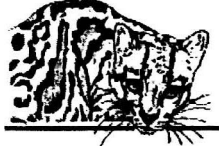


ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



**Pallas cat picture from
LIOC member, Alexander Kurtz,
an intern at the Oakhill Center for
rare and endangered species in
Oklahoma City
(See article on page 10.)**



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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Special Thank You to

- Kelly Jean Buckley**
- Cheri Fecker**
- Colette Griffiths**
- Alexander Kurtz**
- Carol Lewis**
- John Lussmyer**
- Carin Sousa**
- George Stowers**
- Shirley Wagner**
- Tracy Wilson**

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.rr.com . Please send computer readable text files. (Email is great, will accept ASCII text files on disk. See page 2 for address.)

God made the cat to give man the pleasure of petting the tiger.
Francois Mery

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30th Annual LIOC Convention 2001

Portland, Oregon

August 8-12, 2001

Hotel Information

Please CALL for reservations to the Holiday Inn Portland Airport at 503-256-5000. Please let them know you are with the LIOC convention and advise if you will have a cat in your room.

Single/Double occupancy is \$69.00

Triple/Quad occupancy is \$79.00

Junior Suites are \$125.00

These charges do not include the 11.5% room tax or a \$2.50 per night energy surcharge which will be added to your room costs. The hotel will offer these LIOC group rates 3 days prior and post convention on availability.

The cats are welcome in the hotel (30 pound maximum). A non-refundable fee of \$25 per room will apply to rooms with cats. When sending your \$95 convention registration, please advise which cats that you are bringing and each of their weights.

Banquet Meal Choice

Along with your convention registration, please advise your choice of meal for Saturday night's banquet dinner as follows:

Grilled Salmon - Orange Stuffed and Almond Crusted with Orange Beurre Blanc

or

Sautéed Breast of Chicken - with Prosciutto and Swiss Cheese, Breaded and Sautéed with Sage Cream Cheese

Registration

Please send your 2001 LIOC Convention registration payable to:

LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028

Cost is \$95 per person, \$75 for children under 18, \$10 for children under 5. Payment is due by JUNE 4.)

Riverboat Trip

If you have not already sent your \$20 for the riverboat trip and still want to attend, please send payment and we will try to get you a ticket to join the group. If the ticket is unavailable your payment will be refunded. At this time there is still more space on the riverboat. 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.

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

2001 Cat Census

Small Cats		Big Cats		Hybrid Cats	
Asian Golden Cat	1	Cheetah	9	Bengal (Leopard Cat/Domestic)	115
Black Footed Cat	3	Jaguar	13	Safari (Geoffroy/Domestic)	5
Bobcat	137	Leopard	40	Chausie (Jungle Cat/Domestic)	20
Caracal	85	Clouded Leopard	6	Savannah (Serval/Domestic)	52
Cougar	167	Amur Leopard	4	Bobcat/Lynx	5
European Wild Cat	3	Snow Leopard	21	Caraval (Serval/Caracal)	7
Fishing Cat	14	Lion	64	Liger (Lion/Tiger)	3
Geoffroy Cat	36	Tiger	191		
Gordon Cat	3				
Indian Desert Cat	5				
Jaguarundi	4				
Jungle Cat	31				
Leopard Cat	12				
Canadian Lynx	59				
Siberian Lynx	18				
Eurasian Lynx	23				
Margay	5				
Ocelot	37				
Oncilla	3				
Pallas's Cat	5				
Rusty Spotted Cat	4				
Sand Cat	4				
Serval	203				

In 1960 the LIOC cat census totaled 79 cats and in year 2001 LIOC's cat census totals 1417 Cats! These totals include cats that have been reported by their owners on membership renewal forms, and do not include cats whose owners have not reported. Although it is clear that these census totals do not disclose owner's individual identities, many members do not participate.

When a membership renewal form is not completed, we hold the previous year's cat census record, assuming the member's cat population hasn't changed. One very common example is; when a member reports that they have serval, bobcat, tigers, and cougar...we can only count 1 each, serval, bobcat, and cougar, and only assume 2 tigers because it was listed plural. When the following year this member does fill out the form, they report 1 serval, 2 bobcat, 4 cougar, and 3 tiger. We try to be as accurate in the cat census as possible, but can only provide the cat population with what members report accurately. Please include your cats on your renewal form. There is a box to mark for confidentiality.

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley

Writing Your Will?




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

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Dr. Whiteley First Recipient of LIOC Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship

By Carin Sousa

The Ken Hatfield fund is pleased to announce the selection of Sonya Whiteley, DVM, CVA as our first award recipient. Dr. Whiteley is a graduate of Colorado State U. and practices at Laurel East Veterinary Service in Laurel, MT. She is also in charge of all veterinary care at Zoo Montana. Dr. Whiteley was recommended by Jay F. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., Director of Science and Conservation Biology, Zoo Montana and Mark Konop, Executive Director of the same facility. Both gentleman cited the outstanding job Dr. Whiteley did last summer, saving a breeding pair of Siberian (Amur) tigers, who became ill with an, as yet, undiagnosed viral infection of the upper pharynx and were unable to eat. With no previous training in exotic veterinary medicine and an "exceedingly 'green' team", Dr. Whiteley pulled both cats through. The female was not able to eat on her own for six weeks, making Dr. Whiteley's handling of the situation and her "excellent and vigilant care" all the more impressive.

Dr. Whiteley will be attending Dr. Ed Ramsay's Short Course in Zoo Medicine to be offered at the University of Tennessee's Center for Zoological Medicine in Knoxville, June 11-15 of this year. The scholarship fund is granting the \$900 tuition fee for her to attend. Remember to mention the fund to your veterinarians and any veterinary students who wish to pursue studies in exotic feline medicine.

Cape Lion Cubs Sent to South Africa

November 08, 2000
AP News Service

MOSCOW (AP) — Two lion cubs have been sent from a Siberian zoo to South Africa for tests to determine if they are members of a breed long believed to be extinct.

The cubs have been tentatively identified as Cape Lions and their DNA is to be compared with museum specimens preserved in South Africa.

The cubs were sent to Cape Town, South Africa, from the zoo in Novosibirsk, zoo director Rastislav Shilo said Tuesday. The zoo, about 1,800 miles east of Moscow, is among Russia's most prominent.

Cape Lions were distinguished from other lions by larger bodies and by black manes extending to the middle of their torsos. They were believed to have been killed off in the wild in the 19th century.

But some likely survived in captivity in zoos and circuses, where they were popular for their unusual appearance, said lion specialist Helmut Pechlaner of the Schoenbrunner Tiergarten zoo in Vienna, Austria.

The cubs were born in the Novosibirsk zoo from a pair of cats, named Rita and Simon, descended from lions the facility received in 1961, according to Shilo. He said he did not know where those lions had come from.



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

LEGAL CONCERNS

FOR EXOTIC ANIMAL OWNERS IN NY AND TX

Ban Bill Introduced in NY State Assembly (A07375)

Greetings:

I recently learned that NY State Assemblyman Paul Tonko has introduced a bill in the New York State Assembly that would ban (I do mean ban, not require permits) possession of many species of wild/exotic animals by individual private owners. I urge individuals who wish to oppose this bill especially those living in New York State to contact me ASAP. I have spent time with Mr. Tonko in the past and he seems to be an intelligent, reasonable man open to differing opinions when supported by facts. Those who wish to contact Mr. Tonko with such information may do so at:

tonkop@assembly.state.ny.us

If you wish to call his office to voice your opinion the number is: 518-455-5197

I have been trying to get him to modify his bill to be consistent with the Model Regulations drafted by the LIOC. (Basically a permit system open to anyone who can demonstrate basic husbandry knowledge and who has appropriate facilities. I'd be happy to send a copy to anyone who is interested in reading the full text of the LIOC's Model Regulations.) Mr. Tonko and his staff are familiar with the LIOC's Draft Model Regulations so mentioning them would be meaningful to him.

The preamble to the bill reads as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that keeping exotic animals as pets poses a serious threat to the health and safety of New York state residents. Wild animals, including but not limited to, monkeys, tigers and venomous snakes, are readily available for purchase from a thriving exotic pet dealer industry. That these animals and other wild animals, are inherently dangerous and unsuited to domesticated life, is evidenced by the burgeoning number of privately-owned wild animal

attacks on humans. Across the country, children have been mauled by tigers, asphyxiated by snakes, and bitten by monkeys. Wild animals kept as pets can transmit serious and sometimes fatal diseases to people, including Herpes B, Salmonella and Ebola virus. Moreover, scientists theorize that when the origin of West Nile Virus is finally determined, it may well be connected to the transport of non-native species across our borders. Recapture of escaped wild animals is an expensive and perilous endeavor for municipalities. Forcing wild animals to live in unnatural confinement among humans is both cruel and contrary to the interest of public health and security. Other states already prohibit private ownership of certain wild animals as pets, a position supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). New York must take similar steps to ensure the protection of the public and the humane treatment of wild animals.

The full text of the bill can be viewed at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/> Simply go to this page and select "Search By Bill Number" and enter A07375 in the search field.

Cordially,

George Stowers
President, LIOC-Endangered Species
Conservation Federation

*Instead of pews,
Cats pray in mews.
C.B. Bone*

*When cats die, they pass through the
Purrrrrly Gates.
Unkown*

ATTENTION: TEXAS EXOTIC OWNERS

There is concern about HB 1362 and the impact it will have on private, individual exotic owners. This bill does not apply to sanctuaries or 501(c)3's (yet.) The bill will apply to any "dangerous wild animal," such as a lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, bobcat, lynx, serval, caracal, hyena, bear, coyote, jackal, baboon, chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla, or any hybrid of an animal listed in this subdivision. If your specific exotic is not currently listed, please do not think that it can't or won't be in the future. The complete document can be viewed at the Texas Legislature Online.

In a nutshell, HB 1362 will require the following:

1. all private individuals to register with the local animal control agency or county sheriff's dept and the Texas Dept of Health. A complete identification of each animal, including species, sex, age and any distinguishing marks or coloration.
2. a registration fee of \$50 per animal, not to exceed \$500 per individual.
3. \$100,000 LIABILITY INSURANCE.
4. color photographs of each animal, statement of dimensions of primary enclosure, scale diagram of premises where the animal is to be kept, including the location of any perimeter fencing and any residence on the premises along with copies of any USDA license. A photo of the primary enclosure will also be required.
5. A statement by a licensed veterinarian that he/she has inspected each animal and each animal is being cared for properly.
6. If or after a license is obtained, an owner of a "dangerous wild animal," will be subject to inspection by the registration agency, its staff, its agents, or a designated licensed veterinarian, "at all reasonable times."

The Texas Legislature Online site is www.capitol.state.tx.us/ for contact information of legislators.

Texas Husbandry Course Offered

Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course

Presented by LIOC, Hosted by In-Sync Exotics

Cost: \$75 per student

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2001

Time: 8:00 AM, lasts approximately 8 to 9 hours

Location: Garland, Texas

Maps and hotel information will be mailed to you upon receipt of your registration fee. If you will be flying in, the closest airport is Dallas Love. Garland, Texas, is only about 30 min. from Dallas, 2 hrs from Tyler, and maybe 40 min from Terrell, and McKinney.

Registration fees should be made payable to In-Sync Exotics and mailed to the following address:

In-Sync Exotics

P.O.Box 968

Wylie, TX. 75098

Registration fees need to be received before May 5, 2001.

Contact information for any questions, Please call or email Vicky of In-Sync Exotics:

Office Phone: 972-442-4988

Facility Phone: 469-964-8944

Email Address: insyncexotics@aol.com

Information about the course:

This course was professionally developed in accordance with a nationally recognized standard for technical training known as the Systematic Approach to Training (SAT). Topics Covered Include: Natural History of Wild Felines, Regulatory Agencies & Permits, Facility Design, Nutrition, Health Care Basics, Handling & Behavior Training, Contingency Planning. The course includes an instructor lead, multi-media presentation, a 60 page student text, workshops, and final exam. Students who pass the exam receive a decorative certificate denoting successful completion of the course. Special thanks to Vicky at In-Sync Exotics for hosting this course!!!! Hope to see everyone there, it will be lots of fun!

Tracy Wilson,

Director of Education & Conservation, LIOC-ESCF

Pallas Cats

by Alexander Kurtz

Pallas cats? Oh yeah, I think I've read about that cat.

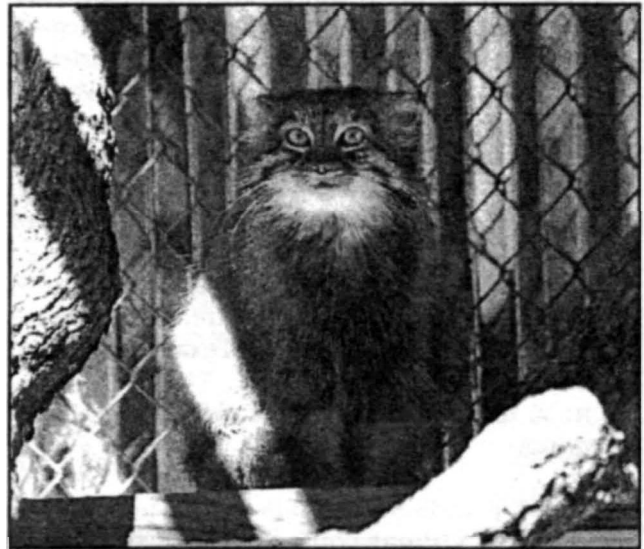
I guess that everybody here has heard or read of the Pallas cat. But in general, the information you will find in books is rather short, because there isn't too much known about it's behavior. Since I have the possibility to work with these cats, I want to share some info and some stories so that you all might know a little bit more than that what you can read in the various books.

First, some general informations:

The Pallas cat ranges from southern Siberia/Russia down into Afghanistan and Iran and across Tibet, Mongolia and western China. Its enviroment consists out of steppes, desserts and treeless mountainsides.

The bodylength (including head) is around 22 inches, the tail ~8 inches and the weight 5-9 pounds. Of course, there might be individuals exceeding these figures.

If you just get a short look on a Pallas cat or if your view is parially blocked, then you might think, that you're looking at a grey, small domestic, persian cat, that is in a pretty bad mood. But if you look closer, then you will realize, that the ears of that cat are placed on the side of the head so that even if the ears are in a "full upright" position, they will not reach higher then the highest point of the head. You could even say, that you have a straight horizontal line from one eartip across the head to the other eartip (see pic.1). In fact the whole body of the cat is designed to be flat in order to be able to hide in the smallest ditch or behind small rocks. With it's long fur, which conceals



(dissolves) the shape of the body and gives it better camouflage, its flat, small head, the flat ears and it's flat body, it will be very hard for its prey (small mammals) to spot the cat in the featureless terrain. Of course, if the cat has rocks, bushes or tree stumps available, it will readily climb on them and use them as lookout points or hide behind them. Even though I believe, that they are good climbers, I've never seen one climb on the trees in their enclosure. One very interesting behavior of Pallas cats is, that they usually will not run away from you. They will rather try to hide behind a stone or in a ditch, simply "freeze" there and pretend to be invisible then make their presence obvious by running away from you. This behavior allows you to get very close to WILD!!!!) Pallas cats, maybe as close as 1 FOOT before they decide to run away from you. I've heard stories about Mongolian kids beating wild Pallas cats to death with a stick and I thought, "Yeah right, next thing I get told is that someone by accident stepped on one of them!" I didn't believe that story until we got a couple of

wild caught Pallas cats shipped to us from Mongolia. And it's true, they will hide behind a treestump and swiffel around it to hide behind it ("I can't see you so you can't see me!") until you are too close in their opinion. Then (in most cases) they take off and run away from you as fast as their little feet can carry them. Sometimes, maybe because they got used to me working in and around their cages, I even had to gently push them out of the way with a shovel or a rake. Of course, they were not really happy about it but they would not attack and soon fall back into their "hide and be invisible" mode . Now you might think, that these animals might be really good as pets, but be warned. I take care of a handraise zoo-Pallas cat and her behavior is the complete opposite of a wild pallas cat. She is highly aggressive and territorial and will, if she has a really bad day, successfully defend her cage against every of my attempts to enter it. She has no fear whatsoever of humans and that makes her dangerous. Eventhough she's a small ball of fur, with her sharp claws (comparable to small, sharp syringeneedles or better, sharp fishing hooks) and her teeth, she can inflict astonishing scratches and bites to an unsuspecting/uncarefull person. Nothing lifethreatening, but very effective and painfull. Needless to say, that I got my fair share of scratches from her. Of course, this behavior to some degree might have to do with the way, the cat has been handraised, but I've heard from different sources, that the cats between the age of 3 to 5 months start to become aggressive towards people. In captivity, the survival rate of the cubs is generally very low because they get infected with Toxoplasmosis and die within 5 months. Testing revealed, that most (all) Pallas cats in zoos do carry the disease. I do not known wheather the cubs get alreedy infected in the womb of the mother or wheather they become infected by the

mother licking them, but once a cub is infected, it will die. Research in the wild concluded, that Taxo is not widely spread in the homerange of the cats. Of 9 cats caught in this study, only one carried the disease. The 4 cats the we got shipped from Mongolia also tested negative. The problem with Taxo is, that it gets spread by rodents, by birds and by other cats and that once an animal is infected, it will carry the disease until it dies or until it gets a special medical treatment. Most healthy cats however will not have nor show any problems with this disease until their immune system becomes weakened. But for the cubs, since their immunesystem isn't fully developed yet, it is absolutely deadly. There might be hope on the horizon though. A new medical product is hoped to make noninfected cubs immune to the disease and assist infected cubs strengthening their immune system to such a degree, that they will survive. It has not been extensively tested yet, but we will use it on our cubs and see, what the results will be.



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

Kitten Care

Most kitting is uneventful. Kittens are born, the queen's milk comes in, and the kittens eat eagerly and grow normally. Humans get all excited, they take pictures and call their friends, but the cat takes it quite in stride. Once in a great while, something goes wrong. The kittens have to have assistance in being delivered, the queen's milk doesn't come in, the mother rejects them, or if you are pulling the kittens from your exotic and must take over feeding. There are many other reasons, but the bottom line is that someone has to feed the kittens.

Although you may be frantic at the peak of the emergency, try to stay calm and evaluate the situation. If the mother is fine but has no milk, feed the kittens but leave them with her to keep them warm, stimulate them to go to the bathroom, and clean them. There have been lapses of as much as 3 to 10 days between birthing and when the queen's milk has come in.

If the kittens are with the mother and she appears to be caring for them but the kittens cry and seem hungry and you are weighing them and they are not growing well, then it is likely that the queen has poor quality milk. If this is the case, the kittens need supplemental feedings.

When weighing the kittens, be sure that you subtract the weight of any material that you have on the scale so that you can have an accurate weight. The kitchen food scales are cheap and handy but are not all that stable for a wiggly kitten. They also have a low limit for the amount of weight that they will track.

Pampered Chef makes a really nice one with a sturdy base and a big dish. If you have a breeding center, I recommend the Pampered Chef scale. Also this is very nice for larger kittens as the scale goes up to five pounds.

If you have a queen that is ready to deliver - BE PREPARED. Go to your local pet store and pick up a can of replacement milk. The milk you will need depends on the type of cat you have. Exotics seem to do better on Esbelac, while domestic do very well on KMR. Make sure that your formula contains Taurine. If not, you can get it from your local health food store. I also recommend adding



Baby Geoffroy Kitten 10 days old

lactate. A lot of animals have problem with being lactose intolerant. The weight gain with adding the lactate on my kittens has really been great.

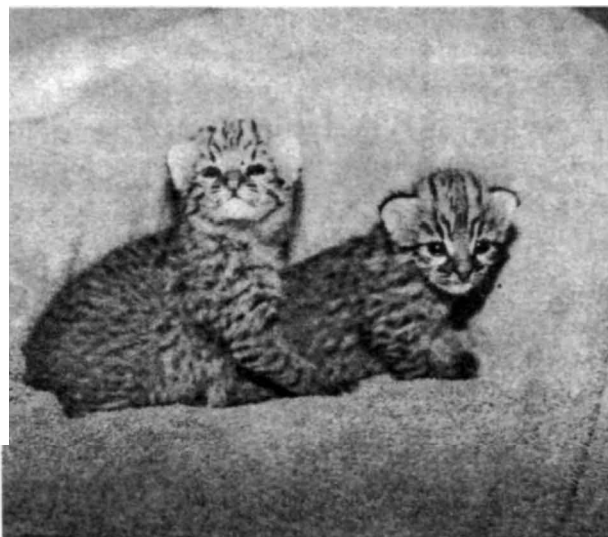
If you don't need the formula, it will keep unopened. Do check the expiration date on the can even if it is not opened. Open formula should be refrigerated (even the powder. Any mixed or prepared formula that is open, must be used within 24 hours). If you don't need the formula, you can then use the milk when you start weaning the kittens. Also buy a couple of animal nursers (baby bottles) and a syringe. There are two types of nipples, short rounded ones and those with a longer nipple. Again, the nipple you will need depends on the type of cat you have. The larger the cat, such as lynx, servals, cougars, would take the longer nipple. While the smaller cats, domestics, Geoffroys, Oncillas, would take the smaller, rounded nipple. If you are well prepared, you wont need it. If you are not, you may be running to the emergency veterinarian clinic at the wee hours of the morning.

Some people recommend feeding the liquid at room temperature, but I warm it to about 100 degrees Fahrenheit (a cat's body temperature is around 102 degrees). Baby kitten's thermostats don't work very well:

kittens are easily chilled, and digestion does not begin until the ingested food reaches body temperature. It makes sense to feed warm formula so the kitten does not have to expend calories warming the food so it can digest.

Before you feed the kittens for the first time, check the nipple of the bottle to see if liquid will even pass through the nipple. Often the opening must be enlarged with a hot darning needle or tiny snips using a sterile fingernail scissors. If you are using a darning needle to enlarge the opening, push the needle from the inside out and all the way through. The hot needle will melt the rubber as it goes through. By pushing it all the way through slowly, the rubber will cool down with the hole staying open. Since newborn kittens may have a weak sucking reflex, you don't want to make them work too hard for their dinner. Squeeze the nipple with your fingers to see if the formula comes out drop by drop. The formula should not flow freely through the nipple because the kitten could aspirate some of the fluid and choke.

You have a baby now, so sterilize your feeding utensils just as carefully and thoroughly as if you were feeding a human baby. Kittens can be raised by their mothers in filthy conditions but those kittens have had the benefit of colostrums - mothers' milk that contains antibodies to protect kittens from diseases the mother herself is immune to. When humans take over the rearing process cleanliness is important because the kittens are not getting the antibodies.



Baby Geoffroy Kittens 3 weeks old

To feed a kitten, prop it up so the head is slightly elevated. This helps the kitten to swallow without choking. Don't lay the kitten on its back or fluid may get into its lungs and cause pneumonia. Hold the bottle at an angle slightly above the kitten so it can tug at the nipple. I place the kitten on one leg with the other leg slightly higher. I place the hand with the bottle on the higher leg. This gives the kitten something to support itself on.

As the kittens grow, you and the baby will work out the best feeding positions. If the kittens are weak and can't suck, you may need to use the syringe and gently squeeze (drop by drop) the formula into its mouth. After a day or so you can go to the bottle.

Newborn or weak kittens need to be fed as much as every two hours at first. After a few days you can start decreasing the number of feedings slowly. You can decrease the number of feedings as the kitten starts eating more at each feeding. After the kittens are a few weeks old, you can start extending the feedings. But only if the kitten is eating well and doesn't appear to be hungry when you to feed it at the next scheduled feeding time.

After feeding, burp the baby kittens. Hold the kitten upright and rub its tummy. Always rub towards the tail not towards the mouth. Pat it gently on the back and help the air bubbles work their way out. Kittens do not eliminate by themselves until they are up and running around. Mother cats lick their babies all over and stimulate them to urinate and defecate. You can achieve the same result with a damp cotton ball. Gently wipe or pat the baby's bottom until it wets and has a bowel movement. (After the kittens first feeding you may not have a movement. This is okay, but you should have at least one movement per day.) Any other necessary bathing can also be done at this time. Baby kittens will get more food on them than in them at first. Be patient and all will be fine. If the eyes are still closed, gently wipe the eyes each time you feed.

Babies are really very simple. They need to be warm, dry, clean, fed, and loved. Baby kittens also need to sleep most of the time when they are not being fed.

The kitten's quarters should be kept at about 85 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit for the first five to seven days. After a week, lower the temperature to about 80 degrees for a couple of weeks, then drop it to about 75 degrees for another week as the kittens ease into living at

room temperature. The best way to keep the kittens warm is with a hot water bottle rapped in a towel so they can lay next to it to keep warm. If they are too warm they can move away. A small box with a towel over the top to contain the heat is fine. The amount of heat they need will depend somewhat on the time of year and the weather.

Hand reared kittens can be introduced to solid food and litter pans at about 6 weeks. Exotic kittens take longer. You should not rush your kitten onto solid foods. They will let you know when they start ripping at the nipple and lapping at the nipple rather than sucking.

You can start introducing solid food into the formula in the bottle. I usually start with the human baby strained turkey or chicken. Or you can start with a good quality kitten food such as Nutro Kitten Chicken and Liver. You may have to increase the size of the opening in the nipple, as some particles of the solid food may be bigger than the opening. Take care not to make the opening to big. You still want the formula to drip from the nipple.

When you introduce the kittens to a shallow dish, it may take a little time. Lapping can be stimulated by dabbing a bit of formula on the kitten's mouth with your finger. They will start licking your finger and slowly lower your finger into the dish and they will lap the formula. They may not take to eating on their own immediately, but keep trying. You may have to bottle feed as well until they get the hang of it. They invariably end up wearing more food than they eat. After they have eaten, rub their tummies then put them in the litter box and encourage them to use it by stimulating them to go to the bathroom. Before long, they will be going to the litter box voluntarily.



Young Margay in lamp

Do keep a litter box close at all times. They will not realize they need to potty until the last minute, and then it is too late to run and get it.

Raising healthy kittens can be an extremely rewarding experience, and hand reared kittens make superlative companions. Above all, work with your veterinarian. Also do not be afraid to call those that have raised kittens by hand before for assistance. These people are usually very happy to help and share what has worked for them.

This information has come from my vet, Oasis Animal Clinic, Cat Fancy magazine, AZA infant care, as well as other books on caring for animals. This is what works for me and others that have had the rewarding experience of hand raising kittens.

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Colette Griffiths
Cocoa's Pride



Savannah Baby

Parallel Lessons: Jaguars Spotted in New Mexico

<http://www.abqjournal.com/go/198741go12-14-00.htm>

Albuquerque Journal

14 December 2000

By Bob Julyan

Rare jaguar encounters suggest the mysterious cats live in the high desert. On the afternoon of Aug. 25, 1990, Gerald Jacobi, biology professor retired from New Mexico Highlands University, and his wife, Donna, a mammalogist, were driving along a Forest Road north of Turkey Creek in the remote, seldom-visited, quintessentially wild Black Range. Suddenly Donna blurted, "Jerry, look at that!" There, about 20 yards away and loping with the vehicle, was what appeared to be a jaguar. Astonished, the Jacobis watched the animal as it paced their car through the pinon-juniper forest. When they stopped for an even better look, the large cat turned around, crossed the road behind them and was gone. But for 30 seconds the Jacobis had ample opportunity to observe the animal. Its fur was tawny, with the jaguar's characteristic dark rosettes.

Gerald remembers the head as being large. Both Jacobis have doctorates in biology and have spent their lives outdoors. No doubts exist in their minds - nor those of professional wildlife experts - that the animal they saw was indeed a jaguar. With their report, the Jacobis joined a very elite group. In the 460 years of written records in New Mexico, a scant 20 reports exist of jaguars here. (In Arizona, 81 reports occurred between 1848 and 1994.) Coronado, in 1540, made the first report a brief mention of the

unexplored country having "tigres" and "ounces," both common Latin American Spanish terms for "jaguar." But Coronado's chronicler gave no further details.

Over the centuries, other reports have trickled in. On April 10, 1825, a "tigre" entered the Convent of San Francisco in Santa Fe, attacking and killing four men before it was shot. But no further description was made, no evidence preserved. In 1903, New Mexico Gov. Miguel A. Otero displayed a rug made from the skin of a jaguar killed the previous year. But again, there are no details as to where the hide came from, or what happened to the rug. A long-vanished skin, a verbal report with no corroboration. The evidence is as elusive as the jaguars themselves. The Jacobis' report was far more significant than most, because of their credibility and quality of observation. But because their evidence was words, not photographs, jaguars didn't register on the public's radar.

All that changed on March 7, 1996, when rancher and lion-hunter Warner Glenn of Douglas, Ariz., was taking a client into the Peloncillo Mountains straddling the New Mexico-Arizona border. Their dogs picked up a scent, and Glenn, separated from the rest of the party, followed the dogs. Glenn, who hails from a longtime ranching family and is a veteran of many lion hunts, marveled at the exceptional strength and endurance of the animal the dogs were chasing and at the robust size of the animal's tracks. "Dang that booger!" Glenn recalls thinking. "He must be a wild son-of-a-gun." Glenn found the dogs barking madly

at an animal crouched on a ledge. In "Eyes of Fire," the book he wrote about his experience, Glenn recalls saying aloud: "God Almighty! That's a jaguar!" Then Glenn made a fateful decision: Instead of reaching for his rifle, he reached for his camera. And in doing so, he achieved a kind of immortality; because those photos in vivid color, showing the jaguar in several positions, with recognizable landmarks in the background were conclusive proof that jaguars were still in New Mexico. This time, the jaguar was not ignored. To many people, jaguars symbolize all that is powerful, dangerous and mysterious in nature. Possessing bone-crushing strength and a coat nearly invisible in most settings, they're solitary and stealthy predators. They're the third-largest wild cat, just behind tigers and lions.

In the New World, *Panthera onca* is associated with the tropics and is the top carnivore there. But in fact, the genus is remarkably adaptive; snow leopards inhabit the frozen mountains of Central Asia. And in 1996, Glenn proved jaguars still exist in the arid Southwest Mountains. Glenn's encounter electrified Southwestern wildlife and ecology communities. Conservationists cited jaguars as proof of the value and viability of the wilderness habitats they want protected. Following Glenn's sighting, New Mexico and Arizona signed a Jaguar Conservation Agreement, which created a Jaguar Conservation Team made up of governmental wildlife managers, wildlife researchers, and representatives of ranching and preservation groups. It's been a politicized, contentious aggregation of hostile interests. But jaguars now have the public's attention, however belatedly.

In a small office in the New Mexico Game and Fish Department laboratory building, endangered species biologist

Greg Schmitt discusses the report he's written detailing each of the 20 sightings, including the Jacobi's and Glenn's. So he knows better than anyone just how rare conclusive evidence is. Of Glenn's experience, he says, "I was pretty amazed by it. I've spent a lot of time in the tropics, where jaguars are pretty common, and I haven't seen one. It's very encouraging to me that the system can still support a jaguar. It's very exciting." And very problematic.

What was the animal doing here? Is New Mexico really jaguar territory, or was the jaguar just a wandering male displaced from its true habitat in Mexico? What's their status in Mexico? If jaguars once lived here, could they live here again? And how do you study a creature that's sighted, on average, less than once every two decades?

Raul Valdez, professor in the NMSU Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences and New Mexico's foremost authority on jaguars, has attempted some answers. There's no question, he says, that southern New Mexico-Arizona and northern Sonora are at the northern margin of the jaguar's range. But he emphasizes that jaguars are not just jungle creatures. They require cover, water and food. In the Southwest, deer and javelina are common prey species. And unlike large carnivores such as grizzlies and wolverines, jaguars can tolerate some human presence. They prefer riparian habitats but, regrettably for the jaguars, so do humans. "Jaguars do not have much of a future in the tropical habitats, because that's where people can and will live," Valdez says. Thus, he speculates, jaguars could be moving into the last vast wild refuge for them the wilderness of northwestern Sonora and southern New Mexico-Arizona.

Rather than being on the fringes, this

wilderness could become the jaguars' remaining major habitat. "Where we are now is the largest area of jaguar habitat that likely will remain so for the next 100 years. I'm cautiously optimistic about the status of jaguars in northwest Sonora." Valdez has two doctoral students researching jaguar habitats in Mexico. "We know there are jaguars 140 miles south of the U.S. border. We know they're within reach, but we need more information." Did jaguars ever breed in New Mexico? Hard to say, says Valdez, given the paucity of sightings and evidence. But female jaguars and young have been recorded. "I would say there was a population here, however tenuous," Valdez ventures, "because it was part of their range."

Habitat preservationists see jaguars as akin to wolves in symbolizing that the ecosystems here still can support "umbrella species" top carnivores that reflect the well-being of species beneath them. But Schmitt and Valdez also see differences between the situations of jaguars and wolves. Jaguars, they say, were never driven to extinction in New

Mexico, as were wolves. "That we see jaguars occasionally speaks for their ability to hang on," says Schmitt. "Also, we were hell-bent-for-leather to get rid of wolves, but we weren't that way about jaguars." Adds Valdez: "Jaguars, like wolves, are a charismatic animal. They symbolize wilderness, they capture people's imaginations. But whether we should impose them on our present cultures and economics " And no one disputes that jaguars, like wolves, prey on livestock, given the opportunity.

So jaguars remain ambiguous and controversial. In 1999, a man glimpsed a large black cat in the Big Burro Mountains southwest of Silver City. Jaguars exhibit a dark, melanistic phase more commonly than mountain lions, and this animal's tracks, while inconclusive, were consistent with those of a jaguar. Another perhaps? Maybe, given no further sightings, jaguars will recede again from the public's consciousness, and 20 years hence young people will read of a report and exclaim, "New Mexico has jaguars?!" Or maybe, just maybe, the next sighting will be on your next hike.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Each year at Convention the Officers and Directors of LIOC meet with the members present to discuss items that the Officers and Directors will address in their business meeting. This is also the time members may submit ideas, areas or concern or programs they might wish to see implemented.

If you have a topic you wish discussed at the General Membership Meeting at Convention, or an item you wish addressed by LIOC's Board, now is the time to submit it. All submissions must be received no later than July 10th, 2001. Send any proposed agenda items to:

George Stowers, President
P.O. Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080

Got Stress?

Of course you do! Your life is so busy, you are probably feeling guilty about taking the time to read this. Do something nice for yourself. You earned it. The next few minutes can set in motion the events that will forever change your life.

If you could attain peace of mind would it be worth the investment of the next few moments? If you could master the passion that drives our heroes wouldn't it be worth a little of your time?

Time is our most precious commodity, so I won't waste any of yours. I am running a multi million dollar real estate business with only two paid staff and I have to raise \$1100.00 PER DAY from donors to keep WildLife on Easy Street running. I am personally responsible for the well being of over 200 animals and to that end must coordinate over 50 volunteers and insure not only their safety, but also that of our guests. I know a thing or two about stress. What I know best is how to cope with it and how to use that energy to my advantage.

We are all given exactly the same amount of time in each day. What we do with it is up to us. What works for me, seems to be working for a lot of people. The fact that you are reading this publication is a good indicator that it will work for you.

People have always commented on how well I deal with stress, but I never thought about how I did it, until I started seeing the transformation in people around me. I started first by noticing my family. I come from a long line of workaholics so getting a lot accomplished in a short amount of time was the norm, but I never saw our family members taking time to

enjoy the fruit of their labor, until I saw them working with the animals.

My father, Vernon, has had a schedule for the past 4 years of building a cage per week, along with a lot of other maintenance emergencies. As frantic as this pace is, I see him taking a moment here and there to sit back and look at what he has done. I can see the satisfaction in his eyes when he sees a big cat who has never had room to run, racing around the new Cat-A-Tat. I know he takes pride in providing these animals with ponds, waterfalls, and caves and in knowing that his designs in doors, and lockouts and safety entrances make all of our jobs easier and safer. I never saw him get so much pleasure from the businesses he used to own. He's always taken pride in his work, but it was work to support his family, and not the expression of his creative passion.

My mother, Barbara, worked for 20 years at the same job and was incredibly good at managing people and keeping the operation running smoothly, but I never heard her come home and say how great it felt to have been a part of the team. Her loyalty meant many late nights and weekends of work to benefit the company, but it was still just a job and not a creative outlet. She now does all of WildLife on Easy Street's bookings, handles all of the banking, keeps up the mailing list and answers the phones. She does all of this as a volunteer in addition to still working full time. It is from the giving of her self that I see her draw the most enjoyment. She has tapped into her abundant creativity and delights in coming up with new ways to solve old problems. She says

that just knowing God is there to help puts everything into perspective.

My daughter, Jamie was the basketball team's MVP and graduated two years early, as Valedictorian of her school. She is a talented artist and gifted photographer, but taking the perfect picture isn't where she gets her greatest thrill. To see her really animated, listen to her tell you all the creative ways she will use that photo to raise money to save the cats. She achieves creative genius when she puts together an event or a book or a newsletter that has a mission far above any personal recognition.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, but what amazes me most is how busy most of them are outside our gates. They are in the medical, legal, veterinary, and a host of other professional trades. They are remarkably intelligent people who have climbed the corporate ladder of success and found that more money and more fame did not bring more happiness. Too often people do not come to this sad realization until very late in their lives.

What sets our volunteers apart from most of society is that they learned early on what matters and how to really make a difference. You won't hear any of them saying that they don't know where their life went or why they aren't where they thought they would be by now. They are living their dream and they are making the world a better place by doing it.

Our guests are even more diverse, coming from all around the globe, and yet I see the same transformation in their lives after visiting WildLife on Easy Street. The two comments I hear consistently are, "This is the most fun I've ever had!!!" and "I looked into the cat's eyes and saw God!"

When you drive down the half-mile of dirt road called Easy Street, you leave behind all of the hustle and bustle of every day life. Ringing the cowbell to let us

know you are here is reminiscent of those childhood trips to the farm. Then there is forty acres of walking in the shade of the trees and around the swan dotted lake. On both sides of you are God's most magnificently beautiful creatures in all their shapes and sizes and sounds. Nothing speaks tranquility like a leopard hanging in the branches or a tiger wading in the water. Nothing can quiet your soul like the purr of a mountain lion.

We invite you to pull up a chair and have a lynx or a bobcat come sit in your lap while you stroke it's luxurious fur. You are in the cat's enclosure and it can choose to come be with you or not. When it does, you know that you have crossed over that invisible barrier into the mind of the most mysterious animal. Making that connection between human and creatures that are considered untouchable by most is an epiphany experienced by the very few. It is during this meeting of the minds that people say they have seen God or that they have felt their own spirit move in a way that it never has before. But this is just the very beginning.

You will find yourself trying out your new awareness on all of the cats here. Then you will start to talk to snow leopards and ocelots and what's more, you will start to hear their silent voices. You can almost hear their whole life's story in those quiet moments that you share in close contact with them. You begin to see the big picture.

Life isn't about what you own or what you have. It's greatest pleasures come in giving. You don't have to give money to feel this bliss, but you do have to give of your time. We are all allotted the same amount of time in a day and it is up to us how to use it. We can spend it in pursuit of things that have never brought anyone any lasting happiness or we can spend it doing good for some other creature. It is

in this giving that we fully discover our talents and our passion. It is when we join forces with others of like minds that we discover a sense of camaraderie.

Working together toward a greater goal is the best form of stress relief. When you realize how trivial our individual problems are in the grand scheme of things it sets life into perspective. It makes it easier for us to tackle our daily troubles when we know that in our spare time we are taking on such issues as creating a humane society.

It must sound absurd to suggest that the way to cope with your hectic life is to take on another big project, but life is stranger than fiction. It works for me and it works for all of the busy people I know. You will never know the peace that can be yours, unless you take the time to get in touch with nature and with your own heart.

If you can't visit us in person at 12802 Easy Street in Tampa, FL 33625 then check us out on line at www.WildLifeOnEasyStreet.com (813) 920-4130.

For the cats

Carole Lewis



*A cat has a reputation to protect.
If it had a halo, it would be worn
cocked to one side.*

Mad Major, Mad Max: The Cats With Mad Cow Disease

http://www.abcnews.go.com/wire/World/reuters20010315_1936.html
ABC News

LONDON (Reuters) - No one guessed that Major was suffering from a form of mad cow disease. The 12-year-old lion had lost the use of his back legs but that could have been due to the back injury he received in a tooth-and-claw fight with his half brother. When a last-ditch attempt to cure his back trouble failed, zookeepers decided it was time Major was freed from his misery and put him down.

The autopsy results shocked everyone. Major had feline spongiform encephalopathy, the cat form of the mad cow disease that has infected nearly 180,000 cattle in Britain since it was first detected in a British herd in 1986. "It was very, very difficult to say (he had the disease) because he was diagnosed with back damage and of course it has almost the same symptoms," said Mike Thomas, managing director at Newquay Zoo in southwest England. Thomas said Major must have caught the disease from eating the brains and spines of cattle, considered to be more at risk of being infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as mad cow disease. "I think everyone takes measures to stop it happening but sometimes you can't stop it happening," he said, adding "We don't feed brain and spinal column ... the lions are fed on beet and rabbits—whole rabbits."

Major was only the second lion to get FSE in Britain but he joins 85 other cats, mainly domestic varieties, diagnosed with the disease since 1990. Three cheetahs, three pumas, three ocelot and two tigers have also developed FSE, which causes cats to become disoriented, stagger and find their surroundings alien and confusing, the British agriculture ministry said.

Scientists agree with Thomas that it is difficult to discover cases of FSE mainly because cat owners and zoo keepers are not looking for the disease. "It wasn't something that was immediately obvious. You can only tell if an animal has got it, or a human for that matter, by examining the brain," Thomas said, adding that cats do not pose the same threat to humans as cattle and are not routinely tested for the disease after they die. "The real problem is the food chain, in that if people eat infected beef then that passes it on.

(Continued on page 23)

Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines

Meeting minutes for 2/26/2001

This meeting was held at the home of Jackie and Ashley Hawkins. While there was a little confusion with the directions, everyone seems to have found it ok. The meeting did start off a bit late, as Jeanne seems to be able to find every traffic accident that ever occurs on I-5... We did spend quite a while admiring John Kaelins young Serval - Neeko, and lynx - Tutter. Once the meeting did get underway we covered quite a bit of material. I've had computer problems so the membership cards aren't done. I really should get them done by the next meeting. I mean it! We also discussed the LIOC convention and who would be going to what parts of it. We will probably arrange for a table during the "Artists hour" at the convention for all of the clubs artists, and club info. If anyone is interested in going to all or part of the convention, please contact us soon. The convention is August 8-12. If you have any questions, just ask. There is another exotic animal ban bill working it's way through the WA state legislature (House bill #1725, Senate #5729). We would like everybody to contact their local representatives and senators and voice your opinion of the bill. If you aren't sure which ones to contact, I can provide you with the appropriate names and numbers. A few ideas for summer field trips were brought up as well. Both Cougar Mountain and the Woodland Park zoo are possibilities.

— John Lussmyer Secretary/Treasurer

<mailto:ACEF@ACEF.org>

Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines,
Cascade branch of the LIOC.

see <http://www.ACEF.org/>

Meeting Minutes for 3/17/2001

This meeting was held at the home of Charlie Frazier. Once again we had a fair turnout, including 2 new members! A few people had trouble with the directions and showed up late, and it wasn't Jeanne! :-). Once again I had to come up with some lame excuse for not having the membership cards done. The good news there is that the excuses are over and the cards WILL be out by the next meeting. I'll be mailing them out soon. We discussed the LIOC convention for quite

a while. The count of our members who are attending is steadily increasing. To make life easier for carpooling and coordinating places to stay, we would like anybody who wants to attend to contact me (John Lussmyer). I'll be collecting the various payments for the convention and sending them in together just to make sure they get in on time and so that we have an accurate attendance count. We also collected volunteers for meeting locations. We are still looking for meeting places for September, October, and November. We need more stuff for the newsletter! We also are thinking of doing Themes each month, and need ideas, pictures, articles, whatever for them. One idea that was floated was for us to keep a list of who has what kinds of animals, mainly so that we know who to call if someone has a question. The list would NOT be given to anyone, nor would your name/number/address be given out. One of the club officers would be an intermediary.

John G. Lussmyer

<mailto:Griffin@Whidbey.Net>

Dragons soar and Tigers prowl while I dream.

<http://www.CasaDelGato.com>

Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society

January 2001 Meeting

The January meeting, at the home of Russell & Sherry Ashby in Kentucky, was cancelled due to a sudden winter snowstorm which made roads impassable. The next quarterly meeting will be held on April 28 at Russell & Sherry Ashby's home.

Officers for 2001 have not been elected and it is necessary for MEFES to elect them by ballot. Also, no nominations were received by mail as requested in the October meeting minutes. At a dinner meeting on January 19th, with 13 members in attendance, Bill Johnson, Harold Epperson, Patty Turner and Peggy Epperson agreed to run for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Ballots have been included with the newsletter and are to be **postmarked no later than March 15th.**

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

Hunts Threaten to Wipe Out Leopards in Africa

Source: Africa News Service
Date: 04/11/2001 17:20
by Fiona Macleod

Hound hunting is the latest fad in South Africa, after it was banned in Zimbabwe. South African hunting out-fits are offering overseas clients the chance to hunt predators, especially highly endangered leopards, with dogs. Using hounds to hunt down leopards is becoming an increasingly popular marketing tool among local safari operators after it was banned in Zimbabwe last year. It had been gaining popularity among the Zimbabwean hunting fraternity until the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) and National Parks joined forces to have it outlawed. Now South African hunting outfits are enticing overseas clients to experience the "thrill of a lifetime" on hound hunts. They are the latest fad in the Eastern Cape and the Free State, where commercial farmers welcome the hunts to help them get rid of "problem" animals. Clients pay in the region of \$75,000 for a hunting trip that includes a leopard trophy. The hunting outfits say it is a legal, sporting way to get rid of vermin. But animal welfare organizations have footage of leopards being torn into by dogs, as well as the dogs being ripped apart by their mortal enemies.

Conservationists are worried hound hunting may wipe out the country's leopards, already listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as threatened with extinction. Because they are solitary, secretive cats which range over vast areas, figures about how many are left vary greatly. Despite

the leopard's endangered status, provincial conservation ordinances left over from the apartheid era make it perfectly legal for private landowners and their employees to hunt them with dogs. Leopards, along with smaller predators like jackals and caracals, are classified as vermin or "problem" animals. Farmers who are beginning to realize the commercial value of their "problem" predators call in the hunting outfits to provide the solution. Some provinces stipulate that a license is needed to run a pack of dogs, but this regulation is seldom applied.

Animal welfare organizations say this form of hunting is technically illegal under the Animal Protection Act, but it has never been put to the test. "The Act forbids inciting any animal to attack another animal. Strictly speaking, this could even include using dogs to sniff out or retrieve wild animals," says Rick Allan, wildlife manager at the NSPCA. Poachers who have been caught hunting with dogs without the permission of a landowner are charged with illegal hunting, and their dogs are usually destroyed. When members of the Noordelikes Rugby Club caught Tshepo Matloga and two cousins hunting on a Northern Province farm last week, they allegedly murdered Matloga and shot five of his dogs. A workshop held by KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife last October was one of the first attempts to iron out the discrepancies in treatment between high-paying overseas hunters and "traditional" hunters, usually called poachers. Delegates appointed a "hunting with dogs committee" to seek broader representation of traditional hunting interests.

Conservation officials say hunting with dogs is usually non-specific. Unless the dogs are well-controlled, they take out other protected species not targeted by the owners. The new-age hound hunters are using highly bred dogs imported from the United States, called blue-tick dogs or coon hounds, and claim they are well-trained. They resemble British foxhounds, but are bigger. "The main concern is that the leopard is not given a fair chance because the hounds chase it up a tree before the hunters shoot it," says the Zimbabwe NSPCA's Meryl Harrison. "Trophy hunting is supposed to be a sport. But where's the sport in getting the dogs to do all the work " After Eastern Cape-based safari operator Garry Miles started taking dogs into Matabeleland to hunt down leopards, Zimbabwe banned all hound hunting unless special permission is granted by the director of National Parks.

Now another South African operator, Nico Lourens Safaris, is offering European clients hunts in the Eastern Free State. His advertisements boast that his outfit bagged eight leopards using hounds during the last hunting season. He also offers hunts of other cats like caracals. Free State chief conservation officer Louwrens Goosen says an investigation has been launched into the claims of Nico Lourens Safaris, "particularly if they are advertising to foreigners and are not able to deliver". Several attempts to contact Nico Lourens Safaris were unsuccessful.



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They are not going to eat a lion or a domestic cat."

MAD MAX

Scientists say it is difficult to calculate how many cats could be harboring the disease, which has long incubation. They rely on cat owners and vets to offer possibly affected cats for a post-mortem—like the first case in Britain, when a 5-year-old Siamese cat dubbed Mad Max was referred to the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science in Bristol. Max's owner reported he had a "staggering gait" and scientists said during examinations in 1990 the cat would lick frantically and chew with his head tilted to the right.

"We don't know (how widespread the disease is) ... because no one is really looking for it at the moment, they come in by chance. The number is likely to be very low but the real figures are not known," said one scientist. "It is the same disease as BSE but we don't know where it came from. We don't know if it actually comes from cattle to cats or whether the prime source has gone both to cattle and to cats."

Some scientists say they believe domestic cats can get the disease from eating meat-based pet food, which may contain the same infected meat and bone meal that helped spread mad cow disease among cattle. Britain banned the use of meat and bone meal in pet food in 1991, France did so this year, while the European Union ruled that pet food can be made from animals that are free of the disease and have had the higher-risk parts removed. But the diagnosis of Mad Max, who unlike cattle was a meat-eater, began to undermine the former British government's standpoint that BSE was very unlikely to jump between species and could not therefore infect humans.

Government officials in the late 1980s repeatedly referred to human immunity from scrapie, a similar disease in sheep, and reassured the public that BSE was a remote hazard to health. But an experiment to inject brain material from the cat into mice showed that the agent was similar in both cases, meaning the cat had been infected with the BSE agent.

"The patterns of disease produced in mice injected with tissues closely resembled those in the BSE transmissions, showing that the cats had been infected with the BSE strain of agent," said Moira Bruce, who conducted the experiment. "This was very important as it was the first direct evidence that a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy had spread accidentally between species."

The truth was out: Mad cow disease could be passed to humans. But now, with cats posing little risk to people, little research is being done into feline spongiform encephalopathy.

CATS COMPUTE!

Specifications:

Standard Input:

Bilateral frontal whisker array
Bilateral adjustable audio dishes (range: 20-20,000Hz)
Stereoscopic scanning device w/night vision
Velcro(tm) flavor sampling device/energy collector
Odor sampling devices (2)

Standard Output:

Internally mounted purrbox
Single speaker with separate growl mode
Rear-mounted, fully-jointed semaphore device

Processor:

Parallel neuron array with Random Access Memory
and Autonomic control of system software

Included Hardware:

Calcium-based skeletal structure
Byte-to-bit conversion array
Retractable Document shredder/Hole-punch
Pawpad printer
Mouse (Standard Catnip)

Also included:

natural-fiber protective covering in various colors

System software:

your PC will come preloaded with one of the following:
DOS (DOMestic Shorthair)
OS (Other Shorthair)
DLH (DOMestic Longhair)
MS (MegaSoft, installed in units with fuzzy covering)
Conversion to Eunuchs can be done by a simple operation. This is recommended to prevent the proliferation of cheap PC clones.

Bundled software:

May include the following:
Mortal Kombat
Acrobat
Explorer
Stuffit Expander
Your PC will automatically convert from laptop to desktop as needed.
There are no user-serviceable parts inside.

Operating your PC:

To start up your PC, push the power button (on any electric can opener) Your PC has an energy-saving mode known as Sleep. Your PC will Sleep automatically if unused for a short period of time, or you may invoke Sleep mode by placing your PC in a soft, warm area. To wake your PC from Sleep, you may press the power button as in Start, shake the mouse, or tap any of the PC's input devices (see specs).

To perform a warm boot:

Remove your shoe, then tap the PC gently with your toes.

To perform a cold boot:

Same technique as for warm boot, but leave your shoe on.

To reboot:

Repeat the warm boot.

Cleaning your PC:

Use only mild soap and water, no solvents. Surface wash only. Total immersion is not recommended. If partial immersion is necessary, wear proper hand and face protection and make sure your PC is fully dry when finished.

Compatibility and networking:

Your PC is designed to independently assess compatibility with other PCs. Running Eunuchs will generally give your PC greater compatibility with other PCs. It may be necessary to install a firewall between incompatible PCs as each may attempt to breach the other's security systems. Compatible PCs may share thermal energy and cleaning tasks and may network for gaming purposes.

Please note that your PC will be incompatible with units of type BIRD and FISH unless appropriate security measures (such as a firewall) are installed. Your PC may tolerate one or more DOG units provided they occupy a subordinate position within the heirarchical structure.

Power requirements:

Alternating supply of canned cat food and dry cat food
Direct supply of water
Direct access to solar and thermal energy sources

Troubleshooting:

PC HAS DIFFICULTY EXITING:

Perform a warm boot.

PC SHARES FILES FROM DINNER/TABLE/PLATES WITHOUT PERMISSION:

Boot your PC prior to running food-related software. >

PC HANGS UP PHONE DURING CONNECTION TO ISP:

Try invoking sleep mode prior to connecting to ISP. Otherwise, perform a warm boot.

PC IS FROZEN:

PC is probably scanning for small life forms. Reboot until it responds.