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SPOT PLATE. Molded of high-impact polystyrene. Two 0.1 ml and 1.0 ml test wells connected by shallow trough. Applications include spot testing for pH, chlorine; soil tests, agglutinations. Best for field use.



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PROTECTIVE DRAWER INSERT. Protects glassware from breakage yet doesn't waste drawer space. 14" x 18"; can be easily cut to fit any drawer.

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A Lion that Purrs

There are cats that purr and cannot roar, and there are cats that roar and cannot purr. That's the way some scientists divide members of the cat family, Felidae.

The division is made on the basis of connected bones called the hyoid at the base of the tongue. The roaring cats, genus *Panthera*, including the panther, lion, tiger, leopard and jaguar, lack a bone in this hyoid and instead have a long elastic ligament loosely attached to the larynx or voice box. The smaller, purring cats, genus *Felis*, do not have this ligament, and the hyoid is fully ossified.

To this latter group belong the non-roaring mountain lion or puma, *Felis concolor*, second largest of the cat family in the New World (largest is the jaguar), and one of the most controversial meat-eaters in the hemisphere. Although this cat has purring construction in his throat, man has more often told tales of its hair-raising "scream," said to be the wilder sound in America.

With the largest weighing in at 276 pounds and measuring eight feet eight inches from nose to tail, the lithe, tawny mountain lion has been severely hunted by men enraged at its attacks on sheep, hogs and other livestock. Yet naturalists claim only a few "outlaw" cats are to blame for the livestock damage, and these can be controlled without endangering the species or seriously reducing puma numbers. Pumas are curious about people, but very shy and not deliberate man-killers. Some pumas have been extraordinarily affectionate pets until their size banished them to zoos.

Called by many names—cougar, catamount, panther, painter or Mexican lion—the beautiful creatures range from British Columbia to Patagonia. Formerly they used to wander from coast to coast. Pushed back by man, the puma has retreated to the wilderness areas. Researchers today estimate their population at several thousands, but their shy shadowy ways make census difficult.