

Oregon Zoo adds a breeding pair of ocelots to new renovation

Fur coats are not the usual attire for Portlanders in August, but the Oregon Zoo's newest residents, Ralph and Alice, have no qualms about their unseasonal apparel. In fact, a beautiful fur coat marked with black-rimmed blotches and spots as unique as fingerprints is one characteristic that distinguishes ocelots from other cats. Zoo visitors can check out the felines' fine wardrobe when their new exhibit opens on Friday, August 18.

The ocelot's gorgeous coat almost led to its demise. For centuries, ocelots have been hunted for their beautiful fur. During the 1960s and '70s more than 200,000 of the cats were taken each year. Ocelots

were placed on the endangered species list in 1982, and it is now illegal to hunt them in the United States.

"Zoo visitors are always asking for more cats, and we've been listening," said Oregon Zoo Director Tony Vecchio.

Since 2002, the zoo has been working with the Association of Zoo and Aquariums' Brazilian Ocelot Consortium and the government of Brazil to play a role in the ocelot's survival. The zoo hopes to breed the endangered cats, adding new genetics to the North American captive population. The Oregon Zoo is one of only 10 U.S. zoos involved with the consortium.

Ralph and Alice were born in

1993 at zoos located in São Paulo, Brazil, and were transferred to the Phoenix Zoo in 1996, where they produced three offspring. The pair arrived at the Oregon Zoo on April 12, 2006, weighing in at 22 and 19 pounds respectively.

Their new home is part of the Oregon Zoo's Forests of the World exhibit, a multi-phase renovation of the Primate Building, which began with the Amazon Flooded Forest. The ocelot exhibit replicates a lush South American rainforest with real and artificial plants, vines, logs and roots, and includes a waterfall and small pond. Artificial rocks with ledges provide a lounging place for the cats.

"The cats prefer to hang out

in the treetops, so the challenge was to place branches and ledges in such a way that the cats will feel secure yet be visible to our guests," said Vecchio.

The visitors' side has a spongy faux-forest-floor treatment, with natural leaves embedded in the terrain, and features a wall of glass for viewing the cats.

Hunting and habitat destruction are directly linked to the animal's dwindling numbers in the wild. The zoo exhibits the southern Brazilian species, *Leopardus pardalis mitis*, which inhabits the tropical and sub-

tropical forests of southern Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. Although known to climb trees and even swim well, the ocelot spends most of its time hunting on the ground.

The zoo opens at 9:00 a.m. daily. It is located just off Highway 26 and is also accessible by MAX light rail line. General admission is \$9.50 (12-64), seniors \$8 (65+), children \$6.50 (3-11), infants two and under are free. A parking fee of \$1 per car is also required. For more information go to www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561.

Sheriff's Citizens Academy starts soon

From page 15

observe the inner workings of their Sheriff's Office. Students use police equipment, participate in jail activities, and take part in several role-playing scenarios. Sheriff's Office personnel from many departments explain and demonstrate the duties and responsibilities of their jobs. Participants tour the Sheriff's Office and other criminal justice facilities as part of the academy. The academy is based on a collaborative approach; questions and comments are encouraged throughout.

Topics covered in the academy include Deputy selection and training, specialized duties and units, Jail operations, Patrol operations, security, investigations, tactical operations, use of force and deadly force,

vice and narcotics, crime scene investigations, and crime prevention. Emphasized throughout the academy are the opportunities for citizens, the community, and the Sheriff's Office to develop partnerships that foster effective policing. The academy has been in effect for approximately four years and has graduated lawyers, reporters, commissioners, business owners, stay-at-home mothers, and teachers. Most graduates remain involved with the Sheriff's Office through the Citizen Academy Alumni association.

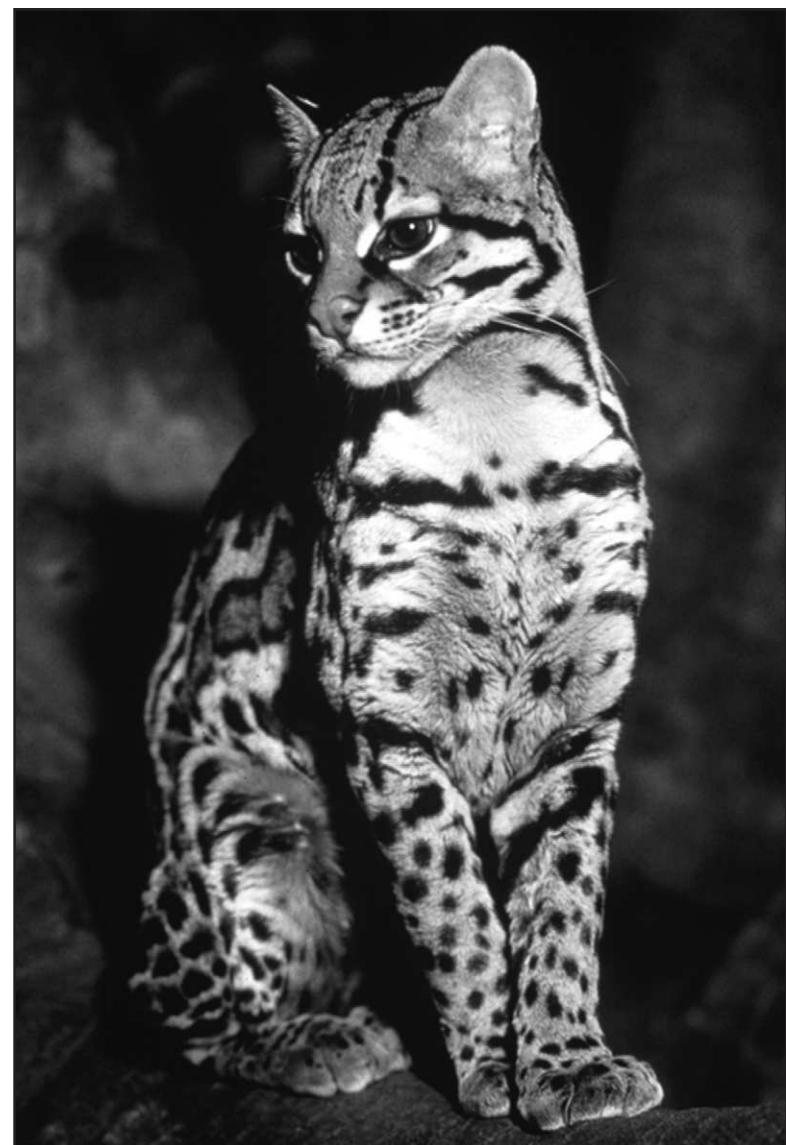
The next Citizen Academy begins September 5, and concludes with graduation on November 14. Classes are held every Tuesday evening 6:00-9:30 p.m., with two weekend classes during each academy.

Classes are typically held at the Sheriff's Office, which is located at 215 SW Adams Avenue in Hillsboro.

To be eligible, participants must be Washington County residents at least 18 years of age. They must also attend at least nine of the eleven classes offered to qualify for graduation.

For additional information, or to apply online, visit the Citizen Academy website: www.co.washington.or.us/sheriff/citizens/academy.htm.

Applications are also available at the Sheriff's Office, 215 SW Adams Avenue in Hillsboro, or at the East Precinct, 3700 SW Murray Boulevard, Beaverton. Graduates of the Sheriff's Office Citizen Academy are not Deputies or Reserve Deputies and have no powers of arrest.



Keep kids safe from predators

From page 8

access to voice recorder technology, unless there is a specific reason (such as communicating with a relative.) Voice recorder technology can be a tool for online predators to keep in contact with children.

9) Keep up with the internet. Know what new key phrases and terms are. You should know terms such as instant messaging, blogging, social

networking and other internet slang words, so you can have an honest and open dialogue with your child about the internet. The more you know, the more you can teach and protect your child.

10) Use parental control for your children. There is a lot of great software out there that allows you to protect and control what sites your child can visit online.

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