

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



*White and orange tiger cubs from
Riverglen Tiger Refuge
Photo by Joselyn Diaz of Lifestyle Photography*



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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A Special Thank You to

- Kelly Jean Buckley**
Kate Conner
Lynn Culver
Tonya Jones
Joey Ladson and Christi Hall
John Lussmyer
Al Porges
Jackie Sinnot
Carin Sousa
Bob Turner
Tracy Wilson
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

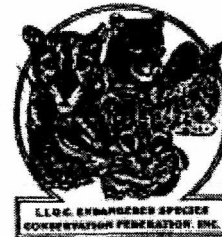
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Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Vice President. Email: gstowers@twcny.rr.com . Please send computer readable text files. (Email is great, will accept ASCII text files on disk. See page 2 for address.)

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LIOC MEETINGS

Raleigh, North Carolina

LIOC General Membership Meeting August 10th, 2000

Budget Report was given by Tonya Jones, Secretary/Treasurer.

Membership Report was given by Kelly Jean Buckley, Director of Member Services.

The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund (KHMSF) Report was given by John Perry, Life Director.

The Felid Tag Report was given by George Stowers, Vice President.

The ISIS SPARKS Program (Single Population Record Keeping & Analysis Program).

Given by Shirley Wagner, Life Director, Stud Book Keeper for LIOC. The program was discussed and members were encouraged to participate in the program no matter the age or breeding status of the cat.

Shambala Exotic Animal Protection Act 2000. Tippi Hedren is responsible for the creation of an amendment to the USDA Animal Welfare Act which would ban private ownership with the exception of 501(c)3 facilities. What response should LIOC mount? Members suggested a form letter that they can send to the House of Representatives Subcommittee members that have been assigned to the bill. Phone calls can also be made to their State Representatives. It was suggested that the members get together the next morning and get all of their suggestions together and present to the Board to review. (See Board Meeting minutes)

Model Regulations. An LIOC committee produced a draft copy of Model Regulations, to be used by members who wish to give a copy to their local state, city, or county offices, where there may

be bans on exotic felines or no current regulations. The board was asked to approve these. The Majority of members said they did think LIOC should be working on model regulations. Members will also be discussing this in the meeting held the next morning. (See Board Meeting minutes)

LIOC Board of Directors candidates for the 2001 to 2002 officers term were introduced and given 3 minutes to do a speech about themselves, why they want the position, and what they feel like they can bring to LIOC.

LIOC Board of Directors Meeting August 11 & 12, 2000

President, Barbara Wilton called the meeting to order. Present: Barbara Wilton, George Stowers, John Perry, Lynn Culver, Tonya Jones, Shirley Wagner, Carin Sousa, Bob Turner, Carol Siegley, Kelly Jean Buckley, J.B. Anderson. Guest: Tracy Wilson, Colette Griffith, and Ethel Hauser.

Membership Report by K. Buckley: The majority of the inquiries are from the Animal Finder's Guide, and secondly the Internet. We had 76 inquiries this year, 28 of which were from the Internet. New members 64 and renewed old/dropped members 20. We have 87 LIOC e-mail list subscribers. T-shirt sales were down 4 from the year before. Discussion held about the 2000 directory and the **good** job done by Linda Covell.

Motion by J. Perry: To accept the membership report as given by K. Buckley. S. Wagner second.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by J. Anderson: To defer the discussion of Model Regulations as official LIOC recommendations for State/Local legislation, and the discussion on the Shambala Bill until the meeting in the morning. K. Buckley second.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by K. Buckley: To approve renewing the current display ad in Animal Finder's Guide. L. Culver second.
Vote: Yes 11, No: 0

Motion by K. Buckley: To approve updating LIOC's History on the Web site. L. Culver second.
Vote: Yes 11, No: 0

Discussion on Officers' & Directors' duties and scope of authority. G. Stowers suggested all of the Board Members need to read over the duties and responsibilities listed for each position on the board in their membership handbook. Do the Board Members have freedom to initiate actions on their own? This was discussed in depth. Yes they can as long as they are acting within the LIOC guidelines and policy, it is within the budget and the President is aware of it.

SPARKS Report by: S. Wagner: 17 members have registered their cats, for a total of 237 cats representing a total of 17 species.

KHMSF Report read by J. Perry.

Motion by S. Wagner: To accept the report as read. L. Culver second.
Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by J. Perry: For the Board to give our support in expanding the KHMSF grant giving capabilities to include licensed veterinarians taking an exotic or zoo animal course. K. Buckley second.
Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Develop an Action Plan for the upcoming year: G. Stowers suggested we set goals for the upcoming year.

Goals for FY 2001: Defeating the Shambala bill. Completing the Model Regulations. C. Seigley will submit a report to the board about goals of the membership drive and new branches. B. Turner will submit a report to the board about a rescue and placement assistant. Develop plan to improve participation in the SPARKS program, getting the form on the web site and putting information in the newsletter. Completing the husbandry manual. Future education plans for the courses offered.

Updating and improving web site maintenance. Draft Husbandry Course guidelines. Draft LIOC statement regarding USDA Misc. Policy 1560 on big cats.

Motion by S. Wagner: To appoint John Turner as assistant web master for our web site and report to Advertising and Publicity. C. Siegley second.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by K. Buckley: To hold the 2001 LIOC Convention in Portland, Oregon hosted by EFES Branch. Second S. Wagner.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Budget Report given by T. Jones. Motion by S. Wagner: To approve the adjusted 2000/2001 budget as proposed. K. Buckley second. Last term we operated within a balanced budget.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Discussion on the Shambala Bill: The members gave a request sheet to the Board per their meeting held on Friday, Aug. 11. The following is what members said they would like to see done on the Shambala Bill: Immediate Action: A form letter opposing the act distributed to all members to be sent to their respective Congressman, a phone list of Congressmen to be called, a list of the subcommittee members hearing the bill at this time, *(a mail out of these materials to all LIOC members was mailed within the next month)* a committee sent to Washington to speak on behalf of private owners, *(B. Turner & L. Culver)*, assign a representative to speak with the media, *(L. Culver and G. Stowers)*, a list of known contacts constructed from all members and presented to the board for future reference. *(referred to Legal Affairs)*, contact any business that would support our efforts either through signing letters or other means. *(referred to Legal Affairs)*, an e-mail petition should be started, in addition a list of all other petitions on the web that are against Shambala should be collected and distributed among the members who will gather signatures, *(referred to J. Turner Assistant Web Master to do a link to the Phoenix list site)*, check with legal agencies that could assist. *(referred to Legal Affairs)*. Intermediate Action: Written petitions to be signed

by as many people as possible. **Long term Actions:** If the Bill continues through Congress an economic impact can be requested to help them understand that the Bill is not feasible, this will also extend the time in Congress. (*Referred to Legal Affairs*), Education programs, and more public relations. A discussion was held about the recommendations the members suggested about actions concerning the Shambala Bill. Each item was discussed individually.

Motion by S. Wagner: To send B. Turner and L. Culver to Washington to represent LIOC and our opposition to the Shambala Bill (within the LIOC budget). G. Stowers second.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Discussion about sending Lynn and Bob to Washington and the expenses that would occur. A decision was made to keep a separate accounting of monies pertaining to the Shambala Bill.

Motion by K. Buckley: To assign L. Culver and/or G. Stowers as spoke persons of LIOC to the media regarding the Shambala Bill. S. Wagner second.

Vote: Yes 11, No: 0

Discussion of The Model Regulations by LIOC:

The request sheet from the members was reviewed and they wanted us to continue to develop the Model Regs and be proactive with them. They want us to prioritize our efforts in distributing the regs to states that are currently looking at introducing new laws. Use what we learn to go after the other states. If we would start with one state and work with them then this would allow a learning period with working with the states and prevent an immediate overload. The states that are considering current Bills should be notified of the model regs and let them know that LIOC members are available to help if they are needed. Members also want us to contact other animal organizations in order to combine forces. They feel like this would allow us to work together to ensure that the appropriate actions are taken and it will prevent the other organizations from fighting against us instead of with us. A discussion of the details of the model regulations was held.

Motion by G. Stowers: To adopt the Model Regs as revised during this board meeting as official LIOC recommendations. S. Wagner second.

Vote: Yes: 10, No: 1

Motion by G. Stowers: To adopt the membership's recommendations that we proactively work with states that are most at risk as the recommendations of legal affairs and distribute the model regs to them. B. Turner second.

Vote: Yes: 9, No: 2

Discussion was held and it was decided to post the revised Model regs on the web site and a comment in the newsletter that anyone can request a copy.

Motion by G. Stowers: To offer Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) an honorary one year membership to LIOC. L. Culver second.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by S. Wagner: For LIOC to join the National Animal Interest Alliance as an associate organization member at a cost of \$75.00. B. Turner second.

Discussion was held. Members want LIOC to join other organizations in order to combine forces. The board feels like this would be a step in that direction.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

Motion by C. Sousa: To adjourn. T. Jones second.

President adjourned the meeting.

NOTE: The Model Regs were revised following the board meeting and approved. The Board will take action for final review and approval, to provide a good quality set of regulations that meets the needs for appropriate captive husbandry.

Respectively Submitted by,
Tonya Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

Alliance for Conservation of Exotic Felines

Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2000

Our meeting was held and Kim and Marvin Elliott's home in Centralia. The star of the meeting was the resident bobcat...Bob. Bob is a particularly gentle and loving cat and was willing to put up with his followers crowding him and pestering him for pets with good humor. Kim has a new icebox, and Bob went to great pains to explain to her that it was now opening from the wrong side. He joined us for sandwiches and chewed down like a trouper on his sandwich - bread and all. Kim provided a true feast. Goodies and sandwiches with all the special touches.

John was on vacation and missed this meeting, so these minutes were taken by his ghost writer. We were generally distracted by Bob's antics and got very little work done. We discussed the newsletter and items members had to submit. We also discussed the jackets on order, shared photos and stories. We also discussed Mariah, the world's most perfect lynx's escapade. Linda has written an article for the newsletter to cover that subject. November elections were touched on briefly and we had a great time munching and petting the bob, his dog friends and generally admiring Kim and Marvin's place and talking up a storm.

Submitted by John G. Lussmyer

Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2000

This meeting was held at the home of Teresa Albert in Renton, WA. We had a fair turnout, probably due to having both the new ACEF Jackets to hand out, and our yearly officer elections. The elections went fairly well, even though none of the existing officers succeeded in passing the job off to someone else! (You should have heard some of the candidate speeches.

:-) So, once again, the officers are:

President: Jeanne Hall

Vice President: Charlie Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer: John Lussmyer

There were some additions to the appointed positions, so they now are:

Newsletter Editor: Christi Hall

LIOC Convention prep: Marc Watkins, Ashley and Jackie Hawkins

Cat Care networking (placement, escapes, etc.): Christi Hall, Joey Ladson

The current budget was also retained, as we seem to be pretty good at following it. We are looking into the possibility of providing the newsletter via Email/Web Page to those who would prefer it that way. The ACEF jackets came out very nice and were well received. I'm going to be contacting the other people who ordered them and arranging pickup/delivery. I'm REALLY REALLY going to try and get the membership cards done this time. I mean it! No more excuses about crashing computers, or working overtime. Eventually the meeting adjourned, and we spent time playing with John Kaelin's cute 6 month old Lynx kitten.

—
John Lussmyer, Secretary/Treasurer

Ambassador Brandy

“Sir Brandford Muffington”

by Jackie Sinnot

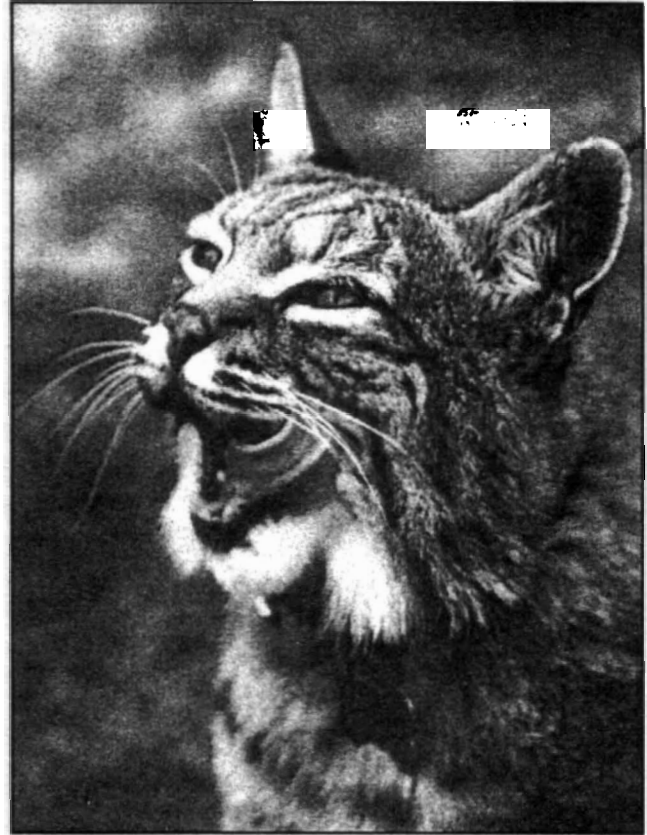
After 19 years and 4 months Brandy has passed on but will long be remembered for all his good work in being the instrumental force in converting many hunters and woodsmen that rather than hunting bobcats and other wildlife with guns or bows and arrows that the way to go is with cameras.

The wildlife continues to live and enjoy life. The hunter, the woodsmen will have lasting memories of the beautiful creatures that they photographed. The photos can be mounted on the wall, which is far, far better than having a mounted stuffed animal hanging on the wall, getting dusty and dilapidated over time.

Several years ago we were living in Polson, Montana on Flathead Lake. I was working in an auto dealership and taking my pet ocelot to work with me every day. Needless to say, I met tons of people who wanted to know more about my kitty. When we lived in Seaside, Oregon, I had also taken the same kitty to work every day.

Samie (SamElita) loved her duties of meeting people in my office. Then Brandy came into my life, and I began to notice that he, being such a sociable creature, also with Samie, were turning many people away from hunting with guns.

The first man was a longtime trapper and hunter from Kalispell, Montana. He walked into my office one day, stopped what he was saying and just stared and stared. He said he couldn't believe what he was seeing and talking to. So, he started asking a lot of questions and didn't believe that what Brandy and Samie were



Mature Brandy speaking to adult audience.

doing, being hosts in my office, was possible.

My husband and I were invited to his home. We went, as I was on crusade to convert him away from hunting and trapping. The first thing he did was go to a trunk and open it and pull about 25 pelts, all from bobcats. To say the least I was horrified, but somehow I did keep my composure, but then my campaign began in earnest. I knew when I got through with this guy he wouldn't be collecting pelts ever again.

And I was right! He went out and purchased expensive equipment, came to our home and took picture after picture of my kitties. We kept in contact with

this man for a very long time, and the last I heard he was selling photos rather than pelts. This man, George, was just the beginning for Brandy. Samie passed away and Brandy took over the full job.

Brandy was very young when he met George. George would hold him, pet him, talk to him, and kept telling me over and over he didn't believe what he was doing was possible. Brandy, all his life, loved being petted and loved as well as being told how important he was.

We had company one evening, a natural pet food distributor, from California. Brandy was sitting by the fireplace watching the various people sitting in our front room. I noticed that he kept watching the pet food distributor, rather than the nine other people in the room. There was a doctor there with a vitamin company for pets and people, and the meeting was all about various items for pets.

After a while Brandy had moved to a position where he could view Glen at a closer view. Soon he had moved to the loveseat along the windows, and the next thing I knew he had jumped up on the long couch where Glen was sitting. He stepped up on the arm of the chair and without hesitation slapped Glen across the face. And, if you have had a bobcat slap your face, you know what strength they have if they wish.

Brandy turned around and walked off, back to the fireplace and onto his pillow. Glen was sitting there in shock as we all were. Lydia Hiby, animal psychic from southern California, a guest in our home, said that Glen was studying Brandy (as Brandy studied him) and was picturing how well he would look mounted on a wall. Glen validated what Lydia said. Glen said he was picturing Brandy in his party room at home. Well, Glen changed his opinions of wildlife, and we all clapped when he apologized to Brandy.

Brandy was a part of every group of

people that came to our home. I could have talked and talked to people trying to change their views on hunting and killing. And, I still wouldn't have been able to get the messages across. But, one visit with Brandy was like a 1000 pictures and a 1000 words. Brandy was a salesperson, a spokesperson, an Ambassador in the true sense of the word, who got his message across in one visit. And, he was also a fluffy, adorable loving creature who graced our home and enjoyed his every moment with us.

There will never be another Brandy, but Brandy has followers in his footprints and I do believe he trained them well. So, his Tisha is following in his steps.

Brandy's kidneys finally started giving up. A few days before he passed Brandy told me it was time for him to go, I called his favorite doctor and we arranged a time. When the truck drove into the driveway Brandy jumped down off the swing he was resting on and walked to the gate. It was difficult for Brandy but he wanted to greet the Doctor and I do know that Brandy knew the doctor was coming to ease his way.

When the Doctor came in Brandy got up in a chair beside me, put his head in



**Baby Brandy caught
swinging on hanging lamp.**

my lap and waited. There was no fussing on Brandy's part. It was over, easily and painlessly.

It was certainly difficult for me, but I knew that it was time for Brandy and that was what he wanted. Luckily we can help our pets along so they don't have to suffer like our human loved ones.

Tisha now has Brandy's full duties of meeting the people that move through my home. Tisha is 13 years old, has a few more years to go, to do her work in her loving way.

I have a friend Shirley is so amazed at how many men fall in love with Tisha. Tisha comes running out on her tippytoes and says "here I am!"

We have moved into the country, having left city life behind. We actually were in the county, but the city was surrounding us and moving in closer all the time, so the decision was made that for our creatures it was necessary to find the place that would give us complete happiness. It took two years of searching.

The move wasn't made until Brandy departed. He loved his home so much and was so happy there, and I didn't feel he could make the move because of his health. So, I waited until he passed over.

All the ashes will be scattered here! And we begin a new life! Such sadness when one we love so much passes on. But Brandy and I had over 19 years together! Any person that is blessed enough to have an exotic in their life, one that lives with them as closely as Brandy lived with us, is blessed indeed, from God himself!

Brandy had a huge house to ramble in, a fenced big backyard with lots of grass and plants. He lived three times the length of a cat in the wild, he didn't have to hunt for his food-what more could a cat ask for! He didn't have to live confined in a zoo or a cage somewhere. And, he was able to bring the connection together-that Man needs to honor the Animal Kingdom!

Every kitty that has come to live with me has another bag of tricks, another personality with another temperament. So, Tisha and I await the next surprise package that will be coming to us soon!

Thank You All who listened to Brandy's messages!



Don't miss any issues! Notify Member Services.

Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society Meeting Minutes on October 21, 2000

At our quarterly meeting in October MEFES was visited by photojournalists. David and Jane White are from Great Britain, they work for 'M' Magazine a women's magazine that is published and distributed to a readership of six million. The magazine is inserted in the London Times on Tuesdays. I met Jane online through a feline email list. After conferring with her I felt that it would be to our advantageous to invite them to experience our group in a meeting setting. During their visit of eight days they visited four different members homes and saw first hand how the animals interact with their owners. Many photographs were taken and their article has been published. I have inserted the magazine that features the article in with the November newsletters. I hope all MEFES members enjoy the article.

Submitted by Cheri Fecker

Presidents Perspective

Dear Membership,

Being my final letter to you all, the first thing that comes to mind is THANK YOU. Never in my many years of membership in LIOC did I expect to, or plan on, becoming President of anything. When I agreed to run for Vice President under Ken Hatfield it was because of my admiration of him and the opportunity to learn from him. Losing him in his First year in office was really a shock to all of us. I need to thank everyone on the Board of Directors who helped me through. The Life Directors are extremely knowledgeable in all fields and I could call on any of them at anytime. The Term Directors change periodically but they seem to keep getting better. There is more enthusiasm. I believe the use of E-Mail has helped considerably. Anyone with a good idea or a question can poll the Board and get answers before the idea goes cold. Motions can be made and seconded in one day. There is a mandatory two week discussion period before the vote but it sure beats "Snail Mail."

I feel the accomplishments made in LIOC are because of the whole Board working together. The Convention Committee appointed by Ken Hatfield is doing a fabulous job under Kelly Jean Buckley. The establishment of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund is receiving applications for financial assistance to study Exotic Animal Medicine. It is a separate entity under John Perry, Carin Sousa, Shirley Wagner and J.B. Anderson.

An important addition to our annual convention is the "brain child" of VP George Stowers. The Husbandry Course has been well received and directly in line with the goals of LIOC-EDUCATION. It is



highly recommended for exotic cat owners and especially beneficial for members who hope to become exotic cat owners.

We also have an approved "Big Cat Policy" and are in the final stages of approving a "Model for State Regulations." We hope we can persuade states, counties, cities and the general public to adopt these regulations. They are fair and sensible for exotic cat owners and the public as well. These will be made available to all as soon as there is final approval on ALL details.

Our Website has been a big boon, too. Thanks to Kate Conner. People who have never heard of LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation are excited about locating someone who can help them.

All in all it has been an exciting six years. I thank all of you and hope to see you at Convention 2001 in Portland, Oregon in August.

Sincerely,
Barbara Wilton, President

Riverglen Tiger Refuge

How do you move 80 tigers? Or better yet, how do you get 80 tigers? Well, the answer to both questions is, one at a time.

The story of a woman, Betty Young, who is dealing with just such a dilemma begins over a decade ago, with the purchase of a single Bengal tiger cub named Gorgeous. After falling in love with him, Betty made a few other purchases: a couple more yellow tigers and three rare royal white Bengal tiger cubs—Tom, Loula and Lou Lee. This is a conservative number compared to the present population of Riverglen Tigers.

As Betty Young cared for these wonderful animals, she also opened her heart and home to other tigers in need—an adult female whose original owner could no longer keep her and a trio of just born, still wet, Siberian tiger cubs, delivered in a paper sack because the breeder didn't want to mess with them. For the four parents of her white tiger cubs, Betty signed a kitten-back contract, saving the rare adult animals from an owner who never treated them well.

In 1991, she inherited a trio of yearling tigers after the owner was convicted of federal crimes and lost his home and freedom. This trio formerly resided in Crawford County, Arkansas. The owner had successfully defeated a proposed ordinance which would have banned his precious pets. His neighbor didn't like living next to tigers. She petitioned the quorum court to pass a law to ban them. The tiger owner hired an attorney, and Betty Young and this writer testified on behalf of responsible exotic animal ownership. Our presentation was well received and the quorum court voted in favor of protecting personal freedom and liberty and would not pass this ordinance. Several months later however, the owner was imprisoned, the tigers he loved so dearly were given to Riverglen Tigers, which had now incorporated as a non-profit sanctuary. And once again his neighbor petitioned the Crawford County quorum court to pass this ban, but this time no one was present to speak out in defense



Betty Young and tiger

of private property rights. Even so, the quorum court refused to ban wild cat ownership.

Years passed and tiger numbers grew. Betty satisfied the rigid requirements for a United States Department of Interior captive-bred wildlife (CBW) permit so that she could legally breed and sell tigers. She began a breeding program to satisfy the payment contract on the Bengal adults. And with the birth of each litter, her husbandry skills and neonate knowledge expanded. People called her from around the country for husbandry advice. She gained national media attention for her unique style of tiger husbandry, a remarkably hands-on approach, which she coined "total immersion." Tigers were her life. Television coverage often depicted what appeared to be herds of adolescent tigers romping and playing together, all the time exhibiting true devotion to their surrogate mother, Betty Young. National Geographic included the tigers of Riverglen in their article commemorating the Year of the Tiger.

Betty was committed to improving the genetics of her white tiger line and insuring its perpetuation. She selected offspring to disperse and offered them to qualified professionals. She was particularly careful about placement, but after two years of meticulous care she decided to stop - people, you see, were not dependable, facilities were

not stable. Betty concentrated instead on building a foundation capable of supporting a large enough group of tigers to insure genetic diversity and carry on the special bloodline forever. She formed the Washington County Zoological Society, Inc., a federally tax-exempt organization to preserve and protect her tigers.

Still more homeless tigers arrived: an adult male whose owners never built him a cage, keeping him chained in the yard instead; a yearling that had a history of escaping and causing public panic; a neonate whose owner realized he'd made a mistake, taking on more than he could handle; a young cub who suffered from metabolic bone disease due to an inappropriate diet; a retired movie actor, who earned his owner plenty, but was now useless to him; and most recently, eight circus tigers arrived, many nearing the end of their expected lifespan.

Yes, that's how it happens, a tiger here, a tiger there, and in just a dozen years, Betty was feeding an average of 1600 pounds of meat daily and removing hundreds of pounds of feces—daily, rain or shine, wind, sleet, or snow, just like the postman!

Clearly, this many tigers can't be ignored. Nevertheless they needed their privacy. Betty made a bold decision to relocate her Riverglen Tigers facility to the beautiful and rural community of Mountainburg, located in Crawford County, Arkansas. She was offered a unique opportunity which gave her one year to move off her present property, which she had sold to obtain the down payment on 300

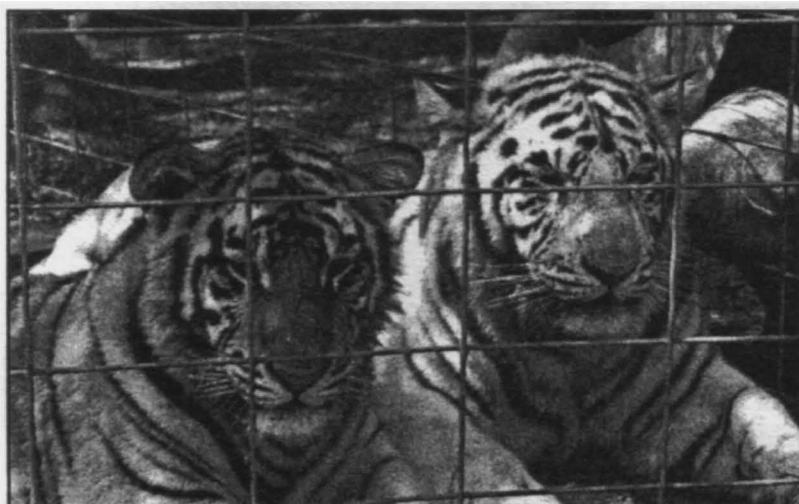
acres on the quiet Boston Mountains.

She hired a man to manage and to build her facility in Mountainburg. The immense project began with high spirits. Perimeter fence post holes drilled with jack hammers penetrated the rocky mountain terrain. The first perimeter-fenced area was completed and cages erected. But even before the tigers could be moved from West Fork to Mountainburg, new tigers, the eight retired circus tigers, were transported to this refuge. The manager had worked with these animals previously, and knew of their dire need. He agreed with Betty, they must provide homes for these aging performers. So eight more of these lissome creatures brought the facility population to 80 tigers.

Betty could not be at Mountainburg as she had 60 tigers to care for at West Fork. She delivered food and checked in at the facility as often as possible. It had been 6 months since the project began and Mountainburg now contained 25 felines including tigers, lions and cougars. And 60 more tigers needed to be relocated there in the next 6 months.

Then it happened—every feline owner's nightmare—the complaining neighbor syndrome. A local Mountainburg neighbor decided she didn't want to live two miles from a tiger refuge. September 11th, she petitioned the Crawford County quorum court to ban this 501(c)3 sanctuary. Tempers flared while heated rhetoric filled the courtroom.

In October the quorum court again addressed this issue and this time I attended with Betty and the manager. I spoke to the quorum court, explaining about USDA exhibitor license training as well as handling and safety requirements. I talked about good fences making good neighbors, about conservation and participation by the private sector, and the qualifications of Betty Young and the need for her facility. I distributed copies of the LIOC injury survey, and information provided by Florida Game and Fish officials which



stated that in their extensive regulatory experience, exotic animal ownership posed no risk to the public at large. I offered them my assistance in drafting county regulations.

Some listened intently to my presentation, others were vocally resentful—noting that I was not a Crawford County resident. The county drafted an emergency resolution that night, stating no more cats were to enter Crawford County, until the following conditions were met: perimeter fencing and caging rules were finalized; the cats were to be under armed guard, 24 hours a day; and if the cats were ever left unguarded, the county was to consider them abandoned and act accordingly. This resolution was not a law, but a strongly worded official request, and to not abide would bode ill-will for the Riverglen Tiger Refuge. Betty hired attorney Joseph Self to represent Riverglen Tiger Refuge.

Meanwhile the manager at the Mountainburg facility left without notice around Thanksgiving. My husband Bart came to help and found the tigers and the facility in desperate need. The cages needed to be set up properly. Feces could not be removed except through the small openings of the chain link and there were no feeding ports. Food had been thrown onto the roof and allowed to fall through the openings. Seven of the tigers had no houses and this top of the mountain location promised bitter winter winds. There was one leaky water hose and over twenty cages to attend to. Several of the tigers were suffering from colds.

The living quarters for the humans were also in need since there was no septic system, hot water, or even a kitchen sink.

Bart became the interim manager by default. The first two days about all Bart accomplished was to feed, water and scoop poop. The first day it took him nine hours to perform these chores, as the build up of feces was immense and the methods for removal primitive and slow. The property was strewn with trash, and debris.

With only the help of a couple of teenage volunteers, the property has been cleaned up, Bart has raised all the cages up off the ground so the animals can be fed easily and feces

can be removed. He purchased a series of hoses and quick links and designed a daily watering system that services all the enclosures.

One weekend I drove up to help. It had rained six inches and the cages were a muddy mess. Forty-five yards of gravel was to be delivered that day. The roads were steep and slick from the runoff and Bart worried if the dump trucks could climb the hill. The first one didn't since the driver chickened out and dumped his load 1/4 mile from the cat pens. Bart begged and pleaded with the other two drivers and God answered Bart's prayers. Thirty yards of gravel were dumped at the entrance of the perimeter gate. Using the tractor, volunteers Shannon and Bubba and Bart worked tirelessly in the pouring rain to remedy the situation. Meanwhile I organized and cleaned the living quarters for the humans. By the end of the weekend, all the cats' pens and surrounding areas were high and dry.

The following weekend Kathy Gipson arrived to volunteer. Bart tried to discourage her, to warn her of the dirty work and primitive living conditions, but she was not to be assuaged. Here is an excerpt from her letter to Tracy Wilson, the LIOC member who put her in touch with Bart so that she could volunteer.



Feeding tiger cubs alone can be hazardous to your health!

. . . Anyway, now to the cats.... They are the most WONDERFUL creatures! I've always known this, but had never been fortunate enough to actually be in their presence. The chuffing noise you spoke of is such a beautiful sound. They are very vocal in letting you know how upset they are and one in particular, Anna, at times moans on and on - it sounds like she's saying "Mama".

As far as food goes, they are getting 10 lbs. of chicken trimmings per day. It is breast meat with fat and bone. The majority of them are tired of it. While I was there Princess wouldn't eat it at all. Bart went into town Saturday night and bought her some red meat, which she did eat. She ate several pounds when I was there Sunday. It was doctored with Milk of Magnesium that Bart had boiled down into a concentrate to treat her for her constipation.

The cages weren't set up to have a good method for feeding so right now they are being fed on a board that is shoved under the cages.

The situation with all of the cats is not anything that resembles ideal. To see the conditions they live in is heart-breaking. To see the two in the roll cages and know that they have been there for a month or so makes me sick.

I've already developed an affinity for one of them. She seems so sweet and desperately wants out and needs attention. I guess the ones who are doing the best are the 3 young males in the biggest enclosure. I'd say it's about a 60 feet x 60 feet. They romp around and play and look so much happier.

You're right about the work. It is hard. I'm not used to working like that. And it doesn't seem like I did that much. The first day Bart showed me how to scoop the poop, (he scooped it out of the cage and I picked it up), water and get their food ready. That took quite a while since I'm so new to it. I'm sure it goes more quickly for someone who does it regularly.

The living quarters are very primitive as you said. I washed dishes Saturday on a bench that they have set up to hold the dishes, food and fridge. There is no sink so you have to get hot water in a bucket from the shower. It's just awkward and not very well organized, but then again, it's probably organized as well as can be expected given the situation.

Clearliness/neatness is not high on the priority list - the cats are. Those things will improve with time, help and money.

I'm going to continue to look for volunteers around my area and Clarksville - maybe at the colleges. I know there have to be people out there who would be interested and helpful.

That weekend while Kathy was tending the cats, Bart and fellow volunteer Shannon topped an unfinished cage and moved Joker, one of the circus tigers into this enclosure, freeing up his cage for one of the roll caged females.

Bart has built four houses so far and he has moved Princess, the tigress he is especially fond of, out of her roll cage prison into a warm dry house inside her very own cage. He has been battling her health problems with medications, hand feeding her special treats, giving her his sincerest love and encouragement to get well.

Yesterday, another circus tigress was freed from the roll cage. She was given a new house and Joker's original enclosure, protected from the winter wind by the barn. Now there is only one tigress still waiting to be released from her cramped quarters. Hang on dear, we are working as fast as we can.

But the work is not done, there are still houses to be built, more cages to construct, more perimeter fence to erect, more tigers to transport. Once the tigers are all moved, the work begins again. This time, we will build high-fenced habitats—big, beautiful and natural. It took three weeks just to bring conditions up to the bare minimum. And still, there are cats without wooden houses, and one tiger still locked in a roll cage. The project has only just begun.

And while Bart and a handful of volunteers have labored dawn to dusk to save these tigers' lives, I have been home, caring for our collection of thirty-one wild felines by myself. We have been drawn into this life and death drama, motivated by our love for cats, our distain for poor county laws, and our overwhelming desire not to see this facility be destroyed.

And what about the Crawford County ordinance? After two months of drafting, the safety committee presented their final version

of the "Carnivorous Feline Ordinance" for a vote on December 4th. The ordinance defined carnivorous felines to include panthera species, cougars, servals, caracals, ocelots, lynx and hyenas.

The ordinance is a ban law, pure and simple, though they claim not. It states that only cats existing in the county at the time of passage may remain. And those cats must be registered within 60 days. Requirements for registration include physical description of animal, photo, ID number, detailed map of property showing cages, houses, location of nearby school bus stops, proof of a current USDA license, a 100% compliant USDA inspection report, signage every 75 feet completely around the property with 1 inch letters stating "A Carnivorous feline resides on this property" (that's 200 signs for Riverglen) proof that someone over 21, armed with lethal force is present 24 hours a day (remember this ordinance applies to servals too), a notification in the newspaper that your facility contains carnivorous felines, a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy, contingency plans outlined, and all cages must be built of 9-gauge chain link, surrounded by an enclosure fence 3 feet away, made of 9-gauge chain link, and then the entire facility must be surrounded by a cattle panel perimeter fence 12 foot tall with a 2 foot recurve held up by posts 11 feet apart.

This ordinance required dual caging and a perimeter fence that a serval could walk right through. Only USDA licensed facilities would be allowed to stay in the county but any commercial activity such as breeding, selling or exhibiting was specifically forbidden by the county ordinance, which means you are not eligible for a USDA license. All facilities had to be inspected and passed by the sheriff's department, and each cat registered would require a \$25.00 registration fee. Any cat which had ever caused an injury or death to a human, livestock animal or even poultry would be denied a registration certificate.

December 4th the emergency meeting of the Crawford County Quorum court met to discuss the Riverglen Tigers situation. Nine of the eleven JP's were present. The proposed ordinance was read aloud. Ten minutes of

discussion followed. The sheriff stated he didn't have the manpower to administer it, he would need to hire more deputies. The challenging neighbor stated that she resented the letter sent by Riverglen's legal council informing them that if this ordinance passed Riverglen would challenge it in district court. She suggested they either pass the ordinance or ban the cats altogether!!! (like there was a difference) Justice Steel asked the county to consider a less encompassing ordinance, perhaps one regulating fencing, odor and animal welfare only.

The other neighbor was granted three minutes to speak. She reminded the court that she was the vocal, outspoken driving force behind this ordinance and she urged them to address this "emergency."

Joseph Self, Riverglen's attorney, spoke for three minutes. He reiterated the points of his letter, urging the quorum court to avoid legal challenge. He pointed out there was no ordinance proposed before Riverglen, and if it weren't for Riverglen, there would not be an ordinance proposed now. This **was** a Riverglen ordinance.

The court voted 6 to 3 in favor of passing this ordinance. We were in shock. It happened just that fast. Television cameras swarmed Joseph Self and Betty for interviews. Later we met with the attorney to discuss our options. We had no choice but to file suit. Betty could not relocate the facility since that was financially and physically impossible. We had no choice but to fight. And then a strange thing happened, as if there really is a guardian angel protecting the innocent tigers' lives. A court official handed our attorney a single piece of folded paper. The attorney read to us the contents of this photocopied note that contained the laws on emergency ordinances. It stated that emergency ordinances must be passed by a 2/3 margin of the entire quorum court. That meant that it took eight votes to pass this ordinance. It didn't pass. It was voted down!!! Only the newspapers and television reported it passed. What a strange turn of events.

Today we are more determined than ever. We will proceed. I am working closely with Riverglen's attorney, Joseph Self, to assist him with strategy plans. We have an unique

situation here. We hope to introduce our own reasonable county regulations, patterned after the LIOC official model for state regulations. The Crawford County Quorum Court has played it's hand, we know who our supporters are and we will work with these three reasonable JP's to defeat this ordinance if it is introduced again. The storm is not over, but there are blue skies ahead.

Riverglen cannot survive without help. Just like any other 501(c)3 charity, it relies upon the generosity and donations from people who care about tigers. And I ask any LIOC member who is free to help, please contact me immediately. We need willing laborers, financial contributions, building materials, public support, and a network of office volunteers as well. There has never been a greater need, and never been a better time to give. This is a chance to feel good about yourself, to help save endangered species, to feel wanted and needed and appreciated, to defeat the forces that strive to break our resolve and destroy everyone's freedom to be involved in captive husbandry of wild felines.

There are new volunteers at Riverglen. Mick has joined the family. Bart's goals are nearly complete. Bart has laid down a foundation upon which others may build.

Bart will never abandon this project, but it is time for a new, permanent manager to take over. Bart loves these tigers and it is clear that they understand how much he has given for them. They call to him, they eat out of his hand, and they shower him with affection. Bart's life has been forever changed by their majesty, their gratitude to him, their incredible patience and their grace under the most trying of circumstances. He has committed to see this project to completion but he needs to come home to our cats and me.

Riverglen needs a replacement manager; someone honest, intelligent, animal-experienced, a skilled construction worker and a good people manager. If this sounds like you, please give Riverglen a call.

Lynn Culver
141 Polk 664,
Mena, AR 71953
501-394-5235



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:

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LIOC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By Robert Turner,
Director of Education/
Conservation



Significantly increasing the LIOC membership is one of the most important things that we need to accomplish. This is urgently needed and as soon as possible. The promotional prizes to help us achieve this are listed in this article.

As your current education / conservation director, and hopefully your next Vice President, I will be working hard to make significant increases to the LIOC Membership. This will be my number one project in the next few months. I am setting a goal towards a net gain of 25% membership between now and the next LIOC National Convention which will be held August 2001. Frankly, I want more than a 25% gain but I've got to be a little realistic.

The LIOC membership has to be larger than present as we go into the upcoming two year phase under the leadership of George Stowers who will be the next LIOC President starting January 2001. I have talked to George and I know he will be very aggressive in promoting programs needed to take the LIOC to the next level. Educational opportunities to improve husbandry knowledge and skills within the membership, improved acceptance of the private sector by local, state, and federal regulatory agencies, improved relations with the AZA, the SPARKS program, and increasing the membership are just a few things we will be working hard on.

LIOC needs a bigger membership

to have the numbers to help us do the things that will need to be done in order to maintain the right of responsible private ownership of the cats.

In order to help us we reach the goal of 25% membership gain, I have put together a plan and prize incentive. The plan in order to gain 25% in membership is simple. I ask each member to get just "one" new member by August 1, 2001. If 1/4 of our members took on this task, we would meet this goal.

I also ask all members who are breeders to add the LIOC membership fee onto their selling price and make it a condition that the new-non LIOC member purchaser agrees to accept the LIOC membership. I know of two Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society (MEFES) breeders who recently included a MEFES membership to the cat buyer. MEFES is a branch of the LIOC. I ask the breeders to add both the LIOC and the branch membership fee to the selling price if that new buyer lives in an LIOC branch area. Lynn Culver, the LIOC Legal Director, is going to add the LIOC membership fee onto her selling price. Lynn is recommending all the breeders do the same. The LIOC gains a new member and the member has access to all the LIOC knowledge.

I appeal to you members who have not attended an LIOC national convention and are not directly involved in any of the LIOC activities to get your new member. You are just as important to LIOC as the members who are involved in LIOC activities. Each member is like gold to the LIOC. LIOC needs the numbers to back up the great work that lies ahead.

Many times new members want to

get involved and help LIOC, especially if we work at trying to get them assigned to work task or projects.

It is very important to keep in mind, that new members **do not have to have an exotic cat to share their lives with** in order to become a member. They only have to be interested in the exotic cats and support the responsible private ownership of them.

For example, MEFES was created less than three years ago and is closing in on 100 members. Approximately 1/3 of these members do not have exotic cats. As a matter of fact, two of the MEFES officers do not have exotic cats. As you can see, these non-owners of cats are very important to the LIOC survival.

Now, here is the incentive for you to get a new member by August 2001. Other than the good things you are doing for the LIOC, you also will get a chance to win an excellent prize that will be drawn during the LIOC national convention. For every member that gets a new member, we will have their name put in a box and a chance to have their name drawn for one of three excellent prizes. We may have more than three prizes available by August 2001. Members do not have to attend the LIOC convention in order to have a chance to win. If your name is drawn, we will send the prize to you.

You will get your name put in the drawing box for each new member you get. Even new members can get a new member and have their name put in the box. The more new members you get, the more chances you get to win a prize. Couples can have both of their names as credit towards getting a new member, but we give only one chance for a prize per each new member.

Make sure you put your name or names at the bottom of the new member's application where it says "I learned of LIOC ESCF from: _____." That is

how we are going to track the ones that get new members. Make sure you or the new member does that.

The prizes to be drawn are:


1st prize: A \$200.00 to \$300.00 drawing of your cat. Donated by MEFES member Khara Geders. It is not a painting but a drawing. Her work is very detailed and will look just like the cat breed that you select. Khara's work is well known here in Indiana and her art is fantastic. This prize alone is worth your efforts to get a new member and a chance to win this artwork.

2nd prize: Rock Art from PebblePuss. This is where the artist paints your cat on a rock. Very fine art work. Some of the MEFES members are donating the funds for this artwork.

3rd prize: Photo gift item of your cat on a mug and other items of your choice. MEFES Editor Cheri Fecker is donating these items. Cheri has the professional equipment to do this work and it is very professionally done.

Note: Anybody who wants to donate their artistic skills or whatever to the Membership drive to be added to the prize list, please do so.

We plan to list the names of the members who get a new member in the LIOC newsletters. Do not let your name be left out for not getting a new member. Please, it is so important, get a new member by August 2001 and receive a chance towards one of these excellent prizes.

	<p>ANIMAL FINDERS' GUIDE 18 issues per year for only \$25.00 Single issue price \$2.00 Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry Exotic animals, products, & services Auctions and shows PO Box 99, Prairie Creek, IN 47869 812-898-2678 or fax 812-898-2013 Visit our website at www.animalfindersguide.com email: animalfinder@thnet.com</p>
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KEN HATFIELD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (UPDATE)

As it states in the minutes of the last LIOC-ESCF Board meeting, the KHMSF is now free to make grants available, not only to veterinary students, but to licensed veterinarians as well. This came about due to information provided by member Bobby Bean regarding the Short Course in Zoo Medicine offered by the Center for Zoological Medicine at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. This course is available to both students and Veterinarians and seemed to be a logical extension of our intentions for the fund. We contacted Ed Ramsay, DVM, Associate Professor at the University and Registrar for the course to be held June 11-15, 2001. He writes, "The Zoo Medicine Course we offer here has as a goal the training of veterinarians in the health care of exotic felids and having a potential source of funding available to interested course veterinarians and students should be extremely helpful." He will advise all prospective attendees and other interested parties of KHMSF's existence. Since this is in keeping with our goal to improve the quality of life for our cats by supporting just such efforts, we look forward to receiving applications from prospective registrants. If any of you or your veterinarians know of courses that would meet our objective: "To promote the study and practice of exotic animal medicine..." (especially feline related) we need that information. Please remember to discuss this with your veterinarian, zoo director or anyone who might know and send the particulars to me. I want to publicly thank Bobby Bean for taking the initiative in this matter.

Submitted by Carin Sousa

Understanding Veterinarian and Lab Procedures: Chemistry Panels

Submitted by Tracy Wilson

A veterinary chemistry panel, also known as a blood panel or biochemical panel, can provide answers for many health problems. A panel includes tests for multiple chemical constituents within one sample. The quantities of these chemicals reveal many things about the various organs of the body. Most basic veterinary chemistry panels check blood electrolyte and for diseases of the liver, kidneys, and pancreas.

Whole blood is a combination of blood cells and liquid. The Complete Blood Count (CBC) deals with the cell portion and quantifies the different kinds of red blood cells, platelets, and hemoglobin. The Chemistry Panel is different, because it deals with the liquid portion of the sample after the cells have been removed. To obtain the liquid, the blood sample is allowed to clot within the tube and then the tube is spun in a centrifuge. This forces the clot to the bottom of the tube and the liquid remains at the top. The fluid left after the clot has been removed is referred to as "serum." This is the portion that is used for the chemistry panel. Tiny samples from the serum are tested for various chemical components. The results are compiled and printed out in a single form. To make it easier for veterinarians, the form lists the patients' results along with the expected normal values for that species. Most veterinarians do not always have the normal values for a wild or exotic feline

on hand. When you enroll your exotic felines in the LIOC SPARKS program, you will receive the normal values for each exotic feline that you register. This is very handy to give your veterinarian quick access to important information in an emergency situation.

Since the laboratory equipment has the ability to run numerous different tests, there can be many different chemistry panels, (e.g., liver panels, electrolyte panels, geriatric panels, and pre-surgical panels) produced depending upon which individual tests are requested and included. A typical veterinary chemistry panel will measure the following:

- Blood Glucose
- BUN
- Creatinine
- Calcium
- Total Protein
- Albumin
- Globulin
- Total Bilirubin
- Alkaline Phosphatase
- SGPT
- Cholesterol
- Sodium
- Potassium

A chemistry panel can lead a veterinarian to a diagnosis that the vet hadn't even considered in their list of possible disorders. Sometimes a veterinarian can listen to the history and examine the animal and know immediately what is wrong. In other cases, the veterinarian can examine the animal every hour for several days, and not have a clue as to the underlying problem. In this situation, the chemistry panel is of unquestionable value.

Descriptions of specific tests are as follows:

Blood Glucose:

When the body takes in carbohydrates, it converts them to glycogen, which is stored in the liver. As the individual needs energy, the glycogen is converted to glucose, which enters the blood stream and is transported throughout the body. Blood glucose is therefore a measure of the animal's nutritional level but it is more often used to monitor metabolism and physiology.

If the glucose is too low, the animal may be hypoglycemic. An animal suffering from hypoglycemia may seem weak, uncoordinated, and have seizures. Low blood sugar is also seen in animals that have been sick and debilitated for a long time and in certain forms of cancer.

If the findings are too high, the animal may be suffering from hyperglycemia. It is normal for animals to have slightly elevated blood sugar levels when the animal is stressed or very excited, such as when visiting the veterinarian's office. If the level is extremely high, the threshold of the kidney is exceeded. While the kidney is filtering the blood, the kidney is supposed to prevent the loss of glucose in the urine. However, once this high level is reached, the ability of the kidney to retain glucose is surpassed, and "sugar" is spilled over into the urine. The most common cause of this is diabetes. In this condition, the body does not produce enough insulin, which is needed for glucose to enter cells of the body. With inadequate insulin production, the glucose remains in the blood.

BUN:

"BUN" stands for Blood Urea Nitrogen. The proteins that animals consume in their diet are large molecules. As they are broken down and utilized by the body, the by-product of this metabolism is nitrogen containing urea

compounds. These are of no use to the body and are excreted by the kidney. If the kidney is not working properly and filtering these compounds from the blood, they build up to excessively high levels.

When the BUN result is high, it is only an indication that the nitrogen wastes of protein are not being removed from the body. While kidney disease is the primary reason for studying the BUN level, there can be other causes for its elevation. Dehydration can also show significant BUN elevations, since there is not enough fluid in the body for the kidneys to function correctly. Additionally, if anything caused decreased blood flow to the kidneys they cannot adequately filter the blood and the BUN will elevate. An example of this would be heart disease with decreased circulation. If there is an obstruction so that the urine cannot get out of the body, it will build up the bladder preventing the kidneys from producing more. This would also elevate the BUN levels.

Lower than normal BUN levels are frequently noted in liver disease. This organ is one of the primary sites of protein breakdown. If this breakdown does not occur, the nitrogenous wastes will be found at lower than normal levels.

Creatinine:

Creatinine is also used to measure the filtration rate of the kidney. Only the kidneys excrete this substance and if it builds up to higher than normal levels, it is a sign of decreased or impaired function of the organs.

Calcium:

Calcium is a mineral that is found in consistent levels within the blood stream. While an animal is pregnant or nursing, the calcium level can become seriously depressed. Additionally, certain medications, tumors, etc. can affect calcium levels. It is important to detect

an abnormal level of calcium quickly because it can lead to serious heart and muscle disorders.

Total Protein:

The total protein level is a combined measurement of two blood protein molecules, albumin and globulin. The liver normally produces albumin. Albumin levels are usually depressed when an animal is receiving inadequate or poor quality nutrition. Albumin levels are also lower following chronic infectious diseases in which the animal's stores have been used up and not yet replaced. The term "globulins" includes immunoglobulins that are produced by the body's immune system as part of the body's defense against bacteria and viruses. An elevated protein level is usually a sign of dehydration.

Bilirubin:

Bilirubin is a by-product of the breakdown of hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the molecule within the red blood cells that is responsible for carrying oxygen to the tissues. When the blood cells die or are destroyed, hemoglobin is released and quickly broken down and excreted by the liver as bilirubin. Therefore, bilirubin levels may be higher than normal when excessive numbers of red blood cells are breaking down or if the liver is diseased and unable to clear the bilirubin from the blood. If there is an obstruction within the liver or bile duct so that the bilirubin cannot be released into the intestine, blood levels will also elevate.

Alkaline Phosphatase:

Serum alkaline phosphatase, also known as "SAP," belongs to a class of compounds called enzymes. These are protein molecules that function to assist in various chemical reactions. Although the normal level of SAP varies in different species of animals, higher levels of SAP

are usually seen in certain forms of cancer and some muscle and liver diseases.

SGPT:

Serum Glutamic Pyruvic Transaminase (SGPT) is also called "alanine amino transferase" (ALT.) It is an enzyme important in liver function. An elevation usually means that the liver cells are breaking down for some reason. The liver may be cancerous, have an infection within it, be congested or engorged with too much blood (as in heart failure), failing or worn out as in cirrhosis, obstructed so that waste products and toxins it filters from the blood cannot be removed from the body via the bile duct, etc. Basically, anything that adversely affects the liver or its ability to function correctly will elevate the SGPT.

Cholesterol:

Cholesterol does not have the same connotation as it does in human medicine. Rather, cholesterol deviations are generally secondary signs of other diseases. Animals with inadequately functioning thyroid glands often have elevated cholesterol. Starving animals or those with poor levels of nourishment many have lower than expected cholesterol.

Sodium and Potassium:

Sodium and Potassium levels are interpreted together. Their levels can be seriously affected in diseases of the adrenal glands, heart and kidney, by various medications, etc. Conversely, changes in their levels can lead to very serious secondary problems such as preventing the heart, nerves, and kidneys from functioning properly.

The tests listed above provide direct evaluations of the health of the liver kidney, adrenal glands, immune system

etc. Compared to the Complete Blood Count, (CBC), the chemistry panel frequently offers more information related to specific diagnoses. In addition to helping us make a diagnosis, the chemistry panel is just as helpful in determining a prognosis or to forecast the outcome of the disease. However, in some cases, a diagnosis only comes from watching the various parameters change over a period of time. For this reason, it is highly recommended that you have your exotic feline's chemistry panel done annually. You and your veterinarian will be able to better track any negative trends in your felines' health. With annual chemistry panels, you can determine if you are providing proper and adequate nutrition to your cat, and make adjustments in your cats' diet and supplements as needed. You will be able to catch any diseases before it becomes serious or causes permanent damage. Chemistry panels are an excellent health monitor, so that you may provide the ultimate in health care for your wild feline.

Writing Your Will?



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

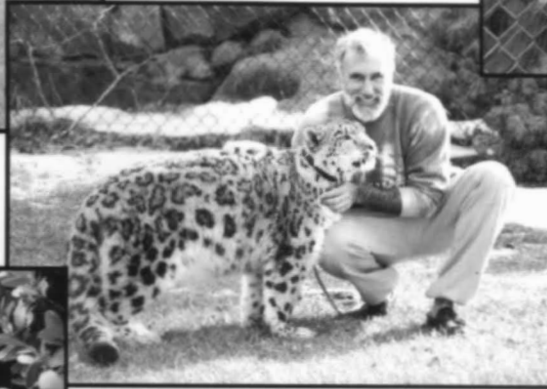


**Mainely Felids
Wild Feline Husbandry Manual**

Comprehensive introduction to responsible captive husbandry of wild felines for the novice. Information on: permits, caging, nutrition, handling and much more! 42 pages. Send \$15 to: Mainely Felids, Dept. D, P.O. Box 80, Lycoming, NY 13093-0080



Al Porges with his now leopard, Venuskha (left and below); Al's bobcat/lynx, Sabra, and his bobcat, Stale (right)



**"Hmmm, she must have found something interesting on Discovery Channel!"
Cleo, serval owned by
Joey Ladson and Christi Hall**

**Carrie of
Project Noah, Inc.
(Photo by
Kate Conner)**



**Two whites and two oranges from
Riverglen Tiger Refuge
Photo by Joselyn Diaz of Lifestyle Photography**