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Humane Society cares for "stray" lion
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DETROIT (AP) -- The Michigan Humane Society takes in plenty of stray cats, but few are this big.

A 10-week old African lion cub is under the shelter's care after someone turned it in to the Belle Isle Zoo in Detroit as a "stray," officials said Thursday.

The cub, named Lily, is being treated for roundworms and a severe fungal infection that has caused her to lose patches of hair over her entire body.

"We have every reason to believe she will respond well to treatment," said Sue Neal, a wildlife specialist for the Humane Society. "She is very social and otherwise healthy, and fortunately she hasn't been declawed or defanged like many exotic animals owned as pets."

Lily's condition likely was caused by poor care, Ms. Neal said.

The Humane Society is searching for a suitable place where Lily can live, but that is difficult because zoos and sanctuaries are becoming overloaded with animals, said Gary Tiscornia, executive director of the Michigan Humane Society.

The organization has been trying to get legislation enacted that would ban the private ownership of exotic animals.

"These animals are usually acquired as a novelty when they are young but become difficult to manage and even dangerous as they grow and reach sexual maturity," Tiscornia said.

Humane Society officials said Lily is the 27th large feline they have cared for in the past 10 years.

Last week, the state Senate passed Senate Bill 782 by a 33-2 vote. It would restrict the ownership and require licensing of exotic cats and bears. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management, which may consider the measure in January or February.

The House passed a similar measure in 1997, but it never made it past a Senate committee.