Phoenix member Tracy had her underwater camera with her while swimming off Florida. This curious Dolphin came right up to her and the two swam around together for a while. She says it was quite an experience!

This Serval and Ringtail Lemur are the best of friends. They were raised at the same time by Phoenix member Gail and are inseparable.

NOTE FROM EDITOR:
Any submissions that have been published have been given prior permission for publication. If you or anyone feels that their views have not been properly represented, please contact: General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org or mail correspondence; be descriptive as to what issue and date located on front of newsletter. Articles appearing in this newsletter have been taken from the Phoenix Exotics e-list, many thanks to all the e-list members for their contributions. Thank you to the ASSOCIATED PRESS for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purposes of this newsletter.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR PHOENIX EXOTICS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION, INC. IS $10.00 ANNUALLY.
PLEASE SEND ANY INQUIRIES OR $10.00 TO: Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc., PO Box 1132 Chahalis, WA 98532

Phoenix Exotics E-List Contained 538 posts in July. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items. You can join the e-list at http://phoenixexotics.org/ then click on the link for E-groups email list.

LETTER FROM EDITOR         Welcome!
This newsletter is a derivative of articles or posts from the E-List through member participation. Any and all articles included in this newsletter were either taken from Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc., Inc. email E-List or were submitted by members with their permission. Please feel free to submit any article you wish to have included in our newsletter. Email requests to: President@PhoenixExotics.Org

“Friendly Felines - Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved – Responsible Ownership Series #1”

Phoenix Exotics is proud to present the first in a series of books on Responsible Ownership of Exotic Animals. This book is 115 pages long with photos and illustrations.

Presenting real life tales of small exotic cats and their dedicated owners, heartwarming, yet unafraid to inform prospective owners about the potential for hard times, as well as good, in such deeply held relationships. Nearly 20 authors including a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, a Doctor of Chiropractic, Veterinary Chiropractic, pet owners, breeders, sanctuary owners and folks who have been involved with exotic cats for many years have created a must read.

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Friendly Felines - Small Exotic Cats We've Known and Loved

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
Responsible Ownership Series #1
Newsletter Editor—Submitted by Jeanne Hall, President of Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Mon Jul 21, 2003 We have had one newsletter editor since our inception—Cheri Fecker. She has done a wonderful job! Our newsletters have been her creation, and she has set a high standard. After years of volunteering in this position, Cheri is passing the baton to a new volunteer—Sara Comstock. Sara has agreed to cover the newsletter editor position for awhile and is welcomed to post. The Phoenix newsletter is available free on-line to members and non-members alike. It can be downloaded and used as a handout or information source by any individuals or groups interested. It is also available to be mailed, but due to direct costs of postage and paper, it is only mailed to paid members on request. This function is still a bit rocky, and we often send out batches of newsletters rather than monthly, but we continue to work on getting this aspect functioning smoothly. The hard copy is available for our members who are not on-line or who have limited access. It is basically a summary of the material on the elist with a few pictures. Doing the newsletter is a big job and quite time consuming. Sara will be arranging for reprint permissions as needed, which may require contacting some of you. Pictures submitted for the web and posts to the elist are the source of information for the newsletter and by posting material there, permission is also given for the newsletter. The newsletter editor can be reached thru general@P... For more information on becoming a fully paid member, please visit our website at www.PhoenixExotics.org Our fully paid members are also eligible to vote on organizational business.

Shambala Bills—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Fri Aug 1, 2003 I am away from home at the moment and access to the lists is difficult but I am aware of the situation and will be posting on it upon my return in a couple of days. These laws are very important and reach every owner of any animal. We have seen the media, the AR groups, and power-hungry people and lawmakers grab SARS, Monkeypox, E-coli, salmonella, animal attacks, and sensational media coverage (Big Cat Crisis) to trumpet the need for laws to ban the private possession of every kind of animal imaginable "to protect children" and even "people from themselves." Make no mistake, this law is wanted to set legal precedent for federal control of what animals can be owned by any private resident of the U.S. and will expand to include vicious breeds of dogs, livestock such as pigs, sheep, and cattle, birds, and reptiles in the near future. There are groups out there poised to do this. Everyone from people against horsemeat to those opposed to keeping odd or otherwise unwelcome pets. And many here will cheer some of those steps each and every time. AZA has come out for this law. So have HSUS, PETA, and every other AR group. These people do not support general welfare improvements, they support laws that can be used to ban ownership and kill animals. And where are the groups who are supposed to be our "friends?" The ones who claim we need to band with them to effectively fight these laws? Where is ASA? Talk at some small gathering is pretty cheap. Where is a voice that would be listened to in fighting this? One that started this whole ball rolling back in 1999 and could stop it in its tracks now—ASA? By their own figures this law would not do anything to reduce the injuries and displaced animals. ASA shows that the overwhelming majority of animals come from the very groups this bill exempts and forces all owners to join-USDA licensees—so how will this law do what it claims to? The answer is simple: It can't and won't and is not meant to. It is just an act of hate against a harmless minority scapegoat to shield the real offenders from scrutiny. Remember this when your state bans, USDA will not accept you (or pulls your license), and you cannot flee that state with your own property but have to kill it or pay to give it to a real abuser. And if you think another USDA license holder will risk their license to move you in defiance of the Lacey Act and the climate that will prevail think again.
Re: Shambala Bills—Thread by David Witts Fri Aug 1, 2003—(My 02 cents) Thanks for the note, Ray...This is definitely not good timing from our perspective; many people over in Geyserville just now, others temporarily off-line. These laws are very important. *YES*. HR1006/S269 are clearly intended to leverage further actions, *not* an end in their own right (contrary to Sen. Ensign's quote). Otherwise why would legislation be brought in to make something illegal which is already so? (interstate pet tigers, for example).<quote> Ray> "AZA has come out for this law. So has HSUS, PETA, and every other AR group. These people do not support general welfare improvements, they support laws that can be used to ban ownership and kill animals." </end quote> The deep-AW (Protectionist) groups are indistinguishable from the deep-AR groups, with regards support for these bills. Despite Tippi's push for the legislation, it is probably safe to say TAOS have effectively taken over their mantle. Personally, I was hoping ASA would pull back from the unquantifiable impact of such poor legislation—which runs roughshod over opinions of those impacted; good, bad or indifferent. "Working with", rather than "working against". Well, I suppose one small chink of light is that they've not yet joined CWAPC. Ain't it strange, though, how you've got a British Animal Rights organization with question-marks over past management of animals in their care (Born Free Foundation) in CWAPC, fighting to implement legislation in the U.S.? <quote> "And if you think another USDA license holder will risk their license to move you in defiance of the Lacey Act and the climate that will prevail think again." </end quote> This is a serious problem, IMHO. ASA and TAOS will be able to move animals around at will and place them with whoever they want. USDA licensees *cannot*. Animals will therefore be killed, or else (effectively) "held to ransom" by the exempted sanctuary orgs. And AZA doesn't really appear to give a damn, either way. With yet worse to follow for the "larger cats", where CWAPC declare USDA licensees to be fundamentally incapable of looking after rescued/displaced animals: Actions*?? e.g. personally contacting Senators and Representatives; and many thanks to those who are have been acting on this for some time now.

Re: Shambala Bills—Thread by Lynn Culver Sun Aug 3, 2003 I still interpret this bill to require a USDA license to engage in commercial activity across state lines. Therefore, I still think that non-licensed pet buyers will have to hire the services of a USDA broker to bring an animal into the state. In the case of adult animals needing new homes, I foresee complications when a refuge (i.e.-willing private individual or small operation) that is not USDA licensed starts to get into the ball game. After all, we have the USDA as an example of one definition of "commercial activity" and the USDI using another. It would not be a stretch for the interpretation to cover the movement when financial donations are involved, as requiring USDA permits. And in many, many cases adult animals are moved and while they are not actually purchased, they often times come with support money, therefore "affecting" commerce. Or are followed by fund-raising and that too, "affects" commerce. I don't want to chance future enforcement options - injunctions and lawsuits—I see where the AR types are leaning and I don't want to give them any leverage against us. I want the bill stopped - but I do not think if it passes it will have any appreciable affect on pet sales. If the USDI gave a shit about the Lacey Act, they would have started investigations and prosecutions on the many people selling tiger cubs to non-licensed individuals across state lines. The fact is - it is illegal to sell a tiger across state lines to anyone but a breeder, without an interstate commerce permit. And as an endangered species they are never allowed to be sold in interstate commerce for pets, or private collections - regardless of whether they are generic or not. But everyone seems to misinterpret the USFWS removal of the CBW permit requirement for the breeding of generic tigers, to mean it is an unregulated species and not endangered. WRONG! I can foresee the ASA and TAOS power brokers resenting the non-joiners and working diligently to hamper and even get prosecuted those not joining who are taking in animals. And I
am outraged that Congress would consider federal legislation requiring people to patronize and bow to these two seriously flawed organizations. This bill will not work for the benefit of the cats in need of lifetime care. The cottage industry that has sprung up this past decade to provide that care and the individuals who get involved without all the formalities of a board of directors and all that stuff that is a part of being a 501 c3 charity should not have to go through this proposed BS to help cats in need. Or be told they cannot possess these animals because Tippi Hedren or Carol Asvestos thinks they want them for "pets". But for someone wanting a pet cougar or lion cub, say in Arkansas, a state that does not forbid private ownership, I see that if this bill passes they will only have to contact a breeder in Ohio and put them in touch with me in Arkansas, arrange the cat to be sold to me, and me to sell it to them. And nobody has broken the law. But in MOST states, (like nearly the whole the east coast and the western states) you can't own a pet cougar or lion anyway. But do the people who are working to save cat lives, and who have to deal with time issues and such — should they have to go through this rig-a-ma-roll BS when they get a call for help? And that is the basis of my argument — right or wrong, it will cause Congress to pause and think in other categories, and maybe even hold their approval for this bill. I feel that the best defense is a strong offense. Every argument against us can be looked at, and turned around. AZA does not have the ability to save species — they do not have the numbers or the captive habitat. Attendance at Felid TAG has gained me a perspective on their information we can use against them and I have tried to express this information for the readers of the FCF in my Felid TAG reports. And I used this information against them in my letter. Facts are facts.

It CAN happen here—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Sun Aug 3, 2003 It CAN Happen Here. Imagine a world in which you are not permitted — by federal law — to take your car from your state of residence. Outrageous? OK. What about one that forbids you taking your legally-owned pet(s) or livestock to another state, even if you move there? Ridiculous? Outrageous? Could never happen here? Wrong on all counts. And about to become the law of the United States. While people have been raising hell about security concerns infringing upon their rights various other people have taken advantage of the distraction provided to pass bills that take away even bigger bites from the constitution. HR-1006, the baby of George Miller (D-CA) and SB-269, from Jim Jeffords ("I"-VT) gut property rights and establish the federal government as the sole arbiter of what animals can be owned by residents of the U.S. and what uses those animals can be put to. Both bills are identical and that is not an accident. They originated with an organization run by failed actress Tippi Hedren (whose only notable film was "The Birds" in 1963) and her friends, the ASA or American Sanctuary Association. Tippi is or was a poster child for irresponsible animal ownership and bred and housed lions and other animals illegally at her Soledad Canyon property for many years and used them illegally to make a film (Roar - 1981) in an attempt to restart her stalled career. Now she is a big animal rights figure and is campaigning to ban all ownership of animals in the U.S. except for a select few, herself included, of course. That is where her law comes in. Along with HSUS and API, ASA cooked up the bills and got Miller to sponsor the house version last year. McCain (R-AZ) was to have sponsored the senate version but took ill (appendicitis) before doing so. This year Miller did so again and Jeffords took the senate role. Miller was so bent upon passing the bill that he joined the committees it was assigned to so as to ramrod it through. Both versions have been passed out of committee and await votes. So, what is the big deal? Well, simply put, this law would set precedent for the federal government deciding, without any constitutional authority or rationale, and purely based upon "feeling" that any species or breed of animal could be forbidden from being owned by Americans. Couple this with current campaigns against certain breeds of dogs, ownership of all reptiles, all birds, and "unusual" species and the goal is clear
(and has even been voiced as such by AR people): a tool to eliminate animal possession by the public. HR1006/SB269 forbids the movement of privately-owned animals (in this case, tigers, leopards, and other large carnivores) from one state to another except by approved commercial owners. Since this essentially duplicates existing ESA prohibitions (something testified to in hearings) the real goal is obvious: a tool to build upon in the future. Next will be "bad" dog breeds, then bad pets - pot-bellied pigs, reptiles, birds, etc, as the noose is tightened. Statements from ASA/CWAPC/UAN make it clear that this is only a first step toward total national bans. Enjoy them while you have them. You won't for long.

NY: Fund For Animals urges Pataki to sign bill—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Tue Aug 5, 2003  "Animal Rights Group Urges Signing Bill Banning Canned Shoots" Albany, NY (AP) Animal rights activists are urging Governor Pataki to sign a bill banning so-called "canned shoots." That's when people pay to hunt and kill non-native animals such as zebras and Corsican rams in fenced areas for trophies. New York law currently bars shooting such animals if they're staked, tied, or kept captive on ten acres or less. The new legislation closes a loophole by banning the trophy shooting of exotic animals in captivity regardless of acreage. The Fund for Animals says canned shoots are breeding grounds for contagious diseases which can be spread to native wildlife. Diseases originating at canned shoots and game farms in the West have decimated native deer and elk herds. The law doesn't change the exemption for breeders who raise white-tailed deer and have shoots on their property. 2003 Associated Press

NC: Is this constitutional?—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Sun Jul 6, 2003  "Union County Woman Barred From Owning Animals" MONROE, N.C. A woman accused of running a "puppy mill" at her home has been convicted of animal cruelty charges, ordered to never have animals again and charged $47,000 in fines and restitution. Delores Perez was convicted Wednesday in Union County District Court. She was charged after officials found more than 250 dogs, two kittens and a parrot living in squalor at her home in April. District Judge Chris Bragg combined criminal and civil cases to conserve court resources in her case and deliberated two hours after hearing from 15 witnesses over three days. Perez received no jail time, but she received the maximum penalty allowed and faces at least $47,000 in fines and restitution. Copyright 2003 by The Associated Press

FL: Lawmakers asked to help in animal insurance crisis—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Sat Jul 19, 2003  "Tourist Animal Attractions Having Insurance Troubles". ORLANDO, Fla. Gatorland C-E-O Mark McHugh found out recently that his insurer could no longer provide workers compensation insurance for employees at his alligator and crocodile-filled park outside Orlando. After being refused by 13 other insurers, he decided to turn his workers over to another company and then lease back their services to avoid paying exorbitant insurance rates to cover workers who are injured on the job. Officials at small attractions all over Florida, especially those with animals, are facing similar predicaments as insurers drop some attractions or triple their rates. The reasons range from a residual response of insurers to the September 11th attacks to a fear of paying workers attacked by animals, such as a handler at Gatorland who got bit recently while handling an alligator. Small attractions officials are asking state lawmakers for help. Copyright 2003 by The Associated Press

AR Groups push suit to end use of animals in circus—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Sat Aug 2, 2003  "Circus to Answer Animal Cruelty Charges" by SAM HANANEL Associated Press. WASHINGTON-The nation's largest circus will have to defend itself against charges that it mistreats elephants that perform under the big tent. A federal judge has declined to dismiss a lawsuit by animal welfare groups claiming Ringling
Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has abused Asian elephants in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The groups claim circus employees routinely beat the elephants with sharp bull hooks, keep elephants in chains for long periods of time and forcibly remove baby elephants from their mothers before they are properly weaned. The suit was filed in 2000 by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, The Fund for Animals and Tom Rider, a former Ringling Bros. elephant trainer. In his decision Wednesday, U.S District Judge Emmet Sullivan said the case in Washington can go forward because Asian elephants are considered an endangered species under federal law. He did rule on the substantive charges. A lawyer for Ringling Bros. declined comment Thursday and referred questions to the company, which did not immediately respond. The company, part of Vienna, Va.-based Feld Entertainment, Inc., repeatedly has claimed it is a responsible animal care provider that is being targeted by animal rights groups for political reasons. Animal welfare advocates said the decision will finally allow them to present evidence that circus life is not fun and games for the animals performing. "The public deserves to know the truth about the routine animal cruelty that goes on under the 'Big Top,'" Michael Markarian, President of The Fund for Animals, said in a statement.

Dolphins go to Cancun—Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion) Wed Jul 23, 2003 "Dolphins flown to Cancun; animal activists angry” CANCUN, Mexico (AP)Twenty-eight bottlenose dolphins were adjusting to their new home at a water park Tuesday, after a cargo jet carried them from the Solomon Islands to the resort city of Cancun. Environmental activists had claimed that as many as six dolphins died during the trip, but park officials insisted the 15 males and 13 females between the ages of 6 and 14 were doing fine and had suffered no ill-effects from their transcontinental journey. Mauricio Martinez, director of Parque Nizuc, the water park that will serve as the dolphins’ new home, said their trip had "kept us all awake at night because it was one of the largest mobilizations of dolphins in history." But he added that park officials had never done anything to put the mammals' lives in danger and said that animal rights groups had "spread a lot of misinformation and false charges." Animal rights activists had complained that the dolphins were kept in crowded, shallow pools in the Solomon Islands, then loaded onto a flight that they would likely not survive. Mexican officials say the Cancun park does not have permission to sell the dolphins and Barron said his staff wouldn't think of making the mammals travel again. "They got here fine and this is where they are going to stay."

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. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc., is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership through responsible behavior."

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 YAMOGROUPS.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!
Highlighted in this issue:

- “It Can Happen Here”
- Shambala Bills
- Is this constitutional?