Dear Fellow Exotic Enthusiast,

I am writing to invite you to a meeting coming up in your area which you may find of interest. This is the annual meeting of the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc., a group of private exotic owners from all across America which includes individuals, sanctuaries and breeders. We are an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership of exotic animals through responsible behavior. There is no registration fee or other cost to attend. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday February 23rd, 2002, 9AM-5PM in Pahrump library in Nevada, about 1 hour west from Las Vegas.

We ask that attendees register with us at least one week in advance as the space in the library meeting room is limited. Registration can be done via e-mail to the memberships address above. Just let us know the number planning to attend. Memberships can also answer any queries you may have. Feel free to check out our website and free email list. Voting is the only restricted activity of this meeting. If you would like to vote, you can become a voting member by sending $10 yearly membership to the address above. This is not necessary to attend as a non-voting member.

Hope to see you there.
Zuzana Kukol, Vice President

For questions, contact:
Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, PO Box 1152, Chehalis, WA 98532  http://www.phoenixexotics.org/ Membership@phoenixexotics.org
Tel: 360-767-0746 Directions from Vegas airport on final page of newsletter
Pets Can Get Sick from Owners  Story Filed: Sunday, December 16, 2001 3:31 PM EST  AP Medical Editor

CHICAGO (AP) -- Scientists who worry about the spread of nasty germs from animals to people have found the opposite can also happen: Cats and dogs catch bad things from their owners. Canadian researchers documented 16 cases of dangerous, hard-to-treat staph infections in horses, cats and dogs. They believe that all of them probably began with owners or veterinarians infecting the animals. The germ is methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus -- called MRSA for short -- a microbe that until recently was seen only in hospitals, where it often spreads to elderly or especially ill people who have open wounds or tubes. Healthy people may carry it on their skin without getting sick. "We've got some pretty strong evidence that owners were responsible for their companion animals developing MRSA soft tissue infections," said Dr. Donald E. Low, chief microbiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. Low and colleagues presented the data Sunday at a meeting in Chicago of the American Society for Microbiology. They found that the animals had resistant staph infections that were genetically similar to the ones that occur in people. In some cases, they showed that the animals got sick months after their owners caught identical germs. Such transmission is often difficult to prove, but Dr. Shelley Rankin, a microbiologist at the University of Pennsylvania, believes vets are seeing it more often in domestic animals. "People think it only goes one way, from animals to humans," she said. "This shows the other side of the story." The germ passes through close person-to-person -- or person-to-pet -- contact, which is one reason why hospitals constantly urge doctors and nurses to wash their hands. In people, staph can cause pimples and boils as well as much more serious conditions, such as pneumonia and lethal bloodstream infections. The first Canadian case researchers examined was a 9-year-old bishon frise operated on in January 2000 to remove an eyelid cyst. Despite antibiotics, the dog developed a lingering infection that turned out to be MRSA. The dog's owner had undergone surgery in late 1999 for testicular cancer. While in the hospital, he, too, had caught MRSA. The researchers did genetic tests to compare the germs from man and dog. They were identical. The researchers believe veterinary clinics can also serve as a source of the bug -- just as hospitals spread the germ to sick people. Two cats and one dog with identical infections had all been treated at the same Quebec clinic. The team documented two separate outbreaks of the infection involving eight horses. One of them began when an Irish thoroughbred was admitted to a large veterinary hospital for removal of melanoma cancer. Two days after returning home, the horse developed an abscess caused by MRSA. The horse's owner had undergone a hysterectomy nine months earlier. The researchers isolated MRSA from her, and the bacteria turned out to be identical to the horse's. Two other horses got the same infection at the hospital a few months later. The researchers found that a surgical technician and a veterinary student carried the same germ, suggesting they may have caught it from the first horse and passed it on. Before the introduction of antibiotics, staph was such a big problem that sometimes wards and even entire hospitals had to be shut down. The advent of penicillin at first stopped the bug, but it quickly grew resistant. In 1960, methicillin became the standard treatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates about half of all hospital-acquired staph infections in the United States -- 80,000...
annually -- are now resistant to methicillin, and they often are impervious to other antibiotics, as well. Some can be treated only with vancomycin, an injected drug, or Zyvox, a pill introduced last year. For pets as well as people, the infection can be life-threatening. One of the dogs died, and another required amputation of its infected leg. For several years, experts have warned that overuse of antibiotics on farms can promote the transmission of drug-resistant microbes from animals to people, what's known as zoonotic spread. However, the Canadian researchers say they believe they have found evidence of a different hazard -- humanotic spread. Copyright © 2001 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Photos for submission to the Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association, Inc. Website MUST include:.............

Send as many pictures as you like but please send a separate email for each picture. (this makes it MUCH easier for our records and ensures accuracy)

Or pictures can be sent snail mail to:
P O BOX 1132 Chehalis, WA  98532
-Tell us the animal's species  -Tell us the animal's name  -Tell us the owner's first name

-Tell us if you are a Phoenix member or a mailing list member  -Tell us any additional caption  or info you would like included.

Gator Rescue- When I was a police dispatcher, an elderly lady called the police and said there was an alligator on her porch. I was at home on my off day when dispatch called me (knowing I had a "Zoo") and asked if I could drive over there and see what was going on as there was no one working animal control that day and they had a lot of "runs" backed up. So my husband and I drove over there (it was November and pretty cold). To be honest, it was in a terrible neighborhood and I doubt I would have gone alone. So we get there and on her porch was a 10 gallon aquarium with a 2 foot Caiman stuffed inside. He/she was so large that he was bent in a U shape. There was a screened top but it was not fastened in any way. The water was nasty, we could smell it before we got out of the car. When we got closer we say a big white thing that sort of looked like a shoe insert floating there with him. A very old, but nice lady was peeking out the door and told us she found the tank when she went out to get the mail (and I could see her mail was still in the box). So I gave her mail, and we took the tank to the car. I stupidly sat with it on my lap and every time Jerry braked, that stinking water sloushed out on me. We were both breathing from our mouths before we got home. The white thing floating in the water turned out to be a huge piece of liver (I think) that was all rotten. I dumped out the water and double bagged the liver. I ended up putting it in three more bags before garbage pick up, it smelled that bad. You would have thought we had a humanbody in are garbage, I wonder what the garbage collectors thought of it...I called my Vet to see if it would be OK to wash the Caiman with detergent as it stunk to high heaven as well. The Vet didn't know but I washed it anyway. I guess you could consider this a "rescue". When he thawed out he proved to be the nastiest tempered critter I had ever had. We still have him (actually I think it's a her), he's 39” and has the mind of a serialkiller. He's named Mr. Snappy...~~~Linda Gleisser, 6 years Wildlife Rehabber, Sub-Permitee State & Federal,WRAS, NOAH

Everything I need to KNOW I learned from Noah's Ark.: Submitted by Phoenix member:  Tracy Wilson

1  Don't miss the boat.
2  Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3  Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4  Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5  Don't listen to critics: just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6  Build your future on high ground.
7  For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8  Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9  When you're stressed, float a while.
10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
State by State legislation and what YOU can do to protect your rights as private owners of exotic animals. The following are suggestions on how you can keep up to date on legislation that is currently being prepared in reference to exotic animal ownership in your own state.

Recently Texas and New York states have re-introduced revised bills that regulate the possession of wild/exotic animals. Both of these states currently have legislation in effect that covers the ownership and regulates the care and maintenance of exotic animals privately owned.

There are some new bills being introduced that are attempting to BAN totally the rights of private citizens to own these animals privately.

Texas has already set into motion the largest plan, they are allowing counties to either adopt a regulation (which would have to be drawn up and enforced) or allow counties the option to BAN, it is a no brainer which avenue this state/county decided to venture down.

New York just introduced a similar bill and is still in the process of reviewing this newly revised legislation.

South Carolina just introduced a bill of this type on January 8, 2002.

As sad as it seems, there is a trickle down effect that smells rotten here. Please if you are concerned regarding your rights regarding ownership of exotics, take a stand and contact your local legislature and request assistance on how to educate yourself on what bills are pending, upcoming or currently exist.

Take the time to meet or talk with your local representatives and allow them the educated knowledge of knowing what bills are currently governing the process of ownership and maintenance of exotics and allow the representatives the opportunity to meet you and hear first hand from you how you want them to vote when the time comes to represent your views, voting on these issues. STAY ON TOP OF THESE ISSUES!

It seems as if there are similar bills popping up in several states, this is probably not a coincidence.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL EXOTIC OWNERS TO BAN TOGETHER AND MAKE OURSELVES BE HEARD!

These three states currently have legislation in effect that more than covers and governs the process of owning these animals legally. There is NOT anymore room for bills that are open ended and allows for change to take place under the cloth of another purpose. In NY and TX the bills are written as to include domestics eventually, they define and follow protocol that aligns with PETA and HSUS views, both organizations do not have the welfare of the exotics-domestics animals in mind.

Please note to do nothing is exactly what the local governments are expecting - anything, even a phone call is letting them know they have opposition to deal with. TAKE THE TIME AND DON'T DELAY, your ANIMALS ARE TOO IMPORTANT. As animal owners/lovers we cannot allow this to HAPPEN throughout the UNITED STATES.................

Deadly Dogs

Taken from Elist Submitted by: Cybertiger

This is part of a report from the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association=Sept.15,2000 Volume 217 number6 Title:Breeds of Dogs Involved in Fatal Human Attacks in the US between 1979 and 1998

I'm only writting this to prove exotics are not as super dangrous killers that should be wiped out when . Dogs our domestic friends kill more people and reported bites are in the millions!!!!(don't worry I'm not saying dogs are wild animals) From 1997 to 1996 dog claimed over 300 dog bite-related fatalities(DBRF)in the USA alone.Most victims were children.Study shows during 81 to 92 pit-bull type dogs claimed 30% of these, and Rotts 1/2 of them from 94-96.The article goes on to say certain breeds should not be banned because it is human error.

the study ruled out serval deaths, like death from rabies or dogs killing people to protect the police(that only counted for 4).Anyway wolf-hybrids (death by bites ),during the 10 year 1979-1998 period totaled only 14 while pits were 66 and rottts, 39.Interesting to know is Cocker Spaniel, some small breed terriers,even dachshunds have caused at least one death during that time the dachshund 2. The problem with bites is worse In 1986 585,000 dog bites required medical attention.332,000 were emergency departments, 6000 were hospitalized.the mass majority of these were uncontrolled animals who were unowned (unlicensed is probely a better way to put it.)
Lions and tigers finally going home

Almost as easy as one, two, three, go! Nine wild cats quickly got on their way to a new home this morning. The story of the seized cats is a little closer to the end. Big Cats of Serenity Springs in Calhan, Colorado is adding eight tigers and a lion to the grounds of their sanctuary. The trip home starts after loading the cats so smoothly, that it looks easy. “Everyone that comes up is a professional handler,” says Nick Sculac. “They handle cats and that’s what they do. And they’ve all got a ton of experience.” A total of 28 cats have found new homes since their seizure in November.

Some are at the Wild Animal Orphanage in San Antonio, Texas, and the rest left for Colorado this morning. The tropical cats have faced weather they really aren’t built to handle, and the Humane Society of the Black Hills is happy that all of them are finally going home. “I feel great. It’s sad, but I’m glad they’re going to a good facility,” says Officer Deb Sullivan. “Big Cats of Serenity Springs has been absolutely great through the whole ordeal.” If you’d like more information about the cats or the sanctuary, contact Big Cats of Serenity Springs at (709) 347-9200 or at PO Box 112, Calhan, CO 80808.

Oil, Gas Company Donates Alligators

Story Filed: Tuesday, January 08, 2002 6:11 AM EST

NEW ORLEANS (AP) -- All of the rare white-skinned, blue-eyed American alligators known to exist have been donated to the Audubon Institute by an oil and gas company. Burlington Resources Inc. signed over 12 leucistic alligators at the end of last year. “We're certainly pleased to have received the donation,” Audubon Institute president Ron Forman said Monday. “I think the animals were placed with a value of over $4 million. They're one of a kind.” The animals aren't albinos, which have no coloring and pink eyes. Leucistic alligators have blue eyes and a spot of normal color. One of the gators, Blanco, has been at the Houston Zoo for a dozen years or more. He'll stay there on continued loan, said Dan Maloney, general curator of the Audubon Zoo. Burlington will let the others stay in their current home for up to six months while the zoo plans and creates new indoor ponds. Burlington acquired the alligators in 1997, as part of its $3.2 billion merger with Louisiana Land & Exploration Co. LL&E got out of the alligator business as the market for hides dropped. Burlington is involved in the petroleum business and had no sentimental attachment to the animals. The 8- to 9-foot reptiles will turn 15 this fall. Alligators can live for a half century or more. Maloney said he doesn't know if the animals will be bred. They're unique, but not important to the species. And since the white trait is probably recessive, it wouldn't take a couple of generations of inbreeding to get more white alligators, he said. Copyright © 2002 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Group to Help Save Afghan Zoo

Story Filed: Tuesday, January 08, 2002 1:14 PM EST

LONDON (AP) -- An animal protection group is sending a team to Afghanistan on Thursday to help the few survivors at Kabul's long-neglected zoo, including Marjon, the one-eyed lion. The World Society for the Protection of Animals will also assess the situation of other animals in the country, including livestock and stray dogs. Kabul's zoo was trashed long ago by warring Afghan factions. Most of the animals have died and others are suffering from years of neglect and, in some cases, abuse. The World Society is already providing a regular supply of food to the few remaining animals at the zoo, which include a bear, wolves and monkeys, as well as Marjon. The lion lost an eye when an Afghan guerrilla threw a grenade into its cage and the lion, expecting food, pounced on it. The animal experts, who will be equipped to provide animal first aid, will be led by Gerard Huertas and John Walsh, two of the organization's most experienced staff. Copyright © 2002 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Chlorine Kills Texas Zoo Gorillas

Story Filed: Sunday, January 06, 2002 11:04 PM EST

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) -- Chlorine gas leaked from a storage container and filled a gorilla habitat at a zoo Sunday, killing three animals. The gas also sickened the nine other gorillas and two staff members who tried to free the animals. The zookeepers were treated at a hospital and released. Staff at the Gladys Porter Zoo were treating the western lowland gorillas, including a young male in serious condition. Firefighters arrived about 4 a.m. and found three gorillas unconscious and others suffering from chlorine inhalation. They provided oxygen to the animals, said Cesar Garcia, an EMS supervisor on duty Sunday night. Authorities suspect a nearby space heater caused a fire that melted the plastic container of chlorine. The zoo identified the dead gorillas as 10-year-old Kayla, her 11-month-old son, Makoko, and a 2-year-old female named Uzuri. Copyright © 2002 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Examples of "Injurious Wildlife"

Story Filed: Friday, January 11, 2002 3:20 AM EST

Examples of "injurious" wildlife in a sampling of states, according to a congressional report: Alabama: Birds are costing the catfish industry $4 million a year. Arizona: Blackbirds risk contaminating cattle feed and water. Colorado: Coyotes are killing $1.5 million worth of sheep and lambs a year, a problem throughout the West. Connecticut: Birds, bats and squirrels are damaging buildings, landscapes and utilities. Delaware: Canada geese have done $75,000 damage
The stated purpose of Phoenix per the articles of incorporation:

"...for charitable educational and scientific purposes; to educate the public in the necessary safety precautions and procedures for dealing with exotic wildlife; and to provide emergency assistance to exotic wildlife in need of care or relocation.

"Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc. became incorporated in the state of Washington as a non-profit corporation.

Phoenix is dedicated to the legal and ethical ownership of exotic animals by private persons with an emphasis on education and safety.

Welcome! — My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotics and would like to brief you on what to expect in our upcoming newsletters. The newsletter is an avenue to reach our members that are not on our E-list provided by Yahoogroups.com. This newsletter will help members who do not have computer access or easy access to our website. We are reaching out to make Phoenix Exotics accessible, including in our newsletter information from our E-list for members that are currently not online. Enjoy!

---

DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL PHOENIX MEETING IN LAS VEGAS FROM AIRPORT

Driving directions to Pahrump from Las Vegas airport: Take 215 west-Las Vegas Exit I-15 south- Los Angeles
Take next exit #33 west on 160 (Blue Diamond/Pahrump Road)
Stay on 160 all the way to Pahrump, about 1 hour, until you arrive to the intersection of 160 and 372.
There will be Terribles and Nugget casinos on your right, and Walgreens and 76 gas station on you left.
Take left/west on 372, which is the 1st street light intersection in Pahrump After few seconds on 372, turn right on East Street and follow the sign to the library.