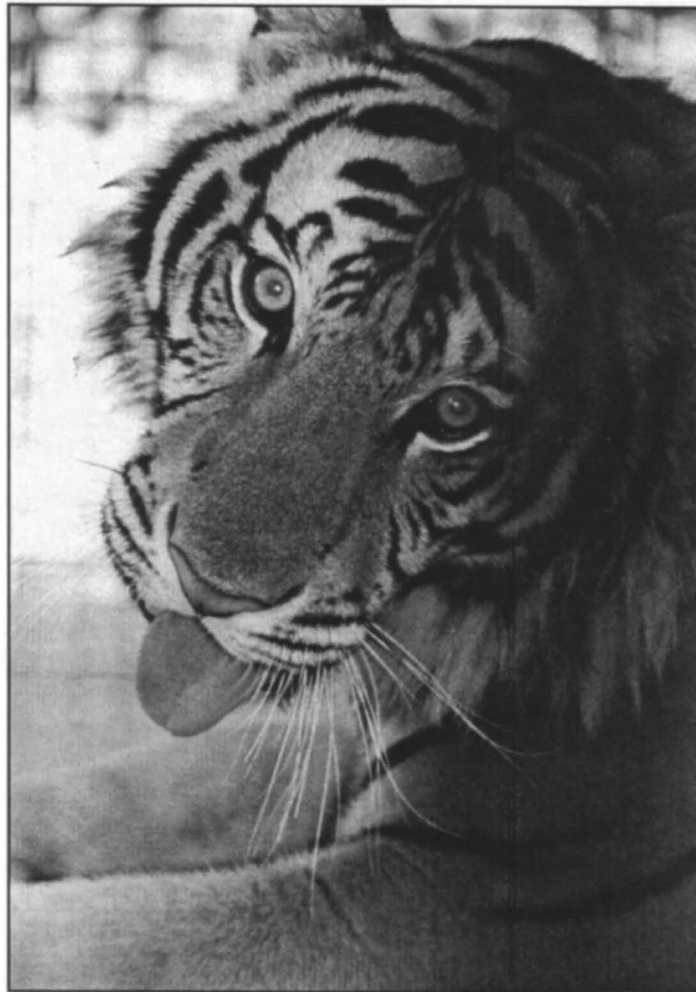


Volume 43, Issue 6

November/December 1999

**ENDANGERED SPECIES
CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.**



Sophia at Pride and Pack (page 4)



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 first 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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I THIS ISSUE

Pride and Pack	4
President's Perspective.....	7
Raising the Bar	8
Florida Wildlife Safari	12
Book Review	15
DeWilde Cheetah Centre.....	16
Letter from MEFES President.....	20
PNE Branch Minutes	22
New Products	23

A Special Thank You to

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Alan Shoemaker
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Jann Tonyan
Bob Turner
Shirley Wagner
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

PS: Max, Noel, and I have recently moved. (Note new address and phone on page 2.) Our computer hard drive crashed during the move and all data was lost. If you sent an article or branch minutes before Thanksgiving, it was lost. I apologize for any inconvenience. Please resubmit any lost material and it can still be published.

**LIOC
Caging and
Handling
Guidelines**

This booklet includes 34 pages of practical tips and guidelines for proper caging and handling of exotic cats. It also 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

Pride and Pack

Lions, tigers, cougars, wolf-dogs, huskies, sheep, goats, geese, and ducks. OH MY! This menagerie that they call their "Pride and Pack" family occupies the "spare time" of Gary and Carol Holliman. Gary Holliman, who joined Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation in 1988 as senior claims attorney in Dallas, currently is assistant vice-president and associate claims counsel for the Dallas claims center.

In 1998, Pride and Pack became a Texas nonprofit corporation and a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt publicly supported organization. Over the past year Pride and Pack has taken in two abandoned cougars, a tiger whose owner was leaving the state and was unable to take him with her; and a lioness in need of a home following an attack on her owner. These animals are cared for at facilities constructed on a nine-acre tract



Gary Holliman and Sophia share a tender moment.

of land in Kaufman County leased to Pride and Pack which operates it as a sanctuary. The sanctuary is a safe haven for exotic and endangered felines and canines. It accepts responsibility for the animals and provides them with shelter; appropriate, loving attention; secure enclosures; species-appropriate nutrition; life-enrichment facilities; veterinary care;

and a generally stress-free home where the animals can live their lives with pride and dignity. While the sanctuary facilities are not open to the public, visits can be arranged by appointment.

The Hollimans started as animal caretakers in 1985 when they bought their first Siberian husky puppy. Since the puppy was very active they

Sophia playing in the water with her ball.



decided to buy another as a playmate. Then in 1991 they became caretakers for a 97 percent Canadian timber wolf who shared their former home in the city. As the family expanded, more space was needed and the Hollimans moved to their present nine-acre home east of Dallas. With room to spare, they opened their arms to Kina and Konee, Canadian timber wolves; cougars, Apache, Lakota, Freddie, Cayman and Daisy Mae; two tigresses, Sophia and Shalee; Sinbad the tiger and Gabriel the lion — and the list goes on.

Since that first puppy, the Hollimans have been committed and dedicated to caring for their growing family. Carol Holliman works with the canines while Gary cares for the felines. They start their days at 5:00 a.m., cleaning and washing the pens as needed for the day. The animals are fed each evening. Once a feeding is over, the food pans must be collected. Some of the cats, not used to eating from pans, play with them when the food is gone, leaving the pans resembling “tacos” if they are left in the pens.

Each animal gets personal love and attention—Some demand neck hugs and vigorous scratching while others prefer scratching through the fence. Holliman notes that “Cayman (the cougar) loves his head butts and petting nine times out of ten, but on the tenth try,” he says, “you better be careful because he wants to jump ya!”

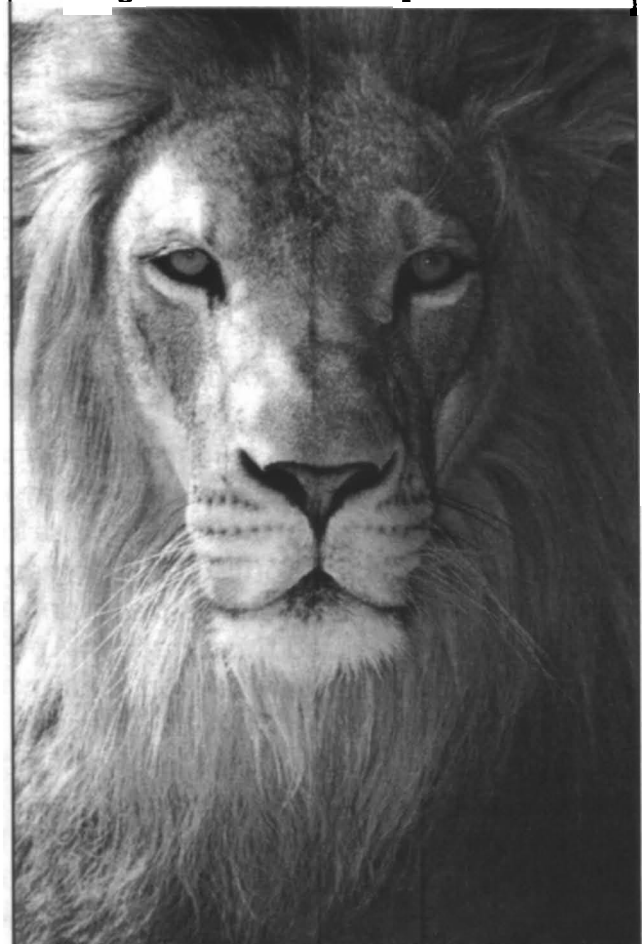
The canines are released to their large play area as a pack where they create all kinds of mayhem. The felines also are released into a “play pen” where they are free to swim, climb boulders, play with various toys or relax in the grass beneath the trees. At times it is difficult to get the cats to return to their pens, but bribes with large cat treats usually lure them inside.

While some members of the Holliman

family are more domesticated than others, all of them are naturally wild. This means that extreme care must be taken in caring for the exotic creatures.

Kina, the Alpha female of the wolf dog pack, rules the pack. She is aggressive around non-pack member animals but extremely timid and shy around strangers. She is normally an excellent mother. When Cheyenne, one of her earlier pups, was adopted, the new owner decided that a wolf cub was harder to manage than anticipated; she returned Cheyenne after only six months. Upon her return, Kina attacked Cheyenne on several occasions, twice sending her to the hospital and ultimately, in a “fence fight,” completely severing Cheyenne’s tongue. The veterinarian gave Cheyenne

A regal Gabriel in a tranquil moment.



little hope for survival since the dog was unable to drink water or salivate to chew her food. The Hollimans built a special "water fountain" for Cheyenne, who now resembles a goose swallowing water; she manages, however, and with Carol feeding her by hand twice a day she is regarded as a survivor fondly renamed the "Tongueless Wonder." Defying all veterinarians' predictions as to her survival and well being, Cheyenne gave birth to a litter of five puppies. What's more, her puppies don't know that dogs generally do not drink from water fountains!

The Hollimans' first cougar, Cayman, was raised from infancy. Unlike some owners, they conducted research on how to raise an exotic animal and what they could expect in the way of expenses. According to the Hollimans, the Internet has been a huge source of information on caring for their animals as well as for locating those in need of being rescued.

Two of their cougars, advertised on the Internet, were abandoned by the owner and left in a vine-covered, 10-foot-by-10-foot cage that had not been opened for months. Underweight and very skittish, the cougars found a new home with the Hollimans. After several weeks on a new diet and with daily interaction the cougars have responded well to heavy doses of TLC.

The latest addition to the Pride and Pack family is Mia the lioness who was "donated" after an attack on her prior owner last winter. Although the Hollimans were unaware of it, Mia was pregnant at the time and delivered three cubs in April.

The Hollimans have suffered their own minor bites and nips from the members of their family but neither Carol or Gary questions whether the pain and heartache from occasional loss are worth it. Both agree their family is a source of indescribable and immeasurable love and

joy, which according to them "makes our dedication of time, energy and money a most rewarding 'labor of love'."

For additional information, access the organization's website at <http://www.pridenpack.org>.

Writing Your Will?



**Remember the Ken Hatfield
Memorial Scholarship Fund!**



Classified

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

Ad rates for submitted photo ready ads:

1 column inch	\$10.00
1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00
Back page	\$125.00

Visit Our Website!

<http://www.lioc.org>

Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Vice President. Email: gstowers@twcny.rr.com. Please send computer readable text files. (Email is great, will accept ASCII text files on disk. See page 2 for address.)

LIOC President's Perspective

For my final thoughts as this year ends, I am very proud of the accomplishments LIOC has made in the past few years.

First, and most important I feel, is the establishing of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ken was very pleased when we told him the board had approved this fund. We wish he had lived long enough to see the fulfillment. It is now a legal corporation receiving donations from you and applications from hopeful veterinary students.

Also, important progress was made at the last board meeting by approving the purchase of micro chips which will be available from LIOC for you to purchase and insert in your own felines, or dog if you so wish. I hope you will take advantage of this service.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Wild Feline Husbandry Course. This was the brain-child of VP George Stowers. Most

of the board had reservations when George first proposed it. Who would teach it? Would people pay for it? Who was going to pay for the materials? George got the board's approval on a "we'll see" basis. Well, those of you who attended know what a success it was and the board voted to continue the course.

The increase in participation at the past few conventions is extremely gratifying. The foremost function of the convention is to allow you to discuss with the board of directors your concerns in the governing of LIOC. Let the board know what actions you want us to take on various issues and get acquainted with other exotic cat owners. Come to the convention. It is generally the second week in August and makes a great vacation. The old quote "Hang together or we'll all hang separately" is as true now as well as when first spoken. I hope to see YOU there.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE
LIOC-ESCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



Barbara Wilton,
President, LIOC-Endangered Species
Conservation Federation, Inc.

Year 2000
LIOC Convention
Raleigh, NC
August 10-13, 2000
Husbandry Course, August 9
Watch for details in following issues!

Raising the Bar: The Evolutions of Felid Management in Zoos

Alan H. Shoemaker
International Leopard Studbook Keeper
Deputy Chair, IUCN Cat Specialist Group
Riverbanks Zoological Park, PO Box 1060, Columbia, SC 29202

(Ed. note: The following was presented at the 1999 LIOC Convention and will be reprinted in several parts in following Newsletters. It is important for the private individual to understand the various parts of the Zoo community and how they developed their programs and plans for managing zoo populations of animals.

We must further understand that the zoo's challenges are much different than ours. They are faced with responsibly managing multitudes of species. Just think, in elephants there are only two main species and perhaps a few more subspecies, whereas with the felines, there are 38 species and hundreds of subspecies - but zoos must allocate their resources to encompass the entire animal kingdom - quite a challenge.

Further complicating the challenge they face is the fact that some zoos are municipally owned, others are zoological societies, and still others are non-profit private or publicly held entities. They are, in fact, as diverse as LIOC's membership!

It is important to remember that due to those considerations, the AZA is not quite the unified body we might think. Their programs and recommendations are not written in stone any more than LIOC's are. However, both organizations strive to work to further conservation of the animals to the extent practical within their frameworks.

The most important consideration I've noted is that whereas AZA members are professional - meaning this is their livelihood as opposed to their avocation - and in most cases I believe it is both. Private individuals do it only for love of the animals not being fortunate enough to have an institution pay for the care of the animals, or their expenses to conferences and workshops.

Understanding our differences and similarities, let's remember that our common goal is, after all, the survival of the animals in our care)

Since the 1970's, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) has developed a growing number of conservation programs. This has been necessary in order to meet both its member organizations' needs and to react to ever-changing legal and environmental issues. Because aspects of these programs are confusing to both members and nonmembers, the following may be helpful in understanding the AZA's conservation programs and where they are going.

AZA And Related Conservation Organizations

AZA: The AZA itself is the primary membership services organization to which nearly every professionally operated zoological park, aquarium, wildlife park and oceanarium in North America belongs. Most of these facilities' professional employees are also individual members of the Association. Formed in 1924 as the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA)

and as an affiliate of the American Institute of Park Executives, its early goal was to provide a professional forum for information exchange among zoo and aquarium professionals. In 1966, the AAZPA became a professional branch affiliate of the newly formed National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), leaving the American Institute of Park Executives after 42 years of association. With the overwhelming support of its members, the AAZPA separated from the National Recreational and Park Administration in 1971 and formally opened its own offices in Wheeling, WV. Incorporation followed in January, 1972.

In 1981, the AAZPA Board of Directors declared that conservation was the Association's highest priority after the first Species Survival Plans (SSP) were initiated a year earlier. In 1981, the AAZPA Conservation Office was also created and opened at the Minnesota Zoological Park in Apple Valley (Minneapolis), MN. In 1990, the functions of that office were moved to the AAZPA Conservation Center in Bethesda, MD; the Wheeling Office became the Office of Membership Services. In January, 1994, the Association's nickname was changed to American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), a move designed to enhance its visibility to those within the zoological park profession as well as to the public. In 1999, the Washington, D.C. office in Bethesda, MD moved to its present location in Silver Springs, MD. The Wheeling office was closed at that time and the entire AZA operation now operates from a single location.

As a membership service organization, the AZA has over 180 member institutions, zoos, and aquariums -that are open to the public. In addition, the AZA represents over 200 commercial members as well as many zoological societies, animal suppliers and

other related organizations in this country and abroad that have close ties to our institutional members. The individual members in the categories of Professional Fellow, Affiliate and Associate Member number over 3,500.

ISIS: The International Species Information System (ISIS) is an international, non-profit membership organization that serves nearly 500 zoological institutions, private collections, and other forms of animal management categories in 54 countries worldwide. ISIS supports conservation and preservation of species by helping member facilities manage their living collections. ISIS provides personal computer software for record keeping and scientific, conservation-oriented collection management and then pools this information across its entire network. The institutional, computerized record-keeping software program that ISIS distributes to subscribers is known as Animal Record Keeping System (ARKS). This program has metamorphosed through several versions and is on the verge of leaving a DOS-driven format for a Windows-driven one. ISIS, through its ARKS program provides information on 250,000 living specimens of 6,000 species, along with information on over 750,000 of their ancestors or other specimens that are no longer living. Most of these specimens were born in member facilities. This is an unprecedented level of global cooperation by mostly city-based facilities and presently includes about half of the world's "recognized" zoos and aquariums as well as a rapidly growing number of private collections. ISIS also developed Single Population Animal Record Keeping System (SPARKS) for computer-driven studbook keeping programs and has also largely replaced the unsupported ZRBOOK studbook-

keeping program of Europe. Internationally, it is now the basis for all computerized studbooks.

AAZV: An organization closely related to the AZA, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) is the primary organization to which veterinarians working in zoos and aquariums belong. An advocate for the profession, the mission of the AAZV is to improve the health care and promote conservation of captive and free-ranging wildlife.

CAZPA: In addition to the AZA, a second North American zoo organization, the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (CAZPA), acts as the umbrella organization for Canadian zoos and aquariums regardless of their status within AZA. CAZPA has an accreditation program similar to that of the AZA. While the majority of Canadian zoos and wildlife parks are not members of AZA, most of the major Canadian zoos and aquariums (Toronto, Calgary, Granby, and Vancouver Aquarium) are also members of AZA, and directors of three of those institutions have held the office of President of AZA.

WZO: Beyond the scope of North America, the World Zoo Organization (WZO), formerly known as the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens and Aquariums (ILTDZG), is the umbrella organization for *ex situ* conservation activities by zoos and aquariums throughout the world, and particularly those originating in regions outside North America. The WZO serves as one of the two reviewing bodies for international studbooks.

EAZA: The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) is the largest regional

zoo and aquarium organization in Europe and its membership includes essentially all major zoological parks and aquariums in Europe and Russia. The EEP (European Endangered Species Program) is the European equivalent of the AZA's SSP program.

ARAZPA: The Australian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (ARAZPA) serves as the regional zoo and aquarium organization for zoos of Australia, New Zealand and Papua, New Guinea. Regional collection planning software for zoos, now distributed internationally by ISIS, was developed by ARAZPA as a tool for building and documenting institutional and regional collection plans.

PANZAB: The Pan African Association of Directors of Zoological Gardens, Aquariums and Botanical Gardens (PANZAB) is the regional zoo organization for zoos of Africa. While many African countries have zoos, most PANZAB activities are led by zoos in South Africa. PANZAB headquarters are located at the Pretoria Zoo.

In addition to the above regional zoo organizations, additional ones may be found in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Latin America (Caribbean zoos), Central America, Mexico, Denmark, Southeast Asia, China, India, Great Britain, Holland, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan.

IUCN: Two international conservation organizations are commonly linked to zoos, particularly as they relate to felids. IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, also known as the World Conservation Union, is the world's largest conservation organization. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist

societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN possesses over 900 governmental and nongovernmental members in 138 countries; contributes to drafting major global conventions on biological diversity, wetlands, world heritage sites, and trade in endangered species of flora and fauna; serves as a global network or networks, including over 8,000 scientists and field practitioners from government and nongovernmental organizations working voluntarily; and has over 42 offices worldwide which employ over 900 permanent staff with an annual (1997) budget of over \$50 million dollars that work with and through its members and strategic partners, all grassroots, governmental, intergovernmental, academic, research and corporate.

SSC: IUCN's most well-known subgroup is the Species Survival Commission (SSC), an umbrella group of over 100 specialist groups that strive to protect major groups of vertebrates, invertebrates and plants. The IUCN Cat Specialist Group is one such group. The Chair is Peter Jackson and it is headquartered in Bougy, Switzerland. Its comprehensive web site may be reached at <http://lynx.uio.no/lynx/catfolk/>

A second well-known subgroup of IUCN is the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). Its mission is to assist the conservation of threatened animal and plant species through scientific management of small populations in wild habitats, with linkage to captive populations where needed. Its offices are housed at the Minnesota Zoological Garden in Apple Valley (Minneapolis), MN where the headquarters of ISIS are also located.

Formed in 1979, CBSG is chaired by Dr. Ulysses S. Seal. While only operating with a staff of six, its volunteer network of over 700 people in 50 countries has helped establish a global network of animals and wildlife managers, conservation biologists and academics.

Cat Litter Cake Recipe (for humans)

Cake Ingredients

- 1 box spice or German Chocolate cake mix
- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 package white sandwich cookies
- 1 large package vanilla instant pudding mix
- A few drops green food coloring
- 12 small Tootsie Rolls or equivalent

Serving "Dishes and Utensils"

- 1 NEW (never used) cat-litter box
- 1 NEW cat-litter box liner
- 1 NEW pooper-scooper

√ Prepare and bake cake mixes according to directions in any size pan. Prepare pudding and chill.

√ Crumble cookies in small batches in blender. Add a few drops of green food coloring to 1 cup of cookie crumbs. Mix with a fork or shake in a jar. Set aside.

√ When cakes are at room temperature, crumble them into a large bowl. Toss with half of the remaining cookie crumbs and enough pudding to make the mixture moist but not soggy. Place liner in litter box and pour in mixture.

√ Unwrap 3 Tootsie Rolls and heat in a microwave until soft and pliable. Shape the blunt ends into slightly curved points. Repeat with three more rolls. Bury the rolls decoratively in the cake mixture. Sprinkle remaining white cookie crumbs over the mixture, then scatter green crumbs lightly over the top.

√ Heat 5 more Tootsie Rolls until almost melted. Scrape them on top of the cake and sprinkle with crumbs from the litter box. Heat the remaining Tootsie Roll until pliable and hang it over the edge of the box.

√ Place box on a sheet of newspaper and serve with scooper. Enjoy!

(Contributed by Jann Tonyan)

Florida Wildlife Safari

by BeeJay Lester

Who needs to go all the way to Africa, South America or Asia to go on an exotic cat safari when there are so many places to visit in Florida? And this lover of spots and stripes did just that recently on a three-day trip. Joining me on this adventure was Paige Schaffer, fellow cat lover and former zookeeper.

Our first visit was to LIOC member Gail Bowen's Imperial Farms where she has white and normal tigers in Citra, FL. Her facility is incredible with very clean and sturdy cages. The tigers (and two cougars) are gorgeous. The wooded 20 acres are surrounded by an 8-foot perimeter fence and locked gate.

One of her tigers, Elka, was due to have her cubs recently. The keepers had already put blankets and bedding down for the cat and enclosed the area with tarps. A heater was set up nearby to dissipate the chilly night air. Gail went on a 30 hour watch and on Nov. 15, Elka had 4 cubs. Sadly one of the cubs died of

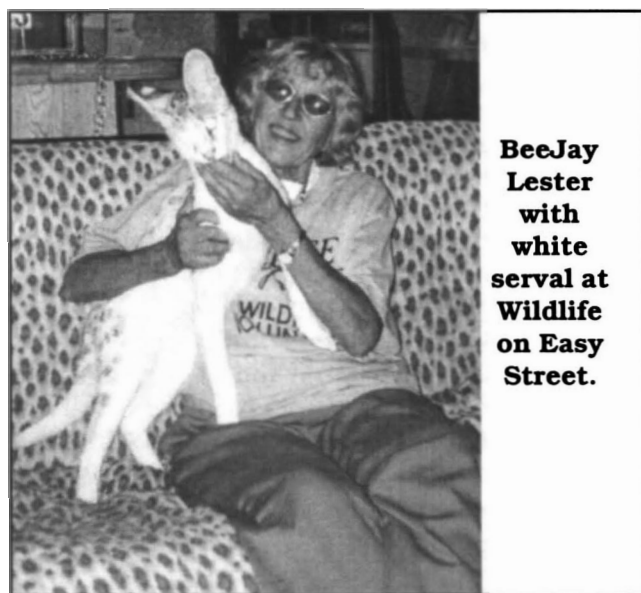
hypothermia despite the vet's efforts. Gail was instructed by the vet to pull the surviving cubs and bottle raise them. This was Elka's second litter but she had a troubled delivery and was very tired.

Gail's assistants live on the grounds near the cages; and Alan, one of her assistants, has already earned his Class 1 Florida permit. Gail received much of her training and experience at Robert Baudy's Rare Feline Breeding Center. Citra is just north of Ocala, so we headed south to visit Mr. Baudy in Center Hill.

Arrangements had been made with Baudy (for whom I used to work) to see his white tigers. He had quite a few young ones plus he still has his original '91 white male, Boris. He still has snow leopards, Chinese and Amurtan leopards. The only "lesser" cats now at his place are bobcats. Two emus (flightless birds) were roaming the grounds and kept following us around looking for something to swipe. It even tried to get a cigarette lighter someone had left on a table! The emus are so funny with their "booming" sounds.

Baudy's cats looked great and were housed in upgraded facilities. Sadly, some of the huge old oak trees had bitten the dust. His 40-acre farm is nothing like it was when Baudy had it open to the public many years ago. At that time he had 17 species of felines on exhibit, plus a nursery where the babies were raised, a gift shop in an Arabic tent, and an enormous cypress tree trunk which was the ticket house. Those were the days! When an LIOC national convention was held in Orlando many moons ago, a trip to Baudy's was the highlight of the activities. Wonder how many LIOCers today remember that?

Heading down #301 south towards

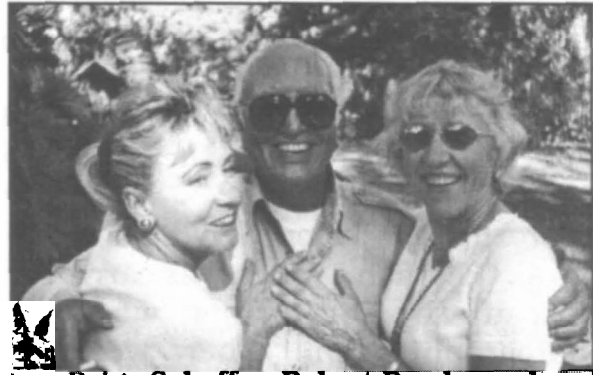


BeeJay Lester with white serval at Wildlife on Easy Street.

Tampa, our next stop was to visit Delores Newman in Seffner. Delores was very active in LIOC when I first met her at a South Florida meeting. She relocated over the years and now has her animals east of Tampa. What a fascinating place Delores has there with not only her exotic cats but miniature Australian shepherds. Her Siberian lynx, Freddie, an adult male, was magnificent. He was being exercised around the compound on a leash. He was a very easy going cat but he didn't like the stray domestic cat that had sneaked under the fence. To hold him and to touch that soft fur was a delight. Delores was so generous to take time from her day to show us around, even letting Paige and me to take photos of her beautiful cats.

Delores also has servals (one is whitefooted), caracals, and leopards She also was housing two male lion cubs, a Siberian lynx, and a young puma (which was allowed to romp and play with the small dogs). Delores is still going strong and is dedicated to her cats. Back in the early 70s, Delores had a chimp and a cheetah. I'll never forget interacting with those wonderful animals. I brought along a photo I had taken of that chimp years ago. It was fun as Delores and I reminisced about those days when our Florida chapter of LIOC was in full swing with Ken Hatfield at the helm.

Next on the safari agenda was a prearranged visit with friends of Delores in Brandon. I had met this couple at a circus in Jacksonville, FL years ago and have kept in touch with them. Lilli Ana and Svend Kristensen are from Denmark and were trapeze artists at one time. When no longer agile enough for such, they began training and showing leopards. They still do their act for fairs and educational programs but no longer hit the circus route. They have black and spotted leopards, one of which weighs almost 200 pounds.



**Paige Schaffer, Robert Baudy, and
BeeJay Lester at the Rare Feline
Breeding Center, Center Hill, FL**

Their home is unbelievable with "spots and stripes" everywhere! They still have the 18-wheeler semi that was used to haul their leopards when I first knew them. The Kristensens were so very gracious on our visit, showing us the back area of their leopard facility. It was so clean that we could have had dinner off the floor.

Heading across the metropolis of Tampa was an ordeal. It was 25 miles to our next destination: Wildlife on Easy Street, a 40-acre sanctuary in the middle of a concrete jungle called Citrus Park in northwest Tampa. Bumping down a tiny, one lane rocky road, we finally reached a locked gate.

The five long distance phone calls to reserve a cabin for Bed & Breakfast had not been returned prior to my trip, so we took a chance and just showed up midafternoon. Owner Carole Lewis was kind enough to take a few minutes from her busy real estate schedule to give Paige and me a quick tour. There was a spare cabin (trailer) available so we signed up for a night there. Volunteer tee shirts were given to us which we had to wear. That became the "guest pass" so we were allowed to walk around and look at all the cats without a guide.

Due to the recent time change, the "feeding frenzy" was scheduled for about 5 p.m. As the keepers fed the cats and let some of the guests assist, I took photos.

As for feeding exotic cats, "I've been there, done that!" Even though it's always fun, it was not included in our B&B cost.

This wildlife sanctuary is home to 146 exotic cats (according to their web site). Especially interesting was their young (approximately 6 months old) male, white serval, "Pharaoh," which was carried into one of the buildings where we photographed him. There were lynx, ocelots, cougars, bobcats, hybrid lynx-bobcats, black leopard, jungle cats, lemurs, binturongs.

Sadly, their last female margay died this past summer and their male had died before the female. The pair had come from Baudy's where my last pair of margays (Princess and Yucatan) were on breeding loan quite a few years back. Baudy had sold this pair, but I did not know where they ended up. Photos of the Easy Street female margay, Kahlua, looks exactly like a photo of my female Princess. According to Easy Street website, their female margay never mated with their male.

The cats at Easy Street all looked fat and sassy, but I was particularly interested in the caging. The heavy mesh cages enclosed large areas of woods, scrub palmettos and trees, with waterproof dens that blended into the natural surroundings. The snow leopard facility even had an air-conditioned room that was camouflaged to look like rocks.

Our cabin was on the waterfront where swans, ducks, egrets and wild birds gathered in the pond. It was a cozy and comfortable spot in our lodgings, complete

with animal print linens, a TV set, and hot water shower. Furnished also was a continental breakfast. Guests have to bring in their own food for the evening meal. Some of the other visitors at Wildlife on Easy Street for the overnight stay were from Seattle, WA and Sanibel Island, FL.

As the sun set, it was a peaceful and lovely sight. Paige and I thought we were on a safari to another continent until we heard all the airplanes buzzing overhead. I guess the Tampa airport was nearby,

but when the Barbary lion began to roar, we knew we were in the heart of this wildlife sanctuary. The big-maned guy was very upset because his lioness was in estrus and he couldn't get to her.

Returning northward back to my little zoo in Neptune Beach, we again stopped by the Imperial Tigers to check on my adult male serval, Sukari, that Gail Bowen had agreed to house for me for a short while. He was still spitting and hissing at me but at least his appetite was good and he was eating his ZuPreem. (Note: Sukari is now back home with me, doing just fine,



Gail Bowen with tiger cub

and only hisses as I bring in his food). He was well taken care of at Gail's and enjoyed visiting the Imperial Tigers but he prefers to live adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean and smell the salt air.

If any of you LIOCers want to go on a Florida Exotic Cat Safari, there are many Florida wild animal compounds. However, not all are open to the public. I was indeed fortunate to have so many friends throughout Florida who let me visit their facilities, gaze on their fine furry friends and renew old acquaintances as well.

Book Review:

Resources for Crisis Management in Zoos and Other Animal Care Facilities

AAZK's newest publication, Resources for Crisis Management in Zoos and Other Animal Care Facilities, is now available. Edited by Chan, Baker & Guerrero this reference work is an anthology of articles by 56 authors, from zoo keepers and veterinarians to zoo directors and public relations specialists.

The 424-page volume brings together information and resources for planning a crisis management program or for augmenting an existing program.

The book's chapters are arranged by the following subject topics:

Factors That Influence Crisis Management in a Zoological Setting,
Developing An Emergency Preparedness Plan,
Emergency Response and Crisis Management Teams,
Public Relations and the Crisis Situation,
Animal Restraint and Animal Identification Techniques
Dealing with A Crisis Situation
(Zoological Crisis, Natural Disasters, and Manmade Disasters),
Injury and Death at the Zoo, and
Taxon-Specific Crisis Management Protocols.

It also includes an extensive appendix and a listing of suppliers and equipment vendors.

Other materials covered include:

Zoonotic Disease: Risk Appreciation and Biosafety,
Meteorological Aspects of Disaster Planning,
The Weapons Response to a Zoological Crisis Situation, and
The Process of Exhibit Design and Construction: How It Affects Crisis
Management.

The book includes the results of a North American Crisis Management Survey as well as case studies showing how zoos reacted in various crisis situations and what was learned from their experiences.

The cost is \$45.00 for AAZK members and \$60.00 for nonmembers with an additional \$10 postage for orders outside the continental United States. Call Susan Chan at 1-800-242-4519, or send in your order to:

AAZK Inc.,
3601 S.W. 29th Street,
Suite 133,
Topeka, KS 66614.

Journal of Visit to De Wildt Cheetah Centre, S. Africa September 28, 1998

Continued by Dawn Simas,
Director, Wild About Cats

Early rise this morning for a wonderful breakfast provided by Bob and Gay. Then Alan (Alan Strachan, curator of De Wildt) came to fetch us in the bakkie (truck) and trailer from De Wildt. We loaded all of our luggage into the trailer and rode in the truck, all part of the adventure! We could have hired a kombi, but I wanted to take the money we'd have spent on hiring a transport and give it to De Wildt instead. This also goes for our accommodations tonight. Instead of paying for another hotel or guest house, we were all going to stay at Alan's house (on site) and give that money to De Wildt. However, his daughter just got married last weekend and he has relatives from out of town staying there, so we stayed at friend's nearby. Fran and William Clark and Eurika and Pieter van Heerden. Frannie and Eurika both know my friend Jenni (Dr. Jenni Spencer, Auburn University) from Medunsa and were happy to put us up since it benefitted De Wildt.

Upon arrival at De Wildt, they had coffee and tea prepared in the new Visitor's Center. It was under construction last year when I was here and was finished a few months ago. The old visitor area is now a large gift shop and it all looks fantastic. Two sides of the Visitor Center are glass and look out into a large cheetah "camp" (enclosure). Annie was in there, as she was last year when I visited and she was 8 months old. She's a lovely cheetah and she and I bonded last year playing her favorite sport, soccer. I named

her after Ann (Ann Van Dyk, Founder of De Wildt), although I don't think they still call her that. Her mother is Gillian and her father is Spooky, a king cheetah.

We brought along \$1500 U.S. Dollars to donate. Part of that is money we raised for them through merchandise sales of their t-shirts, books, and posters. Part is what we paid them as a group in exchange for not having to hire a kombi for transportation, nor a hotel for tonight. The rest is donation from WAC. \$1500 USD = 9000 SAR (S. African Rand) right now, so this pleased them.

Dr. Richard Burroughs was there when we arrived. I met him two years ago and went with him to dehorn a rhino for a farmer that owned several. These farmers are finding it more lucrative to raise rhino, harvest the horn periodically, microchipping it, and stockpiling them; and lobbying to legalize the sale of rhino horn so that they can liquidate it. Anyway, Richard was preparing to change the dressing on a cheetah with a broken leg.



It was a wild cat from Namibia that someone noticed was injured. It was a terrible break and had to be set with a splint and pins several weeks ago (pictured below). We all got to spectate as he worked. He tranquilized him in a crush cage with a pole syringe and redressed the leg. One interesting thing was that the hairs on the bottom of his foot were shaggy like a woolly mammoth. Since he's got a cast and is not wearing the fur down, in just a few weeks it had grown about 3 inches long. It was incredible looking and it covered the pads. Richard trimmed the hair and also the claws, since they, too, were growing long. It is healing nicely but he will not be able to be returned to the wild. He will never be 100% nor strong enough to hunt successfully, so he will join De Wildt's breeding program.

Alan then gave us a tour in their new safari vehicle. We had two tours, each a couple of hours, that covered the entire property and most of the camps (large enclosures). I was happy to see that "Robert Redford", the brown hyena, is still alive. He's getting quite old now. Robert was used in a documentary film, hence the name. However, the ironic thing is that when he vocalizes he has learned to say his name—after it was given to him. Alan takes tours past Robert's camp and when he greets us, he always succeeds in enunciating his name "Robert" perfectly. It makes the hair stand up on the back of your head. This hyena says it so clearly. Alan says that one of these days he half expects Robert to say a full sentence like

"Robert wants better food!"

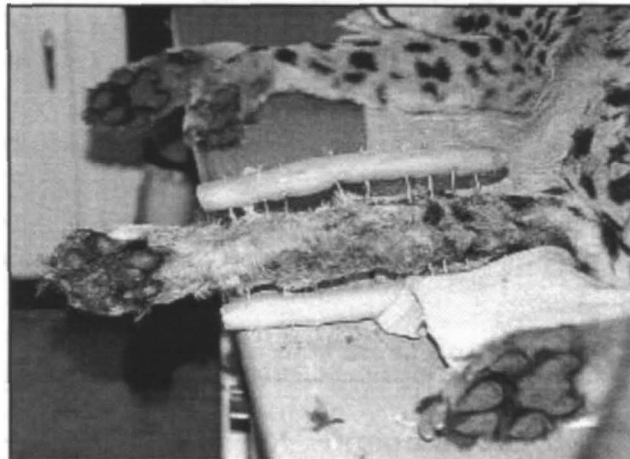
Along the tour, we also got to spend time with Gillian, little Annie Cheetah's mother, their sweet ambassador cat. (pictured with Linda and Laura) She is currently pregnant again and this will be her last litter as she is getting a bit old. Everyone had their photo and video taken

with her. We petted her and even felt her swollen belly for kittens. She purred the whole time and is such a treat. They are hoping that Annie will be as nice as her so that they can continue to have one nice cat for this purpose.

Between the two tours, we had a nice lunch and

visited. We also got to spend some time with Annie, and some other cubs they currently have: four that were four months old and five that were only two months. The interesting thing about the group of five is that one had no mantle of long fur on its back like the others. We discovered that this was because he was hand raised and the others weren't. Apparently the mantle falls out when taken from the mother. They theorize that the mother's saliva has something in it to retain the mantle fur. I would think it could be something within the mother's milk. Anyway, this little fellow was very funny looking without it, rather like a pencil necked geek, compared to the other bushy cheetah babies.

At the end of the day, we all went to Fran and Eurika's for the night. Fran has a beautiful home that her father built overlooking the lake at Hartebeestpoort. She had a great dinner planned outside



Surgery on wild cheetah's broken leg

in the yard with a great view. Tablecloths and settings, something out of Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous. However, the usual lightning and thunder showers moved in and we had to pack it all into the living room under cover. Still an excellent meal with wonderful friends and another lovely day.



Linda and Laura with cheetah mother

September 29, 1998 - Durban and Nselweni Bush Camp, Natal Parks, S. Africa Another early rise as always in Africa. Up at 5:00am, another splendid meal provided and off to the Johannesburg airport for our flight to Durban. I called Dr. Hym Ebedes (Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute), hoping to meet up with him, but not sure how. He recommended that when we fly back from the Natal Parks we leave from the small Richards Bay airport instead of spending half a day driving back to Durban. That way we'll have another half day in Johannesburg to visit with him. We were able to get the tickets changed for everyone and this will work well. I called Ian and he's agreed to give the group a behind the scenes tour of the Pretoria Zoo that day. I've left a couple of messages for Luke (Dr. Luke Hunter, Carnivore Research Institute). He's just moved to Durban to do his postdoc work and is in transition so it may be tough to hook up.

We arrived in Durban and Jeremy (Jeremy Williamson, Far & Wild Safaris)

picked us up. We had a quick run through the city of Durban and the waterfront and then headed north to the Natal Parks. The Indian Ocean here is beautiful, similar to our waters in Florida. We stopped at St. Lucia first for a boat ride on the lake. We spotted a large group of hippo and drifted right next to them for quite a while, in addition to salt water crocodile. Then on to Umfolozi/Hluhluwe Game Reserve to our private bush camp,

Nselweni. Upon arriving at the camp, we were greeted with our cook and game ranger, a very happy pair eager to please us. We are staying in four thatched huts on stilts, each with two beds. There is one communal "loo" and shower, kitchen, and open dining area with a deck viewing out over the Black Umfolozi River. There is no power at this camp, we must carry torches (flashlights), and the buildings have kerosene lamps. We got settled in, had an excellent dinner, and spent our first evening in the bush gathered around the campfire. Staring into the red glowing embers was mesmerizing. It blinded my eyesight beyond the fire ring and I would spook myself, imagining what lurked behind our backs in the black night. Jeremy told us the story of a fantastic photograph a fellow took around a similar scene in Africa. Just beyond the unknowing people, faintly illuminated by the distant firelight, the camera picked up a lioness on the fringes, just waiting and watching them. Of course, as usual, the rains and thunder moved in and we even got rained on while chatting around

the fire. But I think we were all so "chuffed" at being in Africa that we didn't mind getting wet. It was the idea that lions were around that was quite unnerving. When we finally retired, I slept unsoundly, kept up not only by very close and impressive thunder claps, but very close and impressive lions' roars. Our huts have two open windows each and dutch doors, which we also left open (it's warm and there's no sense in closing the door when the windows don't have glass in them). A leopard could easily waltz right in, but I suppose he would have no reason to. And the huts are on stilts about 10-15 feet up, with a steep flight of stairs, so that's probably also a deterrent. Although we were concerned about monkeys rifling through our things while we are out, so we must be sure to put everything away each day.

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Moving?

Don't miss any issues!
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See page 2 for address,
phone, or email.

Letter from the MEFES President

I thank all you great MEFES (Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society) members for making MEFES very successful. Just to think it has been only a little over year and half since a small group of us met at Center Point, Indiana, to form MEFES. MEFES membership is close to 70 now. I'm confident that the membership will reach 100 by mid-year 2000 and will continue to grow beyond 100 members.

This will be very important to us in order to protect the rights of private owners to be able to share their lives with the exotic cats. We need as large MEFES membership as possible to help fight for responsible private ownership of exotic cats. We, as private owners of exotic cats, are getting hit hard in many directions to take away our rights.

This is one good example of what MEFES is up against: Three of our members, Bill Johnson, Steve Hahn, and myself were contacted by Indianapolis WTHR T.V. Channel 13 investigative reporter telling us he was doing a story about the exotic animal trade in Indiana. The reporter told us the program would be showing mostly the negative side of the exotic animal ownership and wanted some examples like us that would show the positive side of exotic animal ownership.

First, all you men out there in MEFES, "LISTEN TO YOUR WIVES." Diana, Cheryl, and Pat advised us not to do the interview. We men did not listen. We were eager to show the good side of private ownership. Channel 13 came out to all three of our facilities and interviewed all three of us and took video of our facilities and cats. They said they were impressed with our facilities and what MEFES was

doing for the well being of the exotic cats. The investigative reporter stated he would treat us right and show some of the positive side of private ownership.

The program was titled, "Tracks of the Trade." The program was hyped up for a week before it was aired. Channel 13 even bought advertising time on radio stations to help hype up the program. The program, "Tracks of the Trade," was aired in two segments. The first segment was aired Thursday, Nov. 4 at 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM and the second segment Friday, Nov. 5 at 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

All three of us were quite appalled at what they reported as factual information. Most comments, as it later turned out, were not true, and the few that were true were presented as negative towards private ownership. The program used film of our cats as props while at the same time stating all the negative things about private ownership of exotic animals. The program did not state that these cats were legally owned at USDA approved facilities. They just wanted our cats as props for their negative program.

Needless to say, after the program was aired, channel 13 got calls and letters from us and other MEFES members stating how we were concerned about the false information and the one sided all negative reporting. We asked that they do a follow up program about the positive aspect of what the MEFES members are doing. Channel 13 was not interested in doing a follow up program at this time. Damage has been done and they are not interested in trying to correct the damage.

There apparently is a person or a small group of people who are very destructive to MEFES and want to take away our rights to share our lives with the exotic

cats. The exotic cats are crying for survival before they become extinct. All of us MEFES members know that responsible private owners of these cats is one of the tools available to save the cats from extinction. Please, do all you can to get new MEFES members to help us fight off the destructive movements against rights of MEFES members.

On to more pleasant things. Cheryl and Steve Hahn did a marvelous job hosting the October meeting. They went way above what is expected of a host. Most of you know what I mean, because approximately 75% of the membership attended the October meeting. Including MEFES members and their guests, we had over 80 people at this meeting. This included two special people: MEFES member Debbie Walding from Beaverton, Oregon and LIOC Director of Membership Services, Kelly Jean Buckley, from Phoenix, Arizona. Thank you Cheryl and Steve for hosting the meeting and all the hard work you did to make this the largest turnout for a MEFES meeting yet.

At the end of the year, I will be turning the presidency over to Carol Siegley, our newly elected president for the year 2000. We are at this point in time to where we need somebody like Carol to lead us to the next level. Some of the new programs that will be planned for MEFES in the near future will require the abilities that Carol has. I am so happy and grateful we will have Carol as our president for the year 2000. All you members give her all the support and help possible like you have for me. All of us need to work very hard to get new members for Carol to work with. Give her a large membership and she will be able to do great things for MEFES and our cats. Presently, the cats' survival is in the balance.


I am glad that after attending the LIOC National Convention two years ago in Florida that I decided to try my hand at

forming a branch of the LIOC. With the help of dedicated MEFES members, MEFES has a solid base to work from. I am especially thankful to two members who volunteered to be officers to assist me at the planning meeting held May, 1998. Steve Hahn volunteered to be our first Vice President and Tonya Jones volunteered to take on the hard work as the secretary/treasurer and the editor for the first year in order to get MEFES off the ground.

People who are owners of exotic cats and people who are interested in the cats are the best people and are a pleasure to be around and know. Diversity in our membership has been a big help in MEFES success. I am very proud of the approximately 40% of the membership who do not own exotic cats. These members want to help keep the right of private ownership of the cats and are also interested in the well being and the cats' survival into the future. They are some of the hardest workers helping MEFES grow and assist members in time of need. I love you all and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Turner

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Pacific Northwest Exotics Branch

November Meeting Minutes

submitted by John Smith

The November meeting was hosted by Matt & Jenn Anderson, who shared stories about their LONG friends in the garage. Even Terrie walked out and exclaimed over the beautiful color of the Golden (Albino) boy Matt & Jen recently rescued, and are in the process of treating and feeding back to health. (He recently enjoyed a three course dinner, and Matt hopes that will help "fill the hollows" left by past mistreatment.)

The Treasury is at \$377.11 (but will soon be more! - all the bills are not in yet, but it looks like the net to the Club from the current T Shirt project will be "about" \$400 - with more to come from future sales when this batch is gone.)

Due to the cost of copies, Steve discussed the idea of the Club using part of the profit from t-shirt sales to buy a digital copier/printer to produce the newsletter. The idea was put on hold pending a final \$ report of the t-shirt project.

Several states are considering various levels of restrictions or outright BANS on exotic animals. We discussed the idea of a "contact tree" where members would rotate sending a letter, then a fax and finally a telephone call follow up, to the key people in government, to let them know that (a) many people are against these bans and (b) the reasoning used is often faulty (such as thinking a tropical animal "could" survive in the wild in the much colder Northwest climate.)

There is a 11/28 meeting of the Simian Society, please call Steve if you are interested and he will give you the details. The Felid TAG (Taxon Advisory Group) will be meeting 4/16/00 in South Carolina to discuss the status of small cats.

The club's Christmas Party & Potluck will be at the home of Jackie Sinnott (and her cupboard cats!) on Sunday 12/12. We will be doing the "steal away" gift exchange again, so do remember to bring a wrapped gift (lots'a FUN !!!)

The Hillsboro Animal Expo will be 2/26/00, the club has had a booth offered for information and animal display (if you wish to bring an animal for display, be sure you bring one that is not disturbed by crowds and noise) so think ahead and put that date on your calendar.

ODFW is proposing MANY changes in the status of animals in Oregon, to be discussed at a

meeting 12/17, so if you are able to attend that day, call Steve for location details.

Some "friends of animals" have persuaded members of the US Congress to propose a "Safe Air Travel for Animals" bill at the Federal level, which would mandate many changes to the areas of planes now used to transport animals...with the end result being a cost to the airlines which we feel would lead to their simply ending allowing animals on any flights...so write your Senator/ Representative and tell him/her to vote NO on this bill.

There will be a Petting Zoo at Portland Meadows on 12/11 and club members are invited to participate, starting at 9 AM and going to about noon. We plan to have the club t-shirts on sale that day, plus be available to answer questions from the public.

We are considering switching club meetings to a central location, Portland Meadows, to make it easier for all to find the meeting (can't get much easier than right off of I-5!) with more details to follow in the newsletter (The annual BBQ and Christmas Party would still be held at a member's house, since they are purely social times.)

Carol Stiles has Caracal babies on the bottle right now, available for sale very soon, and since Carol is also expecting, now is the chance for anyone who has always wanted to learn about bottle feeding a baby cat to call Carol and set up a schedule to be the extra hands that are needed during this critical time in the babies' lives. She could also use help with regular cat maintenance chores around her home. If interested, call Carol at (503) 637-6863.

Due to the increasing pressure by individuals and the state to restrict or ban exotic animals, we discussed the idea of changing the club's name and charter to more accurately reflect the actual role of many members, in that many of us run private sanctuary/rescue efforts, with the club possibly becoming PNWE-SES, Pacific NW Exotic Sanctuary and Education Society, with changes to the wording of the Club goals statement to reflect the fact that our members DO provide sanctuary and rescue for abused or abandoned exotics, as well as the education efforts we already perform at animal expositions.

Nominatons/Elections were held, results are as follows:

President - Steve Belknap
Sec/Treas - Steve Belknap
Vice Pres - John Smith

After the meeting concluded, we switched to "T Shirt" mode where the club's first ever batch of T Shirts was distributed (cost is \$20 each, proceeds to the club) For those who pre-ordered a shirt, they will be at the Christmas party, so bring your checkbook! There are many more available, so even if you didn't see one of the samples and pre-order, plan on wearing one away! By the time of the Christmas party Terrie will have a good selection of sizes available, so plan on filling your gift giving needs with club t-shirts. Due to the cost of inventory, the sizes will be adult S-M-L-XL-XXL. So if you have a child/grandchild who could wear an adult Small, Medium, or Large, your gift giving is easy this year! If you wish to pre-order a specific size or quantity of t-shirts, call Terrie at 360-576-9134.

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(Not endorsed by LIOC)

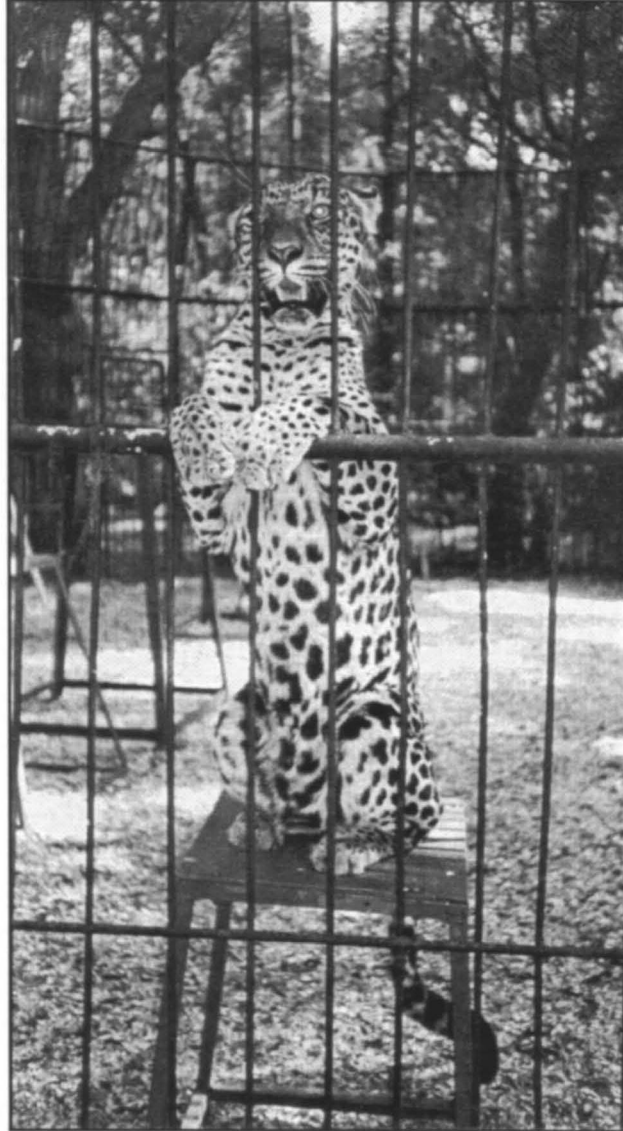
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During the first four - six weeks (or until desired results are seen), give 2 tablets per 25 lbs of body weight daily, on an empty stomach. May be given as a treat or if necessary, with a small amount of food. Thereafter, as maintenance, reduce dosage to 1 tablet per 25 lbs of body weight daily.

Other ingredients include: Boswellin extract 60%, Bromelain 2400 GDU, Devil's Claw root 1.7%, Garlic root, Ginger root extract 5%, Kidney, Lipase, Liver, Brewers Yeast, Yucca extract 40%, and Bone Meal.



**“Hang in there, baby,
Y2K will soon pass, too!”**

Leopard at the Kristensen’s in Brandon, FL
(See Florida Safari, page 12)