Can you find the lizard in this picture? This is one of Linda Gleisser’s Carolina Anoles. Anoles have various color changes in a montage of shades and have often been sold as “Chameleons.” This guy lives with two house geckos and one tiny hermit crab as well as some fellow anoles.
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 rights of private ownership through responsible behavior.”

Phoenix Exotics E-List contained many 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
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:

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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

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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
WA - Proposed bill - Jeanne Hall speaks out
Submitted by (Bigcats10) Thu Jan 27, 2007

AP - OLYMPIA, Douglas Taylor knew he loved snakes from the first time he saw one at the tender age of 8. Now 40, the Snohomish County firefighter has turned his passion for the creatures into a lucrative hobby. A proposed bill may put the brakes on his snake-breeding business. The legislation would prohibit Washington residents from owning dangerous wild animals such as certain snakes, large cats, wolves, bears, monkeys, primates and crocodiles. Taylor testified Wednesday against the bill at a public hearing hosted by the House Judiciary Committee, saying he'd lose as much as $15,000 a year because some of the snakes he owns and sells would be banned. "There's been no epidemic of death or destruction by reptiles," he said. Under the proposed law, local animal control authorities would be able to confiscate dangerous wild animals from people owning them illegally and relocate the creatures to zoos or wildlife sanctuaries. The animals might be euthanized as a last resort. Current owners could keep their animals until 2010. At that point, they would need permission from animal control officials to own the pets. The intent of the bill is to protect the public from dangerous animals and protect the animals from possibly inadequate care from private owners, said Nicole Paquette, a lawyer for the Animal Protection Institute. The California-based organization, which has championed similar legislation in other states, has been trying to pass the law in Washington for the past five years. "Wild animals are inherently dangerous," she said. "And the private sector can't provide the care and treatment that they need." The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife doesn't track the number of people injured or killed by privately owned wild animals. Mike Wyche, the general curator of Cat Tales, a zoological park outside of Spokane, told committee members that Cat Tales receives hundreds of calls from people who own exotic animals or want them. Past inquiries have included "Where can I buy a tiger?" and "My cougar needs a home. I'm getting married and it doesn't like my girlfriend," according to a log of phone calls Wyche presented the lawmakers. "It's an ego trip to own these animals, and it's sheer greed that drives people to breed them," he said. But for Jeanne Hall, president of the Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association, owning the animals is more of a rescue mission than an ego boost. "The drive for most private owners is to simply care for animals that need to be rescued," said Hall, who owns exotic cats. Private owners, she said, many times take in injured or older animals that may not be eligible for spaces in zoos or wildlife sanctuaries. Owners would also lose the money they've invested in housing the animals, she said. And then there's just the pure joy of owning a gigantic snake. H. Phil Rodenberg reminded the lawmakers of this with a photograph of him and some school children playing with his albino Burmese python named Weezer. "Really, you've never met a sweeter snake," he told the committee. A public hearing on a companion bill was scheduled Thursday before a Senate committee.

Possible New Section for Phoenix Newsletter
Submitted by (south zoo) Wed Feb 2, 2005

I would like to create a special section in our monthly newsletter that would feature your child's work. I was thinking maybe a story that they have written about a favorite pet/animal or maybe an illustration that they have colored or drawn of your pet/animal. Maybe your child is a poet and has simply written a poem. If the child were too young to write, this would be a wonderful way to spend quality time with them. If your child has written an animal related story, poem or drawn illustrations of a special pet/animal, these would be great to share with us! Just simply e-mail them to me at: southzoo@aol.com. Be sure to include your child's name and age. (Also note that upon our receipt of your submitted materials, you are giving expressed permission to Phoenix Exotics to edit and print your submissions as they see fit for the newsletter.)
A Quiz by Doc!
Submitted by Lee Corbridge Wed Feb 9, 2005

Here you go, responses are included with the answers. (1) Has anyone ever seen tartar buildup and/or periodontal disease in an exotic cat fed a 100% raw meat diet? You forgot to answer this one. The answer is no, and you will not, unless the cat has a metabolic imbalance. Pull blood work if you ever see tartar in your exotic cats that are fed a raw diet and have your veterinarian take a very close look at the endocrine values. (2) Ever wonder why they don't get it, but our domestics cats are plagued with it? Jeanne said, “Did you get the one about the slightly abrasive nature of the meat and the one about enzymes?” (Comments, who voted her in as President of this org?) DTF said “I'll hazard a guess that the tartar doesn't accumulate due to the chewy semi-abrasive nature of raw meat acting as a scrubber-sponge on the teeth, and that the high carbohydrate filler content of processed feeds creates some sort of imbalance. Nancy said “I think it has to do with the good bacteria that the meat provides to counteract the periodontal disease. An extruded dry diet doesn't provide that. (AMBERTHEBOBCAT) said “I think the tartar build up from feeding a dry food diet has to do with the carbohydrate content of the food. The grain fillers actually become very sticky when combined with moisture. Also, with the dry food, as well as canned commercial food, cats do not spend a great deal of time chewing their food. Chewing on the meat actually helps clean the teeth, strong chewing action taking place.” Excellent responses. You folks are good. The answer is one word; diet. A 100% raw meat, chicken, veal (i.e. high protein) diet increases the natural oral flora to a more acidic environment. Oral bacteria doesn't like an acidic environment at all, so the gingival surfaces of the gums stay healthy and clean because it is hard to get infection of the gums (gingivitis) started. Enamel is the hardest substance in the body and it is also the slickest. The tarter adheres to the gums, not the teeth. Infection of the gums is the beginning stages of gingivitis and periodontal disease. Keep the gum tissues healthy and you will not get gingivitis. Once the natural barrier of protection of the gingiva is broken down at the margins, dental disease will occur. This higher acidic value helps to keep the gums healthy and gingivitis away. Domestic cats are fed a disproportionate amount of carbohydrates (CHO). CHO's love a basic environment. That is just the opposite of a high protein diet so bacteria flourishes and dental disease is almost guaranteed to occur over and over again. Why are we feeding a high concentration of CHO to a obligate carnivore? Because it is cheap. Remember, the first ingredient listed in a feed analysis is the product with the highest concentration in that feed. In domestic cats, that is almost always a CHO. (3) Lastly, ever wonder why we rarely see diabetic exotic cats? Rhonda said, “I'll take a guess. Do enzymes play a part with the diabetic thing? I do know that most products contain some amounts of grain and other hard to digest fillers. This seems like it would make the digestion process work harder and produce more enzymes while yet weakening the body's immune system while eating raw would not?” The answer is simple. The best description of diabetes is that it is carbohydrate intolerance. We don't feed CHO to our exotic cats so their systems are not challenged and overworked. That is why diabetics and those people who want to lose weight are on a high protein, mostly meat diet (can you say Atkins). Exotic cats are almost never fed CHO as the primary feed source. If they are, diabetes is a very real concern for that animal, not to mention a few other very nasty side effects. So the long and short of it all is that they are already on a diabetic diet in the first place. Now did anyone learn something new? Doc
Ringtail Lemur question
Submitted by (pugmarks) Sat Jan 29, 2005

I am hoping there are some experienced Lemur lovers out there that can answer a question. I have worked with 2 male Ring-tailed Lemurs for almost 4 years now, raised them both. One intact (was a cryptorchid at neutering time that never went back), one neutered. The intact male has recently "eliminated" me from his troop. I am still very close to the neutered male and am trying to continue to work with him, the two live together and the neutered male sees and deals with the aggression from the intact male towards me. My concern is that the intact "aggressive" male will influence the now, so far, very sweet neutered male against me. Do I need to be concerned about this? If so, how should I avoid ending my relationship with this little guy that I love so much? Any advice is appreciated! Thank you in advance, a hopeful lemur lover.

Ringtail Lemur question
Submitted by (myzootoyou) Sun Jan 30, 2005

If you have two males, then the nice lemur turning on you depends on your interactions. Lemurs have a troop based on matriarchy, thus the alpha female leads. You must ask yourself what might you have done to slip from your "lead female" status with the aggressor. I think if enough time as gone by, and your nice lemur is still nice, then that probably will not change. But, no sense in having a nasty lemur. Try separation, if possible, putting the aggressor alone in an separate enclosure. If not possible, take the nice lemur out first and in sight of the aggressor use positive reinforcement, treats, grooming, or whatever and then put the nice one back, take out the aggressor and at the first sign of aggression, place him back into the enclosure. Try to reward the aggressor with treats when he is being nice. I have worked with ring tails a lot in the past few years, from the bottle and up. Usually aggression was from the females, as the males are more submissive. Nathan

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Monkey book done!
Submitted by (President PE) Sun Feb 13, 2005

The second book in the Phoenix Responsible Ownership Series is being completed as I write this. We are hoping the printing can be done in time for copies to be available at the meeting this month on Feb. 25. But, that is a long way away, the target is extremely tight to make that happen, so the final printed edition may be unavailable until Feb. 28. We have had an incredible crew of people working on this edition, and in the last few days, a few have gone way beyond the call of duty and devoted day and night to making this edition happen. We actually ended up with a bit more material than we could stuff into the book. Any material that was cut has been set aside for the second edition. After every group of animals has one book published, we will be going back and doing second editions. We are now working on the next book in the series, will it be Big Cats, Herps, Wolfs/Wolfdogs, or some other? You decide. The next book will be prepared and distributed as soon as enough stories are collected. We have a number of folks working on this book project. Cathy is the overall head of the area. Colette is next and has the job of getting the stories coming in. And there are a number of others working on other aspects too. Each of you who encourages others to write or spreads the word about the series, buys a book, gives one away or cross-posts information about this book series is an important part of the crew that makes this series happen! WELL DONE GUYS AND GALS! Good job on this Monkey edition everyone! I think you will like it!
MI: Tests confirm cougar in Upper Peninsula
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Feb 4, 2005

LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- DNA testing has confirmed that a large cat struck by a vehicle last year was a cougar, but it remains unclear whether Michigan has an established population of wildcats, a state wildlife official said Thursday. A motorist reported hitting "a large cat" in southern Menominee County on November 2, 2004. The driver turned over hair samples collected from the bumper to biologists at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources field office in Escanaba. The samples were forwarded to the Wildlife Division's pathology lab, then sent to Central Michigan University for analysis. "This is exactly the kind of information we are looking for to gain a better understanding of what animals are present in Michigan and identify potential areas for additional work," said Ray Rustem, the DNR's natural heritage unit supervisor. Even so, he said, the test result "still does not confirm the presence of a breeding population in Michigan." The nonprofit Michigan Wildlife Conservancy contends there is such a population and has been trying to document it for several years. DNR officials say even if people occasionally spot cougars, the animals might be just passing through or could be pets that were released into the wild.

MO: Spider bite leads to death, suit, investigation
Submitted by (runeraion) Sun Feb 6, 2004

AP - ST. JOSEPH, Mo. -- The parents of a 15-year-old boy who died while attending a boot camp for troubled teens have filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the facility. Roberto Reyes of Santa Rosa, Calif., died in November of a spider or insect bite, less than a week after enrolling at the Thayer Learning Center Boot Camp and Boarding School, about 60 miles north of Kansas City. The lawsuit contends the boot camp failed to treat the bite quickly enough, resulting in the teen's death. The lawsuit also claims the boy was dragged, beaten, placed in solitary confinement and "forced to lay in his own excrement for extended periods of time." No charges have been filed, but a division of the Missouri Department of Social Services is conducting an investigation. A panel of state and county officials said in December that "earlier medical treatment" would have prevented Reyes' death. An attorney for the boot camp, Ed Proctor, did not return a call seeking comment Saturday. Proctor previously told The Kansas City Star that "every child at Thayer has immediate access to medical care at any time." The boot camp, which has about 100 teenagers enrolled, employs no medical staff but contracts with a physician.

Monitored cougar from South Dakota tracked to MN
Submitted by (Southzoo) Mon Jan 17, 2005

AP - Minnesota officials say a cougar has traveled about 35 miles since the North Dakota Game and Fish Department picked up a signal from its collar three weeks ago. The animal is part of a South Dakota research project tracking cougars. A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources plane picked up a signal from the cougar recently in a wildlife management area near the Canadian border. Spokesman Donovan Pietruszewski said the male cougar is probably looking for food and a mate. It has covered some 500 miles since leaving the Black Hills.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Monkey Book Announcement!
- A Quiz By Doc!
- Cougar tracking articles.

Coming next month!!!

- Get your animal stories in to us.
- News & Reviews from the 2005 Meeting!