

Volume 45, Issue 1

January/February, 2001

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



Kyra, joining our new vice-president Bob Turner and his wife Patty at the breakfast table



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.

Founder: Catherine Cisin

Editor: Marge Maxwell
PO Box 101
Bowling Green, KY 42102
270-777-9966, Fax 270-777-1085
Email: liontriumphant@mindspring.com

OFFICERS:

President: George Stowers
PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
Email: gstowers@twcnny.rr.com

Vice President: Bob Turner
4467 E. Dayhuff Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-831-0817
Email: robert.l.turner@gm.com

Secretary/ Treasurer: Tonya Jones
PO Box 124
Cromwell, KY 42333
270-274-3072
Email: tjserval2@aol.com

TERM DIRECTORS:

Advertising & Publicity:
Carol E. Siegley
PO Box 711
Johnstown, Ohio 43031
Email: lynxrufus@voyager.net

Education/Conservation:

Tracy Wilson
PO Box 1382
Searcy, AR 72145
501-368-0399
Email: wildcat@ipa.net

Legal Director: Lynn Culver
141 Polk 664
Mena, AR 71953
501-394-5235
Email: culvers@voltage.net

Member Services:

Kelly Jean Buckley
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028
602-996-5935
Email: kjbuck@uswest.net

LIFE DIRECTORS:

J. B. Anderson
1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

John Perry
6684 Central Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-7918
Email: johntperry@qwest.net

Carin Sousa
2960 Bay St.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561
850-932-6383
Email: carin6699@aol.com

Shirley Wagner
3730 Belle Isle Ln.
Mobile, AL 36619
Phone/fax: 334-661-1342
Email: ocelots@compuserve.com

BRANCHES:

**Alliance for the Conservation of
Exotic Felines - Cascade Branch
of LIOC: Jeanne Hall**
PO Box 415
Vader, WA 98593
Email ACEF@ACEF.Org
Web page: <http://WWW.ACEF.Org>

Exotic Feline Educational Society:
Ethel Hauser
18401 NE 121st. Street
Brush Prairie, WA 98606
360-892-9994

**Midwest Exotic Feline Educational
Society: Carol E. Siegley**

PO Box 711
Johnstown, Ohio 43031
Email: lynxrufus@voyager.net

**Pacific Northwest Exotics:
Steve Belknap**

PO Box 205
Gresham, OR 97030
503-658-7376
Email: pnwe@effectnet.com

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

Canada: Scarlett Bellingham
PO Box 722
Niverville, Manitoba, ROA IEO,
Canada,
204-388-4845 home and fax

Central: J. B. Anderson
1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

Northeast: George Stowers
PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
Email: gstowers@twcnny.rr.com

Northwest: See Branches

Southeast: Jean Hatfield
1991 SW 136th Ave.
Davie, FL 33325
954-472-7276
Email: jeanhatfield@email.msn.com

Southwest: Loreon Vigne
20889 Geyserville Ave.
Geyserville, CA 95441
707-857-4747
Email: isisoasis@saber.net

IN THIS ISSUE

Amur Leopard In-Situ Conservation Project	4
EFES Minutes	7
Captive Breeding Success	8
LIOC Election Results	10
Nyla	11
Frozen Zoo	12
Florida Panther	15
LIOC Convention	16
Arkansas Wildlife Regulations	20
Lynx Reintroduction	21
Your Neighbors, Their Stories	23
Tears of the Cheetah	24

A Special Thank You to

**Kelly Jean Buckley
Jeanne Hall
Beejay Lester
Leann Montgomery
Alan Shoemaker
George Stowers
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

Visit Our Website!
<http://www.lioc.org>

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

TOUR TO ENGLAND

June 9-16, 2001

Visit CAT SURVIVAL TRUST
(Private wild-feline facility)
Contact Kelly Jean Buckley
602-788-8864

kellyjean@maranathatours.com

LIOC T-SHIRTS



50/50 Cotton - Fruit of the Loom
Color: Natural
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

\$15.00 Each
(Includes shipping and handling)

Make checks payable to:
LIOC ESCF, Inc.
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Amur Leopard In-Situ Conservation Project

In December I received the following request for assistance from Alan Shoemaker. Those of you who attended the LIOC Convention in Rapid City, SD in 1999, may recall that Alan made a highly informative presentation on felid conservation efforts by the IUCN and AZA and the ways in which the private sector could assist in these efforts. I have reviewed Alan's request and the proposal for the project that follows and encourage you to support this project by sending a donation to the address provided.

Cordially,

George Stowers
President, LIOC-ESCF

Earlier this fall I contacted all holders of Amur leopards as well as interested parties in search of similar support. I know you are aware that this subspecies of leopard, considered Critically Endangered (Mace-Lande) by IUCN and its Cat Specialist Group, is one of the single most threatened taxa of felid on earth. Last year, 11 leopard holders raised over \$6,000 in support of anti-poaching efforts that benefited both this subspecies as well as other large carnivores in the Russian Far East.

As the international studbook keeper for this large and highly endangered charismatic mega-vertebrate, I, in conjunction with the Amur leopard EEP, am joining forces with EEP chairs and the Russian Ministry of Environment to develop a project that ultimately will lead to a reintroduction program. To this end, surveying the population dynamics of the remaining leopard population as well as its habitat is the first objective of any program of this type. This project is being coordinated and overseen by the

Hornocker Wildlife Institute which, in conjunction with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), is well known for its work with large temperate carnivores. They have been especially active in the Russian Far East following the change of government and since then have developed a number of successful programs for Amur tigers. They have also initiated similar programs for Amur leopards but need additional support to bring them to fruition.

Enclosed is a proposal from Dale Miquelle of the Hornocker Wildlife Institute describing a project to monitor status and analyze critical habitat for the Amur leopard in the Russian Far East, a first step approach for any future and ultimate use of habitat presently devoid of leopards. To that end, I have already asked all holders of Amur leopards in North America and interested parties such as yourself to support this initiative. The entire project requires \$10,000, costs required for fuel, vehicle maintenance, staff and ordinance. If all holders and

other conservation-minded parties support this at this level, its completion is assured.

I realize that some facilities have specific forms that are required when making such requests. If you have such a form for application to its conservation funds, please send one to me. Also, please feel free to call me, (803) 7797-8717, ex. 1108, or contact me by e-mail at ashoe@riverbanks.org, if you have additional questions. Checks should be made out to "Amur Leopard Fund" and sent to me at Riverbanks Zoological Park, POB 1060, Columbia, SC 29202.

Sincerely yours:

Alan H. Shoemaker
International Studbook Keeper, Amur Leopards
Deputy Chair, IUCN Cat Specialist Group

Proposal for a Joint Program to Monitor Status and Determine Critical Habitat of the Far Eastern Leopard in Southwest Primorye Krai

Proposed Project Implementers:

Hornocker Wildlife Institute (HWI)
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Laboratory for Geographical Assessment
of Natural Resources, Pacific Institute of
Geography

Introduction

Recent surveys have highlighted the need to develop a standardized approach to surveying and monitoring the status of the Far Eastern leopard. With a population of less than 50 individuals, it is imperative that regular surveys assess distribution, reproduction, and relative

abundance as a means of providing an "early warning system" to detect changes in the status of the population. This information must be maintained in a permanent database that will allow retrospective assessment, interpretation and analysis of data from a variety of perspectives.

At the same time, it is imperative to apply this data to conservation of the leopard. Repeated surveys provide fixed-point locations of leopard tracks that can be used to assess determinants of critical habitat for the leopard, an integral component of developing an "optimal" regime for protecting the Far Eastern leopard and its habitat.

We outline a two-stage program to develop a long-term monitoring program for the Far Eastern leopard and then use such a database in the determining critical habitat for this highly endangered subspecies.

1. Developing a Monitoring and Survey Program for the Far Eastern Leopard

The ultimate goal of this program is the development of a standardized system to monitor changes in leopard abundance and reproduction across the existent range in the Russian Far East. The intent is to provide a mechanism that will assess changes in density and reproductive activity of leopards within their current range over long periods of time. This methodology should provide a means of assessing the effectiveness of current management programs, provide a means of assessing new programs, and provide an "early warning system" in the event of rapid decreases in leopard numbers.

We emphasize that the design of any monitoring program has limitations. We focus on developing a method that would

provide statistical rigor to monitor changes in the leopard population that occur due to changes in density in existing leopard range rather than monitoring changes in leopard numbers due to increases/decreases in leopard distribution (i.e., Pogranichny Raion and southern Sikhote-Alin, both former ranges of the leopard, will not be included in the monitoring program). This approach focuses on the existing leopard population to provide key information in assessing its status.

A monitoring program cannot guarantee that all leopards will be accurately counted each year – a monitoring program is designed to detect changes in the leopard population – not actual numbers. Therefore, it may be necessary, on occasion, to conduct full range surveys. A separate methodology can be developed for such surveys.

Objectives

Specifically, the objectives of this monitoring program are to:

1. Develop a standardized, statistically rigorous system based on track counts for monitoring trends in relative numbers of leopards in representative “count units” throughout leopard range in Southwest Primorye, Russian Far East.
2. Determine the presence/absence of leopards in count units and elsewhere across leopard range to monitor changes in distribution of leopards in southwest Primorye.
3. Monitor the prey base (large ungulates) of leopards within count units, one of the most significant potential limiting factors within its remaining range.
4. Monitor reproduction across the range of leopard to determine fecundity of the population and to identify areas of high/low productivity.
5. Record and monitor instances of leopard mortality within and in close proximity to count units.
6. Monitor changes in habitat quality.

We view the development of monitoring and survey program as a three-stage process:

a. Develop methodology and determine differences between full surveys and monitoring.

A group of specialists who have experience and expertise in conducting leopard surveys will jointly develop a methodology that will be submitted for official approval at the appropriate governmental level. This methodology will be assessed on a regular basis, and improved as necessary.

b. Develop the format for creating of a spatial database to maintain the information collected.

The format for a monitoring database will follow the precedent set by the Amur tiger monitoring program and its database. We plan a geographically based spatial database that will consist of multiple layers and will be consistent with existing coverages and data layers for the region. Existing survey data from past years will be entered into the database.

c. Implement the monitoring program.

The first year of the monitoring program will be implementing in the 1999-2000 winter season, providing sufficient snow exists. This data will be entered into the database, and

serve, along with earlier surveys for analyses planned in the second phase of this work.

2. Determining Critical Habitat for the Far Eastern Leopard

The database developed from the previous two surveys (1997 and 1998), both funded by WCS, as well as data collected in the proposed 1999 monitoring program, can provide the basis for assessing habitat requirements for the Far Eastern leopard, and developing a map that could provide information on:

1. all potential habitat of the Far Eastern leopard, based on existing vegetation cover types;
2. relative density of leopards in various vegetative cover types and designated land units (e.g. zapovedniks, zakazniks, hunting leases, goslesfund, deer farms, or other economic entities);
3. characteristics of preferred habitat types;
- 4) relationship of leopard locations to human settlements, roads, deer farms, and other economic activities in southwest Primorye Krai; and,
- 5) identify prey habitat and development a series of data layers mapping habitat quality for key prey species;
- 6) critical habitat for the Far Eastern leopard.

These analyses are key to developing an optimal system for protecting Far Eastern leopard habitat and identifying potentially valuable habitat left unprotected, as well as identifying areas potentially suitable habitat that is void of leopards presently.

Writing Your Will?



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


Exotic Feline Educational Society Meeting Minutes for 2000

Our first meeting of the year was a Board of Directors dinner meeting. We discussed basically the Convention. We hope to make Christmas Center Pieces again in December. Also approved some gift memberships. We discussed several options for the Convention but nothing definite at this point.

The second meeting was held in Ethel Hausers new home. Of course it started off with a grand tour. Luckily no one got lost! The business was basically a discussion of Convention ideas. Debbie Walding gave a short presentation on the "In-Situ Conservation Ridgeway Trust, Lifeline Project in Belize". We approved a \$50.00 donation to the project.

Our final meeting of the year is scheduled for December 15th. Ethel lost her husband in November but at her request we are going ahead with the meeting. Kelly Jean Buckley will be there for it so we really hope to accomplish a lot in regards to the Convention. We will know better what she needs us to do here. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Barbara Wilton
Secretary



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

LIOC-ESCF Assist Study of Captive Breeding Success

Recently the IUCN, Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) asked the American Zoological Association (AZA) via its Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) to list the ease of propagation that Appendix I species have experienced in captivity. They are specifically interested in the likelihood that these species might breed into two or more generations away from the wild. The following was compiled by Alan Shoemaker from Riverbanks Zoo, in response to this request using a variety of sources from within the AZA and the private sector including the LIOC-ESCF.

CITES APPENDIX I FELIDS BREEDING INTO SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS

During the past forty years, most species of felids regulated in international trade by Appendix I restrictions of CITES have been maintained and propagated by both zoos and private breeders. Although some of the smaller species are now rare or even absent from North American zoo and private collections, most were commonly kept and propagated by the private sector, if not zoos, into at least second and third generation offspring. Today the rarity or absence of those species in both zoos and private breeders usually reflects the following factors:

- The small numbers of founders that were originally imported, i.e. marbled cat.
 - The lack of studbooks and Species Survival Plan (SSP)-type management programs that were operational at the time the Endangered Species Act came into effect.
 - The difficulty of importing additional animals from other regions.
 - The difficulty that the private sector experienced or perceived to face in being able to sell their captive born offspring in interstate commerce.
 - The lack of appeal several species offered both zoos and private breeders alike, one usually caused by their being smaller, unmarked (in the case of the jaguarundi) or appearing too much like a domestic cat. Later, resurrection of these species from range-country sources has proven difficult for both zoos and private breeders alike.
 - Small litter sizes (1-2) of some species, i.e. margay and jaguarundi, makes recruitment slow.
- All these factors are usually more critical to long term reproduction of most species than actual challenges in husbandry and behavior. The following is a species-by-species discussion of the reproductive history of these species in captivity:
1. **Cheetah** - Historically cheetahs have been difficult to breed in captivity. Although some husbandry and medical issues have been identified and solved that increased the rate of propagation, captive reproduction is still not routine and additional founders have to be continually imported to support captive populations. Second and third generation animals are present in North America but solutions to long-standing breeding failures have yet to be finalized. Behavioral issues are probably the cause of their lack of consistent reproduction.
 2. **Asian caracal** - Although Asian caracals are not present in North America (despite what you may read in the ISIS SDRs), this population is not likely to be any more challenging to reproduce than African caracals. Caracals from Africa breed frequently and into multiple generations.
 3. **Florida, Central American and eastern puma** All subspecies and populations of pumas seem to breed readily in captivity and these three listed taxons are or should be no exception. True Florida pumas are extinct and those still living in southern Florida are a mixture of *coryi* and introduced genes from South American releases dating back several decades. Central American pumas are not presently kept in North America but should be just as easy to breed into successive generations as pumas from North America. With acceptance of Warren Johnson's genetic analysis of pumas throughout their entire range, eastern pumas (and all other subspecies in the USA) will cease to exist as the plethora of named subspecies

- are now being synopsized into but a single subspecies.
4. **Geoffroy's cat** - An easily bred species, reproduction was previously common and 2-3 generation specimens were formerly common in both zoos and private collections. Their failure to remain abundant in captivity is a reflection of poor management protocols rather than an inability to consistently propagate the species.
 5. **Andean or mountain cat** - To the best of my knowledge, this species has never been kept in captivity. If it has been maintained in North America, it was kept in the more distant past and breeding not recorded.
 6. **Marbled cat** - A little known species that has rarely been imported, this species is no longer present in North America. Previously a single pair was imported which bred periodically, as did their offspring to each other. Although this is a low level of experience, it would suggest that marbled cats would breed reliably if animals were available.
 7. **Black-footed cat** - A challenging species, reproduction is fairly common but renal disease has caused the death of many specimens while still juveniles or young adults. Currently managers are looking at stress levels and the husbandry issues surrounding them as a way to solve this problem.
 8. **Ocelot** - Once commonly imported by the pet trade, the numbers in zoos has declined until recently. The absence in zoos is linked primarily to a lack of management by zoos and private breeders alike. Otherwise, reproduction is relatively common place. Private breeders have achieved reproduction into the seventh captive born generation.
 9. **Spanish lynx** - This species of felid has never been maintained in zoos, at least in North America, and no information is available to predict the ease at which it could be bred. Given the probable close relationship between this species and Canada or Eurasian lynx, or bobcat, captive propagation could be expected to be routine.
 10. **Flat-headed cat** - Only a single pair of this rare species has been maintained in recent decades and they never reproduced. Specimens have rarely been kept in range country zoos but private individuals keeping (illegally) this species in range countries routinely breed them. Lack of survival of captive specimens in range country zoos is probably a management issue. Their lack of history in this country probably reflects low interest level on the part of zoos rather than challenging husbandry issues.
 11. **Indian Rusty-spotted cat** - This subspecies of rusty spotted cat has never been maintained in North America but specimens from Sri Lanka are wide spread in Europe, and appear occasionally in North America. Although all Sri Lankan specimens in both regions derive from but a single pair of the same founders, it is realistic to expect individuals from India to reliably reproduce in captivity through multiple generations. Although not bred by Indian zoos, they would probably be easily propagated in zoos of other regions (North America, Europe and Australia) were they to ever become available.
 12. **Asian golden cat** - Previously this species was kept widely by private breeders and zoos in this country, Europe and Australia. More recently this species has declined in numbers, apparently because of a lack of popularity. Regardless, those still present in captivity are 3-4 generations removed from the wild and there is probably no reason why this species could not be easily propagated for conservation programs if adequate numbers of founders were obtained, and adequate numbers of spaces dedicated to this species.
 13. **Tigrina** - Rarely kept by zoos, this species has primarily been kept by the private sector which has bred it into the sixth generation. Never commonly exported, they do not require extraordinary husbandry techniques and reproduction is commonplace.
 14. **Margay** - Unlike other Neotropical felids, this species has not been easily propagated in zoos, probably because of the intensity of their behavior during introductions, reintroductions and breeding. Regardless, private breeders, have routinely bred numbers of them in the past, some to the third and fourth generation. Previously imported by the pet trade, numbers have significantly declined in all sectors, probably due to a lack of management programs more than husbandry challenges. Their small litter size (1-2) didn't help them much either.
 15. **North and Central American jaguarundi** - Jaguarundis as a group, regardless of origin, have never been widely kept or propagated but this is primarily caused by a lack of interest by both zoos and private owners alike. When paired, reproduction is common place. Most living jaguarundis trace their ancestries back to but a single pair or trio of founders.
 16. **Clouded leopard** - Although wildly popular in

(continued at bottom of page 10)

LIOC Election Results

The results are in and our new officers are as follows:

George Stowers, President

Robert Turner, VP

Tonya Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

Lynn Culver, Director - Legal Affairs

Kelly Jean Buckley, Director - Member Services

Carol Siegley, Director - Advertising/Publicity

Tracy Wilson, Director - Education/Conservation

I want to thank all who participated and hope you continue to take an active role in LIOC. Our organization needs you as an active, interested member. It is only through your efforts that we can continue to succeed.

Shirley Wagner
Life Director

(Breeding Success - continued from page 9)

zoos and private collections, many pairs fail to breed while others demonstrate sudden and unexpectedly high levels of incompatibility which often results in the death of the female. These behavioral challenges are being investigated but the second and third generation of animals present in this country are declining in numbers as behavioral barriers continue to hamper the increase of this species.

17. Asian lion - Although rare in North America, this subspecies of the African lion breeds readily in European collections and can readily be expected to breed as easily as those from Africa.

18. Jaguar - Jaguars are perhaps the long-lived felid, with specimens approaching and even exceeding 30 years. Reproduction is common and uneventful, and many animals are already past the 2-3 captive generation.

19. Leopard - Leopards of all subspecies are easily maintained and propagated. Studbook information demonstrates animals

reproducing into the fifth and sixth generation.

20. Tiger - A widely kept species, all populations or subspecies are easily bred by both private and zoo collections. Most living individuals can trace their ancestry through 4-5 generations of captive born specimens in order to reach their founders.

21. Snow leopard - Widely kept by both zoos and private collections, snow leopards are easily propagated and numerous specimens are present which are 2-3 generations removed from nature. Husbandry problems have been minimal.

If you have information you feel is relevant to this study that you would like pass on to Alan, please forward it to me and I'll make sure Alan gets it.

*Cordially,
George Stowers.*

NYLA

By Leann Montgomery

Well, my newest rescue arrived yesterday and so far things are going better than I expected. Nyla is a beautiful 3-year-old pet serval. Nyla's story is sad. It is in no way an abuse case. Her owner loved her dearly but could no longer keep her due to economic catastrophe. I feel so bad for this woman and I almost feel guilty about taking Nyla in. Her owner was married to an affluent NY attorney. One day, he went to work and never came home. Nyla's owner lost everything and struggled for over a year trying to hold on to Nyla. They spent several months homeless together in a van until her owner found a trailer that they could live in. They had no heat and no running water. They lived this way for over a year. Finally her owner realized that she had to have help to get back on her feet and she made the decision to move to Texas with her family. Nyla could not go so her owner searched for the perfect home for her. I was lucky enough to be regarded as that perfect home.

Nyla spent an entire 24 hours traveling in a van to get here. I expected her to be really stressed out and I expected it to take months for her to be able to trust me, but I wanted to do everything possible to ensure she liked me. I packed a cooler full of Osiris's favorite treats, knowing that she would be hungry since food had been withheld during the trip. We had turkey, chicken livers and a little albacore tuna. While her owner was still there, she would have nothing to do with the food. or us. But to me. she didn't seem



too stressed by the whole situation. The minute we got back on the road and away from her owner, I offered her another small cube of turkey cutlet. Much to my surprise, she ate it from my hand. She had a good meal and settled down for a nap on the two-hour drive back to her new home. At one point she woke up and began talking to us. I put my hand through the wire of her carrier and she rubbed her little chin all over it and went back to sleep. Knowing servals, I felt very lucky. Nyla's owner had told me that Nyla was very standoffish with other people and only showed affection to her. I felt honored. And I believe that I will be able to have a wonderful relationship with this cat. This one is going to work out fine.



Don't miss any
issues! Notify
Member Services.

Successful "FROZEN ZOO" at Audubon Institute in New Orleans

June 26, 2000
New Orleans, La.

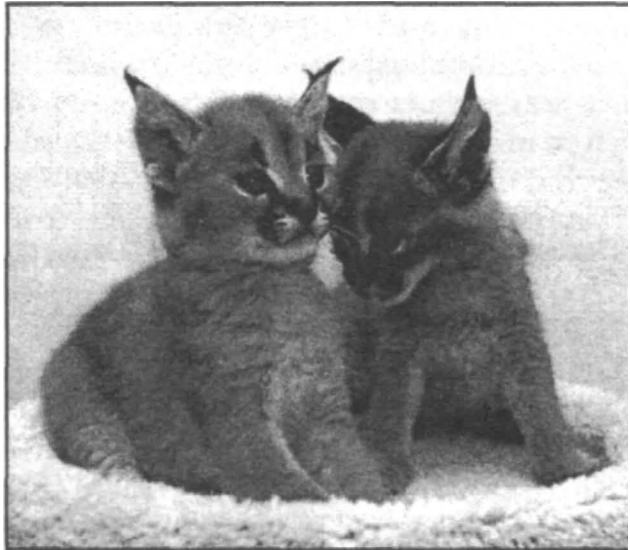
In the latest breakthrough in the effort to save wildlife from extinction, Audubon Institute in New Orleans today unveiled the world's first test-tube caracals. The two young caracals, a species of small African cat, were born May 24, 2000, the result of in-vitro fertilization utilizing frozen sperm.

This ground-breaking advance follows on the heels of the world's first successful inter-species frozen embryo transfer last December, resulting in the African wildcat "Jazz" being born to a domestic housecat surrogate mother named Cayenne.

The births occurred at the Audubon Institute Center for Research of Endangered Species in New Orleans. The Audubon Institute research facility works in collaboration with the University of New Orleans and Louisiana State University on these and other innovative projects.

"Our scientists are gathering more and more information that can be applied to species across the globe, so as we are learning about one species, we can move on to another," said Audubon Institute president and CEO Ron Forman. "Species by species, we are stepping closer to wiping out extinction."

At the Audubon Institute Center for Research of Endangered Species, experts have put together a groundbreaking "frozen zoo." Reproductive material from animals such as tigers, gorillas, small cats and many other animals can be stored at



temperatures of -196 C for hundreds of years. Scientists can thaw the material for transfer to surrogate mothers. This way, genetic material of endangered species can be maintained over long periods of time, providing a solid hedge against extinction.

"We feel like we are in the wildlife emergency room," said Audubon Institute senior vice president of research Dr. Betsy Dresser, a leading expert in the field of assisted reproduction technology who also holds the Virginia Kock Endowed Chair at the University of New Orleans. "Why not utilize all the technology available to us to give these animals a fighting chance of survival? What will future generations say to us if we don't?"

The two "test-tube" caracal cats are the latest in a series of successful in-vitro fertilizations (IVF) of rare or endangered species spearheaded by Dr. Dresser and Audubon Institute Senior Scientist Dr.

Earle Pope. Drs. Dresser and Pope led the team which produced the world's first successful test-tube gorilla in 1995. Other successes at Audubon Institute's research center have included the world's first production of an endangered bongo antelope embryo through IVF, dramatic increases in the wild population of the endangered Mississippi sandhill crane through a program of artificial insemination and reliable production of IVF tiger embryos.

The Audubon Institute Center for Research of Endangered Species is part of a collection of museums, parks and research facilities operated by the Audubon Institute in New Orleans. Others include the Audubon Zoo, the Aquarium of the Americas, the Entergy IMAX Theatre, the Louisiana Nature Center, Woldenberg Riverfront Park, Audubon Park, Wilderness Park, the Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center and the Audubon Living Science Museum, set to open at the foot of Canal Street in 2003.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Who oversees the Audubon Institute research efforts?

Audubon Institute's president and CEO is Ron Forman. He is at the helm of an effort which includes internationally renowned researcher Dr. Betsy Dresser. Dr Dresser, who is Audubon Institute senior vice president of research and holds the Virginia Kock Endowed Chair at the University of New Orleans, has assembled an impressive staff of accomplished senior scientists: Dr. Earle Pope, Dr. Stanley Leibo and Dr. Barry Bavister, all of them well-known in the field of assisted reproductive technology.

Why did you choose the caracal cat for this procedure?

The caracal is an excellent model for more highly endangered cats, such as the

clouded leopard. This procedure also serves as a preventative step in case the caracal becomes more highly threatened or endangered.

What exactly was the procedure which resulted in this birth?

Scientists retrieved an egg from a female caracal. The egg (oocyte) was fertilized in vitro with frozen/thawed sperm and transferred back into the female caracal, which gave birth to the two female kittens. The parents, both housed at the research center, came to Audubon from the Grassmere Park Zoo in Nashville. The mother is named Zoe. The father is named Sage. The kittens, named Camellia and Magnolia, are being hand-raised by the animal staff at the research center.

Do babies born this way develop normally?

All of the babies produced at AICRES from wild animals have grown up to be normal, healthy adults and have either sired offspring or given birth to their own babies through natural breeding.

Why is the Audubon Institute pursuing reproduction of rare and endangered animals using frozen sperm and embryos from the frozen zoo?

These activities can ensure that viable reproductive material from endangered animals is preserved for as long as 1,000 years, creating a hedge against extinction even for the most severely threatened species.

What animal is next ?

The next animal studies will be the clouded leopard and the rusty spotted cat, both highly endangered.

What's the future of the frozen zoo?

Assisted reproductive technology is an established science in humans and some animals which is now moving into the arena of endangered species. Inter-species transfer, such as the procedure which produced the African wildcat Jazz

from a domestic housecat, has begun with genetically similar species and is now moving toward more divergent species, such as tiger into lion. Cloning, or nuclear transfer, is also scientifically established, and banking of frozen tissue will become increasingly important in this science as species become more threatened and endangered

What's the lesson in all of this?

Given current trends, many rare or endangered species will be lost despite efforts to maintain biodiversity. The lesson is that the Audubon Institute is pioneering new approaches to prevent the disappearance of wildlife, using technologies both well established and cutting-edge. Species by species, we are moving towards wiping out extinction.

Contributed by Leann Montgomery

.....
● **Convention 2000 Video Tapes** ●
● **Contact Debbie Walding** ●
● **503-579-0858** ●
● **debcat@teleport.com** ●
.....



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

Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2001

This meeting was held at the home of Maggie Bogart, so a bunch of lovely artwork surrounded us! The turnout was a little low - probably due to the meeting being at the far south end of the clubs area. (I know that after my 3-1/2 hour ride there, my sitter was a bit sore!) We did a fair amount of discussion about laws that sound good, but can be (and are) used to effectively ban private exotic ownership. The only feline attendee was John Kaelin's lynx kitten, who wasn't in a very sociable mood that day. Anybody that came too close got swatted, but he would play with the toys if you kept your distance. A lot of time was spent in the usual chatting and socializing as well. A wonderful meal of lasagna was provided as well!

—
John Lussmeyer
Secretary/Treasurer
mailto:ACEF@ACEF.org
Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines, Cascade branch of the LIOC.
see <http://www.ACEF.org/>



*Cat angels
are the reason there
are no mice angels.*

FLORIDA PANTHER



Latin Name: *Felis concolor coryi*

Subspecies: Mountain lion

Family: Felidae (Cat)

Estimated Population: There are between 30 and 50 individuals in the wild.

Range: The panther lives only in Florida, in four areas south of Lake Okeechobee: Big Cypress National Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand, the southern part of Everglades Conservation Area, and Everglades National Park.

Habitat Type: Panthers can survive in many different types of habitat, as long as the land can sustain prey, such as deer and wild hogs. In southern Florida, where approximately half of the panther habitat is privately owned, panther habitat ranges from swampy corridors to agricultural lands, but panthers are primarily found throughout large areas of sub-tropical, dense forests with abundant low-lying, swampy areas. They are also occasionally found in pine forests.

Primary Threats: Development in and near panther habitat is the main threat to the panther's survival. Road building and water projects have fragmented the habitat and pushed panthers and their prey species into marginal areas which can not adequately sustain them. Roads cutting through panther habitat, particularly a major highway which bisects southern Florida, have resulted in many panther deaths due to road kill. The subspecies' small gene pool is also a threat to the panther, causing it to suffer from reproductive disorders and become more susceptible to disease. The low number of animals can also reduce an individual's chances of finding a mate and reproducing.

Background: The Florida panther is a subspecies of the western mountain lion.

It evolved into a genetically distinct population isolated in the Florida Everglades, where it prowls the pine flatwoods and wetlands of the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. It is one of the most critically endangered species on Earth, with only 30 to 50 individuals believed to remain in the wild. Road kills on Florida's highways are a major cause of death, but such accidents are declining due to fencing programs. Unfortunately, loss of habitat to urban, industrial, and agricultural development is a growing problem. With such a small gene pool left, the Florida panther is vulnerable to disease and genetic deficiencies. Solitary by nature, individual panthers often have difficulty locating another with which to reproduce. Biologists have stepped in to help save the species with programs introducing Texas cougars (closely related subspecies), artificial insemination, and other reproductive biology research. Public lands established to preserve the panther's unique habitat benefit other imperiled species, such as wood storks, bald eagles, and eastern indigo snakes. Like the manatee, the Florida panther has become a popular symbol for Florida's vanishing wilderness.

Ponte Verdra Recorder, Ponte Verdra Beach, FL, 1998

Submitted by: Beejay Lester

LIOC Convention 2001

Portland, Oregon

August 8-12, 2001

We want to get a count of attendees and some specific information in order to provide the best services for this convention. We need this information at this time, so that we can hold the correct number of hotel rooms and get the best rates. (Since there are three branches of LIOC in the Northwest, many of the convention attendees may not be staying at the hotel because they live there locally.) Please send your responses to the following four questions ASAP to:

LIOC-ESCF, Inc. or kjbuck@uswest.net
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028

- 1. Do you plan to attend?**
(Please advise exact number of people in your family) Cost is \$95 per person, \$75 for children under 18, \$10 for children under 5. Payment is **due by JUNE 4.**)
- 2. Do you plan to stay at the hotel?** For all the nights, or just Saturday night, or not at all?
(Saturday is a long day starting in the morning and going until after midnight. It's often convenient to have a room on Saturday to go and change for dinner. We also provide a hot breakfast on Sunday morning during the convention wrap-up meeting and if you spend Saturday night at the hotel, you would likely be there for the breakfast meeting.)
- 3. Do you plan to take the field trip of the riverboat cruise up the Columbia River?**
(The field trip cost is \$20. This trip includes transportation by bus to and from the port, cruise ticket and lunch, along with a stop at the waterfalls. We will travel by bus to the park at the Columbia River where the cruise starts, then board the riverboat for a cruise up river to the Cascade locks and fish hatchery. Lunch is included on the cruise. Then on the return we will stop at the Multnomah waterfalls park. We have to order these tickets in advance and they are non-refundable. If you are planning to take the cruise, Payment of the \$20 is **due by MARCH 20.**)
- 4. Do you plan to take the Wild Feline Husbandry Course, held Wednesday, August 8, 8:00am-6:00pm?** (Cost is \$50 per person **due by JUNE 4.**)

Once we get the above information from the attendees, we will select the Hotel and provide this information and convention agenda details in the March/April newsletter. Please contact me if you have any further questions about the LIOC convention 2001.

Thank you for your prompt response,

Kelly Jean Buckley
Director Member Services

Attention all Artist of Feline Purrrrsuation!

There will be a Feline art show during the LIOC convention reception dinner on August 9, 2001, from 6:30-9:30pm. What better group to show and sell your artwork to! The cost is \$20 for each table. If your artwork does not require a table, the sign up cost is \$20. Sign-up deadline, and payment, is due NO later than June 4, payable to LIOC-ESCF, Inc.

Artists are welcome to set up their own painting easels around or behind their table, and larger artwork items on the floor around their table at no additional cost. (The space given to each artist per \$20 will be 10x6 ft. Should you buy 2 tables you will be given 20x6 ft.) Artists can set up at 6:00pm (prior to attendees arrival to the room). Artists are responsible for the set up, tear down, and security of their own artwork. Artists are responsible for the pricing, collection of payment, and transfer of any sold items.

Please keep in mind that this art show is during a reception dinner, and attendees will have the freedom to shop at the artist's tables, enjoy their buffet dinner while visiting with each other. Any artist who is also an attendee of the convention may enjoy the dinner as well, but will be completely responsible for the security of the artwork at their station, should they leave the artwork to get their meal. Any artist who is not attending the convention, who wants to have the dinner may purchase dinner in advance prior to the convention. Artwork is limited to Feline related objects. There are a tremendous number of talented artist in the Northwest, so please sign up early to ensure a space available.

Thank you,

Kelly Jean Buckley
Director Member Services

Wild Feline Husbandry Course

On August 8, 2001, an eight-hour Wild Feline Husbandry Training Course will be held to provide students with the knowledge required to practice responsible captive husbandry of wild felines. This course is suitable for both novices and "Old Hands" who want to improve their level of knowledge. Topics will include the following:

Natural History of Wild Felines
Conservation & Regulatory Agencies
Permits
Facility Design & Handling Equipment
Nutrition

Health Care
Disposition & Handling
Behavior Conditioning
Contingency Planning

Register for the Wild Feline Husbandry Course by June 4, 2001.

Please send \$50.00 tuition to:
LIOC-ESCF, Inc.
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028

For information, contact:
George Stowers at gtowers@twcny.rr.com or 315-342-4997
or **Tracy Wilson** at wildcat@ipa.net or 501-368-0399

Arkansas Wildlife Regulations: How We Fought and WON!

by: Tracy Wilson

In February of 2000, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioners asked for a committee to be formed of a variety of Game and Fish employees, to write up regulations regarding canned hunts. They asked this committee to investigate into these type activities, and talk with people in the animal industry. Then the committee was asked to write up draft regulations about canned hunting. However, when the first draft of regulations were presented to the commissioners in June 2000, it was over 37 pages long, with only one page that even pertained to canned hunting. The rest of it was about banning non-native and exotic animal pets and breeders from the state. It would not even allow wildlife rehabbers to continue their work.

We were in a panic! This just snuck right in on us, and we were not even ready for it. The media only presented to the public that these regulations were only pertaining to canned hunting. We found out by accident of all the other regulations that had been lumped into this draft, by an inadvertent mailing to Lynn Culver, (a breeder of wild felines) from a deer farmer's association. The deer farmers were about to lose their livelihoods, and they were recruiting memberships from other animal people to help out. Lynn Culver and I inquired to the deer farmers association as to the nature of the regulations and they sent us copies of the proposed regulations where I read that it called for banning all exotic animal breeders, rehabbers, exhibitors and wildlife pets. It even outlawed our Little Rock Zoo! After consulting with the Chairman of the Committee at the Game and Fish about the regulations, it became apparent that he and the other members of the committee were extreme animal rights activists out to ban private ownership. The battle began! I quickly began

calling everyone I could talk to at the Game and Fish Commission. I discovered that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulates itself and can pass laws as they please. Passing a new law pertaining to any wildlife resources in the state, native or non-native, simply required a majority vote by the eight commissioners. In the event of a tie, the chairman of the commissioners would be the tie breaker. After much communication with the commissioners and other employees of the Game and Fish, we were able to sort out who really wanted to ban private ownership and breeders, and who supported us within the organization. Unfortunately, we found out the Chairman was against private ownership, and he would vote to pass it, if it came to a tie. We had our work cut out for us.

The commissioners were open to our suggestions and letters, and many MEFES members, LIOC members, members of Internet exotic animal email groups, and friends from other out of state animal organizations, such as the Ohio Association of Animal Owners, sent letters and emails to the Arkansas Game and Fish on behalf of private ownership. I made an ally with one of the commissioners, who proved to be trustworthy by everything he said he would do. He was very supportive of private ownership. He asked me to submit my suggestions to make changes to the regulations based on my USDA licensed experience, and help them write better regulations that were fair and would work smoothly. I submitted many suggestions, and practically communicated with the Game and Fish every day for months. Things were looking up for private owners. But in August 2000, a new set of draft regulations came out. It was horrible!!! It banned anyone from getting a wildlife pet, native or non-native, period. It also required people who currently owned wildlife pets to spay/neuter their

animals even if you only owned a single animal, within a short time after the regulations were to be passed. The alternative was to euthanize the animals. Certain exotic animals had to be taken out of the state within a certain time period or euthanized! It was written so broadly about the animals it covered, that you would not even be able to own a parrot, a raccoon, a mallard duck, a lizard, anything!!! Needless to say, at this point I was ready to have a nervous breakdown. This new set of draft regulations, the employees and committee members at Game and Fish, tried to "hide" from the public. The only reason I knew about it, was that the trusted commissioner called me and read them to me as soon as he got out of their meeting where they presented it to him. When I called the offices at Game and Fish the next morning to request a copy of the new draft regulations, I was told by the committee chairman, (who happens to be the attorney for the entire Arkansas Game and Fish Commission) that there was no new set of draft regulations that had been given out yet. We talked back and forth for a moment and I knew he was lying to me. I didn't let on what I really knew. I pleasantly ended my conversation with the committee chairman, and immediately called my commissioner friend. The commissioners are the directors of the entire Game and Fish Department. The man that had just lied to me answers directly to the commissioners. I informed the commissioner of the conversation that just transpired with the committee chairman, that he had lied about the new set of draft regulations, and refused to send them to me. The commissioner promptly called the committee chairman, demanded that the draft be released to the public, and he was to send me a copy immediately. I received the copy that was over 45 pages long within the hour.

Again all of our cat and exotic animal friends bombarded the Game and Fish with letters supporting private ownership. The Commissioner also asked me to once again to submit a report, this time on USDA licensing requirements. He planned to use this as proof that breeders and exhibitors were already regulated by USDA, and there

was no need to even pursue regulating these people.

By the end of September, the Game and Fish had received so many responses, that they decided to hold "public hearings" in several areas of the state so that the public could address their issues on formal record directly to the commissioners. They announced that the last draft of regulations were scrapped and they would be rewritten from scratch. At these public hearings, the majority of speakers were young teenage girls in mini skirts who talked about how evil it is to hunt in any way, shape, or form, and most everyone was against canned hunting. But these people did not even know that these regulations would harm other good animal people in the process of banning canned hunting. Only three people got up and publicly spoke for private ownership of wildlife. Lynn Culver defended herself as a wild feline breeder and keeping wild felines as pets. I spoke about USDA requirements and people licensed by them. I also defended private ownership and talked about how these regulations would shut down wildlife rehabbers, exhibitors, sanctuaries, and breeders. One other lady that we did not know also spoke for private ownership as she owned several small monkeys. The animal rights activists in attendance were the majority. They practically booed us off the stage. We were scared to even go outside to our cars! We felt at the time that was a massacre. Afterwards, some of the commissioners approached Lynn Culver and me stating that they felt we spoke about very valid issues. They said they would see that these issues were addressed. That made us feel a little better.

While waiting for the next monthly commissioners meeting where they would discuss the public hearings, suddenly that horrible last draft of regulations were posted on the official Arkansas Game and Fish web site! It asked for comments to be emailed in. I found this by accident, I simply had logged onto the website to see what the date and time of the next commissioners meeting was so that I could attend! I immediately called my commissioner friend and informed him it was posted there. I wanted to know why it

was posted publicly when they had promised it was voted down and in the trash. He stated that the commissioners did not authorize the draft regulations to be posted there and he would certainly have it taken down immediately and investigate how it got there.

Once again, we called on our cat friends in MEFES and LIOC, and all our other animal friends, to email in responses to these regulations posted on their website. We had no idea how many animal rights activists had already responded and we needed damage control fast! Coincidentally, the following day, the committee chairman was fired, and the committee disbanded and reformed with other employees. Hmmmmmmm, too many instances of proven unprofessional behavior? Finally the next month, November, it was time for the commissioners to vote on the final draft of regulations. The following outlines the regulations they passed that pertains to exotic animals and has gone into effect with the New Year:

- * any wildlife pet, native or non-native, may be owned by an individual of legal age, only requiring that a health certificate be obtained from a qualified vet.
- * native wildlife pets are allowed, but only up to 6 per household. USDA licensed exhibitors are exempt from any requirements of these regulations.
- * Wildlife rehabbers are exempt from any requirements of the regulations.
- * Transport permits must be obtained within 30 days of transporting an exotic animal across state lines. No transport permit needed if travel is inside state only.
- * Wildlife breeders are required to have an 8 foot perimeter fence, proper housing for species of animals owned, maintain records on all animals, apply annually for breeders permit, submit to inspections by Game and Fish personnel as needed.

It was a very hard fight, we experienced many ups and downs, endured unprofessional and underhanded behaviors by professionals. But in the end, we are happy with the results. I wish that they would have left breeders off the list, but I think they just wanted to be able to keep tabs of non-native animals being bred in their state. But ultimately, Private Ownership won this

round, for a change. In the process of this whole ordeal when dealing with the agency and the commissioners, no matter how upset I was about an issue, I always tried to keep my calm and remain levelheaded and professional. But it really paid off, we won by getting fair regulations, and also because now I have made an wonderful friend out of a Game and Fish Commissioner. He has turned into a great supporter of my feline rescue facility here. He has told me how highly he thinks of me from working closely with me on these regulations and has even allowed me to use him as a professional reference on a program I am trying to get started with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Canadian Lynx. In the future if we ever face local, county, or state anti-exotic laws, he will be a powerful ally to speak on our behalf, and on behalf of private ownership. I am confident that I can count on him for any assistance I may need. He even called me to check on how our cats were and to see if we needed anything during a severe ice storm that recently covered our entire state!

So the moral of this story is when you are facing anti-exotic legislation, perseverance and professional behavior will win in the long run. Keep a level head, and stay on top of things. Communicate in a courteous manner with the enemy on a regular basis so you can stay one step ahead of them. Even when you think it is hopeless, be careful of whose toes you step on. If you try to be levelheaded and calm, that authority might just listen to your concerns. Give the regulating agency a reason to respect you and your legitimate concerns and opinions. If you can gain their respect, maybe, just maybe, when you face anti-exotic laws in the future from other agencies, you can call on that authority that gained respect for you and your passion for your animals. Screaming, cussing, ranting, and raving will get you nowhere. I knew when these commissioners first met me they had the preconceived notion that I was a crazy animal wacko. But I went in as a professional, and came out with what I wanted for the regulations as well as respect from other professionals. It was hard earned but worth it. Anyone can do it, you just have to keep a good attitude towards them, even

when you feel as if they are about to take away everything that means anything to you. We may all be facing national legislation soon if the Shambala Bill is revived, so keep my

story in mind when you contact your legislators to speak against the Shambala Bill, and Good Luck to all of us, fighting the good fight!

Lynx Reintroduction On Track

CREEDE, Colo. (AP) - Tracker Jake Powell didn't need biologists to tell him that the first batch of Canada lynx released in Colorado's rugged San Juan Mountains was struggling. The 54-year-old hunting guide was hired by the state Division of Wildlife to follow the big, padded paw prints of the longhaired lynx to see how they were doing. What he saw after that first release in February 1999 disturbed him.

"There was little prey out there," Powell said. "You know when you're walking in a starved animal's tracks." Four of the first five lynx released starved to death, drawing criticism from both foes and supporters of the plan to reintroduce the elusive, tuft-eared cat to Colorado's high country. And of the total of 41 animals released that year, 22 died. The state Division of Wildlife changed its procedures. This past winter, instead of releasing lynx immediately after their capture in Canada and Alaska, biologists kept the cats caged for about three weeks to fatten them up, then freed them later in the winter when prey was more available.

So far, just one of 55 lynx released this year has died of starvation. Three others have died - one was hit by a car, another shot and still another killed by bobcats. "I think most of the biologists who've been involved in this program are very, very encouraged by what's happened so far," said Gary Patton, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and program adviser. The medium-sized cats have significant populations in only three of the

Lower 48 states - Washington, Montana and Maine - and Patton's agency lists them as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. An earlier attempt to restore lynx in New York's Adirondacks failed.

In Colorado, the cats were wiped out by trapping, poisoning and development, and the last confirmed sighting prior to the reintroduction program was in 1973 near Vail. Colorado considers it an endangered species. Powell, whose ancestors trapped lynx in southern Colorado, was encouraged by what he saw this past winter. The cats were finding a lot of food and were even stashing leftovers. The next big test is whether the lynx will reproduce. Biologists monitoring the animals with radio collars were excited when one female stopped roaming around last spring, right around breeding season. But they have found no signs of a litter. No more releases are planned and some observers worry because it could take a couple years for the lynx to become established enough to start reproducing. "Each year, there's going to be a certain amount of mortality so your total number of animals is going to continue to decline," Patton said. "Without additional transplants, you're kind of running a somewhat dangerous line."

Bruce Gill, the state biologist overseeing the program, said biologists want to be sure the animals are adapting to the mountains, which are more arid than the Canadian terrain and aren't as full of the cat's favorite food: snowshoe

hares. There are other potential obstacles, said Diane Gansauer of the Colorado Wildlife Federation. "The future of this program has always been dependent on more than the biology," she said. "It's also dependent on the political winds and finances."

Opponents, including ranchers and outfitters, unsuccessfully sued to stop the program because they feared lynx habitat would be closed to them. The Colorado Farm Bureau also worried about restrictions on land use. "There's already discussion of curtailing snowmobilers, hikers and cross-country skiers," said

Ken Morgan, a biologist for the Farm Bureau. On the other side of the issue, a group of environmental saboteurs called the Earth Liberation Front used e-mail to claim responsibility for fires that caused \$12 million in damage at the Vail ski resort in October 1998. ELF claimed it targeted Vail because of its expansion into potential lynx habitat.

Powell believes lynx and people can coexist, and he looks forward to tracking the cats again this winter. It's kind of personal because he suspects he unwittingly trapped a lynx in the 1950s when he was a child. "So, I think it's kind of neat to get to be a part of maybe helping them come back," he said.

Your Neighbor - Their Stories: No Kitties Here - Cat Lover Helps Exotics

The Chronicle, Thursday Oct 5 2000

Want a cougar? Call Jeanne Hall - but be prepared. Hall, a south Chehalis resident, is a U. S. Department of Agriculture - approved cougar handler and she doesn't take the exotic cat lightly. She has been involved with exotics for more than a dozen years and was given USDA approval more than a year ago after rigorous testing. Hall has three cougars and three bobcats at her home. She is president of the Alliance of the Conservation of Exotic Felines, a local branch of a national group. Hall also has her own non-profit corporation, the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association. It fights legislation that may look good for animals but Hall believes really isn't. She rescues exotic felines trying to deal with emergency situations only. In the past three years, she helped place more than a dozen cats. "I don't promote people getting these cats," she says of people asking her for the animals. "This is very specialized, but I do find homes for them. If people want a cat,

they need to be prepared. There is a lot of education that goes into owning one."

In 1988, Hall saw an ad for a bobcat. She had always wanted one so she investigated it, became educated and got one. She says she's still learning. "Learning about the cats is similar to a hunter hunting deer. You're always learning about the animals," she says. "It's a lifetime thing and each one is different but a real key is sharing knowledge with other owners. "Lots of people have experience with dogs and cats, but it's not every day you run into someone with a cougar."

When Predators of the Heart (www.predatorsoftheheart.org), a nonprofit organization that tries to teach people about making correct decisions with exotic animals, needed someone on its staff with at least a year of experience with exotic cats, Hall was called, and helped the group get its license. "They found me and then they (USDA) investigated me and thoroughly checked my

references," Hall says.

She traveled with the group for a year and is still on its staff but now goes to shows only when a second handler is needed. "I have recommended for them to get their license without restrictions," Hall says.

Hall is one of the original members of the local ACEF group (acef.org) that was formed in 1997. She began serving as president in January.

The group has 50 local members and meets monthly. "I tell people I'm the president of the local exotic cat club," Hall says. "We have some really great members here in the Chehalis area - from private owners, to artists, to professional people, to just regular people who hold jobs in the area. If anyone is interested, they can call me."

And recently, she formed the non-profit Phoenix group (www.phoenixexotics.org). "We are just a bunch of people who own exotics, or are concerned about maintaining the right to private ownership - hunters, circus people, anyone threatened," Hall says. "We are a Chehalis, home-grown corporation but are national in scope."

Within the Chehalis area, Hall says there are more than a dozen members and the group has exchanged membership with several other similar groups throughout the country. "One group in Ohio has over 13,000 members and we have exchanged memberships with them, but I just show their vice president on our list," Hall says. She started the group to provide education to legal, responsible private owners and is now opposing legislation that could threaten the right of private ownership.

Currently, the group is opposing the Shambala Wild Animal Protection Act 2000. Hall says the bill appears to be for the protection of wild animals but in reality it just bans private ownership. "We are all for working out the problems that exist," she says. "But we're trying to tell the drafters of this bill that they are just sentencing many private animals to death."

If the bill passed, thousands of animals owned by private individuals that couldn't be placed would be euthanized. Animals that

could be banned are as follows:

** Any animal within an animal order and family specified as an exotic species or a hybrid cross of such a species or subspecies;

** Any animal not normally kept in the personal possession of any person;

** And any animal that would primarily exist without confinement or restraint in a wild and free environment.

For example, any breed of dog with wolf in its blood, or even a rare fish, could fall under the law. "We're sent mailings to all representatives and senators, and (I hope) this will be dead in the water (Friday)," Hall says of the initial vote. "All the checking we've done appears that it will." Hall hopes the bill will die, so she can get back to educating individual owners instead of working at the legislative level. "I would prefer spending time educating people," she says. "This stuff is a pain in the butt." Hall says one of the big reasons she's able to devote so much time to caring for exotics and to be on call as an emergency rescuer, is the understanding of her boss at CLS Communications in Chehalis, Mike Abbott. She's worked at CLS as its bookkeeper for more than two years, after almost not taking the position because she was looking for something part time, not full time.

"Mike has been very supportive of me and lets me work a very flexible schedule," Hall says, "I can only do some of the things I do because he lets the community take precedence over work sometimes." And besides her fulltime job, Hall also does volunteer tax preparation for the American Association of Retired Persons each year. "I remember there used to be a thing called sleep," she says. "Sometimes I don't know how I get everything done."



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

*Why The Cheeks Of
The Cheetah Are
Stained With Tears*

A Zulu Story

From the book, "Clan of the Wild Cats"

Long ago, a wicked and lazy hunter was sitting under a tree, gazing idly at a large clearing below where a herd of fat springbok were peacefully grazing. The hunter was thinking that it was far too hot to bother himself with a long and tiring stalk through the bushes, when suddenly he noticed a movement off to the right. It was a female cheetah which had also chosen this herd to hunt-and she was doing it very well.

Keeping downwind of the herd, she was moving closer to them very slowly, inch by inch, and keeping well under cover. The hunter watched, fascinated, as she crept closer and closer to a springbok, which had unwisely wandered away from the main herd.

Suddenly, she gathered her long legs under her, and sprang forward like an arrow. With dazzling speed she raced down upon the springbok and caught it just as it started to leap away.

Panting from her effort, the cheetah dragged her prize away to some shade on the edge of the clearing. The hunter watched marveling at the speed and skill he had just witnessed. But as he watched, he saw to his surprise that three beautiful cheetah cubs had also been watching and waiting in the shade.

Now the hunter was filled with envy for the cubs, and wished that he, too, could have such a good hunter to provide for him. This gave him a wicked idea; he knew that cheetahs never attack men, and so he decided that it would be easy to take one of the cubs and train it to hunt for him. Chuckling to himself, he settled down to wait. After all, he was cowardly too, and did not wish to find out whether a mother cheetah would defend her cubs.

When the sun was setting, the mother cheetah left her cubs concealed in a bush, and set off to the waterhole to drink. Quickly, the



hunter grabbed his spear and trotted down to the bushes where the cubs were hidden. There he found the three cubs, still too young to run away. He could not decide which one to take, and so he stole them all, thinking to himself that three cheetahs would undoubtedly be better than one.

When the mother came back half an hour later and found her babies gone, she was broken-hearted. The poor mother cheetah cried and cried, until her tears made dark stains down her cheeks. She wept all night, and all the next day. She cried so loudly that she was heard by an old man, who came out to see what all the noise was about.

Now, it so happened that this old man was very wise in the ways of the world, and he had great knowledge of, and respect for, animals. When he found out what happened, he became very angry, for not only had the lazy hunter become a thief, but he also had broken the traditions of the tribe. All knew that a hunter must use his own strength and skill. Any other way of hunting was surely a dishonor.

The old man returned to the village and told the other elders what had happened. The villagers became angry, too, and the people found the lazy hunter and drove him away from the village forever.

The old man took the three cheetah cubs and returned them to their grateful mother. But the weeping of the mother cheetah had stained her face permanently, and so, to this day, say the Zulu, the cheetah wears the tearstains on its face as a reminder to the hunters that it is not honorable to hunt in any other way than that which is traditional.