June 2004
Volume 4 Issue 36

Meet Hoppy! She is a 3 year old wallaby, belonging to Sue Arnold of Arnold’s Exotics and is seen here carrying her first baby in her pouch. Her baby will join their educational program. Hoppy loves sweet potatoes and whole wheat bread!

Sierra

This cutie belongs to Chris Thompson of Pee Wee’s Pampered Pet Supplies. Sierra is an albino Bennett Wallaby. She is used in educational programs and loves to take trips in her stroller or pouch!
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 976 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

Name(s)_________________________ Phone ____________________  Dues _________ x $10 _______
Mailing Address _____________________________  Total enclosed: _______
E-Mail Address ____________________________
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
(A Washington Not-For-Profit Corporation)

NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON!!!!

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.

This book gives them voice:

LISTEN!

1 Copy $8.00
5 Copies $32.00
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Chehalis, WA 98532

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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
VHS : $25.95 + $4.95 shipping and handling
(check or money order)

Payment can be made to:
Phoenix Exotic
Wildlife Association
P O Box 1132
Chehalis, WA 98532

http://www.paypal.com
Payable to: President@PhoenixExotics.org
*Note: please add $2.00 extra if ordering through paypal for paypal fees.

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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
Introduction to Wallabies
By: Penny Stoven

ORDER: Marsupialia. FAMILY: Macropodidae. GENUS: Macropus

Wallabies are native to Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, New Guinea, and a few other nearby South Pacific islands. While there are many various species I will introduce you to the most popular species owned here in the U.S. Wallabies are preferably acquired when young preferably when bottle feedings are down to twice a day. Carrying the joey in a pouch with you as much as possible is a very important bonding process. Suckling joeys are fed milk replacements such as Wombaroo, Biolac, though Esbliac puppy milk has been used successfully but it was not formulated specifically for the wallaby as the others I have mentioned. Macropods are known to be lactose intolerant that is one of the keys for the special formulas developed for them. Joeys are usually taken by breeder's at 3 -4 pounds or 6-7 month's from their mother's pouches and started on bottle feedings. To cause less trauma the joey is taken from the back and placed quickly into a pouch so the joey doesn't realize it not in it's mother's pouch. A cotton roo pouch is used by hanging in a play pen to represent "mom's pouch". The playpen is used to let them have food, water and grass to eat freely. The playpen becomes their place of security. The more they are held the closer the bond between you and the joey. Weaning from the bottle can start from 10-15 pounds but this depends on each individual. The longer the bottle is given the more assurance to a tighter bond with you and your wallaby. As wallabies become mature, problems can develop such as chewing on carpeting. At this time they will need more room to run. And your home will need to be wallaby proofed electrical cords and other dangers need to be addressed. Enclosures should be approximately 50x50 ft. welded wire or chain link fence and should be approximately 6 ft. for protection of the wallaby. Shade screening ran along the fence helps lessen the chance of the wallaby getting startled and provides protection from their feet getting caught in the fencing as well. A shelter should also be provided. Besides protection from the elements wallabies need a safe place to retreat when frightened. If in a cold environment a heat source will be needed as well. Wallabies can freeze their tail in the winter. Many owners allow wallabies access to their homes. Their stool is pelleted and easily cleaned up. It is not recommended to house two unaltered males together. Playing rough with young males is not recommended when they mature they can inflict injuries. Adult males are called bucks or boomers, females are called does their young are called joeys and as a group they are referred to as a mob. Worming is usually done by using Ivermectin [cattle-injectable] is given orally usually given by placing a few drops on a slice of wheat bread. Antibiotics should not be given orally though as this will destroy the flora in the gut and also causes yeast infections in the intestines. Nystatin is usually given to wallabies being treated with antibiotics. A commercial diet that is highly recommended is Happy Hopper. Mazuri also offers a wallaby feed as well. Wallabies enjoy grazing on grass. In addition make sure that anything offered for consumption is not chemically treated as not to upset their delicate systems. Some additional supplemental foods are sweet potatoes, wheat bread, carrots, apples and apple tree twigs as well.

Dama Macropus eugenii

The Dama is primarily a nocturnal animal in the wild but can be found foraging and sunning by day. They are somewhat solitary as well usually only found in pairs. Their weight is usually between 9-22 lbs and they sit around 18 inches. The males being larger than the females. Lifespan is approximately 16 years. They are one of the most popular to keep in captivity because of their size and are fairly easy to keep. The males are sexually mature at 2 years while the female is sexually mature at nine months. The gestation period is 28 days then the newborn joey climbs up to the pouch where it continues its development for 150 days before finally making it's appearance to the outside world.

(continued)
It will remain in the mother's pouch where it will suckle for up to 5-11 months. The wallaby's fur will grow and it will come all the way out of the pouch at about six months old, all the while the pouch expands to make more room for it. A joey enters the pouch by diving in headfirst. It then either remains in that position with its legs and tail hanging out or it may somersault itself around. It can stay completely inside or poke its head out.

**Bennett Macropus rufogriseus**

The Bennett's wallaby is one of the largest of the wallabies. The fur of the Bennett’s wallaby is a grayish-chocolate color. They can grow to 30-36 inches in body size and with the tail 24-30 inches long. They can reach up to 3 feet in height while sitting. Their weight is usually between 35-40 pounds for females and 40-50 pounds for males. In the wild they live in groups of up to 30 called mobs. They are considered browsers length of the estrous cycle is approximately 33 days and the gestation period is about 30 days. Lifespan is approximately 15 years. The Bennett’s wallaby practices embryonic diapause but the birth of the joey resulting from this mating is not born until the following breeding season. If the female was mated without already having a joey in pouch, the birth of the joey will be 8 months later, however if the female had a joey when mated, then the birth of the joey in diapause will not be until the existing joey's is fully out of pouch, between 16-29 days after the joey is fully out of pouch. Joeys are in pouch until 9-9 1/2 months old and suckle until 12-17 months old. In captivity Bennett’s females are able to mate from about 14 months old and the males around 19 months of age. They usually emerge from the pouch at 220 days fully emerged at 280 days.

**Swamp Wallabia Bi-Color**

Breeding occurs in both sexes between the ages of 15-18 month. After a gestation period of 33-38 days, a single young is born. They mate a second time 8 days prior to the birth of the established fetus, therefore the gestation period is longer than the estrous cycle. The Swamp wallabies are black with reddish gold highlights on the chest and face. Pouch life is complete by 8-9 months, and suckling continues until approximately 15 months of age. When Swamps attack, they jump high, then scratch with their claws, bite, and kick to injure their victim. Swamps are probably the most elusive macropod, and are seldom seen in the wild. These are recommended if you are planning on having one wallaby they are solitary and are considered loyal to one person as well.They are usually leary of strangers and should not be forced to interact with them. This species does not adapt to cold weather as well.

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**Recommended Breeder:**

Chris Thompson who is a known amongst her peers to be one of the most respected breeders and also known for starting MIE a non-profit Org. [macropod informational exchange] and is owner of PeeWee's Pampered Pet Products. foxhillfarm@direcway.com

**Recommended reading:**

Macropods Their care, breeding and the rearing of their young.

**Recommand link to healthcare:**

Veterinary Aspects of Macropods by Dr.l.J.Hough B.Sc.,B.V.M.S.,M.A.C.V.Sc.

http://users.chariot.net.au/~wwo/veterinary.html

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**Maine: Wildlife officials try to calm bear fears**

Submitted by (SOUTHZOO) Mon Jun 14, 2004

PORTLAND (AP) -- Maine biologists say that the number of run-ins between bears and people is not any higher this year than usual. Bear biologist Jennifer Vashon says the early snowmelt and cold spring made bears hungry. They awoke from hibernation early to find the berry crop was not ready yet. But she says it's too early to prove the number of bear problems this year is any higher than usual. Supporters of a referendum in November that would ban bear baiting say referendum opponents are playing up the bear attacks in an attempt to sway public opinion. Cecil Gray of Hunters for Fair Bear Hunting, which supports the ban, says the issue is getting overblown. But Edie Leary of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council, which opposes a ban on bear baiting, says the council is making no special effort to increase nuisance bear reports. Leary says such reports do bring to the forefront the need to control the bear population.
From: <rune.raion@v...>
Date: Fri Jun 4, 2004 3:28 pm
KY: "John Boy's" dad saves exotics
Submitted by (rune.raion) Fri Jun 4, 2004
RICHARD THOMAS SAVED HIS EXOTIC ANIMALS AFTER RAINS CAME
By Lee Mueller
EASTERN KENTUCKY BUREAU

PAINTSVILLE - When he went to sleep Sunday night, 79-year-old Richard Scott Thomas never dreamed he would wake up and have to swim to try to save his camel. "I'm a good swimmer," said Thomas, a former New York City Ballet dancer and instructor, but not that good. Thomas, the father of actor Richard Earl Thomas -- "John Boy" in the long-running television show The Waltons -- said yesterday that, when he got out of bed about 3:30 a.m. Monday in his Johnson County home, he stepped into ankle-high water. By the time he reached his back porch, floodwater -- "I thought it was backwater," he said -- from nearby Jennys Creek was nearly up to his chest. Thomas waded toward his barnyard where he stables about 40 exotic animals in a row of buildings and began opening barn doors to free his animals. As the water rose, Thomas stripped off his Brooks Brothers nightshirt and began swimming -- against a swift current -- toward the last building in an attempt to free Alex, a two-humped camel -- and a farm favorite. The current kept pushing him back against a metal gate, about 30 feet from the camel's stall, he said. Pressed against the gate, Thomas said he looked behind the barn, saw "two humps walking in the water" and realized Alex probably was safe. As he was hanging on to a barn window, Thomas said a black water buffalo swam past him. "That was pretty weird," he said, but perhaps not as surprising as the floating appliance that greeted him after he swam, following a submerged fence line, back to his kitchen door. "I didn't know refrigerators could float," he said. Dick Thomas, as relatives call him, is a Paintsville native whose grandfather was mayor and whose father was once county judge and a state mining official. Thomas has been living on his parents' farm on Ky. 825, about 5 miles from Paintsville, for about four years after a career in show business that rubbed off on his more-famous son. After graduating from Paintsville High School in 1943, Thomas went to the University of Kentucky, ignored his father's advice to become an engineer and accompanied an aunt to the West Coast where he became a dancer in Los Angeles. Mitzi Gaynor, he said, was his first dance partner. After World War II ended, Thomas moved to New York where he joined several ballet companies, including the New York City Ballet. In 1950, he married dancer Barbara Fallis during a trip to Cuba, and their first child, Richard Earl Thomas, was born in 1951. For years, the young actor visited his grandparents in Eastern Kentucky almost every year. The younger Thomas, now 53, is a Broadway actor. In 1985, a few years after the passing of his wife and then his father, Dick Thomas closed his dance school in Manhattan and retired. He still owns a 16-room Victorian house in New Rochelle, N.Y., but resides on his small farm, called Golightly, wedged between a railroad track and Jennys Creek. Wednesday, Thomas bantered with a neighbor he hired to haul away and try to salvage several pieces of antique furniture inherited from his parents, including a grandfather clock he said his mother won on a TV game show, Say When!, while in New York. "My mother was a hoot," Thomas said, smiling. Thomas has built fences and barns for a diverse collection of animals, most of which survived last weekend's flooding. They include a bison named Nickel, a water buffalo, a Brahma bull, llamas, emus, peacocks and a stableful of quarterhorses. Yesterday, fenced pastures were still quagmires of mud, which also filled Thomas' new pickup, parked Sunday night with the widows open. "We lost three goats and a donkey and a potbelly pig named Pepper," Thomas said. Alex, the camel, appeared in need of grooming yesterday, but playfully nipped at Thomas' hat. Scott Preston, a cousin who is a Paintsville attorney, said at one point, Thomas also tried to buy an elephant, "but somebody beat him to it."
CA: Coyote attacks children
Submitted by (rune.raion) Mon Jun 7, 2004

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) --
Police shot to death a coyote they believe attacked four children, including a 3-year-old who was hospitalized with bites to his neck, face, head and ear, authorities said Monday. The attacks occurred shortly before 7 p.m. Sunday in a residential neighborhood near Old Windmill Park, on the edge of an area of rural trails on the west end of town, said Sgt. Joe May, a police spokesman. None of the injuries, including those to the hospitalized boy, were serious, May said. The attacks occurred in one of the city's newest subdivisions, in an area that abuts the hills near the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. The area is in the midst of a dry spell, which authorities say could have brought the animal out of the hills in a search of water. Ventura County Animal Control officers took possession of the animal's carcass and were trying to determine what prompted the attacks. "Animal control will take it and do a rabies test," May said. Officers were first summoned to a home where witnesses said boys ages 2 and 3 were attacked as they played in their back yard. The coyote bit one of them on the right ankle and the other on the left ankle before neighbors chased it away, May said. The animal then surfaced a few blocks away, where it scratched a 7-year-old boy on the ankle. While searching the area for the coyote, the officers got a report that it had surfaced again, near Canyon View Drive, where it grabbed a 3-year-old boy by the head and attempted to drag him away. The officers located the animal and opened fire after it threatened to attack them, May said. It was struck by two bullets. http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2004/06/07/

Minnesota Passes Law Against Keeping Dangerous Animals as Pets
Submitted by (SOUTHZOO) Wed Jun 2, 2004
To: National Desk, Legal Reporter
Contact: Chris Cutter of International Fund for Animal Welfare, 508-744-2066 or ccutter@i...; Web: http://www.ifaw.org

YARMOUTHPORT, Mass., June 2 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW, Web: http://www.ifaw.org) today announced that Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty has signed into law a bill prohibiting the possession of dangerous wild animals -- such as big cats, bears, and nonhuman primates -- as pets. IFAW pushed for the bill's passage to limit the number of wild animals currently being kept in private ownership across the country. The legislation will eventually phase out ownership of big cats, primates and bears as pets in Minnesota. Zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, licensed game farms, research facilities, and circuses will not be affected by this law though existing breeders will be subject to stricter regulations. Currently, it is estimated that there are over 10,000 tigers, up to 20,000 large cats and at least 3,000 great apes being kept in private hands across the United States. In February of this year, four tigers were found dead at a breeding facility in Pelican Rapids, Minn., and a man in Red Wing, Minn., was convicted for illegally possessing five tigers. "This legislation will reduce the number of dangerous wild animals kept as pets and help ensure the safety and health of the Minnesota public," said Sarah Tyack of IFAW. In December 2003, IFAW helped to pass the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, a federal bill that bans the interstate commerce of big cats. The bill was the first national step toward slowing the trade in exotic pets across America. - The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) -- Web: http://www.ifaw.org -- works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress. IFAW seeks to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people. http://www.usnewswire.com/ © 2004 U.S. Newswire 202-347-
Highlighted In This Issue:

- **Introduction To Wallabies**
- **MN: Passes Law Against Keeping Dangerous Animals As Pets**
- **KY: “John Boy’s” dad saves exotics**

We will have a feature article written by Penny Stoven entitled **Kinkajous**! Penny has experience working in an educational capacity with wild exotic and domestic breeds of animals. Penny is an active member of the Phoenix e-list and has graciously decided to contribute educational articles to our monthly newsletter.

TO: