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LIOC—
**Endangered Species
Conservation Federation**



Happy Holidays!

LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation



This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 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, photo-

graphs 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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Ad rates for submitted photo-ready ads: 1 column inch \$10.00



A Birth Announcement

submitted by Kevin Chambers

An old African folk lore states that once in every century, regal white lions will emerge from the African bush, their majestic coats a clear representation of the good in all creatures.

Miss Liberty, a female white West African Transvaal lion (*Panthera leo krugeri*) was born Sept 12, 2001 at ZooARC (the Zoological Animal Reproduction Center). Miss Liberty's name commemorates those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks the day before her birth.

She was one of a litter of 4, her littermates all being heterozygous. This means that they have normal coloration, but carry the recessive white gene. Their parents are Busch, a white male that I imported from Africa, and Betty, a heterozygous female. Busch's father was a white male captured from the wild and placed into a private breeding facility. This wild-caught white male represents the third known line of white lions in captivity.

The first and best known line originates from Temba, the white lion discovered in the Timbavati Game Reserve by researcher Chris McBride and immortalized in McBride's book *White Lions of Timbavati*. Temba also happens



to be Betty's grandfather. The remaining line of captive white lions is the Johannesburg line. This line is represented by the lions owned by Sigfried and Roy.

There are currently about 40 white lions alive in the world today. The ones in North America are at Sigfried & Roy's, the Cincinnati Zoo, the Toronto Zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo, and mine.

These lions are not albino. They do not have the pink eyes associated with albinism. Their eyes are more of an amber color.

There have been several cases of white lion cubs being born to parents that are not known to carry the white gene. I have also heard of this happening with tigers and leopards. In every case that I am aware of, these cubs turned to a normal coloration within a few months. This has been reported to be caused by a selenium deficiency. Also, I am aware of none of these animals that went on to reproduce a white offspring.

I currently have an adult male and a female white, an adult male and female heterozygous, and 3 heterozygous female cubs. Miss Liberty was sold to Abby and Emma Hedengran of California who keep and breed several rare species of cats.

Kevin Chambers owns and operates ZooARC. Chambers' lions have been displayed at Busch Gardens-Tampa and The Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans.

World Trade Center Rubble Yields Cat Survivors



While the chance of finding any survivors in the World Trade Center rubble vanished long ago, there is a survivor story.


A cat apparently trapped under the debris has been found alive, with a new litter of three kittens.

Rescuers found the cats curled up in a carton of napkins. They were in the basement of what used to be a restaurant at the World Trade Center.

Rescue workers rushed mom and the kittens to a vet. Mom was thin and dehydrated, however, vets say all of the cats will be just fine.



by Jeannie Piper
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A Reason to be Thankful During Difficult Times

submitted by Tracy Wilson

My husband, Keith, (a.k.a LIOC's "Vanna") and I live in Arkansas and we currently have 10 wild cats: 3 servals, 3 caracals, 2 bobcats, and 2 canadian lynx. We just moved about 18 months ago to our new home, and at the time we only had 3 wild cats. While we were still settling in, we took in 6 placements that needed our help right away, plus a new serval kitten who stole our hearts this past summer. Since we took so many cats in fast, we set them up in nice but temporary caging, until we could decide how to build their larger permanent cages. We encountered a few distractions throughout the year helping other cats and cat owners in need, rather than working on our own cages, but we didn't mind. Our cats were happy as they were, and these others cats really needed help. We just wanted to get to see our cats in really nice large cages eventually.

We finally decided on a cage design, figured out how to do it, where we wanted the cages, and started building this past June, with the help of our friends, Leann and Brett Montgomery. We got a nice large enclosure up for our lynx pair, and BOOM, summer hit. It was so hot, we couldn't build anything. For those who have never experienced a summer in the south, summers in Arkansas are over 105 degrees, with nearly 100 percent humidity. Miserably Hot. So, Keith and I prepared to complete the rest of our cages in the fall, and planned to be finished sometime before our coldest winter weather this coming January.

Towards the end of August, we were getting a little anxious to start building, so we started setting posts for 5 new cages late at night while it was a little cooler. Keith got some of the framework started on 2 cages.

Then September 11th hit. Of course we were as shocked as anyone, and grief-stricken by this horrible tragedy. Keith is a police officer at his regular job, but he also serves in the Army National Guard. All cage building stopped, as Keith went on high alert with his police department and was working extremely long hours. I became deeply upset about the firemen and policemen that were killed. Being a wife of a police officer, I was overwhelmed with grief for the families of these men.

As the details started unfolding about the 9/11 attacks, we began to expect that Keith would be activated in the National Guard, but we figured that he would most likely be stationed somewhere in our own state for security missions. With just 8 days notice, Keith was ordered to report to duty, and that he would be going overseas for approximately a year. We were both shocked, it was so far away and for so long! We really did

not have a chance to be terribly upset before he left, we both knew this was his duty, and he had to go. We owed it to the rest of the country to make personal sacrifices in order to help the country do what was right. There were thousands of innocent people that were killed. Putting our lives on hold seemed pretty insignificant in comparison.

But poor Keith--bless his heart, with just 8 days before he left, and a million details to attend to before he leaves the country--tells me he is going to finish those cages by himself



Mike Jones and Lynn Culver
stretching fence

before he leaves. He couldn't bear to leave for a year, and leave those cages sitting there unfinished. I wouldn't let him even start on them. We just had too many legal things to do before he left, and he also needed to spend time with his family.

So Keith reported for duty, and was stationed temporarily at an armory here in our state until everything was ready for them to leave. On October 19th, he was sent to Fort Carson, an army base near Colorado Springs, Colorado, to train for his mission overseas. He is expected to remain there until just after the first of the year, at which point he will be sent on his assigned mission, which will be guarding the border of Israel and Egypt.

On October 19th, I saw him off at the armory, and drove 9 hours straight to my friend Leann Montgomery's house in Kentucky, with tears streaming down my face the whole drive. I was cried out by the time I arrived at her house, thank goodness. I was going to the MEFES meeting that weekend, and I was determined to have some fun, enjoy the company of good friends, and forget for just a little while that my life had been turned upside down. Little did I know, that this meeting was about to change my whole outlook on my current life situation.

I had so much fun at the MEFES meeting. It was held at Bob and Patti Turner's house. Bob turned his barn into an awesome haunted house. They had a hay ride, lots of good food, and everything was so great. It was wonderful to see friends that I love dearly, and only see once or twice a year in person. It was really helping my spirits.

During the meeting, while Bob Turner was telling the group about Keith being activated in the Army, Kelly Jean Buckley stood up and told the group that Keith had cages that he left unfinished and that I needed help to get them built. She offered to donate a hundred dollars towards gas money if a group of people would be willing to go down to Arkansas and finish my cages. I didn't expect her to do that, and I would not have asked the whole group like that myself. I had asked a few close friends like Leann and Brett to help me do some things for my cats through the year, but nothing like this.

To my amazement, a lot of people agreed to go right away, knowing no details about the cages or anything. This is what I love about friends I have in MEFES and LIOC, the willingness to help one another with no questions, no doubts, we're just going to help you, "It's for the cats!" What a special group of people.

I remember how last winter some of us were helping a tiger facility in Arkansas, and the MEFES group just pulled together and got people to go help. But this was really special, it was not as if my cats were in a life or death situation. These people just wanted to help us, because of the sacrifices that Keith and I have to make while Keith is away. Getting these cages built would make my daily cat chores easier on me, and ease Keith's mind while he was away for so long.

Just 2 weeks later, I had a house full of people freshly arrived to build cages. Steve and Cheryl Hahn drove everyone down to my place in their motor home, complete with their 2 dogs and a parrot. Bob and Patti Turner, Mike Coty, and Mike Jones came along to help. Their enthusiasm was amazing. They were anxious to get to work, even after a 10-hour drive. They worked hard all weekend. Bob, Patti, and Cheryl worked on building denboxes and doors for the enclosures, while everyone else worked on the actual structure of the cages. Another friend of mine, Lynn Culver of Arkansas, showed up over the weekend to help, as did my brother, Lance.

And while we were all working hard, we also had a great time. I just can't get over what wonderful people they all are. They completed 5 new cages, with the denboxes and everything, in just 2 days. It was amazing, and they did such a great job. This would have taken Keith and me months to complete by ourselves.

We are forever grateful. I cannot even express into words how much I appreciate it. How do you thank someone for doing something so unselfish and giving as this? All I can say to those who helped is THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Someday I will figure out a way to repay you all in some way. I cannot wait to pass on the generosity that you have shared with me to someone else.

I know there were other people who really wanted to come help, but due to the short notice and work obligations they were not able to make it. I appreciate the thoughts and efforts for those who tried to make it. It's the thought that counts. I am so blessed to know people like all of you, and to be so loved by you. Steve, Cheryl, Bob, Patti, Mike C, Mike J, Kelly Jean, and Lynn: You are all amazing people to me and I love you all dearly. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And so, I am starting this holiday season with an unexpected feeling. I had thought with Keith gone, me being all alone, and the general tense feeling the entire nation is experiencing, that I was in for a really difficult, long, sad, depressing holiday season. It is a scary feeling to feel that you have been left alone in a hopeless situation with no safety net, especially with 10 wild cats, and worrying if you will ever see your husband again. I couldn't help but think, "What if this happens to the cats, or that happens to a cage, what will I do all by myself?" I realized I was more dependent on Keith to help me with projects for the cats than I had realized, due to a terrible tool-impairment that I have.

But as it turns out, I found that I have many reasons to be thankful, and I had them all along. My friends in MEFES and LIOC lifted my spirits as soon as Keith left, before my spirits even had a chance to get terribly low. They have made me feel loved, they have given me strength, and have filled me with hope and gratitude enough to keep my spirits afloat for months to come. Those who have not been able to see me in person, have been a solid wall of support through email and phone calls.

I suddenly realized after the cage building party was over, I am not in a hopeless situation, I DO have a safety net. It is my friends in MEFES and LIOC. They are the type of people you can really count on. They are actually more like close family, even though we are spread throughout the country. Keith can go to sleep at night, somewhere on the other side of the world, with thousands of miles and oceans between us, knowing that if I were to need anything, or if I had any problem with the cats that I cannot handle by myself, that there are people who will be there for me while he cannot. THAT is something to be thankful for, peace of mind

and genuine friendship.

While the circumstances for Keith and me may not be ideal this year, somehow we are still happy and thankful for all we have. We know that we can survive through it, with the help of our friends in LIOC and MEFES. Thank you all for being there for us.



Bob and Patti Turner, Steve and Cheryl Hahn, with the 5 finished denboxes

Visit our website for the latest news about Keith: <http://home.ipa.net/~wildcat/>

On-line Resources

Risk Assessment Survey Results

The results of the 1998/99 LIOC-ESCF risk assessment survey are now online at:
<http://legal.lioc.org/Risk.html>

Phoenix Exotics Care Sheets

The Phoenix Exotics web site (<http://www.phoenixexotics.org/>) has been updated with care sheets submitted by members of their organization. Phoenix Exotics is dedicated to preserving the rights of responsible individuals to own exotic animals legally.

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Operant Conditioning Theories: In Practice

submitted by Kate Connor Kahn

At LIOC's 2001 Convention Michelle Eldridge gave a presentation on operant conditioning that is recorded and available on Tape 2 of this year's convention tapes. Her presentation was great and lots of fun, too. My understanding of operant conditioning is based mostly on what Michelle taught us that afternoon and on one or two things that I learned from the book *Don't Shoot the Dog* (I am not that far into it). But even with the little understanding that I have of it, I have been able to drastically improve my life and the life of one of my cats. (Story below.)

For those of you who weren't at convention or missed Michelle's presentation, I would highly recommend ordering tape 2 so you can see what this is all about.

My story:



I have 3 cats. My male cat is very territorial and jealous and for the last 2 years has been chasing, stalking and attacking my female. I have tried everything to get him to stop (time out's, spray bottle, extra loving and attention, etc.), yet the behavior continued. My female has a place up above the apartment that she can go to get away from her aggressor, and for the last six months she was spending more time up there than down here with us. Whenever she would come down, he would wake up and quickly chase her back up.

There is one time that she is comfortable around him and that is when we come home (after being gone more than an hour or so) and all the cats come to greet us and

to say "hi" to each other. In these rare moments, Maduro (the male) will gently and lovingly lick Marrakech (the female) all around her face, neck, back, etc. Marrakech loves it, but after a minute or so, things quickly sour and she runs up to her shelter. I realized that if I marked (by clicking) the moment that Maduro was licking Marrakech and then immediately offered them a treat, I would be rewarding that behavior. They quickly figured out that the "click" led to a treat and soon they were licking each other at random times throughout the day. Now when Marrakech comes down, Maduro will carefully approach her, being sure not to scare her into backing up, and will lick her. The beauty of it all is that Maduro needs Marrakech to get the treat. He can't lick her when she is somewhere he can't get to.

Marrakech has spent more time down here with us in the last month, than she did during the previous nine months combined. She has gone from being a scared, shy, timid cat, to a playful, outgoing sweetheart. Occasionally Maduro will still chase her, so we are not out of the woods yet, but we are well on our way.

This experience has made me want to learn as much as I can about operant conditioning and at moments I have considered possibly making a career out of it. It is a very rewarding experience for both the trainer and the trainee.

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THEN AND NOW
1968 – 2001
by Jackie Sinnott

The year was 1968. I had been married a very short time. This was then!

One morning the phone rang. I answered the phone and a strange voice was telling me that the new kitten would be arriving in the morning. I asked the lady what she was talking about and she said that my husband had wanted two bobcats but only one was available. She didn't give me any other information, hung up, and I was standing there wondering just what a bobcat was.

My husband wasn't any help. He was just disappointed that only one kitten would be arriving. He told me that he had always wanted to own bobcats. We had a Persian and I thought when I asked him what a bobcat was that would be coming to live with us that it was a gift for me.

Photo Above: Samie (SamElita) and Jackie - 1973. This picture was taken about a month after Samie returned home from her 45 day trip into the woods. Samie was regaining her lost pounds. We were both so happy to be reunited. I just don't know which one of us was the happiest. I think it was a tie.

Well, he told me that the new kitty was for him. That was okay, we would each have our own kitties or so I thought.

Next morning an old car drove in, two people, a couple of dogs and several people got out, brought a cardboard box with the kitty to the door. I took the box, thanked them, and they got back in their car without another word and drove off. We lived in a logging community so I supposed that the man was a logger and had possibly found the kitten in the woods.

So, the scared little kitty that I named Sheba hid under the bookcase for a couple of weeks, then became friends with the Persian name Gatita, and that little Sheba became my kitty, not my husband's. We didn't have to ask anyone's permission to have this very special addition to our home.

WHAT WAS NICE ABOUT THEN

If we wanted a pet of any kind we could have it. We could just go buy or find the pet and bring it home. There wasn't some agency telling us we couldn't have the pets of our choice. We didn't have all the laws and regulations that we have today. We weren't paying permit fees for our cats. Our homeowner's insurance we paid for covered everything. It was a far better time of life!

At that time my husband was in the automotive business. We had several friends who were deputy sheriffs who loved to visit our home. We lived along the highway and our front room was upstairs with floor to ceiling windows. My husband took a driftwood tree and fitted it in front of the windows so new kitty "Sheba" could lay on her platform at the top and watch the traffic as cars drove into our business or drove down the highway. The Sheriffs would drive in and look up at her and they would come in the house and visit with her. I loved it when one particular sheriff, a Game Warden, we knew well would come to visit because he gave me lots of information about kitties in the wild.

Thanks to my husband my life opened up in a new way!

Sheba would lay on top of her tree in front of the windows and the Sheriff would sit on the couch and they would study each other. They were fascinated with each other. He was learning about how a bobcat loved life in a private home. He enjoyed learning about her intelligence and her adaptability to our family. It was a very new experience for him and he told me it gave him a much better insight and helped him in his work.

Then along came my cousins from California who suggested I purchase an ocelot to be a companion to bobcat Sheba. My cousin brought me a brochure from California about buying ocelots. I had never heard of an ocelot. I looked at that ocelot picture and fell in love. I talked with a friend in New York City and he told me that he knew several people that owned ocelots that lived in apartments and he was sure I would love to have one. I found an ad in the Oregonian to purchase an ocelot from a pet store owner.

At that time it was very easy to purchase an ocelot. I ordered an ocelot, was told the price would be \$300 because I was ordering a male. I had decided since I had a female bobcat that I would order a male ocelot and have bobelots or ocebobs.

Soon new kitty arrived from Peru by way of Seattle. At that time all the ocelots came directly from the South. (My first and second came from Peru, my third from Columbia, South America.)

Samie had a very good flight, was in very good health, and was about 7 weeks old when she arrived. We were so excited. We named him Samuel. A few weeks later we didn't have a Samuel, we had a SamElita, as she was a little girl, not the extra large male that I ordered. A female would have cost me \$275.00.

Then a few months later we joined The Long Island Ocelot Club. The Long Island Ocelot Club Newsletter was wonderful. It was so exciting to read about other ocelots and the stories their owners told. There was help with nutrition and finding veterinarians that were experienced with exotic cats. At one of the first meetings we attended near Portland we met Herb and Barbara Wilton, LIOC's now-past President, and Clem and Gayle Schaecher, the Founder of our local branch Pacific Northwest Exotics.

I purchased the Catherine Cisin (the Founder of LIOC) book which I referred to many, many times over the years. Through the Newsletter we found a qualified veterinarian in Berkeley, CA, and we drove with Samie to see him when she was ill at 17 months. Later we were referred to a local veterinarian in the Portland area with special exotic skills. He has been my personal veterinarian ever since, for almost 30 years.

WHAT WAS NICE ABOUT THEN!

We took Samie everywhere in the car with us. She traveled in my purse into restaurants, under my husband's arm into motels, and people were always so thrilled with her. We didn't have any fear that anyone would try to take her away from us or that anyone would hurt her. We weren't told we had to have a permit to have a kitty of our choice. Our home wasn't inspected periodically. You might say we were on the honor system. Samie never had to be in a carrier to travel in the car. She would either sit between us or ride on the back of the seat so she could watch where we were going.

Our friends would come to our home, we would have parties and Samie and Sheba were always the center of attention. (Joe, a special friend, would bring SamElita flowers to every party and she would sit and hold a flower in her teeth and love the attention she was getting). I never even thought about someone being "sue happy." It just wasn't happening then.

In 1972 Samie took a 45-day trip into the woods by where we lived (during hunting season). One of our closest friends, a sheriff, gave me instructions about making reward signs and posting them in the woods. Samie made the news, the *National Enquirer* and many local newspapers. She got lots of fan mail. It was a much more open time. There were no animal activists out there. Samie came home and lived and loved another 12 years.



Marvin and Jackie pose with SamElita in a photo for the March 1973 LIOC newsletter article recounting her escape and return home. The caption read: The four year-old female ocelot survived the sub-zero weather of the wintry Coast Range foothills in Oregon for more than a month before returning home. Samie gained many friends from all over the state who heard via the news media that she was missing. One get-well card admonished Samie to stay at home. Curled up in a warm house, Samie most likely would agree.



The bigger cat is SamElita and the smaller is Heidi the margay. In the larger photo I have hanging on my wall you can see Samie's foot turned like a little girl in patent-leather Mary Jane shoes—a little girl about 5 or 6 that is a little shy. Probably nobody else sees it like I do, but that always strikes me as such when I look at the picture because Samie was such a unique little being.

Heidi was such a darling. We got a call from a local fish hatchery telling us there was a spotted little cat in the garage and would we please come and get her or tell them what to do with her. We went immediately and brought her home.

She was a pet, of course, but had gotten lost from the owner, apparently. We could never find the owner. Her eye teeth had been filed down too much and she had a headache a lot of the time. Our vet helped her with that.

Samie loved her immediately and treated her like a little kitten. It was quite an experience with Heidi cause she was always jumping up on top of doors and looking down at Samie who could not jump over three feet (which was to the drainboard in the kitchen). Heidi had a very sweet temperament and whatever Samie wanted her to do she did and I think that was because Heidi was so thankful to have a warm home again.

I do love that picture. It brings back many wonderful memories.



Scartlett's sweet face...

TIME WENT BY AND TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

Now Ocelots are very much endangered as are many exotic cats. Many people aren't as open and friendly when you have exotic cats. Nowadays you protect your cats from the general public. And nowadays, since people are more "sue-happy," you don't put your cats in a position that will cause them undue stress and yourself

to be sued. Today people are suing over very trivial circumstances and are not always winning but giving large sums to the attorneys (who are always in a win-win situation regardless of who wins).

When I think back, my husband and I never needed the services of an attorney until the 80's and it was then minor. Now it seems everybody has his own attorney, just like having a doctor.

Homeowner Policies cover less and less as time goes forward and yet the policy premiums cost us more and more each year. A very small occurrence can cause the cancellation of the policy.

Private Ownership is so important to the future of the species, yet there are people out there with such closed minds that they can't see "the handwriting on the wall." Permits are

required in so many areas for so many things. If Noah was building his Ark today he may never get past all the paperwork and permits that he would need and would not get his Ark built.

My father and I have had numerous conversations of how life has changed since he was a young man in the early part of this century. It is a drastic change. My husband and I flew to Mexico City in 1970 and we remarked about all the nicer homes having wrought iron fencing around the entirety of the homes, so different from our homeland.

Now—here we are in the year 2001 and it has become necessary for all of us to improve our security for ourselves and our family—at home, in our cars, at play and at work. I have changed over the years from events that have happened in my life and now I have more security in my life than we saw around the homes in Mexico City.

Now, here at home we have a complete state-of-the-art security system to protect my cats and my family. I have fences completely around all the acreage, bars on the windows of the house, permits, the works and cameras, too. We moved to the country, out of the city—all for the love of the kitties! Yes, times have really changed!

Still there is a wonderful world out there with many, many blessings. We must each do what we can to keep those blessings, to keep our animals that we have and the animals we will have in the future.



The author, Jackie Sinnot with Branford the bobcat



2001 American Zoological Association SSP Meeting Report

submitted by Lynn Culver

Part I of Lynn's AZA Meeting and Felid TAG report was in the September/October issue of the newsletter. Following is Part II, the SSP report.

Snow Leopard SSP Report

The program was then turned over to representatives of the International Snow Leopard Trust who shared their formula for raising public awareness, which translates into increased public financial support for Snow Leopard conservation projects. The Woodland Park Zoo has jumped on this conservation funding bandwagon and pledged a \$100,000 matching grant for two years. Milwaukee Zoo has funded a grant to educate on the community level to help predator-proof livestock corrals in Tibet and Columbus Zoo's grant will encourage marketing of native crafts that generate local income and reduce the temptation to poach snow leopards for their pelts.

The Snow Leopard SSP is one of the first developed and is quite mature now. It never had to address the sub-species purity question since only one sub-species is recognized. Its captive population target has been met and the population is stable. 85% to 90% of the captive population does breed in their lifetime, producing the proper amount of cubs. 28 pairs were recommended for breeding in 2001 and 2002. Fourteen cubs were produced last year and the species has experienced 11 deaths. I suspect the stability of this captive population is partly due to the fact that it is approaching nearly a third decade in existence. It seems to be one of the best managed and so the demand for new founder blood has probably already been met in years previous. But it will be interesting to see if perhaps this might just be a mid cycle and in a few more years if there might be a new push for wild blood. . .

Jaguar SSP Report

Even though the jaguar is one of the major charismatic flagship species, this is a relatively new feline SSP that is concentrating on the creation of captive population which is not managed for sub-species purity. While it was not made entirely clear why this decision was made, there is a general opinion that the jaguar is not seriously endangered in any single range.

The jaguar population in AZA zoos are being treated as if they were a computer that needed the hard drive wiped clean and completely reformatted. Most jaguars in the US are older and cannot be traced back to the wild founders. Though this species is not managed on a sub-species level, they want to have tracking back to the wild. DNA testing for relatedness as a management tool is not used by any of the SSP managers. Instead, there is a concentrated effort to obtain new founder stock from the jungles and range country zoos.

It was proudly noted that many of the proposed imports are now in the country. Audubon Zoo had 3 cubs born to a pair they imported from Peru two years ago. These are the only known traceable jaguars in AZA zoo captivity. Audubon Zoo has another jaguar they imported from Mexico that they have lent to Fort Worth Zoo. Tulsa Zoo imported two females from Guatemala and Texas Zoo is importing three jaguars from Venezuela. The North East Zoo has four cats from Guatemala and Sedgwick County Zoo imported two from Paraguay. Fort Worth Zoo is working on a potential Panama import. The SSP reported that so far 20 new South American jaguars have entered into the SSP and there is hope of reaching 35 individuals in this program shortly.

African Lion SSP Report

There are only 65 pedigree *Panthera leo krugeri* lions held by 26 institutions in the Lion SSP. All other zoo lions are generic, but those numbers are falling due to a moratorium on breeding, as these generic lions have been designated to POP status. Three births and six transfers and one death of pedigreed lions occurred last year. There were two breeding recommendations with the transfers. Breeding recommendations will increase at the next available opportunity but there is a shortage of cats right now.

Absent from this report was any cry for new wild-caught founder blood. And I suspect this might be related to the prevalence of FIV positive status of wild-born Krugeri lions which the zoo community does not want to have to manage for in captivity. Most of the recent lion imports have developed positive titers for this viral organism, making them unwanted as breeding stock.

So instead, the Lion SSP report featured descriptions of two AZA funded conservation research projects going on in Namibia with two isolated populations of lions. 80% of the lions on the Skeleton Coast Desert region colony have been either radio collared or tagged. This population of less than two dozen lions is in a growth phase.

The other research project funded by a \$20,000 grant from Disney and CEF covers the Atosha National Park in

western Namibia, where 12 lions marked from 3 prides are proving to be healthy and the pride structures are reported as good. The zoo community is working to put together resource materials to help Africans deal with lion conflicts using methods that do not result in the death of the lions.

Fishing Cats SSP Report

This is a relatively new SSP. This presents challenges in funding since the public has little awareness of this newly favored species. The Fishing Cat SSP group places a high priority on the importance of public relations to help raise funds to accomplish the reoccurring theme of linking in-situ and ex-situ research. An artist donated an original painting which has been reproduced into prints and note cards for holding institutions to sell with all proceeds going to fund conservation of this species.

The International Species Inventory System (ISIS) notes that there are 81 individual fishing cats held in 26 North American institutions. Unfortunately, the founder size of this population is small. Further compounding this species management issue is the possibility that more than one sub-species is represented in captivity. There are both mainland and Java island imports. Most of the founder stock has already been “contaminated” by sub-species mixing and should the TAG choose to manage this species on a sub-species pure level, much of this captive gene pool would have to be scrapped.

Six pairings were recommended for next year and there was great emphasis placed on locating new founders for the SSP. For the time being, even though both sub-species are represented in the SSP, importing of new blood from Mainland Asia is recommended over any island imports. Thailand was identified as the best possible country for the importation of new wild blood. There is a desire to acquire wild semen for AI insemination, which would cement the in-situ and ex-situ conservation relationship. Studies are underway to investigate hormonal patterns in captive fishing cats in an effort to better understand how to successfully artificially inseminate this species.

Ocelot SSP Report

This species was once so commonly held by the private sector in the early 70's that the Washington Post quoted the National Zoo as saying they were considered domestic animals. Today however, this species is becoming rare in private hands and the zoological community has taken a new interest this species. The SSP has now drafted a master plan with recommendations to all institutions and there is a comment deadline of this fall.

Most captive ocelots are generic and few of these felines have breeding records which date back to original wild-caught founders. There are no plans to DNA test the captive stock for relatedness or inbreeding. Instead, these generic animals are to be phased out at a rate of 5% decline a year and emphasis is placed on obtaining new founder stock from Brazil.

The AZA zoo community has a plan to bring new captive-born stock into this country to supply zoos and SSP programs. It is much easier to gain permission to import captive-born individuals than wild-caught, but South American zoos lack the expertise and experience in hand rearing this species. The answer to this dilemma lies in the formation of a Brazilian Ocelot Consortium by AZA member institutions with a base level joining fee of \$5,000. The goal is to raise \$90,000 to fund several Brazilian projects in population management, education and conservation. In exchange for this US funding, Brazil has agreed to hand-raise offspring and export them to US zoos.

Black-Footed Cat SSP Report

This species became available to zoo collection managers in the eighties, yet it was only recently appointed SSP species as of November 2000. There are serious husbandry issues associated with this species. Breeding is intermittent and most of the population dies by age five from kidney disease, making a self-sustaining captive population impossible at this point. It is theorized that long term stress is a contributing factor in their premature demise. Therefore a husbandry manual is in the works with a survey due to be sent out in November 2001 and the survey results will be published in January 2002. It is hoped this approach will shed light on some of this mystery. A black-footed cat bibliography is also being developed.

A total of 26 Black-footed cats are found in 10 institutions. Twelve are siblings, two are parents of such and one is a granddaughter. Only nine cats are unrelated in the captive population. Two individuals were imported recently from Pretoria Zoo and the SSP acknowledged the need for new cats from either South Africa, Namibia or Botswana.

Sand Cat SSP Report

Yet again, another new species reaches SSP status. This SSP is extremely hampered though because they have so few individuals and bloodlines to work with. A master plan is due out October 2001. Since this feline is so rare in zoos, the holding institutions will constitute the management committee. Most sand cats held in AZA institutions are sub-

species hybrids. Bottom line for this species was the need for new imports from the Middle East with particular interest placed on locating a private breeder purported to exist in Egypt.

Clouded Leopard SSP Report

I found this species report particularly interesting. This SSP deems its feline members a “Research Population” a term meant to describe a situation where the captive management is so without success that an “anything goes” attitude is fostered. Clouded leopards are known for their inability to properly form pair bonds as adults, and the resulting high incidence of breeding related deaths to the females. There is no real answer to explain this behavior at this time, and so bonded pairs, whether siblings, related or not, are encouraged to breed just to give the holding institutions something to work with. And this approach to captive management has resulted in a population which is quite inbred and I wondered if that might in itself be a contributing factor to this excessively aggressive behavior in the males.

Since 1998, there have been 52 births over three years with 37 surviving. 17 of these births were from only 2 pairs of animals. The founders for the entire population of currently 124 animals is only 2 males and 18 females. But fully 81% of the captive population can be traced back to three individuals imported by Robert Baudy in Centerhill, FL. The opinion voiced that “We really need babies on the ground” summed up their bottom line.

Obviously this charismatic species has many management issues that need to be addressed if it is to survive captivity in the AZA community. And they are not taking this challenge sitting down. They have forged onward with research into AI. A test group of 10 females and 5 males at 3 facilities are slated for AI work.

At the same time assays of the fecal corticoid hormone levels are being calculated to scientifically verify if the self-mutilation behavior exhibited in many zoo housing clouded leopards is related to an increased stress level. Experiments are being designed to test the stress response to various cage heights and variation in the number of hiding places. It is theorized this species experiences stress in response to enclosure height, keeper time, visibility to other predators and exposure to public display. I couldn't help but wonder if perhaps this species might be better managed in a more private situation.

Studies have shown that clouded leopard sperm in wild and captive populations is 85% abnormal and only one in 10 artificial insemination attempts are ever successful. Testing has begun on a research project to implant females with Norplant to control the ovulation cycle. The implant is removed and AI is performed. I wondered if since stress is a contributing factor in this inbred population's refusal to reproduce, could the intensive efforts to force pregnancy actually be counterproductive, since such invasive procedures might exacerbate the stress of captive life?

While research continues to explore how to better manage this species in captivity, the ultimate fate of this feline will be extinction in captivity unless new founders are obtained from the range countries and their ability to be successfully paired and reproduce increases. Problems with this species that have to be addressed include compatibility, stress management and the inability to obtain young, unrelated pairs.

An ambitious project is underway by the AZA zoo community to address all three of these issues by establishing captive breeding programs in off-exhibit enclosures in Thailand Zoos. One full time AZA staff member is being provided to help set up this project. The captive born Thai kittens produced can be paired up while still young and shipped to the AZA institutions as bonded pairs for new founder stock.

Pallas Cat SSP Report

This species became available about 7 years ago. Breeding records show that toxoplasmosis plagues this captive population and offspring have a very poor survival rate at AZA facilities. In 1996 a single litter produced 3 kittens, of which 2 died. In 1997 a litter of 4 had only one survivor. 1998 experienced a bumper crop of births, as the captive population reached reproductive peak and 7 litters produced 25 offspring, and 18 of these survived. In 1999 another three litters produced 9 kittens and for the first time every kitten survived past the age of four months. In 2000 a single litter of four had only half survive and in 2001 four litters produced 16 kittens, with just under half of these still alive.

Original founders are reaching post reproductive age as this species drops off in fecundity as early as eight years of age. With such a poor population growth rate, new founders are called for. But first more research on toxoplasmosis must answer questions. There is a great need to understand better treatment options and better prevention techniques.

This disease seems to be endemic in the adult US population that was originally imported from Russia out of the Moscow Zoo. Whether these adult animals contracted toxoplasmosis while in captivity there is being partially answered by a year-long research project of wild Mongolian populations. So far, of 15 wild caught Pallas Cats only one has any antibodies to Toxoplasmosis, lending evidence to conclude that at least this sub-species of Pallas Cat does not have much natural exposure to this disease organism.

Various chemotherapies are being experimented with to aid the immature immune systems of captive born Pallas Cats exposed to toxoplasmosis. Further, research indicates that frozen sperm prevents the transmission of toxoplasmosis to the embryo. And removal of kittens immediately after birth so that no natural nursing occurs also prevents disease

transmission. With new treatments available for ex-situ populations and in-situ research locating uninfected wild populations, managers have new hope for this species in captivity, once uninfected new founders can be obtained from wild.

Cheetah SSP Report

This was the grand finale of SSP reports. The Global Cheetah Action Plan was the focus of much of this presentation since this workshop was the brainchild of the AZA zoo community and they put up the money to fund it and underwrite the cost of attendance. Field researchers and managers of wild habitats, as well as zoo people and 53 key delegates identified from 10 African countries were invited to attend. The purpose of this event was the conservation of cheetahs. The key issues addressed were education, communication, species census, health management and conservation efforts by linking in-situ and ex-situ programs together.

The AZA zoo community put the Africans in charge, but were full of suggestions on how to address management issues in the native habitat. For example, Zimbabwe is considering construction of a fence to prevent their cheetah from leaving the protection of their game preserves and entering South Africa where they are shot. It was recommended to this delegate for his country to not to obstruct migration patterns with a fence, and the zoo community tried to educate the South African delegates on the need for their people not to shoot cheetahs.

Ex-situ priorities consisted of cooperation between zoos by networking to increase reproduction and increase movement of cheetahs globally. Issues, actions and objectives identified that "Fundraising for conservation projects cemented relationships". A database of people working on projects will be created and that information will be available on the internet. It was discussed that education materials and public relations messages need to be refined. Increased public awareness of cheetah increases public donations. For institutions holding cheetah there was a desire to produce a unified conservation message about this species. There was a desire to link range countries with the captive populations. Education was identified as the key to cooperation and working together.

Feedback from field people revealed that some are of the opinion that not enough financial support is received from the zoo community. And some delegates were of the opinion that zoos didn't help conservation, they were responsible for a net loss to wildlife, and they thought zoos held anti-hunting views. Efforts were made to change these opinions, especially the opinions of the Namibian delegate, who voiced the opinion that the money spent on captive husbandry and zoos would be better spent supporting and maintaining natural wildlife habitat.

The Cheetah Conservation Fund has supported Laurie Marker Krauss, the US Cheetah Studbook keeper and passionate cheetah enthusiast in her Namibia project to raise conservation awareness and tolerance for the cheetah in its natural environment. AZA is visibly supporting her work with a visitor information center full of displays and diagrams and each of these items give credit to the AZA for their funding.

Laurie has started an Anatolian guard dog breeding program and dispersed these livestock protectors among the Namibian ranchers. This has reduced predation of livestock by cheetah and the frequency of these felines being trapped and killed by ranchers. Over the past decade Laurie Marker Krauss has created facilities to rehabilitate and house cheetahs that have been trapped or injured by the ranchers. She has tamed the young trapped cheetah into educational ambassadors to spread a cheetah conservation message to the native Namibians.

Namibia has a strict "no captive breeding, no export policy." Recently the prime minister approved a one-time relaxation of his country's policy and graciously donated 10 wild-born cheetahs held by Laurie's Cheetah Conservation Center to the AZA cheetah SSP program. White Oak received six of these cats and Cincinnati Zoo the other four.

The SSP population of cheetahs is in decline. After conquering the difficulties of captive reproduction in the late 80's and early 90's, minimal breeding recommendations designed to insure that there not be any cheetahs in surplus of the assigned cage space allotments in AZA accredited zoos, have left founders of this population aging and their return to breeding status has been sporadic. For instance, only three litters were born last year. There is an urgent need to re-establish the breeding success with the breeders of 10 years ago. The SSP breeding recommendations heat up this year with fully 3/4 of the top unrelated females slated for pairing to the top 2/3 of the unrelated males.

There was a flurry of activity surrounding this African flagship species. The key to ensuring the ex-situ survival of cheetah is the procurement of new founders, whether they be live animals or frozen wild semen. The successful exchange of ideas and conservation funding between the AZA zoo communities and the African nations which culminated in the Global Cheetah Workshop is laying the foundation to a desired future of linking the in-situ with the ex-situ cheetah conservation.

Conclusion

I walked away from this conference with a very strong feeling that Species Survival Plans are not self-sustaining and not working according to computer models. The removal of animals from the wild will continue to be necessary for the stocking of AZA institutions. Many management issues have to be addressed including that reality that even when a species does reproduce successfully in captivity the inherent limitations of the total captive habitat available creates problems for long-term planning. These advisory groups are diligently working to address and remedy every trouble that

undermines the success of captive reproduction and long-term captive survival. They are a motivated group that will not give up.

But I also walked away thinking that AZA institutions are much like the American public--seemingly subject to whims, tiring of the familiar and embracing the new. AZA has abandoned several feline species after decades of captivity, in pursuit of something different for their collections. They may be window dressing this fact by saying the species of yesterday do not need to be captive-bred, but the truth is, the species of today are currently not doing well under their care and their existence in zoos lend little to the conservation of wild populations.

In spite of this negative revelation, I am inspired to try to help the private sector emulate this AZA community's strong organization structure and scientific management techniques. These techniques are based on identifying issues and problems, then finding answers to address such, and then ensuring the end results are readily available for others to benefit from them.

Private owners and breeders have much experience in small feline husbandry as well as the advantage of off-exhibit facilities which produce less stressful conditions for felines. There needs to be more privately-owned cage spaces devoted to the feline species the AZA community is trying to preserve. The zoo community does not have the holding capacity to maintain long-term survival of their small cat collections. Increased communication and understanding between AZA's felid SSP coordinators and the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation is paramount in bridging this cooperation gap so that a true partnership can enhance captive population survival.

In addition to working with the AZA community on their chosen small cat survival plans, I think there is a golden opportunity for members of LIOC-ESCF to pick up the various balls the AZA community has dropped--those balls being the felines now held in private collections that the AZA community has decided to phase out. We can improve the management of our various lynxes, bobcat, cougar, jungle cat, Geoffroy's and leopard cat populations by registering them in the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation SPARKS program. We have the opportunity to start a pedigree line now for these species so that future owners and breeders breed a more genetically heterozygous population of felines. We must take advantage of this opportunity in force. It is up to us alone to carry on these species in captive breeding programs.

The private sector would do well for itself to start its own "SSP-like" programs and its own population management teams and advisory boards. Leaving sustained captive breeding success up to chance is not an option when the stock that is left in private hands may someday be all that is available in captivity. These animals deserve to be managed to the best of our ability and more so now than ever since the AZA zoo community is deliberately managing several of their feline species into extinction.

Got a Cat Problem That Confounds Your Vet?



A new software program available on the Web, can help veterinarians make quicker diagnoses when confounded by a set of tricky symptoms. The vet feeds in details of the ailing pet's medical history, current symptoms and results from laboratory tests. A list of possible canine/feline ailments appears in less than three minutes. The program, dubbed "Associate" because its creators say it's like having another consultant in the room, covers 550 dog and 475 cat diseases.

"We tackle every known disease — we're not happy until we feel we have covered all of them," said Dr. Craig Carter, president of [Texas Medical Informatics](#), creators of the program.

The list of possible diagnoses is ranked in order of probability. The number that the program offers depends on the detail of the information entered.

Carter admits that veterinarians usually can diagnose many cat and dog problems without having to refer to Associate. But when it's a rare disorder, or the symptoms are unfamiliar to a veterinarian, then Associate can be helpful, he said. "The program can assist by throwing up a possible diagnosis that the clinician may not immediately think of — a far-out diagnosis that the clinician may not have even considered — and then, bingo, he can establish what is wrong," Carter said. "It helps to prevent error by omission."

Of course, no software program can replace the advice and hands-on care of a competent veterinarian.



To the Editor...

On the subject of changing the name of LIOC-ESCF, I also agree that it is time for a change. In the last news letter, there were pro and con articles regarding this. The reasons that I see are many for the change.

At the 2001 AZA Felid TAG meeting, I overheard one zoo person asking who LIOC was. Another responded, "That's that pet organization." While there is nothing wrong with pets, the membership of LIOC is comprised of more than only pet owners.

At the recent International Society of Zooculturists conference, Lynn Culver gave a presentation on the LIOC-ESCF. Just a couple of hours later, one of the officers of ISZ asked something about "that ocelot club." The LIOC name does have recognition among its members and past members, but beyond that, professionals look

upon the name and are immediately turned off by it.

"Why does this matter?" you may ask. Well, in this age and time, it is becoming increasingly important for an organization to help fight the increasing barrage of state and national legislation. In just the last year, both Texas and Michigan passed laws that severely restrict private ownership of cats. I have dealt with legislators before, and it is important for them to know that an organization represents as many people as possible, including professionals whose livelihood could hinge upon the pending legislation. A simple name that conveys this would be most advantageous.

The current name just makes people ask, "What does LIOC stand for?" I guess one should say that it now stands for nothing, but most of the time it is explained as the original name, Long Island Ocelot Club. I never see anyone use the second part of the current name...Endangered Species Conservation Federation. Wow, talk about a mouthful! Anyhow, the organization deals with more than endangered species, but doesn't have any programs that directly deal with conservation of endangered species. While it is true that there are well-known organizations that have names that don't reflect accurately who the members are (i.e. Toastmasters, Rotary, etc.), these organizations are more or less social or altruistic clubs who aren't out there fighting for their rights with legislators.


Shirley Wagner put it best when she wrote her article, "A Rose By Any Other Name." It will still be the same organization. Changing the name won't change the organization or the efforts of its volunteers, but it will aid in gaining respect for the more diverse collection of individuals that actually make up the organization.

I do have respect for the history of the organization and its original name, but we also have to look to the future and see what we are and will become. The LIOC name could and should be preserved by renaming such things as the Lotty. It could become known as the LIOC Lotty. I'm sure there are other ways to preserve the history without having LIOC in the name of the organization. The truth of the matter is that we are much more now than the Long Island Ocelot Club (LIOC) and LIOC-ESCF also doesn't accurately describe us.

Personally, I like the name suggested by Lynn Culver...Feline Conservation Federation (FCF). It's short and sweet, just like the name of any rose should be.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chambers
ZOOLOGICAL ANIMAL
REPRODUCTION
CENTER (ZooARC)



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Behind the Scenes

*An editorial report on the developments and related concerns at the International Society of Zooculturists' conference
by attendee Bart Culver*

In his phony expose *Animal Underground*, Alan Green attempts to tar everyone who owns exotic animals by proving that AZA zoos have a long history of selling surplus animals to the private sector, where they run the risk of being hunted or worst yet, becoming pets. While some of Green's facts are true, most of his assumptions are false. There is nothing illegal, immoral, irresponsible, unethical, or cruel about the practices he scandalized. The only reason these practices were ever canceled is to avoid unfair criticism from the powerful few who share Green's ignorance. Chief among these is PETA. AZA is definitely afraid of PETA and its terrorist's army, the Animal Liberation Front. That is why it has chosen not to defend itself with the truth, but instead to deflect criticism by casting dispersions on the private sector.

Things would be much better if the AZA had the intellectual courage to just tell the truth. "Yes, we sell animals to private breeders and brokers, who sell some to pet owners and hunting ranches. This activity is an essential part of our conservation effort. Otherwise, our limited space would be overrun with surplus stock. We make money selling surplus stock we would otherwise have to euthanize. This practice benefits conservation. The animals fair far better then their counterparts in the wild. We cannot release them into the wild anyway, as they would starve. Running the risk of a bullet to the head while being kept in peak condition is far better then starvation in a degraded and vanishing habitat. Pet ownership is also preferable. Pet owners and private breeders pioneered and still excel at captive breeding of many species. Reproduction is a direct measure of well being. Successful breeders are not cruel."

But the AZA is afraid to say this because they are afraid of PETA. So afraid that they quietly euthanize most of their newborn male hoof stock rather than incur PETA's wrath by selling animals to the private sector. This is more then just my opinion. Every sentence you have just read in the previous paragraph is based on a statement made by one of several highly respected AZA accredited zoo directors who spoke at the fourteenth annual convention of the International Society of Zooculturists, held October 24-28 at The ZOO in Gulf Breeze, Florida. I was delighted to hear that the AZA is not a united front against private ownership of exotics, and that many AZA members strongly dissent from the AZA party line.

LIOC was well represented at the ISZ convention. LIOC members Lynn and Bart Culver, Bobby Bean, Kevin Chambers, Kelly Jean Buckley, Carol Siegley and Carin Sousa attended. Shirley Wagner drove over from Mobile to hear Lynn give a talk about LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. to the other zooculturist organizations. This was followed with Kevin and Lynn presenting their concept of a Species Enhancement Program. They used an overhead projector and tag-teamed their way through a lot of material culminating in the example of how a Species Enhancement Program (SEP) can be formed for the Geoffroy's cat. This species was chosen because the AZA is managing their population to extinction, a term that they changed to the more politically correct "POP," meaning, "phase out population."

Happily LIOC already possess the SPARKS software (Single Population Analysis and Record Keeping System), the same computer program used by AZA studbook keepers to form the database for their SSP's. And LIOC members have about 35 Geoffroy's cats according to the 2000 census, far more then the 11 held in AZA zoos. This means that LIOC members have the opportunity to do conservation work that AZA essentially gave up on. This of course would benefit LIOC and the cats.

The ISZ board voted to endorse the Species Enhancement Program and help fund a Geoffroy's Cat SEP as a memorial to their late founder Ron Blakely who wanted to develop such a program. Lynn is asking the LIOC board for its endorsement of this program also. We hope that this first practical use of the SPARKS software by the private sector to update and maintain a current Geoffroy's cat studbook will encourage greater participation in reporting captive holdings both within and outside of LIOC.

For those who despair that the private sector will ever be allowed to do meaningful conservation work, let me offer a couple of statistics and one more quote 1. AZA is a trade association with 201 members. There are 2290 USDA Class C licenses outstanding. This leaves well over 2000 exhibitors who have not joined AZA and are not prohibited from working with the private sector. Many AZA zoos are also willing to work with us and there will be more, as our efforts gain credibility. 2. Another interesting number is that it takes \$1,000,000 to create an acre of AZA zoo habitat. This is due in large part to the necessity of creating facilities for the human visitors. Private, off-exhibit facilities can create habitat much more efficiently. Space is at a premium at every zoo and the private sector clearly has something to offer. With the conservation relevance well established, our rights will also be well established. The following quote is from a very successful director

of a large AZA zoo. I asked him what we can do to change the trend towards outlawing exotics he said “Get bigger than the AZA. It can be done. You’ve made a good start here today.”

He was referring to the second important event that occurred at the ISZ convention. A unanimous consensus was reached that all private owners must unite now to protect their rights. Representatives of the following organizations were present: LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation, International Society of Zooculturists (ISZ), Exotic Wildlife Association (EWA) and United Zoological Association (UZA). All these organizations champion the right to own exotic animals. Their representatives agreed to consult with their respective BOD’s and exchange letters of inquiry with the intent to form an alliance. The expedient for doing this would be for the three smaller groups to become organization members of the larger “umbrella” organization. UZA is smallest with about a dozen members, all savvy professional breeders and zoo directors with a philosophy very similar to LIOC’s. ISZ is next, with about 110 professional members. LIOC is next with about 500 voting members. And the winner is EWA with 750 members paying dues of \$50 to \$500. These folks raise hoof stock and they have deep pockets. They can afford good lawyers and lobbyists and they have been very successful at defusing AR legislative initiatives in Texas. They have clout. They are nice people and they even disagree with you in a nice way. They have a slogan: “Conservation through commerce.” This is a very succinct version of my argument that commerce ruined their habitat and commerce owes them a home. If you can’t own them, you can’t sell them. If you can’t sell them, they have no value. If they have no value, capitalism will destroy them, therefore they must be in commerce. So I think these are reasonable people and so did everyone else.

It seemed I was the only observer who had any misgivings. But you see I absolutely abhor blood sports. I cannot understand killing anything for pleasure. And some EWA members raise trophy animals for hunting ranches. Some even run hunting ranches—definitely not canned hunts however. I thought, “I raise animals to be cherished and these guys raise them to be killed. We have nothing in common.” I thought, “If LIOC-ESCF joins a bunch of trophy ranches, PETA will say we sell our cats to shooters.” That was my gut reaction.

And then I thought about it some more. I thought about everything I said in the first two paragraphs of this article. I realized those present were not callous people. They were professionals who were certain that when you breed a captive population in a finite space you must provide for the lives and deaths of many animals. In nature this happens through predation and starvation. In husbandry it happens through culling and hunting. This is not the preferred way, it’s the only possible way. The AZA needs to admit it. And I need to accept it. The public and their legislatures need to know it and PETA needs to be stopped from selling their falderal. Animal rights people must understand that nature has been dismantled. Its fragments survive only through management, including culling. Animals in the wild are all confined by the territorial imperative of their own kind, fragmentation of their eco-systems, human encroachment and the severe depredation of their habitat. They compete with too many for too few resources. They are overloaded with parasites and starving in a constant war for survival.

For captive animals things are different. In today’s real world, captivity is the nicest place for an animal to be. Market forces place value on rare animals and motivate their owners to keep them in better condition than their wild counterparts by reducing stress and providing excellent medical care. This must be allowed to happen. After long and careful consideration of all the arguments, pro and con, I have concluded that hunting is a necessary management tool in today’s and tomorrow’s world and the EWA in particular not only has clout, but also has a sound and ethical management philosophy. I recommend that should the EWA change their by-laws, LIOC seriously consider joining the proposed alliance or coalition under the umbrella of EWA. I believe if we do it carefully, and articulate our position carefully, such an alliance gives us the best chance to convince the public and the legislatures that PETA’s philosophy about private ownership of exotics is irrational and constitutes a serious threat to conservation as well as our liberty.

Product Review-helpful hints

Snuggle Safe heating pads are a great device to help keep your animals warm on chilly winter evenings. The tough plastic disks are designed to go right into a den box with no cords or electrical outlets needed. You microwave the disk for five minutes, and it radiates a steady supply of safe heat for up to twelve hours. The disks come with a two year warrantee against leaking or bursting. They are available at KV Vet (<http://www.KVvet.com>) and some larger retail pet stores. Colette Griffiths of Cocoa’s Pride uses them with her cats. “All my Geoffroys really like them. Even my Serval gets one in the winter months. Since last year when she chose staying with the male bengal, Robert, over sleeping with us, they have had one in the winter at night. I also love the Suggle Safe for kittens. You don’t have to worry about the heat and just heat the disc up every 12 hours.”



ACEF Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2001

This meeting was held at the home of Teresa Albert, a nice central location for elections! Our membership does seem to be a cross-section of America, as the turnout for voting was rather low this year. Before voting on club officers, we did have a fairly long discussion about what the club is and what it should be doing for the members.

We want to increase membership and meeting attendance! So please tell us just what you'd like out of the group, you can contact any of the officers via phone, email, write a letter, etc.. (new or old group!) Do you have suggestions for activities? Events? Times or Places? We will be trying to make the newsletters available online for those members who would like them that way, as well as providing a nice archive of old newsletters for new members to see. We are thinking about having a booth at some local cat (domestic) shows to see if we can find more members. One thing that might help us find members is to know how people have found/bought their exotic cats. There seem to be quite a few people out there that have a cat, but have no idea that any exotic cat clubs exist. We need to find them! We also placed the order for club Jackets for those that wanted them. We did finally get around to voting, and the results are:

President - Jeanne Hall
Vice President - Christ Hall (these 2 are NOT related!)
Secretary - Teresa Albert
Treasurer - John Kaelin

Appointed positions: (Agreed upon by both sets of officers)
Editor - John Lussmyer
Rescue and Placement - Christi Hall
Photographer - John Kaelin

Our next meeting isn't a meeting, but a Christmas party! It will be held at my house out on Whidbey Island, Saturday December 15th, probably starting around 2pm. Cats and Guests are welcome.

—
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/>

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

LIOC Convention 2002 in Kansas, August 7-11. Contact Kelly-Jean Buckley, Chair of Convention Committee, for more information: PO Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028; (602)996-5935; kjbuck@qwest.net.

First AZA Animal Enrichment and Husbandry Training Course

Developed and taught by members of the AZA Behavior & Husbandry Advisory Group, this four-day holistic training program will provide managers and supervisors with the foundation to develop, maintain, and assess husbandry training and animal enrichment programs. The course will be held in Orlando, FL from January 9-12, 2002. Priority registration will be given to AZA members. Tuition for this course is \$550 for AZA members and \$600 for non-members. Registration Forms can be found on the AZA website (www.aza.org) or obtained from the AZA Training Administrator at ereinhard@aza.org or (301) 562-0777 x238.

Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA) 2nd Annual Conference

"Enhancing Animal Welfare through Positive Reinforcement"

February 26 - March 2, 2002 in San Diego, CA.

For further information contact: Gary Priest at gpriest@sandiegozoo.org or at (619) 231-1515.

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The Rules

by The Cats

BATHROOMS - Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare.

DOORS - Do not allow any closed doors in any room. To get the door open, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an “outside” door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow, or mosquito season.

CHAIRS AND RUGS - If you have to throw up, get to a chair quickly. If you cannot not manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If there is no Oriental rug, shag is good. When throwing up on the carpet, make sure you back up so it is as long as a human’s bare foot.

HAMPERING - If one of your humans is engaged in some activity, and the other is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called “helping,” otherwise known as “hampering.” The following are the rules for hampering:

- a. When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on and then picked up and comforted.
- b. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between eyes and book unless you can lie across the book itself.
- c. When a human is working at computer, jump up on desk, walk across keyboard, bat at mouse pointer on screen, and then lay in human’s lap across arms, hampering typing in progress.

WALKING - As often as possible, dart quickly and as close as possible in front of the human, especially: on stairs, when they have something in their arms, in the dark, and when they first get up in the morning. This will help their coordination skills.

BEDTIME - Always sleep on the human at night so he/she cannot move around.

LITTER BOX - When using the litter box, be sure to kick as much litter out of the box as possible. Humans love the feel of kitty litter between their toes.

HIDING - Every now and then, hide in a place where the humans cannot find you. Do not come out for three to four hours under any circumstances. This will cause the humans to panic (which they love) thinking that you have run away or are lost. Once you do come out, the humans will cover you with love and kisses, and you probably will get a treat.

ONE LAST THOUGHT - Whenever possible, get close to a human, especially their face, turn around, and present your butt to them. Humans love this, so do it often. And don’t forget their guests.

DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF LIOC HISTORY?

In preparation for LIOC’s upcoming 50th Anniversary, we are attempting to locate photographs of LIOC’s past. We have lost so many of our founding members, and with them many pieces of our treasured history.

Kate Conner Kahn has offered to scan these photographs and make them available on a CD ROM. This will enable us to preserve them for posterity. Kate spent numerous hours at convention starting this project from the albums folks brought with them. If you have photographs taken at branch meetings or Convention, please share them. Identify the folks & cats in them, as well as noting the date they were taken along with any memory they invoke and send them to Kate. She will guard them with her life and return them to you once they have been scanned.

**Don’t let
LIOC’s history vanish!**

Send photos to:

Kate Conner Kahn
233 Swanton Rd.
PMB 269
St. Albans, VT 05478