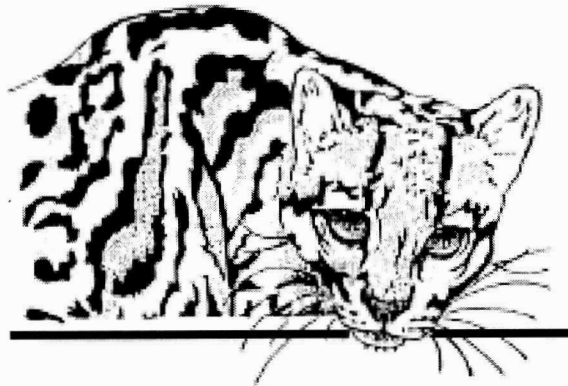
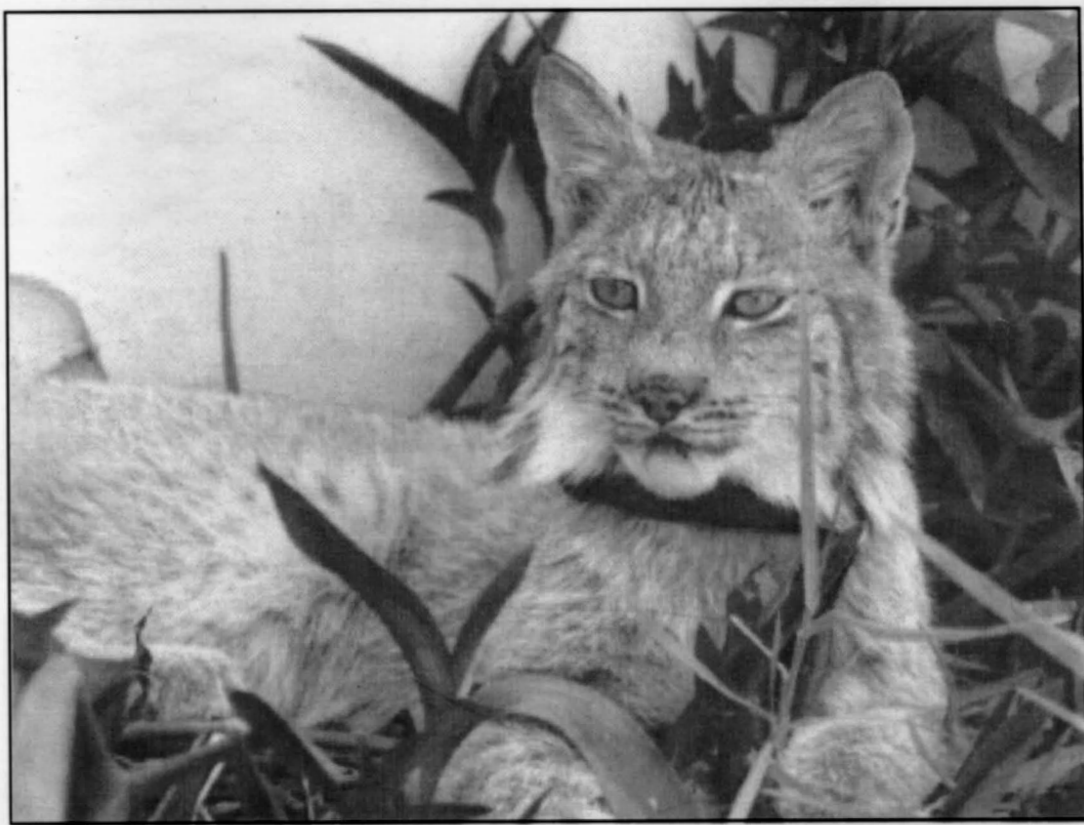


# ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



**Volume 43, Issue 4 - July/August 1999**



**Toba Champagne, daughter of Darrin & Jenny Champagne**



# 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

Darrin & Jenny Champagne  
Monica Cooper  
Karin Donoyan  
Tonya Jones  
Lisa Padula & Paul Richardson  
George Stowers  
Bob Turner  
Shirley Wagner  
Nancy Ward  
Barbara Wilton

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](mailto:gstowers@aiusa.com) Please send computer readable text files (email is fine or ASCII text files on disc.)

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# More Norman Antics

## Letter to the Editor:

June 29, 1999

Dear Marge,

Thank you for publishing Norman's story. It made me feel a lot better to know that other big cats might benefit from what happened to him and that people might learn from my mistake and push their vets harder to investigate all of their animal's symptoms (not just the outwardly obvious ones) instead of blindly trusting them to do what's right, like what happened in Norm's case. I was also very pleased that you decided to do a follow up article on Feline Diabetes. I have received several calls and cards from people who knew Normie or about him and did not know he had died. Those thoughtful gestures were greatly appreciated.

Things are a lot different around here these days. I still think about and miss him every day, but now I have three mischievous young ladies (lions) to occupy my time and they keep me so busy, I don't have time to dwell on what can't be changed. After Normie died, I was seriously considering placing Madison (the cub I had purchased as a mate for him) in another home because I didn't think I could bare to get close to another animal again. I felt it was unfair to her to keep her as I didn't go out in the yard because that was where Normie is buried and every time I walked past his grave it just ate away at me... My pain, anger, frustration and guilt were totally consuming me.

But then one day I got a letter in the mail from an insurance broker and it



Nancy and Kebby, her newest baby

reminded me of something Norm once did that really made me laugh, and in the end, helped me to get over myself and put things into their proper perspective. I think you'll get a kick out of this little story, however, you've got to have a bit of a warped sense of humor and appreciation for the intelligence and intuition of a cat to appreciate it. You can publish it if you wish.

Normie was a real smart aleck at times and he liked to play "jokes" on people. I really believe he knew what he was doing. For example, on more than one occasion he sneaked up on my ex-husband in front of company, grabbing him around the waist with his paws then quick as a flash yanked his pants down to his bare butt. As my ex cursed, Norm would throw himself on the ground like a big clown, flailing his legs as if he was spazing out (in a seemingly mocking manner) clearly showing off as we all laughed. He did a lot of extremely ironic things and seemed to enjoy making people laugh, but the following is one of my favorite Normie stories and the memory that convinced me to keep Madison, and keep on doing what I've loved to do all my life—caring for

and being around animals.

About a year before Norm's death, I called an insurance agent over to look at my property. I was hoping she would give me a break in my liability premiums because I had added to the security of the property and built new enclosures as close to the safety standards of accredited zoos as I could afford.

To make a good impression, I put Norm out in his yard, because I didn't want her to know I allowed him to live in my home.

When she came in, I couldn't help but notice she was very well dressed, prissed up to perfection. I commented to her that I could tell she didn't have any cats because the moment I try to get dressed to go somewhere, it's like I'm begging to have someone jump up or rub up against me and cover me in fur. She smiled like it was causing her pain, and I could tell she was thinking 'how gross.' I immediately got the impression "Ms. Priss" was not an animal lover and, therefore, my chance of getting this reduction was probably going to be nil because of it, but I showed her around anyway and eventually we got to Norm's yard.

She hesitantly walked up to his enclosure, and I swear I saw flashing dollar signs where her pupils used to be, as she told him how "beautiful" he was, projecting a tone in her voice that almost sounded sinister. I reminded her of all the safety features I had added, as she sized him up, and continued to discuss my hopes of a premium reduction. At the end of this conversation, after telling me she thought

my place was "lovely," that all of my animals "seemed friendly enough," and she "could appreciate the expense I went through," building me up with every word of encouragement; she got in a sucker punch, by coldly and matter of factly adding "however" my premium reduction *would not be approved* in spite of my efforts because even though I was not open to the general public, these were still "very dangerous animals."

My heart immediately sank as I had had a hard time in locating an insurance company I could afford who would cover my liability because of the animals and was already paying thousands of dollars a year even though I had never had an incident. I could feel my blood pressuring rising by the second at the thought of having to pay out even more money, but there was nothing I could do about it, if I wanted to continue to keep my cats, monkeys, and wolf. I had no choice but to bite my tongue, but every four, five, and six letter word that could be used to articulate what I thought of this woman was running through my mind.

After sweetly delivering that blow to me, Cruella, er, I mean "Ms. Priss," turned back around and bent over to Norman to tell him again how beautiful she thought he was using that same shamelessly overly patronizing voice. I'm saying, this woman was so insidious, I bet the only reason she dyed her hair "ash blonde," was so her horns would blend in.

Now, I always believed Normie and I had a little telepathy thing happening between us, because he



Nancy and Madison

somehow always knew how to read my moods and also seemed to know if I liked or didn't like someone. For whatever reason, I'd like to think he was scoring one for Mom.

As she bent over directly in front of him billing and cooing her insincere sentiments, Norman stood up, yawned, then sniffed at her perfection through the fence. After grimacing like he just got a strong whiff of rotten meat, turned around and with the precision of a champion marksman, he deliberately sprayed her with a huge gush of funky lion urine directly in her chest cascading over her lovely suit, splattering into her face and hair. To say that boy let it fly *something ugly*, would be an *understatement*. Mark McGuire himself couldn't have topped the power behind the smack of that pee. And anybody who has kept a male lion knows what I'm talking about. You'd swear it was *jet action propelled*.

Now don't get me wrong, I did try to warn her what he was about to do, but as I tried, I must've went into some kind of trauma induced *shell shock* over all that money I was going to have to shell out which resulted in a temporary, but highly debilitated, speech impeding articulation disorder.

I ran into the house and grabbed her a towel apologizing *all over the place*, offering to dry clean her clothes. Needless to say, "Ms. Priss" was totally grossed out and couldn't leave fast enough. She's probably still soaking herself in a tub of bleach to this day.

After she left, I laughed so hard I thought I was going to be sick and Mr. Super Soaker, er, I mean "Soake?" a.k.a. Norman, got himself a big hamhock, because as much as those scam artists (a.k.a. insurance brokers) were soaking me for, what he did was almost poetic.

Remembering that story reminded me of the laughter I would be missing out on if I allowed my grief to continue to

consume me and that I needed to get close to Madison and appreciate the time I had *with her*. As she too came into my life for a reason, she is full of love, and deserving of love in return. I realized my time with Norman (no matter how brief) was a very special blessing from God that I don't know what I ever did to deserve something so incredible anyway. And I needed to be grateful I had it at all.

I now share my home with three lionesses: Madison, of course, who is now 2 1/2 years old, and Halle, who joined us last fall and is now 9 months old and Kebby who joined us early this spring and is 4 1/2 months old. The bond I share with them is not like what I had with Normie, but they each have qualities of their own that make them lovable just the same. And when it's time for them to pass on, as we all must one day, I'll be thankful I was able to be a part of their lives as no other living creature truly ever *belongs* to anybody, but rather we are granted the honor and *privilege* of sharing their friendship for however long the good Lord sees fit.

Marge, I would like to sincerely thank you again for your interest and support in getting the information out in regards to Feline Diabetes, in memory of Norman. If you could, would it be possible for me to thank Jan Giacinto, Barbara Wilton, Kelly Jean Buckley and all the other very gracious and helpful members of LIOC that I spoke to for their efforts during his illness. With a very special thank you to Lyn Culver, James Godsmark and my very dear friend, Doug Brown, who gave up his entire Christmas holiday to try to help Normie and to console me after he passed.

Enclosed are a few pictures of me and the girls.

**Sincerely,**

Nancy Ward, Madison, Halle, and Kebby  
Norman's Pride

## Laws Meant to Protect Animals Can Harm Others

Summarized from USA TODAY Story by  
Traci Watson, May 14, 1999

In efforts to protect California's remaining mountain lions from people with guns, state legislators made mountain lion hunting for trophies illegal in 1973. In 1990, voters passed a referendum that banned all killing of the mountain lions (also called cougars or puma.) This action caused the cougar's numbers to multiply to levels not seen since the 1880s. The cougars have turned to the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep as a food source. The bighorn sheep are also endangered with only 100 or so still existing in that area.

Bighorn sheep expert John Wehausen of the University of California White Mountain Research Station, says, "We should have been controlling lions and couldn't," because of the 1990 law. "Now it will be a necessity."

Cougars killed large numbers of the sheep in the 1980s. The sheep got smart and began staying in the high elevations to avoid the cougars, rather than descending to their usual wintering grounds at summer's end. Without the better browsing and milder weather of the lower elevations, newborn lambs died. Scientists soon realized the effect that flight to the high country had on the sheep.

Wehausen pointed out that it is only natural for cougars to kill sheep, however, other factors used to control the cougars in the past. Grizzlies, no longer in California, used to hunt cougars. The bears, which far outweigh cougars, kept smaller predators in check by taking their kills. There also used to be other cougar prey such as deer.

Last month the US Fish and Wildlife Service gave emergency protection to the bighorn sheep to allow federal officials to remove cougars posing a threat to the sheep, either by killing the cougars or trapping them and placing them elsewhere.

"Leaving nature alone is no answer this time. There's no such thing as a natural balance. Things are awry. If we care about biological diversity, we're going to have to do what it takes," says Wehausen. That means intervening and watching for ballot measures that might have unintended consequences.

This cougar-sheep clash exemplifies the problems that occur when we try to right the balance of nature. Russ Mason, a predator biologist with the Agriculture Department's National Wildlife Research Center says, "I do think these discussion should be infused with a little science now and again. What if we made nuclear policy this way?"



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# New Secretary/Treasurer: Tonya Jones

Tonya Jones is the new LIOC Secretary/Treasurer to finish the term of Sharon Roe who was unable to complete the term due to responsibilities at home. Tonya was born and reared in Cromwell, KY where she currently resides with her husband, Mike. They don't have any children together "except for their cats." Tonya has two children, Brandon and Amber. Tonya and Mike have eight exotic cats: two caracals, one cougar, two Canadian lynx, and three servals.



Tonya and Caesar

**Marge:** One of the reasons LIOC actively sought you other than your love for cats is your accounting background. Tell us about that.

**Tonya:** I've been doing bookkeeping and taxes for twenty years. I've been to school in accounting and still take update courses. My father had an income tax business and I worked with him as I was growing up. I still maintain that business today, Haven's Tax Service.

**Marge:** How and when did you get started with exotics?

**Tonya:** I've always had many domestic cats and loved wild cats. I first wanted an ocelot and went to several libraries to learn more about them. I found it impossible to get an ocelot and we decided to get a one-month old female serval, Sierra, five years ago. When Sierra was two years old, she escaped through my son's open bedroom window. With no

knowledge of how to safely capture her, we did see her outside when we came home from work but was unable to get her to come to us. We never saw her again and our hearts were broken. She had brought so much to our lives that we decided to get another serval, a male this time, Dakota. He is now almost three. We took in a bobcat for a short while and placed it in a home that had other bobcats. We got another male serval, Squeaky, as a playmate for Dakota. We later got Caesar, now a year and one-half old caracal, and another female serval, Kalahari, now one year old. We have taken in four other cats lately, a cougar, two Canadian lynx, and a female caracal.

**Marge:** Tell us about your sanctuary, Green River Exotics.

**Tonya:** We formed Green River Exotics about a year ago after getting our USDA



license. Green River Exotics has two purposes. One is to provide refuge and sanctuary to the smaller exotics and the second purpose is to educate the public about these cats. We take the cats to schools, churches, county fairs, and other functions. We give out brochures, exhibit the cats, and talk about their care and responsible ownership of any animals to the public.

**Marge:** I know it is hard for us to say we favor one cat over another, but tell us about the cat you spend the most time with.

**Tonya:** That would have to be Dakota and Kalahari, the two servals, who stay in our house. Although Caesar has a special place in our hearts, it has been necessary lately to keep him in an outside enclosure and we are a tiny bit partial to servals since we got a serval first. Dakota is very special since he replaced Sierra and helped us get over that loss. Dakota has accepted other animals, domestic or exotic, we have brought in the house. He is a laid-back gentleman with his own personality. Kalahari is a special Mama's girl. Everyday she greets me at the door



Tonya's daughter, Amber,  
and tiger cub

with hugs and kisses and purrs. She follows every step I make and even likes to share in morning rituals of blow-drying hair and putting on make-up. Both Dakota and Kalahari still sleep with us.

**Marge:** Tell us of a funny incident you have had with one of your cats.

**Tonya:** Everyday is funny at our house. Squeaky hangs on the cage door at feeding time. When we give him a chicken leg quarter, he grabs it runs certainly not sharing with Caesar, his pen-mate.

**Marge:** Is there anything you have learned through your experience with these exotics that you'd like to recommend or caution others about.

**Tonya:** Be sure to research the species you are contemplating acquiring. Go visit that type of cat and spend time with them. I had done that about servals before we got one, but we were still not prepared for escapes. We now have a tranquilizer gun, a live trap, and we have a certain procedure in case of escapes. We have had Dakota get out of the house and we caught him with a live trap with his food. Be careful of your house or caging. Think of all possibilities and prepare. The cats do change your lifestyle. Be sure you have the commitment and resources (emotional, your physical health, financial

Mike and  
Caesar at  
the MEFES  
meeting on  
April 18



resources, special food, access to veterinarian, good location, no ordinance or legal problem) for their 20-25 year life span. Remember they are still wild animals and they will remind you of that.

**Marge:** Tell us how the cats have changed your life in a positive way.

**Tonya:** They are all special to us. I feel so honored and blessed to share their life daily. I think they have made me a better person.

**Marge:** How did you get involved in LIOC?

**Tonya:** I was in a pet store last May a year ago. I heard about Herald Maxwell with lions. I just had to call him and we went to see him, his family, and animals. We became good friends and he told us about LIOC and the first meeting of a new LIOC branch being formed the next weekend. We went to the meeting and I became Secretary/Treasurer of the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society. We also attended last year's national LIOC convention in Indianapolis.

**Marge:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Tonya:** I feel honored that the LIOC board chose me as Secretary/Treasurer. I hope that in some small way I am helping the cats while working in this position.

*Personal Note:* Tonya and Mike have been close friends of Max and I for a year. They have been most helpful and concerned about our cats and helping in any way they could. I am sure that all of you will find Tonya to be a positive and helpful LIOC officer.

Marge Maxwell, Editor

## African Lions See Off Hyenas

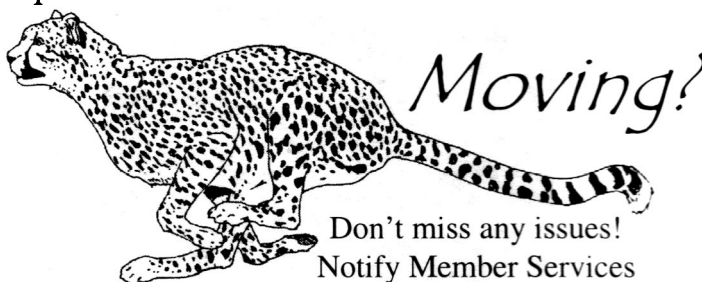
Summarized from BBC News,  
April 19, 1999

The lion has again proven itself the king of beasts after a ferocious two-week battle in the Ethiopian desert. Reports from Addis Ababa say a pride of lions killed 35 hyenas and drove off the rest for the loss of six of their own. Ethiopian television showed sand billowing as a lion wrestled with six hyenas with other lions watching.

Police said the rocky area in southeastern Ethiopia was now firmly under the lions' control. Wildlife experts said that in any sustained conflict the smaller hyenas were always likely to incur more losses, despite possessing jaws which could crunch their way through elephant bones.

The two sides had been fighting for territory in Gobeles desert, close to the district of Girawa, 450 km east of Addis Ababa. Prevailing drought conditions probably played a part in igniting the war. Fierce battles raged every night. During the day the animals took cover in their dens, waiting for the sun to set.

The world's most successful predator – man – stayed out of the fight, as the combat zone was far from human settlement.



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

# LIOC

## President's Perspective

There has been a change made in your Board of Directors. Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Roe, has found it impossible to continue with us in this capacity and also run her Alpaca business. It was a difficult decision for her and I do want to thank Sharon for the terrific job she has done on managing our finances. She kept the rest of us in line real well, too! Quarterly reports were always complete and always on time. Thanks, Sharon, for a job well done.

Now please welcome our new secretary/treasurer, Tonya Jones, of Cromwell, Kentucky. Tonya was unanimously approved by the board to complete Sharon's term. She is an accountant and we are confident she will have no problems. We all look forward to working with her. You will get to meet her at the convention. So please help us make her feel welcome.



Barbara Wilton  
President

**Two men on a camping trip heard of an escaped lion from the nearby zoo coming their way. One man stopped to put on his tennis shoes and the other said, "Those aren't going to help you out-run a lion." As he finished putting on his shoes and took off, he yelled over his shoulder, "I only have to out-run you."**



## In Remembrance: Gayle Schaecher

It is with the most profound sense of sadness that we report the passing of Gayle Schaecher after a lengthy battle with cancer. Our condolences go out to her lifetime partner, Clem, and daughter, Patricia, and grandsons.

Gayle joined LIOC in 1972. She became an active member at once. Over the years she raised ocelots, bobcats, lynx, chaus, and cougars. She was a founding member of the Pacific Northwest Exotics branch of LIOC. Gayle served as LIOC's Vice President from 1993 through 1994. She was a regular attendee at our Annual Convention as well, and was presented with a Lotty in 1990. She also served on Oregon's Fish & Game Advisory board on regulations regarding exotics.

Gayle deeply loved the cats and readily shared her knowledge with others. She had a quiet presence but brooked no nonsense when she felt a wrong had been committed. She readily and unselfishly volunteered whatever she could to help others and their cats. Convention won't be the same this year without her, but we know she'll be there in spirit and in the hearts of all who loved her forever.

Respectfully,  
Shirley Wagner

# What is Your Feline IQ?

Whether a large or small exotic cat or the familiar house cat, many traits are the same. How many of these do you know?

1. When were cats first domesticated and where?
2. Which four cats really roar?
3. What percent of time do domestic cats spend per day sleeping? Grooming?
4. How many Florida panthers still exist in the wild?
5. How were cats introduced in the Americas?
6. How much meat can a lion consume in one sitting?
7. How many domestic cats are in the US? How many dogs?
8. How do domestic cats communicate?
9. Which cat makes the loudest sound?
10. How many bones do cats have? How many muscles?
11. How long do lions sleep per day?
12. How fast can a frightened cat run? A human?
13. Who can see better at night—a cat or man?
14. The modern domestic cat is believed to be a cross between which two cats?
15. How far can lions leap?

**How did you do?** Answers on page 21.

If you correctly answered:

- 13 - 15, you earned a Ph.D. in Feline scholarship.
- 10 - 12, you earned a M.S. in Feline scholarship.
- 7 - 9, you earned a B.S. in Feline scholarship.
- 4 - 6, you still need to complete high school.
- 0 - 3, you apparently own a dog.

# Phantom Cat: Biologists Give Up

Summarized from Telegraph Journal

June 23, 1999

By DEBORAH NOBES

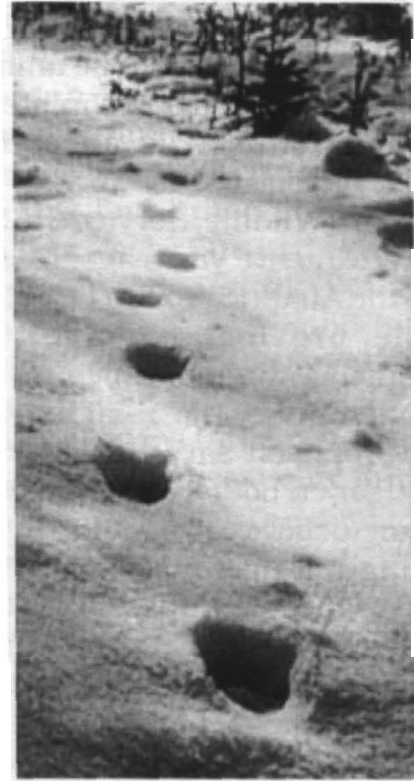
**Phantom cat may lose endangered species listing because nobody can prove it really lives in the province.**

A QUIET movement is brewing among New Brunswick biologists to remove the enigmatic Eastern cougar from the province's endangered species list.

The giant cat is one of this province's greatest mysteries. Despite more than 600 documented sightings in the region since the mid-1970s, most scientists agree there isn't enough evidence to prove, one way or another, whether the animal lives and breeds in New Brunswick and contend the animal is a figment of the province's collective imagination.

Now, several respected biologists are for the first time saying publicly that the mystery should be officially put to rest. They believe the Eastern cougar should not be given extra protection under provincial law for the simple reason that it does not exist.

"You would have thought, in all these years, that we would have found a den site of cougar kits or seen some evidence of a breeding population," says Gerry Redmond, a wildlife biologist with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy who wants the Eastern cougar off the provincial list. "The cougars that are being seen - who knows - maybe they're just released pets that are able to get along. You hate to burst the bubble, but at the same time, being realistic, it doesn't deserve to be on the list." The Eastern cougar was named to Canada's



This is the trail in the snow followed by Rod Cumberland, a wildlife biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, in November of 1992. — Photo By Rod Cumberland

endangered species list in 1978, based on the vague criteria that it might face "imminent extermination." The animal was given further protection by the province of New Brunswick in 1996, when the Liberal government created its own Endangered Species Act forbidding hunting, habitat disruption or owning endangered species as pets.

Last year, the Eastern cougar's status on the national list was changed from "endangered" to "indeterminate" because there simply isn't enough information about its habits in this region to know

whether it lives here. In a report to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) - the national agency that decides which animals make the list - scientists concluded that the Maritime sightings were likely escaped animals and not a breeding population, so the animal could no longer be considered threatened.

Bruce Johnson is an endangered species biologist who worked with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville until retiring five years ago. He served as one of the Atlantic reps on COSEWIC, and on the provincial committee that recommended which species deserved protection under the 1996 legislation.

Mr. Johnson says he agreed to keep the cougar on both lists several years ago, but now believes it should be removed. "Looking at it right now, I think it was left on just in the remote possibility that there might be some out there, but I really don't believe that there are. I think there probably have been some cougar sightings, but I don't think those cougars are remnants of Eastern cougar population. I think they possibly are escapees - cougars that have been held in captivity or possibly cougars that have come across the border, probably escapees," he said. "I don't think that they are really a viable population here in New Brunswick. I don't think there are any survivors."

Wildlife biologist Mike Sullivan is also an endangered species expert who works with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy and is the current Atlantic rep on COSEWIC. He admits it's likely time for a review of the cougar's status on the provincial list but says it may be a contentious process because there is no mechanism for de-listing animals provided in the legislation.

"I think we need to take a close look at it again, because that's a serious list," he said. "If there are things on there that are

very questionable, it puts everything in question on that list. You want that to be absolutely solid because that's the stuff that gets argued about with industry."

Seven years ago, a forester with J.D. Irving called the Department of Natural Resources when he saw large paw-like tracks in the woods near Florenceville. The pair found feces thought to belong to a cougar. DNA tests revealed cougar hair in the feces, but nothing to prove where it might have come from. Many scientists dismissed the scat as proof of the animal's existence in New Brunswick because it might have come from a bigger predator who ate a cougar. But it was enough for the province's former Natural Resources minister Alan Graham to hold a press conference and proclaim the Eastern cougar as a real-life New Brunswick native.

If scientists could be divided along the lines of the believers and the doubters, Fredericton-based wildlife biologist Rudy Stoczek is a cougar evangelist of the highest order. An instructor at the Maritime Ranger School, Mr. Stoczek has scoured the woods looking for proof of the phantom animal and spent decades documenting sightings and writing papers trying to convince the scientific community that cougars live in our midst. His faith in the animal is absolute, even though he's never seen one.

"There are just too many sightings," he says. "I like the mystique of it. It's an animal that we don't know enough about and quite possibly, there is a very secretive animal here that we can learn more about."

But even Mr. Stoczek reluctantly agrees that the cougar should be taken off the provincial endangered species list.

"I really couldn't argue against taking it off," he says. "Not because we shouldn't be protecting individual animals, but because we just don't know enough about

the animals that are here to help increase their population."

The mystery of the Eastern cougar (and there are doubts even among believers about whether there is such a breed, or if the animals are actually Western cougars who roamed outside their territory in search of mates and then took up residence here) began in Nova Scotia during the 1920s with the first reported sighting. Even then, the animals had a mystic reputation. Frightened woodsmen and hunters would occasionally return to their camps with stories of giant cats staring at them from trees, or gliding nonchalantly past as they worked in the forest.

In 1932, a hunter shot an animal thought to be a cougar in Kent County, in northeastern New Brunswick. Six years later, a large tawny cat with a long tail was trapped in Maine, near the Quebec border. In 1946, biologist W. A. Squires published a study in the *Acadian Naturalist* that said cougars likely live and breed in New Brunswick, though in very small numbers. Various other naturalist publications through the 1950s and 1960s have come to ambiguous conclusions on the subject, saying there might be a cougar population in Eastern Canada or there might not, based on sporadic sightings in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island.

In 1977, biologists in the Atlantic office of the Canadian Wildlife Service officially took up the cause and began vigorously documenting and investigating cougar sightings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

More than 600 sightings were recorded between 1977 and 1994, by both experienced and novice observers including hunters, trappers, wildlife technicians, foresters, veterinarians, taxidermists and law enforcement officers.

Witnesses seldom got within 15 meters

of the cats, but reported seeing them chasing deer and coyote, running or walking and even sunbathing.

Most of the sightings occurred between June and November, at all hours of the day and night, in or on river and lake shores, beaches, blueberry fields, gravel pits and on camp grounds. Fewer than 20 per cent of the sightings were discounted because of mistaken identity. Credible observers described the animals as powerful and graceful-looking with impressive muscle tone and sleek bodies. They recounted cat-like faces and features, with large paws and heavy-set shoulders, estimating weights of well above 200 pounds.

The witnesses' stories are intriguing. There is the Mountie who pulled his cruiser onto the side of the road to have a cigarette and saw two big cats with long tails staring at him for more than five minutes before bounding into the black night. There is the mystifying story of the man who reported seeing a cougar leap across the road in front of his car near Canadian Forces Base Gagetown while driving on Highway 7 between Fredericton and Saint John. He jammed on his brakes, reached for his camera, chased the animal into the woods and snapped a photograph. When he took the film to be processed, the frames came back blank.

Mr. Redmond agrees the sightings are remarkable, but reasons they could be attributed to either a lost Western cougar or an animal that escaped captivity. If New Brunswick had a breeding population, he says, scientists would have found at least a single carcass, evidence of attacks in winter deer yards, or even a den.

"I think there have been some terrifically good reports by people who are credible," he said. "But the fact that these cats can travel such big distances - but even then, you would have thought that one of them would have been hit by a car."



# Canadian Lynx Gives Birth in Maine

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

The discovery of Canada lynx kittens on June 18 is evidence that the animals do exist and reproduce in the wild in Maine, federal biologists announced Monday.

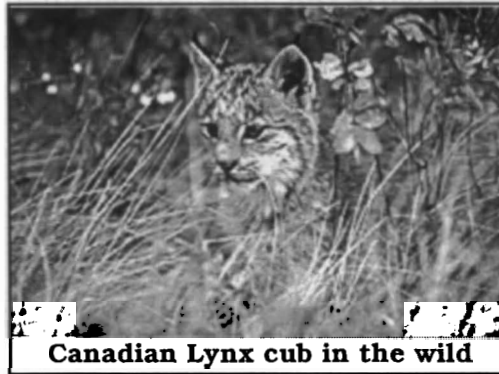
"We can now say, without question, that there is a lynx population in Maine and not just an occasional animal passing through from Canada," said Dr. John Organ, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This discovery adds to the biological evidence on the status of cat that the agency is reviewing as it considers listing the Canada lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A decision is expected in January 2000.

Organ and a team of federal biologists began a study this past winter to learn more about the status of Maine's lynx populations and to determine what management actions, if any, are needed to conserve the species.

The biologists captured a female lynx in a trap in northwestern Maine in March, fitted her with a radio collar and released her back into the wild. She was observed later in March traveling on a logging road with two smaller lynx. The biologists said the two were probably offspring from the previous year.

At the end of May, the cat's movements stopped. According to what is known about the lynx, the biologists suspected she had established a den to give birth to a litter of kittens. After allowing the cat three weeks to settle, the biologists went to the den site to confirm that she had given birth. They found two kittens, one male and one female.

The den site is a young forest that appears to have been logged 10 to 15 years ago. The dense re-growth of young trees combined with larger uprooted trees provides a tangle of vegetation to hide newborn lynx kittens.



Canadian Lynx cub in the wild

"While this is just one sighting of one animal, the discovery is evidence that the animals can survive in a young forest habitat," said Organ. Some environmentalists have argued that the cats need old-growth forests for their

survival.

"We don't have old-growth forests in Maine," said Organ. "Perhaps it is the structural diversity that may be a factor."

The cats, which have large feet that act like snowshoes, allowing them to hunt in deep snow, feed primarily on snowshoe hare, a large rabbit found in young forests.

Lee Perry, commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Ronald Lambertson, Northeast regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, agree that the managed cutting of timber in northern Maine has created ideal conditions for snowshoe hare and, therefore, likely for lynx as well.

Lynx were historically found throughout much of Canada, the northern forests of the U.S. and the subalpine forests of the central and southern Rocky Mountains. The service has proposed listing the lynx as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 16 of the lower 48 states, because of a decline in population numbers and a reduction in the amount of suitable habitat occupied by the animals.

## **AZA Supports Foreign Endangered Species Act**

SILVER SPRING, Md.

June 11, 1999

Summarized from U.S. Newswire

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) strongly supports "The Foreign Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1999."

"AZA's mission is to save and protect the wonders of the living natural world," stated Sydney J. Butler, executive director of the AZA. "This bill provides much needed funding for endangered species and their habitats."

The Foreign Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1999 would establish a fund to support projects to conserve endangered and threatened species in foreign countries. Granting priority would be given to projects that enhance conservation of the most imperiled species and that provide the greatest conservation benefit. The bill would authorize \$10 million annually for four years, 1999 to 2003.

"AZA supports the Asian Elephant Conservation Act, the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhino/Tiger Conservation Act, and this bill provides additional opportunities for multi-species conservation in the wild," he continued. "We will work with our colleagues to gain passage of this bill, and the appropriations necessary to make it successful."

Additionally, AZA supports Sen. Chafee, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Exxon in their new campaign to challenge companies,

universities, and others that use a tiger as a logo or mascot to make contributions to tiger conservation efforts.

"The AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) has for years provided protection for tigers in our care and in the wild," commented Butler, who is a council member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Save the Tiger Fund.

More than 134 million people visit AZA's 184 accredited zoos and aquariums annually, and members daily educate visitors about the devastating effects of the illegal trade in endangered species parts and products, as well as the loss of vital species habitat. AZA facilities go far beyond the daily care and husbandry of animals. In 1998 alone, they supported nearly 700 conservation and research projects in 80 countries.

"And while AZA zoos and aquariums have become the last stronghold for some species, including the tiger, we realize we cannot save them by zoo propagation alone," concluded Butler. "AZA and its member institutions will continue to work with Congress, Federal agencies, conservation organizations and the private sector world-wide to conserve these magnificent animals."

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The American Zoo and Aquarium Association was founded in 1924 and currently represents 184 accredited zoos and aquariums in North America. AZA's mission is to support membership excellence in conservation, education, science and recreation.

# So You Want a Baby?



## 10 Poor Reasons For Wanting An Exotic Cat . . .

1. So you can impress your friends, neighbors, or the neighbor's dog.
2. Because your friend or neighbor has one.
3. So you can tame a wild beast.
4. Because the price was too good to pass up.
5. So you can attract attention by walking it around town on a leash.
6. Because the kittens look so cute.
7. So you can release it back into the wild when it grows up or you grow tired of it.
8. Because they are easy to take care of.
9. So you can release it in the forest and go "lion" hunting.
10. Because there is no better way to train your hunting dogs.

If any of these are the reason you want an exotic cat, some other animal may be a better for you.



# Will You Still Want It in Three Years?

## A Self-evaluation

1. Have you visited a home where exotic cats are privately owned?
2. Have you spoken at length with owners of exotic cats concerning the realities of ownership?
3. Are you prepared to give your cat their own portion of your home or property, respecting their occasional need for privacy?
4. Do you understand the basic psyche of exotic cats so you can safeguard against potential accidents to humans, the cat, and other animals?
5. Do you have, or are you prepared to obtain, the knowledge needed to adequately care for the cats physical, and psychological needs?
6. Are you financially able and willing to provide the necessary facilities, diet, and veterinary care for up to 18 years?
7. Are all other members of your household supportive your desire to own an exotic cat?
8. Are you aware of and willing to comply with all local, state, and federal laws which may apply to the ownership of the cat you wish to own?
9. Are you willing to accept total responsibility for any property damage or injury caused by your cat?
10. Are you willing to devote the time needed to adequately care for your cat?

If you answered yes to ALL of the previous questions, then you may be ready for ownership of an exotic cat.

## Responsible Ownership

Private ownership of an exotic cat is a privilege which carries with it an obligation to ensure that the health and safety of the animal, the animal's species, and the public is not significantly or unnecessarily threatened. Conformance to the following basic principles is fundamental to meeting these obligations: Compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Taking appropriate precautions to ensure the health and safety of the public is not jeopardized.

Ensuring, to the maximum extent practical, that the source of animals acquired does not threaten the viability of the species in the wild.

Providing adequate care and facilities for the animal's physical and psychological needs.

Concrete plans for continued care should you become unwilling or unable to provide it. (Don't assume a zoo will take your animal.)

The concepts mentioned above form the basis for the LIOC's Code of Conduct for private owners of wild felines. If you are either unwilling or unable to accept these responsibilities, then DON'T GET AN EXOTIC CAT!

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Noel Maxwell holding  
four-hour old baby tiger.  
July 8, 1999

# Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society

## Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 18, 1999

The April meeting was held at Rob Craig's Cougar Valley Farms near Monticello, Indiana, on Sunday, April 18. Rob owns and operates a wildlife rescue center which includes approximately 20 wildcats. A special thank you goes out to Rob for hosting the meeting and opening up his home for the pitch-in dinner and meeting. It was unexpectedly cool and rainy that day making it necessary to fit almost 50 people in his farm home. A big thanks from all of us, Rob!

Tonya and Mike Jones brought their serval and caracal, LeeAnn Montgomery had her serval, and Marvin Hierlmeier his serval, Hush, for all to pet and enjoy.

The weekend started off with dinner night at a steak house restaurant in Mooresville. We had 22 MEFES members attending and two LIOC member guests, Kelly Jean Buckley from Arizona and Debbie Walding from Oregon. Kelly Jean and Debbie took a mini-vacation and flew out to spend the weekend with the Turner's and attend the meeting. Sunday morning, the Johnson's from Zionsville, provided a great breakfast for 28 members before we caravanned up north to Rob Craig's facility. Thanks to the Johnsons for their hospitality.

Jim and Rita O'Brian, who are new members, opened up their home for four out-of-state members (Max, Marge, and Noel Maxwell and LeeAnn Montgomery) Saturday night.



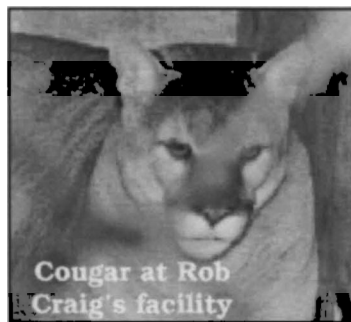
**LeeAnn  
Montgomery  
with her serval,  
Osiris**

Some members drove several hours to attend the meeting: JB and Reva Anderson from Missouri, Nikki and her guests from Wisconsin, Carol Siegley from Ohio, William Olson and Dawn Harden from Illinois, the Maxwells, the Jones, and LeeAnn Montgomery from Kentucky. The MEFES branch covers a seven-state area in the

Approximately 45 members and their guests attended the meeting. After we toured Rob's facility, we had a pot-luck dinner followed by the meeting. Some of the topics discussed are as follows:

- Gary Dutcher talked about advertisements in the newsletter.
- Bob Turner talked about problems we heard Ginger Becken on the West coast was having with somebody killing one of her cats with poison.
- Nikki Martin talked about how outsiders came to

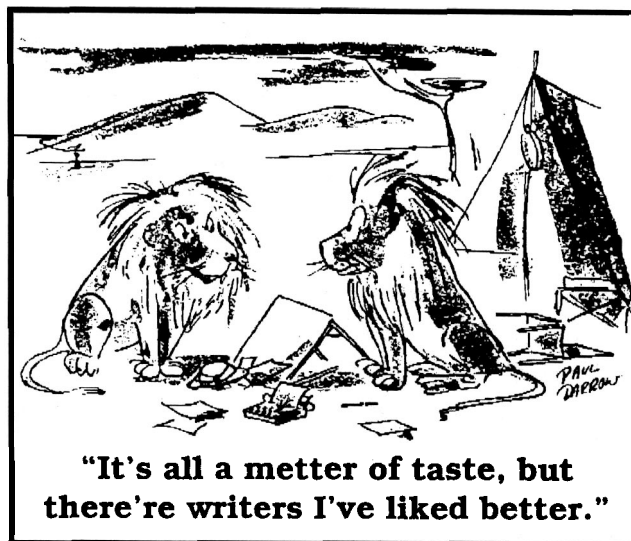
her facility and tried to kill her cats. It was a very emotional topic for Nikki to talk about. She made us all aware that



there can be people in our areas and all over the country that want to harm and kill our cats. Nikki said, we all need to look very carefully at the security of our cats. Examples given were to use a post office box address rather than your own street address on any correspondence and install security cameras.

- Rob Craig talked about his future plans for his facility.
- Tonya Jones gave a treasury report on money in the MEFES account.
- Marvin gave a talk on how Hush, his serval, accidentally swallowed a fish hook and that Hush passed the hook through his system without harm. We all were so happy that everything is OK with Hush. Many of the LIOC members have met Hush at the past two LIOC national conventions.
- Neveia Chappel discussed setting up a MEFES web site, yet protecting our privacy.
- Herald "Max" Maxwell gave a talk on how to safely enter a large cat cage.
- The membership voted to move the meeting from Sundays to Saturdays.
- The membership voted on having the family membership dues of \$15.00 per year. We voted to drop the single membership dues to \$10.00
- The membership voted to change the term of Officers from two years to one year. Bob said he thinks more members may run for an office if the term is for one year instead of two years.
- Kelly Jean talked about the up-coming LIOC national convention.
- Bob announced that the next meeting will be held at Me's Zoo, Inc. and that the date and time will be put in the next MEFES newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Copper, Editor, MEFES newsletter  
Bob Turner, President



### Answers to Feline IQ Questions: (from page 12)

1. 3,000BC in Egypt
2. lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars
3. 70% sleeping, 15% grooming
4. Less than 50
5. brought to America by colonists to protect their granaries and as pets.
6. 11-15 pounds of meat
7. estimated 65.8 million cats and 54.9 million dogs
8. through their tails—an upright tail means alertness and a low swinging tail means playfulness or nervousness.
9. lion
10. 290 bones and 517 muscles
11. 20 hours
12. cat 30mph, human 27.89 mph
13. cat
14. African and European wildcat
15. 12 feet

# What's Your Opinion?

## Declawing

This procedure has certainly generated controversy among cat lovers for years. I personally feel paws come with claws and should remain so, and yet there are many of you who feel declawing is necessary for your own reasons.

I realize all cats can be dangerous, they have large teeth, sharp claws, and pound for pound are extremely strong and agile. Safety is a major consideration when sharing your heart and home with them. However, I think we'd be hard pressed to find an LIOC member who doesn't have scars and bite wounds. If we wanted to be Revlon hand and arm models, we would have taken up that profession. Instead we love, care, and work for the preservation of these magnificent animals and that has its risks.

Does declawing benefit the cat in any way? I think if you asked for their vote, it most certainly would be a nay. Why do we have to change them to suit our needs?

I work at a veterinary clinic where fortunately the doctors also believe in not declawing. We do our best to work with the owners in their domestic cats to find solutions. We are not perfect and sometimes a frustrated owner will take their cat elsewhere for the procedure, but the number of cats spared is significant.

This is a story I would like to share with you from a book by Dr. Nicholas Dodman. It is called "The Cat Who Cried for Help." This is a story of Thomas, a male domestic alley cat who was rescued by a Mrs. Roper. His maleness was too much for her to handle so he was neutered, followed by declawing as he was

destroying her furniture. That excessive meowing was also causing problems and the neighbors were complaining. A hemicordectomy was performed (removal of one vocal cord) and no more meowing. Then his excessive running about at night was too disturbing, so he was put on buspirone. Finally his owner was happy but at his expense. If I were Thomas and had a choice, I would have stayed in the alley. He was captured, castrated, declawed, devoiced, and now drugged to make his activity level more acceptable to his owner. Is convenience that important to put a cat through that? If you cannot accept the behaviors and physical properties of cats, maybe another species is a better choice.

Cats spray, howl, roar, bite, claw, and express their anal glands, behaviors most of us find appalling, but tolerable. I'm sure our behaviors and smells are quite disgusting as well to them, but they tolerate us well. Why do we feel the need to change them?

There will always be exceptions to the rule where declawing is concerned and I don't have all the answers yet either. If the exceptions can be few and far between, the cats will be happier and we will have done what we set out to do, preserve, propagate, and live with compassion, understanding, and respect of a different species.

Lisa Padula and Paul Richardson  
Marlborough, MA

**What's your opinion on  
declawing?**

**Contact Marge Maxwell,  
Editor. (See page 2 for  
address, email, or fax.)**



# Mystery of "An Ocelot in Your Home"

Oregon member Karin Donoyan wrote:

"In the early 1970's, my youngest daughter, age 7 or 8, had asked me to get her a book about ocelots. I did an extensive search and felt extremely lucky to find the book "An Ocelot in Your Home" (T.F.H. Publications, 1968). by Catherine Cisin. Both my daughter and I treasured this book. We had no intention of owning an ocelot, since we lived in an apartment at the time, but the wealth of information combined with the marvelous photographs made us feel we were very close to the real thing."

Early in my acquaintance with Catherine I mentioned this book to her, asking her to autograph it if I brought it to Convention as she had "*Especially Ocelots*" (copyright date 1967). Her reply was curt - "That isn't my book." End of subject, and her tone implied I should not inquire further. This volume has never been reprinted. Other than the "about the author" segment, no pictures of Catherine are contained in the book. The acknowledgements do credit many New York zoos and persons including Dr. Theodore Reed, whom Catherine had a close relationship with in the early days of the Club.

However, the caption under the first photograph of an ocelot kitten reads: "Ocelots can make wonderful pets if you go about it correctly." I feel very strongly that Catherine would never have made this statement, especially by the late 60's when this book was published and about the time I first had contact with her. She acknowledged the special considerations and accommodations one had to make to share a home with an ocelot - not some-

thing conducive to a "good pet" in any context. Catherine did not encourage exotic ownership as she recognized the extent of these considerations and the special care these animals require.

So we'll probably never know the story behind "An Ocelot in Your Home," or why Catherine's name appears on it. Perhaps there's someone out there that knows, as Paul Harvey says "the rest of the story."

## **LIOC Caging and Handling Guidelines**

34 pages of practical tips and guidelines for proper caging and handling of exotic cats.

Includes diagrams on construction of proper equipment for any size feline, including squeeze cages, collars, leashes and much, much more.

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

LIOC  
3730 Belle Isle Lane  
Mobile, AL 36619

# SOUNDS TIGERS MAKE

## **PURRING**

Though the great cats are supposed to be unable to purr, some researchers have heard mothers make purring-like sound to their young.

## **PRUSTEN (AKA CHUFFING)**

A German word that describes the gentle pugging sound tigers make by rapidly expelling air through their nostrils. It indicates friendly feelings, used among mothers and cubs, mated pairs, and by sometimes captive tigers to their keepers.

## **POOKING**

Described as a loud, clear "pok," this puzzling noise resembles the alarm call of the sambar deer, the tiger's chief prey. Some think it's an alarm call or an advertisement of the tiger's presence.

## **GRUNTING**

Soft or rasping grunts often used by mothers to communicate with their cubs.

## **MIAOWING**

This is the distress call of cubs; courting tigers may also miaow to each other.

## **WOOFING**

A startled tiger emits a "woof," as when one cub slapped another at a kill.

## **MOANING AND ROARING**

Variations in intensity of the same basic vocalization, a two-toned sound like *a-a-u-u-u* or *a-o-o-o-nh*, produced by forcing air through the open mouth while closing the jaws.

## **GROWLING, SNARLING, AND HISSING**

These are expressions of annoyance, made when tigers are threatening each other or reacting to humans. These sounds often occur in sequence and blend into each other.

## **COUGHING ROAR**

A short, loud, explosive roar apparently indicates anger.