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May/June 2002

LIOC-
Endangered Species
Conservation Federation



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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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.

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Cover: Aretha Franklin Caracal of CCI in NC enjoys a roll in Spring flowers. Submitted by Mindy Stinner.

OOPS! We mistakenly did not include the information about the cover photo from the March/April newlsetter. It is of Karaharaja Serval & Friend owned by Cathy in Maine.

31st Annual LIOC-ESFC Conference

Wichita, Kansas, August 7-11, 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 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, 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:

- * 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, *ZuPreem 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?*

Submitted by: Kelly Jean Buckley, Chairman Conference Committee
602-996-5935 – kjbuck@qwest.net

LIOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS “NO” VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2

Editor's Note: The proposed amendment referred to in this letter is described on page 11 of this issue.

To the membership of the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation:

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation recommends that the membership vote to reject proposed constitutional amendment #2. There are two major reasons for this recommendation.

First, like the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the LIOC-ESCF is the cornerstone and protector of the core values and beliefs of our organization. As such it is not something to be changed willy-nilly on the spur of the moment. It is vitally important that the membership be fully informed and have ample opportunity to understand the long range implications of proposed amendments, discuss them with their friends and peers, and weigh the pros & cons. If amendment #2 were to be enacted the constitution could be changed as often as every eight weeks! The Board of Directors believes this is incompatible with the long term maintenance of the core values of our organization.

The second reason the Board of Directors opposes amendment #2 is more practical. If amendment #2 were to be enacted it would be possible for as few as three members to propose any number of proposed constitutional amendments to be presented in each issue of the newsletter; 1, 10, 100, 1000. It could easily be a Herculean, and frankly impossible task for the Board of Directors to administer such a process.

Respectfully, on behalf of the Board of Directors,

George N. Stowers
President,
LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

If you have a topic you wish to see placed on the agenda for discussion during the annual General Membership Meeting you may do so by sending it to:

LIOC AGENDA
P.O. Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080

It must be received no later than **June 30th, 2002** to allow for copying and distribution to the Board prior to the meeting.

Constitutional Amendment Proposal # 1: Proposal to adopt a new name for this Organization

To the Board of Directors of the LIOC-ESCF,

We the undersigned members of LIOC-ESCF, in accordance with Article VI, section 2 of the constitution, move that Article I of the constitution be amended as follows:

Strike out "LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc."

and insert "Feline Conservation Federation" after the words "The name of this Corporation shall be the"

The amended Article shall then read:

"The name of this Corporation shall be the Feline Conservation Federation."

Signed:

Lynn Culver 141 Polk 664 Mena, AR 71953 LIOC-ESCF membership #2919-587

Donna Verba 268 Polk 659 Mena, AR 71953 LIOC-ESCF membership # 4072-701

Tracy Wilson P.O. Box 1382 Searcy, AR 72153 LIOC-ESCF membership # 3924-399

Discussion:

The organization originally was founded as the Long Island Ocelot Club. The name was later changed to LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation and incorporated. Despite the previous name change, the organization is still most often referred to as LIOC, the acronym for Long Island Ocelot Club. Over the years, the organization has evolved from a club of pet ocelot owners into a diversified organization of pet owners, breeders, researchers, sanctuaries, exhibitors, private zoos, and enthusiasts from all over North America and abroad. These members work with all species of wild felines, not only ocelots, in many varied activities. The name Feline Conservation Federation was selected by us because it more correctly describes what the organization has evolved to and is now.

Endangered Species Conservation Federation had never gained widespread use. We don't even use the initials after LIOC most of the time. The words "Endangered Species" are too vague to convey the image of an organization dedicated to the propagation and preservation of felines. And most of the felines held by LIOC members are not even listed as endangered by the Fish and Wildlife service.

Wild Feline Conservation Federation was not selected by us because it implies to some, that these felines are either still "in the wild", or are wild, as in "not tame or dangerous", an image which will counteract community acceptance of our captive husbandry activities. The name Exotic Feline Conservation Federation does not cover the native felines, bobcat, cougar and lynx, three species held in abundance by LIOC members. The single word "Feline" was chosen because it is followed by the word "Conservation" - and conservation has the mental image of an action applied to **na-
ture**. And when the word feline is put in front of conservation, the image is of **all** the various spe-

cies of feline creatures being conserved. This more appropriate name will increase this organization's appeal the wide variety of feline keepers in the private sector, many of them who are not necessarily pet owners, but important members of the combined captive habitat. This broader membership should increase our ability to speak for and defend the private sector in federal, state and local arenas when fighting legislation.

We feel that we must continue to honor our roots of this organization with tributes to the LIOC - such as the LIOC Lotty award, the LIOC Ken Hatfield scholarship award and perhaps a newsletter name that reminds us of our roots.

Changing the name of the Corporation has been researched with the State of Florida Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, where LIOC-ESCF, Inc. is incorporated. In order to change the incorporated name, the Articles of Incorporation must also be changed. We must file an Articles of Amendment along with the \$35 filing fee to the Division of Corporations in Florida. This can all be done without the aid of an attorney.

In order to change the name under the tax exempt organizations [501(C) 3 designation], all that needs to be done is to fax or mail a copy of the state certified Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to the IRS. There are no forms or fees required.

The cost analysis of instituting a name change to the Corporation will be minimal. As stated above, the total fees for legal matters is \$35. Printed materials in existence can be used until exhausted. The materials handed out during the Husbandry Course are printed on an as needed basis. There would be a need to replace some transparencies used for the course. Estimated cost is \$5. The total expense for updating and making the necessary changes in materials involved with this motion would be a total of \$115 to \$165.

Lynn Culver



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Nominations for the LIOC-ESCF Board of Directors Elected Positions

The following folks are running for office on LIOC's board for the 2003-2004 term. They will be given time at convention to address those present. The ballots will be included in the Sept/Oct issue of our Newsletter.

President:

George Stowers
John Perry

Legal Affairs:

Lynn Culver

Vice President:

Bob Turner

Advertising & Publicity:

Carol Sigley
Bobby Bean

Sec/Treasurer:

Harold Epperson
Kevin Chambers

Education/Conservation:

Tracy Wilson

Member Services:

Leann Montgomery



N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center proudly breeds Bobcat, Serval, Geoffroy's Cat and Canadian lynx. Accepting deposits for kittens due this spring. Contact Lynn or Bart Culver at 501-394-5235 for more info. USDA license # 71-B-0116

2001 LIOC Convention tapes

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

Please send payment and shipping information to:

Deborah Walding

PO Box 1781

Beaverton, OR 97975



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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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2: Proposal to increase membership participation in the Corporation's actions

To the Board of Directors of the LIOC-ESCF,

We the undersigned members of LIOC-ESCF, in accordance with Article VI, section 2 of the constitution, move that Article VI, section 2 of the constitution be amended as follows:

Strike out the current Article VI, section 2 which currently reads:

"Every two (2) years, the months of February and March of the second year of the term of the current elected officers, shall constitute an interval of time during which all valid LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. members may introduce motions concerning the future actions of the Corporation. These motions must be undersigned by three(3) valid LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. members and mailed to the Directors. Upon decision of confirmation that the submitted motion confirms to the properties of a general meeting motion, as prescribed by the accepted authority of parliamentary procedure, the Directors shall authorize that the motion be published in the May issue of the Corporation Newsletter. For the duration of five (5) weeks after the distribution of the May edition of the Corporation Newsletter, members may mail their votes concerning each motion to the Directors. The results of these votings shall become effective August 1st in the year of the voting and shall be announced in the July edition of the Corporation Newsletter."

and replace with the following:

"All valid LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. members may introduce motions concerning the future actions of the Corporation. These motions must be undersigned by three(3) valid LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. members and copies mailed to the President, Vice President, and Secretary/ Treasurer. Upon confirmation that the submitted motion is in accordance with the properties of a general meeting motion, as prescribed by the accepted authority of parliamentary procedure, the Board of Directors shall authorize that the motion be published in the next issue of the Corporation Newsletter. For the duration of five (5) weeks after the distribution of the issue of that Corporation Newsletter, members may mail their votes concerning each motion to the Directors. The results of the balloting shall be announced in the next issue of the Corporation Newsletter that is printed following the end of the balloting. All motions passed shall become effective upon the distribution of the issue of the Corporation Newsletter listing the results of the balloting."

Signed:

Lynn Culver 141 Polk 664 Mena, AR 71953 LIOC-ESCF membership #2919-587

Robert Turner 4467 E. Dayhuff Road Mooresville, IN 46158 LIOC-ESCF membership # 3668-795

Kevin Chambers 7816 N. County Road 75W Shelburn, IN 47879 LIOC-ESCF membership # 4076-701

Discussion:

The proposed constitutional amendment originates from three individual members of LIOC, Bob Turner, Lynn Culver and Kevin Chambers, who are also respectively the LIOC Vice President, LIOC Director of Legal Affairs and secretary/treasurer nominee. We are also part of the By-Law review committee, appointed by president George Stowers to study this organization's by-laws and recommend improvements or revisions.

After 30 years of the Board of Directors adding and subtracting by-laws, there are now obsolete sections as well as inconsistencies in the various sections of the By-laws and between the Constitution and By-Laws. Our first recommendation was to propose this amendment for the membership's consideration, to enable the Constitution to be changed in a more timely manner when need be.

The Constitution gives us our name, our purpose, our life directors, term directors and officers and the length of their tenures, it outlines our nomination process and election process, it defines our membership, it outlines how the membership may participate in the corporation, limits the time when they may propose motions and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the general membership to amend the Constitution.

In the last decade, two constitutional amendments have been proposed by board members. One limits the membership's access to the office of the president by reserving it for only former board members or persons who have been LIOC members for 10 years or more. The other added the requirement that the BOD yearly budget be balanced and it removed the reference to the board's obligation to appoint the membership registrar - a position which had been made obsolete nearly a decade earlier when the by-laws were rewritten to create Member Services, as well as specific titles and responsibilities for the other three term directors.

In order for this organization to respond to a changing environment both internally and externally, the signers of this proposal believe members must have greater accessibility to give input. The only difference between the proposed amendment we have put before you for a vote, and the existing Article of the Constitution, is that with this proposal, an amendment can be proposed at any time of the year, as opposed to the way it is structured now, which only allows a limited two month period every two years for membership input. There are some who are saying that this proposal will lead to constitutional changes being made on spur of the moment impulses. Granted if passed, someone with an idea wouldn't have to wait 2 years to propose it anymore, but that hardly equates into "spur of the moment impulses".

With the advent of the LIOC internet list, most LIOC members actually have the benefit of discussing proposed changes with over one hundred other members online, and this enables most members to learn of proposals sooner, giving us actually a longer period of time to consider them and the ability to discuss online and read a broader variety of opinions concerning any proposal, so that today's members are better informed of the issues when they cast their vote on their ballots.

The implication has been suggested that this less restrictive time period will lead to motions being made that are frivolous and made only to disrupt the organization. It has even been said by some opposing this amendment that members could present dozens, or even hundreds, of proposed amendments that would totally paralyze the operation of LIOC. History has shown that LIOC has not had this problem with the current rules. As mentioned before, there have only been 2 previous proposals in the last decade. There has been nothing in the past to keep the same alleged frivolous or multiple proposals from being submitted and they have not happened. What reason is there to believe that it would start now?

Every branch organization of LIOC has provisions for their Constitution or bylaws to be changed at any meeting. Some branches even hold monthly meetings and none of them have seen the need to restrict their membership from proposing amendments. We believe that the membership of LIOC is capable of many great things and that participation by the general membership should be encouraged.

We ask that all LIOC members take an active interest in these two separate proposals and spend some time reading your copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. You may easily print out a copy of these documents by visiting our website at www.lioc.org. LIOC is a membership organization. It is **your** organization and you have a voice in its future, so please study the issues and get out your ballot and vote now. Thank you.

Lynn Culver

Best Buddies



Submitted by John Thomas Smith and Terrie Kaufman

In November 1997 our 4 week old spotted baby was introduced to a house with 3 domestic cats, so our “spoiled Princess” E’Leisha grew up thinking that domestic cats were just a normal part of life. Fast forward 2 years to the fall of 1999... E’Leisha is almost full grown, and always hides when it is our turn to host a Pacific NW Exotics meeting.

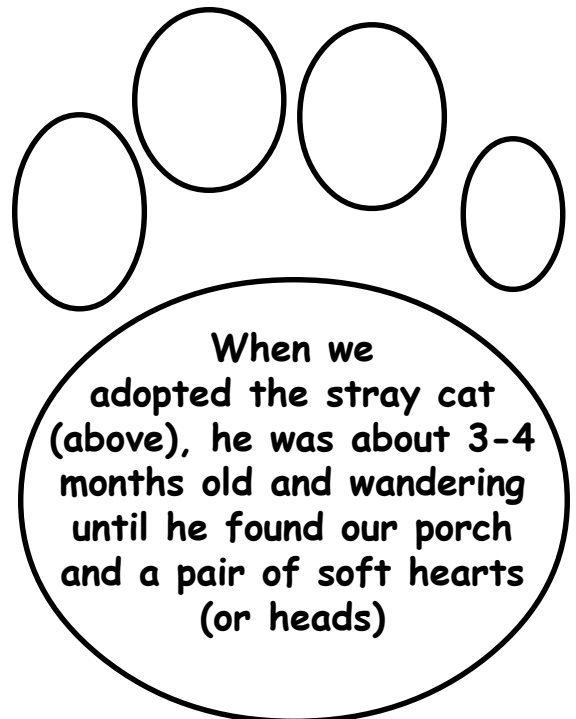
When we adopted this stray cat, he was “about” 3-4 months old and wandering until he found our porch and a pair of soft hearts (or heads). We fed him on the porch for about a month while we tried to find his owner... no success...and then the weather began to get cold.

He was much too young to stay outside, so off to the Vet for a health check and then inside, where he was named KC (KittyCat... what can I say?)

E’Leisha was very hissy for about 1.5 days, but was never aggressive (she was, after all, raised from 4 weeks with domestics) and then, as if a “switch” had toggled, she decided that KC was her “toy boy” and they became great buddies... they snuggle and wash each other, he is allowed to check out her food dish, and they even share playing with toys.

This is, of course, individual to each exotic cat’s personality, but it IS possible to have Serval and domestic get along well (but E’Leisha still hides on those days when we host a meeting and there are lots of “strange” 4-legged people visiting).

See John and Terrie’s web sites at:
www.pacifier.com/~jtsmith/BUDDIES.JPG
www.pacifier.com/~jtsmith
www.pacifier.com/~tkaufman



When we adopted the stray cat (above), he was about 3-4 months old and wandering until he found our porch and a pair of soft hearts (or heads)

Weenkle and Harry Wessels
Submitted by Brenda Wessels

Weenkle Bobcat and his
puppy, Harry, relax after
playtime.

best Bobcat Buddies

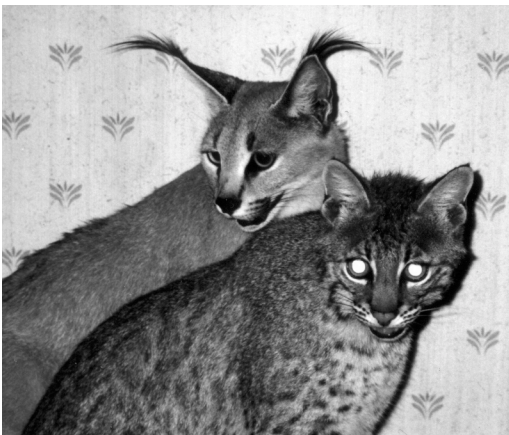


Exmoor and her Prairie Dog
Submitted by Ben Willis

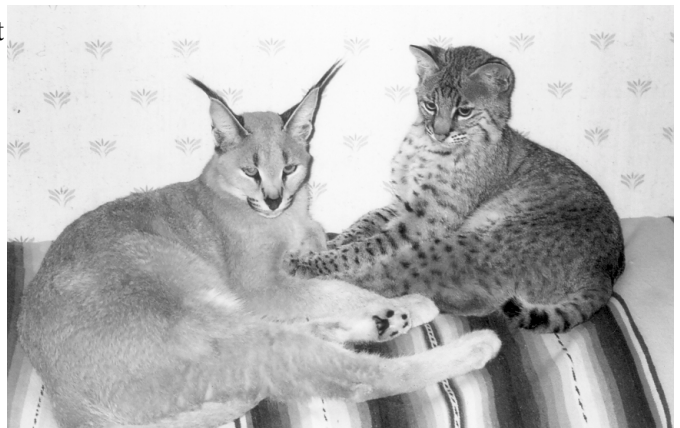


Exmoor Bobcat has
been friends with her
personal prairie dog
since their youth. The
only time they don't
get along is when the
prairie dog is in
breeding season. After
that passes, they go
back to having daily
playtime outside
together with their
domestic cat friend.

Minnie Bobaloo and Aretha Franklin
Submitted by Mindy Stinner



Bobaloo and
Aretha became best
friends in spite of
speaking different
languages--
Bobaloo spoke
only Bobcat
Tailspeak and
Aretha spoke
Caracal Earflick.
Result: two very
vocal cats and one
caracal who speaks
with her tail.



2002 Felid TAG Mid Year Meeting Report

As this year's LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation representative for the Felid TAG, I spent April 4 through 8 at the Portland Oregon Zoo attending various SSP meetings and conservation and husbandry presentations. There were approximately 160 attendees, and in addition to member institutions and feline researchers, the audience contained representatives of numerous private facilities. LIOC members in attendance included Robert Bean, Kevin Chambers, Colette Griffiths, Debbie Walding and myself.

Cheetah SSP Report

First on the Mid-Year Meeting agenda was the Cheetah SSP, chaired by Oklahoma city Zoo curator Jack Grisham. Laurie Marker of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa had planned to attend, but her recent back injury from a horseback riding accident must have kept her away. The report for the cheetah was rather grim. Twenty-five of the 53 institutions holding cheetah had same sex groups. Of the facilities which reported breeding activity in the past year, only three succeeded in producing any offspring—two off-exhibit facilities, White Oak and Oakhill in the US, and Rockton Zoo in Ontario. Clearly something needed to be done to facilitate successful reproduction. No births had occurred in the past 6 months. All 12 cubs born up to 18 months ago had been funneled into hand-raised educational ambassador positions and none were part of the future breeding pool. It was agreed this practice had to stop.

Bottom line was that they needed "cubs on the ground" and some present expressed the opinion that they should "breed anything that moves". Reviewing the past year's breeding recommendations, the consensus opinion emerged that trying to gain additional genetic representation out of the older felines through both natural breeding and 10 artificial insemination attempts in 2001 was probably the root of the failure in reproduction, and this year's emphasis was placed upon pairing up the younger generation. Another observation was that the breeding success of AZA facilities a decade ago was accomplished by zoo personnel who have since retired and the cheetah SSP managers recognized that there was a crushing need to get the new directors "up to speed" on cheetah husbandry.

And so began the process of making transfer recommendations to create pairings which might produce offspring. What was glaringly absent for the attendees to help them make their decisions was any medical or habitat data. Obviously some zoo habitats are better suited for courting and mating behaviors than others, but this fact seemed lost to the desperate attendants who called out each AZA facility name in alphabetical order and then mixed and matched the various cats with other facility cats in the same age bracket.

I left the cheetah meeting early to attend the Ocelot SSP with the distinct feeling that after a decade of SSP management, the cheetah population was not in good shape at all. In fact, I was told privately that actually all these recommendations to move cats here and there were just a back-up plan. Ten wild-caught cheetahs rescued by Laurie Marker's Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa and imported to Cincinnati Zoo, White Oak Plantation and Fossil Rim, all facilities with known successful track records in cheetah breeding, were what the SSP managers were really banking on to rescue the North American Cheetah Species Survival Plan.

Ocelot SSP Report

Next on my list of items to attend was the Ocelot SSP meeting chaired by Ken Kaemmerer of the Dallas Zoo. This species especially interested me since this past year the large collection of ocelots held by the struggling Carnivore Preservation Trust sanctuary had been dispersed using the guidance of the ocelot SSP coordinator, and rumors that many not wanted by AZA institutions had been sterilized before being placed in any non-AZA accredited facility had me very curious about the fate of these felines.

Ken began the meeting by giving a brief report on this very issue, stating that most of these CPT cats had been placed in AZA institutions. But not in breeding situations I discovered, because the ocelot SSP is one of the more curious "Species Survival Plans" out there. Seems this is an SSP being run as a POP—that means—phase out population. The Carnivore Preservation Trust ocelots transferred to AZA facilities are just occupying cage space—locking it in as ocelot space for the future influx of Brazilian ocelots this SSP hopes to import over the next few years. If everything goes according to plan, the entire captive population will be managed for a 5% yearly reduction in numbers. In the next two decades, in their place will be sub-species pure (theoretically—if all the ocelots caught out of the wild are caught from the same geographical locations) Brazilian ocelots.

Brazilian ocelots will be bred in captivity in Brazil under the assistance and with the financial support of the AZA. Ten participating facilities will ante up to \$9,000 each over the next five years for this project and in exchange they will receive an unrelated pair of founder ocelots. So Brazil must capture 40 different ocelots to satisfy the AZA needs. In addition, there are hopes of importing fertilized eggs from Brazil to supplement the captive North American population. Forty frozen ocelot embryos created with the help of Bill Swanson of the Cincinnati Zoo are in Brazil ready for import to the US.

Some of the \$90,000 Brazil will receive will be channeled into habitat restoration, some of it will provide studbook and captive husbandry training. But the in-situ habitat restoration is what the organizers of this import scheme hope will satisfy the US Fish and Wildlife Service's enforcement of the Endangered Species Act to allow AZA to bring in more endangered species for captive breeding purposes.

The very long-range plans I was told, are for the future offspring of these captive animals to someday be returned to their homeland in Brazil for release into the wild. And while that is a noble goal, it is also rather far fetched, and I wondered if the AZA community might not be better off to just manage the captive population it has with the best science available to them, and donate the entire \$90,000 to help Brazil save its ocelot habitat.

For North America's ocelot population, Ken said that the US Fish and Wildlife Service recently disbanded the original recovery team formed over a decade ago and is in the process of reforming it again with new personnel and this species has been moved up to the top ten priorities.

Ken also announced that contrary to the way breeding loans and zoo transfers have been conducted in the past, he was told recently by the Fish and Wildlife Service, **that any interstate transfer of native endangered species, whether commercial in nature or not, requires a permit from that office.** The non-commercial interstate transfer of ocelots requires that the F & W be sent a letter of intent, stating where the animals are now, where they are going to, and a brief description of the enclosures the animal will occupy. A letter of permission should take only about 2 weeks, he was told. This is to create a written paper trail that I imagine can be used as proof of rebuttable presumption if the transaction is truly non-commercial in nature, or it might be used as proof of perjury as well as Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act violations if the transaction was actually commercial in nature.

Dr Arturo Caso gave a presentation on his work to capture and radio collar ocelots in North East Mexico. Tracy Wilson, LIOC Conservation and Education Director, will be setting up an LIOC-ESCF member trip into Mexico this fall to assist him, so interested LIOC members start saving your pennies for this great opportunity to participate in a real in-situ research project. Arturo has captured 45 ocelots to date. He has documented habitat use, distribution records and parasite loads on this feline.

Tiger SSP Reports - Amur, Sumatran & Indochinese

Nine Amur tigers (formerly referred to as Siberian tigers—but Amur is the new politically correct buzzword for this sub-species) have been imported in the past 10 years. The AZA population stands at 149 presently and is at full capacity, as only 150 cage spaces are allocated for this species.

Sumatran tigers have expanded from 15 animals in 1982 to the present population of 55 animals. Currently the Sumatran tiger population is suffering from a bad age class pyramid caused by a 3-year moratorium on breeding while SSP managers wrestled over some undisclosed problem with the genetics of the population. But apparently after three years of investigations, the breeding recommendations have resumed. But this management decision has left the population hampered by the three year age gap in young animals. Further, the program desperately needs new founders and it is hoped that Sumatra will send some of its problem tiger's captive offspring our way.

The Indochinese tigers had several litters born recently. And several zoos have imported new animals. Unfortunately, each zoo acted on its own and when the genetics of the 5 new tigers were studied, it was discovered that they were all related to each other. Currently the present population of 37 animals is derived from only 4 founders.

Ron Tilson gave a very interesting history lesson on the South China Tiger. Chairman Mao declared the tiger a pest species in the 1950's and further declared that all trees were to be cut down to provide fuel for steel mills and during a short, 5-year period the tiger population was reduced from 4,000 to only 500 individuals.

Ron also gave an overview of a very ambitious and totally impossible project being supported by the Chinese government. They plan to raise tigers in large natural habitats and feed them live prey and prepare them to be re-introduced into the wild. The major stumbling block to this plan is that the "wild" they are to be released into had all of its deciduous trees cut down in the 50's and then replaced with conifers. These trees support no prey species under them, and so the Chinese government plans to cut down all the living trees in a huge mountainous area again and replace them with suitable hardwood seedlings. 10,000 people currently living in this area will have to be re-located, and all the necessary prey species will have to be raised in captivity and reintroduced into the newly created eco-system once the hardwood seedlings have grown into trees, before releasing the captive tigers. Sadly, neither I, nor any of the participants at the TAG I spoke with, felt this project would ever reach fruition. And it reminds me of the children's nursery rhyme I often recite when contemplating man's efforts to re-create nature: "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again."

Fishing Cat and Jaguar Reports

Other SSP meetings I attended were the Fishing Cats and the Jaguar. Both of these seemed very redundant to last fall's report of last spring's Mid Year meeting. But the Fishing Cat SSP did pretty much decide to just manage this feline on a species level, rather than sub-species level, opening up the doors to allow zoos to import from whomever they set up contacts with.

The Jaguar SSP concentrated on educational materials being developed. They were happy to announce that this generic population being kept for "education and research purposes" is now part of an actual research study. It seems that jaguars in captivity have the highest incidence of endometrial cancer of all the felid species and research is being conducted to study this captive husbandry phenomena.

Pallas Cat - A Conservation Challenge by Bill Swanson

Three issues must be dealt with to succeed in maintaining a sustainable captive population. 1. Pallas Cats have a unique reproductive biology in that there is extreme seasonality in response to day length on the male sperm count. This limits the breeding season to just a very short period. 2. Some of these felines have herpes virus, possibly caused by using a modified live vaccine. 3. But the most pressing issue of all is that this feline has no natural immunity to toxoplasmosis and therefore Pallas Cat kittens exposed to this parasitic organism experience a very high mortality rate. Advances in effective chemotherapy treatments have helped bring down the number of kitten fatalities, but the problem is far from cured.

Studies of wild Pallas Cats in Mongolia, as well as feral and domestic cats and rats, all potential carriers of this organism, have finally provided some answers to this mystery. It seems that the eco-system the Pallas Cat has adapted to does not carry a toxoplasmosis threat. This species lives in a pristine, but harsh environment. It has not had to evolve along side this organism, and so while adult Pallas Cats captured and brought into zoo institutions and exposed to it manage to mount enough of an immune response to survive, they become carriers, and their kittens, having naturally immature immune systems are especially susceptible and frequently die when exposed to this organism. Bottom line is that any Pallas Cat brought into captivity is completely unsuitable for any future captive release, as it would shed this organism into the pristine environment and spell ecological disaster for the native population.

Endangered Species Permits - by Alan Shoemaker

Interstate commerce of endangered species for the purpose of obtaining rare founders to supplement an established SSP is no longer sufficient reason alone to gain a F & W permit. Alan reported that Fish and Wildlife Service wants all international transactions of wild caught and captive-born endangered species to be directly linked to aiding the species in the wild. There must be positive effects on the wild population. This translates into new responsibilities for SSP program chairs. Zoos will have to identify conservation projects that zoos can support to gain F & W permission to import endangered species for their collections. Bottom line, Alan reported was, "The price of doing business just went up."

Adrenal Corticoid levels in Clouded Leopard fecal samples

There was also an update on experimental modification of enclosure furniture and their effect on adrenal activity

and behavior in clouded leopards by Nadja Wieldbnowski. Stool samples are gathered and examined for fecal adrenal corticoid levels to help determine correlations between stressful behaviors observed by keepers and actual stress levels in clouded leopards. 74 animals, 37 males and 37 females, were part of this long-term study. Pacing, hiding and self-injury behaviors did correspond to high corticoid levels in the fecal samples. But when I asked Nadia what percent of this population of 74 test animals was chronically stressed based on the fecal hormone levels, she responded that they cannot determine that sort of data, they can only say the animal is more stressed today than yesterday, and less stressed yesterday than the day before, etc. Bottom line - lots of stool samples piling up but not much information as a result.

Cheetah Disease Issues - Linda Munsen

This was a real eye-opener presentation, and it seemed to me that perhaps this should have preceded the SSP meeting, as Linda pointed out many issues which factor into any decision to move cheetah from facility to facility. Linda reported that over 800 cheetah tissue samples obtained from biopsies and necropsies have been collected from 1988 to 2002. Findings from these samples include veno-occlusive disease, gastritis, amyloidosis, glomerulosclerosis, oxalate nephrosis, leukoencephalopathy.

Infections, FIP, canine parvo, helicobacter, gastritis, herpes, blastomycosis, toxoplasmosis and feline immunodeficiency disease are all found in the North American captive cheetah population. Interestingly, only 1 in 36 wild cheetahs had gastritis and only 1 in 45 wild cheetahs had veno-occlusive. Elevated corticoid-steroid levels are found in captive cheetahs and diseases worsen after moving. And so the question was posed, "Are we spreading disease by moving animals between zoos?"

One of the more common cheetah ailments is helicobacter bacteria in their stomachs, causing gastritis. Antibiotic treatments were 100% effective in 18 cheetahs but 50% became re-infected after treatment. The stomach lesions actually got worse.

Another serious disease is cheetah leukoencephalopathy. This is a brain disorder, causing neurological problems and locomotion problems. It is found in the US cheetahs only, and just in the aged animals. Sixty-two animals in our captive population of just over 200 have this disease, and it is endemic in most facilities. It does not seem to be traceable to any particular deficiencies, genetic predisposition or toxins. Research is underway to test the theory that the repeated treatments of antibiotics and pepto-bismol or the gastritis might be linked to this. Another theory is that this is linked to aluminum and studies of the aluminum content in the adagent content of vaccines is underway, with initial findings that Imrab 3, a rabies vaccine is high in aluminum. And some have wondered if the cumulative effects of all of the anesthesia these cheetahs are exposed to in their lifetime for routine examinations, AI attempts, and various medical treatments play a role in the development of this disease.

Spermatogonial Stem Cell Xenotransplantation in the Cat: Potential benefits for conservation - Alex Travis

This was a complex presentation, and rather than try to explain the science—I will just cut to the chase. Stem cells from the male reproductive tracts are collected from donors who are significant genetic specimens that never contributed to the gene pool, possibly because they just perished and they are not mature specimens, or are older specimens who never properly mated. Things are done to these stem cells in the lab and then these cells are transplanted into recipients (i.e. domestic cats) and the recipients would carry the genes of the donor animal, such as a rare Pallas Cat, or even cheetah. These cats would then be electro-ejaculated to produce sperm for artificial insemination of the females. And even more far out is Alex's proposal that this technology can be refined to eventually cross the species lines, so that instead of having to fund the cost of keeping a colony of domestic tomcats alive, simple rats or mice could be made to carry the sperm of endangered species. I can just imagine trying to collect that semen.

Thailand Clouded Leopard Project - Rick Swartz

The search for new wild blood continues, with greater details of this ambitious scheme. Rick has visited this country several times in the past few years and toured 5 zoos in search of a suitable breeding site. He presented an interesting slide show to illustrate his findings. In Thailand, he reported, the government provides plenty of money for capital projects, but no money for maintenance. 3.5 million in tax dollars were spent on concrete and glass "oven-type enclosures" built by army engineers. Rick determined the Khao Khew Zoo was the best, with 12

clouded leopards present, 3 of them on exhibit. Amazingly, they were sandwiched in-between tigers, leopards and bears, and I do mean sandwiched—the cages were small, only 3 meters square, with concrete floors and chain link common walls. But amazingly, the animals did not appear stressed, according to Rick, they had perfect hair, exhibiting no plucking behaviors at all.

The hopeful clouded leopard breeding site is a series of off-exhibit area cages in 2 rows of three cages each, originally built for hornbills but never occupied, measuring 75' by 25' by 30 feet high and completely overgrown with native jungle plant life. Probably the biggest stumbling block to this project is the Thailand government's initial proposed budget for the AZA to fund, at a cost of \$540,000 per year, for six years. I guess Thailand believes this species has the charisma of a panda, and AZA zoos will pay handsomely for them. Obviously some more financial negotiations with the government will be necessary before the AZA will have its hand-raised and paired clouded leopard kittens to import. They will also have to locate a suitable in-situ conservation project in Thailand to link to, to satisfy the US Fish and Wildlife on import permits, as currently there are no ongoing projects.

Working Groups - Studbooks and Sanctuaries

Felid TAG agendas include working groups in addition to presentations. Working groups do just that - the attendants break into various sized groups and tackle a subject. The first working group I attended was the Studbooks, SSP and PMP working group. I accomplished several important goals of mine concerning both LIOC-ESCF and the newly formed Geoffroy's Cat SES project. I was able to give useful input concerning the status of various small wild cat species held by the private sector to Alan and make suggestions to the studbook keepers concerning caracals.

The Geoffroy's Cat SES was also given the official green light from Alan to continue the defunct North American Geoffroy's Cat Studbook and Alan has graciously passed on the database file to me. And as I outlined the concept of the SES, Species Enhancement Strategy to Ken Kraemmerer, who was also in attendance, he agreed that if the private breeders of ocelots and interested facilities were to form an Ocelot SES, that the generic ocelots being phased out by the SSP could possibly be released into our management to augment our gene pool, rather than being sterilized and sent to sanctuaries. Ken confirmed my opinion that the private facilities must organize their breeding and conservation efforts into a long-term management plans before the AZA facilities and the SSP managers will take us seriously. They have seen too many times in their own experience how when each facility acts independently, time and efforts are wasted through needless duplication and only through cooperative efforts can any real conservation be accomplished.

Feline Dispersal into Private Sanctuary Facilities

On the final day of the Felid TAG another working group formed with the goal of identifying standards for the release of AZA felines, whether surplus or geriatric into non-AZA accredited sanctuary type facilities. Numerous private people attended and gave input, including myself, Colette Griffiths, Laura Morin and another Wild About Cats volunteer, Mike and Debbie Wyche of Cat Tails, Barbara Dicely of Leopards, Etc. and one of her volunteers and Debbie Walding. Kim Davidson of the Hogle Zoo and leader of this working group had researched what possible sanctuary options were available to the AZA and found both the ASA website (the American Sanctuary Association, founded by Tippi Hedren) and the TAOS website (The Association of Sanctuaries, founded by Pat Derby). Without knowing the players and the politics of this issue, it seemed like the logical choice to the AZA. I was able to provide much back ground information concerning the majority opinion of private facilities against the historically poor husbandry practices of both these founders and explain why many reputable facilities refuse to join their associations and why AZA needs to broaden their horizons and use the LIOC resources as well when contemplating feline placements. Further, I pointed out that in the few years I have attended Felid TAG meetings, I have never seen any ASA or TAOS members present, as their actions show they not really concerned with husbandry and conservation issues, they are too busy with their own agenda. And it is the private LIOC-ESCF members and private breeders who are more involved with real conservation issues and attend these learning sessions. The actual decisions will be between each member zoo and the private facility, but the guidelines discussed and to be formed will aid directors in keeping within the animal welfare and ethics standards AZA adheres to.

(Continued at bottom of following page)

Your Animals' Futures

Submitted by Liz Hatton

OK, this is not a "little known fact." However, if there is even one person who has not thought of it, it's worth writing about.

Where will your cat go if you "go" before your cat?

Start by making a list of people you would trust to care for your cat. (If you have multiple animals, some people may pair off better with certain animals.)

ASK these people if they would be willing to take care of the animals if something happened to you. Never assume that someone who loves to visit is ready to dedicate their life to your pet. Create a list in case when the time comes, one is unable or unwilling to take over.

Make sure you educate them about the needs of your cat. It would be ideal for both the cat and the new owner if they were familiar with each other.

Talk to them about financial responsibility. You may need to set up a fund to help with housing, vet care, food, etc.

Put it in writing...and make sure all parties involved have a copy. Also, if you live in an area where you need licenses or permits, and the people you are leaving your animal(s) to are not currently licensed, call the appropriate agencies and find out what protocol is for the transfer of animals in the event of death of the owner.

It's not a bad idea to have a similar temporary plan in the event you are hospitalized and can not be around for your cats.

This is just an introduction to planning for the future of all of your pets should you no longer be able to care for them. Take action to plan for their futures now, so they will get the care you want for them.

(Continued from previous page)

In Conclusion

There is no doubt in my mind that LIOC attendance at the yearly Felid TAG meetings is one of the more productive efforts this organization has committed itself to. And I commend president George Stowers who has opened this communication door for our organization. Attending the TAG is an opportunity to see first hand the workings of the largest zoological association in North America. One witnesses both their successes and their failings. One learns the latest in conservation facts and captive husbandry issues. The professionals who attend are not the same AZA corporate office types who have issued such close-minded position statements against private ownership. These people are feline enthusiasts, they are friendly and sharing of their knowledge. They are open to our input. Next year's Felid TAG meeting will be at the Dallas Zoo and I urge every LIOC-ESCF member to consider attending this event.

AZA has set some very high standards for membership into their organization and they have the respect of the state and federal legislators. This has gained them exemptions from many ban laws. We private owners and breeders need to educate ourselves and these same agencies about the problems facing the future of sustainable captive husbandry in zoological environments.

Private facilities must not expect AZA to drop these standards for us. We must constantly raise our own bar to be considered serious players in the conservation and captive husbandry force so that our facilities and captive gene pools may gain state and federal exemptions also.

AZA species management plans are not perfect and they are not problem-free, as I have revealed in the past few articles. They have room for improvement, and perhaps their over-reliance on high-tech answers will be the fall of their empire, as we private breeders just plod along with our good old-fashioned off-exhibit husbandry practices and our high keeper to feline ratio formula.

Submitted by Lynn Culver

Bumper sticker seen at TAG meeting:

Extinction solves animal problems.

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 days--at 8
weeks old

For additional information, contact:

Tracy Wilson at (501) 368-0399;
wildcat@ipa.net

or

George Stowers at (315) 342-4997;
gstowers@twcnny.rr.com



Update: Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund was pleased to award \$400 to Matt Fraker, DVM, as a partial scholarship to attend the zoo course in Knoxville, TN this June. Dr. Fraker has been practicing veterinary medicine at the Prairie Oak Veterinary Center in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois for almost 10 years. He is also the main veterinarian for the Miller Park Zoo in that community. Their collection includes Snow Leopards and Sumatran Tigers and in the past they've had Mountain Lions and Lions.

Dr. Fraker's clinic sees many privately owned and other non-domestic animals (over 600 last year). With one other Doctor he also does wildlife rehabilitation.

Sound recommendations from Thomas J. Burke, DVM, MS, former head of the University of Illinois Veterinary Wildlife Medical Clinic and John Tobias, Director for the Miller Park Zoo helped the board make a positive decision.

As an added bonus, Dr. Fraker told us he loves to write and we can look forward to an article on his experience in a future Newsletter.

Submitted by Carin Sousa

Writing Your Will?



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

Cooler cats in town

By NEIL STRASSMAN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Thu, Apr. 18, 2002

FORT WORTH, Texas - The endangered jaguar, largest cat in the Americas, moved a small step away from extinction with the recent birth of two cubs.

The cubs, born at the Fort Worth Zoo in February, are working hard to upstage the city's new minor-league baseball team, the Fort Worth Cats, for the title of hippest cat in town.

The 9-week-old girls - Xinka and Ceiba - made their public debut last week in the zoo's new Texas Wild! wing.

So far, the cubs are doing what comes naturally to all cats: sleeping. "Twenty hours a day," said Stacey Johnson, exhibit curator.

When they're up and about, in the morning and before the evening meal, the cubs act like most kittens - tumbling, jumping, falling over each other and swatting at anything and everything.

Their mom, 4-year-old Cocoy, steps in, grabbing a cub by the scruff of the neck with her teeth to carry it across the compound.

The cubs are cute and cuddly now, but when they get just a little bit older it will become unwise to turn your back on them, Johnson said.

"Jaguars are contrary and they are always thinking two steps ahead of you. To them, playing and hunting is the same thing," Johnson said. "I wouldn't go in with them."

And they're big.

The species is the third-largest cat in the world, topped only by tigers and lions. Jaguars are the largest cat in the Western Hemisphere, typically weighing between 100 and 200 pounds. They have been shot by farmers and ranchers and hunted to the point of extinction for their remarkably beautiful fur.

Once native to Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, they still roam freely from Mexico to the tip of South America, but their numbers - estimated in the thousands and probably not more than 10,000 - are in decline, said Bob Wiese, the zoo's director of animal collections and national coordinator for the Jaguar Species Survival Plan for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

There have been isolated sightings of jaguars in the wild in the United States every few years, but their presence is becoming increasingly rare, he said.

Jaguars can adapt to diverse habitats - rain forest, scrub forest and even the desert - but unlike bobcats and mountain lions, they don't do well in developed agricultural and urban areas, Wiese said. They swim well and eat almost anything, from armadillos to domestic livestock.

These cubs, who arrived Feb. 2, are the first born at the zoo in 30 years. Their parents are among 75 jaguars in the Species Survival Plan program at American zoos.

"Like many populations of endangered animals, nobody was paying attention," Wiese said. "Now there is a concerted effort to breed jaguars."

There is also an effort to educate the public about them. Johnson is developing a bilingual presentation on jaguars for schools in Texas and others in Spanish-speaking countries.

Cubs normally take milk from their mother for up to six months, Johnson said. But these Fort Worth cats are beginning to eat fresh meat. Don't be surprised if they're soon ready to play ball.

SOURCE W/ PHOTOS:

<http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/nation/3089074.htm>

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First Vaccine for Cat AIDS Approved for Veterinary Use

Source: AScribe Newswire, 22 Mar 2002 [edited by ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>]

"The first vaccine for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) was approved for commercial production and veterinary use today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The patented vaccine for this disease, which is a cat form of AIDS, has been licensed for manufacture to Fort Dodge Animal Health, a division of Wyeth. Patents for the vaccine are held by the University of California and the University of Florida.

The vaccine should be available to veterinarians by this summer..."

[This is major news as it will have direct impact on the human side of this vaccine development. I am getting e-mails already from a number of sources regarding the excitement of this. It is an emerging disease — albeit in low numbers — but it has been known to sweep through humane society shelters & catteries and emerges as a major problem in housing of cats. It has also caused problems for people with HIV having an FIV positive cat, because of the susceptibility of transmission to the person.

ProMED-mail does not endorse the vaccine, but rather offers this as news of a scientific breakthrough regarding serious illness in cats, and in the hope that technology of this sort may soon be applied to HIV. - Mod.TG]

WHAT'S NEW AT THE PLAYA DE ORO RESERVA DE TIGRILLOS, ECUADOR - 2002

(A Conservation Project Sponsored by Earthways Foundation)

Submitted by Colette Griffiths

Those of you who have been following the story of Ching, the baby margay rescued from an illegal wild animal trafficker and brought to the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos a little over a year ago, will be happy to know that he has now been returned to the wild - although not quite as we had planned.

Although Ching showed good hunting skills (no rodent or snake that found its way through the mesh and into his large enclosure ever got out alive), he was still young and we wanted to be sure he was strong enough to stand up to resident wildcats before sending him out there where life really IS a jungle.

However, Ching must have decided he WAS old enough, so released himself by ripping a hole in the mesh of his enclosure. The staff immediately opened one side of the enclosure and continued to put food out in case Ching wasn't able to find enough on his own. He sometimes showed up to take a small fish or freshwater shrimp from the pool in the enclosure, but his infrequent visits indicated that he wasn't all that desperate.

Now, several months after his escape into the reserve's protected rainforest, he is still being sighted from time to time in the clearing around the lodge. He appears to be in good health, so it seems that he was right about being ready for the responsibilities of freedom.

Meanwhile we have initiated a survey of wildcats in the reserve in order to have a better idea of how many margays, ocelots, or ocelots rescued from illegal animal traffickers or other cruel captive situations can be released there without crowding resident cats. We know that jaguars and pumas were pretty much hunted out before the reserve was established, as none have been sighted in the area in at least a decade. But of the smaller species, we haven't a clue as to their numbers.

In our "track traps", ocelot and margay or ocelot tracks appear frequently, and it is not uncommon to hear their vocalizations right around the lodge in the early morning hours. We're now in the process of setting up "photo traps" in order to get more data on these smaller species.

Dr. Luke Hunter, a well-known Australian researcher with experience in radio collaring cheetahs and lions in Africa, hopes to expand our research into small-cat behavior by radio-collaring some of the reserve's ocelots, margays, and ocelots. However, as this phase is dependant upon Dr. Hunter obtaining a grant to fund the research, we can't say when it will begin.

Those wishing to work with the reserve's staff in collecting track and photo data should contact Rosa Jordan at rosaj@look.ca

Please note that volunteers are required to pay for their room and board (\$550/month), and must be able to speak at least a little Spanish, as that is the only language spoken by the reserve's staff.

For the cats,
Rosa Jordan

SOURCE W/ PHOTOS:

<http://www.bigcats.com/catnews20020409.mv>



Minutes for MEFES Meeting April 20, 2002

Held at the home of Bill and Diana Johnson, Zionsville, Indiana

President Harold Epperson started the meeting by thanking the hosts.

Several new members were introduced. We are now up to 124 members.

Peggy Epperson read the minutes of the last Jan. meeting. She then read the treasurers report.

Bob Turner and Carol Siegley Bohning talked about the Sparks Program and what SPARKS stands for.

The new I.D. cards were discussed. It was mentioned that they need to be not quite as wide, and more centered.

The request for individuals pictures in the directory was put on hold.

Amendment to the by laws: Members are to be notified 7 days prior to the meeting (in writing) of a change. Motion passed.

The office of sec./treasurer to be split, LIOC advised to amend it in our by-laws as such or add an office. Put on hold for time being.

At this point a male belly dancer arrived in honor of Diana Johnson's birthday, courtesy of her husband. A good laugh was enjoyed by everyone, even Diana.

A pitch-in dinner was enjoyed with pork burgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill by former member Robert Miller.

Jann Tonyan held a small raffle to raise funds for her spay/neuter program for feral cats.

Everyone enjoyed touring the Johnson's facility and seeing all the bobcats and servals.

The next meeting is July 20, 2002 at Carol Siegley Bohning and Craig Bohning (Butternut Farm Wildcat Sanctuary) in Johnstown, Ohio. It will be a pitch-in dinner, 12:00 Ohio time.



ACEF Meeting February 16, 2002

Submitted by Teresa Albert

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Dues and membership:

It was suggested that renewal envelopes be included in the newsletter to make sending in dues and renewals much easier. To save on newsletter expenses, newsletters would be mailed to members only.

Old Business:

- The checking account has been updated with John Kaelin's signature card.
- Job descriptions for the new officers were discussed after the meeting.

Lynx article:

Update: The lynx from last month's news article was placed at Northwest Trek. According to the article it was believed that the owner had set the animal free to fend on its own. To prevent such an incident from occurring again a new process for dealing with unwanted animals has been put into place. When an owner notifies the club that they can no longer keep an animal it will be immediately picked up and placed in a temporary home until a permanent home can be found. The old process was to leave the animal with the owner until a new permanent home was found. It was also mentioned that if an owner were to go criminal by setting their animal free that behavior will not be condoned and full cooperation with investigators will be given.

Future Newsletter articles topics:

- Intestinal Blockage (stories with Eiger, Lex, Nikko and Big Boy)
- Diet
- Toys
- Grass

The newsletter officer will dictate the theme of the newsletter. Christi Hall, the Vice-President, will continue on the subject of rabies and health issues.

Treasurer's report covered.

Jobs:

We have our first Public Relations job. ACEF has a vendor booth at the Lewis County Mall Cats show in April. Christi Hall, Rebecca Loudermilk and myself will be manning the booth. If willing, Maggie Bogart and Dee Dee Murray's artwork could be displayed. It was suggested that funds from the treasury be spent on buying the club a flag with the club name and logo so it can be displayed at the booth and any other events. Wearing T-shirts and buttons was also an idea.

Senate Bill:

It was announced that Senate Bill 5729 is dead for this year.

LIOC name change:

The topic of LIOC changing its name was mentioned and whether or not ACEF still wanted to be associated with LIOC if they did change the name. Banter went around the room but no conclusions were made.

ACEF's own Convention:

An idea was presented that ACEF have its own convention this July. Those present thought it would be a good idea but the reality of putting something that large together in such short notice didn't seem possible.

Agenda for March:

Minutes Review
Completion of Old Business
New Business
PR Booth at Cat Show in April
Treasurer's Report
Discuss nominations for LIOC board (Due Mar 20)

A Dose Of Common Sense from

DOC

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*Dear Doc,
Can I give my pet chocolate as a treat?*

Chocolate Toxicity

Geeeeese ... Look, it's OK to give your 100# dog one Hersey's kiss a week. Outside of that why would you want to tempt fate? Here's the run down...

Chocolate contains: theobromine and caffeine

Milk chocolate contains 44 mg/ounce

Semisweet or dark chocolate contains 130-185 mg/oz

Unsweetened or Baker's chocolate contains 392 mg/oz

LD50 is about 200 mg/kg of chocolate. If you cut that in half you would lose 1 in 4 animals! That's only 100 mg/kg.

That's not much. About 10-15 oz of milk chocolate will kill 1 in 4 12# dogs. With Bakers Chocolate, 2.5 ounces is all it takes! So please stay away from the chocolate.

Affects: Heart, Central Nervous System, Pancreas, Blood Sugar Levels

Overdose: restlessness, tachycardia, cns irritability, hyperesthesia, incontinence, diuresis muscular stiffness, spasm, seizures, convulsions, tetanic response, polypnea, hyperthermia, death.

In the end you have a dog going into shock, with heart irregularities, seizures, and vomiting constantly, with a body temp over 106, and blood glucose over 600. You don't know which end to treat first and the whole while the owner is standing there saying, "But Doctor, my pet NEVER gets into anything, not my Fluffy."

Why anyone would give that to their exotic cats is beyond me. So the next time you do give your animals chocolate I'm sending Karen from Big Cats at Serenity Springs (aka "MOM" at bigcatresq@aol.com) over to tell you to stick your hands out so she can slap them.

I Hope This Helps
Keep Looking Up

Doc