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Zuzana Kukol, of Pahrump, vice-president of the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, feeds a bottle to Pepper, a Siberian tiger.
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:
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CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR PHOENIX EXOTICS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION, INC. IS $10.00 ANNUALLY.
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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
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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.

Phoenix Exotics E-List Contained 864 posts in March. 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.

“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.

Now, in their own words, exotic owners speak out. This book gives them a voice: Listen!

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

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
Responsible Ownership Series #1

Pahrump Phoenix meeting-text Submitted by ZB, Mon Mar 3, 2003 Taking care of their own By: MARK WAITE, PVT February 28, 2003 SPECIAL TO THE PVT Zuzana Kukol, of Pahrump, vice-president of the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, feeds a bottle to Pepper, a Siberian tiger. BIG CAT OWNERS DISCUSS UNCERTAIN FUTURE AT PV MEETING. The bright, animal prints and drawings of tiger heads on some of their clothes hinted at what this gathering might be about, when members of the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association met at the Pahrump Nugget Casino Saturday. For these two dozen owners, pets aren’t tiny terrier dogs or Siamese cats but large and potentially deadly lions and tigers. "We tend to be very passionate about animals. They are our hearts, our souls, our lives," Glenda Ulhery, of Great Cats of Idaho told the audience. "I can't imagine what it'd be like to wake up in the morning and not hear lions roaring. If we don't have private ownership, many of these cat species would be extinct." The register for the event showed names from as far away as Gulf Breeze, Fla., and Skowhegan, Maine. The president, Jeanne Hall, comes from Chehalis, Wash. She unveiled the first of the group's planned books on responsible ownership entitled, "Friendly Felines: Small Exotic Cats We've Known and Loved." Last year, National Geographic attended the annual meeting at the Pahrump Community Library as part of a nationally televised special on owners of exotic animals. Two exotic animal owners from Pahrump were in attendance at this year's meeting. The message was simple: Owners have to police themselves or face more official regulation. "We have an infatuation with anti-animal regulations in this country, and by God it is time to stop that," said Dr. Dolores McWhinnie. McWhinnie blamed the media for sensationalizing attacks by privately owned big cats. Decisions on animal management need to be made by people with experience in caring for them, not by law enforcement officials with little knowledge of exotic animals, she said. "If you don't police yourself, somebody else is going to do it." Tim Stoffel, a part-time worker at the Reno Zoo, said he had concerns over a bill recently introduced by veterinarian and U.S. Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) that would ban interstate commerce in exotic animals except transactions involving U.S. Department of Agriculture-affiliated facilities. "Any animal that can't be relocated is usually destroyed," Stoffel said. "The idea of the bill is to prevent irresponsible ownership, but it makes it difficult for responsible owners. A law in New York State would make it almost impossible to own an exotic animal. In Florida holders of a USDA license have to display them in public." Las Vegas resident Vernon Weir is a member of the American Sanctuary Association. He talked about providing homes for exotic animals in abusive situations, and he described his organization – which he said is an offshoot of Primarily Primates and the Wild Animal Orphanage – as an animal welfare group rather than an animal rights group. "We do our best for everything from an alligator in Michigan to a tiger in Texas. We do our best to get these animals placed in a sanctuary," Weir said. ©Pahrump Valley Times 2003 Copyright © 1995 - 2003 PowerOne Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Recently Released Book and Tapes Submitted by Chris Brown, Mon Mar 3, 2003 I just wanted to let everyone know that the tapes of the recent convention in Pahrump can be ordered – detailed info on the Phoenix Website at: http://www.phoenixexotics.org/pprodserv.html Also, you can order copies of the newly released first edition copies of Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Series #1: Small Cats at http://www.phoenixexotics.org/pbooks.html

Placement Figures Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Mar 3, 2003. The following is from Vernon. I am posting it here to clarify the figures presented at the Pahrump meeting. It is posted with his permission. Of the 19 listed below, 8 were being placed by the owner himself. Vernon Weir, American Sanctuary Association, www.ASAanimalsanctuaries.org. "Here's the figures I discussed during my talk–except here they are exact. At the meeting I rounded off the figures, and I had broken them down into two lists—the large rescues, which typically come from USDA
licensed facilities, and the small rescues, which typically involve private owners. Here I have totaled the two lists. First, I am not always certain of the exact number of animals involved. Newspaper accounts tend to vary, and I am not always dealing direct with the individuals involved in the placement. But I am confident that the numbers are very close to the actual figures. Second, an attempt was made to classify breeders, dealers, exhibitors (non-zoo), "roadside" zoos, and "sanctuaries," but as you know many times the facility is involved in multiple enterprises. A "sanctuary" or zoo may also be breeding or selling animals. My classification is based on what I consider to be the primary function of the facility. Third, the sanctuaries that went out of business or were shut down were not what ASA would consider a true sanctuary, but for this classification I grouped them in this category if they claimed to be a sanctuary and were not breeding or selling animals. One place in Ohio, for example, was nothing more than a collector who claimed to be a sanctuary. However, unlike a private owner, at one time she had a USDA license and solicited donations for rescued animals. And unlike a true sanctuary the animals were housed in horrible conditions. Fourth, as I said during the meeting, I have real problems with the term "roadside zoo." There are many very high quality small zoos that are unfairly saddled with this term. But all of the zoos that resulted in these placements are what we would consider to be poor quality "roadside zoos." Finally, these figures are for big cats only. No servals, lynx, bobcats, etc., are contained in these figures. During the past two years ASA has received calls to assist in the placement of 246 big cats which came from the following sources: "Breeders, dealers, exhibitors (non zoo)": 35, "Roadside" Zoos: 133, "Sanctuaries": 59, "Private Owners": 19. Bear in mind that these figures do not take into account any big cats that our sanctuaries accepted direct. These are only the animals that came through ASA for placement, or ones I knew about from news accounts. In terms of numbers, however, I think we can all agree that USDA class A, B and C facilities are the ones causing the large number of animals needing placement. And more are on the way. I know of at least 129 big cats that are in USDA facilities right now that are in trouble. One final note on the term "rescues." I am using the term "rescue" and "placement" interchangeably. An animal not in danger is not a rescue but a placement.”

Washington HB 2053-Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Fri Feb 28, 2003 An ACT Relating to protecting animals against cruelty; and amending RCW 16.52.207 and 16.52.011, are each amended to read as follows: (1) A person is guilty of animal cruelty in the second degree if, the person knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon an animal. (2) An owner of an animal is guilty of animal cruelty in the second degree if, the owner knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence: (a) Fails to provide the animal with necessary food, water, shelter, rest, sanitation, ventilation, space, or medical attention and the animal suffers unnecessary or unjustifiable physical pain as a result of the failure; or (b) Abandons the animal. (3) Animal cruelty in the second degree is a misdemeanor. (4) Constant, ongoing, and uncontrolled barking, whining, yelping, and crying creates a rebuttable presumption that an animal is not being provided necessary food, water, shelter, rest, sanitation, ventilation, space, or medical attention. (5) In any prosecution of animal cruelty in the second degree, it shall be an affirmative defense, if established by the defendant by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant's failure was due to economic distress beyond the defendant's control. Sec.2. RCW 16.52.011 and 1994 c 261 s 2 are each amended to read as follows: (1) Principles of liability as defined in chapter 9A.08 RCW apply to this chapter. (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter. (Note from Editor - goes on further to define definitions such as owner, etc).
WA HB 1151- Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Fri. Feb 28, 2003. The substitute bill was passed to the rules committee today for a second reading. The full text is of the bill that passed is now available on the website- http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm Drop in 1151 in the bill number search slot. Washington has a website that seems easy to follow and learn from. If you are not in Washington, it might still be good to check out these dates and cut-off times and see how this is working so you can apply it to your state. The following dates are from the cut-off calendar found at this link under cut off calendar. http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/default.htm March 5th has been bounced around as a deadline. To clarify, it is the last day to read in committee reports in the house of origin except for a couple of Senate committees. March 19 is the last day to consider own (house of origin) bills. April 4 is the last day to read in opposite house committee reports except a couple of Senate committees April 18 is the last day to consider opposite house bills except for a few special items April 27 last day allowed for regular session under state constitution. I am also sending this by bcc to the Washington Alerts group we have going here.

Re: WA HB 1151- (thread) Submitted by Ray (Rune.Raion), Fri. Feb 28, 2003 The way I read this, it only allows animals that are existing at the time the law goes into force. No provision for bringing in animals. Mandated $250,000 insurance. AZA keeping standards. Counties are expected to establish registration a la Texas.

More states trying to make more rules-Submitted by Gary (Jungletouch) Wed Mar 5, 2003 This is a note re: AZ, GA and an additional bill in RI added on. Looking around the HSUS site tonight, have found some bills that should be of concern to pet owners. Interesting reading, scrolling through the 50 states to see the animal related bills and HSUS' position - the AR agenda, right down the line. Here are a few....

(AZ), http://www.azleg.state.az.us/legtext/46leg/1r/bills/hb2166p.htm HB 2166 would allow a "peace officer," including Animal Control officers, to enter your property and seize your animals without a search warrant.

(GA), HSUS is on record as OPPOSING HB 227, the bill to legalize Bengal cats in GA.

(NJ), A.3201 & S.520 Clarifies that cruelty to animals includes use of an animal to injure or "needlessly kill" another animal.

(RI), Particularly nasty bill proposed in RI. Here's the link: http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText03/HouseText03/H5817.htm

In RI, H5817 realizes some of the "what ifs" raised by the first generation "guardian" legislation. This year's H5817, builds on the human guardian model for animals with emphasis on new crimes, harsher punishments, expanded groups of mandated enforcers and reporters and little regard to real rights of owners. H5817 creates a new crime of "animal abuse" rather than cruelty - both first and second degree, misdemeanor and felony; abandonment; aggravated animal neglect - a felony; sexual "assault" of an animal - a felony that also requires registration as a sex offender; as well as provisions relating animal fighting and extensive regulation of euthanasia. The bill specifies that ownership, guardianship or trespass are not defenses to its crimes; provides for "cost of care" bonds for animals impounded pursuant to covered criminal actions; and provides for enforcement not only by all police agencies but also by court appointed "special humane agents" appointed by SPCA's based on demonstrating satisfactory knowledge and training. The bill also provides that cost of caring for animals in custody becomes a lien that must be discharged by the guardian within 7 days following ACQUITTAL or WITHDRAWAL of the criminal complaint - if not the guardian's "legal interest" is transferred to the
custodial agency which can still recover any excess over the value transferred from
the guardian (i.e. the owner.) H5817 specifies a very long and broad list of
persons who SHALL report any violations to the "nearest law enforcement agency" and
are granted civil immunity for this mandated reporting.

HR 1006 Lacey Act Amendment-Submitted by BigCats10, Wed Mar 5, 2003
http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?c108:./temp/~c108BgD3yw</A>
(Note from Editor – Web site is no longer available for viewing)

Re: HR 1006 Lacey Act amendment-(thread) Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Wed Mar 5, 2003
Folks, this one affects us all. This one is in the Federal legislature. 108th
Congress; 1st Session; H.R.1006, To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to
further the conservation of certain wildlife species. IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES February 27, 2003, Mr. MCKEON (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of
California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on
Resources, A Bill To Amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the
conservation of certain wildlife species. States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the 'Captive Wildlife Safety Act'.
SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES. Section 2 of the Lacey Act
Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371) is amended, (1) by redesignating subsections
(g) through (j) as subsections (h) through (k), respectively; and (2) by inserting
after subsection (f) the following: (k) PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES- The term
'prohibited wildlife species' means any live lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar,
or cougar.' SEC.3. PROHIBITED ACTS. (a) IN GENERAL- Section 3 of the Lacey Act
Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372) is amended-(1) in subsection (a)--(A) in
paragraph (2)(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking `, or' at the end and inserting
a semicolon; (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting `or' after the semicolon at the
end; and (iii) by adding at the end the following: (C) any prohibited wildlife
species (subject to subsection (e));' (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting `or'
after the semicolon at the end; and (C) in paragraph (4), by striking `paragraphs
(1) through (4)' and inserting paragraphs (1) through (3)'; and (2) by adding at
the end the following: (e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES OFFENSE-
(1) IN GENERAL- Subsection (a)(2)(C) does not apply to-(A) any zoo, circus,
research facility licensed or registered and inspected by a Federal agency, or
aquarium; (B) any person accredited by the Association of Sanctuaries or the
American Sanctuary Association; (C) any State college, university, or agency,
State-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or State-licensed veterinarian; (D) any
incorporated humane society, animal shelter, or society for the prevention of
cruelty to animals; (E) any federally-licensed and inspected breeder or dealer that
is conducting any breeding or dealing activity with a person referred to in this
paragraph; or (F) any person having custody of a wild animal solely for the purpose
of transporting the animal to a person referred to in this paragraph. (2) REGULATIONS- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
subsection, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
agencies, shall promulgate regulations describing the persons or entities to which
paragraph (1) applies. (3) STATE AUTHORITY- Nothing in this subsection preempts or
supersedes the authority of a State to regulate wildlife species within that State.
(b) APPLICATION- Section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (as added
by subsection (a)(1)(A)(iii)) shall apply beginning on the effective date of
regulations promulgated under section 3(e)(2) of that Act (as added by subsection
(a)(2)). END
Woman Loses Arm In (Wild) Alligator Attack—Submitted by Sara Schimke
Sun Mar 2, 2003  Animal shot; Arm recovered for attempt at reattachment. ENGLEWOOD, Florida (AP)--A 70-year-old woman was in fair condition Monday after an alligator ripped off part of her arm as she trimmed brush outside her condo, officials said. The 8-foot 3-inch alligator latched on to Helena Couto's arm just below the elbow Sunday and tried to drag her into a nearby pond, said Gary Morse, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She was saved by a resident who managed to pull her away, Morse said. "A neighbor came to the rescue and had her by the legs," he said. A deputy shot and killed the alligator. Wildlife commission officials cut into the alligator and retrieved the arm, which was then flown to Tampa General Hospital where Couto was awaiting surgery to reattach it, Charlotte County spokesman Robert Carpenter said. Hospital spokeswoman Ellen Fiss wouldn't say Monday whether the surgery was successful. Copyright 2003 The Associated Press.

Re: Woman Loses Arm In (Wild) Alligator Attack—(thread) Submitted by Frank Bodenmiller, Mon Mar 3, 2003 This is very, very sad. But we do have to remember that if we as people chose to live near wildlife, we also chose that we live with a risk that some encounter could become a reality. The world is not our own.

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 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!
Highlighted In This Issue:

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

- “Taking Care Of Their Own” Article Published in the Pahrump Valley Times.

- Washington HB2053

- Washington HB1151