lynx and a lot of people; many thanks to Tibor and Andrea for putting up with all of us. Jennifer gave a short talk on flea control methods, recommending Advantage over Frontline due to the significant amount of hair loss that the clinic she works in has seen in animals using Frontline. She also warned everyone against using BioSpot, TopSpot, Control or other flea control formulas using pyrethrins, which would kill or seriously injure cats. These are DOG formulas only. Advantage for dogs, however, is a good way to figure out the dosage needed for larger cats, since it is the same formula used for dogs or cats, just in larger quantities. There was also a lively discussion on using cedar chips, garlic, and brewer's yeast as natural methods of flea control. We also took an informal survey of the different diets being used by members. The majority diet was chicken with vitamins and other supplements and/or Zupreem. Our last business item before we broke up to visit and play with kitties was deciding the location of the next meeting and settling on the 3rd weekend of May for our trip to NW Trek as one of our outings for the year.

John Lussmyer, Secretary/Treasurer,
Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines,
Cacade branch of the LIOC.
see <http://www.premier1.net/~prcek/ACEF/>

April 18, 1999: This month we met at Jennifer Ellard's house. While we were a little short of regular members, we had quite a few visitors this time, four of whom joined the club! Since people trickled in over quite a period of time, we were a little more disorganized than usual. This was compounded by having Mike's Timber (a 6 month old Siberian Tiger cub) at the meeting. He was a LOT of fun! The only other cat that made it to the meeting was Moriah, the Lynx (mellow as usual.) Once we got the meeting officially underway we covered various topics. Jennifer gave us a talk and Q&A time on vaccinations Do's and Don'ts. We had a short discussion on the LIOC annual convention; we still aren't sure if anyone is going to make it there this year. We also told people to help gather more information for the PNWE "vet info" book. We asked for (and got) several people to help with Mike's USDA and USDI applications. (Government forms are a real pain!) The final piece of business was telling everybody about the

next meeting. We are going on a group tour of the Northwest Trek nature park. This will be May 16th and we all will be meeting at the park at 10am.

John Lussmyer, Secretary/Treasurer,
Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines,
Cacade branch of the LIOC.

May 16, 1999: This was a special event/meeting. We met down at Northwest Trek to enjoy the park. A total of about 18 people showed up, including a couple of prospective members and a bunch of members' cubs (human type). We all rode the tram tour which featured many species that would be fine dining for our pets. (Actually, the park lost most of its big-horn sheep last year to a wild cougar.) Lots of elk and deer of various species were observed, though we didn't get to see the Moose. (I think it would be too big for most of our cats anyway!) After the tram tour, most of us went for a walk through the rest of the park to see the bears, wolves, and cats. They had 3 pairs of cats on display, Bobcat, Lynx, and Cougar. The enclosures for the animals were quite nice with trees and a stream flowing through. Overall I like the park, even their parking is done nicely - instead of a huge paved area, they have a bunch of smaller lots with trees between and around them. We did have a short sort-of meeting, where it was decided that we will give everyone extra time to prepare for the July picnic by not having a June meeting. Our July meeting will be on the 17th at Steve Johnson's place down in Randle. We are inviting all LIOC members from any chapter who would like to attend!

John G. Lussmyer, Secretary/Treasurer,
Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines,
Cacade branch of the LIOC.



Don't miss any issues!
Notify Member Services
See page 2 for address/email

Diabetes Mellitus

compiled by Marge Maxwell, Ph.D.
reviewed by Ron Eldridge, BVS

Our hearts went out to Nancy in sharing her story of Norman in the last issue. For many of us it brought back memories of a personal loss of a cat. Others identified with past experiences with feline diabetes. Some are currently dealing with feline diabetes or finding symptoms in their cat. I decided to research feline diabetes and report my findings as a follow-up to Nancy's story and her desire to help others.

What is Diabetes Mellitus?

There are two forms of diabetes in cats: diabetes insipidus and diabetes mellitus. Diabetes insipidus is a very rare disorder that results in failure to regulate body water content. The more common type of diabetes, diabetes mellitus, is seen on a fairly regular basis, usually in cats 5 years of age or older. Diabetes mellitus is a failure of the pancreas to regulate blood sugar. The pancreas is a small but vital organ that is located near the stomach. It has two significant populations of cells. One group of cells produces the enzymes necessary for proper digestion. The other group, called beta-cells, produces the hormone called insulin.

Two types of diabetes mellitus have been discovered in cats. Both types are similar in that there is a failure to regulate blood sugar, but the basic mechanisms of disease differ somewhat between the two groups.

1. Type I, or Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus results from total or near-complete destruction of the beta-cells. This is the most common type of feline diabetes. As the name implies, cats with this type of diabetes require insulin injections to stabilize blood sugar.

2. Type II, or Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus is different because some insulin-producing cells remain. However, the amount produced is insufficient, there is a delayed response in secreting it, and the tissues of the cat's body are relatively resistant to it. These cats may be treated with an oral drug that stimulates the remaining functional cells to produce or release insulin in an adequate amount to normalize blood sugar. Alternatively, they may be treated with insulin. Cats with NIDDM may ultimately progress to total beta-cell destruction and then require insulin injections.

Why is insulin so important?

The role of insulin is much like that of a gatekeeper: it stands at the surface of body cells and opens the door, allowing glucose to leave the blood stream and pass inside the cells. Glucose is a vital substance that provides much of the energy needed for life, and it must work inside the cells. Without an adequate amount of insulin, glucose is unable to get into the cells. It accumulates in the blood, setting in motion a series of events which can ultimately prove fatal. When insulin is deficient, the cells become starved for a source of energy. In response to this, the body starts breaking down stores of fat and protein to use as alternative energy sources. As a consequence, the cat eats more; thus, we have weight loss in a cat with a ravenous appetite. The body tries to eliminate the excess glucose by eliminating it in the urine. However, glucose (blood sugar) attracts water; thus, urine glucose takes with it large quantities of the body's fluids, resulting in the production of a large amount of urine. To avoid dehydration, the cat drinks more and more water. Thus, we have the four classical signs of diabetes: weight loss, ravenous appetite, increased water consumption, and increased urination.

How is diabetes mellitus diagnosed?

The diagnosis of diabetes mellitus is based on three criteria: the four classical clinical signs, the presence of a persistently high level of glucose in the blood stream, and the presence of glucose in the urine.

The normal level of glucose in the blood is 80-120 mg/dl (3.9-6.1 mmol/L). It may rise to 250-300 mg/dl (13.8-16.5 mmol/L) following a meal or when the cat is very excited. However, diabetes is the only common disease that will cause the blood glucose level to rise above 400 mg/dl (22 mmol/L). Some diabetic cats will have a glucose level as high as 800 mg/dl (44 mmol/L), although most will be in the range of 400-600 mg/dl (22-33 mmol/L).

To keep the body from losing its needed glucose, the kidneys do not allow glucose to be filtered out of the blood stream until an excessive level is reached. This means that cats with a normal blood glucose level will not have glucose in the urine. Diabetic cats, however, have excessive amounts of glucose in the blood, so it will be present in the urine.

What are the signs of Diabetes Mellitus?

Polyuria, polydipsia, increased appetite, and weight loss are hallmark signs of diabetes mellitus in cats. In the earlier stages of the disease, cats remain active and alert with few other signs of disease. However, as the disease progresses, poor skin and haircoat, liver disease, and secondary bacterial infections become more common. An infrequent disorder called diabetic neuropathy may cause cats to become progressively weaker in the rear legs and assume a unique, plantigrade stance. A dangerous condition called ketoacidosis may develop in some cats. Signs of ketoacidosis include a loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, weakness, dehydration, and breathing abnormalities. Without proper and prompt treatment, this condition ultimately proves fatal.

How is Diabetes Mellitus treated?

Proper treatment of diabetes mellitus is based on the severity of the disorder. Cats with ketoacidosis require intensive care. Treatment includes fluid therapy to correct dehydration and electrolyte abnormalities, and short acting insulin. Diabetic cats that are not ill usually require insulin injections to be given once or twice daily under the skin, and a carefully controlled diet. As an alternative to insulin, treatment with an oral hypoglycemic drug (see below) may be attempted.

Insulin

Adequate control of most diabetic cats requires long-acting insulin injections to be given once or twice daily. Each cat responds differently to insulin, so the proper choice of insulin type, dose, and frequency of administration needs to be individually determined. Selection of the appropriate insulin type, dose, and frequency of administration for an individual diabetic cat is ideally based on 18- to 24- hour blood glucose profiles. In order to perform a glucose profile, the cat is hospitalized, and following insulin administration, frequent determinations of blood glucose values are made throughout the day. The proper dose of insulin may change with time and may need to be adjusted based on blood glucose profiles, intermittent blood and urine sugar measurements, and response to therapy.

Overdosage of insulin causes hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Signs of this potentially dangerous complication include weakness, listlessness, incoordination, convulsions and coma. Left untreated, death may result. If hypoglycemia develops, the cat should immediately be offered its normal food if it is able

to eat. Alternatively, a tablespoon of Karo syrup should be rubbed on the gums or, if the cat can swallow, given slowly by syringe into the mouth. Never force fingers, food, or fluids into the mouth of a convulsing or comatose cat. Your veterinarian should be contacted immediately if your cat experiences an episode of hypoglycemia that further treatment instructions can be given and a modification of insulin administration, if necessary, can be made.

Cats requiring excessively high insulin doses (greater than one to two units of insulin per pound per day) should be evaluated further. Other diseases may be underlying or complicating the diabetes mellitus and as a result, necessitate high insulin dosages. Problems with insulin injection, poor absorption or too rapid metabolism of insulin, or even insulin overdose are potential causes of an apparently excessive insulin requirement.

Oral Hypoglycemic Medications

Healthy diabetic cats can sometimes be successfully treated with a hypoglycemic medication, glipizide. Glipizide acts by lowering blood glucose, but unlike insulin, it is given orally. Adverse side effects are not common but include vomiting, loss of appetite, and liver damage. If hyperglycemia persists after one or two months of therapy, or if the cat becomes ill or ketoacidotic, glipizide therapy should be discontinued and insulin therapy instituted.

Diet

Obese diabetic cats should lose weight gradually, with no more than 3 percent of their body weight lost per week. Your veterinarian will help in tailoring a safe weight-loss program for your cat. High fiber, high complex carbohydrate diets are useful, not only by assisting in weight loss, but by helping to control blood glucose levels after eating. Underweight diabetic cats should be fed a high fiber diet only after reaching their ideal body weight after being fed a high calorie diet.

Cats receiving insulin once daily should be fed half the daily food requirement at the time of the injection and the remaining half at the time of peak insulin activity (as determined by a blood glucose profile). If receiving twice daily insulin injections, cats should be fed half the daily ration at each administration. Cats receiving oral hypoglycemic medication should be fed a high fiber diet, but ideally as multiple small meals

(continued on page 22)

(continued from page 21)

consumed throughout the day.

Which cats are at high risk for diabetes?

This disease can, unfortunately, affect any breed of cat, and cats of either sex, any age, etc. However, overweight cats and older cats are at higher risk for developing diabetes, and males seem more prone to becoming diabetic than females. Pancreatic disease, hormonal imbalances, and genetic factors (and even certain medications) all may play a role in the development of this disease.

Dr. Kenneth Harkin at Kansas State University points out that preventing obesity may reduce the risk of diabetes in felines. For already obese diabetic cats, exercise helps get the weight off which in turn will improve their insulin response.

I was just told my cat has feline diabetes, now what?

The initial shock and fear you feel when the vet tells you that your cat has diabetes can be overwhelming. Diabetes is a treatable condition and your cat can live a normal, happy, healthy life. Diabetes is not a death sentence for your cat.

One of the first questions many people ask is "How long will my cat live?" Every cat is different, but very often your cat can live a normal life-span.

Caring for a diabetic cat takes a very strong commitment from both the caregiver and the vet. You must provide a very high level of care for your cat on a daily basis. Gone are the days of putting out food and water, giving a quick pat on the head, and hurrying out the door. Every day you will have to give your cat medication, feed a proper diet, and watch his behavior. Don't get the impression that you are now a prisoner....you aren't, but you will have to pay much closer attention to your cat's needs and behavior, and you will have to make arrangements for someone to care for your cat if you leave for an extended period of time. Your hard work and commitment will be reflected in your cat's continuing good health, and hopefully you will be able to enjoy your cat for many more years.

Educating yourself about diabetes is one of the best things you can do. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you don't understand something, no matter how simple you think it is, you must ask. Knowing the correct answer could save your cat's life.

What are the expenses?

Cost is something owners think of when their cat is diagnosed with diabetes. The initial "sticker shock" can be overwhelming and the financial requirements of caring for a diabetic cat can be substantial. Unfortunately, none of us has unlimited resources, and reality is that money is a factor. If money is limited, many vets will work with you to limit expenses and will allow you to make payments on your bill. Please discuss this option with your vet.

The first few weeks

It is not unusual to spend \$200-300 for the initial diagnosis and hospitalization, even if you caught the diabetes early. If you were not aware of your cat's condition and he is in critical condition, the costs can be significantly more.

In the first few weeks or months, when you and the vet are trying to get your cat's diabetes regulated, the expenses may still be high. You will have to take your cat to the vet for a few check-ups during the early stages of diabetes. These check-ups are essential to determine how your cat is doing and to make any necessary changes to the medications.

In some cats, the diabetes is quickly brought under control (regulated). Other cats are not so lucky, and they require more frequent visits to the vet and adjustments to their medication.

Typical Maintenance Expenses

After the diabetes is reasonably well regulated, the costs decrease dramatically. Supplies typically cost around \$30 to \$40 per month. This includes syringes, insulin, and a prescription diet.

Many people monitor their cat's urine glucose, and the test strips are relatively inexpensive (less than \$10 for 50 test strips).

How will this affect my life?

Your Emotions

Caring for a diabetic cat can be frustrating and emotionally stressful for everyone involved. At first, you wonder how much you are upsetting or hurting your cat by giving pills or injections, feeding a new diet, and doing all the other things you will have to do. The changes are difficult at first, and your cat may be upset or not acting as lovingly as usual. But these new activities are life-saving necessities and they soon become part of daily life, both for you and your cat. With all the extra attention and care that you give your cat, you will probably find that the bond between you and your cat becomes even stronger.

There may be times when your cat's diabetes

is uncontrolled, or when other illnesses arise. The extra effort and commitment you give to your cat makes these set-backs even more heart-breaking and stressful. Every health crisis can be an emotional drain. Exhaustion, frustration, anger, sadness, fear, and guilt are all normal feelings that are part of caring for an animal with a chronic health condition. Don't ignore these feelings, but don't dwell on them either. Be sure to take some time for yourself and rely on your friends and family for emotional support. The bad times usually pass quickly and you learn to cherish the little things even more. And don't forget to celebrate the progress that you make, even if it is just a small step forward. I believe that animals are very perceptive of our emotions, and the healing power of love should not be underestimated. Never lose sight of the joy that your cat brings to your life.

People Think You Are Crazy

Friends, relatives, and co-workers may make insensitive comments that you are crazy to care for a chronically ill cat. Although it is difficult, try to ignore the unsupportive people - they do not understand the special bond of love that you share with your cat. Only another cat lover will understand your choice to give such dedicated care to your cat. Your good friends will understand your choice and be supportive, and one of them may even be suitable to be a back-up caregiver. Try to find a group of other cat-lovers who will be supportive of your decisions.

Your Social Life

Caring for a diabetic cat will place restrictions on your ability to spend time away from home. Your cat must be given insulin or other medications, fed properly, and observed every day. Before spending any extended period of time away from home, you must make arrangements with a well trained care-giver to take over the care of your cat. This is not a job for a neighborhood child or someone you don't completely trust. The care-giver must be able to properly administer medications, ensure feeding, observe your cat's behavior, and be able to call the vet or take your cat to the vet in case of emergency. A close friend or family member may be suited to this serious job. Another commonly used option is to check with the technicians at your veterinarian's office - they are well trained, and often available to do in-home care for a reasonable fee.

The Bottom Line

By making the decision to care for a cat with diabetes you are taking on a huge, but very rewarding challenge. There is a lot to learn and do, so be patient with yourself. Whatever decisions you make for the care of your cat, a decision based on love and the welfare of your cat is the best decision for everyone.

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Resourceful ever, in the know.
Ingenious mind, could have no other.
Noble aspects - LIOC's mother.
Entertaining personality;

Courageous, when the club was wee.
Inventive thoughts cross her mind;
 Sympathetic toward all mankind.
Interesting thru and thru;
Natural, kind and we love you!

Marian Allen, 1967



CATHERINE

Thru the years, you've stood by us,
 thru our laughter & our tears
With a helping hand to guide us,
 sharing with us all our cares

Thru the years, you gave us knowledge,
 listened to our problems too.
As our club grew ever larger,
 we depended more on you.

Thru the years, and they've been many,
 your love has stood the test.
So you can relax and rest now,
 you've given us your best.

Oh, how can we say "thank you?"
 the words just seem too few.
So from all of us and our cats,
 Catherine, we love you.

By Sadie Douglas