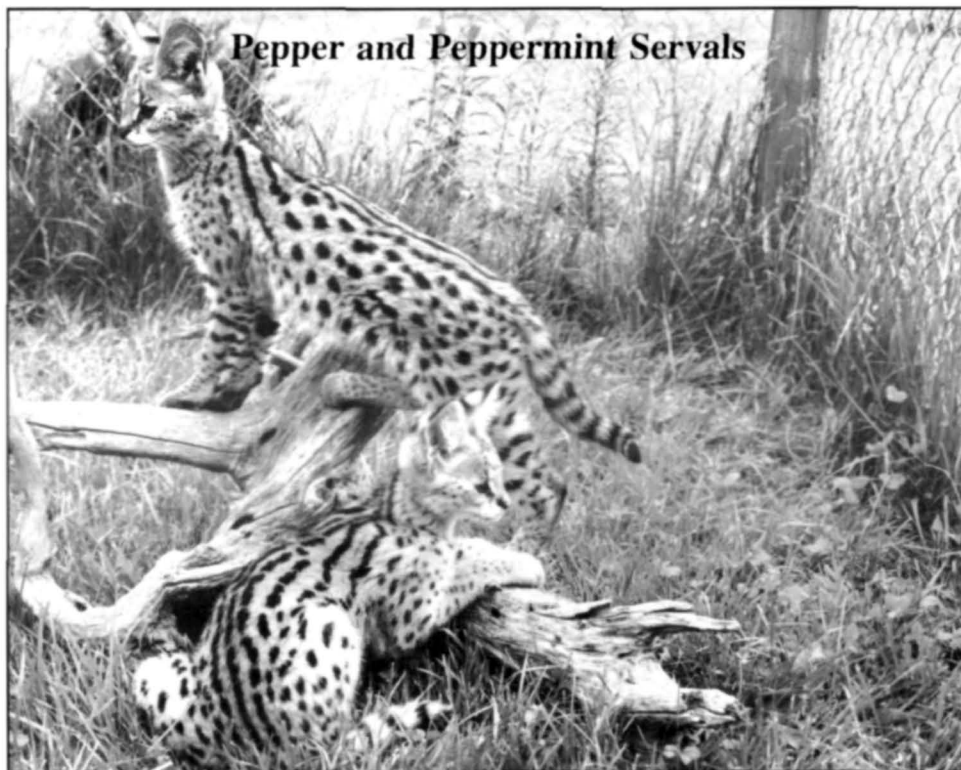


Volume 46, Issue 1

January/February 2002

LIOC-

# Endangered Species Conservation Federation



submitted by Bob Turner

## 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

## 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 many of our founding members, and with them much of our treasured history.

Kate Conner Kahn has offered to scan these photographs and make them available on a CD ROM, preserving them for posterity. If you have photographs taken at branch meetings or conventions, please share them. Identify the folks and cats in them, note the date they were taken along with any memory they invoke, then 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  
70 S. Winooski Ave.  
PMB 269  
Burlington, VT 05401

# *Double the Pleasure*

By Robert Turner

In November 1993 we purchased our first exotic cat, a furry little hissing ball of fur we named Kyra. She is an African serval and was only 7 weeks old.

We were so thrilled with Kyra we never thought about ever having more than one exotic in our life. That is until we met Bill and Diane Johnson who have since become dear friends. They introduced us to LIOC and later helped us form “Midwest Exotic Feline Education Society.”

Three years went by when Bill and Diane called one evening and said, “We have two cute serval kittens, you should come up and see them before they are sold.”

We went up to see the kittens a few days later and we ended up with Sukarri, our little serval number two. Kyra wasn't too crazy about him though, she regarded him as the little brother she never wanted.

A few more years went by and Bill and Diane called to ask if we would consider raising a couple of newborn bobcats. Their female bobcat had unexpectedly had two babies and they needed someone to care for them. We decided we would do it.

The bobcat babies, a male and a female were two weeks old when we got them. We gave them temporary twin type names while we were raising them. Kia was the girl, and Kiarri was the boy.

It happened again, we fell in love with them and decided to keep Kia. Kiarri went to Mike and Cindy Cote and became known as Dakota.

The following year DNR trapped a beautiful western bobcat on the West side of Indianapolis. She became known as Mercedes and is a part of our little group.

In March of last year Bill and Diane had two more serval babies that Rebecca Rather had raised to 4 weeks old. We took them to further raise until they were sold. We gave them temporary names again, Pepper the male, and Peppermint the girl. By this time Bill and Diane probably knew they were sold for we just fell in love with these two sweet babies and kept them both. History repeated itself, only this time we doubled our pleasure.

When I am at work, I look forward to going home to our “Double the Pleasure.”

In the morning for the first three months, I would bring the babies into the bathroom with me while I was getting ready for work. First I would have to serval proof the bathroom, such as empty the wastepaper basket (before they did), remove the lavender guest towels that I am not suppose to touch, remove two little ceramic rabbits, remove the wicker basket with the violets in it, remove the hand lotion dispenser, the soap dispenser, the bathroom tissue, pictures off the wall, and of course, close the door after I bring the “Double Pleasures” in. What a good time the three of us had for about 20 minutes each day.



Pepper Serval loves to romp and play





Peppermint Serval enjoys the great outdoors

Because it was time to go to work, the fun had to come to an end. After I took the babies back to their cage I had to reverse the whole procedure so Pat wouldn't know what I was doing every morning. She was not fooled--she could hear all the noise of the "Double Pleasures" bouncing off the walls.

They love to go for rides on the golf cart. At first we hand held them on our laps, and later put them in a portable cage on the back of the cart. We have a long paved driveway and a grass field for their rides. We built long grassy runs to our facility so the cats can get up to full speed before they have to stop. We love to watch them run and do their leaps over each other.

In the evenings we put them in a portable folding cage in the living room as they love to be in the room with us. Many times I do not come in until 11:00 p.m. after I finish chores. Since I wanted to spend some time with Pepper and Peppermint, I would lay down on the couch till 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. just so I could be with them. Then I put them out in their cage and go to bed.

We feel basically there are not safe toys for the servals that we can just leave them with without supervision. We give them apples, oranges and grapes which they roll around and seem to enjoy playing with.

When Pepper and Peppermint are relaxed and ready to go to sleep, they will face each other and wash each other's face at the same time. What a loving sight. It's hard to believe that a brother and sister can love each other that much.

Our "Double Pleasures" were born February, 2001 and are still very loving with not only us, but also strangers. They also know not to bite or hiss.

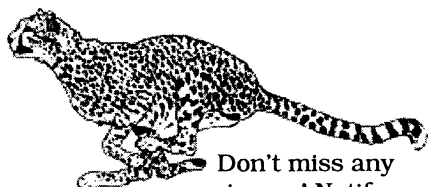
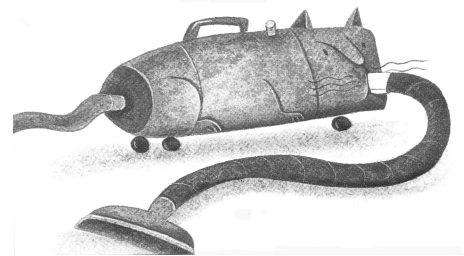
Pepper has a lighter colored face than most servals, and a little pink nose which gives him a special look. We can't look at him without laughing because he is so cute. He purrs loud enough for three servals continually. Peppermint is a little more subdued and likes to be a lap cat.

I gave a great deal of thought as to why I have this special love for servals. I finally realized servals are the closest thing to a cheetah, the King of Beauty.




### Cat Haiku

Small brave carnivores  
Kill pine cones and mosquitoes  
Fear vacuum cleaner



Don't miss any issues! Notify Member Services.



## Mainely Felids

### Wild Feline Husbandry Manual

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

# IT'S TIME!

## NOMINATE LIOC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

It is once again time to nominate officers & directors for the upcoming, 2003-2004 term. We are accepting nominations for all positions except Life Directors.

To be proper, the nomination must bear the signature of two valid LIOC members and be accompanied by a statement of acceptance from the nominee. Nominees for President shall have been elected and served at least one term of office in another position on the LIOC Board or been a member for ten consecutive years.

Nominations must be received by March 20th, 2002. They will then be announced in the May/June issue of the Newsletter.

Send to:

LIOC Nominations  
3730 Belle Isle Lane  
Mobile, Al. 36619

### ***Writing Your Will?***



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

## **2002 LIOC Membership Drive**

By Robert Turner - Vice President

Last year, LIOC had a membership promotional drive. We asked the LIOC members to try to get one new member before the 2001 National Convention in August. When a new member puts on their LIOC membership application that they were referred by a current member, then that current member will be eligible for drawings for gifts at the National convention in August. The current member does not have to attend the convention in order to receive the gift.

The LIOC is going to do this promotion again this year and have the drawing for prizes during this year's convention in August. Like last year you do not have to attend the convention in order to receive the gift. For you who have not yet got your new member, please do not forget to get your new member. We all got to do the best we can to get an increase in LIOC membership.

The survival of LIOC depends on the membership. If the LIOC membership keeps on growing, then the wildcats of the world have a better chance at surviving. Lets all work very hard and get at least one new member.

We need items for the drawing. If anybody wants to donate an item to be put in the drawing, please do so. We need your help.

## **A Strategy to Insure Healthy Captive Populations**

History has shown that there is good reason to track genetics and to encourage the exchange of husbandry information for captive feline species. I am happy to announce that there is an organized effort to do just this and it is called the Species Enhancement Strategy. This new concept was endorsed and supported by the International Society of Zooculturists at their 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference, held October 24-27, 2001. Recently the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation Board of Directors also voted to endorse the SES concept.

Species Enhancement Strategy are formulated by each species' Management Advisory Committee, made up of holders, breeders, researchers and interested parties. The goal is to assist breeders and holders of a species by assembling husbandry, research and genetic data into one location where it can be readily shared by all so that keepers are better able to manage their collection individually as well as making the best possible decisions for the collective captive population.

The first species to be managed under the SES concept is the Geoffroy's Cats. The initial process of adding additional data to the now defunct North American Regional studbook is underway with the help and support of the former studbook keeper, Michelle Claude from the Santa Ana Zoo. It is exciting to document Geoffroy's Cat bloodlines, as well as to trace a pedigree back to known stock and discover the feline's relatives recorded in the original Geoffroy's Cat studbook. Genetic tracking will continue as more felines are brought to our attention.

Exotic feline populations fluctuate greatly and can even plummet to near extinction in captivity. Examples of this phenomenon is the ocelot and margay, which in the 60's and early 70's were imported from range counties for pets as well as zoological specimens. Captive breeding was refined to produce an expanding captive population. Copies of the LIOC newsletter published in the decades of the 60's and 70's is testimony to this fact. Ocelot photos graced every issue. Margay were common also. The passage of the Endangered Species Act and final revisions to the Captive-Bred Wildlife rules in 1979 created severe restrictions upon interstate commerce of offspring or importation of new founders. Since then these species have experienced a severe population decline. Meanwhile, the captive populations of serval, caracal, bobcat and lynx are increasing. This is partly because as more states outlaw large felines, interest is directed towards other species. But among the small cat species, several beside the ocelot and margay are not as numerous as in former times. Leopard cat and Jungle Cat are becoming rare. African and European wildcat are declining in numbers also. Other feline species are just about extinct in North American captivity - such as the South American oncilla and Asian and African Golden cats.

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association recognized the dangers of boom-bust cycles which begin with wild imports, followed by intensive breeding, followed by the inability to place surplus offspring, followed by a halt in breeding, followed by a gradual decline in the population until too few remain to start another population, followed by extinction in captivity. In response to this AZA has formulated several strategies such as the Species Survival Plan and the Population Management Plan. Both these plans are directed towards insuring a persistent, healthy population. Since the AZA holding space for felid taxon is at a premium, a special group of advisors called the Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) was formed to identify which feline species the AZA community would manage as a stable captive population and which species they would manage to extinction in their collections. Some of the felid species being bred by private individuals that the AZA accredited zoo community has slated for extirpation in their collections are Eurasian and Siberian lynx, Asian and Amur leopard cats, Geoffroy's cats, European and African wildcats, Margay and African Jungle cats. The bobcat, Canadian lynx and Cougar will be held in very limited numbers, to be exhibited only by zoos that specialize in native species collections.

This means that now, more than ever, it is important that the species recommended not to be bred in AZA zoos to be managed to the best of our ability to insure that these species survive into the future. The South American Geoffroy's Cat is one species found more commonly outside of the AZA zoo community.

Only 6 to 10 pounds at maturity, this relatively abundant spotted feline was once exploited so heavily for its pelts that range countries petitioned CITES to safeguard it by upgrading it to Appendix I status. However, this protection makes the import of new wild caught founder stock of this species problematic. Careful attention must be directed towards the existing breeding stock if we are to maintain a healthy and diverse gene pool.

A study of the 1999 North American Geoffroy's Cat Studbook reveals a history that sadly, shows a species that has not thrived as it should in captivity. At the direction of the Felid Taxon Advisory Group, a studbook was initiated for this species. Studbook Keeper Michelle Claude, of the Santa Ana Zoo, located and documented 342 Geoffroy's Cats starting with the earliest wild caught entries in the late 1930's. But by December 1998, only 11 Geoffroy's Cats were documented by the studbook as alive in AZA zoological institutions and 22 held by private facilities. Following the publication of the first edition studbook this feline species was designated to a POP species (phase out population) by the Felid TAG, and the Geoffroy's Cat studbook was decommissioned.

Early studbook entries are fraught with disappointment. The National Zoological Park in Washington DC, reported thirty-one offspring born, but of those, 20 did not live to 6 months of age and several more only lived a few years in zoo captivity. A program such as the SES could have benefited by providing the forum for discussion on breeding and neonate problems, allowing everyone to learn from past mistakes or success.

Of the recorded 22 wild caught founders imported by zoological institutions between 1939 and 1973, only 4 individuals ever produced live offspring and one of those wild caught founders only bred once. Eventually the studbook became dominated by the Sacramento Zoo's success story that paired wild caught # 43 and wild caught # 39 together to produce # 93. This feline eventually was paired with Geoffroy's Cat #1, a Geoffroy's Cat of unknown origin. Thirty-three Geoffroy's Cats were born to or are descendants of this pair #1 and #93.

The Oklahoma Zoo paired wild-caught founder, #58 with #56, a Geoffroy's Cat who's grandparents trace back to unknown origins, and the studbook records 18 offspring and descendants born to this pair at various zoological locations. Milwaukee Zoo bred wild-caught # 44 several times and 14 descendants trace back to it.

After decades of captive zoo management these three bloodlines are dominate. In fact, they can be found in the privately owned Geoffroy's Cats as well because in the 70's and 80's zoos regularly sold surplus offspring to dealers and they in turn sold to private breeders. The history expressed in this studbook is one of a single, well-intergraded population. Of the 342 entries listed in the studbook, 149

are privately owned. Ninety-nine are Geoffroy's Cats born at private facilities and 50 Geoffroy's Cats born at municipal zoos found their way into the private sector gene pool at some point in their life.

Fortunately the existing privately owned captive population has much genetic diversity because private facilities also did their own importing,



Colette Griffiths says that no one seems to believe her when she explains how atheletic a healthy Geoffroy's cat can be. An accurate studbook is an essential factor in keeping the captive generations of cats genetically diverse and healthy.

and infused their breeding program with cats imported from South America, European zoological collections, as well as cats originating from AZA zoos. There is no firm estimate of how many Geoffroy's Cats are living in North America today and that is one of the management challenges for this species. Other issues which need to be addressed to insure the Geoffroy's Cat's future in captivity are increasing the interest in providing captive habitat, sharing available husbandry data, increasing the number of active breeders, and researching and filling in the many information gaps in the genetic history of the cats alive today, since many were never listed in the original studbook.


As more people become aware of this project, we are confident that the updated release of the Geoffroy's Cat studbook will paint a more detailed picture of this species in captivity. We hope to locate as many Geoffroy's Cats as possible so that every genetic link can be added to the updated Geoffroy's Cat studbook.

We extend an open invitation to anyone who is interested in the concept of a Species Enhancement Strategy to join. Contact me for an application to register as a participant in the Geoffroy's Cat Management Advisory Committee. It is open to any and all and by participating you will learn about this process, and perhaps one day apply it to another species in captivity, such as the lynx, serval or caracal. There is no cost to join.

It is time to create management committees to aid the holders of felid species and better understand the captive population situation. And the first step in this process is to census the population and establish bloodline records. LIOC has led this progression by offering the LIOC Feline Registry Service for all feline species using the industry accepted computer program called SPARKS. And I encourage all breeders and holders to register their felines today. It is the active participation by individuals to document bloodline records that will greatly assist any other Species Enhancement Strategy created in the future.

The Geoffroy's Cat SES has a unique opportunity to inherit an existing studbook with all it's historical data and update it with relevant private sector breeding and holding data. And there must be hard data to assess the captive situation for each species so the breeders and holders of the species can see for themselves how to diversify the gene pool or how to increase or reduce population growth if necessary. In addition to addressing the felids slated for extirpation from AZA collections I believe we should also address other small felids, such as the serval and caracal and various lynx and bobcat with Species Enhancement Strategy in the very near future.

Submitted by:  
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# Frank and Ellen Weed In Memorium



Almost sixty years of raising cougars and kids has come to an end. In the mid-1950's Frank and Ellen Weed moved to SouthEast, Florida. You could turn on the TV and view their show, "The Tumbleweed Ranch." Development forced them to move to the Western fringes of Miami, later to Northwest Broward and, in 1976, to the middle of the big Cypress Swamp, actual wilderness just an hour from Miami.

They lived there conducting their business, raising their animals unbothered by civilization. The exception to this was the visits by the USDA, who wanted the cracks in the concrete filled, and visits by the government, who wanted their land for inclusion in the so-called "Panther Preserve."

Frank and Ellen, sometimes with one or more other family members, worked show and rodeo circuits. Frank Junior demonstrated his skills with the animals and his ability with a rifle.

While Frank and Ellen worked with all kinds of wildlife, including the largest of cats, they were especially noted for their husbandry of cougars. They bred and raised hundreds. These skills were passed on to many people who learned from them. If it weren't for Frank and Ellen Weed, there would be many fewer permit holders in the state of Florida.

Frank could be a controversial figure from time to time. He was often at odds with those who believed the Florida panther was a distinct and separate species. In fact, he provided information to the attorneys in a key legal battle involving these animals. Seminole Chief James Billie was on trial for the killing of a Florida panther on Indian land that he used in a coming of age tribal ceremony. The Federal government contended Billie had killed an endangered species. Because of information provided by Frank Weed, Billie was successful in demonstrating that he had killed a cougar or mountain lion.

Frank had heart surgery in early 1995 and suffered a stroke. For many months Ellen nursed him and took care of their animals and land. In November of 1995 at the age of 80, Frank Weed passed on in the presence of Helen, Frank, Jr., and several friends.



Afterward, with a little downsizing, Ellen ran the place by herself. She continued raising babies and giving instruction. Then, a few years ago, it became too much. The animals she still had were distributed to various facilities, and Ellen moved into her son's home in Ft. Lauderdale.

On November 26, 2001, Ellen Weed, 84, quietly passed away at home with her family by her side. Frank and Ellen leave a legacy of breeding and raising cougars and many other wildlife species. Their three children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many friends will never forget them. They leave behind many people such as myself who will always be grateful for the skills and knowledge they passed on and for allowing us to be a part of their extraordinary lives.

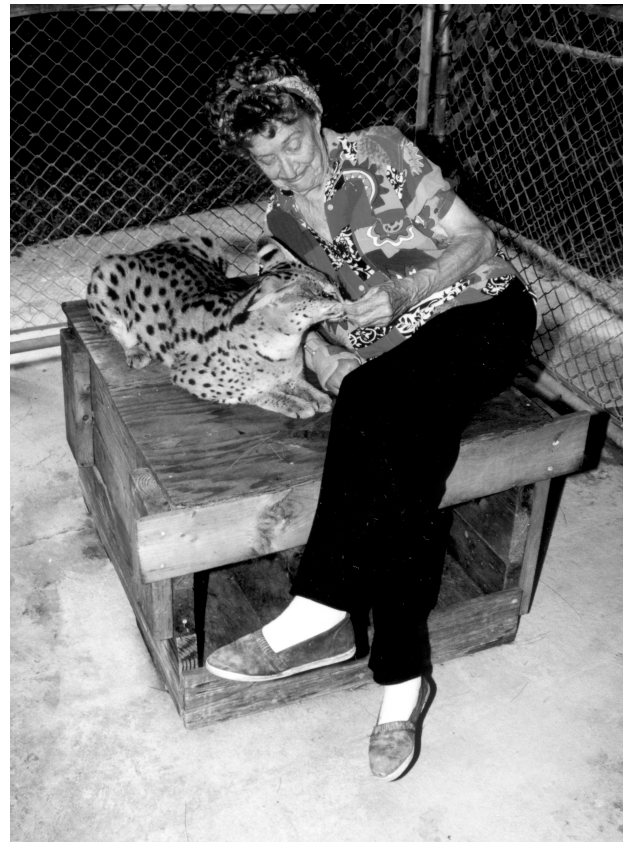
contributed by Alan Rigerman



Above left: Ellen Weed bottle-feeding a tiger cub  
Below: Ellen visiting with Maverick Serval, who clearly enjoyed her visits

Bottom left: All the animals were welcomed by the Weeds, who never let anyone go hungry...not even the visiting vultures.

Left: Ellen with her beloved Harry Cougar





# 31st Annual LIOC-ESFC Convention to be held in KANSAS

Cost is \$95 per person, \$75 for children under 18, \$10 for children under 5.  
**Payment is due by JUNE 3, 2002.**

**Please send your 2002 LIOC Convention registration payable to:**  
LIOC-ESCF, Inc.  
PO Box 22085  
Phoenix, Arizona 85028

Along with your convention registration, please advise your choice of either Beef or Chicken for Saturday night's banquet dinner.

Hotel and Guest Speaker's Information will be included in the March/April LIOC-ESCF Newsletter.



## Wild Feline Husbandry Course

**Date:** August 7, 2002  
**Location:** Kansas  
**Hosted By:** 2002 LIOC-ESFC Convention

**Registration:** \$50 per student, deadline June 3--  
late registration \$75  
**send tuition to:** PO Box 22085  
Phoenix, AZ 85028

This course was professionally developed in accordance with a nationally recognized standard for technical training known as the Systematic Approach to Training (SAT). The course includes an instructor lead, multi-media presentation, a 60-page student text, workshop, and final exam. Students who pass the exam will receive a decorative certificate denoting successful completion of the course.

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- Natural History of Wild Felines
- Regulatory Agencies Permits
- Facility Design
- Handling Equipment
- Diet & Nutrition
- Health Care Basics
- Disposition & Handling
- Behavior Conditioning
- Contingency Planning



Radar Serval enjoys the holidays at home with the Wilsons

**For additional information, contact:**  
Tracy Wilson at (501) 368-0399; [wildcap@ipa.net](mailto:wildcap@ipa.net)  
or  
George Stowers at (315) 342-4997; [gstowers@twcny.rr.com](mailto:gstowers@twcny.rr.com)



## Legislative Watch Report

State bills to prohibit or regulate possession of wild felines and other exotics are being sponsored in several states. Get in touch with your state representative and let them know this is an issue dear to you. Voice your opposition to legislation that does not allow private captive husbandry or ownership of wild felines.

Often large liability insurance coverage is a requirement to gain a permit to keep animals. Liability insurance can be impossible to obtain, as insurance companies are not used to dealing with this sort of risk. Premiums can be exorbitant if they are even offered at all. This is actually a tactic used by opposition forces to forbid private ownership, more than a public safety measure and that fact must be exposed.

This is a hot issue still and in any state where a member of the public was hurt by a privately owned exotic feline (such as what happened in Minnesota last year with a tiger and a child). I would not be surprised to see ban legislation proposed sometime this year. Animal Rights activists and other control addicts will not let this issue die until they have successfully stopped private possession of wildlife species. It is up to those who understand and are committed to wild feline captive husbandry to speak out against unreasonable bills.

LIOC members are advised to visit our website at [www.lioc.org](http://www.lioc.org) and click on the legislation button to review several documents available to help you when you write a letter in support of responsible private captive husbandry of wild felines. The **LIOC Risk Assessment Survey** results are online, as well as the **Model for State Regulations** approved by the LIOC board of Directors. There is also a complete list of state law summaries with hyperlinks to the fill regulations when possible.

These following bills warrant monitoring and appropriate comment letters:

### **South Carolina House Bill 4403 Summary**

Defines “exotic animal” as those species of animals that are inherently dangerous to humans, but exempts specific animals and certain entities to possess exotic animals. Prohibits a person from owning or possessing exotic animals unless the person was in legal possession of an exotic animal before this act’s effective date and the person obtains a personal possession permit for the exotic animals within 90 days of this act’s effective date. Establishes identification, caging, care and treatment, and insurance requirements. Prohibits public contact with an exotic animal.

### **Missouri House Bill 1234 Summary**

No person may keep any exotic animal including any lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, Canada lynx, bobcat, jaguarundi, hyena, wolf, bear, nonhuman primate, coyote, any deadly, dangerous, or poisonous reptile, or any deadly or dangerous reptile over eight feet long, in any place other than a properly maintained zoological park, circus, scientific, or educational institution, research laboratory, veterinary hospital, or animal refuge, unless such person has within two weeks of coming into possession of such animals, registered such animals with the local law enforcement agency in the county in which the animal is kept.

### **Washington State House Bill 1725 Summary**

Declares that it is unlawful for any person to own, possess, keep, harbor, bring, or have in one’s possession a dangerous wild animal, except in compliance with this act. It is unlawful for the owner or any other person in control of a lot, tract, or parcel of land or any residence or business premises situated thereon to knowingly permit any other person to be in possession of a dangerous wild animal upon the property, residence, or premises, except in compliance with this act. Provides that all owners of a dangerous wild animal shall either maintain liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars insuring for bodily injury to or death of a person or injury and destruction to property caused by the dangerous wild animal or must guarantee that the owner has a surety bond issued by a surety insurer in a form acceptable to the animal control authority in the amount of at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

### **Washington Senate Bill SB 5729 Titled: Preventing private ownership of dangerous wild animals**

This following is an introduction to this bill—as you can see the mindset is standard fare—“these animals belong in the wild,” etc.: “It is the intent of the state of Washington to protect the public against the health and safety risks that dangerous wild animals pose to the community and to protect the welfare of individual animals held in private possession. By their very nature, these animals are wild and inherently dangerous and, as such, do not adjust well to a captive environment.”

## **Washington State HB 2675 Preventing private ownership of dangerous wild animals.**

Companion to the Senate Bill 5729. Again, I think the title of this bill says it all.

### **New York Senate Bill 7375b Summary**

An act to amend the environmental conservation law. Possession, sale, barter, transfer, exchange and import of wild animals as pets is prohibited. Pre-existing pets must be registered with the state and \$100,000 liability insurance policies among other requirements must be satisfied to gain private possession permit.

written by Lynn Culver

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## **What Regulations Affect Private Ownership?**

Most states regulate some aspect of private ownership of wild cats, even if the regulations apply only to native species, such as bobcat and cougar. The following list denotes the state licensing requirements for private individuals who wish to privately own non-native exotic cats. Those listed as having partial bans may allow private ownership for exhibit or other purposes with federal licensing. Federal permits may be required in addition for transporting some animals across state lines.

15 states have no state license or permit requirements for non-native exotics (many regulate bobcats, cougar, and lynx), but may regulate some aspect thereof (entry permit, veterinary certificate) and may have applicable county regulations: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

14 states require the owner of the exotic animal to obtain a license or permit from the relevant state agency to privately possess the animal (excludes states only requiring import permits): Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota

6 states have a partial ban on private ownership of exotic animals—allows ownership of some exotic animals but precludes others, and may require a commercial exhibitors' license: Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi (bans large animals), Oklahoma (bans large animals), South Carolina (bans large animals), Tennessee (bans large animals)

15 states have a ban on private ownership of exotic animals: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming

Data submitted by Mrs. Jean Hamil of Magnolia, TX, edited by Lynn Culver

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## **Volunteer Needed in Central America**

The LiFeline cat research and recovery center in Belize, Central America, has a vacancy for a volunteer for 6 months from September 1st 2002 through March 1st 2003.

LiFeline is based on a 60 acre private forest reserve which operates as a research base for field studies of ocelot and margay, and also as a center for the rescue and rehabilitation of confiscated cats that were taken illegally as "pets." Check out the website: <http://www.li-feline.com>. The position will entail camera-trapping in our own and neighboring forest reserves, radio-tracking, and helping with confiscated and rehab cats. The center also acts as a holding center for problem (i.e. cattle-killing) jaguars. A house will be provided but candidates must meet their own travel expenses to and from Belize, and are expected to make a contribution towards meals.

LiFeline's base is 12 miles from the nearest town and living conditions are basic. Candidates will need to be physically fit, have a clean driving license, speak good English, and be prepared to work in thick tropical forest. Biology graduates and those with animal husbandry or field experience are preferred. This is an opportunity to gain valuable experience working with some of the lesser-known felid species and to gain insight into the problems of human/wildlife conflict.

For more information, or to apply with c.v. detailing relevant experience, contact:

Pat Mansard, Director, LiFeline  
[pm@li-feline.com](mailto:pm@li-feline.com)

submitted by Colette Griffiths

## **LIOC-ESCF, Inc. General Membership Meeting August 9, 2001**

**Meeting opened by President George Stowers, noting this to be the LIOC's 30th annual convention.**

**Report from Director Member Services, Kelly Jean Buckley.** Announced resignation from Member Services position and recommended the board consider appointing Leann Montgomery to complete the term. Requested input from members on location sites to hold LIOC conventions.

**Report from Director Legal Affairs, Lynn Culver. In summary: Federal Bills - HR, etc.** Federal Bills HR5057, The Shambala bill, died without ever reaching the floor for a vote. HR5360 mandated budget increase to USDA for the purpose of evaluation of all state and federal laws which govern wild animal ownership. HR 5360 was never brought to a vote by the end of last year's session.

**USDA Regulation Changes.** All Facilities must come into compliance by May 17, 2000 for perimeter fence requirements. All large wild feline enclosures must be surrounded by 8ft perimeter fence and all small wild feline enclosures must be surrounded by 6ft perimeter fence. Facilities that did not have these fences prior to May, 2000, will be told on inspection to make these adjustments. USDA also approved a change allowing confiscated animals to be placed with unlicensed facilities. USDA also clarified what constitutes suitable handling experience for public exhibition of dangerous animals.

The creation and approval was made for the LIOC-ESCF Model for State Regulations, state permit system based on requirement of husbandry experience and knowledge, caging standards, perimeter fencing and facility inspection, and it permits the possession of wild feline species for non-commercial purposes. This model can be viewed on the LIOC web site.

Requests to all 50 states have been made for their latest 2001 regulations which govern the possession of wild felines. These records are updated regularly and will soon be available on the LIOC web site. Arkansas, Texas, Arizona, and New York states revised their state laws on the keeping of wild animals in captivity.

**Membership Discussion:** Increasing regulations requiring owners to have insurance for keeping wild felines has caused concern due to unreasonable rates and requirements and lack of availability. Bob Leone was instrumental in getting regulations adopted in Yucca Valley, California permitting ownership of large and small non-domestic cats. A fee is required, as is minimum acreage for large cats and LIOC's Model Caging standards. Bob's ability to inform the local commissioners and residents resulted in at least 79 letters of support to welcome the new permittee and felines to their community.

**Report from Director Conservation & Education, Tracy Wilson.** Main focus is the husbandry course and the writing of a husbandry manual for the LIOC. Want to offer the husbandry course more often in various parts of the country. Course was held in Texas in May 2001. Southwest regional director of USDA, two Arkansas Game and Fish officers, along with other students attended.

Research has been done and requests for material that can be used in the husbandry manual. Still need feline husbandry material from members. Manual to be a representation from many members experiences.

LIOC has been assisting people who are no longer able to care for their cats, to find a permanent facility for their cats. This does include circuses that have gone out of business, zoos, and private individuals who need assistance. An LIOC Placement Coordinator was created, and member Leann Montgomery holds this position.

Certificates were handed out to members who completed the husbandry course on August 6, 2001.

**Report from Secretary/Treasurer, Tonya Jones.** Tonya was not able to attend this conference, and President George Stowers gave budget report on her behalf.

**Report from Vice President, Robert Turner.** Plans to work on assisting members to form new branches presented. There has been interest from PA, TX, New England area, SC, and CA. Turner is developing ways to increase membership. Contest for membership was started with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. Encourage breeders to give LIOC memberships along with all cats sold. It is important for members to participate in the SPARKS program and to take the husbandry course. Vice President is sending letters to all members who drop their memberships to encourage them to renew.

**Membership Discussion:** Discussion of the LIOC-ESCF, Inc. organization's name and how it represents or pertains to the organization's objectives. About 50% of members present asked board members to consider a more descriptive name for the organization.

**Report from Life Director, John Perry.** The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded \$900 tuition for Short Course in Zoo Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. John turned the podium over to Life Director Carin Sousa, who is currently chairing the Fund. She said the award recipient (Sonya Whiteley, DVM, CVA) would be writing a report for the newsletter.

**Report from Life Director, Shirley Wagner.** Reporting on the SPARKS Program (LIOC's studbook). There are only 25% of LIOC felines reported to SPARKS. There are 18 species registered so far. It was reiterated that we do not require country of origin and all information is entered anonymously. Forms for SPARKS registry are on the web site. Once registered, updates or any changes can be done via E-mail.

**Report from President, George Stowers.** The LIOC Board of Directors helps lend focus. We have a direction as an organization. We know where we are going and the Board is available to help the LIOC accomplish its goals.

Three key issues to focus on in the coming year: Regulatory issues: Each year we are seeing many bills passing that are submitted by people who want to stop our activities and remove our rights and privileges. We need to be proactive in establishing relationships with our legislators and state/local animal control people. Education: The Husbandry Course is very successful. Peer mentoring and sharing experienced husbandry information is important. Hatfield Scholarship Fund needs to be

expanded in funding and to obtain candidates to receive scholarship funds. Membership: Need large active membership. We need to actively recruit more members.

Ongoing correspondence with Mr. Ron DeHaven resulted in USDA sending a representative to attend the Husbandry course held in Texas. USDA has asked that we provide them with LIOC brochures they can hand out to new permittees who are not currently LIOC members. USDA requested a contact within LIOC for placement of cats needing homes. (See USDA regulation changes, page 1.)

**Report from Life Director, Carin Sousa.** LIOC's continued involvement with AZA Felid TAG. LIOC has been trying to establish a rapport with AZA Felid TAG by various means and has been partially successful on an individual basis. However, on their web site and in publications, AZA continues to state, "Private ownership of wild felids is strongly opposed". The membership was asked if they wanted the board to continue to seek a positive, productive approach to this matter and how to proceed. The discussion that ensued and a request for a show of hands indicated the vast majority of the members wants the board to continue sending a representative to AZA Felid TAG meetings and whatever else might help LIOC gain AZA's trust.

### **LIOC-ESCF, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting August 10-11, 2001**

President, George Stowers called the meeting to order. Present: George Stowers, Bob Turner, John Perry, Carin Sousa, Shirley Wagner, JB Anderson, Lynn Culver, Kelly Jean Buckley, Carol Siegley, Tracy Wilson. Branch Representatives: Barbara Wilton, Steve Belknap, Jeanne Hall.

**Membership report by Buckley:** Stats from August 2000-2001, new members are 72. Renewal of old dropped memberships are 17. Inquiries 35. Over the last 5 years the membership remains steady. T-Shirt sales are down. T-Shirts sold, 82. Sales analysis provided. We have 110 E-mail list subscribers to LIOC egroup.

**Motion by Perry: To accept the membership report as given by Buckley. Wagner seconded.**  
**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Legal Affairs Report by Culver:** Keeping track of state laws. Most all states have responded recently with current paperwork. Some states are implementing liability insurance requirements. Suggestion was made to inquire about group insurance availability. Culver and Wilson will work together to investigate the practicality of establishing a liability group insurance for individuals with wild cats.

**Motion by Sousa: To accept the Legal Affairs report given by Culver. Buckley seconded.**  
**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Conservation/Education Report by Wilson:** Husbandry manual is being compiled by gathering data, artwork, and research. Goal is to have it written by the quarter year, preceding the convention 2002, for initial review by the board, to then present for final board approval at the 2002 annual meeting. Husbandry course held in Texas. Goal is to have more courses throughout the year, perhaps



one per quarter. Leann Montgomery is the LIOC's placement coordinator. She prepared a report on the cats that she placed from March 2001 (when she was asked to start keeping track) to August 2001. These placements represent a very small percentage of captive cats held, and are due to situations such as death, illness, wild orphan, ban laws, and rescues. None of the cats originate from current LIOC members.

**Motion by Perry: To accept the Conservation/Education report given by Wilson (and commend Leann Montgomery for her work as placement coordinator). Shirley seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Advertising/Publicity Report by Siegley:** Contacted several publications that are interested in articles on the activities of the LIOC organization. Carol will write and submit articles. Will be changing text in ads to reflect new services and events in LIOC. Reviewing state and local groups in addition to national for advertising possibilities.

**Motion by Turner: To renew the LIOC membership in the Ohio Association of Animal Owners (OAAO) and to create an ad for the OAAO publication. Anderson seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Buckley: To accept the Advertising/Publicity report given by Siegley. Perry seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Secretary/Treasurer Report by Jones, not present:** Jones provided to Stowers for the board, the budget for last year and a proposed budget for this year.

**Motion by Buckley: To accept receipt from Jones of the approved budget for last year and the proposed budget for this year for the board to review. Sousa seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Vice President Report by Turner:** Starting membership drive for a second year. Turner wants to recognize members, with their approval, in the newsletter when they refer new members.

**Comments from Branch Representatives:** Exotic Feline Educational Society states the LIOC board is doing a good job. Pacific Northwest Exotics has expressed appreciation for LIOC's efforts to work with some of the ongoing legislative issues. Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Feline-Cascade Branch commented on branch participation in the national organization.

Turner and Culver commended Jeanne Hall (ACEF) for the Phoenix egroup.

**Motion by Perry: To accept the Vice President report, including report given at August 9 General Membership meeting. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Report of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund by Life Director Perry:** Balance in savings account of \$10,237.66. Balance in savings account of \$1,028.35. Total as of August 1, \$11,266.01. (See Membership Meeting report).

**Motion by Buckley: To accept the KH Memorial Scholarship Fund report by Perry. Siegley seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Report of the SPARKS program, Life Director Wagner:** (See Membership Meeting report) A change of focus is needed to encourage member participation. Wagner and Wilson will work together to improve communication of the benefits of the SPARKS program and the separate, but equally valuable microchip program.

**Motion by Sousa: To accept the report of the SPARKS program by Wagner. Turner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

NOTE: At a later time a committee was formed to facilitate implementation of SPARKS program and resolve questions that have arisen.

**Recommendations for Convention 2002 by Buckley:** LIOC members Ken and Susan Lockwood, who are Wildlife Center Managers for the Tanganyika Wildlife Park, owned by Jim & Sherri Fouts located in Wichita Kansas, offered to host the convention to be held August 7-11, 2002. They have a large facility that can accommodate our group. The facility is located 10 minutes from the airport and hotel accommodations.

**Motion by Anderson: To accept the recommendation to have the LIOC Convention 2002 held in Wichita Kansas. Culver seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Extension of Paypal Account trial period by Wilson:** Paypal account not yet open at Convention date. Will be open in a couple of weeks.

**Motion by Wilson: To extend trial period for Paypal account on the web site for six months. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Brochures for USDA, new members, and Husbandry Course by Wilson:** Handout draft copy of LIOC brochure for board review. Request two week board review for edit changes and approval. Suggested printing 1000.

**Motion by Culver: To print 1000 brochures, following the board approval of a final draft within two weeks following the convention. Buckley seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Revisions to Husbandry Course by Wilson:** We want to include pictures, to have a change from the text. To do so, there would be a one time cost of about \$100 for 50 photo transparencies.

**Motion by Wagner: To allocate \$100 to improve the graphics for the transparencies for the Husbandry Course. Culver seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Wilson: To advertise and promote in the Animal Finders Guide and other animal related magazines, the husbandry course for hosts throughout the year, on an advertising budget. Sousa seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Wilson: To modify the husbandry course policy to require a signed contract with the course hosts. Perry moved to amend: That the Director of Education & Conservation is**

**authorized to sign the contract on the behalf of LIOC. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Perry: To send a letter to the AZA expressing our disappointment with their blanket objection to private ownership. Wagner moved to amend: The LIOC President write the letter. Wilson seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Anderson: To budget funds to send a representative to the Felid TAG meeting this year. Buckley seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Siegley: To continue the display ad in the Animal Finder's Guide. Wagner seconded. Wagner moved to amend: To include that Culver and Siegley present to the board at the next quarterly board meeting a reformatted ad. Perry moved to table the motion: and include it in the budget discussions to determine any increase in advertising budget at that time. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Anderson: To change the T-shirts cost to \$10.00. Culver seconded. Buckley moved to amend: To change price starting October 1st. Turner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Buckley: To print 500 copies of the LIOC Membership Directory within a printing budget that includes the postage to mail the directories. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Wagner: Legal Director to develop a resource packet for legislative challenges, to be submitted to the board for approval. Anderson seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Buckley: Funds were given to LIOC for In-situ Conservation Programs. Donate funds to Jim Sanderson for the Pallas Cat study. Turner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Anderson: Additional Funds were given to LIOC for In-situ Conservation Programs. Donate additional funds to Jim Sanderson for the Pallas Cat study. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Wagner: In preparation of LIOC-ESCF's 50th anniversary, that we accept Kate Connor's offer to produce a CD containing historical photographs and other LIOC data and to provide a budget for production. Sousa seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**



**Motion by Buckley: To appoint Shirley Wagner to continue as Managing Editor. Perry seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Discussion:** After Board review of resume and sample newsletter from candidate for position, Shirley appointed Mindy Stinner to a two year term as Production Editor for the LIOC Newsletter.

**Motion by Buckley: To appoint Leann Montgomery to complete the term of Director Member Services starting October 1, 2001 and term ending December 31, 2002. Anderson seconded. Perry moved to amend, to accept the resignation by Buckley. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Perry: Moved to make a new by-law for convention structure, that (17.1) the board of directors shall appoint a standing committee every two years to have responsibility for planning and operating the annual convention of the LIOC.**

**(17.2) The chair of the committee shall be designated by the board.**

**(17.3) The chair shall be authorized to establish a bank account to process funds involved with the convention and to sign such contracts as is necessary to operate the convention.**

**(17.4) The proceeds of the convention will be forwarded to the treasurer following each convention.**

**(17.5) The Chair shall be bonded in the same manner as the treasurer.**

**(17.6) The Chair will also be responsible for reporting to the board the financial accounting of the convention each year.**

**Wagner seconded. Wagner moved to amend: to make this by-law amendment to article 17/1-6. Perry seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Anderson: To appoint Kelly Jean Buckley as Chairman of the convention committee, per the by-laws 17/1-6. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Buckley: To appoint Carin Sousa, Ethel Hauser, and Barbara Wilton to serve on the convention committee this next term. Wagner seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Motion by Culver: To approve the 2001/2002 budget. Siegley seconded.**

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**International Society of Zooculturist (ISZ) reported by Culver:** The ISZ organization representing some major metropolitan zoos and private zoos, is interested in working with the private sector in animal husbandry. LIOC member Bobby Bean suggested that an LIOC board member attend the annual ISZ meeting in Gulf Breeze Florida, in October. They do have a 'call for papers' and we can offer to give a presentation on LIOC.

**Motion by Anderson: To designate a representative to attend the 2001 ISZ meeting and speak on the behalf of the LIOC. Wilson seconded. Anderson moved to amend: to designate Lynn**

**Culver. Wagner seconded.**

**Discussion:** Lynn in her capacity as our representative will develop a presentation for board approval, prior to attending the meeting.

**Vote: Yes: 10, No: 0**

**Name Change:** (See Membership Meeting Report)

**Motion by Buckley:** To poll the more than 100 members who are on the email list, to ask if they want the name to remain LIOC-ESCF, Inc. or to change it. Wagner seconded.

**Vote: Yes: 8, No: 1, Abstain: 1**

**Motion by Wagner:** To adjourn meeting. Anderson seconded. The president adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley, for Tonya Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

### Vacationing Cat

My aunt's neighbor in New York had a beautiful black cat, Felix, who spent his days outside and came indoors at night. One cool October evening, he disappeared. The neighbor searched for him in vain. The following spring, however, Felix reappeared, looking healthy and clean.

She figured he'd been sowing his wild oats. Everything was back to normal until that autumn, when Felix disappeared again. The next spring, he returned. Perplexed, my aunt's friend began asking neighbors for clues. Finally, she rang the bell of an older couple.

"A black cat?" the woman said. "Oh, yes. My husband and I hated to see him out in the cold, so we bought a cat carrier. We take him to Florida every winter."

### Catlette's Soliloquy

To go outside, Or to remain within:  
That is the question;  
Whether 'tis better for a cat to suffer  
The cuffs and buffets of inclement weather  
That Nature rains on those who roam abroad,  
Or take a nap upon a scrap of carpet,  
And by so dozing melt the solid hours  
That clog the clock's bright gears with sullen time  
And stall the dinner bell.  
To sit, to stare  
Outdoors, and by a stare to seem to state  
A wish to venture forth without delay,  
Then when the portal's opened up, to stand  
As if transformed by doubt.  
To prowl; to sleep;  
To choose not knowing when we may once more  
Our readmittance gain: aye, there's the hairball;  
For if paw were shaped to turn a knob,  
Or work a lock or slip a window-catch,  
And going out and coming in were made

As simple as the breaking of a bowl,  
What cat would bear the household's petty plagues  
The cook's well-practiced kicks, the butler's broom  
The infant's careless pokes, the tickled ears,  
The trampled tail, and all the daily shocks  
That fur is heir to, when, of his own free will,  
He might his exodus or entrance make  
With a mere mitten?  
Who would spaniels fear,  
Or strays trespassing from a neighbor's yard,  
But that the dread of our unheeded cries  
And scratches at a barricaded door  
No claw can open up, dispels our nerve  
And makes us rather bear our humans' faults  
Than run away to unguessed miseries?  
Thus caution doth make house cats of us all;  
And thus the bristling hair of resolution  
Is softened up with the pale brush of thought,  
And since our choices hinge on weighty things,  
We pause on the threshold of decision.

Shakespaw

## MEFES Meeting October 20, 2001



The meeting was held at the home of Bob and Patty Turner of Mooresville, Ind. and was a pitch-in weiner roast. President Bill Johnson started the meeting by thanking the hosts.

Treasurer Peggy Epperson read the minutes of the last July meeting. No objections to the minutes. Peggy then read the treasury report.

Cheri Fecker was commended for all her hours of work and dedication on the newsletter and calendars. Cheri was then presented the "Hush Award" by Bill Johnson. Monte Francis was presented a plaque for all the photo service he gives the club at his own expense.

Fundraising items were shown by Tracy Wilson to help raise money for their facility. President Bill Johnson introduced our newest members. They are: Kenny and Amberlee Cecil, K. Kevin Chambers, Doug and Pam Hotle, Mario and Lenore Infanti, Anthony Spohrer and Cathrun Freeman- Spohrer. Bob Turner introduced Debra-Ann Milette. He said she had just had surgery a week ago and still made it from New York to attend the meeting.

Kelly Jean Buckley mentioned that Tracy Wilson's husband Keith will soon be overseas serving our country and is away in training now. Tracy received a round of applause for attending the meeting. Kelly Jean donated one hundred dollars to help pay for gas money for a work weekend at the Wilsons' in Arkansas. Tracy is taking care of 11 cats by herself for at least a year while Keith is gone.

Kelly Jean announced the next LIOC Convention will be in Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 7-11. Ken and Susan Lockwood will be the hosts. They have been members since 1998. They have a private facility with many cats as well as other animals. This will be the first LIOC Convention held in Kansas. Kelly Jean also touched on information about the Hotel considered in Kansas and their requirements.

Harold Epperson brought up some bylaws changes to be voted on at the January meeting. Amendments presented: 1. To eliminate the 18 year minimum age restriction. 2. To change approval from members to the officers on all other expenses. 3. To change the vote on amendments from the next meeting to the same meeting when presented. 4. Add the Hush Award: To be presented annually when a worthy recipient is selected by the officers. 5. Add: No member or officer shall initiate any project in the MEFES name without the approval of the officers. The treasurer shall not reimburse anyone for expenses incurred from unauthorized projects. Carol Siegley attended an alternative group convention to the AZA held in Florida. This group convention is separate to the AZA which consists of private zoos and facilities. Cheri Fecker selected Carol Siegley for the next member profile. Having our pictures with our names and addresses was mentioned again.

Elections were held. Harold Epperson was elected president, Bill Johnson, vice president, Patty Turner, secretary, and Peggy Epperson, treasurer. Jan Tonyan will host the next meeting Jan. 19 in Lyon, Indiana. Cheri Fecker motioned to adjourn, Peggy Epperson seconded it.

Following the meeting everyone went through the "haunted barn" which was followed by a hay ride with stops to visit Trent Parrott's cougars, and then on to visit Steve and Cheryl Hahns' facility. Trent Parrott just built a large outside enclosure for his two cougars. It is a pole barn (extremely large) with an attached outside fenced area that has a roof and platforms as high as 15 ft. to 20 ft. with attached elevated walkways. Very nice facility! Steve and Cheryl's facility is very beautiful as well as extremely nice. Their spoiled white tigers have a custom built area that is landscaped and houses a 4 ft. deep pool for their very own use. They also own a Lion, a very large black Bear named Bubba, a pair of cougars and some miniature goats and horses. Many thanks goes out to Trent and The Hahns for the hayride tours of their facilities.

### **2001 LIOC Convention tapes**

**are available now for**

**\$10.00 each** or both for \$20.00

There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge  
on each order.

Please send payment and shipping information  
to:

Deborah Walding  
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# Dear Daddy

by Tracy Wilson  
with constant assistance from Radar Serval

Since my husband has left, I have been writing him letters. Well, Radar Serval has discovered that he LOVES to write his Daddy letters too. I almost cannot write if Radar is in the room. He presses against my hand as I write and he insists on rubbing his cheeks all over the paper and drooling all over it. He then spreads the drool all over the paper, soaking it. I gave up fighting him, and just mail the drooly letters with smeary writing. I have even mailed ones that Radar worked really hard on for his Daddy, with nothing written on it but, “Love, Radar.”

Keith was wondering why my handwriting was so bad and the letters were all crumpled and in bad shape. And why was he getting this letters of torn up paper with nothing on them but Radar’s name? He saw for himself when he came home for the holidays. I got out a pen and paper and called to Radar, “Let’s write Daddy a letter!” Radar came running into the room, and went right to work drooling on the letter. Keith thought it was really funny, and it explained everything. So now he is looking forward to lots of serval slobber letters.

Here’s something Radar wrote for the newsletter:

When my Daddy left to go overseas with the Army, he told me that I would be the Man of the House while he was away. He asked me to look after Mommy, and help her around the house, and take care of everything. Since this is such a big responsibility for me, and I am only 9 months old, I thought I better make myself a list.

## **How to help Mommy around the House**

\*Search for any rolls of toilet paper or paper towels that might have been accidentally been left out. Leaving rolls of paper out is not allowed, so they must immediately be destroyed by shredding them up. Mommy will appreciate that.

\*Look for any trash cans that are almost full. Mommy needs to know it is time to take the trash out, so empty the contents of the full trash can all over the room, to remind her to take it outside.

\*If Mommy doesn’t shut the door good that keeps me separated from the domestic cats, sneak in there, and terrorize the 4 domestic house cats to make sure they are behaving and not giving Mommy a hard time. Play in their big water bowl if I have time. Slap the dog every once in a while to make sure it is staying in line too.

\*Help Mommy when she sweeps. Chase the broom around and slap at it as much as possible, so that Mommy does not loose control over it. When she vacuums, slap the vacuum right in it’s one glowing eye several times, to make sure it knows who is boss. Be brave for Mommy, and let her know that I will not let that vacuum get us.

\*When Mommy brings in firewood for the fireplace, be sure to pull off any loose bark, even if I have to chew and pull it off. She needs that for kindling to get the fire started. Spread it all around the living room so she can see how hard I worked on it. Careful not to knock over that can of ashes, that really makes her mad. If the wood doesn’t smell right, pee on it when Mommy isn’t looking, that way when she burns it, it will make the whole house smell good.

\*Check all bedroom and bathroom doors to the forbidden rooms, and make sure they are shut good. Jiggle the door knobs hard just to make sure. If one opens, go into the room quietly and check for anything that needs to be chewed on, shredded, or peed on. Check cabinets and drawers too. When Mommy finds me, act innocent. She needs to be taught to keep those doors shut better, it is for her own good.

\*Put away my leftover chicken bones, so that Mommy doesn’t have to clean up after me. Hide them under a sofa cushion, behind the recliner, or under a blanket. She’ll never find them there, so that will save her some work.

\*Chew any wires that might be exposed. Loose wires are not allowed, and they need to be done away with. Mommy will like that.

\*If Mommy leaves out the newspaper or any bills, eat them. The newspaper only has bad news, I heard Daddy say that. Mommy doesn’t need any bad news. And I know those bills do not make her happy. She won’t know what she is missing, it is for her own good.

\*Help Mommy with the laundry. Root around in it, to help her find matching socks. Steal the socks with no match for later playtime. Try to refrain myself from chewing on her bras, she hates that. After she organizes the clothes hangers nice and neat, jump on them, it’s cool how they scatter everywhere! If she leaves the laundry out too long and doesn’t get it finished, pee on the remaining laundry to teach her not to leave her chores unfinished.