

Don't Breed or Buy While Homeless Animals Die!

P-22

(cont'd from p.1)

released back into the wild.

mountain lions in the region. You can check out a map experienced cat. indicating the general location of the 11 mountain lions Finding unclaimed space that includes a deer herd within

Freeways, which bisect the home range of the mountain lawns..." lions, thus creating a smaller area in which to find food diseased animal.

Beth Pratt, the California director of NWF and noted cost ... " national environmental leader, was so captivated by P-22's story she has written a chapter about him in her upcoming book, WHEN MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE NEIGHBORS: WILDLIFE IN TODAY'S CALIFORNIA, which will be released in Fall 2015.

In the chapter called "A Mountain Lion in Hollywoodland," Pratt describes the painstaking efforts taken by NWF and the NPS to protect the future of these magnificent animals in our state. Here is an excerpt where she introduces the new cat in town.

"A relative youngster, P-22 - as he will soon be

known to the world - heads east toward the city at age two, business development. NPS team members set up probably starting roughly twenty miles away in Topanga remote cameras and the open traps that safely capture State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. His leaving the cats. Once anesthetized, they are examined by home, called 'dispersal' by biologists, marks a typical biologists who take blood samples, check their teeth, milestone for a cougar at his age, as young males must seek etc. then attach a GPS tracking collar before being out their own territory. The Santa Monica Mountains house plenty of deer to eat, but those deer can come with a high The data transmitted by the collars has allowed the price if located in the established home range of another NPS to accurately monitor the animals and project their male. Cougars can fight to the death over territory and a next movements. Scientists are now tracking 11 teenager like P-22 knows he is no match for an older, more

currently being followed at http://l.usa.gov/1LOIHsf. a wilderness squeezed on all sides by a megalopolis can The NPS and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) prove to be challenging. P-22, however, fully utilizing the are using the gathered information to develop manage- stealth that he has inherited from his ancestors over millions ment plans that protect landscapes critical to wildlife. of years, creeps quite improbably unnoticed through the The long-term survival of wildcats is affected by a neighborhoods of Bel Air and Beverly Hills, his paws variety of urban threats such as the 405 and 101 perhaps leaving impressions on the impeccably manicured

"... Given the elusive nature of cougars, the obvious and suitable mates. Also cats are at risk for rodenticide question becomes why did a cat known for its embrace of as homeowners put out rat poison to protect their solitude chart a course into the most crowded area in the property, the dead rats are often ingested by coyotes United States?... Certainly there are easier ways to secure who are then eaten by mountain lions. Some early deer than to march into the middle of Los Angeles... A quick photos taken of P-22 showed that he was suffering from glance at his route on a map shows he had to be a bit mad mange which he probably picked up from eating a to even attempt his journey. P-22 wanted to see beyond where the known cougar world ended, no matter what the

> One major initiative designed to support the continued existence of the mountain lion population in Los Angeles is the planned Wildlife Crossing Bridge over the 101 Freeway, which Pratt says is supported across the board by local residents, governments and wildlife researchers. NWF created the #SaveLACougars in partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains Fund to advocate for the building of the crossing.

> KTLA reporter Gayle Anderson recently reported that, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated coalition of groups and individuals, including National Park Service, CalTrans,

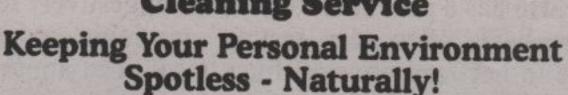
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