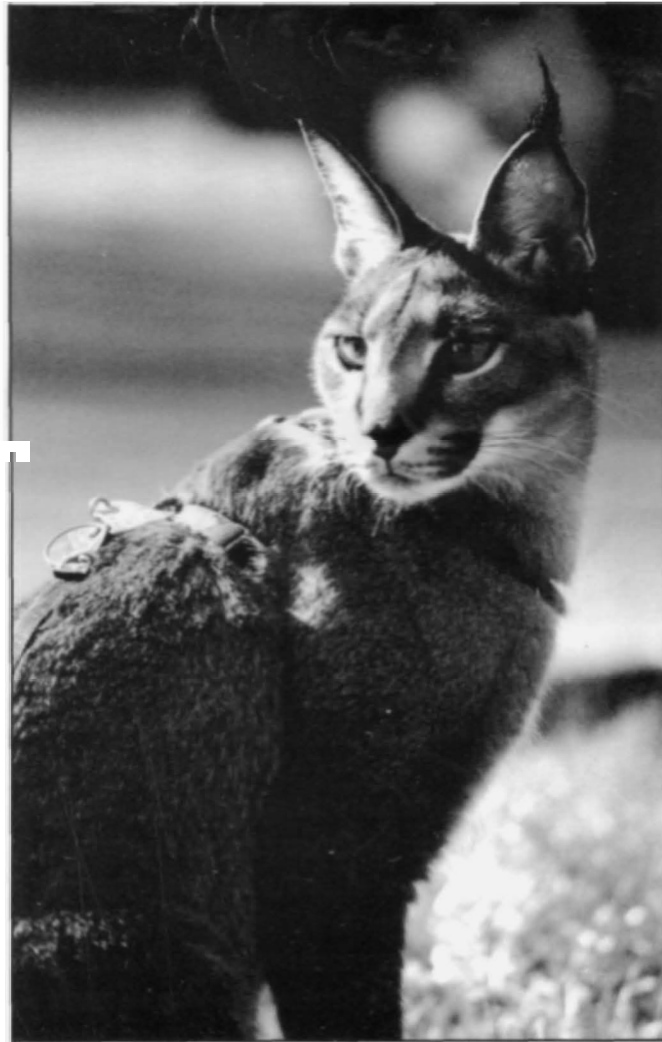
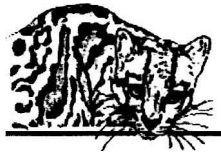


ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



**Sara-Linda who belongs to
Deborah-Ann Milette
(See page 10 for story)**



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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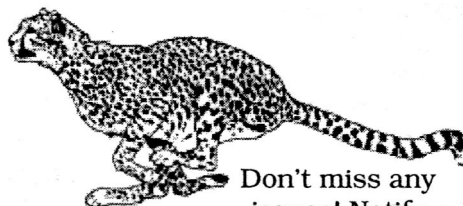
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- John Lussmyer**
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- Dawn Simas**
- Patty Turner**
- Shirley Wagner**
- Tracy Wilson**

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



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Preventing Infant Mortality

LIOC-ESCF Newsletter Volume 20#3 May/June 1976, Written by the late Shirley Nelson, Updated by Tracy Wilson

I have chosen the title "Infant Death Syndrome" because the causes of infant death are many and varied but the symptoms are very similar and in many cases identical. Also, while death is sometimes caused by one specific factor, it is more commonly the result of a combination of factors affecting the dam, environmental conditions, incorrect diagnosis and subsequent incorrect treatment and lack of experience on the part of the owner.

Realizing That A Problem Exists

The expression "Experience is the best teacher" certainly holds true when raising animals from birth. It is necessary to know what is normal and what is abnormal in every phase of development of a newborn or very young animal.

A diagnosis must be made, treatment administered and appropriate follow-up care instituted. A baby animal in trouble is in critical trouble since they may show the onset of symptoms, worsen, become comatose and die all within a matter of hours. In an older animal the progress of illness is not this rapid. They have had the opportunity to develop degrees of immunity which will offer protection against secondary infections. They have been eating and thus have a reserve to draw on, and they have a greater tolerance to drugs. They are easier to medicate, and because many older animals survive illnesses, veterinarians expend a far greater effort in an attempt to save them.

The normal behavior pattern of newborn and very young animals in the mammal family is almost identical. They curl up in a bunch if there is more than one in the litter. They are quiet. They make little peeps or chirping noises when they wake up to nurse and as soon as they start nursing they are quiet again. They fall asleep immediately after eating. This cycle continually repeats itself with only increasing length of time going between feedings as the animal grows until the point when it begins eating solid food and moving about on its own. They feel about as warm as the mother, if the animal is well, or about as warm as a person. They are very pliable and flexible, almost "floppy". They should feel "hefty". An animal with no substance is usually in bad shape. Since they do

not see or hear they should be oblivious to what is going on around them. They do feel and smell.

Abnormal behavior and development is easily recognized by an experienced person while completely overlooked by an amateur. The crying of normal and sick babies is completely different. In fact sound spectrograph tests have been conducted to illustrate this point. Weight changes accurately predict which animals will survive. The weight of a newborn or very young animal - that is weight gain, weight remaining the same, or weight loss is a critical factor in its survival. A person planning to raise animals should have a scale that will accurately weigh the species which they own. Two growth patterns are related directly to the survival rate: (1) the normal weight gain from the onset of nursing and (2) weight loss during the first 48 hours of life does not exceed 10% of the birth weight and when the animal continues to gain. The prognosis for animals losing more than 10% of their birth weight is extremely poor and immediate action must be taken if they are to have a chance. In order to benefit from this diagnostic tool, the animal should be weighed at birth, at 12 hours, at 24 hours and daily for two weeks unless there is no problem.

The weight loss precedes the onset of any recognizable signs of illness by four to sixteen hours. By using the "weigh to live" method, therapy can be started in time to save the kit and do some good if a problem exists. Other signs of trouble are an animal away from the rest of the litter, an animal rejected by the mother, an animal cold to the touch, an animal which cries or squeaks (often called a squeaker and usually dies in a matter of hours), an animal that lies stiffly on its side, an animal that sharply arches its neck, an animal which is dehydrated even to a small degree, an animal that feels like a rack of bones or an empty skin, an animal whose stomach feels hard to the touch and where it cannot be pressed but appears ballooned, an animal which cries when touched or moved, an animal which does not exhibit a strong sucking action when you stick your finger in its mouth and an animal which cannot "hang in there" but keeps losing the nipple.

Specific And Non-specific Diseases And Their Effects

Anorexia and Fever - these two conditions are indicators of illness and influence the nutritional status of the animal directly and

indirectly. An increase in the cellular need for nutrients, increased destruction of body cells, increased urinary loss, reduced food intake due to anorexia and diarrhea due to multiple causes drastically affect the status of the animal. Since the nutritional condition of the animal has a direct affect on the ability of the skin, mucous membranes and other epithelial tissues to alter or retard infectious organisms. The nutritional condition therefore is a factor in increasing or decreasing its susceptibility to disease as well as to secondary infections which are often the cause of death.

Umbilical Infection - The open umbilical cord is a primary route for strep or staph infections since these bacteria contaminate the birth area. Indications are discolored area ranging from blue to red depending on the stage of development as well as the color of the animals skin. If pus is present, the infection is advanced and serious and death often follows. Sound sanitary practices are necessary to combat this problem.

Septicemia - This results when a bacterial infection enters the blood stream and strep and staph are generally involved. Mastitis and vaginitis in the dam can also be responsible. First, one member of the litter cries excessively, develops bloat, and rapidly dies. Within 24 hours another follows the same pattern. The entire litter will be lost if the condition is not recognized and treated intensively. Antibiotics, relief of the bloat, and immediate removal from the mother until the source of infection is identified is the treatment.

Viremia - Usually occurs when the animal is one week or older. Viremia is caused by a herpes virus which has entered the blood stream. Examine the mother's vulva and the entire litter for cold-sore like lesions which generally indicate herpes. Keeping the affected animal in a temperature controlled environment of 100 degrees with a reduction to 85 degrees over a 48 hour period while maintaining the humidity to prevent panting and dehydration is an effective treatment.

Acid milk - Nursing babies fall away from the nipple gasping for breath. The abdomen is swollen. Remove babies from mother. Use a syringe to clear mouth and nose passages. Rub from tail to head to stimulate breathing action. If this fails, swing with a downward action, cradling the head to prevent snapping the neck. and keep nose and throat lower than the chest. A match lubricated with petroleum jelly can be inserted to the rectum and rotated to aid in expelling gas. Apply mouth to mouth resuscitation if necessary. You can also place a thumb and forefinger on either side of the body just behind the forelegs and employ pressure

and release method of about one pressure and release per second. Let animal rest at intervals to see if it has started breathing on its own. Early symptoms include: weight loss, distended abdomen, crying, constant wetness, round rectum or lower extremities, brownish or watery milk. Treatment may include: remove litter from mother, check milk which should have a pH of 7 (lower indicates "acid" milk). One-half teaspoon of baking soda on the dam's tongue every third day for two doses often counteracts this condition. Feed babies by hand until condition is cleared up. Milk samples can be cultured to determine which antibiotics will be effective and dam should be put on antibiotic therapy before being bred again.

Colic - Symptoms include a hard stomach, terrible wailing. and cessation of nursing. Do not put animals on a heating pad since the gas will expand from the heat. This condition can occur during a heat wave. If this is the cause, use ice packs and cold cloths to cool the litter. Treatment consists of a few drops of milk of magnesia on the tongue, sugar water every 20 minutes to combat dehydration due to lack of nursing. If the gums turn gray, inject glucose. Palmitate works but makes the animal sleep and, therefore, impossible to feed. Put litter on Esbilac formula for a few hours.

Fading Animals - Often bacteria carried in the uterus or the milk is passed on to the babies since this bacteria is difficult to isolate. Usually within 24 hours they will develop loose stools which turn from normal brown to yellow to white. They dehydrate, cry constantly, and have stomach cramps.

General Suggestions

When gastrointestinal symptoms are present, Kaopectate fed with paregoric (5 drops to 1 tablespoon Kao) can be given after each bowel movement.

Honeywater - (1 teaspoon honey/2 tablespoon boiled or distilled water) between feedings helps prevent dehydration and increase energy though may loosen stools.

Insta'Churt (a health food item used for making cottage cheese) is very useful when dealing with bloat. It contains lactic acid which combats the gas forming bacteria. 12 drops insta'churt to 2 tablespoons Esbilac formula - mixed fresh each feeding. Give four medicine droppers full for a puppy sized animal before each feeding.

(2001 UPDATE: I don't know if this product is still available today, but you may use Fat Free unflavored plain yogurt in its place for the same benefits.)

(Continued on page 23.)

Wildcats Losing Ground In Battle For Survival In U.S.

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) has been listed as endangered since 1967. Once at home from eastern Texas and the lower Mississippi River Valley through the southeastern states, only about 60 adult panthers remain in the United States, all hidden in undeveloped patches of Florida.

The ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) has been listed as endangered in the United States since 1972 and is also endangered in Mexico. Its historic range took in Arizona and Texas, south to Central and South America. Ocelots once prowled the dense, chaparral thickets of southern and eastern Texas and the Gulf Coast. Today they are found in a few small areas in southern Texas and are extirpated in Arizona.

A new report from the National Wildlife Federation notes that not only panthers and ocelots but all wildcats are vanishing from the United States, Mexico and Canada. Left behind are natural ecosystems that are "imbalanced and vulnerable."

The imbalances that remain when these top predators disappear are overpopulation and declines among other species that share their habitat, says Elizabeth Murdock, chief author of the report.

The eastern cougar, also called the puma (*Felis concolor cougar*), has been all but eliminated from the eastern United States and Canada and is presumed extinct, the National Wildlife Federation says.

Cougars once ranged from eastern Canada southward into Tennessee and South Carolina, where their range merged with that of the Florida panther. "The remaining population of this species is extremely small; exact numbers are unknown," the Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

The loss of cougars and other felines in the eastern United States has likely contributed to exploding numbers of white-tailed deer, Murdock says, resulting in everything from vegetation depletion to traffic accidents. Elimination of dominant carnivores can also lead to large populations of small and mid-size carnivores such as raccoons, opossums and

skunks.

"Conserving North America's cats is integral to protecting the continent's wildlife heritage and to saving many of the pristine wild places they call home," Murdock says.

Canada lynx are now rare in the southern parts of their historic range, although they still survive in western Canada. Even bobcats which still range across most of the United States, have suffered local declines and extirpations in some areas.

The largest species of cat native to the Western Hemisphere, the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), was listed as endangered in the United States in 1997. It is also listed as endangered in Mexico and Central and South America. Only a few jaguars are surviving in the United States. "The presence of the species in the United States is believed to be dependent on the status of the jaguar in northern Mexico. Documented observations are as recent as 1996. Critical habitat was found to not be prudent and therefore is not being designated," the Fish and Wildlife Service noted in its final rule declaring the species endangered.

Habitat loss is the single greatest factor in their decline but American wildcats have died as a result of predator control programs and traps set to serve the fur trade, Murdock notes.

"Roads pose a significant threat to wild cats because they not only place individual cats at risk but they isolate cats into fragments of habitat which can lead to inbreeding and territorial competition between cats," she says.

The wildcat report, part of the National Wildlife Federation's Keep the Wild Alive campaign, grew out of an international workshop sponsored by the federation in February 2000. It concludes that conservation of the few areas where wildcats remain is vital to keep them from extinction.

In some cases, such as that of the Canada lynx in Colorado, reintroducing cats to former habitat is crucial to their recovery. Successful reintroductions will depend on adequate public education and conservation efforts. Because much cat habitat in the U.S., Canada and Mexico is privately owned, addressing the needs and concerns of private landowners is essential to

successful conservation of endangered cats, the federation emphasizes.

Murdock says it is important to incorporate habitat and wildlife corridor protection into development and transportation plans. This should include wildlife culverts, bridges and underpasses on new and existing roads, and no road alignments should be planned that directly threaten cat populations, she warns.

The federation is working toward cross-border protection and habitat conservation for cats through national legislation, collaborative research and cooperative international efforts.

Environmental News Network



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Book Review:

THE 5 MINUTE VETERINARY CONSULT

Authors: Larry P. Tilley and Francis W.K. Smith, Jr.,

Publisher: Williams & Wilkins A Waverly Company, Baltimore, MD.

©1997. ISBN 0-683-08257-4

The uniqueness and value of the *The 5 Minute Veterinary Consult* as a quick reference has consistency of presentation, the breadth of coverage, the contribution of large numbers of experts, and the timely preparation of this manuscript. This text has an extensive list of subject matter that addresses clinical problems, laboratory results and diseases.

The thing I like best about this text is the simplistic approach in presenting the problem. The text tells you what may be wrong with your cat or dog (the presentation or what you tell the Vet when you bring your cat to Vet's office). Next, it gives you what the physical findings are, the diagnostic tests suggested and the clinical syndromes of the cat or dog. After all these are listed, a differential diagnosis is made. A treatment protocol is given based on all of the above and finally, a treatment plan is presented with medication (drugs and fluids). Follow-up information is provided with possible complications and a section on miscellaneous associated factors.

This has to be one of most user-friendly medical textbook ever written in my opinion. I highly recommend this book to everyone who has a cat or dog. It's like having a veterinarian in your home 24 hours a day.

Review by Ron Eldridge

Colorado Lynx Conservation: Is It Working?

Monday, February 26, 2001

By Bob Berwyn

Colorado Division of Wildlife officials say their program to reintroduce threatened Canada lynx to the state is showing signs of success, although about a third of the cats transplanted from Canada to Colorado have died. But federal biologists are frustrated with the limited amount of information they are getting, even though the Colorado lynx program operates under a federal permit with specific reporting requirements.

The flow of information has been restricted even more in recent months raising the question of whether the Colorado agency is fulfilling its requirements under federal law.

A total of 96 lynx have been released into the state; 41 in the winter of 1998-99 and 55 in the winter of 1999-2000.

Through radio signals emitted from collars that the lynx are wearing, 61 transplanted cats are tracked across tens of thousands of square miles which they share with isolated individuals of a native lynx population.

So far, there are no signs of reproduction but biologists hope that females setting up home ranges in the San Juan Mountains will breed this spring.

An annual report from the Colorado Division of Wildlife to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, required under the permit, offers some insight into the state program, and maps show recent locations of the radio-collared cats. But federal officials complain that there is no new information on which to base their work.

Moreover, the U.S. Forest Service seems to be spinning its wheels in an attempt to incorporate lynx conservation measures into forest plans in the region.

Nearly a year after the lynx was formally listed as threatened, the Forest Service has again handed the job of conservation over to a new official.

To complicate matters more, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has removed a biologist who played a key role in managing the recovery effort.

"We do have a conservation agreement and a set of standards and guidelines," said Greg Warren, third in a series of Forest Service managers to handle the project. With an interdisciplinary team, Warren must develop a draft environmental impact statement to evaluate and disclose potential impacts of any proposed forest plan amendments. Warren said he hopes to complete the process by May.

In the meantime, the Forest Service cannot initiate any action that might adversely affect lynx such as timber sales or control of insect infestations.

The federal agencies have agreed not to allow creation of new compacted snow trails in potential lynx habitat to prevent competing predators such as bobcats and coyotes from gaining easy access to lynx terrain.

Some projects on Forest Service land, including ski area expansions at Vail and Breckenridge, were planned with built-in mitigation measures under the assumption that lynx would be listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Colorado biologist Gene Byrne defends the lack of new information offered in the state agency's report. "This is a very sensitive political issue. We don't want people jumping to conclusions based on preliminary information. We wouldn't be responsible scientists if we allowed that," he says.

Environmental News Network

Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines, Cascade Branch of the LIOC

Meeting Minutes for 4/22/2001

This meeting was held at the home of one of our newest members, Vicki Veldman. Amazingly enough, just about everybody showed up on time! We did have one feline member in attendance, John Kaelin's Tutter. Vicki's house cat did NOT approve! The membership cards are done! I handed them to the attending members, all others will be mailed out soon. We had a short discussion about the LIOC convention that is coming up in August. It looks like we will have quite a few members attending the Feline Husbandry course, and several attending the full convention. I'm gathering the list of people so we can coordinate transportation and housing at the convention. If you have already sent in your fees, please tell me. Also, if you haven't, I am collecting fees for attendance and will be sending them in together. Once again we talked about the newsletter. The pictures are wonderful! We need more! Please send your pictures, cartoons, articles, or whatever in to us. I can scan pictures if needed, and they will be returned. Just contact us if you have something you think might be good for the newsletter. One of our members (Dave Coleburn) is under legal attack by a cranky neighbor who wants his animals out of there. We were trying to come up with all possible ways that he should be defending himself. Please contact Jeanne for more information. There was quite a bit of discussion about the new passed LIOC Model Regulations. Most of our members had problems with various parts of it, so we want to gather all the comments next month. If you need a copy of them, just call/email me and I'll send you a copy. Since LIOC is suggesting that we try to get these passed, we want to review them very carefully to make sure we want them, and can live with them. It was also decided that ACEF will buy a copy of the caging guidelines book. Next month's meeting will be at the home of Christi Hall, our glorious newsletter editor!

—
John Lussmyer
Secretary/Treasurer
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see <http://www.ACEF.org/>

Meeting Minutes for 5/19/2001

This meeting was held at the home of Joey and Chisti (our newsletter editor!). There were LOTS of kittens to play with, both Bengels and domestics. (anyone want an orange domestic? Talk to Christi :-). The turnout was a little low, we're guessing that it was due to the nice weather. Their loss. There were large amounts of delicious food provided, and while the work party after the meeting didn't accomplish a whole lot, we did have a lot of fun! After a bit of kitten delay, the meeting did get underway. We are still gathering comments about the LIOC passed model regulations, if you have ANY comments about them, please send them to Christi. We want to at least have a list of what parts will need work if they ever get submitted to any government body. We are also looking into having some "public" meetings in a central location. Hopefully we would be arranging speakers, and some publicity for these meetings. Dave is looking into some possible locations for them. We currently have about 7 people attending all or part of the LIOC convention, is anyone else going? You have to get your payment in NOW! (by June 4th, which may be before you read this!) If you are going (and got your payment in on time) would you please tell me? We would like to arrange some carpools and shared hotel rooms to reduce costs. If there is an envelope in your newsletter, you are due (overdue!) for your membership renewal. Please send it in as soon as possible.

—
John Lussmyer
Secretary/Treasurer
mailto:ACEF@ACEF.org
see <http://www.ACEF.org/>

Writing Your Will?



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

Winged Serval?

May 27, 2001

It was recommended that I write in about my cats. I was naive when it came to owning these beautiful, sensitive, giving and loving cats. I came upon it by complete accident. See, my feral cat Job the Chosen (Biblical name) was seriously ill and my vet knew how much I loved him. I was told after another hospital stay to get another cat because Job would not make it another year. I began to look for another cat. I was looking in the Cats Magazine and saw a picture of a very proud spotted cat called a Serval and two breeders were listed and I called both. I settled with a breeder in Florida. I did call Game & Wildlife in Massachusetts, a Mr. Arini in the permit office, and he said that was no problem.

My serval arrived in Warwick, Rhode Island and I was in total awe of this animal. I named him Elijah's Hope because he came in time for Passover. I couldn't wait for him to meet Job "e" my 8-year-old cat. I brought him home and there was no fight, just love and constant attention from Elijah over Job or me. The next year pressure was removed from Job and Elijah took over lots of Job's duties. He did pet therapy in nursing homes, for shut-ins in the areas of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. I really didn't think much about what Elijah truly was except for being my friend. There were calendar shoots, cat show shoots and both cats did in fact make it into several calendars. At the cat shows that I entered their photos, they always got ribbons.

Elijah was my buddy, my partner, my new life and we were having fun. He would ride in a backpack on my back and we would go bike riding, yes he was a head turner. There was nothing Elijah couldn't do or would not do for me. Then, I shared him with a few schools and my life began to fall apart. Massachusetts suddenly decided that

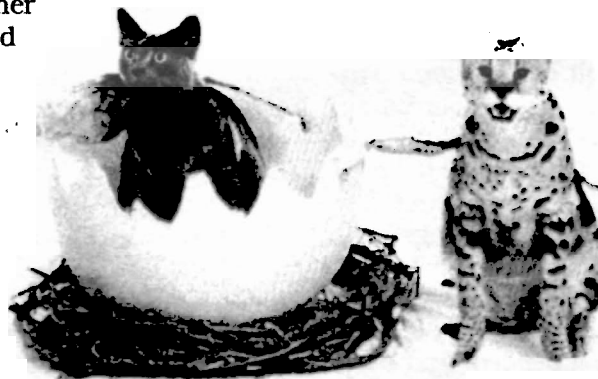
Elijah was illegal and took him away. Job became even sicker and went into grief over his loss of Elijah. I paid \$52,000 in lawyers to fight to get Elijah returned and I still lost even after moving to a state where they are legal. Job died 6 months later of ill health and mostly grief and my own health began to plummet downhill. Even though I have another Serval and now a Caracal, my life is forever changed. I just wish that I could have my winged Serval back, he was my love, my happiness and has both Job and I within him.

My present serval, Noah's Wonder (pic on p. 23) and my caracal, Sarah-Linda (cover pic) are loved and given everything, but when I went to court to fight for Elijah, we were separated and

Noah and Sara were abused in the sanctuary they were held in and our love and trust will never be the same again.

You see, these animals are my life, my reason for living. I have nothing else and they force me to get up each day and interact. Having a deadly cancer makes it so easy for me to want to give up, but I will not. I am also a surgical nurse of Vietnam and 100%-disabled veteran. So they do get 100% of my attention. I just wish my "Winged Serval" could fly back home.

by Deborah-Ann Milette



Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society Minutes for April 28, 2001

Submitted by: Patty Turner and Peggy Epperson
MEFES meeting was held on April 28, 2001 at Herald (Max) and Marge Maxwell's in Bowling Green, KY. Newly elected president Bill Johnson was unable to attend due to recent eye surgery on both eyes. Vice-President Harold Epperson conducted the meeting in his absence.

Members attending were Leesa Dannheiser, J.B. Anderson, Marvin Hierlmeier & Hush, Harold & Peggy Epperson, Bob & Patty Turner, & the hosts, Max & Marge. A special recognition is given to Kelly Jean Buckley for flying in from Arizona to attend the meeting.

It was also a pleasure to have member J.B. Anderson all the way from Missouri. J.B. entertained us with films and pictures of his two jaguars.

Also attending were friends and close neighbors of Max and Marge's, and who were a great help and generously brought food for our pitch-in dinner.

The main course of the pitch in meal was steak fajitas with the steak cooked on the grill by J.B. Anderson.

After eating, Max & Marge took everyone up the hill of their property to visit with their large collection of cats. Among the cats was Leo, the largest and fattest lion you will ever see. To everyone's amusement we got to see a lion that has his own pet dog. They live together and seem to be great buddies. A very nice facility. After the tour the meeting was called to order by Vice President Harold Epperson.

J.B. Anderson presented the advantages to MEFES of applying for Incorporated status.

An article by Colette Griffith on the proper kitten formula was mentioned by Bob Turner.

MEFES membership is now up to 105. Our two newest members are Jon & Sue Lange. We have donations totaling \$17.50 from Michael & Karen Biggs & Jim & Rita O'Brien. There was advertisement of \$50.00 from Safe-Capture International.

Copies of MEFES By-Laws were passed out by Harold Epperson. Harold read (7) amendments to be presented at our next meeting for ratification by the membership.

These entries were requested changes to be presented to the membership for their vote at the July meeting.

1. The term of editor for more than a year.

2. It was brought up that we might put a notice in the newsletter from now on "That only healthy cats are to be brought to the meetings and that they should have their current vaccinations."

3. Calendar year versus fiscal year.

4. It was suggested that a copy of the newsletter be reviewed by the officers before additional copies are printed and mailed.

Honorary membership guidelines were discussed. The person receiving this membership would have no voting rights, but would receive a newsletter for the period of one year. No definite decision was made and it was tabled until the next meeting.

It was brought up that the minutes are to be reviewed by the officers before they go into the newsletter as they are a permanent record of the meeting.

Peggy Epperson read the treasurers report. The upcoming 2002 calendars made up by newsletter editor Cheri Fecker were mentioned. It wasn't decided if they should be board approved.

A beautiful Chinese tiger print by a well known Chinese artist will be donated for the upcoming convention auction by Max & Marge Maxwell.

The next meeting will be on July 21, 2001 in Tell City, Indiana at the home of Bryan and Anna Studer's.

Bob Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting, Peggy Epperson seconded it.

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Pallas' Cat Project

Wild About Cats is pleased to be supporting an ongoing research project in Mongolia on wild Pallas' cats. Neonatal Pallas' cats are dying in captivity due to a parasitic infection, *Toxoplasma*. The largest remaining wild population of the endangered Pallas' cat is found in the grasslands of Mongolia. Meredith Brown, a veterinary student at Ohio State University, is heading this study.

In the summer of 2000 WAC funded the first project, consisting of capturing and taking samples from several cats. She has now returning in 2001 to collar more cats for behavioral and monitoring studies. She is also allowing for a fantastic opportunity for you to join her on her next research trip to Mongolia!

ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF THE PALLAS' CAT IN MONGOLIA

Meredith Brown and Bariushaa Munkhtsog

Introduction:

The Pallas' cat (*Otocolobus manul*), named after German biologist Pyotr Simon Pallas (1741-1811) is a small-sized wild cat known for its flattened face, stocky build, and long hair. The cats' coat is unique with black spots on the head and varying black stripes either on the back, tail, or both. The hair's tip is white, producing a mystical frosty appearance. Weight ranges from 2-4.5 kg in the adult



Local Mongolian boy with Pallas cat

cat. The Pallas' cat is adapted to cold, arid, environments and lives in rocky terrain and grasslands throughout central Asia and parts of Eastern Europe. Because of hunting and rodent control programs, the Pallas' cat is threatened with extinction in its natural habitat (Appendix II; CITES, 1996). One of the largest remaining populations reportedly live in the central part of Mongolia, where as many as 50,000 cats were killed per year for their pelts in the early 1900's. Approximately 10,000 per year were killed in the 1980's and in 1988, hunting was banned and trade has since essentially ceased (Nowell and Jackson, 1996). Now that hunting is prohibited, Mongolian wildlife biologists have not had the opportunity to gather any information on the Pallas' cats' status in the wild. Because the cats are endangered in the wild, recent conservation efforts in North American

zoos have focused on captive cat propagation. Although captive Pallas' cats are reproducing reasonably well, there has been extraordinarily high (80%) mortality in newborn kittens over the past three years, primarily due to *Toxoplasma gondii* infection (Swanson, 1999). The purpose of our initial study during the summer of 2000 was to gather information from the wild Pallas' cats in Mongolia so that the captive and wild populations could be compared in terms of parasite load and physiologic and genetic parameters. We were able to capture and gather biological samples and information from eight wild Pallas' cats in a two month period. The samples are currently being analyzed and pending results should assist in the captive management of the cats.

Very little is known about the home range, habitat preferences, and daily activity patterns of the Pallas' cat. As such, the Action Planning of the IUCN has declared a study on the Pallas' cat's natural history a priority (Nowell and Jackson, 1996). We have a study site and a team of Mongolian scientists and guides arranged to pursue this first ever study



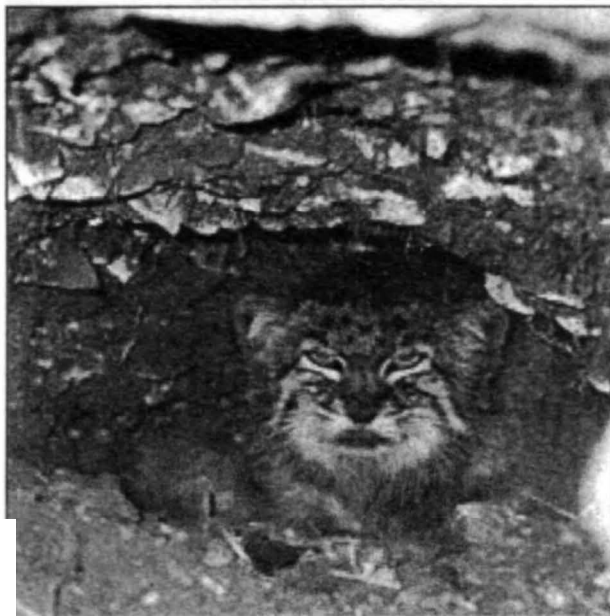
**Meredith with two study Pallas cats
(who are under anesthesia)**

on the ecology and behavior of the wild Pallas' cat in Mongolia using radio-telemetry and night operating binocular observations.

Objectives

The objective of the Pallas' cat research study in Mongolia are to determine the following: home range, habitat preferences (where does it live at different times of the year; where does it live at different times of day), daily activity patterns (including hunting, mating, and rearing of kittens), intraspecies relations (home range overlap), prey selection, and current national Mongolian Pallas' cat distribution. Additionally, continue biological sample collection for genetic and physiologic information. To make a direct donation to this project, go to our secure online form at www.wildaboutcats.com.

Pallas Cat in Den



Submitted by Dawn Simas,
Wild About Cats

30th Annual LIOC Convention 2001 in Portland, Oregon August 8-12

This year's LIOC convention will be held in Portland Oregon, August 8-12, 2001. 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.

The 2001 LIOC Convention registration was due June 4. If you have not yet registered and want to attend, registration is now \$120.00 per person. Registrations can be accepted until July 10. Please send check payable to: LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028. Please also advise your choice of meal for Saturday night's banquet dinner; either Grilled Salmon or Breast of Chicken

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.

The registration for the Wild Feline Husbandry Course was due June 4. If you have not yet registered and want to attend this class, registration is now \$75.00 per person. Registrations can be accepted until July 10. Please send check payable to: LIOC-ESCF, Inc., PO Box 22085, Phoenix, Arizona 85028.

Kelly Jean Buckley,
Director Member Services

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 of 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
Email:gstowers@twcnny.rr.com

International Feline Research Projects

Making Up Lost Ground: Re-Introducing The Cheetah In South Africa

There is an exciting conservation trend happening in South Africa. Since the country's new dispensation, the huge surge in ecotourism has seen an increasing pattern emerge where former farmlands are being reclaimed for wildlife. Projects attempting to re-establish threatened species are proliferating and large carnivores are increasingly the object of these efforts. Since 1992, I've been working on one of the largest undertakings to reintroduce large cats to areas of their former range in South Africa, and one of the species I've been focusing on is the cheetah.

My research has been taking place at the Phinda Resource Reserve, a small park of 180km² on the beautiful Maputaland floodplain 120 kms south of the Mozambique border. Between 1992-3, Phinda reintroduced 15 cheetahs, most of them caught on Namibian farmlands where they conflict with livestock owners and are heavily persecuted. Having made the 2000km trip to Phinda, all our cheetahs spent up to 8 weeks in a large outdoor enclosure to acclimate them to their new home. Large carnivores are notorious for having a strongly developed homing instinct and after the trauma of being shifted from their home range, they often attempt to head home. The period of captivity prior to being released seems to be vital in settling them into the new area and we had no experience of cats trying to return to where they were a problem in the first place. We also found a surprising bonus to housing animals together. All the males we kept together quickly formed strong bonds, even though they were unrelated and had come from hundreds of kilometers apart in their native Namibia. These affinities lasted for life after we released them and they behaved in every way like they had grown up together- playing, grooming one another and,

hunting and feeding as amicable partners. In the wild, groups of males- usually brothers- may stay together for life. In a reintroduction scenario, it seems that even if they are not related, males team up quickly once introduced to one another. This is an useful discovery as single males are most often the "problem" animals caught in Namibia and with a brief period of captivity prior to their release, we're able to "create" coalitions which probably have an increased chance of survival when we reintroduce them.

But what happens when the day for release finally arrives? Our newly-bonded male coalitions quickly set about establishing small exclusive territories, something we did not expect as they came from vast ranges in Namibia where they are probably non-territorial. Perhaps at Phinda where the density of prey is very high, it profits them to establish ranges in the richest areas in the hope that female cheetahs will spend much of their time there. Holding territories is a serious business and twice I saw single males killed in clashes when they wandered into turf already occupied by a territorial pair: in both cases, the victorious cheetahs fed from their killed enemy, unusual behavior which had not previously been well-documented (National Geographic June 1997 has a photograph of this). In marked contrast to the behavior of males, the females -who are unusual among cats in that they do not appear to establish territories- wandered throughout the whole of Phinda. So, although they may meet other females in their nomadic movements, they have little interest in each other and pass by without hostility. Of course when a female moves into a male's territory, she receives plenty of attention and it wasn't long before the first cubs were born at Phinda, a litter of three which arrived in late 1992. Cheetahs are rapid breeders and over 40 cubs have been born at the reserve since then. In the low density of other predators which kill so many youngsters in other reserves such as the Serengeti, over 60% of the youngsters

are surviving to adulthood.

This is an encouraging sign for the cheetahs at Phinda. Lions have also been reintroduced and are beginning to take their toll as their numbers increase. Interestingly, it doesn't appear that cubs are the main victims as is usually the case in other protected areas. On the open plains of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, cheetah researcher Karen Laurenson found that over 75% of cubs may be killed by lions. At Phinda, although I often saw mother cheetahs with cubs encounter lions, the thick bush seems to favor cub survival. During these interactions, the cubs scatter and while the mother distracts the lions, they find hiding places. Despite searching for them sometimes for up to an hour, I never saw lions find cubs. However, while the denser vegetation may assist cubs, it seems to carry a higher cost for adult cheetahs. A healthy adult is rarely caught unawares by other predators on the wide open savannah where visibility is great and cheetahs have plenty of space to escape an attack. But in closed bush, lions seem to have the upper hand and I saw them catch and kill 3 different adult cheetahs. Interestingly, all of them were males: perhaps they are not as vigilant as females with cubs and are more easily surprised.

Despite these losses, the signs are encouraging that reintroducing cheetahs can work. Cheetahs are often thought of as being very specialized cats sensitive to change but experience from Phinda suggests they are more adaptable than we think. They settled in very quickly, established home ranges and bred rapidly. However, with the immediate problems of introduction behind them, there are further, long-term threats to the project. Phinda is only 180km² which is very little for large carnivores which require large spaces. Luckily, Phinda is not a conservation island. Negotiations are underway between the park, private landowners and government conservation agencies to secure more land and consolidate with other protected areas in the region. As part of this scheme, further

introductions of cheetahs are planned which will address another fundamental problem facing small populations- the threat of inbreeding. In anticipation of this problem, Phinda has already exchanged two males born at the reserve with Madikwe Game Reserve for two unrelated males. Madikwe, located in the northern province of South Africa on the Botswana border, has initiated its own cheetah re-introduction program: the 2 Phinda brothers are amongst the first cheetahs to be released there.

While it may be premature, to say that cheetahs are definitely re-established for good at Phinda, I think the project has been a success on many levels. The species once again has a foothold in the region and we have learned much about their biology which will help make other reintroduction projects a success. Additionally, Phinda has illustrated that eco-tourism can be a profitable and successful way to use land and people in the region are now viewing wildlife with greater tolerance. Phinda is also one of the finest reserves in Africa to see cheetahs and many visitors come there specifically to enjoy unsurpassed viewing. Hopefully, this is only just the beginning and as projects like Phinda proliferate, this beautiful cat will gradually reclaim areas from which it has long been missing.

Eastern Cougar Research Center

Todd Lester - Director
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The Eastern Cougar Research Center was formed to investigate the possible continued existence of the Eastern Cougar. Wildlife Officials insist that it has been "Extinct" since around 1900, due to excessive hunting, loss of habitat and the decline of the deer population during that time.

Sightings of cougars in the eastern US have persisted since 1900, and continue to increase every year. Also the evidence to support the continued existence is just overwhelming.

In record sightings, and through field searches into areas looking for evidence like tracks, hair, scat etc. I also maintain a data base on all the information I receive. I have pictures and plaster casts of confirmed cougar tracks living in the wild in the eastern US. I have also received several videos and other evidence along with over 800 reported sightings.

Visit the Eastern Cougar Research Center Web Site at <http://www.geocities.com/rainforest/vines/1318>

Projeto Puma

Marcelo Mazzolli
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Klabin Fab. Papel e Celulose - Lagoa
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PR Brazil
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(042) 271-2315 (Fax)

Projeto Puma is formed by a small researcher crew, since 1988, dedicated to study felids in Brazil. It became an NGO in 1993 as mean to broaden its actions. Projeto Puma is included in the IUCN/CSG (International Union for Conservation of Nature / Cat Specialist Group) Cat Conservation Action Plan mainly due to its researches on felid-livestock interactions and environmental education near human settlements, critical for the conservation of big cats. Projeto Puma usually receives information of livestock depredation through other environment agencies. Currently the project is also conducting a radio telemetry study of puma in southern Brazil.

Increasing the number of people affiliated to the project will enable us to achieve our research and environmental education goals. Our site is posted at www.portadig.com.br/puma

Touch the Jungle's Margay Reserve and Research Facility

Rosa Jordan and Jona Jordan
A Project of Earthways Foundation
Touch the Jungle

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Canada
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Rosa Jordan rosaj@kootenay.net (Director)
Jona Jordan JonaJordan@aol.com

A volunteer group known as Touch the Jungle, working under the sponsorship of Earthways Foundation and in cooperation with the Ecuadorian community of Playa de Oro, has established a 10,000-hectare reserve for the protection of neo-tropical felids, with the margay as its flagship species. The reserve, which includes a research station, is in Northern Ecuador, on the upper reaches of Rio Santiago, and is accessible only by boat.

Touch the Jungle established the reserve and research station in collaboration with the nearby village of Playa de Oro, which owns the land. The 48 families of Playa de Oro, hunter-gatherers who have lived in the rainforest for generations, are not indigenous but are the descendants of slaves shipwrecked off the coast of Ecuador some 400 years ago.

Beyond their village is the margay reserve (known locally as the "Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos"), and beyond that, the million-acre Coatachi-Cayapas Biosphere Reserve, which rises from the rainforest up into the Andes.

Touch the Jungle's Playa de Oro margay reserve and research station is in a remote rainforest setting. Six species of exotic cats are native to the region: jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, oncila, and jaguarundi. (In fact, a family of jaguarundi live quite near the research station, and are frequently sighted swimming in the river near where the boat is docked.) The reserve is also home to at least three species of primates, and numerous rare birds.

The research station is located in the reserve, an hour's walk from the village or half hour upriver by boat. Room and board at the station is \$500 a month. This includes a rustic 10 x 10 room with very basic, locally-made furniture (double bed, work table, and chair). Each room opens onto a veranda.

which runs the length of the two-story building. There are shared bathrooms with flush toilets and cold-water showers. Meals, served in a communal dining room, consist mainly of fresh fish, fresh eggs, plantains, rice, and tropical fruits. The food is healthy and tasty, but very basic. Filtered or boiled water, safe for drinking, is available.

Station staff consists of a manager, cook, cook's helper, and two motorists, who are also experienced rainforest guides. Currently in residence is Michelle Adrien, a bi-lingual primate specialist from the University of California at San Diego. Michelle is an experienced rainforest researcher, there to assist newcomers in establishing themselves at the station, and if needed, can assist them in developing protocols for their particular research project.

As the station has only six available bedrooms, it does not accept visitors for less than a one-month stay. Those wishing to visit the reserve but not able to stay a full month can find accommodations at the visitors' cabanas in the village. For eco-tourist information contact Patricio Gabor, E-Mail: patolin@accessinter.net

Those seeking accommodations at the research station for a month or longer can contact Rosa Jordan at rosaj@kootenay.net. We cannot at this time offer internships, nor do we have space for volunteers.

The Siberian Tiger Project

Maurice Hornocker and Howard Quigley
Hornocker Wildlife Institute
Howard Quigley
hwi@uidaho.edu
Co-Director, Siberian Tiger Project
P.O. Box 3246
Moscow, ID 83843

The objective of this Project has always been clear: to generate the best possible information database to prevent the extinction of the world's largest and highly endangered cat — the Siberian tiger.

The Project, a cooperative Russian/American effort, has four major goals: collect the scientific knowledge needed to

understand exactly how nature provides for the Siberian tiger; use the data obtained to create a comprehensive conservation management plan; contribute to the development of a new conservation ethic for the region, and model for the world; involve the world conservation community.

In order to protect the tiger, it is necessary to conserve the entire ecosystem upon which the tiger depends. In addition to data provided by our radio-collared tigers, we have included brown bears, black bears, and rare Amur leopards in our study, as these carnivores interact with the tiger and are also under pressure from direct and indirect effects of human development. We have yet to determine how loss of habitat and poaching affect populations as a whole. Efforts to expand protected tiger areas with anti-poaching groups and Russian authorities are proceeding on schedule.

Human needs must be integrated into any conservation objectives. Long-term solutions will be successful only if the needs of local communities are met by merging conservation plans with sustainable use of resources, especially the Siberian forest — the Taiga — upon which the Siberian tiger's fate depends. A critical component of this objective is our focus on educating local people, especially children, whose futures are so inexorably linked to the survival of the tiger and their shared homeland.

Please visit our website at www.hwi.org for further information.

Expedition: Snow Leopards of Nepal

Earthwatch Institute
Mahesh Gurung (University of Illinois),
Som Ale, Dr. John Laundre, Dr. Joseph Fox, Joel Brown, and volunteers like you!
Heather Pruiksma
Expedition Coordinator, Life Sciences
hpruiksma@earthwatch.org

Snow leopards live on precipitous terrain in more ways than one. A creature of borderlands and hinterlands, snow leopards are thinly distributed across the mountains

of 12 countries in Asia and 2 million square kilometers, and are nowhere considered common. Mahesh Gurung and Som Ale are investigating the habitat and prey abundance of snow leopards in the Annapurna region of Nepal in an attempt to balance the delicate ecology of this dramatic highland landscape.

This is a rigorous project, involving steep ascents to as high as 5,500 meters (17,000 feet), requiring volunteers in excellent condition with prior backcountry and high altitude experience. Teams will train for two days at intermediate elevations for acclimatization. After staying in a simple lodge at the rendezvous site, you will sleep in tents and your own warm sleeping bag. An expert cook will provide simple Nepalese fare, including lots of dal (lentil soup) and bhat (rice).

Expedition: Mountain Lion

Earthwatch Institute

Drs. John Laundre and Lucina Hernandez, and volunteers like you!

Kate Wissel

kwissel@earthwatch.org

Volunteers needed! With the territory of the mountain lion, or puma, getting smaller and smaller, it is vital that we understand the needs and ways of these large cats to save them. Volunteers track the cats through the woods of Idaho using local experts and dogs. The goal is to sedate, measure, and attach a radio collar to them. Dr. John Laundre has conducted his research with the help of Earthwatch volunteers since 1990 and continues to work towards safe-guarding the endangered cat by gathering information on its habits and territory. It is important that the cat not be pushed into areas too small so that inbreeding and competition can be avoided. Laundre and Hernandez's data on the mountain lion will help him and others better understand the conservation requirements of one of our nation's most intriguing predator.

Volunteers stay in a comfortable ranch house in a nearby town after hiking many miles through snowy, rugged terrain each

day. This project may also require the assistance of volunteers in Mexico in Fall 2001 and 2002.

Expedition: Cheetah

Earthwatch Institute

The Cheetah Conservation Fund and volunteers like you!

Kate Wissel

kwissel@earthwatch.org

Volunteers needed! Habitat loss and genetic isolation are fast on the tail of one of the world's fastest animals. Work with the founder of Cheetah Conservation Fund, Laurie Marker, to protect Namibia's cheetah population from disappearing. Volunteers tag, examine and release trapped cheetah's, count game to determine habitat suitability for cheetahs, observe the behavior of ranch guard dogs to understand the demands placed on the big cats. Perhaps most intriguing is the task of working with local populations to find a way to coexist with the cheetahs.

Accommodations are comfortable in the field station with showers. Meals are cooked by volunteers together from the local harvest. A limited number of volunteers are needed each year, so contacting Earthwatch far in advance is essential.

Identifying Individual Puma From Tracks; Distinguishing Dog Tracks From Puma Tracks

E. Lee Fitzhugh, Rebecca L. Lewison, Steve P. Galentine, K. Shawn Smallwood
Cooperative Extension, Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biology, Univ. of Calif., Davis
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Wildlife Extension

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530/752-4154 (Fax)

First project resulted in a method for

quantitatively distinguishing dog tracks from puma tracks. Second project is to develop a method of quantitatively distinguishing individual puma from tracks. One publication is complete; another is in press, a third is in review, and a fourth is being prepared. We believe we can successfully identify about 90% of puma by their tracks.

Argentinean Cat Conservation Biology

GECM - Grupo de Ecología
Comportamental de Mamíferos (Mammal
Behavioural Ecology Group)
Mauro Lucherini, PhD Zoologist
Cat Specialist Group / Canid Specialist
Group (IUCN)
Dr. Mauro Lucherini
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Cát. Fisiología Animal
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More than 25% of all cats of the world and all the Latin America species occur in Argentina. However, the research effort for all the Argentinean small cats has been classified as "Low" or "Very low" by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, and two species are among the most unknown and endangered cats in the world: the Andean Mountain cat and the Kodkod. Presently, in most cases, the biggest obstacle to the conservation of this impressive cat diversity is our lack of knowledge: not only the actual distribution, status, ecological requirements, and genetic identity of their populations status is unknown, but even presence/absence data are usually only based on anecdotal evidence. For these reasons, since 1997, the GECM (Grupo de Ecología Comportamental de Mamíferos), a small research team, has decided to start the Argentinean Cat Conservation Biology Program, with the main aim of contributing to our understanding and conservation of Argentinean cats. Particular

attention has been given to 4 species, whose reported geographical range is widely included within Argentinean borders: the Geoffroy's, kodkod, Pampas and Andean Mt. cats. The specific research and conservation projects which have already been started or scheduled are:

1. The Geoffroy's cat project. This radio-telemetry study, which will be soon started in cooperation with Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (conserv@vidasilvestre.org.ar), aims to develop a habitat quality model, which will be used to identify the areas where this strongly hunted cat may presently occur.

2. The Andean Mountain Cat Ecological Survey. The first project that specifically aims to put the bases for the conservation of this almost completely unknown and highly endangered cat, living at over 4000 m of altitude in the Andes, thanks to the financial support of La Torbiera Zoological Society (torbiera@iol.it).

3. The Kodkod Survey. This is the first attempt to study, with the logistic support of the Argentinean National Park Agency (APN) this endangered felid species in Argentina, where most of the dense Andean-Patagonian forest -considered its ideal habitat- is left.

If you are willing to know more or help us in our conservation efforts, write to luengos@criba.edu.ar.

Update : April 2000

OUR GEOFFROY'S CAT PROJECT ENTERED IN A NEW AND EXCITING PHASE! The GECM team radiocollared the first 5 Geoffroy's cats of Argentina!

In the Wildlife Reserve managed by Fundación Vida Silvestre Argetina (a local conservation NGO, which is also supporting us) we trapped 2 males and 3 females: 1 male and one female were melanistic cats: They really looked like small panthers.....

It was a great effort for my Team, since we not even had enough funds to cover all our expenses, but we simply couldn't miss this chance. The Geoffroy's cat is a widely distributed and yet very little known species: up to this moment, just one more radio

tracking study has been carried out on this cat, in Southern Chile!

The study area preserves a beautiful complex mosaic of wetlands and grasslands and represents one of the last remnants of the humid Pampas, one of the most endangered ecosystems in Argentina.

The GECM is now looking for more funds to support the telemetry data collection, which we expect to give essential information for the long term conservation of this species.

Bobcat Metapopulation Research and Conservation Project

Coryi Foundation, Inc.
Tim Mallow
coryi@worldnet.att.net
3715 Felda Street
Cocoa, Florida 32926
407.636.2827 (Voice)

As the human population continues to grow, urban sprawl causes an increase in the number and size of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. These developments displace and shrink natural areas. The result is that resident wildlife populations are reduced in size, fragmented, and isolated.

Population reduction and isolation can lead to local extinction due to a lack of adequate space in which residents can move and carry out life history functions, a weakening of demographic stability, and a reduction in genetic diversity. The bobcat is wide ranging, solitary, and territorial. Individual territories range on the order of a few thousand acres. Thus, populations require relatively large and undisturbed forested landscapes in which to experience long term persistence. The widest-ranging land mammals in many states, they are among those most sensitive to large-scale habitat loss.

Given the rapid increase in developments and the resulting loss and fragmentation of habitats, bobcats are decreasing in numbers in many regions of North America and will likely face an increased threat of extinction in many of those areas if inclusive landscapes are not carefully managed.

Because little is known about how bobcat

populations respond to severely disturbed landscapes, we are conducting radio-collar research to: (1) determine minimum habitat areas; (2) evaluate the effects of fragmentation; (3) determine how bobcats can exist in a metapopulation structure; (4) determine how landscapes in these areas need to be managed to promote viability; and (5) document movement through and use of corridors and use of core tracts.

The findings of our research will be used to provide land managers with information essential in developing habitat conservation guidelines that secure long term persistence via the incorporation of a metapopulation approach to management. The metapopulation approach consists of developing a suitable network of corridors and core tracts that are embedded within a matrix of highly developed and fragmented areas. Such corridors are intended to lower the local extinction risks by promoting adequate gene flow and demographic stability via breeder dispersal between otherwise disjunct and isolated population cores.

Additional information can be found on our web site at <http://www.coryi.org>.

Expedition: Mexican Forest Carnivores

Earthwatch Institute

Dr. Carlos A. Lopez Gonzales, Dr. Alberto Gonzalez Romero, Mircea G. Hidalgo Mihart, and volunteers like you!
Heather Pruiksma
Expedition Coordinator, Life Sciences
hpruiksma@earthwatch.org

If you're going to save an ecosystem, it's critical to know who its major players are and what their respective roles are in sustaining it. Carnivores are a good place to start. In the tropical dry forest-the world's most severely endangered forest type, however, no one even knows how many carnivores there are, never mind their impact on biodiversity. That's why biologists Drs. Carlos Lopez González and Alberto González and doctoral candidate Mircea Hialdgó Mihart need your

help to trap, track, and document the behavior of 12 species of small carnivores, from ocelots, jaguars and pumas, to pygmy spotted skunks. This work will not only increase our knowledge of this crucial forest type, but will directly aid in this particular forest's being declared an international biosphere reserve.

You'll stay either in a rented house or a hotel with all the basic amenities. You'll fix your own breakfast, while a cook will prepare lunch and dinner.

Expedition: Carnivores of Madagascar

Earthwatch Institute

Luke Dollar and volunteers like you!

Kate Wissel

kwissel@earthwatch.org

Volunteers Needed! The Fossa, and many of the other predators that inhabit Madagascar's forests, reside nowhere else in the world. Little is known about the behavior and population status of this small, puma-like, carnivore, but with the forests of Madagascar rapidly disappearing we must learn quickly. Help founder of the Carnivore Conservation and Research Trust, Luke Dollar, trap, sedate, collar, and track this elusive creature while meeting and learning about local peoples. The data you collect will help in planning conservation strategies for the Fossa and its endemic relatives.

Volunteers will camp at the Ampijoroa Research Station deep in the forests of northern Madagascar. Evenings will be spent relaxing with other team members or visiting local villages after a hard day of hiking in search of the Fossa.

Expedition: Argentina's Pampas Carnivores

Earthwatch Institute

Dr. Mauro Lucherini, Maria Lucherini, Estela Luengos Vidal, Diego Birochio, Claudia Manfredi, and volunteers like you!
Heather Pruiksma

Expedition Coordinator, Life Sciences
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Argentina boasts 338 mammal species-a fifth of them endangered-and fully 11 percent of all the world's mammalian carnivore species. Many of them live in the pampas, once a sea of grass extending as far as the eye could see. Europeans, however, saw the pampas as rangeland and cropland and viewed its carnivores as pests or pelts. The jaguar is already gone, and more carnivores may follow in its tracks. For the most part carved up in private plots, much of the pampas is now a shadow of its former self, except for Parque Provincial Ernesto Tornquist. It is here that, for the last five years, Dr. Mauro Lucherini and his colleagues at the Universidad Nacional del Sur have been gathering baseline data on the rich diversity of little-known carnivores as a measure of the ecosystem's health. They now need help in the labor-intensive phase of trapping, tagging, observing, and following Geoffroy's cat, hog-nosed skunk, pampas fox, and weasel-like 'little' grison.

After an overnight at Parque Provincial Ernesto Tornquist headquarters (with modern plumbing and electricity), you will head out to the primitive field camp (no running water or toilets but a nearby stream). Meals are a shared endeavor, with the biologists doing much of the cooking of Latino or Italian dishes, including Argentinean barbecue washed down by fine Argentinean wines. You'll sleep well in shared tents under a vast sky, knowing that your work will help salvage a magnificent ecosystem.

In Istanbul, I met a man who said he knew beyond a doubt that God was a cat. I asked why he was so sure and the man replied, "When I pray to him, he ignores me."

Lowell Thomas



**Piper owned by Keith
and Tracy Wilson**



**Putter owned by Keith
and Tracy Wilson**

(Continued from page 5.)

Animals may be fed with an eye dropper, stomach tube, pet nurser (small enough that you can squeeze a drop at a time into their mouth) or a regular baby bottle. Never force formula down the throat. More baby animals die by pneumonia secondary to milk in the lungs than from any other cause. It is not simple to feed a baby. They must be held upright, that is, feet down. The eye dropper or bottle must be inserted in the mouth and only a drop or two given at a time if the animal is not nursing on its own.

Animals which are recovering need warmth, quiet, correct diet, cleanliness and a minimum of antibiotics as the very young do not have a good drug tolerance and often die from drug reaction. Follow antibiotic treatment with doses of cultured buttermilk to insure a correct flora balance in the digestive tract.

The drug of my choice is tetracycline. It works on most problems. The side effect - discolored teeth is unimportant to me if the alternate is death.

Conclusion

The ability to "save" a baby animal is directly related to the amount of practical, actual experience a person has acquired. It cannot be learned from a book. To the novice, all baby animals look alike and the symptoms which are unfortunately not accompanied by a band and flag waving go unnoticed until the animal is in the last stages of pneumonia or comatose. People who wish to raise animals should spend a considerable amount of time assisting an experienced breeder in the care and raising of babies to gain the ability to distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior and appearance of newborn and very young animals, since the development of this ability is the crucial factor which separates those who succeed and those who do not.



**Noah's Wonder owned by
Deborah-Ann Milette**

Why The Leopard Hides His Food Up A Tree



A Ndebele story from South Africa
From the book, *Clan of the Wildcats*

The Ndebele tell their children that long ago, there were three friends: the beautiful leopard, the jackal, and the hyena. They went everywhere together. Whenever the leopard killed an animal, he would always leave a part of it for his friends so that they could have a good feed, too.

One day it happened that the Leopard was ill and he could not hunt.

“Jackal,” he said, “Please catch some food for us, for I am not well.”

But the lazy jackal said, “No, I am too weary. Ask Hyena.”

So the Leopard said, “Hyena, please hunt for us today, for I am not well enough to do so.” But Hyena, too, made an excuse. “No, I have a sore foot.”

At this Leopard roared in anger, “I thought you were my friends, but you are a no-good, lazy pair. Never again will I leave you meat when I make my kill. From this day on, I will make sure of it. I shall take what is left and hang it in a tree, when I have eaten all I want. Then neither of you will be able to get it.”

Leopard was true to his word—for since that day he has never left any meat for his selfish friends. Up into a tree it goes, high out of reach of jackals and hyenas. They have become scavengers now instead, and they eat the scraps that other animals leave behind. It was a sad day for them when they lost Leopard’s friendship.

Submitted by: Tracy Wilson