

Volume 44, Issue 2

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ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



Piper

Keith and Tracy Wilson's serval
at the 1999 IIOC Convention



LIOC

Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.

This Newsletter is published bimonthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a nonprofit (Federal I.D. 59-2048618) noncommercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members. The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. LIOC ESCF, Inc.'s Statement of Intent is contained in our bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without

the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner LIOC. Since the Newsletter consists primarily of articles, studies, photographs and artwork contributed by our members, we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible. Articles concerning exotic felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Deadline for the next issue is the first of even numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor. Persons interested in joining LIOC should contact the Term Director in charge of Member Services.

Founder: Catherine Cisin

Editor: Marge Maxwell

PO Box 101
Bowling Green, KY 42102
270-777-9966, Fax 270-777-1085
Email: liontriumphant@mindspring.com

OFFICERS:

President: Barbara Wilton

7800 SE Luther Rd.
Portland, OR 97206
503-774-1657
margay@spiritone.com

Vice President: George Stowers

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
Email: gstowers@twcnny.rr.com

Secretary/ Treasurer: Tonya Jones

PO Box 124
Cromwell, KY 42333
270-274-3072
Email: tjserval2@aol.com

TERM DIRECTORS:

Advertising & Publicity:

Jana Londre

831 Parkside Cr. N.
Boca Raton, FL 33486
561-395-5068
Email: caracal123@aol.com

Education/Conservation:

Bob Turner

1345 Dayhuff Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-831-0817
Email: robert..l.turner@gm.com

Legal Director: Lynn Culver

141 Polk 664
Mena, AR 71953
501-394-5235
Email: culvers@voltage.net

Member Services:

Kelly Jean Buckley

PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028
602-996-5935
Email: kjbuck@uswest.net

LIFE DIRECTORS:

J. B. Anderson

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

John Perry

6684 Central Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-7918
Email: johntperry@uswest.net

Carin Sousa

2960 Bay St.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561
850-932-6383
Email: carin6699@aol.com

Shirley Wagner

3730 Belle Isle Ln.
Mobile, AL 36619
Phone/fax: 334-661-1342
Email: ocelots@compuserve.com

BRANCHES:

**Alliance for the Conservation of
Exotic Felines - Cascade Branch
of LIOC: Jeanne Hall**

PO Box 415
Vader, WA 98593
Email: jeanneh@toledotel.com

Exotic Feline Educational Society:

Ethel Hauser

14622 NE 99th St.
Vancouver, WA 98682
360-892-9994

**Midwest Exotic Feline Educational
Society: Carol E. Siegley**

P.O. Box 1245
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
Email: lynxrufus2@aol.com

Pacific Northwest Exotics:

Steve Belknap

PO Box 205
Gresham, OR 97030
503-658-7376
Email: pnwe@effectnet.com

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

Canada: Scarlett Bellingham

PO Box 722
Niverville, Manitoba, ROA IEO,
Canada.
204-388-4845 home and fax

Central: J. B. Anderson

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

Northeast: George Stowers

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
Email: gstowers@twcnny.rr.com

Northwest: See Branches

Southeast: Jean Hatfield

1991 SW 136th Ave.
Davie, FL 33325
954-472-7276

Southwest: Lorene Vigne

20889 Geyserville Ave.
Geyserville, CA 95441
707-857-3524
Email: isisoasis@saber.net

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A Special Thank You to

- Rick Armstrong**
- Kelly Jean Buckley**
- David Busch**
- Lance Dickman**
- Rosa Jordan**
- John Lussmyer**
- Alan Shoemaker**
- John Thomas Smith**
- George Stowers**
- Shirley Wagner**
- Tracy Wilson**

for contributions to this newsletter. This is YOUR newsletter. ALL contributions—new or old, long or short, technical or humorous, personal story, article, or advertisement—are welcome and needed. I'll be happy to assist with writing and/or editing. Calls, emails, or faxes are welcome.

Marge Maxwell, Editor

Visit Our Website!

<http://www.lioc.org>

Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Vice President. Email: gstowers@twcny.rr.com . Please send computer readable text files. (Email is great, will accept ASCII text files on disk. See page 2 for address.)

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See page 2 for address,
phone, or email.

LIOC Convention

**Raleigh/Durham,
North Carolina
August 9-13, 2000**

Register for the 2000 LIOC Convention by June 1, 2000.

**Please send \$85.00 registration to:
LIOC-ESCF, Inc.
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028.**

Registration for child under 17 is \$75.00.
(Please send your choice of chicken or beef for the Saturday night banquet. Please advise if you are bringing a cat.)

Call the Radisson Governors Inn, to make your LIOC Convention Reservations at 919-549-8631 (weekdays, 8am-5pm), an LIOC room rate of \$79.00 plus tax, each night, double occupancy.

The Radisson Governors Inn is a full service, four diamond hotel, located in the Research Triangle Park. This hotel has been completely renovated. Rooms include upgraded telephone systems, iron/boards, hair dryers, and coffee makers. Other amenities offered are an outdoor pool, lighted tennis courts, a 20-station workout trail, equipment-filled exercise room, complimentary computer center, the Quorum lounge offering light meals, and the Galeria Restaurant featuring International cuisine and daily chef specials. Complimentary Airport shuttle service is available.

The Exotic Cats are Welcome!

(Less than 30 pounds) The Radisson requires notice when you make your reservations, as to which cats you are bringing to the convention, and a room deposit of \$25.00 which is non-refundable.

We will take a full day trip to visit Carnivore Preservation Trust and the Museum of Life and Science. Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) holds approximately 260 rare and endangered animals at a 60 acre facility located in North Carolina. The felines include 37 ocelots, 50 caracals, 52 servals, 24 tigers, 3 clouded leopards, 2 snow leopards, and 2 jaguars. CPT's aim is to achieve the preservation of viable populations of mammalian species that are essential to the survival of threatened rain forest ecosystems. Following lunch at CPT, we will travel to the Museum of Life and Science. The Museum is located on 70 acres with an interactive science-technology center, including aerospace artifacts, native live wildlife exhibits, a 17,000 square foot three-story Butterfly House/Insectarium featuring more than 1,000 butterflies in free flight, and the park offers train rides through the park.

Submitted by,
Kelly Jean Buckley
Director Member Services
Email: kjbuck@uswest.net

2000 LIOC Cat Census

SMALL CATS		BIG CATS		HYBRID CATS	
1	Asian Golden Cat	9	Cheetah	115	Bengal (Leopard Cat/Domestic)
3	Black Footed Cat	205	Cougar	6	Safari (Geoffroy/Domestic)
138	Bobcat	9	Jaguar	10	Chaus/Domestic (Jungle/Dom.)
75	Caracal	47	Leopard	35	Savannah (Serval/Domestic)
4	European Wild Cat	5	Chinese Leopard	9	Bobcat/Lynx
15	Fishing Cat	7	Amurian Leopard	3	Caraval (Serval/Caracal)
41	Geoffroy Cat	26	Snow Leopard	4	Liger (Lion/Tiger)
3	Gordan Cat	7	Clouded Leopard		
5	Indian Desert Cat	67	Lion		
4	Jaguarundi	201	Tiger		
28	Jungle Cat (Chaus)				
13	Leopard Cat				
61	Canadian Lynx				
25	Siberian Lynx				
15	Eurasian Lynx				
4	Margay				
35	Ocelot				
3	Oncilla				
5	Pallas Cat				
4	Rusty Spotted Cat				
2	Sand Cat				
195	Serval				

The 1960 LIOC cat census totaled 79 cats and in year 2000 LIOC's cat census totals **1444 CATS!** These totals include cats that have been reported by their owners on membership renewal forms, and do not include cats whose owners have not reported. Due to the increase each year, we believe our cat family is much larger. Please include your cats on your renewal form.

Census Year Totals:
 1995- 712 Cats, 1996- 891 Cats,
 1997- 1229 Cats, 1998- 1404 Cats,
 1999- 1466 Cats

Submitted by, Kelly Jean Buckley

LIOC General Membership Meeting

August 5, 1999

LIOC Big Cat Position Statement. A draft copy was printed for membership review. Members wanted the wording of the proposed draft changed. The membership wanted Big Cat Guidelines to be developed. This discussion was lengthy, especially as the big cat owners wanted this to be developed and published.

The ISIS SPARKS (Single Population Record Keeping & Analysis Program). Member's were asked how many would be interested in participating at a cost per chip of \$10. A large number of members felt that chip identification is a good procedure to follow.

Color in Newsletter. Editor, Marge Maxwell, asked for an increase to the budget by \$300 per year to allow for placing a color picture on the newsletter cover page of some of the issues. Members were very interested in having color on the cover of the newsletter. If color couldn't be done within the current budget, would it justify a dues increase to accomplish it? Members did not want any dues increase and advised to use color, so long as the dues are not affected.

Code of Ethics for Breeders. Should

LIOC formulate a Code of Ethics for Breeders and establish a "seal of approval" program to identify breeders complying with such Code? Members were interested in having available to breeders a Code of Ethics, similar to the LIOC Code of Conduct. Members stated that there would be no way to establish or maintain an approval program, and that an available Code of Ethics would be sufficient. If developed, should breeders be required to implant all kittens with microchips prior to sale? Membership said no, to requiring kittens to be microchipped prior to sale.

Lifetime LIOC Membership. Should LIOC offer a lifetime membership for \$700? This money would earn interest and realize more than the current annual dues. Membership said yes.

Wild Feline Husbandry Course. Should LIOC continue to offer a basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course each year? Membership said yes. Should LIOC advertise and make the course available to non-members at an increased cost? Membership wanted the course to remain open to any students, and the cost to remain the same for students attending whether or not they are LIOC members.

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LIOC Board of Directors' Meeting

August 6 & 7, 1999 Rapid City, South Dakota

President, Barbara Wilton called the meeting to order. Present: JB Anderson, Kelly Jean Buckley, Tonya Jones, Jana Londre, John Perry, Carin Sousa, George Stowers, Shirley Wagner, Barbara Wilton. Absent: Sherry Blanchette, Mark Jenkins. Branch representative present: Bob Turner, MEFES.

Motion by Wagner: To appoint Marge Maxwell to continue as newsletter Editor for another term. Buckley second.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Wagner: To appoint Lynn Culver to complete the term position of Director of Legal Affairs for Mark Jenkins. Anderson second.

Mark Jenkins resigned his position due to a busy schedule at his cougar facility, his camp volunteer work, and job. Lynn Culver has served on the board as Sec./Treas. and is an active participant in the Model Regs team, in progress of drafting, started under Mark Jenkins' leadership.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Membership Report by Buckley:

Current membership is 348. The majority of the inquiries are from the Animal Finder's Guide, and secondly from the Internet. We had 72 inquiries this year, 25 of which were from the Internet. Two new members from overseas are from Netherlands and Germany.

Motion by Buckley: To approve new format for Membership Directory and

**printing of same. Wagner second.
Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0**

Motion by Londre: To approve renewing display ad in the Animal Finder's Guide. Buckley second.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Perry: To adopt a new class of member, Life Supporting Member. Wagner second. The cost of this membership would be a one-time \$700 for a lifetime membership. If invested, the \$700 should produce an income of at least 5%, thereby paying the annual cost of membership as well as producing income. It would relieve the member of having to pay annual dues, as well as eliminating the yearly paperwork done by LIOC for Life Supporting Members.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Stowers: To adopt, on an annual basis, LIOC to offer a training course in wild/exotic feline husbandry in conduction with the annual convention. The course will be developed and delivered in accordance with the proposed course outline, and the fee charged for students attending will be at least sufficient to recover any costs associated with offering the course. Anderson second.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Wagner: To approve the SPARKS form and protocol for implementation of the program. Stowers second.

LIOC members have been accorded the privilege of participating in the International Species Information System (ISIS) SPARKS program. Shirley Wagner will get direct tutoring from Alan Shoemaker on the usage of the SPARKS program.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Anderson: To approve the purchase of Avid transponder chips as part of the SPARKS program and protocol. Wagner second.

During the General Membership meeting, members showed a large interest in purchasing chips. Required to start is a bulk purchase of 100 chips. Buying the chips and a scanner. Who is going to use the scanner? Avid suggests that each chip is scanned before sending it out to make sure they are operable and ensuring complete quality control. Also, if a member can't locate a veterinarian in their area who has a scanner, they would be able to use the LIOC scanner. If an animal was lost and picked up by authorities, they would be able to identify the animal with the chip to return the animal back to it's owner. In addition, to proving ownership, the chip can be used for identifying cats within breeding programs. The scanner can be sent to the member for their use to positively identify their cats. Chips function is in excess of the life of felines. It will be helpful if members will provide listings in their area of veterinarians known to have the scanners. Table decision to purchase scanner until a later date. We have a scanner loaned from Avid that can be used to 'test' scan the initial order.

Anderson amend Motion: to include buying a quantity of 100 chips for resale to the membership at \$10.00 per chip. Wagner second.

Vote: Yes: 9 No 0

Motion by Anderson: To appoint George Stowers and Shirley Wagner to draft a Code of Ethics for Breeders to be approved, or not, at a later date. Buckley second.

During the General Membership meeting members asked how they can better know if they are dealing with a reputable breeder. Members asked if a Code of Ethics for Breeders could be drafted and offered to breeders who wish to follow a code of ethics. It won't be up to LIOC members to judge the conduct of breeders, but up to the breeders to choose to behave within a Code of Ethics. Recommendations for questions that a person looking for a cat should ask before getting the cat will be drafted.

Vote: Yes: 9 No 0

Motion by Stowers: To have the LIOC president designate a group of individuals (committee) to develop an LIOC Big Cat Position Statement. Anderson second. Perry amend Motion: to include that the committee have at least one big cat owner. Stowers second.

Board received feedback from the membership during the General Membership meeting, and the members wanted Big Cat Guidelines developed. President appoints committee with a project leader. One concern was that by making a big cat position statement, it may discourage potential owners from contacting LIOC to get the expertise needed. There was discussion over what constitutes experience. People who want big cats, generally don't want small cats. Having experience with a small cat doesn't, in effect, give qualification for experience in husbandry of a big cat because they have entirely different needs. LIOC membership has 222 cougars, mostly on properties with 1 or 2 cats. Cougars are included in the 'over

100 pound' category of big cats. The owners of these cats don't have other species and are very responsible with their cougars. Under the proposed position statement, the members who obtained these cougars as '1st time cats' may have had no experience. In addition, many cougars are under 100 pounds full grown. The biggest problem with big cat owners is not with LIOC members who have big cats, but people who are not members. We need to try to contact non-members and try to educate them. There was discussion for offering class instruction for husbandry of big cats at a future date.

Vote: Yes 9 No:0

Motion by Buckley: To keep the cost of the Caging & Handling Guidelines Booklet at \$5.00 (no increase). Jones second.

Vote: Yes: 9 No:0

Motion by Buckley: To place a notice routinely in the newsletters for the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. Stowers second.

John Perry gave report on Ken Hatfield Scholarship Fund. He sent mailing to colleges for scholarship applicants. Scholarship focus is on veterinarian students taking exotic animal medicine. John Perry to send a letter to Pat Hoctor to ask if they will print this scholarship information in the Animal Finder's Guide.

Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0

Motion by Perry: To increase newsletter budget by \$300 to cover the cost of adding color covers to some newsletters. Wagner second.

Discussion on color is nice for the newsletter, but what is important is the content. Should we spend the \$300 on more important issues? An example, the money could be used to pay a professional

to write tangible information for the newsletter that could be useable by the membership. For years, members have been asking for color pictures. Branches have strongly requested color within the newsletter. As a membership organization, we need to produce what the membership asks for. From an advertising standpoint, color is attractive. First impressions to a potential sponsor or vendor are important.

Vote: Yes 9 No: 0

Motion by Wagner: To add \$300 as expense item to the budget, to cover the cost associated with the Sparks start-up program and \$1000 for purchase of Avid Chips and envelopes to mail member orders. John second.

Vote: Yes 9 No: 0

Motion by Wagner: To approve the 1999/2000 budget as proposed.

Second Stowers.

Last term we operated within a balanced budget. The Treasurer position changed in August 1999. Worked into the proposed budget was printing membership cards, printing 3000 quantity 9"x12" envelopes, and printing membership directory.

Vote: Yes 9 No: 0

Motion by Buckley: To hold the 2000 LIOC convention in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina. Second Perry.

Vote: Yes 9 No: 0

The president adjourned the meeting.

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

Raising the Bar: The Evolution of Felid Management in Zoos Part III

Alan H. Shoemaker
International Leopard Studbook Keeper
Deputy Chair, IUCN Cat Specialist Group
Riverbanks Zoological Park, Columbia, SC

In this segment, suggestions are made as to how private owners can participate in conservation and management of captive population in a responsible manner taking into consideration how our practices can contribute to the larger picture.

PRIVATE OWNERS AND FELID MANAGEMENT

Historically zoos and private cat owners obtained their animals from many of the same sources. Many species in zoos owe their presence solely to the large-scale importation of now-protected species for pets. Regardless of the source, the lack of historical data and management by zoos and private owners alike has placed the captive future of many species in doubt. Zoos have been addressing many of these failings in order to ensure the future of felids, and particularly small felids, within its member institutions. Many of these techniques can be transferred to the LIOC - Endangered Species Conservation Federation with the prospect of success.

Information: It is vital that potential owners do their homework *prior* to acquiring new species or specimens for their collections. While this comment sounds obvious, as an international studbook keeper, I commonly have people contact me *after* obtaining new stock with questions about their animals' origin, biology, and husbandry needs.

Husbandry information and basic needs

are readily available from the literature, nearby zoos, the Felid TAG or a variety of professional sources on the Internet. In the same vein, I commonly have callers ask me for sources of unrelated young *after* acquiring a pair of littermates, only to find there are none to be found in North America. All this could have been avoided by asking the right questions prior to spending a significant amount of money.

Records - Prior to the development of ISIS, data collection by zoos varied from one extreme to another. Some quite-famous zoos had dismal records prior to the mid 1970's. To its credit, one of ISIS's claims to fame is that it forced zoos worldwide to not only document information about their animal collections but to also collect the *right kind* of information—and to share it. The development of ARKS/SPARKS did more for zoos than anything before or since.

Sadly, the same thing cannot be said about private owners. True, zoos have paid staff specifically responsible for keeping institutional records as well as studbooks. And equally true is the fact

that there are several serious felid breeders and pet owners with superb traditions of keeping records that they in turn share with others. The vast majority of private owners (felids or any other species), however, do not have an organized record-keeping system, or if they have one, do not have one that will allow the easy retrieval of data. Because of the continuing decline in the numbers of small felids in captivity, not to mention the increase in their relatedness in existing captive collections, it is vital that this aspect of animal management change. The very nature of many species' conservation status demands it and if an owner or organization uses ISIS/SPARKS as their record-keeping system, many legal and obstacles of acquisition can be overcome. I believe LIOC has obtained or is in the process of obtaining a copy of the SPARKS software from ISIS for use in the future management of its members' collections, and I strongly urge all LIOC members to cooperate with this phase of data collection.

Communication: Studbook keeping and its subsequent management programs, - PMPs and SSPs - all rely on communication and the willingness to share information. To quote Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, chairman of the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, "A person or organization who refuses to share information is a person or organization that will be bypassed." Regardless, most zoo-based studbook keepers commonly report that moving to the private sector from zoos can usually be expected to vanish. There not only is no valid reason to "keep secrets" in this time of increased regulation and endangered wildlife, but it is imperative that private owners participate more with national or other forms of management

programs even if they only possess a single animal. Without a change in their approach to management and conservation, at best private owners will only have limited numbers of small felids available to them and little hope of obtaining replacements when their animals die.

Holding Space: Zoos, not the AZA, own animals and as a result, institutional policies vary widely across the country. While some zoos are not allowed by their governing bodies to transfer animals to non-AZA organizations, others have close, longstanding ties with private breeders. Likewise, most zoos realize that some private facilities are at least as fine as any in the public sector. And one way some private owners have expanded their relationship with cooperating zoos is by accepting older, genetically or demographically surplus stock for long-term holding. While such animals are not likely to be tractable, and usually are offered in a neutered state, this opportunity has been accepted by some private owners as a way to continue their relationship with captive felids even as they assist in felid conservation. In that way, a zoo's involvement with an SSP or PMP is allowed to progress and otherwise unobtainable species or specimens may become available to qualified individuals. For those with the inclination, such approach might be the one solution for those unable to replace their present stock. I hope this group will consider these various conservation directions as your members investigate ways to expand their role in conservation, education and personal enjoyment of felids within their collections.

The next installment will be the Felid TAGs RCP recommendations for the various felid species held in U.S. Zoos.

Touch the Jungle Update

March 15, 2000

Dear LIOC Members,

Here is an update on Touch the Jungle, a rainforest sanctuary being developed in Northern Ecuador to protect habitat for ocelots, margays, and oncillas. The project is sponsored by Earthways Foundation. As far as we know, this is the first conservation project in the world to have the smaller neo-tropical felids as its flagship species.

Touch the Jungle is quite a bit different from the way Third World wildlife sanctuary projects are usually run. Instead of getting our hands on a hunk of land, putting First World environmentalists in charge, and in effect, "fencing it off" from the local people, we have asked the locals to take charge of habitat and wildlife protection in their ancestral lands. What I've just summarized there in half a sentence is a daunting goal, the more so because these people are, and have been since their slave ancestors were first shipwrecked off the coast of Northern Ecuador, hunter-gatherers. To them wild cats are not cute; they are competitors.

But where there were once only a few of these shipwrecked slaves sharing this wild corner of South America with a handful of indigenous people, now they share it with factory shrimp farms, timber companies, mining operations, and a vastly expanded population. The millions of hectares of rainforest which they once considered theirs as much as anybody's is now sharply delineated. The only place



they have the right to hunt, fish, or for that matter, protect, is the 10,000 hectares for which they have managed to obtain title. Village hunters can see how rapidly the fish and wildlife they've depended on for food is declining. And they can see how much *more* impoverished are the villages downstream, who foolishly sold their forest to timber companies. All that they understand. What they don't understand is conservation on a day-by-day level—no more than the average person here in North America seems to understand it on a daily consumer level.

As if this weren't challenge enough, in the three years we've been working on this

project we've had to deal with torrential rains, floods, and landslides delivered by El Nino. It wiped out all roads and communication lines to the northwest corner of the country where the reserve is located. A national banking crisis ensued which caused our working funds in Ecuador to be frozen for six months. Endless ash spewed from a volcano outside Quito, which interfered with communications even more and frequently closed the airport, causing, among other things, the cancellation of Fox Channel's plan to film the project for its TV show "World Gone Wild." Most recently, a military coup and more economic chaos pose threats.

These natural and national disasters slowed us down, but didn't prevent progress at the reserve. Using local craftsmen working under the supervision of Mauro Caicedo (one of the few literate people in the village) we obtained the abandoned army barracks, a two-hour walk or half-hour motor boat ride upriver from the village. We made it livable for future rainforest researchers (some of whom, hopefully, will be there to study small neo-tropical felids in their natural habitat.) We welcome other visitors—even LIOC members, if there are any who feel that this might be their kind of adventure.

Village craftsmen built us a fine 30-foot canoe from a single tree, dug out with a single hand tool in the traditional way. Enough money was raised here in North America to purchase a 40hp outboard motor to use on the canoe. This was essential to the project, since the reserve is not accessible by road or air, only by the river. We have not yet begun to attract the rainforest researchers and other visitors whose food, lodging, guide, and transportation needs are to be met by local people and provide them with an

income, but the infrastructure is more or less in place. Fruit trees and a vegetable garden have been planted at the lodge to increase its self-sufficiency. Women from the village (who work at the lodge on a rotating basis, for a grand salary of \$15 a week) are being taught the principals of organic gardening, plus how to maintain the lodge and prepare meals for visitors once we begin to have some.

A few months ago we hit one of those one-step-forward, two-steps-back situations. Just when we were beginning to feel that our environmental education with the villagers was beginning to take, and there was enormous community pride in the fact that they, not outsiders, are in charge of the world's only neo-tropical felid sanctuary (which they call the *Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos*, or just *Proyecto Tigrillo*), I learned that someone in the village had tried to kill a wildcat, and others were threatening to do the same!

What had happened was this: to compensate for the dwindling supply of game, several families bought chickens, which, as they had no pens, were allowed to run free and roost in the trees at night. This made them easy prey for every chicken-eating animal in the area, most especially the little ocelots, margays, and oncillas! One man set a trap, and when the trap was sprung, stood back with a shotgun and blasted away. It turned out to be the neighbor's dog. But I was there when this happened, and realized that it could as easily have been a *tigrillo*. So we held a town meeting and discussed the problem. The mayor, village council, and even a row of young hunters, all vowed that they would maintain their contractual agreement to protect all species of wildcats, if Earthways would continue its support of the project. "What about our chickens?" demanded the

people who had them. I patiently explained that if they killed all the *tigrillos* in the forest, they'd still have to deal with other animals, so the obvious solution was to build predator-proof coops and shut their birds up at night. Problem solved (or so I thought.)

January 2000: Reports from the field indicated that margays and/or oncillas were still doing a number on the village poultry population, and although nobody had killed one yet, muttering against them was increasing. So I took the rather drastic step of holding up the \$1200 payment promised to the village council each year for a community improvement project, not to be delivered, I said, until the community had resolved the issue of cats-vs-chickens. I again suggested better-constructed chicken coops, combined with "compassionate" traps, to catch the cats which have developed a taste for chicken. When caught in a cage-type trap, they can be relocated some miles upriver in a part of the reserve far from the village. (This approach may have more psychological than preventive value, since these cats can and do cover great distances. However, it is possible that if the cats are removed to less disturbed area of the forest where there is more game, that they won't necessarily race back to the village for fresh chicken.)

March 1: I received an e-mail from Mauro saying that there have been several community meetings, and the village is working on a solution. They are already engaged in building some cage-type traps to catch the *tigrillos* who find their way into their (poorly constructed) chicken coops. He said that there is a letter from the village council on its way to me, explaining what steps they have taken to ensure the protection of the area's *tigrillos*. I sent word back that when I got the letter,

if I feel that the steps they have taken are adequate, I will send down the \$1200.

Of this money, \$200 is designated specifically for women for a micro-project of their choosing, which I've been told, they want to use this year to produce rice for local consumption. Then they don't have to buy it from downriver for cash, which they rarely have, since they live for the most part outside the cash economy. How the village will use the remaining \$1000 I don't know. The first year we made this grant to them, they used it to travel to the state and federal capital to lobby the governments there to provide them with schoolteachers, as they had none, not one, for their 40 or so kids. The second year they spent it to renovate a decrepit old church (for which there is no priest) where all the village christenings, weddings, and funerals take place, regardless of what a person's religion is or whether they even have one. I don't know what they will use the money for this year. The idea is that they can choose. Our only requirement is that it be something which benefits the whole community, and which the whole community voted on. The reason Earthways is making this grant to the community is so that their protection of neo-tropical felids can be seen as benefitting everybody in the community, not just the half dozen people who work at the reserve. Once the lodge is up and running, profits from the reserve will be used for community improvement, and we will stop making the grant.

Another aspect of the environmental awareness we're trying to develop has to do with endangered species in the area. Here we are having to start at ground zero, with our own staff, explaining to them why, for example, they should build bat houses rather than just kill the rare

Crested Mastiff bats which inhabit the attic of the lodge, and why, if they decide to supplement their usual diet of river fish with some jungle meat, they should not kill and roast the anteaters. And why, above all, any traps set should be of the cage variety, so that if by accident a cat or other endangered species is trapped, it can be released unharmed. It's a slow process, but coming along. We had a graduate student from UC San Diego down at the end of last year and she was appalled. "These people running your conservation project aren't conservationists!" she fairly shrieked in her first e-mail back to me. "I know," I told her. "That's what we're there for. Not to preach to the converted, but to make converts. So did you show them how to build the bat houses and compassionate traps, and help them identify which animals are on CITES Appendix A?" She did. We *are* making progress—not swiftly, but definitely.

My next trip to Ecuador is slated for November. I'll be double-checking to ensure that: (a) steps have been taken to protect village chickens from wildcats, and wildcats from the villagers; (b) that the lodge and staff are completely ready to receive and attend visitors; and if possible (c) arrange to have one or several captive neo-tropical felids of the smaller species released into our care, both for their sake (preparing them health-wise for release back into the rainforest), and for the sake of our visitors. These visitors would be interested in seeing such exotic animals up-close in something like their native habitat. The local community will (my theory) become more committed to their protection once they see how beautiful they are and understand that in the wild they are too shy to present any danger to humans.

Fundraising note:

Support for this project, which is tax-deductible, can be sent to:
Earthways Foundation
20110 Rockport Way
Malibu, CA 90265

Here are several websites where bits and pieces of information about the project are posted:

A short summary: <http://aiheu.org/ttj/>
Another short summary, but with more pictures: <http://www.bigcats.com/research-touch-the-jungle.html>

The whole long story: <http://www.wildaboutcats.org/ttj0.htm>

Social justice aspects of the project & our sponsoring organization: <http://www.earthways.org/environmentc.html>

Rosa Jordan
P.O. Box 460
Northport WA 99157

TellFax. (250) 362-546

E-mail: rosaj@kootenay.net



Margay

Ocelots and Servals

Compiled by Marge Maxwell

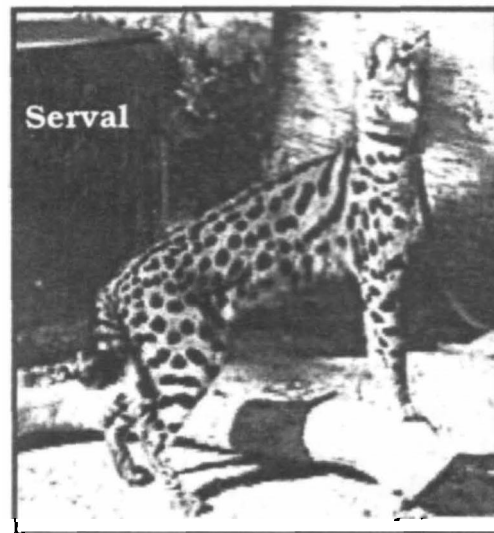
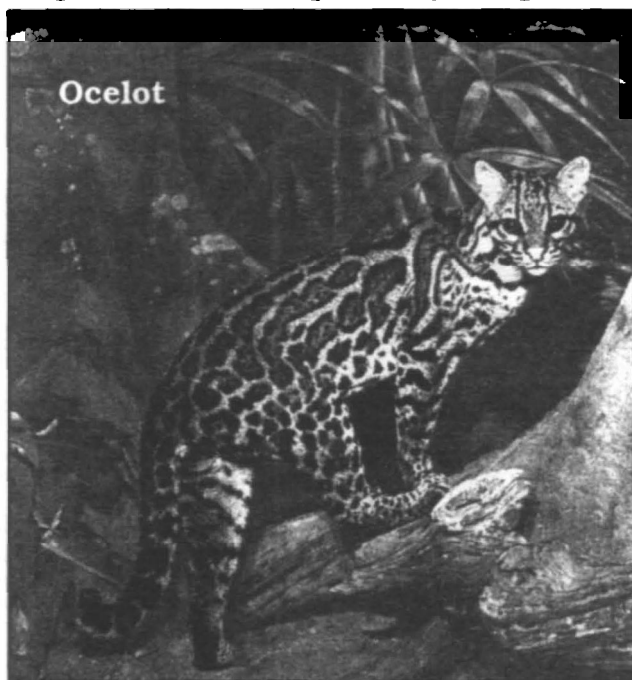
The ocelot (*Felis pardalis*) and serval (*Felis serval*) are medium-sized cats with different evolutionary histories. They live on separate continents in very different habitats: ocelots live in forests whereas servals generally hunt in more open woodlands and grasslands. However, both cats primarily hunt the same type of food—small rodents.

This article will be printed in two parts. The first segment will include information about Structure and Function, Food Source, Hunting, and Biology. The second segment will include Population, Social Systems, Threats and Protection, and References for the entire article.

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

A cursory glance reveals that ocelots and servals are superficially quite similar. Both are medium-sized spotted cats that weigh about 10 to 12 kilograms (22 to 26 pounds). But a closer look reveals some striking differences. Whereas the ocelot has typical felid proportions, the serval looks a bit like the cat world's version of a giraffe.

Stalking through the grasslands on their stilt-like legs, servals seem strangely uncat-like in shape. Rather than the compact crouching body plan of the ocelot and most other cats, the serval seems designed to attain maximum height. A small slim face dominated by a pair of large ears sits atop a very long neck.



Relatively, the serval also has the longest legs of any member of the cat family, and its front legs are considerably longer than its hind legs. Long legs usually mean speed, but the serval is not a particularly fast runner. This is because, strictly speaking, it is not the serval's legs that are long but its feet! Elongated metatarsal bones in the palms and soles of the serval's feet add inches to its height. An adult serval can stand more than 60 centimeters (24 inches) high at the shoulder, and may be 20 or more centimeters (8 or more inches) taller than an otherwise similar-sized ocelot. Its neck is also elongated, its head is small and delicate, and its ears are tall. The auditory bullae are correspondingly well-developed, making up about 22% of skull length. Males weigh 9-18 kg (20-40 lbs), averaging 11-13 kg or 24-29 lbs), and females 9-13 kg (20-29 lbs), (averaging

9.7-11 kg or 21-24 lbs)). Its coat color is pale yellow, and is marked with solid black spots along the sides and bars on the neck and shoulders. Although 17 subspecies have been listed, their validity is doubtful. Specimens have been examined from one locality in southern Africa and external characteristics among them have been used to designate six different subspecies within the subregion. Servals from West Africa most frequently show a pattern mutation of small speckled spots. These so-called servalines were considered a separate species until it was demonstrated that the speckled form was a serval morph. Black servals have been widely recorded.

Compared to the highly specialized serval, the ocelot has the typical cat-like shape. A heavily spotted coat is the ocelot's most variable characteristic, and its short close fur can range from cream to tawny yellow or gray, with solid or open-centered dark spots that sometimes form chains or stripes. As far back as ancient Aztec civilization, the ocelot has been hunted and prized for its fur. (I even found an ocelot coat for sale on the Internet, <http://www.syclone.freemove.co.uk/ocelot.htm>. They did say that it was made before the animal was listed as endangered.)

Ocelots are found in South and Central America, and in a small portion of North America. However, within this broad geographical range, they occupy a fairly narrow set of microhabitats, and are highly dependent on dense cover. Because they can climb well and are often found resting in trees, ocelots were previously thought to spend most of their time in trees. Ocelots, in fact, do almost all their hunting on the ground and only occasionally choose trees as rest sites during the daytime. Ocelots are strong swimmers and are able to cross rivers and move between patches of high ground in seasonally flooded habitats. They are active mainly at night but can sometimes

be found hunting during the day, especially during cloudy or rainy weather. Some resting spots are used repeatedly, including by different ocelots of the same sex. Ocelots are generally active for more than half of each 24-hour period. Mean daily travel distances range from 1.8-7.6km (1.12 - 4.72 miles), with males travelling up to twice as far as females. It is estimated that ocelot hunting success is 0.9 prey captured per km walked, or one prey captured for every 3.1 hours of travel. Observations of ocelot hunting behavior suggest that they can follow prey odor trails.

Servals live only on the continent of Africa, in well-watered grasslands, scrub, woodlands, or reed beds. They can climb but only do so occasionally - when pursuing a particularly tempting meal or when they are being hunted by dogs. Usually they hunt and rest on the ground.

FOOD SOURCE

Scientists generally agree that the classic ancestral feline was a forest-dwelling cat. It was certainly an agile climber and leaper which probably lived by catching rodents and other small prey in dense cover. Today, the majority of the world's small- and medium-sized cats survive in a similar way. Camouflaged by their dappled coats, they live primarily by hunting rodents in forests and woodland.

Potential rodent prey is not confined to forests. In Africa and other parts of the world, rodents can be far more abundant in open grasslands than they are in tropical forests. For instance, in the Serengeti the Nile rat has been known to reach biomass densities as high as 470 kilograms per square kilometer (2,680 pounds per square mile), this being roughly five times greater than rodent density in the tropical rainforest of Cocha Cashu in Peru. Though savanna rodents are usually eaten by birds and foxes, some

servals take advantage of this abundant food resource.

Terrestrial and nocturnal rodents are the mainstay of the ocelot's diet. Most frequently taken prey species are those of relatively high abundance, and include cane mice and marsh, spiny, and rice, opossums and armadillos. Ocelots will also take larger prey, including lesser, red brocket, squirrel monkeys and land tortoises (the legs of a very young tortoise were found in an ocelot's stomach). However, most prey taken weighs less than 1-3% of an ocelot's body weight; for larger prey species (such as paca and agouti), juveniles are typically taken. Ocelots also vary their hunting behavior to take advantage of seasonal changes in prey abundance, such as spawning fish and land crabs in the wet season. The ocelot diet consists of 65% small rodents, 18% reptiles (mostly iguanas), 7% crustaceans and fish, 6% medium-sized mammals, and 4% birds.

Like the ocelot, small mammals, especially rodents, are the serval's main prey. Larger rodents are preferred, particularly vlei (swamp) rats, and also Nile rats. Other small mammal prey include hare and ground squirrels. Up to 12 mice were found in one serval stomach from Zimbabwe. Birds (quail, quelea, and flamingoes), reptiles, fish and insects are also taken, although infrequently when rodents are abundant. One young male serval, on a moonlit night, even rushed into open water to seize one of a group of feeding flamingos. Frogs have been found to be a particularly favorite prey. Servals do not generally take any larger prey than rodents.

HUNTING

A hunting serval walks slowly through the high grass, scanning the area for sounds using its huge dish-like ears to focus in on the rustlings made by rodents

as they move unseen through vegetation. The serval has enlarged auditory bullae and pinnae, which are used to listen for the ultrasonic high frequencies emitted by rodents. A hunting serval may stop and sit for ten minutes or more, eyes closed, just listening. The specialized, "sound hunting" technique of the serval is so sensitive that a strong wind can interfere with its ability to pinpoint prey. Unless they are extremely hungry, these cats rarely bother to hunt in windy weather; instead they rest and wait, postponing the hunt until the wind dies down.

As soon as it hears something move in the grass, the serval swivels its head and pinpoints the exact position of the sound. Then, after a short careful approach, it pounces like a fox, springing high with all four feet off the ground. If the first attempt misses, the serval will follow its prey with a swift succession of stiff-legged jumps - chin tucked into its chest, tail up, bouncing high into the air as if on a trampoline.

Servals also use the high bouncing pounce to flush animals from cover. They gallop through the grass in a zigzag pattern, leaping high into the air; anything that moves is caught immediately. Other cat species use a combination of sight and hearing to catch their prey, but keen



Serval jumping to catch prey

eyesight is not much help when dense grass and vegetation make small prey essentially invisible. The serval relies instead on its huge ears to pinpoint the noises made by potential prey. In order to get an accurate fix on the sound, the serval needs an elevated vantage point, hence the long legs.

Besides providing a vantage point for the serval to "hear into" tall grass, this cat's long legs also pack a powerful punch. The serval uses its front feet to deliver a series of formidable blows that can kill or stun prey. When hunting a larger animal that might fight back, the serval springs up into the air, strikes hard with all four feet, bites, and then leaps away. Servals can kill quite large snakes by bashing them with a series of swift hammer-like blows.

In short bursts the serval is able to reach high speeds and is capable of jumping up to ten feet off the ground to catch a bird with its two forepaws as a bird flutters up in the air. The serval then draws in its hind legs and lands only on these, while continuing to hold their prey between its forepaws, and takes a grasping bite only after it has landed. In this way servals can catch moths with great precision from heights of up to three feet.

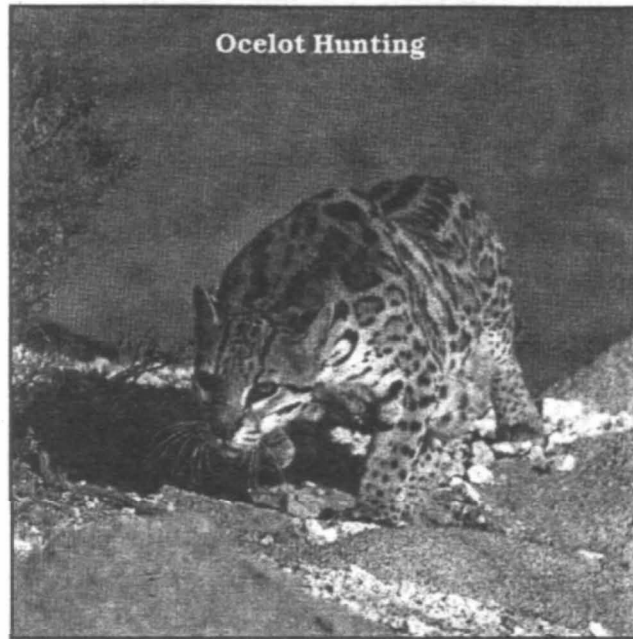
Cats are not known for their digging abilities but servals can, and often do, dig for their meals. Huge ears make their hearing so acute that they can actually locate prey underground, and they frequently use their long toes, which are tipped with strong curved claws, to hook rodents and fledgling birds out of tunnels. Servals have also learned a highly refined "dig and wait" technique that they use specifically to catch African mole rats, which are generally difficult to catch as they live exclusively underground in long tunnels. A serval locates a mole rat tunnel, scratches a hole in it, then sits

and waits with one paw upraised (ready to capitalize on the fact that mole rats hasten to repair any damage to their tunnel system.) At the first sign of movement, the serval slams its paw down, hooks the mole rat and flings it away; the serval then follows with a lightning pounce before the stunned victim can recover.

The serval also uses the "hook and jab" technique for catching fish, and captive servals have been observed to hook fish out of a basin of water with several fast jabs of a foreleg and a deft scoop of the wrist. Like ocelots, servals seem to have an affinity for water. They often hunt in foot-deep water, in marshes and shallow pools, where they stalk wading birds and catch frogs. One scientist working in Tanzania watched a young serval catch and eat at least 28 frogs of different sizes in a three-hour period.

Whether it is feeding on frogs or mice, the serval's big ears, uncat-like shape and specialized hunting technique translate into more meals per pounce than the average cat, which is lucky if it gets one meal for every ten hunting attempts. Nearly one in every two of the serval's pounces results in a kill, making it one of the most successful of all feline hunters.

Like the serval, ocelots use two basic strategies to catch prey - they either walk slowly or sit and wait. The slow "hunting-walk" technique of the ocelot involves moving very slowly, watching and listening for prey. When the cat sees or hears something, it stops, then, taking advantage of all the available cover and its camouflaged coat, it carefully stalks the prey until it is within range. A quick pounce, bite, and shake, and the ocelot has its meal. Using this technique, ocelots probably kill whatever catchable prey they encounter. Using the "sit-and-wait" hunting method, an ocelot typically travels to a location where it sits and waits for thirty minutes to one hour or more. It



then quickly moves to another area where it sits and waits again. When moving between these “sit-and-wait” stops, ocelots travel two or three times faster than they do when using the slow hunting-walk technique.

Despite the fact that servals and ocelots may individually weigh as much as 13.5 kilograms (30 pounds), both these cats sustain themselves on surprisingly small prey. Most of the ocelot’s diet consists of rodents and small mammals weighing less than 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) that is, less than 10 percent of its own body weight. The majority of the serval’s prey is even smaller, over 90 percent consisting of prey weighing less than 200 grams (7 ounces), which is less than two percent of an average female’s body weight.

BIOLOGY

	Ocelot	Serval
Reproductive Season	(W): Probably year-round, with autumn breeding peaks noted in Texas and Mexico; Oct-Jan peaks also reported from Paraguay and north-eastern Argentina	(W) Aseasonal, but birth peaks appear to be correlated with wet seasons, when prey densities are at their highest due to new vegetative growth; suggests that a peak occurs in the mid- to late dry season in the Ngorongoro Crater, so that post-rains high prey density coincides with the raising of older but still dependent kittens.
Estrus	(C): 4.63±0.63 days	(C)4 days
Estrus Cycle	(C): 25.11±4.33 day)	
Gestation	(C): 79-85 days	(C): 73 days (n=15; range 70-79)
Litter Size	(C): 1.64±0.2); Range 1-3, mode 1	(W): 2.5 (n=7; range 1-3);(C): 1.9); 2.45±0.2; range 1-5
Age at Independence	(W): Not clear, approximately one year, after which sub-adults appear to be tolerated within adult ranges for up to a year	(W) 6-8 months. Newly independent juveniles, tolerated by their mothers, may circulate within their natal range for periods up to and over a year
Age at Sexual Maturity	(C): females 18-22 months, onset of spermatogenesis in males at about 2.5 year); (W): Probably related to territory acquisition	(C) 18-24 months
Interbirth Interval	(W): Possibly two years	
Longevity	(W): 7-10 years; (C): up to 20 years	(C) up to 19 years

W= in the wild; C = in captivity

Pacific Northwest Exotics Branch Minutes

Our first meeting of Year 2000 was held February 13th at Portland Meadows Racetrack, courtesy of Cheryl, member and Facility Manager.

Steve reported \$360.12 in the Treasury, with more to come (minus the expense) as more of the Club T-Shirts are sold - we also made \$32 from the meeting raffle (it was only a joke Cheryl, we REALLY don't expect you to invite us all to eat to share your winnings!)

Steve introduced the Club's new handout application, which is not only very colorful, but has the new signature information so the club is "held harmless" for individual member's animal's actions.

Colette passed around an example of the project she is working on to create new Business cards for club members to hand out when we are working at animal expositions, they will cost \$32 per 1,000, for black and white cards

Anyone who is able to care for rescue animals should call or Email to Steve, for information about what is currently available (Steve is contacted several times a year, as PNWE President, to help find homes for abused or unwanted exotic animals of all types.)

Several people reported on efforts now underway in both Washington and Oregon to ban or limit ownership of exotic animals. ODFW in Oregon is currently working on "Administrative Rules" to ban many exotic animals completely. Washington is now considering a Senate bill that would ban public display of exotic animals. Anyone who is able to help by being part of a working group to counter these efforts may contact Steve for further information.

The next animal expo will be Feb 26/27 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro, starting both days at 10:00 AM.

Further in the future the club will be given a booth at the PETCO animal show at the Expo Center on Marine Drive on April 15/16.

Remember to bring a copy of your USDA and/

or State/County license ANY time you bring your exotic animal to a public function !!!

The Simian Society sent us a Thank You letter for the donation we made to them, which was used to prepare information to present at the recent legislative hearings in Oklahoma City... at which time it was decided NOT to ban exotics, but to license instead.

Members may send animal related, non-commercial advertising to Steve to be put in the newsletter - for free, Email preferred.

John Thomas Smith
jtsmith@pacifier.com

Writing Your Will?



Remember the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund!



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 or 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 and no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual. 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
1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00
Back page	\$125.00

LIOC OneList Correction

The following is the correct OneList URL:

<http://www.onelist.com/group/LIOC>

We apologize for any inconvenience.

All I Really Needed to Know I Learned From *Noah's Ark*

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Don't forget that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with what has to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Two heads are better than one.
9. Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
10. When you're stressed, float awhile.
11. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
12. Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.

PawSense

For all of us challenged by help from our felines, a new software product has arrived! PawSense (\$19.95 at www.bitboost.com) is a program that recognizes "catlike typing" - four keys at once nonsensical patterns etc. It responds with a screeching noise to deter this behavior (walking on keyboards, as in this instance spray bottles aren't real useful as a deterrent) and locks the keyboard until you type "human".

NOMINEES FOR THE 2001 TERM

Current President Barbara Wilton, has declined renomination, all others on the current Board are running for re-election or running for another position. The following have been nominated to serve on LIOC's Board of Directors for the 2001-2002 term We applaud them for their willingness to take part in the work of running LIOC.

President - George Stowers

Vice President- Robert Turner

Secretary/Treasurer - Tonya Jones

Director of: Member Services - Kelly Jean

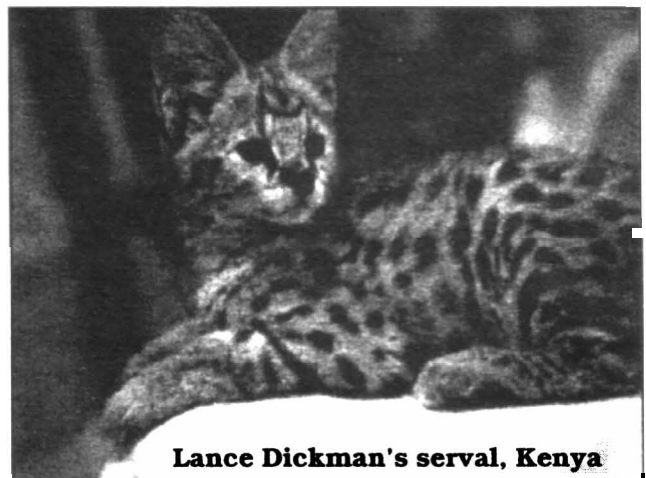
Buckley

Legal Affairs - Lynn Culver

Advertising & Publicity - Jana Londre

Education & Conservation - Colette

Griffiths; Tracy Wilson



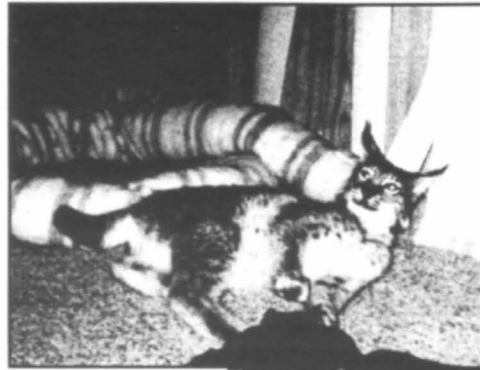
Lance Dickman's serval, Kenya

Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines, Cascade Branch Meeting Minutes

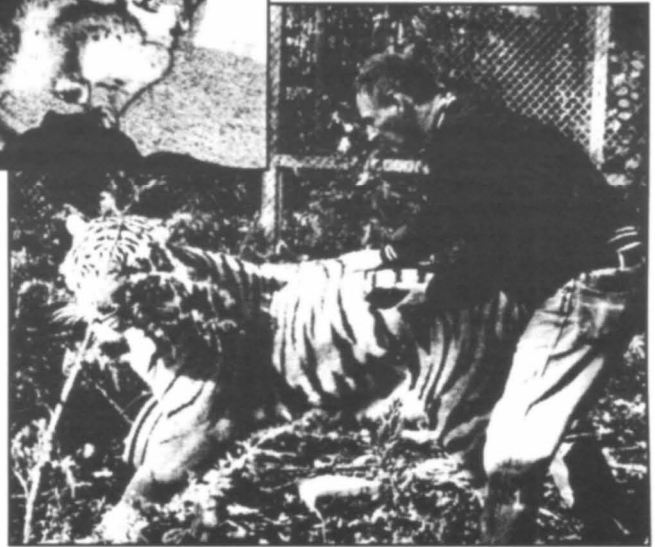
This meeting was held at the home of Maggie Bogart. A nice little cabin in the woods with lots of wonderful artwork! (Maggie is a great artist!) Turnout was a little lower than usual, probably due to the location being way south of most members. After calling the meeting to order, we did introductions around the room and moved things along quickly. It was decided that we will issue membership cards to all club members. They will have the club logo, some contact info, and a place for a signature. It was pointed out that we can get Shirts, Jackets, Hats, and Sweatshirts made with the club logo relatively easily. Please contact me if you might be interested, as the more people who order, the lower the cost will be. We were hoping for some status on the photo calendar project, but the appropriate people missed the meeting. Maggie may do an art calendar for us as well. We also have voted to see if we can get permission from the LIOC to produce reprints of a manuscript document that has lots of information on raising exotic cats. It's out-of-print, and looks useful. We also had some entertainment afterward, we watched a video about cougars as pets. Quite a bit of good info, and lots of incredibly cute kittens! After all that there was much chatting and eating of food. (Fried chicken, brownies, chips, croissants, YUM!)

The April meeting will be on Saturday the 15th at John Lussmyer's home in Greenbank on Whidbey Island. (West of Everett) May - Dave Coleburn up on Anacortes Island (Northwest of Everett) June - Kim and Dave Germain down South near Toledo. July - Linda Holzinger, Barn raising party! down South near Rochester.

John Lussmyer, Secretary/Treasurer
mail to: Treasurer@ACEF.org
Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines,
Cascade branch of the LIOC.
see <http://www.ACEF.org/>



**Rick Armstrong
with tiger,
Rowdy, and his
Siberian Lynx,
Montana (left)**



LIOC Caging and Handling Guidelines

This booklet includes 34 pages of practical tips and guidelines for proper caging and handling of exotic cats. It also includes diagrams on construction of proper equipment for any size feline, including squeeze cages, collars, leashes, and much, much more.

Send \$5.00 (US) plus \$1.25 postage to:

LIOC
3730 Belle Isle Lane
Mobile, AL 36619

Wild Feline Husbandry Course

On August 9, 2000, an eight-hour Wild Feline Husbandry Training Course will be held to provide students with the knowledge required to practice responsible captive husbandry of wild felines. This course is suitable for both novices and "Old Hands" who want to improve their level of knowledge. Topics will include the following:

Natural History of Wild Felines
Conservation & Regulatory Agencies
Permits
Facility Design & Handling Equipment
Nutrition

Health Care
Disposition & Handling
Behavior Conditioning
Contingency Planning

Register for the Wild Feline Husbandry Course by June 1, 2000.

Please send \$50.00 tuition to:
LIOC-ESCF, Inc.
PO Box 22085
Phoenix, AZ 85028

For information, contact George Stowers
at gtowers@twcny.rr.com
or 315-342-4997

Mazuri Date Code (It's not expired!)

Date: 03/15/2000

From: David Busch <dbbusch@netrax.net>

Two different people pointed out to me (two different occasions) that my bags of Mazuri feline diet (small; product 5M54) had an unidentified date stamped on the bottom that was about three months earlier than the date of they are seeing the bag, and wanted to know if the bags were expired (in both cases, I had just bought the bags). There was an even earlier date on the upper edge of the bag. I wrote Mazuri, which told me that the date on the bottom is the date of manufacture, not an expiration date, and that the stuff normally is OK for 9 months after date of manufacture. Here FYI is the full text of the email I got:

"Dr. Busch,
Thank you for contacting Mazuri with your shelf life concerns. All Mazuri products are date stamped with the "Date of Manufacture" on the bottom of the bag (i.e. JAN 01 00 3B). This is the date that the product was produced and bagged at the plant. The other number is a reference

number for our computer systems and is of no use to the customer. All Mazuri products have a shelf life of 9 months if stored in a dry, cool environment (about 72 degrees F). All products must be kept free of mold and insects to prevent illness and to ensure proper nutrition is obtained. It is most effective to store product in a storage container if it is housed for a long period of time to avoid attraction of unwanted insects and rodents. If the product exceeds the 9 month shelf life, for most species, it will remain to be nutritionally effective. For those animals requiring accelerated levels of vitamin C, the product remains nutritionally adequate except for the vitamin C, a supplement will need to be given along with the product. If you predict that you may store a product until close to expiration, you can freeze the product to extend the life. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Tricia A. Woodcock
Marketing & Technical
Communications Manager
(314)768-4861"