This is a South American Cougar cub named Cameron. Here she was just a few weeks old. Phoenix member Tracy has Cameron at an educational exhibit.

This 3 week old Tiger cub, Vaugh, is named after a word in an Indian language that means “tiger”. Vaugh and his mommy Meshra belong to Phoenix member Max.

Serval named Rocket owned by Phoenix member Lynn.

These babies belong to a Serval named Kinshaza owned by JoAnn.

(below) Phoenix member Joan, feeding chickens at Kingswood Farm. (above, right) Different species of Roosters that are found at Kingswood Farm.

(below) Phoenix member Joan, feeding chickens at Kingswood Farm. (above, right) Different species of Roosters that are found at Kingswood Farm.
Cockfighting sparks controversy as Congress eyes legislation  By JOAN MCKINNEY Advocate Washington Bureau WASHINGTON -- Baton Rouge sociologist Jon Donlon describes the scene in tones of awe and amusement: The cockfighters and the animal-rights activists had come face to face at a fighting pit near Sunset and were hurling Bible verses at each other. In Donlon's opinion, the cockfighters won. The incident happened "four or five years ago," Donlon said, and for a researcher "it was very intriguing because of the cultural setting. "A bus of outside protesters arrived. They got out of the bus and marched around protesting and shouting about cruelty. ... The animal-rights people were taking snippets from the Bible about gentleness and appreciation for life. But the cockfighters are so much more literate about the Bible. "It was kind of ironic," Donlon said. "The cockfighters were supposed to be the immoral people," he said, but, by several traditional measures, the cockfighters saw themselves as the morality standard-bearers. "One of the protesters, a young woman, had no bra and was wearing a T-shirt and cut-off shorts," Donlon said. "All the cockfighters were discussing was how her parents could allow her to go out dressed like that." Pending legislation in the U.S. Senate would ban the cockfighting in Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma. It is banned in all other states. Yet searches of the Internet turn up hundreds of references to fighters and breeders all over the country. It's not easy for an outsider to discover who these people are and what they are like. Attempts to contact numerous Louisiana cockfighters by e-mail, through Web page citations, generated only a few responses. "We've always gotten the downside of every report, especially in newspapers," said Emanuel Massa in a telephone interview. Massa, a retired building contractor in River Ridge, is president of the Louisiana Game Fowl Association. 'Normal' people Some sociologists have profiled cockfighters, but their research is old and there isn't much of it. In 1974, Clemson University sociology professor William C. Capel and Virginia Polytechnical University sociology professor Clifton Bryant cooperated on what's known as "The Clemson Report." The 28-year-old study was a national mail survey of 1,000 randomly selected cockfighters, with more than 500 respondents. The two sociology professors supplemented the survey with their field research and investigations. Capel and Bryant, who did his undergraduate and graduate studies in Mississippi and at LSU, reported that "Devotees of cockfighting show no psychological abnormalities. ... There are no serious psychological differences between those who engage in this behavior and those who do not. Certainly there are no signs of psychotic behavior. ... "People engaged in this recreational form are basically conservative, highly concerned with health and outdoor life, strongly patriotic and strongly in favor of obeying laws and preservation of public order. ... It is very clear that they do not consider themselves as a 'deviant' group, and do not
view their behavior as either morally or legally wrong in the deeper sense that it could be considered an action of real danger to society." Capell and Bryant said that, in 1974, cockfighters could be found everywhere in the United States but were concentrated in the Southeast and the Southwest. Most had lived in rural areas as children, but reflecting the general urbanization of America, a majority had moved to small towns or cities. "They represent a cross section of what is basically the great American middle class," the two sociologists said. Very few cockfighters had jobs in government, education or the armed forces, and very few were on welfare or unemployed. Almost 40 percent were "in the white-collar ranks of sales, administration or business positions," almost 30 percent were "skilled blue collar" and about 25 percent were "semi-skilled blue collar." Almost 40 percent had a high school education and about 27 percent had some education beyond high school. An e-mail inquiry routed to the public relations departments of major colleges and universities in the United States failed to produce new academic studies on the demographics of cockfighting. Donlon studied sociology and anthropology at the University of Illinois. He and his wife own Donlon and Donlon in Baton Rouge, a private consulting firm that specializes in what Jon Donlon calls "controversial leisure" and risk-taking entertainment. He said he "consistently" attended cockfights from 1988 to about 1994, and since then, I've gone from time to time." Cockfighters "are eminently normal. They are very normal," Donlon said. "The animal-rights people have consistently run a defamation program. They depict cockfighters as selling drugs and being actively attached to crime. .... In my field work, that doesn't seem to be accurate. ... They just seem to be folks from the small towns. I haven't noticed any violence. I haven't noticed any drug dealing. ... No flashy clothes, no elaborate automobiles. ... Nothing about the crowds that seemed any different from any small town gathering." Cruelty-crime allegations Animal-welfare organizations use the allegations of criminality and cruelty to fuel their political efforts to wipe out cockfighting. (For a copy of the complete article please send requests email to the newsletter editor or Phoenix exotics president, you may find this information within this publication)

Tuna and Chicken Diet Creates 'Supermouse'. Submitted by: Phoenix member rune.raion@a... Taken from Ananova website of UK.Vermin control officers in Birmingham say they are struggling to control rodents they have dubbed "supermice."Rentokil workers in the city say a high protein diet of tuna and chicken has turned the mice into the craftiest in the country.Spokesman Paul Bodfish says the mice ignore poisoned food and avoid walls where traps are hidden by running across the middle of floors.He says the company is hoping to invent different types of non-carbohydrate based poisons to try and repress the rodents.Mr Bodfish added: "The situation hasn't got out of hand yet but it is definitely a problem which is being exacerbated by mild winters which are decreasing mouse mortality rates."He told the Birmingham Post: "It is a misconception that mice are becoming immune to poisons but some years ago we discovered in Birmingham that they were reluctant to eat cereal based poisons."This reluctance to digest carbohydrates has been passed on through the generations and instead they have evolved to eat high protein foods like tuna and chicken,"The rise in the number of take-away outlets, discarded scraps of food and recently mild winters means that we have created the ideal environment for our mice to thrive."Story filed: 12:09 Tuesday 25th June 2002

Live Traps and Squeeze Cages. Submitted by: Tracy Wilson Hi friends,Just wanted to let you know that I have added Tru-Catch Live Traps and Squeeze cages to my product line for Wild Trax Supply. I have researched for quite a while now to find a very good and durable product line of traps and squeeze cages to offer for sale, and I think these are some of the best I have found. They are made of 1/4 and 5/16 steel frame construction and they are coated to prevent rusting. They are heavy duty, and they are guaranteed for 5 years against animal damage. The live trap do not have springs, but a variable trigger mechanism. The doors open to the outside of the cages, rather than to the inside like most other brands. This allows a much higher capture rate.The squeeze cages are made of the same steel construction and coated, and they are designed to be easily operated by one person. The squeeze panel can lock into place. The traps and restraint cages are designed to be compatible, so you can trap an animal and transfer it safely to the squeeze cage. And they do have a live trap that folds down for smaller storage. It is really nice to have a trap on hand for an emergency in case a cat escapes or is injured and needs medical attention. They don't always keep traps big enough for our cats in stock at retail stores, which most people don't find out until in the middle of an emergency. So, it is always safer to be prepared just in case. I have a lot of cats that were placed with me for different reasons, and I cannot handle all of them, so I keep a live trap around to be able to move them to a different cage, or put it in a squeeze cage to do routine healthcare, etc. It sure is handy, and makes these kind of things much less traumatic for the cats and me :) Here's the link:http://www.wildtraxsupply.comClick on "Live Traps" and "Restraint Cages" to view these items. Thanks for looking!

Ohio Law Bans Animal Biological Functions Submitted by:rune.raion@a...City's pets get right to answer calls of nature after 20 year ban A law banning an Ohio city's dogs, cats and hamsters from answering calls of nature
even in private has been changed. The law passed over 20 years ago in Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County, banned pets from defecating anywhere. The law was discovered recently after a resident complained about a neighbour's dog making a mess. Officials found the law explicitly banned defecation by any animal with a possible £70 fine. No one was actually fined under the law. "The ordinance was written stupidly. The pets have been going anyway," the council's legal director Virgil Arrington told the Beacon Journal. The city council has now thrown out the ban. It has left in place the provision ordering pet owners to clean up after their animals. "It's about time that the animals have a right to do what they need to do," councillor Jerry James said. Story filed: 18:19 Thursday 16th May 2002

IFAW: Manitoba Continues Leadership on Wildlife Protection - Polar Bear Protection Act an Important Step


The bill attempts to protect polar bears and ensure their humane treatment by prohibiting anyone from owning or exporting a polar bear without the Conservation Minister's permission. "It's a good day for the polar bears," IFAW National Director Dr. Rick Smith said. "This legislation recognizes, first and foremost, that the best place for a polar bear is in the wild, and puts strong restrictions on anyone who wishes to keep a polar bear in captivity." In reaction to the highly publicized discovery that three Manitoba polar bears had been sold by a German zoo to a Mexican circus with deplorable living conditions, the Bill seeks to prevent such instances from reoccurring. Under the new law, polar bears may not be transferred from one owner to another without permission of the Conservation Minister. "Earlier this year, the government's Wildlife Amendment Act made Manitoba the first province to ban penned hunts - the unethical practice of shooting wild animals in fenced enclosures." Dr. Smith said. "The Polar Bear Protection Act continues the Doer government's leadership on protecting Manitoba's wonderful wild animals."

CONTACT: IFAW Katy Heath-Eves (613) 220-5994 www.ifaw.org Copyright (C) 2002, Canadian Corporate News. All rights reserved. NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY CCNMatthews INDUSTRY KEYWORD: MED - Media SUBJECT CODE: NWS - SPECIAL NEWS EVENTSCopyright © 2002, Canadian Corporate News, all rights reserved.

Animal Rescues Bring in Big Bucks to Special Interests

Submitted by: ZB AP Thursday, July 11, 2002 By Dan Springer SEATTLE — Although they are highly regarded as a good cause, some animal protection agencies have been receiving lots of criticism for not wisely spending their money. Each year, several thousand dogs and cats are put to death because there's not enough money to build adequate animal shelter space. In the meantime, saving a whale in the Puget Sound is costing $500,000, with taxpayers picking up half the tab. "Would we have had the choice realistically of leaving her in Puget Sound for the whole of the summer and watching her get sicker and sicker and die a painful and unpleasant death? I don't think realistically anyone in this agency or anyone in the Pacific Northwest really thought that was an option," said National Marine Fisheries Service spokesman Brian Gorman in defense of the millions spent to capture and then release Keiko the killer Orca that starred in the blockbuster film Free Willy and its sequel. But there are those who say letting nature take its course should be the "only" option. Critics of this and other expensive animal rescues say not only do they demonstrate priorities way out of whack, but they hide another agenda: The more media attention a rescue gets, the more donations flow into the private organizations involved. "If you look at the foundations that were created for some of the previous rescues you'll see there's a fair amount of money in rescuing animals, like millions," Patti Strand, a board member of National Animal Interest Alliance, said. In fact, freeing Willy has been anything but free, costing $15 million so far. Keiko is still under human care in Iceland because no whale pod has taken him back. All that money, many say, could be used to save tens of thousands of animals, not just a few. It is estimated that around $1 million is enough to run most municipal shelters for a year, and that, supporters say, is the truly humane thing to do.
The Humane Society of the United States Urges House to Pass Bill Restricting Private Ownership of Exotic Pets; Applauds Rep. Miller

Submitted by: ZBStory
Filed: Friday, July 26, 2002 4:15 PM EST


It would ban interstate shipments of lions, tigers, and bears for the pet trade. "There is no justifiable reason for a person to have a tiger or a lion as a pet," said Wayne Pacelle, HSUS senior vice president. "These are powerful and potentially dangerous animals, and they belong in the wild, not languishing in a dirty cage in someone's backyard in Arkansas or New Jersey or Ohio."

The legislation seeks to amend the Lacey Act, which addresses shipments of fish and wildlife, by barring the interstate movement of dangerous exotics for use as pets. Facilities that operate under a U.S. Department of Agriculture permit, such as zoos and circuses, are exempt. An estimated 5,000 tigers are in private hands in the United States -- a population that likely surpasses the world's wild tiger population.

Ownership of wild, exotic animals seems to be on the rise, often with disastrous results:

-- Lexington, Texas -- A three-year-old boy is killed by his step-father's "pet" tiger in October 2001.
-- Channelview, Texas -- A three-year-old boy killed national headlines in March 2000 when his uncle's pet Bengal tiger tore off part of the boy's arm.
-- Loxahatchee, Fla. -- A 58-year-old woman was critically injured after being bitten on the head by a 750-pound "pet" Siberian-Bengal tiger mix in February 2002.
-- Animal control officers have been called in by police who find dangerous exotic animals guarding illegal drugs.

The Houston SPCA has had to expand their facility to meet the unique needs of the large exotic animals they routinely receive as victims of cruelty and neglect. They've handled over 40 large cats in the last few years and just last week took in an African lion. Houston SPCA executive director Patricia Mercer thinks that federal legislation to ban interstate shipments would help to address the problem since she believes many of the animals the shelter cares for come from out of state. Exotic animal dealers traffic in these animals, who are relatively easy and inexpensive to procure. Tiger cubs cost approximately $350 to purchase, yet as full grown animals they can cost thousands of dollars to feed every month. Dealers of such animals feed the demand for exotic pets from people who seek the attention and notoriety that comes with owning a lion, tiger, or other dangerous exotic animal. Once someone grows tired of the novelty or realizes that they can't properly care for the animal, they have few options for placing a full-grown exotic animal. The animals have no value to the conservation of wild species since they are often inbred and genetically inappropriate for breeding programs designed to restore wild populations.

Exotic animals are neglected or are simply let loose. "These animals cannot be humanely maintained by individuals without the resources or knowledge to care for these creatures," said Rep. Miller. "They have very specific physical, behavioral and nutritional needs that can only be met by professional curators at zoos that have the resources to meet the animals' needs while providing safe and secure housing." "Wild animals, even if they are raised by hand from infancy, grow up to be unpredictable and dangerous," said Richard Farinato, director of captive wildlife protection for The HSUS. "No matter how well you think you might know an animal, there's always the potential of serious injury to yourself or someone else." Twelve states currently ban private possession of large exotic animals and 7 states have partial bans. However, no federal law restricts sale or ownership of these animals. A number of organizations oppose the ownership of dangerous exotic animals, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and animal shelters across the country. The HSUS is the nation's largest animal protection organization with over seven million members and constituents. The HSUS is dedicated to protecting all animals through legislation, education, investigation, litigation, advocacy and field work. The HSUS has active programs protecting wildlife, companion animals, farm animals and animals in research. The HSUS is headquartered in Washington, DC and has 10 regional offices. For more information, visit The HSUS' Web site at http://www.hsus.org. http://www.usnewswire.com /U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/07/26 14:05

CONTACT: Rachel Querry of The Humane Society of the United States,
301-258-825
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RESPONSE FROM: JOHN LUSSMYER  
Yup, I received one as well. I think they are sending them to all the USDA license holders. At least that's the only likely place I can think of where they would get my address. It's the usual AR junk. I think I'm going to write back and ask for details about any canned hunts they know of. :-)  
RESPONSE FROM: JEANNE HALL  
Dave Coleburn also reported getting one of these and he took similar actions. Per Dave, the fellow listed in the mailing, stated that he knew of no canned hunts of cats. This is second hand of course. Dave may have more to say on the subject.  
PHOENIX EXOTICS WOULD LIKE FOR ANYONE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR ORGANIZATION IF YOU CAN PROVIDE ANY PROOF OF A CANNED HUNT. ALL INFORMATION CAN AND WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AT YOUR REQUEST.

The stated purpose of Phoenix per the articles of incorporation:

“...for charitable educational and scientific purposes; to educate the public in the necessary safety precautions and procedures for dealing with exotic wildlife; and to provide emergency assistance to exotic wildlife in need of care or relocation.” Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc. became incorporated in the state of Washington as a non-profit corporation. Phoenix is dedicated to the legal and ethical ownership of exotic animals by private persons with an emphasis on education and safety. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc., is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership through responsible behavior. WELCOME! — MY NAME IS JEANNE HALL, I AM THE PRESIDENT OF PHOENIX EXOTICS AND WOULD LIKE TO BRIEF YOU ON what to expect in our upcoming newsletters. The newsletter is an avenue to reach our members that are not on our E-list provided by Yahoogroups.com. This newsletter will help members who do not have computer access or easy access to our website. We are reaching out to make Phoenix Exotics accessible, including in our newsletter information from our E-list for members that are currently not online. Enjoy!