

Creature Chronicles

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INDEPENDENT INFORMATION
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WILDLIFE PHENOMENA

Editorial

What Constitutes Evidence? The Trial Continues...

In the last issue of this publication, we discussed a brief scenario of taking the alleged Bigfoot phenomena through the legal system. The objective was to see how much evidence could be accumulated to actually prove the existence of this hominid. It was obvious that we took a skeptical viewpoint. After all, actual proof can be defined as actually discovering a live specimen. Tracks, feces, hair, blood, etc. can only be considered soft evidence. This information can show cause, but could easily be disputed.

Response to our comments are still flowing in; many favorable and some were quite offensive. As we previously stated, we recommended the readers to debate the issue, as long as it pertained to the subject at hand. Recently, we received a lengthy rebuttal from researcher, Erik Beckjord of Malibu, California. Erik has pointed out that the staff has neglected to print his previous letters, so this seems to be an appropriate opportunity for him to voice his opinion. Parts of his letter have been edited somewhat, leaving out the innuendos and hearsay. We will follow with our opinions of his challenge.

"Your statement on the Patterson/Gimlin film is correct only to the extent that the film is a strong piece of evidence that a moving object that looks like a hominid may have been seen in 1967. Without a body, no proof is good enough to verify this. Blood, hair, feces, tracks, etc. and 10,000 sightings will not prove the case to the satisfaction of science. I say this because of having interviewed dozens of scientists who study anomalies and that is what they say is needed. Yet, a body, or bones are never found. I suggest that they never will be.

At this point, many investigators with ten years of searching, throw up their hands and become skeptics. There is a natural progression which I have outlined below:

- STAGE 1) The investigator believes his techniques will find Bigfoot.
- STAGE 2) The investigator becomes frustrated with no results.
- STAGE 3) After many years, he/she either:

- a) Becomes bitter and quits the research to be a skeptic.
- or
- b) Decides to investigate other theories about what Bigfoot is.

I see the staff of CREATURE CHRONICLES going the way of a.
As for myself, I have gone the route of b.

The reason is that I have not been blind to all the weird and unusual things seen by me on treks in many states. Things that were so weird that it became obvious to me that some force was preventing a discovery. It also seemed to me that if I knew the true nature of Bigfoot, I would not be able to understand it. However, I now believe I can understand some of it, given the chance. I have at least learned that after years of doing the same things, that nothing much will work, except some types of chance photography.

We are dealing with an anomalous phenomenon that does not want us to know all about it. It may be an energy phenomenon rather than a physical one, which can make marks, leave blood, hair, droppings, etc., but which will never be found in a dead physical form. It looks real, but it will not stay physical enough on our terms to allow us to shoot, kill, trap, study, or even relate to.

Nobody will ever find Bigfoot. The creature may find you, but the bottom line is that no human will ever discover Bigfoot. The Americans and Canadians who want to shoot one haven't a prayer. The best you can do is watch them, or get a photograph.

If anyone can prove me wrong, I will be delighted, but I am not going to hold my breath. I am going to work on seeing what science can do that will enable us to study new energy forms. That is, intelligent energy in terms of new tools and devices.

Furthermore, when you conclude that today the Bigfoot is extinct, you are stating that there is not enough to prove that it exists on a physical basis. The truth is that it does not exist on a physical basis, (in permanent form) but that it does, in my opinion, exist on an energy basis. If you look at the events in Rome, Ohio in 1981/82 in that light, the phenomenon makes a lot more sense."

J.Erik Beckford
December 26, 1987

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

I am in somewhat agreement to the first paragraph of Mr. Beckford's letter. However, I have a real problem in accepting the rest of his draft. Unfortunately, one can not prove, nor disprove his line of thinking. Until we can rectify the problem of a specimen, who is to say what type of creature Bigfoot is. Erik's theory is nothing new. It was formulated during the late 1960's by such Fortean greats as John A. Keel and Brad Steiger. As far as the lack of anatomical remains being discovered, there are plenty of arguments that could explain that.

Mr. Beckford is on a one track course if he really believes one becomes a skeptic just because of bitterness and gaining no results with his/her research and investigations. This is a real fallacy among the true believers. Just because one questions the general acceptance of events, does not mean losing the interest. For example, just because I may believe there may be a logical explanation for red rain, or alligators in the sewers, does not mean that I still neglect keeping a record of such events. I do question the existence of Bigfoot.

CREATURE CHRONICLES

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In order to properly investigate any alleged anomaly, one must eliminate all the possibilities. By doing this, you practically exclude all chance of a misinterpretation or hoax. Many skeptics do want to believe in the Sasquatch, but they cannot find the hard evidence that is not disputable.

It would appear to me that Erik's argument on an energy basis is invalid, simply because it so easily explains the surrounding elements in these cases. It is a convenient method of enhancing one's own believability. This belief system could be attributed to the movie and book industries. The various Science Fiction/Horror stories are full of references to creatures of other dimensions, monsters of the Id and mythical beasts coming to life.

As for the puzzle of hair, blood, tracks, feces, etc., I sincerely believe that adhering to strict field investigations and interviewing can eliminate these problems. Take for instance the incident that occurred in Big Bone, Kentucky in 1980. The main witness, who claimed to be an expert marksman claimed to have shot an unusually large animal during the night. He told us that he hit the alleged creature several times without harming it. The next day, we found strong evidence that he merely shot up two trees. Also, in 1980, were the supposed encounters of Bigfoot in Vinton County.¹ In this particular case, there was allegedly blood discovered. This soft evidence was reported in the media and was suppose to be sent to an unknown lab for analysis. However, nothing was ever confirmed either with the media or written documentation. Even if it was, how can one say that if the blood is from a primate, that it belongs to Bigfoot? We all know that prints can be easily faked, even the ones with dermal ridges.² I, for one have seen many suspicious types. Hair samples are not admissible because we actually need a true sample for comparison.³

"WHERE'S THE BEEF?"

In conclusion, I submit that a particular theory on Bigfoot's origin cannot be substantiated until an actual specimen is retrieved for study. Yes, unfortunately, we still end up at square one. We cannot say that this alleged creature is an energy form, when we cannot even prove its existence. Once you establish proof beyond any reasonable doubt, then we can begin to examine the possibilities of physical and/or energy compositions. It is all a classic example of the "no-win scenario." The burden of proof remains with the believers. R.S.

Note: For more reading on the skeptics vs. the believers, I highly recommend Grover Krantz's piece in "The Sasquatch and other Unknown Hominids"; pgs. 58-62. 1984. Western Publishers

THE MARYLAND BIGFOOT REFERENCE GUIDE
Mark Opsasnick © 1987 Mark has compiled the many reported encounters in Maryland along with information on individuals and organizations in the state. A real bargain for \$3.50. Arcturus Book Service, 4431 Village Square Lane, Stone Mountain, Ga. 33083

Off The Leash



Once Robert got out of the sewer, there was no going back.

Cincinnati Post 1/27/88

References:

1. Creature Chronicles Number 3 Spring, 1981 Vinton County, Ohio case; Hoax or Reality The Ohio Valley Hominids, 1982
2. Newsweek 10/19/87
3. Creature Chronicles Number 5 Summer, 1982 Hair analysis; A Skeptical Viewpoint John Green: Sasquatch; The Apes Among Us 1978

Panther Pandemonium

Or

"Cat-Scratch Fever"

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIM CURRY

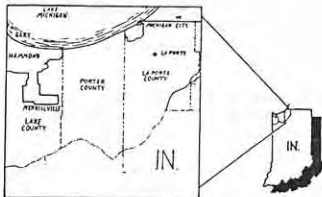
The following is a chronological listing of "Panther" reports that have allegedly occurred in the eastern United States from 1984 to the present. I have been collecting these incidents solely from newspaper accounts, so I cannot positively verify all of them. However, there is plenty of evidence to substantiate the existence of these felines from places you would never think of. I will follow the listing with a brief synopsis of possible origins.



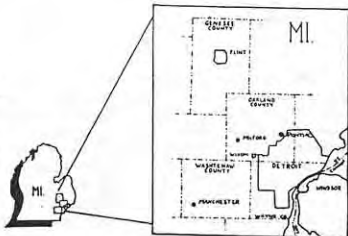
COMPOSITE OF CREATURE FROM VARIOUS EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS. ANIMAL'S APPEARANCE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF A LEOPARD. (PANTHERA PARDUS) LENGTH OF THE HEAD AND BODY IS ABOUT 60 INCHES, TAIL IS 38 INCHES AND THE WEIGHT IS BETWEEN 55 TO 100 POUNDS. THE BLACK INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE COMMON IN ASIA THAN IN AFRICA. NOTICE THE ABSENCE OF CLAW MARKS. THIS IS CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING IF THE PRINTS ARE ACTUALLY THAT OF A FELINE.

1. May 30, 1984: Manchester, Michigan - Police Chief, William Zsenyuk reported four sightings of a "black panther" over a three day period. Witnesses said they saw a "cat-like" black animal, with pointed ears and a tail 2½ to three feet long. The animal was said to weigh from 100 to 150 pounds. Zsenyuk would not disclose any of the witnesses' names, but stated that some of the sightings were by police. A liver-bated trap was set by the Huron Valley Humane Society.
Source: Detroit Free Press 5/30/84
2. June 6, 1984: Manchester, Michigan - More sightings of a black "leopard" have federal game officials concerned. Chief Zsenyuk and deputies equipped with tranquilizer rifles believed they surrounded the animal around 4:30 A.M. Somehow the cat managed to get behind them, as they heard a blood-curdling scream. Manchester police were aided by the Detroit officials with a helicopter and tracking dogs. Don Burger, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officer saw the animal through a night scope. Burger believes it is a black leopard, probably a female and weighing about 100 pounds. Source: Detroit Free Press 6/9 /84, 7/17/84
3. July 11, 1984: Wixom, Michigan - At 4:00 A.M., Rhonda Marshall was delivering newspapers when she turned onto a street and her headlights illuminated a panther lying in the grass. Marshall said it was bigger than a German shepherd.
Source: Detroit Free Press 7/17/87
4. July 12, 1984: Wixom, Michigan - At 11:20 A.M., Ken St. Jean witnessed a large cat roaming through the property of a paving company. He was loading black-top onto a truck when he saw it run across a driveway. St. Jean watched as it made an easy leap over an eight foot fence. Source: Detroit Free Press 7/17/87

5. July 14, 1984: Wixom, Michigan - Wixom Police Sgt. Vern Darlington saw a five-foot-long cat during the night. It was resting near the runway of Spencer Airport. This was the 10th reported cat in the Wixom area and the 14th report in Manchester. Source: The Detroit News 7/20/84.
6. July 17, 1984: Coloma, Michigan - Two soft-drink deliverymen saw a medium-sized cougar near a supermarket. No names mentioned. Source: The Detroit News 7/20/84.
7. July 18, 1984: Location unknown, but believed to be in vicinity of Manchester. U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorities and Chief Zsenyuk set up trap consisting of reinforced wire and enclosing a smaller trap to house a chicken for bait. However, it did not catch the panther. Meanwhile, two women sighted a large cat running across a lawn east of Coloma, Michigan. (No names mentioned) Source: Detroit Free Press 7/19/84, Detroit News 7/20/84.
8. July 20, 1984: Manchester, Wixom, Coloma and Grand Rapids, Michigan - Authorities now believe that there may be three or four panthers roaming about in Lower Michigan. It is thought that they may be escaped pets. Many theories are circulating. (More on this later. Editor) Source: Detroit News 7/20/84.
9. August 13, 1984: Flint, Michigan - Three employees of the Fisher Body plant witnessed a large dark cat in an alley across from the factory at about 8:30 AM. William Routhier told authorities that the "cat" had a long tail. Four other sightings of a black panther were reported in Flint's suburbs. Source: The Flint Journal 8/14/84.
10. December 3, 1984: Flint, Michigan - Truckdriver, Craig Wadsworth claimed to have almost run over a panther at about 6:30 AM. Wadsworth said the cat stopped, looked at him and then scurried off into the darkness. Meanwhile, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Lillian Smith told the police and zoo officials that she saw and heard a lion in the community of N. Avondale. Paw prints 2½ to 3 inches in diameter were discovered nearby. Source: Flint Journal 12/4/84. Cincinnati Enquirer 12/4/84.



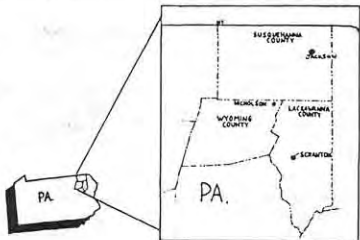
11. July & August, 1985: Michigan City and La Porte, Indiana - Approximately 40 people reported an alleged panther to the Michigan City Police Department. Many witnesses said the melanin would quickly vanish into wooded areas. Detective Kenneth Waltz said that the cat is about four foot long and weighs about 150 pounds. He believes to have found dung and paw prints that resemble a human double fist; indicative of a cat print.



La Porte, Indiana received 10 panther reports during this two month time span.
Source: Chicago Sun Times 9/5/85; Chicago Tribune 10/31/85

12. August 17, 1985: La Porte, Indiana - Louis Keen saw a strange cat-like animal while working at a power plant about 5:30 PM. Keen described it as a cougar that rolled in coal. Another employee of the Indiana Public Service, saw it through binoculars and confirmed Keen's testimony. Source: Chicago Sun Times 9/5/85
13. August 29, 1985: La Porte, Indiana - Jim Williams was driving home when a shadow crossed the road. When Williams turned on his bright headlights, he saw a panther crossing a lawn. He later reported the incident to police. Source: Chicago Sun Times 9/5/85
14. July 10, 1986: Milford, Michigan - A \$3000 palomino quarter horse was found dead on the ranch of Selvio Fini. He discovered the horse that afternoon with its neck broken and clawed. Around 12:00 midnight, Fini and Officer Rick Sharpe (Milford Police) saw a large melanin cat running into the nearby woods. Sharpe took two shots at the animal, but missed. Source: Detroit Free Press 7/12/86; Detroit News 7/12/86, 7/14/86, 7/19/86
15. July 11 & 12, 1986: Milford, Michigan - Milford police stake-out Fini's ranch. State Police provide infrared viewing on rifles and the General Motors proving grounds loan their infrared surveillance scopes. Around midnight, four officers observed a large feline in an open pasture. At 1:00 AM, Officer, Thomas Callahan shot at the animal, but was not sure if he hit it. The cat was no longer visible for the remainder of the morning. Source: Detroit News 7/14/86
16. July, week of the 7th, 1986: Pontiac, Michigan - Residents of Oakland County have reported a Bobcat in the area. Pontiac officials found paw prints on a dusty disabled car. Animal Control Officer Linda Snead said that the prints were too large to be a domestic cat. James Coleman told police he has seen a bobcat several times near his home on East Pike. Coleman said he tried to trap it and on one occasion, threw a brick at it. Source: Detroit News 7/12/86
17. July 13, 1986: Milford, Michigan - During the afternoon, Fini shot at the mysterious animal. He found drops of blood, but a heavy rain washed the remains away before police arrived. Authorities reported to the scene with tracking dogs and a helicopter. The animal managed to evade the hunters again. Fini described it as being black, about five feet long and weighing around 190 pounds. Detroit Zoo spokesman, Steve Graham said that it is "not impossible" that this is the same animal spotted in 1984. Source: Detroit News 7/14/87
18. July, week of 14th, 1986: Milford, Michigan - Federal Game Officers converge in the area to attempt to either tranquilize or trap the animal. Don Berger of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes the cat is a leopard, possibly the same one from 1984. Douglass Andrews, who is an officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control Division will attempt to trap or kill the "leopard". Berger also believes that someone illegally brought a pair of leopards into Michigan for breeding. Large numbers of reporters and vigilantes have invaded Fini's ranch. Fini claims that the animal is still in the vicinity, as the dogs and horses have been acting strange. Source: Detroit News 7/19/86
19. July 27, 1986: Nicholson, Pennsylvania - Carl Eastwood was walking along

State Route 92 at 6:00 AM, when he observed a striped cat that looked similar to a tiger. It ran from some bushes about 50 feet from him, turned around and ran back. Later, in the afternoon, state police spotted the alleged tiger with a helicopter, but lost it in the thick woods of Wyoming County. Source: Scranton (Pa.) Times 7/28/86



20. July 28, 1986: Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties, Pa. - State Police continued the tiger hunt with a search of a 10 mile perimeter focusing on the two bordering counties. Authorities used a deer carcass to lure the cat, but to no avail. Police contacted the Bently Brothers Circus and Buck Young, who collects "panther-type" cats. However, Young and circus officials maintained that their cats were accounted for.
21. July 29, 1986: Newton Township, Pa. - Gary Steier, a school teacher claimed that he and his family saw a large orange cat in high grass about 200 yards away from their porch. Steier reported that it was big, orange and long and loping. Later, Steier was visited by two policemen; one from Falls Township and the other from Newton Township. Steier overheard an unusual conversation between them about who might own a tiger. Steier notified state police and they said an investigation would begin. Source: Scranton Times 7/30/86
22. July 30, 1986: Jackson, Pennsylvania - Cindy Belmont and her brother saw a huge cat in a pasture. The animal seemed to be beige in color, with a long tail. Police found matted grass and possible prints. The Belmonts insisted that they saw the cat running with a collie. Miss Belmont, who is an amateur wildlife photographer, said that the "tiger" appeared to be tame. It did not attack the farm animals. An anonymous woman called the Montrose Humane Society to report that a white tiger was set out by a Nicholson man who was facing a law suit from his landlord because of the tiger's dam-

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prodigious Fortean
enigmatic mysterious
uncanny inexplicable

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age to an apartment. State police reported receiving 10 calls per hour from the counties of Wyoming, Lackawana, Pike and Susquehanna Counties. Switchboards were jammed with "cat" reports. Police began to suspect that the cat-at-large was an escaped pet. Several sightings had different descriptions. One report was of a white tiger, while another sighting was of a 350 pound brown cat with white spots. The original report depicted an orange and black striped cat. Source: Scranton Times 7/30/86, 7/31/86

23. August 4, 1986: Waukegan, Illinois - At 2:50 AM, a lion was reported by local residents of an apartment complex. The animal was described as having a fluffy crop of fur on its tail and cropped hair on the back. Police checked zoos and a circus, but came up empty handed. That morning, when the police shift change, a day shift officer remembered a photograph of a strange looking junk yard dog. The ten police officers and animal control personnel that had searched the 2700 block of Westwood Avenue, dispatched to Hussey's Wrecker Service. It was at this location, where they found Henny; a German Shepherd owned by Mike Hussey. This hairstyle was trimmed by Canine Creations of Waukegan and was an idea to keep the dog cool and to discourage thefts. Henny had escaped the junk yard through an opening in the fence and took a night-time walk. When the lion reports began, Henny came back home. Source: Chicago Sun Times 8/5/86
24. December 18, 1986: East Carondelet, Illinois - An alleged phantom feline is said to be roaming about and killing pet dogs. A footprint $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long was obtained by Thomas Amlung from the St. Clair County Animal Control. Experts from the St. Louis Zoo believe the animal is an escaped, or abandoned pet because Illinois recently enacted a law prohibiting keeping such animals. An unidentified East Carondelet man was driving home at 3:00 AM when a black leopard struck the front bumper of his car. The driver believes he saw a patch of white on its chest. Mayor Herb Simmons and Police Chief Skip Mize found some good tracks, but there was no evidence of blood or hair on the car bumper. Simmons and Mize both claim to have seen the animal a few weeks ago using a spotlight from a police cruiser. They said that it was coal black. Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch 12/18/86, 12/19/86
25. February 20, 1987: East Carondelet, Illinois - An unidentified woman believes she saw the animal under a street light outside her house. Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch 3/5/87
26. February 22, 1987: Between Dupon and Cahokia, Illinois - Frank and Rosie Armstrong were driving home when they saw the cat eating on a dead carcass in the middle of Stolle Road. The Armstrongs were surprised at the cat's lack of fear from humans or automobiles. Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch 3/5/87
27. May 29, 1987: Nauvoo, Alabama - Mayor Higgins has told the press that there has been a half-dozen sightings of a black cat running loose in the small town. The "black cougar" has been seen on porches and in yards. "Too many people have seen it to discount it as a hoax," said Higgins. Police Chief W.R. Butler is investigating. Source: Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News 5/29/87
28. June 14, 1987: Vineland, New Jersey - Allen and Carol Davis claim that they have heard and seen some type of large animal in the woods outside their home. State Police Detective Sgt. William Prato says that he has received reports of a large black cat with a long tail. He stated that a "panther" could be combing the densely wooded areas of Vineland, Cumberland County and Pittsgrove Township near the Maurice River Parkway. This animal has

been attacking dogs, cats, horses and other livestock for about five months.

29. June 19, 1987: Vineland, New Jersey - Officials of the Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife set traps out in the southwestern area. They discovered a paw print, but officials disagree over the origin. Clumps of black hair were found on a door of an area home and were sent to state police for analysis. The print measured about four inches in diameter. Vineland Police Captain James Forcinito has recieved many reports on a large black cat. He said that one resident of Pittsgrove told police he saw a panther, or leopard with a large tail. Source: Newark, (N.J.) Star-Ledger 6/23/87
30. August 15, 1987: Elkins, West Virginia - Benny McWilliams and a companion witness a cougar, or mountain lion from about 100 feet away. The young teenager described the animal as tan in color with a tail that was three to four feet long. WVDNR officials remain skeptical. They believe it was someones exotic pet. Source: West Virginia Advocate 9/14/87
31. September 21, 1987: Millstadt, Illinois - Chuck Hudgins and his young son were coming out of the woods in St. Clair County when he saw some large tracks. Hudgins told police he saw two men hunting, when moments later, he heard two shots and saw a large cat leap on the side of the road and into a soybean patch. The incident was reported to Thomas Amlung, who later investigated and believed to have found a den, where the grass and weeds had been trampled on. Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch 9/23/87

Wildlife authorities are no different than cryptozoologists. They constantly disagree over theories and methods. This is just the case when it comes to trying to explain the "pantom feline" enigma. I have received correspondence from various state conservationists and federal wildlife officials. I have read many newspaper quotes and not one agency seems to agree on anything, except, perhaps, the escaped pet theory.

The escaped and/or abandon hypothesis seems to be the most logical. Consider the testimony of Cindy Belmont, who allegedly saw the Pennsylvania tiger. She stated that the feline appeared tame and was running with a domestic canine. According to George Lowry, of the Nay Aug Park zoo in Scranton, the presence of a dog would fit the pet theory.

"To have a big cat with a dog, I would say is not unusual if you were keeping the cat as a pet. In Europe, its very common to have nanny dogs when hand-raising a litter of cats", said Lowery.

In Tennessee, it is simple to get a liscense to raise an exotic pet. An estimated 60 people raise cougars. Illinois recently enacted a law prohibiting breeding and raising such cats. Laws on raising such animals are different in each state, but many individuals could breed such animals and the authorities would never know. It is also illegal to import certain types of felines into the United States from abroad. There is a great deal of money to be made in furs.

Chief Zsenyuk, of Manchester, Michigan believes the "panther" may be the pet of a drug dealer. He said its not unusual for a "pusher" to have exotic pets, as the Drug Enforcement Agency arrested a dealer who had pet peacocks. This theory would hold merit, especially if you were hiding a marijuana field.

My Freedom of Information requests to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Drug Enforcement Agency have not been answered as of this printing. It would seem improbable that a large scale conspiracy is on-going to release pet panthers into the eastern United States, but I feel one must eliminate any possibility.

There seems to be little question of credibility of such reports. After all, Don Burger, of the USFWS saw a black leopard. This is further substantiated by a letter I received from James Engle, USFWS chief of Endangered Species Division. Engle says that the agency has an interest in the sightings of alleged eastern cougars (Felis Concolor), but a black one would be extremely rare. Steve Bircher of the St. Louis Zoo tells me that they receive reliable reports of melanistic cats and that they are listed as endangered species in Missouri. Of course, he is referring to cougars, as leopards and jaguars are not indigenous to any part of North America. Dr. Amlung is convinced there is a large cat roaming southern Illinois.

Officials of the Division of Natural Resources for Ohio and West Virginia are totally skeptical of cougars in their states, even though they receive many reports. They write off many incidents as being wild dogs or coyotes. The canine family will attack livestock in a similar fashion and the only way an expert can tell is by measurements of the wounds.

At any rate, there is a true phenomenon behind these cases. Perhaps wildlife officials should pursue a more rigid discipline of investigation and population counts. It would take a thesis to ponder the many questions on this subject and I do not have the space here to elaborate on all the side issues. I would like to here some response from the readers and more newsclippings and investigations.

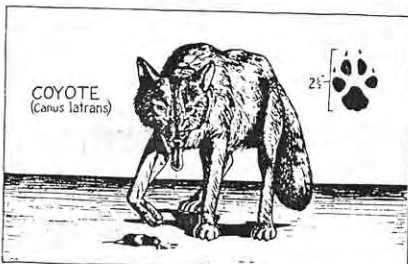
Perhaps the old saying is correct - "CATS HAVE NINE LIVES"!

Newsclipping credits: Tom Adams. Steve Bircher. Lou Farish. Robert Goodrich. Mark Hall. Karen Johnson. Art Kapa. Wayne King. James Moseley. Ray Nelke. Mark Opsasnick. Lang Thompson. Special thanks to COUD-I. FATE - May, 1985 contains my article "Phantom Panthers in Suburbia."

* * * * *
IN MEMORY OF TIM CURRY 1961-1987

Many of you already know of the untimely death of Indiana Bigfooter Tim Curry. Tim was a good friend and associate of mine. He was our illustrator for Chronicles and we were involved in many projects that many researchers did not know. Words are difficult to say on how I feel about this great loss. I only hope that Tim's great talents will be recognized in the future. To his memory, I dedicate all my future research endeavors. I will surely miss you.... R.S.

* * * * *



Editor's note to Creature Chronicles readers:

Thanks to the various correspondents who make this newsletter possible. Our staff members are Charles Wilhelm, Mark Opsasnick and George Green.

This publication is duplicated by a xerox, therefore, there is no monetary charge. CREATURE CHRONICLES is an exchange publication. If you have no publication, newspaper clippings, or investigations to exchange, please send a modest supply of postage stamps to cover shipping. If I neglected to answer your requests, please write again.....R.S.

40 animal deaths are a mystery

The Associated Press

GENEVA, Ala. — Authorities probing the mysterious deaths of some 40 animals — pigs, dogs and a horse that had its male organs ripped off — are trying to head off a stampede of evidence-trampling signifiers.

Dot Kirkland, a Geneva County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman, said tales about a mysterious beast have attracted droves of sightseers.

"It's like a fire in town," she said. "Everybody's coming to see. It's bothering our efforts. We're setting out traps, but we can't tell if there are any tracks because there have been so many people walking around out there. We want them to stay away, because the traps are dangerous, and this thing could be dangerous to humans as well as animals."

Among the casualties were two 60-pound pigs owned by Lloyd Stinson and his wife, Ann.

The couple said that on a recent evening just after sundown they heard a pig squeal, ran outside and found the two animals' ripped bodies in the pen.

"We didn't see what had done it," said Mrs. Stinson. "But we heard it. It was up between the pen and a little hill and we heard it holler. It was a sound I'm not familiar with, but it frightened us enough to get out of there."

County authorities said more than 35 animals have been killed since early September. Most have been hogs, but there have been several bulldogs and one horse.

Mrs. Stinson said their stock boar, which weighed 250 pounds, was also killed.

"The thing that has confused us is the fact that there is very little blood around," she said. "We're baffled. We've been studying books about animals, and we can't figure out what this might be."

Wolf attacks 11 children

CAIRO, (AP) — A rabid wolf attacked and injured 11 children in a southern town on the Nile River before escaping, a newspaper reported yesterday. Police patrolled the streets of Maghagha, a rural town 75 miles south of Cairo, in search of the wolf after it injured eight children in one incident and three in another, the weekly Akhbar el-Yom reported.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
8/30/87 Credit:
Beth Robbins via COUD-I

The Huntsville Times, Sunday, January 10, 1988 9A

Soviets tracking legendary yeti

MOSCOW — A society created within the Ministry of Culture has begun a search for the abominable snowman, a large manlike creature that has been sighted at least 100 times, the official Tass news agency said Saturday.

Tass said numerous reports collected by search enthusiast Zhanina Kofman of Moscow indicate the creature, known in Asia as the yeti, has a protruding forehead and eyebrows like cap peaks.

The news agency said anthropologists have associated those features and the knot of hair at the back of the yeti's skull with the prehistoric Neanderthal man.

The society of cryptozoologists set up under the aegis of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Culture will engage itself in the search for man's shy next-of-kin, Tass said.

The hairy behemoth, said to roam the snowy expanses of Siberia, is a favorite legend with superstitious Soviets, and the official society likely is aimed at keeping the government informed about the efforts of people who search for it.

Reptile rouses girl to rude awakening

MOSCOW (UPI) — Eleven-year-old Matanet woke up from a catnap in a tomato patch gripping her throat and choking, and doctors later removed a 2-foot-long snake the girl had swallowed in her sleep, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Wednesday.

Pravda said the incident took place in the village of Sabirabad in the Soviet Caucasian republic of Azerbaijan.

The girl, known only by her first name, Matanet, said she grew tired picking tomatoes one hot day and fell asleep without even remembering how but woke up after starting to choke," the newspaper said.

Her family rushed her to a clinic where doctors pumped her stomach and gave her a salt solution to induce vomiting.

"She vomited the snake right away," said Pravda, adding that an hour later she left the clinic and went home feeling just fine.

Snake expert Tavakgyul Iskenderov called the 25-inch-long reptile a Caucasian cat snake.

Scientists discover 'new' cats

Scrrips Howard Service

LONDON — A new type of large cat, previously unknown to science, may be living in a remote part of Scotland.

"They are too big to be domestic cats and too slender for Scottish wildcats," says Dr. Karl Shuker, a Birmingham zoologist, who is convinced the animals are a distinct species.

The stuffed bodies of four of the unusual felines were displayed for the first time at a recent scientific meeting in Edinburgh. The first of them was shot four years ago near the village of Kellas. Because it was so unusual, the local laird took it to a taxidermist.

The Kellas cat is long-limbed, with powerful hind legs and a slender, muscular body. Although its head is small, it has particularly prominent teeth.

Its discovery alerted hunters in the area, which lies in the hills north of the famed malt whisky distilleries of Speyside. Since then, six more of the animals have been found. Apart from the other three which also were stuffed, the rest were frozen immediately after death and have been preserved for scientific study.

Shuker presented a paper about them to an International Society of Cryptozoology symposium at the Royal Museum of Scotland. Cryptozoology deals with animals whose existence has not been scientifically confirmed, and delegates to the meeting came from all over the world to discuss various "big cats" which have been sighted in places as far apart as Mexico and Australia.

If the Kellas cat makes it into the textbooks as a new species, it will be one of the few new animals of the size to be discovered anywhere in the world this century.

Samples from the three frozen Kellas carcasses are now being examined by Professor Robert Berry at University College, London.

Beaumont (Tx)
Enterprise 8/19/87
Credit: Scott Parker
via COUD-I

Houston Chronicle
8/20/87
Credit: Scott Parker
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