

Volume 46, Issue 2

March/April 2002

LIOC-  
Endangered Species  
Conservation Federation



SPRING!

## 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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## Classified

All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. LIOC-ESCF, Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. LIOC-ESCF, Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only LIOC members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes where no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual advertising. Ads must state whether the individual is a private owner or broker. Full current address with a phone number must be stated in the ad.

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

## 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

# 31st Annual LIOC-ESFC Conference Wichita, Kansas, August 7-11, 2002

**Please send your 2002 LIOC Convention registration payable to:**

LIOC-ESFC, Inc.  
PO Box 22085  
Phoenix, Arizona 85028

**Payment is due by JUNE 3, 2002.**

**REGISTRATION** – Please send your registration for the 2002 LIOC Conference and/or Wild Feline Husbandry Course, payable to LIOC, PO Box 22085, Phoenix, AZ 85028. Cost for Conference is \$95 per person, \$75 for children under 18, and \$10 for children under 5. Cost for the Husbandry Course is \$50. Registration is due by June 3, 2002. (After the June 3 deadline, late registration for the Conference will be \$110, and for the Husbandry Course will be \$75). Along with your registration, please advise your choice of beef or chicken for Saturday's banquet dinner.

**HOTEL** - Please CALL for reservations to the Airport Plaza Hotel at 316-942-7911. Please let them know you are with the LIOC conference. Single/Double occupancy is \$59.00, triple occupancy is \$69.00, and Quad occupancy is \$79.00, plus 11.9% room tax. These room rates include a full hot breakfast buffet every day. The Airport Plaza Hotel features 200 guest rooms, a restaurant, courtyard and pool, fitness center, and 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle service. Driving directions: located at US 400 (Kellogg Ave.) and west of Interstate 235 at 5805 West Kellogg Avenue.

**NO OUT-OF-STATE CATS** – Please do not bring out-of-state cats to this meeting because they are not permitted in the city of Wichita. We will only be able to have cats that are brought by local Wichita City permit holders.

## **SPEAKERS** –

- \* Deborah Ash, *African Safari*
- \* Lynn Culver, *Species Enhancement Strategy*
- \* Dr. William Swanson, Director of Animal Research, Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, *Addressing the Conservation Challenges of the World's Forgotten Felids – the Small Cats*
- \* Wendi Straddeck, *Zoopreem product*
- \* Jim Fouts, *Tanganyika Wildlife Park and Africa*
- \* Jim Sanderson, Ph.D., Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International *Camera trapping, So what's out there anyway?*

Our Hosts this year are LIOC members Ken and Susan Lockwood, who are wildlife center Manager/Rehabilitators for the Tanganyika Wildlife Park, owned by Jim and Sherri Fouts. The Fouts work with placing animals in both the private sector and zoos all around the world. They are working on projects that include habitat conservation in Southeast Asia. They have ongoing breeding programs with their clouded leopards and snow leopards, as well as other animals. The 2002 conference attendees will spend a day touring the Park. The animals at the park include clouded leopards, snow leopards, African leopards, tigers, giraffes, zebras, kangaroos, bongos, colobus monkeys, lemurs, and raptors/hawks.

Submitted by: Kelly Jean Buckley, Chairman Conference Committee  
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# A Retreat To The Oasis:

A review of the LIOC-ESCF Husbandry Course  
held at Isis Oasis in CA

submitted by Tim Stoffel

I have heard rave reviews from all my cat-friends that had previously attended this course. Since I will soon be volunteering at the zoo next door, and hope someday to own a couple of lions, I decided this course would be a worthwhile thing to attend. It would also be a good opportunity to meet a lot of the cat-people I know only on the internet.

I had waited up to this point for a class to be near where I am, so I can avoid the expense (And since September 11th., the hassle) of airline travel. The course had been in Portland, OR, in August, but the timing was very poor for me to attend at that time. So, I was very elated to hear it would be offered in early December, 2001 at a place just north of San Francisco. This is within easy driving distance for me. As an added incentive, this particular course included an extra day where you could get some hands-on with some of the smaller exotic felines!



**The author with a new “ser-gle” friend**

I planned to combine this trip with a visit to San Mateo, CA. A professional colleague was leaving his job at KCSM TV, and wanted some of us who collect old broadcast equipment to come and help clean out his warehouse. I would then (Hopefully with a fully loaded truck!) drive up to Geyserville, CA, which is 75 miles north of San Francisco. This is where the exotic feline husbandry course was to be offered, at a place called ‘Isis Oasis’.

Isis Oasis looked to be an interesting place. It is a retreat center on a 10 acre estate. It features bed/breakfast type rooms, as well as dormitory style rooms in a lodge, a conference center, a dining pavilion, a mini-zoo, an Egyptian temple, a vineyard and many other interesting things. The mini-zoo contains many exotic birds, and most importantly for the course, ocelots, servals and bobcats. The entire center was decorated in an ancient Egyptian theme.

Attending these sorts of things is never easy for me for some reason. A few days before the course, I injured my hand working on my new house. This injury threatened to prevent me from being able to do the long-distance driving needed to attend the course. Since I did not want to miss this course, I finally decided I would take a Greyhound bus to Geyserville. As it turns out, the bus schedule was perfect for attending both days of the conference, and the Geyserville bus stop was almost in front of Isis Oasis! The price I had to pay, though, was missing the chance to do some equipment collecting in San Mateo.

I had arrived quite early compared to other students, so I plenty of time to explore. I spent a lot of time touring the mini-zoo. I saw all the cats there, especially the ocelots. There were may bird species as well, many of them very beautiful. There was also the typical selection of peafowl, and a pair of very nice emu.

I also took a quick look at the various buildings on the grounds, including the conference hall, some Mongolian ‘yurts’ you could choose to stay in, the vineyard, and the little Egyptian temple. After that, I took a nice, long, badly needed nap!

My roommate soon showed up. His name was Dale McCorvey. He was into a number of things, including doing stunt work for films. He lived in Utah, between several National parks, and wanted to open a cat sanctuary there. Dale seemed like a nice gentleman. We ended up spending much of our free time together.

At dinner that night, which was served very informally (And was also vegetarian, but some of the best vegetarian food I have ever had!), I ended up meeting our Instructors for the course: George Stowers, Tracy Wilson and Leann Montgomery. Since there were not many people there yet, we all sat together at one table and had a very good conversation. (George Stowers was the very first cat person I ever got to know. Up till now, I’ve only known him via the internet.)

Soon, more people started to arrive, and there were cat people of all sorts of backgrounds to talk to. Unfortunately for me, there were no lion owners.

While some of us talked, many others participated in an Egyptian full moon ceremony. It had also started to rain heavily, and the noise of the rain on the dining center roof was beautiful to a desert-living Nevadan! By the time everything settled down, it was near midnight, and everyone was looking forward to a good night's rest. There was much excited anticipation about the next day!

After breakfast, we all filed up to the conference center, which was built like a small church with a stage. By now, a lot of people had arrived. We all were encouraged to go about the room, and identify the species of cats that were displayed on pictures around the room. The big cats were easy. The small cats were more challenging. I still managed to get 9 out of 10, which was considerably above average for the people around me.

Soon, the class got underway. The extensive material was presented in a manner designed to maximize retention. Each of the seven units was first overviewed. The main material was then presented. The material was then reviewed, using the outline from the overview. There was plenty of opportunities for class participation. There were also some good discussions of some topics among knowledgeable people in the class. This discussion added considerably to the value of the subject being discussed. In all the material presented, the emphasis was on the safety of you and others, as well as the well-being of the cats.

The main topics covered were:

- \* Natural History
- \* Regulatory Agencies and Permits
- \* Facilities and Equipment
- \* Nutrition
- \* Health Care
- \* Contingency Planning
- \* Handling and Behavior Training

The first three units were taught before lunch. The rest were taught after lunch. The behavior training unit was especially interesting, as we had cats available to demonstrate the techniques with. However, the cats weren't very cooperative in front of such a large group. So, a human volunteer was chosen to be trained in an unknown behavior using 'clicker training'. The idea of clicker training goes like this: Since cats have such a short attention span, you try to get them to do



**Husbandry  
Course  
Instructors:  
George  
Stowers,  
Tracy Wilson  
and Leann  
Montgomery**

something you want. The moment they do what you want, you click a mechanical clicker. You then give them a food treat. Pretty soon, the cat will know that the desired behavior is accompanied by a 'click', and a treat immediately afterwards.

The human clicker training was hilarious. The food treat was M&M's in a cup. The human 'cat' acted stubborn, stole the treats, etc., etc. In short, he acted the 'cat' perfectly! Everyone laughed. But, eventually, we did finally train the 'cat' to do what we wanted it to do.

After all of this, there was a comprehensive review, followed by an exam. Because the material was so thoroughly presented (And everyone present was there to learn), only 1 or 2 people did not pass the exam. After 9 hours of instruction, and an exam, everyone was eager to go to dinner!

Dinner was very festive that night, and it was the only time that meat was served (Chicken quarters). During dinner, a small exotic cat, a 'Ser-gle' was brought in the room. Everyone enjoyed the cat, and the 'ser-gle' (More on the name later) had fun trying to snag a chicken leg! There were also two huge domestic cats who hung around the people constantly, looking for attention. They were both Maine Coon Cats. After many hours of after-dinner conversation, Dale and I went back to the lodge. There, we each talked for several more hours with other cat people in a common-room. I finally ended up finding a lion person, a woman who trained lions and tigers for movie work.

On Sunday morning, there was a break in the rain (It had rained almost continuously since Friday night.). After a delicious breakfast of buckwheat pancakes, we all went down to the mini-zoo to handle cats! The first ever exotic cat I ever got to handle was the beautiful and mild-mannered 'ser-gle'. This cat was the result of an accidental cross between a serval and a jungle cat. It is a female, and appears to be breedable. It is such a beautiful and docile cat that an attempt is going to be made to expand the lineage.

Of course, the main reason to be here, though is Ocelots. After watching Dale learn what to do and what not to do, I finally got my turn to handle an ocelot. My turn was very short-lived, though. It discovered a new toy in my coat pocket, a leather glove. It was not intent on giving it back, and the glove now has permanent teeth marks on it! (I did enjoy the experience!)

While everyone was taking time to observe or handle the cats, it was discovered that one of the servals had two newborn kittens! This particular serval wasn't supposed to be pregnant, so it was a pleasant surprise for everyone present.

Finally, it was time for everyone to go their various ways. because of the bus schedule, I was one of the later people to leave. So, I had another chance to sit around and talk cats for several hours. During that time, it rained extremely hard several times, and hailed twice. The sound of the hail on the roof was so deafening that everyone had to cover their ears.

With the Egyptian theme of Isis Oasis, there were plenty of examples of lion art to be found there. There were two beautiful lion statues in the dining hall. A pair of Egyptian lioness heads were on the stage of the conference center. There was also two murals of the Aker Lions. The Aker lions, in Egyptian mythology, guard the past and the future!

It was finally time to say 'goodbye' to the last people who were still there. As I walked away to catch the bus, I realized that I had made some new friends, learned some new things, and was TOTALLY relaxed and refreshed!

Too bad the bus ride back wasn't as uneventful as the bus ride there. When I got to Sacramento, I learned that all the passes through the Sierra Nevada mountains were closed, and nothing at all was getting through. So, I ended up spending the night in the Greyhound bus terminal in Sacramento!

But even with this problem, this was the best vacation I have taken since my several days in New York City in November 1999. Was this course worth all the effort? Yes! Would I do it again? Yes! Would I recommend it to others? Absolutely!!



# 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.

## Topics Covered Include:

- 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 in his younger day--at 8 weeks old

**For additional information, contact:**

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or

George Stowers at (315) 342-4997;  
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## Update: Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund has been getting an increasing number of inquiries as time for the Zoo Course at the University of Tennessee approaches. As you know the fund awarded a full scholarship to Sonya Whiteley, DVM, CVA from ZooMontana for last year's course.

If there are multiple applicants, the Trustees may decide on multiple smaller awards for this year's course. We consider financial need, applicant's interest in exotic animal care, geographic needs for veterinarians involved in exotic animal medicine and any other criteria that shall be determined by the Trustees to better accomplish the objective of the fund.

If you have a Veterinary School in your area, inquire about their zoological department. If they have long or short courses in exotic animal medicine, especially courses addressing exotic feline medicine, let us know. Or ask your veterinarian about courses at his or her alma mater. We'll send out information to the schools so we can reach those individuals who are serious about zoological medicine. If we can benefit them, we will ultimately benefit our cats.

Submitted by Carin Sousa

### **Writing Your Will?**



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



# Airborne Serval

By Deborah Ash

The evening before departure was like any other to eight-week-old Zari, as she drank 1½ bottles of Esbilac and ate a small raw turkey burger. But her journey began at 4:15 A.M. when I put the unsuspecting serval in a lambs wool-lined, airline approved Sherpa bag. Before I could get out the door, a stinky odor permeated the air. At the last minute, the liner had to be discarded and replaced with two hand towels for absorption, and Zari's bottom got a quick clean up.

Upon arrival at Oakland International Airport, we waited in a long line at the Delta Airlines baggage check. The little serval was inconspicuous in the black mesh bag. When it was our turn, there was no problem with the fuzzy passenger. A \$75 fee was accepted for Zari's one-way, in-cabin ticket to Little Rock, Arkansas and I received a luggage tag for the animal carrier. Even with today's heightened airport security, neither the veterinary papers nor the USDA license were checked.

Next, we waited with other travelers at the security X-Ray machine. Zari's alert ears were scanning the sounds of rolling luggage, intercom announcements, and the beeps of various security devices. Before putting Zari's carrier through the X-Ray machine, I removed the little serval, held her in my arms, and proceeded through the metal detector. A voice of a traveler asked, "OOOh, is that a little ocelot?" Before I had time to say, "No," the airport security guard directed, "Follow the red line and put your arms out." It is difficult to hold a little serval with no hands, but luckily Zari stapled herself to my black sweater with her claws. She seemed slightly scared but alive with curiosity. It was a bit difficult to put her back in the Sherpa bag, because her intense inquisitiveness in the new surroundings filled her with energy.

At the gate, I let Zari poke her head out of the bag. But, before I knew it, the whole kitty was out. Sadly, prior to boarding, she had to be put back in the bag. As I entered the plane, one flight attendant asked, "Is this a Bengal?" Before I could open my mouth, another flight attendant looked and said, "No, it's a SERVAL ... my aunt has two servals." AT LAST, someone recognized Zari for what she is! The same flight attendant even asked if she likes to eat turkey burger. Too bad it was not on Delta's menu – like that two-ounce bag of pretzels.

During the flight, I put Zari's carrier in my lap until I was told that I had to stow her under the seat. I was not surprised that the sound of the plane's revving engine was followed by an emphatic little hiss. Throughout the flight Zari was a sweet feline...so much so that after the in-flight beverages were served, the flight attendant who had admired Zari allowed me to bring her to the rear of the plane, where I could keep her in my lap. As soon as I did, she drank down an entire bottle of formula. Zari was so content to be out in the open!

The plane touched ground in Dallas/Fort Worth, where we transferred to another gate in order to board the connecting flight to Little Rock. At the gate, Zari gobbled the last of the turkey burger. Upon boarding the second plane, the kitten reached her limit of toleration and chirped in protest. I heard passengers inquiring about the loud chirping. "What's that noise ... birds?" When I told them it was a cat, they could not believe it until I allowed them to look into my mesh carrier. Unfortunately, since the flight was full I had to keep Zari incarcerated.

Once we deplaned, I carried Zari in my arms and followed signs to baggage claim. There we waited for her new owners, the Parvins. They were overjoyed with the new addition to their family. It was an hour drive before Zari reached her new home. There, she would meet the many Bengals with which she would be raised. Finally, after so many miles, Zari saw her new home. She was welcomed by a female marbled Bengal, who licked her face—they instantly became playmates.



# MENTORED BY THE MASTER



By Gloria Johnson

**W**here does one begin to describe a legend? Robert Baudy is a legend. He has lived the fullest most astonishing life I've heard of in fact or fiction. I've had the good fortune to be a part of his life for the past several years. What I was too late to see I read about in his biography and listened to when we would talk late into the night. Robert has spent his whole life studying animals and for at least 50 years in the United States has been recognized as an international expert on training, collecting, breeding and the protection of endangered species.

I had learned about Savage Kingdom-the Rare Feline Breeding Center while I was volunteering at the Tallahassee Museum and they had some guest animals (2 amur leopards) on display for 3 months, courtesy of Robert. When one of the employees invited me to go along on a run to the center I jumped at the chance!

Knowing the Museum employee, Robert trusted us to not feed our fingers to the tigers and we went on a self-guided tour. Afterwards he came out to greet us and tell stories. With thick shocking white hair, a heavy French accent (but more perfect English than most Americans), always dressed "safari style" he is a sight to behold! No wonder he had a reputation as a ladies' man! I would one day learn that he also is the most strict disciplinarian I've ever studied under.

As I began to know Robert during more visits I learned about the pediatric specialists that breeders use for the "bottle-baby" stage. I convinced Robert to let me earn my hours for licensure there as a

**Above: Author Gloria Johnson with mentor and friend Robert Baudy, congratulating her on teaching Spice Cougar to pose in a tree for photos**

volunteer. Since I live so far away, he agreed to let me stay in his guest room. I'm sure Robert thought I'd get a dose of the workload and be out of there with my tail between my legs in the first week. As it turned out I would stay for many months and when his manager found new employment and then when Robert suffered two heart attacks, I would do so much more than clean cages. In return Robert would let me break many of the "rules." There was a time when it was common for baby tigers to be all over his house. This was years ago, back when his wife was bottle-feeding them. But since this duty was now "farmed out" to a veterinarian employee the house had become off limits—until the first 3 baby tigers came back to the compound all vaccinated and ready to eat meat while I was there.

Robert looked in my eyes and knew he couldn't say no. Despite his tough exterior, the one he shows the world, Robert has a soft heart. For 3 months a little white Siberian tiger slept in my bed with me. I would put plastic under the sheets and of course have to wash them every morning, but having the bed wet by a white tiger somehow was an honor! He was such a good boy, never teethed on me and loved his nightly bath before going to bed (since he'd romped with his litter mates outside all day).



**TJ and Fluffy at bedtime**

One night Robert came into my room, little white "Fluffy" was nestled in my armpit with his pink bunny in his paws and his cheek against mine. Robert said, "Do you realize how lucky you are? Some people never get this close to a white tiger and there are none left in the wild." I choked back my answer, because I was crying. This man had given me so many experiences that would change my life forever.

As time passed we learned together that I had a natural ability to work with the adolescent tigers (after they returned from bottle feeding). I think this surprised Robert. So much so that he gave me the freedom to work with them as I pleased. I worked with those 3 babies until they were 2 years old (close to 400 lbs). Robert closely observed every move I made with them and he would not hesitate to scold me and chastise me if I did not do as told. He knew that a mistake with a tiger is a life-threatening mistake. As it turned out, I have never been hurt by a tiger. (Except, of course, the babies with their little sharp claws and teething mouths!) With Robert I have observed birth, death and the joy and heartbreak of every state in between with these animals.

Many years ago Florida's Governor Bob Graham appointed Robert to the first advisory team to save the Florida panther. Robert bumped heads with the other members and the public for years. He told them repeatedly that the Florida Panther was in serious trouble due to inbreeding and that their Florida "traits" were actually deformities caused by this inbreeding. The only way to save them was to outbreed, for example with Texas Cougars. They would not listen. After serving for many years, Robert, disgusted, quit the council and did his own outbreeding at his compound. Today, I have the



**Spice Cougar finally gets it exactly right-- posing in a tree for photos**

most beautiful female Florida panther/Texas cougar mix you will ever see. She is 3 years old. She is in perfect health. The only trait of the Florida panther that can be seen on her is the swirl or “cowlick” on her head. Her tail is straight and she weighs in at 110 lbs. Her eyes are not amber, but pale green. Her brother is still at Robert’s but with Robert’s encouragement I taught him to climb trees and pose, on command for photos—no collar or leash, then return straight to me, the only reward desired being a big hug

and a “good boy,” along with a kiss. Not surprisingly, the State now boasts of its success at out-breeding with Texas Cougars! If only they’d listened to Robert it might not be too late. As it is, I wonder...

During my tenure at Savage Kingdom several documentaries were filmed and Robert’s manager and I served as the animal handlers for the cameramen. One of these projects was to last 9 days. On the very first morning, Robert strolled out to where we were working, looking quite dapper in a new shirt and jacket, and nonchalantly told me, “I think I had a heart attack last night.” I thought he was teasing, but he wasn’t. He had woken up with terrific pain in his chest and arm and instead of knocking on my door for help he walked outside and waited it out! I was aghast! I wanted to throttle him! We all ganged up on him so he had no choice but to go get checked and yes, he’d had a heart attack and he was hospitalized. This is Robert to a “T” – the most stubborn, hardheaded, “my way or no way” man I have ever loved. He is father, mentor and best friend.

**Young tigers at Robert Baudy’s “Savage Kingdom” tumble into bed together for a much-needed nap**



I hope all of you will find an opportunity to read his book *The Animal Man*, co-written by Sandra Thompson. I am a lobbyist and during the legislative session there is barely time to pay bills, much less read books. But the session I had this book I could not put it down. I actually carried it in my briefcase and snuck in chapters in the ladies' rooms between meetings or anywhere that I could!

I wish that all of you who love and work with big cats could meet him. He has volumes to teach us all. He is a man who stands above other men. During hard times, such as after last summer's unfortunate incident when a worker died, he holds his head high. The unfairness of such an incident is hard to swallow. Robert's directions and orders were not followed. Now he is harassed by officials and others who do not understand him. I suffer too. I can no longer go for my 40-acre walks with TJ, my favorite tiger. Everything seems to have changed.

Robert has begun to downsize the number of cats at the compound. But when Robert recently asked me if I could bring home a baby tiger for care and training, I remarked, "I thought you weren't going to breed anymore!" His answer: "It's not over 'till I'm dead and buried."

Robert Baudy, you will live forever. For the way you have completely changed my life I am forever grateful, and I am a much better person for knowing you. To this day you challenge me to be the best in all I do.



Once-tiny TJ Tiger today at age two with author Gloria Johnson

# Will Tomorrow Come?

Submitted by Colette Griffiths

“If today is a typical day on planet Earth, we will lose 116 square miles of rainforest, or about an acre a second. We will lose another 72 square miles to encroaching deserts, as a result of human mismanagement and overpopulation. We will lose 40 to 100 species, and no one knows whether the number is 40 or 100. Today the human population will increase by 250,000. And today we will add 2,700 tons of chlorofluorocarbons to the atmosphere and 15 million tons of carbon. Tonight the Earth will be a little hotter, its waters more acidic, and the fabric of life more threadbare.” ... David Orr (1991).

In reading the Environmental Review of the United States in the 20th century by Cat Lazaroff, it shows the tremendous gains that have been made in environmental protection over this time period. There have also been many losses as well. There can be a lot of difficulty in preserving species and habitats, and in doing so laws, organizations, and our role needs to change.

We live at a critical time for the conservation of biological resources on earth. In a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature, one third of the world's natural resources were consumed in the period 1970-1995.

In the recent past, the level of biological diversity was the highest the world has ever seen. The number of described species is about 1.4 million. It has taken 3.5 billion years for this biodiversity to evolve, and we are rapidly destroying it. The natural rate of extinction is estimated around one species per year, the present rate is estimated at 10,000 times that - about one per hour - and almost all of these losses are caused by humans. We probably have already lost 1 million species, and several more million will be lost in the first few decades of the 21st century.

## The following table shows the extinctions between 1600 and 1983

Number of Endangered and Extinct Animal Species, compiled from the IUCN's Red List, 1996 From Fact Sheets - Rainforest Action Network					
Class	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Total Threatened	Extinct
Mammals	169	315	612	1096	89
Birds	168	235	704	1107	108
Reptiles	41	59	153	253	21
Amphibians	18	31	75	124	5
Insects	44	116	377	537	73
Other Animals	471	423	1194	2088	343

In the U.S., where research is probably more intensive than in many other countries, 631 species are known to have been lost since 1642, and the total is probably well over a thousand. Hawaii, Alabama, and California lead the nation in number of extinctions.

The reasons for extinction are changing. In prehistoric times, natural disasters and competition with other species were the main causes. In historic times, overexploitation of exotic species has caused many extinctions. But today, the main problems facing wildlife are destruction of habitat, with no place for them to go, and pollution.

Tropical forest is being destroyed at the rate of 40,000 square miles = an area the size of Ohio, per year. This is mainly due to slash-and-burn agriculture in areas of high population growth, in which small areas are cleared and used for a few years until they become infertile, then, more acreage is cleared. Smoke from the fires in Indonesia is visible from space. About 44% of the original tropical moist forest on the earth is now gone. It has

been estimated that between 15 and 20 percent of all species will become extinct by the year 2000 because of the destruction of tropical forests. This rate is about 10,000 times as high as the rate prior to the existence of human beings.

Other habitats are also being destroyed - temperate forests, deserts, wetlands, and coral reefs are all being destroyed at alarming rates, either for profit or to make room for housing, agriculture, ports and other human activities. Damming of rivers has depleted salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest to such an extent that many of the runs are extinct and others have been listed as endangered.

A 1996 study by the World Conservation Union found that 25 percent of mammal and amphibian species, 11 percent of birds, 20 percent of reptiles and 34 percent of fish species are threatened with extinction. About 10 percent of the world's tree species are in danger as well.

The fundamental reason for the degradation and loss of animals and habitat is the explosive growth of the human population. Since 1900 the world's population has more than tripled. Since 1950 it has more than doubled, to 6 billion. Every year 90 million more people (= 3x the population of California) are added to the planet. All of these people need places to live, work and play, and they all contribute to habitat loss and global pollution.

Our generation is the first one that really became aware of the fact that the human population is causing irreparable damage to the planet - to the air, water and soil of the planet and to its biological resources. Ours is not the first generation to do damage to the planet, but we are the first to realize the extent of the problem. And, we, in the private sector are trying to do our part to share our space with these exotic animals. By ourselves, we cannot stop the consumption of our resources. But we can help keep these animals around until the mass can cooperate with solutions to stop taking and start giving.

We can build our image in the governmental structure, by showing our willingness to work together and share the information we have gained about these animals. By working together to document, research, and care for the animals we can enhance the foundation that is there to preserve these animals through our involvement.

Ours is the only generation that can prevent a massive loss of biological diversity and knowledge that we have gained by having these animals. Huge losses have already taken place, but with private individuals doing their part, we can make a difference. If we are lucky, ours will be the first generation in which the main principles guiding our governments will not be economic and political powers, but will be we individuals, who have lived with these animals and who are learning to live on the planets with the plants and animals without destroying them.

LIOC needs you and the knowledge that you have gained, to protect and preserve. I am hoping to see you at convention, and participating in the sharing of information.



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# Dear Daddy

by Tracy Wilson  
with constant assistance from Radar Serval

While my husband, Keith, is in the service overseas, I am taking care of all the cats by myself. Radar Serval likes to help me write letters to his Daddy several times each week. This week we had to tell Daddy about his serval misadventures.

My sweetest little serval boy Radar, who I brag and brag about being such a good little boy, gave his angel wings a little stretch today...I always keep the bathroom door closed, to keep him out of the toilet, he likes to drop toys into the toilet and play splashy-splashy with them.

The door was closed all day as usual. It was very quiet this afternoon. Strangely Quiet. Radar, who typically stays right at my side, was nowhere in sight. I went to investigate, thinking, "My precious little boy is probably taking a nap, and when I find him I will steal a little kiss." I smiled to myself thinking about that sweet little sleepy kiss I was going to get.



Radar with his Daddy, Keith Wilson

Suddenly, a loud crash from inside the bathroom! What the heck was that??? I opened the bathroom door, to discover sweet little Radar standing in the middle of the bathroom floor, which was covered wall to wall in shredded toilet paper and paper towels, staring back at me with big innocent brown eyes. "Hi, Mommy, I Looooooovvvvvve you," he cooed to me as he rubbed against my legs and purred. The shower curtains and rod had been pulled to the floor, everything on the countertop had been inspected and thrown into the floor. The bathroom was completely and utterly demolished! If I had waited any longer, all the drawers would have been opened and emptied! The only thing that saved me from a seriously nasty mess was that the toilet seat was down.

Apparently, Radar learned how to open AND close doors today. He opened the door, went inside, and shut the door back, so I would not know he had snuck into the forbidden zone of the bathroom. He went to work as quietly as he could, but he didn't count on the shower rod making such a loud crash. He had thought if he shredded all that paper and spread it around the floor, it would soften the crash when the shower rod hit the floor. Alas, his plan did not work, and he was busted. And a good thing I heard that shower curtain rod hit the floor too, because I know servals, and given the opportunity, the shower curtain would have been peed on all over.

Did he run for cover when he realized he was busted? No, he stood there in the middle of the chaos, claiming complete innocence. I knew just what he was trying to tell me. "Oh, Mommy, Thank goodness you are here, I was locked up all alone in here, I was scared! I was all alone and cold, then the paper towels exploded and tried to get me! Monsters, Monsters, Everywhere! Help me Mommy, Please hold me!"



Did I yell? Did I scream? Did I rant and rave? Did I pull my hair out? Did I spank him? Did I punish him? What ever could I do?

I laughed as I picked him up and gave him a big kiss. What else could a Serval Mommy do?





# Magnificent Obsession

Submitted by Colette Griffiths

*Ocelots have good taste. In efforts to count and track the cats' movements, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists working at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas first experimented with natural scents to attract the animals. Urine of rat, feces of bobcat – nothing seemed to work until they hit upon the ultimate eau de ocelot: Calvin Klein's Obsession for Men. Only about 100 ocelots live in the thick brush and coastal prairie of eastern Texas. The zoologists also hope to use the cologne to lure some of the resident ocelots toward new habitat in an attempt to expand their range.*

*It was a chance encounter with the scent that led scientists to the discovery of what turned these secretive cats on. A research technician at the Dallas Zoo came in one day wearing her boyfriend's Obsession, and the ocelots, particularly the males, could not resist the scent.*

*The Bronx Zoo reports similar observations with their Siberian tigers. Only in this case, it is Nina Ricci's L'Air du Temps that elicits purring and rubbing behaviors from the tigers.*

*Bronx Zoo keepers and interns have used various scents to enhance the tigers' environment and encourage exploratory behaviors. In testing aromas are sprayed on rocks and sticks and then offered to the cats. The tigers will re-visit areas that have been treated with a perfume or cologne, sometimes investigating a site for several minutes. If they really like the scent, says Mammal Curator Patrick Thomas, they'll roll on top of the treated object.*

*This is not to suggest that you run out and buy a particular perfume. Thomas adds that cats in nature have been known to roll on rotting carcasses and the dung of other animals.*

The above is reprinted from Wildlife Conservation February 2002 –  
Author Deborah A. Behler

We heard about Obsession several years ago and tried it on some of our cats. We had some interesting results: Our female, Bagheera, would rub and roll all over the rock if she was not pregnant. I tried giving her a rock sprayed with Obsession when I knew that she was pregnant and she growled and stomped around the rock. After I removed the rock she would not go near the area the rock was placed for several days.

I tried the Obsession on our spayed Bengal cat and she too found the rock alluring. My Bengal also likes the men's original Old Spice.

I tried a rock sprayed with Obsession on our 8 and 9 month old Geoffroys (2 males and a female) – they were the funniest. One male was loving on the rock and licking it. He was very protective of his rock and if one of the others tried to approach the rock, he would shoo them away. I had to give them each rocks.



**Hunter discovers his Obsession**



**Hunter is not yet prepared to share his new discovery with Tucker**

Other scents of interest are mint – smear a peppermint patty inside the cardboard of a paper towel roll. For larger cats use a heavier cardboard roll.

Oregano, cinnamon, and clove have also brought on interesting behavior in some of our cats.

The cats we have use are: Domestic, Bengals, Servals, Jungle Cats, Caracals, Lynx, and Geoffroy Cats.

# Tiger in Recovery

By **CINDY SWIRKO**  
Sun staff writer

The day Freedom is liberated from her vacuum pump will be a time of rejoicing for doctors, veterinarians and - most of all - her owner. That will be the day that the severely mauled tiger cub is over the worst of her injuries.

And it will signal success for a unique partnership of University of Florida veterinarians and doctors from the Burn Unit of Shands at UF, who are the first nationally to use on an animal a vacuum pump commonly used to heal the skin of humans.

Freedom was born Sept. 28 [sic] with littermates America and Justice at Thunderhawk Enterprises, a nonprofit big-cat rescue facility in Brevard County. Director Ray Thunderhawk is an Oglala Lakota Sioux who spent most of his career working with animals in theme parks.

Thunderhawk said Freedom's mom, Nuniyan - or Wanderer in his native language - put the cub on top of a 5-foot-high den when Freedom was about a month old. Freedom somehow fell off the den and landed between it and an adjoining enclosure containing an adult male tiger. That cat mauled Freedom, apparently trying to pull her through the fence. Thunderhawk found Freedom when he heard her crying. He said he rushed her to a local veterinarian.

"They treated her for shock, amputated her tail, cleaned everything up and stitched her closed. We brought her back up, but a couple of days later the stitches just would not adhere," he said. "We decided she had to go to the best. The university is our main vet anyway, but she never would have made a three-hour trip that day. We've been very fortunate that they've been giving her the best care in the world."

## Unique treatment

That care is extensive. Freedom's ears were amputated and several of her smaller wounds and gashes stitched. But a large swath of Freedom's skin from her left leg to her left flank was ripped away. Cats are loose-skinned, so UF veterinarians tried a graft by rotating skin from her belly over part of the wound - Freedom now has nipples on her side and upper leg. But that didn't heal well as Freedom, already anemic, had to battle infections.

"We took skin from her stomach and moved it up to the side of her," veterinary student Lenny Laraio said. "But her body rejected the graft. That's when we had the doctors from Shands get involved."

That was about two weeks ago. Doctors and nurses from the Shands Burn Unit came to the veterinary college, examined Freedom's wounds and decided to try a pump called Vacuum Assisted Closure, or VAC. It is made by KCI of San Antonio, which provides medical devices and therapies. KCI representatives said this is the first time to their knowledge the VAC is being used to treat animals.

Dr. Greg Gaines of the Burn Unit said the pump is commonly and effectively used to speed the healing of human wounds. "The cat was missing a lot of skin. That's something we deal with a lot in the Burn Unit in humans, not big cats. But we are learning," Gaines said. "We employ the VAC technology, which has been around in general surgery for five or six years. But they had never heard of it in the veterinary world, which surprised me."

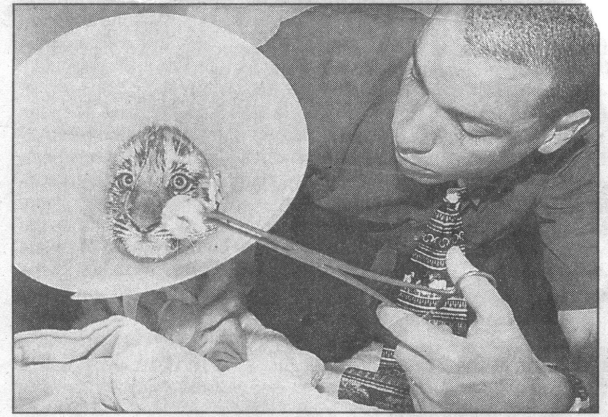
## Wounds healing

Now, every other day, staffers from the Burn Unit come to the veterinary college to change Freedom's sponges and check the healing. Freedom is constantly hooked to the pump via a tube, but technicians sometimes let her roam around unfettered for a few minutes before the sponge changing. Being a cat, she's curious and playful - roaming around the halls and checking out the parrots and iguanas that share space in the college's wild-animal ward.

Any cat owner knows it is often a trial to get a cat to sit still for a veterinarian, and so it is with Freedom. Technicians anesthetize Freedom by putting her into a clear, three-foot Rubbermaid storage bin with a hole cut inside for the anesthesia tube.

"The wounds are healing pretty well, but it's a difficult healing process with a baby tiger," said Dr. Maud Lafortune, a resident at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. "She doesn't understand what we are saying and that we don't want her to move. And she is growing. Not only does the skin have to heal, but it has to grow."

"I pester the folks at the vet school every day. We want her back here. This is her home. This is where she belongs," owner Ray Thunderhawk said. "She will be an unusual-looking cat. She will never be on display to the public. If anybody made fun of her, I'd probably really lose it."



— Associated Press  
Freedom, a 12-week-old Siberian tiger cub, gets breakfast from Lenny Laraio, a veterinary student at the University of Florida. Freedom is being treated for injuries sustained when an adult tiger clawed her back and ears.

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The article from the Gainesville Sun (above) briefly tells how the accident happened, though it does not explain all the detailed preparations that we did to make sure that nothing like that could happen. Weeks before the incident, we put

## Tell your cat to "Pill Out"

submitted by Alan Townsend

Scientists in New York are working on a drug which will help violent cats "chill out." They are about to begin trials of a medicine called clomipramine on 20 bullying cats which have been volunteered by their owners.

Chemists hope the 'anti-anxiety' treatment will stop the animals fighting. Vets at Cornell University say the violent pets may have a condition called 'social anxiety' which can be treated.

Tracy Kroll, a researcher at the university's animal behavior clinic, said, "We're looking for 20 real bullies, the ones that start the fights, to see whether cat-to-cat aggression can be reduced with anti-anxiety medication."

Clomipramine is used in humans to treat panic and anxiety disorders and can be used on pets but has had no official testing on cats.

Kroll said, "Some of the over-anxiety may be territorial or it may start when you bring a new cat into the house. Whatever the cause, inter-cat aggression can be damaging, both physically and emotionally, for the humans involved."

The study will last eight weeks and could reduce the number of fight wounds vets deal with in their surgeries.

source: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/>

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up 4-foot plywood along the chainlink to any adjoining cat enclosure. We thought we had protected EVERYTHING. The den itself was the protection along that area of fence. We never dreamed that the mother would take a cub on top of the den, or that the cub would fall in between. The chain link is held in place by 4x4s; the den is pushed up against them. The cub fell in the 4 inch gap left between the den and the chainlink. We were horrified and heartbroken. We have done everything that we and the doctors can do. It has been a long hard fight for her, but she is Freedom, and she is a fighter. Once she is home and through this dreadful ordeal, she should have a very good quality of life. Nothing will ever hurt her again. Her quality of life is extremely important to us, and we see nothing that should greatly impact that. We will make sure that she is a very happy little tiger, and that she grows into a very happy big tiger.

The article states her birthday as Sept 28, it is actually Sept. 23, 2001. Since the article was written, we also have the GREAT news to add that Freedom is doing well enough that they have taken her off the Vacuum Closure Pump! That was the BEST news that we have had in a while!

When Ray Thunderhawk was up there, he was interviewed by one of the major news organizations. The story was aired at least 4 times on CNN Headline news. They have already requested a follow-up interview when she comes home. We have 43 cats in all, and we really need some help paying the vet bill if anyone can help. We just want her home and well. Please remember her in your prayers.

Submitted by Sharon B. Farrar, Thunderhawk Enterprises    [www.thunderhawk.org](http://www.thunderhawk.org), email: [thawk@thunderhawk.org](mailto:thawk@thunderhawk.org)

Story idea and additional news article submitted by BeeJay Lester



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## December 14, 2001 LIOC-ESCF BOD Meeting Report

By Lynn Culver

December 14, 2001 the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation Board of Directors meeting adjourned with the following three motions voted upon. President George Stowers received votes from Tonya Jones, Carin Sousa, Shirley Wagner, John Perry, Tracy Wilson, Lynn Culver, Leann Montgomery and Bob Turner

Motion 1 made by Tracy Wilson, seconded by Shirley Wagner

**I want to make a motion for our next quarterly meeting, for LIOC to offer the Mexican Feline Research Expedition trip to any of our members interested in going as a group, with me organizing and arranging the trip, and going as leader of our team.**

*8 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstained -Stowers, Anderson and Siegley - Motion passes*

This trip was offered by way of the LIOC-ESCF internet list and also made public through the Felines-I internet list and the Phoenix internet list. Due to the limited time available to advertise this Mexican feline research opportunity scheduled in April, the trip failed to generate the minimum number of persons required and it had to be cancelled. Tracy will attempt to organize another opportunity this fall, with a greater lead time to allow publication of this opportunity in the LIOC-ESCF newsletter to promote enough interest to gain the minimum number of participants.

Motion 2 made by Lynn Culver, seconded by Leann Montgomery

**I would like to propose that the LIOC board form a committee to study the SPARKS program as it stands now, and make recommendations for it's future.**

*8 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstained - Stowers, Anderson and Siegley - Motion passes*

This committee has been formed and consists of Lynn Culver, Shirley Wagner, Tracy Wilson, and George Stowers. Research by Lynn Culver into the proper use of the ISIS designed SPARKS software program, and ways to deal with inherent conflicts when used by LIOC-ESCF, a non-zoo facility, have been identified and potential solutions proposed. Improving submission rates and updates necessitates revising the data collection questionnaire and creating an update questionnaire to reduce the number of felines lost to follow-up. This committee is investigating how to best proceed with offering this registry service to felines outside of the LIOC-ESCF community, both with and without proposing a user-fee charge. Also under investigation is the concept of totally re-organizing this project to divide the duties of feline data entry into several people, which would require more personnel training and more copies of this software. Another path the committee is looking into is to switch software programs to a windows-based pedigree registry type of software. A final report by this committee will be available to the LIOC-ESCF Board of Directors and the membership before Convention 2002.

Motion 3 made by Lynn Culver and seconded by Carol Siegley

**I would like to motion that LIOC officially endorse Species Enhancement Programs.**

*7 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstained -Perry, Stowers, Anderson and Siegley - Motion passes*

The end of December 2001, after this passage of this motion, the Species Enhancement Program SEP name, was changed to Species Enhancement Strategy SES, by the Interna-

*(continued on next page)*



*This "letter to the editor" is actually a request for input from all of you members. Please send all replies directly to Lisa and Paul (see address below).*

**Dear LIOC Members,**

We are planning on building two cat enclosures this spring (Finally!) for small cats under twenty pounds. Any suggestions, information, advice or warnings will be greatly appreciated.

Our home has an above-ground basement which will house the indoor portion of the enclosures, with access to the outside enclosure via a pet door. We would like to use coated black chain link. Has anyone had a problem with cats chewing this? Any and all information will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Lisa Padula & Paul Richardson  
15 Padula Drive  
Marlborough, MA 01752-1177  
e-mail address: blackcats13@attbi.com

*Editor's note: There has been some discussion recently on the e-mail list about including cage construction information and guidelines on the LIOC-ESCF website. If you have advice, ideas, or photos on this topic, please also consider submitting them to Lynn Culver for this project!*

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*(December Board Minutes--continued from page 20)*

tional Society of Zooculturists' Board of Directors to avoid accidental confusion with the different, and already existing, Tiger SEP promoted by Brian Werner and his Tiger Missing Link Foundation. While the SES program name has changed, the SES intent and focus has not.

The Geoffroy's Cat SES has been formally adopted by the International Society of Zooculturists organization. The SES structure, which consists of a Management Advisory Committee (MAC) composed of species holders and interested parties who work to execute responsible captive breeding of a species, forms a framework for any species held in captivity.

Currently, the Geoffroy's Cat is the only species being managed by this concept. Endorsement of the SES by LIOC-ESCF does not include any financial support at this time, and this is not an official project of LIOC-ESCF, since it is a broad-based program, open to all holders of this species and any interested parties, such as researchers or care takers, not only just LIOC-ESCF members.

Most of the LIOC-ESCF Board of Directors did acknowledge the importance of this management concept for the long-term survival of healthy captive populations, and as a valuable tool to promote and protect responsible captive husbandry by private parties and zoos alike and wished to show their support by way of an organizational endorsement of the SES. Further explanation and discussion of the Species Enhancement Strategy will be offered at the LIOC-ESCF 2002 Convention.



## Minutes for MEFES Meeting January 19, 2002, Lyons, Indiana

Submitted by Cheri Fecker, MEFES Newsletter Editor  
Written by: Patty Turner, MEFES Secretary

Hosted by Hank and Jann Tonyan and her sister, Judy Heaver. The meeting was held in Lyon's new community center. It was complete with a kitchen and everything we needed for a meeting. Fifteen members attended.

Newly elected president Harold Epperson started the meeting by thanking Jann, Hank, and Judy for hosting the meeting. Bill Johnson was recognized for the good job he did as president last year.

It was mentioned that we omitted announcing at the Oct. meeting that Kevin Chambers represented us at the ISZ meeting as well as Carol Siegley.

Peggy read the annual report. (See separate report).

The members voted that each member should have his/her own ID card.

Harold mentioned several projects he wants to work on in 2002.

1. Get more MEFES members as LIOC members.
2. We need to finalize our logo.
3. Create a new member packet.
4. To incorporate MEFES

Bob Turner explained the importance of incorporation. It leaves the door open for lawsuits if not done. The fee to incorporate is \$30.00 and Bob said he could file it for the club, and could also file for non-profit status.

By-laws amendments were presented for vote by the members. All passed except one. Motion by Bob Turner to accept, second by Monte Francis.

1. To eliminate the 18-year minimum age for members.
2. To change approval from members to the officers for all other expenses (besides the newsletter).
3. To add the Hush Award. To be awarded annually when a worthy recipient is selected by the officers.
4. To 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 such unauthorized projects.

Proposed amendment to change the vote on rule changes from the next meeting to the same meeting as presented was defeated.

Harold announced we have 3 new members. They are Bethany Comfort from Ohio, and Karen and James Fisher of Missouri. Seven members were deleted for non-payment of dues.

Donations: From Gregory and Robin Comfort and Khara Geders.

The question was asked should we produce a new 2003 calendar. Bob Turner said Steve Hahn expressed interest in ordering several with his advertisement. It was asked if we should give discounts for large orders. It was voted that editor Cheri Fecker print the 2003 calendars. Officers to decide on the discount. Cheri need pictures of cats for the new calendars.

Permission was granted to Trent Parrot to put the name MEFES on his race car uniform.

Kevin Chambers presented an amendment to Article X11-amendments #2. Addendum: The membership must be notified at least 7 days prior to the voting.

Mike Cote suggested that any business other than MEFES be discussed after the meeting.

After a motion to adjourn, several members went across the street to Jann's lovely house to visit with all her Bengal and domestic cats.

## ACEF Meeting – January 19, 2002

### submitted by

The meeting started with the introduction of the new officers. They are as follows:

President: Jeanne Hall

Secretary – Teresa Albert

Vice President: Christi Hall

Treasurer – John Kaelin

Newsletter Editor: John Lussmyer

Club Photographer: John Kaelin

New Officer Job development: John Kaelin and I are new at being club officers and Joy Frazier has volunteered to help define the position's duties.

News Article: John Kaelin brought in an article from the Olympian newspaper about a feral lynx released in Thurston County by the cat's owner. The attendees expressed disappointment that an owner could be so irresponsible.

LIOC Membership: It was mentioned in order for ACEF to maintain its branch status with the LIOC, 50% of the ACEF members had to be LIOC as well.

Exotic Cat ban law: There is a new exotic cat ban law based on rabies. It was reported that rabies shots are not always effective on domestic cats. It was also reported that Washington has a very low incident status for rabies per the Center of Disease Control (CDC).

Themes for the Newsletter: A new topic of interested for spicing up the newsletter was discussed. Jeanne Hall suggested that Themes for the Newsletter would be a great way to get members involved in putting together the newsletter. If anyone has an idea on a Theme, please submit your idea to Teresa Albert at [ACEF@ACEF.org](mailto:ACEF@ACEF.org). All ideas will be collected and given to the Newsletter Editor, John Lussmyer.

ACEF needs a job: Jeanne Hall, President, would like to see ACEF grow with its purpose and not be limited to just a social group. Examples given were talking to the local animal control agencies by introducing ourselves and discussing our goals or offer to assist them when they are called to deal with wild animals. Another purpose would be to clarify misconception with the public. More on this issue will be discussing at the next meeting.

Meeting locations: Another topic discussed was meeting locations. Opens are still available for the year. The current schedule is as follows: February 16 – John Kaelin, March – Christi Hall, April – Teresa Albert, MAY - OPEN, June - Jeanne Hall, July – John Kaelin, August – Rebecca Loudermilk, SEPTEMBER – OPEN, OCTOBER – OPEN, NOVEMBER - OPEN, December – John Kaelin

Treasurer Report: John Kaelin gave his report.

Dues Renewal: January is the time to renew your dues. If you haven't done so, please submit your renewal to John Kaelin. Dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family memberships.

Meeting Agendas: In the year 2002 we will be publishing the agenda for the next meeting so if there is a topic you would like to discuss, please submit your idea to me at [ACEF@ACEF.org](mailto:ACEF@ACEF.org) and I will add it to the agenda.

February 16 Meeting's agenda:

- Continue discussion on ACEF purpose
- Collection dues
- Reviewing Meeting Minutes
- Find new meeting locations to complete the year
- Complete any old business
- Discuss new business
- Legislation: WA Senate Bill 5726, House Bill 1725 and 2765
- Report on WA Senate Hearing on Jan 30 by Jeanne Hall, John Kaelin and John Lussmyer
- Discussion on how to proceed in regards to these Bills
- Discussion regarding membership drive

**A Dose Of Common Sense from**

**DOC**

Lee Corbridge DVM doc@allcritters.com, www.allcritters.com

Many of you know me as “Doc” on the felines-I list but for those who are just getting to know me now, my name is Dr. Lee Corbridge, and I am a veterinarian who lives and practices in Sebring, Florida. Well, my given name is really Leland G Corbridge but only two women in the world could ever use that name according to my liking. One was my grandmother Gailey who was 90 # of pure fire and brimstone, and the other was my mother who used it only when I needed adjusting from my childhood antics. She’d also add in the “G” just for good measure.

My father was a pillar of a man, honest and strong in values. Dedicated to his family and his livelihood. We were cattle ranchers from Northern Utah. As a boy, I was in the fields with the rest of the family by the time I could bend over and pick up a shovel or carry a bucket of coal to the house. I could ride a horse before I could a bicycle, was driving tractors by the time I was 6, and was taught at a very young age the value of hard work, and of life itself. The family past time was to sit on the porch and watch the glorious Utah sunsets and reflect on the day’s events. Something I cherish every day of my life.

So why do I tell you these things? So that you and I can come to an understanding of where “I” am coming from. I’m honest, brash, and in your face, in a friendly sort of way. I’m going to say things that will really get your dander up and make you scream, but all with good reason. I’m going to throw something at you called common sense. I don’t know about you but that seems to be missing a lot these days.

I’m also going to share with you a very simplistic approach to taking care of exotic cats. I make no claim to being an expert in any way, I’m just a simple man who sees simple approaches to solving major problems. My motto is, “Common Things Occur Commonly.” Well, to be honest, it came from a distinguished professor I had in medical school. What a profoundly intelligent man he was. My goal is to show you just how profound those four little words really are.

So what qualifies me to be here in this article? 2 Cougars named Cindy and Romeo, a Serval named KeeKee, and a Siberian Lynx named Jimmy. I share my life with these beautiful and loving animals, and knowing my wife, Robin, they surely won’t be the last. They say that my being a veterinarian carries a lot of weight. Sometimes I disagree. In the end, if all I help to achieve is that one animal lives a better, safer and happier life then everything was worth it.

Some of you will like my column, and some of you won’t. The interesting thing is that both responses are correct. Feel free to write and ask questions or give comments. Then again, isn’t that how we all learn by working together anyway?



*In response to an on-line request for a statement from a veterinarian regarding ownership of captive exotic cat species, Dr. Corbridge wrote the following professional opinion:*

One of the keys to maintaining proper health and welfare of animals in captivity is social interaction. Animals form deep emotional bonds with their owners and caregivers. They exhibit trust, appreciation, joy, and love, towards those who share their lives.

Animals born in captivity should remain in captivity for the duration of their lives. These animals should remain in the custody of the owners who have raised and bonded with them, as long as the standards of care remain at accepted levels. They trust their caregivers, and to remove them from the home that they are familiar with is to destroy their sense of safety and well being. Re winning that trust to a new owner is a long and arduous task that many do not ever achieve and remain apprehensive towards others lending it self to a life of unrest for that animal.

No captive born animal should ever be released into the wild. This in itself constitutes abuse as this animal would die a very slow agonizing death due to either starvation or predation. Captive bred wildlife also serve as a reservoir of genetic material from which propagation of that species is possible if the wild population becomes endangered.

Companionship of animals with man benefit both species. Not only does man benefit by the interaction of animals, but the animal does so as well. Animals also benefit from the interaction and companionship of other animals like themselves, as well as other unrelated species. In the end, all any animal desires is companionship, including man.

To jeopardize the existence of private captive owned wildlife is to in itself jeopardize the existence of the species as a whole and to remove from man one of the greatest experiences of mankind. To know that at one time such an animal could safely share and enrich both our lives.

Till next time  
Keep Looking Up,  
Doc