"Want a White Christmas? Well, DUH! Look around me. What do you think all this white stuff is? Kitty dander?"

This beautiful snow scene is Phoenix member Cathy Spohrer’s yard and the serval head on the tree is a mascot for one of her very special rescue servals named Chaos. Cathy says that Chaos is affectionately called the “dummy” in their clan due to his thinking that he is a monkey, wolf or human on given days! He is also the most, sociable, kissing and loving serval as well!

(Note: No actual servals were hurt during this photo shoot. The serval head above is made of manmade material and hand painted by a lady out West.)
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 monthly newsletters. The newsletter is for our members who do not have convenient access to our website. We want to reach out and 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 is 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

Phoenix Exotics E-List contained many posts in December. 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.

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 ___________________
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 second in a series of books on Responsible Ownership of Exotic Animals. This book is 144 pages long with photos and illustrations. Presenting real life tales of Monkeys 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.

Real life owners with real Monkeys in their families, including published authors, Board members, politicians, medical and mental health professionals and owners who have been involved with Monkeys 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 $9.00
5 Copies $38.00
10 Copies $58.00
50 Copies $240.00

(Please include $2.95 for shipping/handling charges)

Send Check or Money Order to:
Phoenix Exotics
Wildlife Association
PO Box 1132
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!

2005 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting DVD and/or VHS

I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2005 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held at the Bonnie Springs, Blue Diamond, Nevada. The meeting is available in DVD or VHS format. This has turned out terrific and is 9 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
Oregon - Court to consider ‘canned hunt’ ban
Submitted by (bigcats10) Wed Dec 7, 2005

SALEM (AP) The Oregon Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether state wildlife officials should have the authority to ban the “canned” hunting of captive exotic animals on closed reserves.

Arguments will be heard in March in the case, which stems from the state Fish and Wildlife Commission’s efforts to crack down on the owner of a game ranch who was charged with possessing and hunting several species of exotic deer without proper permits on an enclosed game farm. The charges were brought in 2001 against Clark Couch, owner of the 2,200-acre Clover Creek Ranch northeast of Madras, after an investigation by State Police game officers.

He was accused of violating a rule passed in 1999 by the Fish and Wildlife Commission banning so-called canned hunting of exotic, or non-native, species of animals such as deer and elk. Canned hunting of native big game species was already illegal.

The charges against Couch were dismissed by the trial court, though, and the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal on the same grounds that non-native exotic species could not be considered wildlife subject to the commission’s control.

State wildlife officials are hoping the state Supreme court will reverse that decision. They say the lower court’s ruling removes the commission’s authority to protect native wildlife from the spread of diseases carried by exotic game animals brought into the state.

“The Humane Society of the United States has filed a “friend of the court” brief in support of the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s position.

“Although advertised under a variety of names most frequently ‘hunting preserves,’ ‘game ranches’ or ‘shooting preserves’ canned hunts violate the hunting community’s standard of ‘fair chase’ by confining animals to cages or fenced enclosures,” the Humane Society said.

State Police Lt. Randy Scorby, a wildlife officer who was involved in the investigation of Couch’s ranch, said people paid from $500 to $1,000 to shoot captive exotic animals at the central Oregon ranch.

A call to Couch wasn’t returned Monday.

In a 2001 interview, Couch said he had a license to operate the ranch, that he had lawfully purchased the exotic game animals and that the state was taking his property without just compensation.

Connecticut man has a pet of a different stripe
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Dec 8, 2005

(AP) SOMERS, Conn. -- You can spend a long time on this earth without seeing a zebra chase a backhoe.

But the stable hands at Shallowbrook Equestrian Center in Somers don’t look up when Hal Vita Sr. rumbles around the barn on an earthmover with his zebra Casey trotting alongside.

Casey will chase almost anything Vita drives around the 22-acre farm that he’s owned for almost half a century. When Vita brings out his golf cart, which is most days, he and the zebra take turns running and driving after each other.

“He thinks I’m either his mother or his father - probably his mother,” said Vita, 78, as he watched Casey grazing about 25 feet away from his golf cart.
Zebras aren't known for making good pets. Despite having bodies shaped like a little horse, they can get notoriously cranky when bothered by humans or other animals. If zebras bite, they tend not to let go. "Some of the worst injuries inflicted on zookeepers come from zebra," said Michael Illig, curator at the Oregon Zoo, in Portland, Ore., who is an expert on African animals.

Casey was born on July 3, 2002, on a ranch about 120 miles south of Salt Lake City. Gilbert, the rancher, got interested in zebras about 15 years ago. Today, his herd numbers about 40 animals and produces between 10 and 15 foals a year. Gilbert charges up to $5,500 apiece for fillies, and about half that for the colts.

At Vita’s request, Gilbert separated Casey from his mother soon after birth and fed him with a bottle to get him accustomed to humans.

Gilbert prefers that customers buying hand-reared zebra pick them up right away.

"You tell people and they say, 'Oh my God, you have a zebra!' They are flabbergasted," Vita said.

Casey is a Grant’s zebra, the most abundant of the three zebra species and the only one that is not endangered. The Grant’s is also the calmest of the species, but it still can’t be treated like a horse, said Illig said. "No one is going to breed zebras to be domesticated. It is a wild animal."

Vita remains undeterred by such views. The wildness that Vita sees in Casey only emerges when the zebra is startled.

At other times, the zebra is downright cocky. Casey prefers to hang around the stables rather than head out to graze, when he gets the choice. He passes time by tormenting the employees and clients who board their horses at the farm, knocking over cups of coffee, stealing car keys and lead ropes, walking away with anything that isn't nailed down.

"He does not have to worry about anything here," Vita said, as the zebra walks across the indoor riding area with someone’s water bottle in his mouth. The zebra drops the bottle on the dirt near the middle of the area. "He just hangs around getting into trouble."

**Phoenix Exotics Annual Meeting**

I am honored to announce this year’s Phoenix Exotics Annual Meeting: "Exotic Animal Ownership - Legalities, Problems, Solutions."

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association proudly announces the location and date of the upcoming Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting.

Location: LaQuinta Inn Las Vegas Airport
Date: February 25, 2006 (Saturday)
Guest Speakers: TBA

The Phoenix Exotics Annual Meeting is always free and open to the public.

This coming year we will be focusing on some valuable and very informational Guest Speakers as well as a work time for all attendees to share and discuss any ongoing or much needed projects, legalities, strategies and solutions for the welfare of our exotics that may be tried, implemented or resolved.

Mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and recommendations all together at one time. If there are any questions please contact: OEsecretary@phoenixexotics.org or cathspohrer@metrocast.net.

La Quinta Inn Las Vegas Airport is located off the strip at 3970 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89109. Phone number is 702-796-9000.
Tiger's death in private zoo in Alabama stirs debate
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Dec 10, 2005
By GARRY MITCHELL, (AP)

A private zoo operator said Friday he was unable to find a new home for a 2-year-old Bengal-Siberian-cross tiger and put down the 600-pound animal humanely with a dart fired from a rifle after it became too aggressive.

Joe Higginbotham, owner of the 7-year-old Kids Country Zoo on 16.5 acres in Foley near the Alabama coast, said he welcomed any official investigation into his actions.

Baldwin County District Attorney David Whetstone said he would investigate Wednesday's tiger death, looking at the "manner and method" of death and the prior treatment of the animal.

"If he wants to come down, I'll show him where the tiger came through the fence," Higginbotham said in a telephone interview.

He said the tiger, called Tony by children visiting the zoo, came from the U.S. department of Agriculture when it weighed 75 pounds. He was to house it for only a month, but kept it nearly two years as it grew to 600 pounds and became too aggressive.

"We tried to find a home for it for I don't know how long. Nobody would take it," Higginbotham said.

Patti Hall, director of the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo in Gulf Shores, told the Mobile Register that Higginbotham never asked her to take the tiger. But Higginbotham said that's "the very first" zoo he contacted. He blamed a rivalry for customers between the two neighboring zoos for Hall's comment.

Hall did not immediately return a phone message Friday from The Associated Press.

Higginbotham said a USDA inspector offered the tiger to the nonprofit Tiger Haven in Kingston, Tenn., which he said had no room for it. But Tiger Haven president Mary Lynn Roberts said she had not been contacted until one of her workers, Valori Russell, notified her Wednesday about the tiger's plight. The tiger already had been put down.

"I don't believe he tried too hard to place the animal," Roberts said.

"We've never turned down an animal that was in dire straits," she said.

Higginbotham said USDA inspector Dr. Michelle Williams had assisted him in trying to relocate the tiger. USDA spokesman Jim Rogers in Washington, D.C. said he did not know the details, but attempts were made to relocate the tiger. He said Higginbotham's USDA license did not obligate him to find a new home for the animal.

Dr. George Kollias, professor of wildlife medicine at Cornell University in New York, said a 2-year-old tiger weighing 600 pounds would be "immense" and probably sleep a lot. If a tiger is bored, however, it is likely to spend more time trying to get out, he said.

Kollias, who has not visited the Foley zoo, said other zoos have tigers that big but don't have problems with them escaping.

As for relocating the tiger, Kollias said there are more tigers in captivity now than in the wild. "They are difficult to place in what would be considered acceptable facilities," Kollias said.

In North America zoos, he said, tigers are housed in everything from "chain-link dog pens to incredible facilities."

Higginbotham said the tiger's body has been sent to a taxidermist for mounting. The stuffed tiger later will be displayed at the zoo, which has an operating license from USDA and the state Conservation Department, Higginbotham said.

Higginbotham, a former building contractor, said his zoo still has a live Siberian tiger, weighing
about 750 pounds. He said he built his animal cages to state and USDA specifications. The zoo has 256 animals and birds, including black bears, deer, monkeys and farm animals.

Univ. of Memphis mascot getting new home near Olive
Submitted by (tigers9) Fri Dec 9, 2005

(AP) OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. - Tom, a 14-year-old Bengal tiger and mascot for the University of Memphis, will move from his luxury habitat in Collierville, Tenn., to a similar home now under construction near Olive Branch. The move is mainly to get away from civilization, his handlers say. Houses are under construction 100 yards from the existing 3,500-square-foot habitat, which is made of concrete blocks, bars and bulletproof glass, said Bobby Wharton, a member and former president of the Highland Hundred booster club.

"I'm his godfather," said Wharton, co-owner of Pro-Fire Equipment in Olive Branch. "I'm the one who's taken care of him for 14 years." Another reason for Tom's move - he has to be out of his current home in about 30 days - is the sale of the exotic animal farm where his habitat was built. The man who owns the property is retiring, and Clark & Clark bought the 27 acres - on which Tom's 3,500-square-foot habitat uses a one-acre tract - this past fall.

The developer plans to construct 3,500-square-foot homes on the site, the same size as Tom's habitat. David Gribble, Clark & Clark vice president, said the houses will sell for $350,000 to $500,000. Parts of Tom's existing habitat are being dismantled to be reused in his new, $300,000 habitat. The new home will be on 4-1/2 acres surrounded by private, undeveloped land. The exact location isn't being disclosed for security reasons.

Wharton employs someone whose primary responsibility is to take care of Tom's daily needs, such as feeding him and cleaning his home. Like his existing habitat, the new habitat will have two pools. "Tigers love water," Wharton said.

The habitat will be climate-controlled. "It's a facility most zoos would kill to have," Wharton said. "He will be living in style down here, too." Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency recommended Tom's move to Mississippi, Wharton said, because of tighter restrictions on exotic animals in Tennessee.

However, Tom's handlers still will need appropriate permits from Tennessee when bringing him across the state line for games. Bob Winn, U of M associate athletic director, said Tom's move across the state line isn't an issue. In fact, he'll be closer to the Liberty Bowl at his new home than he is in Collierville, Winn said.

The life expectancy for a captive Bengal tiger is 15 to 20 years, so his handlers are preparing for his eventual successor. "We're building a facility we know Tom III will be in," Wharton said. "We're keeping that tradition alive at the University of Memphis." Tom's name is an acronym for "Tigers of Memphis" and was chosen in a contest. The original mascot was simply Tom, and he was replaced after his death in 1992 by the current Bengal tiger, Tom II.

The Highland Hundred booster club purchased the original Tom for $1,500 in 1972. He was officially presented to the university during a ceremony at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium on Nov. 11, 1972.

The original Tom lived at the Memphis Zoo for most of his life. Tom II was housed in a 3,500-square-foot home at Nixon Farms in Collierville.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Oregon court to consider ‘canned hunt’ ban
- Connecticut Man has a pet of a different stripe
- Tiger’s death in private zoo stirs debate

Reminder!

Get your animal stories in to us for the Responsible Animal Ownership Series!