This gorgeous cougar belongs to Phoenix member, Vicki Winland-Taraska. Mikko is 2 years old and he lives with an adolescent tiger named Tamu. Mikko rules the roost in this duo and they enjoy sharing love and playing. I am told that Mikko is also very smart and also stubborn like his mom!
Welcome from President - Jeanne Hall

My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotic and would like to brief you on what to expect in our upcoming newsletters. The newsletter is an avenue to reach our members who do not have convenient access to our website. We are reaching out to make Phoenix Exotic accessible, including in our newsletter information from our e-list for members who are currently not online. Enjoy!

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 Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, 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.”

Phoenix Exotics E-List contained 470 posts in February. 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.

Please note: Please visit the archive section of the Yahoo E-list for many more articles, posts and replies.

Letter From Editor - Rhonda Kiker

WELCOME!

This newsletter is a derivative of the articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Phoenix_Exotics/) Many thanks to the members for their contributions. Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication. Should you feel that your views have not been properly represented, please email, General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org, or you may write a letter to the address below. Please be descriptive as to which article and please reference “Volume Number” and “Issue Number”, located on the front of the newsletter. If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/

Our thanks goes to the “Associated Press” for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc., membership fee is only $10.00/annually. A check or money order can be mailed along with any inquiries you may have.

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Membership & Membership Renewal Form

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I would like to join and support the Phoenix Wildlife Association. I understand that dues are for membership only and non-refundable.

Signature __________________ Second Signature __________________

Please enclose check or money order.

Mail to Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, PO Box 1132 Chehalis, WA 98532
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Now available online at http://www.Amazon.com with a beautiful glossy, color soft cover!

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.

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PLEASE NOTE!!!!
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Prices have not changed if you purchase directly from Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association. Bulk rates remain the same. This is a great deal for the price. Definitely take advantage of the savings so you can share this treasure with friends and colleagues!

2004 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting DVD and/or VHS

I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2004 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is available in DVD or VHS format. This has turned out terrific and is 4 1/2 hours long! The DVD and VHS case is beautifully done with the Phoenix Exotic Logo, the theme of the meeting is "SOLUTIONS" and where the meeting was held, nicely done!! A "Wanna get this" for sure!! For all those that want to order a DVD (2 discs) or VHS (2 tapes for better quality) we have tried to keep the cost to a minimal and as close to cost as possible. We are only sending in orders of 10 or more at a time in order to help keep the cost down.

To order:

DVD's: $19.95 + $4.95 for shipping and handling
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathspohrer@metrocast.net
Cathy Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics
SC: League fights to save primates  
Submitted by Rhonda Kiker Sun Apr 25, 2004  
By BRUCE SMITH, The Associated Press

SUMMERVILLE — Passing through the gate of the International Primate Protection League sanctuary, you sense you’ve taken a wrong turn and mistakenly arrived on another continent. The songs of gibbons rise on the morning air, and Shirley McGreal greets you with her British accent. It is here in a pine glen in rural South Carolina that McGreal has, for more than a quarter-century, supervised a worldwide effort to protect primates. She founded the International Primate Protection League even earlier — in Thailand 30 years ago — to protect threatened primates including gibbons, monkeys and gorillas. Much of the league’s work is directed at fighting illegal trafficking of the animals. The league’s almost 10-acre compound with its cages and runs is home to 33 gibbons — some in their late 40s and many brought here after living years in medical labs. McGreal, who has a doctorate in education, had planned to become a college professor. Despite having no experience with primates, she decided she needed to do something when, in the early 1970s, she saw gibbons, monkeys and other primates crated for shipping at the Bangkok Airport and for sale at a market in the city. “I was really self-taught, although I had seen animals in zoos and everything. I normally would have become a college teacher,” she says. “It’s amazing I got out of the area and started a totally new life.” That life has resulted in a worldwide organization with 15,000 members and field representatives in 31 nations working to preserve parks and sanctuaries for primates and for laws to ban animal trafficking. One of the league’s early accomplishments was working with Thai students in the mid-1970s to document the shipping of primates from Bangkok Airport — work that resulted in that nation banning primate exports. In subsequent years, the league helped work for a ban on the export of Rhesus monkeys from India and the seizure of chimps on sale in pet shops in Saudi Arabia. When the league celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, sent a letter of commendation. “The League can look back with much pride on its very considerable achievements ... most primate populations around the globe are in a better state thanks to its activities,” he wrote. All this from just a desire to make a difference. “When I was starting, I was obviously a nobody,” McGreal recalls. She had no background in biology or wildlife but did read a book titled “The Apes” by Oxford University professor Vernon Reynolds. So she wrote to tell him about the organization she envisioned. “He could have done two things. He could have written back and said, ‘I’ve never heard of you.’ ... Or he could have said ‘How can I help?’” McGreal says. Reynolds offered his help and has been helping since, she recounts as she walks through the sanctuary. “For every animal we care for here, we care for 100 overseas” by supporting other groups and sanctuaries, she adds. “A lot of it we had to figure out. Some of it we read. But there has been no ‘Jane Goodall’ of the gibbons,” says McGreal, referring to the internationally known primate scientist. “There haven’t been these 30-year studies of gibbons.” The compound has cages with enclosed runs overhead, allowing the gibbons to move around during the day. The weather in South Carolina is not too different from Asia. “It’s very nice. They do have some chilly weather (in Asia), and gibbons live up to 5,000 feet,” she says. The sanctuary’s white-handed gibbons perhaps resemble humans more closely than other primates, McGreal says. They live in family units and like to sleep in the same place every night. They are territorial, and families must be kept in separate runs and cages. But unlike many humans, gibbons mate for life and, when their offspring get old enough, they push them out to start their own lives. And, also unlike humans, there seems to be little racial bias. “No black gibbon would refuse to play with another color gibbon. They look behind the color of the gibbon to the inner gibbon,” McGreal laughs. The sanctuary animals consume about 1,000 pounds of food a month, largely fresh fruit and vegetables as well as bamboo from bamboo stands on the property. After 30 years, McGreal says the league has had its successes but more remains to be done.

(CONTINUED...)
"The primate trade is really rampant," she says. "It was really bad 30 years ago, then it really dipped in the monkey trade particularly. Then four or five years ago when all this stuff about biowarfare got hot, the demand for monkeys has gotten enormous. They want to study Ebola and anthrax and you name it." McGreal also worries that crates used to ship animals could provide a vehicle for terrorist attacks. "I’ve always said this huge and burgeoning trade in live animal traffic is a way,” she says. “Animal crates are not inspected. Something like a spitting cobra — what customs agent is going to inspect a spitting cobra?”

Veneman Names Nation’s Top Vet As APHIS Administrator
Submitted by Robin Taylor Sat Apr 10, 2004
http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0140.04.html
Release No. 0140.04, Contact: Alisa Harrison (202) 720-4623
Veneman Names Nation’s Top Vet As APHIS Administrator
WASHINGTON, April 9, 2004 -- Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the appointment of Dr. Ron DeHaven as administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "I am very pleased that Dr. DeHaven has accepted this appointment," Veneman said. "His leadership and management experience are valuable assets as we continue to strengthen our animal and plant protection systems.” As administrator, DeHaven will manage programs that are critical to the protection of America’s livestock, plants and food supply. DeHaven replaces Bobby Acord, who retired on April 3, after almost 38 years of federal service. Acord served as administrator since November 2001. Prior to his appointment, since April 2002, DeHaven served as deputy administrator of APHIS for Veterinary Services, the nation’s chief veterinary official, where he provided leadership in safeguarding animal health, most notably the management of the detection and investigation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a cow in Washington State in December 2003. He served as the acting associate administrator for APHIS from October 2001 through April 2002. From 1996 to 2001, DeHaven was the deputy administrator for the Animal Care (AC) unit of APHIS, administering the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Before assuming the deputy administrator position, DeHaven was AC’s western regional director in Sacramento, California, for seven years. DeHaven obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University in 1975 and a Masters in Business Administration from Millsaps College in Mississippi in May 1989. After graduating from veterinary school, he spent four years in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps before beginning his career with APHIS in 1979. DeHaven lives in Crofton, Maryland, with his wife Nancy. They have two grown children, a daughter and a son.

A cautionary tale
Submitted by Ray (rune.raion) Sat Apr 17, 2004
Fire at rescue group office blamed on pet food
4/17/2004 3:05 PM
By: Associated Press
(LIBERTY) -- Investigators blame a bag of decomposing pet food for a fire that destroyed the office and supplies of an animal rescue group April 11. The Happy Hills Animal Foundation in Randolph County had about a ton of dog and cat food in bags at its offices. Fire investigators found some bags that were lower in the stacks had burned from the inside out, suggesting they spontaneously combusted. Water apparently got into one or more bags, starting the decomposition process. As it rotted, it generated heat that couldn't escape through the pile of bags. No animals were harmed in the fire and the organization is still arranging pet adoptions. Copyright 2004
Cougars there but invisible
Submitted by Ray (rune.raion) Mon Apr 5, 2004

Study: Mountain lions adept at moving unseen through our world, SETH HETTENA, Associated Press

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK, Calif. - In the mountains outside San Diego, deer flit across a grassy meadow near a lake swathed in early morning mist. Almost no one, however, sees the less bucolic scene that develops after the sun goes down and the park's mountain lions begin stalking deer to fill their bellies. New technology is giving researchers a window into the life of California's No. 1 predator, a creature so stealthy that the American Indians called it "the ghost of the Rockies." For the past three years, 20 lions in and around San Diego County's Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were outfitted with $5,000 Global Positioning System collars that allowed researchers to trace their nocturnal travels. The results surprised researchers. Mountain lions - also known as cougars or pumas - were crossing interstate highways and skirtng clusters of homes without being seen. People were sometimes unaware that their goats and other livestock were silently dragged off and devoured by lions in the middle of the night. A separate Southern California study captured a puma moving through a graffiti-lined underpass. "What surprised me the most is the degree of adaptability to what I consider to be high human activity in puma habitat," said Ken Logan, one of the researchers on the study and the author of "Desert Puma" based on a decade of research in New Mexico. "Depending on the size as well as the home location of the GPS-collared lions we studied, there were literally hundreds to a thousand people living in the area." The ongoing $200,000-a-year study by the University of California, Davis may also hold the hope of a better understanding of why the puma, which normally avoids people, sometimes comes dangerously close. In January, a lion mauled cyclist Mark Reynolds to death in an Orange County park and then seriously injured a second cyclist a short time later. There were also troubling reports of lions approaching hikers in Sabino Canyon outside Tucson, Ariz., in recent months. The UC Davis team is studying how the lions behave around people. Researchers eventually want to understand whether lion behavior changes as they get used to us. It's a question that's key to the cougar's continued existence in the fast-growing West since lions often pay the ultimate price when they come to close. In California, where a voter initiative outlawed trophy hunting of mountain lions, more than 700 pumas have been killed over the past decade for threatening or harming people. "There might be ways with better understanding to know how to behave around lions to reduce the public safety incidents or lion attacks," said Walter Boyce, director of the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center and lead researcher on the project. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, 35 miles east of San Diego, was chosen for the study because of the potential for future attacks. The park was the site of one of the three fatal mountain lion attacks in California over the past decade when 56-year-old Iris Kenna was killed in 1994 during a morning hike. Twelve pumas were killed around the park in the 1990s for safety. "Yet when we went in there and started looking at this very intensively, nothing happened," Boyce said. "Lions were doing a very good job of avoiding people." During the day, the GPS-collared lions typically slept at least a football field's length away from the nearest trail and even further from buildings. After the sun went down, cougars used the park's extensive trail system and crept closer to buildings than in the day. One 3-year-old male, dubbed M-2, showed an uncanny ability to sneak across roads. In a six-month period in 2002, he crossed Interstate 8 and two state highways a total of 48 times. He ultimately was killed when he was hit by a vehicle. When researchers plotted the travels of a 2-year-old female called F-8, her meanderings showed a clear orbit around - but never through - private properties in the rural eastern San Diego County community of Harrison Park. A separate GPS study of three pumas in the Santa Monica National Recreation Area outside Los Angeles found one lion was using a graffiti-covered underpass to cross a highway. A sensor-triggered camera captured the rear half of a rain-soaked lion and graffiti in the background.

(continued...)
In October, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was ravaged by the Cedar fire, the state's largest wildfire. One lion in the study died from injuries suffered in the blaze, but the toll of dead or injured cougars is not known. The fire, however, will stimulate new plant growth, which will benefit deer - the lion's main food source. The UC Davis study is challenging some of the assumptions of state game wardens, who are responsible for protecting people from the lions. Lt. Bob Turner, who has killed dozens of lions over more than two decades with the California Department of Fish and Game, said he no longer believes that once a lion eats domestic animals it must be killed. F-8 was collared after she ate an alpaca, a domesticated llama, in a pen belonging to a breeder who lived near the park. Since the breeder modified the fencing around her remaining alpacas after the attack, the lion returned to hunting deer. "Close to 50 percent of the lions killed could be avoided if people could be responsible," Turner said. "Most people are plain stupid." For the cougars in the study, the No. 1 cause of death was people. Four lions were killed under special permits issued by the Department of Fish and Game for pumas that threaten people or kill livestock. Disease, a fight between pumas, and the Cedar fire also took a toll. For thousands of years, people hunted and killed pumas. From 1909 to 1963, more than 12,000 were hunted and killed in California. That has led some like Logan and his wife, Linda Sweanor, to believe that humans are aiding evolution by eliminating lions that don't fear people. The lions that survive and reproduce are genetically programmed to keep their distance from us. "We are not on the menu," said Doug Updike, a biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game. "If a lion had any desire to catch and eat people, we would see literally hundreds of people dying every day." ON THE NET
Southern California Puma Project:

Question on SC exotic laws
Submitted by (gem jungle) Mon Apr 12, 2004

Getting a permit for private ownership of an American alligator in SC is just about impossible. Most non native exotics are not cared about much on a state level but many county's and cities have bans.
Dr. Bhagavan Antle
Director of T.I.G.E.R.S
http://www.tigerfriends.com

Question on SC exotic laws
Submitted by Raven Archibald (gatorkeeper) Sun Apr 11, 2004

For a time I have been contemplating a move to South Carolina, and was curious on their laws regarding exotics. I would want to know all the regs, regarding all different animals, but in particular, their stance on exotic birds (parrots finches, corvids, hornbills, toucans), and herps, specifically regarding crocodilians, as I have spectacled caiman (I have 4), and private ownership of an american alligator (I have one), seeing as they are native there. My alligator (osceola) is microchipped, and I was wondering if anyone had any experience with the laws/possible permits there, particularly because I would be continuing to run my educational buisness ? Would I have to get an alligator farming permit, and liscance, or are there other permits available? I really do not wish to part with her, or my spectacled caimans, as they are rescues, and I have had them for quite a time now. We are looking at farms, and places in rural type areas with a minimum of one acre, zoned for horses and other livestock. Thanks for any help in advance -
Raven -
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Study: Cougars there, but invisible.
- A Cautionary Tale.
- Veneman Names Nation’s Top Vet As APHIS Administrator