These 2 chimps belong to one of our list members. We are told that they enjoy climbing, swinging and that they love to eat! Aren’t they adorable?
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

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

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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__________________________

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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/paypal.to :President@PhoenixExotics.org
*note:please add $2.00 extra if ordering through paypal for paypal fees.

Please include:
Name and address
Number of copies
Amount sent
e-mail address or telephone number in the event we need to get in touch with you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathspohrer@metrocast.net
Cathy Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics
Correction: Readers may have noticed that Cover for May and June were the same. Pictures were great though, so I hope that everyone enjoyed them the second time too! Rhonda –e

Prognosis isn’t good for zoo’s ailing lion
Submitted by (chakal) Mon Jul 4, 2005

Gang, I want to basically go on record saying that I agree with Tim’s assessment that there is more to a lion than flesh and bone. Nobody should believe that lions are humans in fur suits. But then again, nobody should believe that humans are lions without a fur suit. We all share the special quality of life, which I believe has a spiritual dimension. That we are not exactly alike only adds to the wonder of life. Our planet’s strength comes from its diversity...physically, spiritually and temporally. John Burkitt

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Wanted...your exotic animal stories and photos for responsible private owner book series.

Just to explain a bit about the Phoenix Exotic responsible private owner book series, our first and second books of this ever blossoming series and are available now, the books are titled ‘Friendly Felines-Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved’ and “Monkey Moments-Living with Monkeys”. Both are wonderful books compiled of owner stories and photos of how their exotic animals have enhanced their lives.

These books are designed specifically for distribution to the public. As we all know, as exotic owners, it can be difficult to get our views on exotic ownership out to the public. A happy story doesn't make the news but have a tragic story happen with an exotic and the media is all over it. Sad but true. So, we have taken these steps to get the word out about responsible ownership and why we have the animals we do! Phoenix has become an actual publisher, gotten the necessary registrations to allow these book to be carried on Amazon, in bookstores, placed on library shelves and other outlets.

With a number of books in production right now, our original publication dates are open to adjustment. We had planned to do the Big Cats then Herps, then Wolfdog/Canids, but we have changed that order to whichever one gets compiled first.

For those of you who have other animals not listed here, we are planning to do books on these animals too: prairie dogs, birds, hoof stock, special farm animals, etc. So just because you don't have a wolf dog, reptile or big cat, please don't hesitate to send in your stories as well. They are greatly appreciated.

High resolution pictures are needed for printing but low resolution pictures are fine to send with the story.

If you would like to submit a story and photos for the Phoenix Responsible Private Owner Book Series, submit by either standard mail or by e-mail to:
Colette Talkington-Pfaehler
Book Project Coordinator-Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc. Inc. & Liaison
16310 Clear Creek Rd. NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370
bookprojectcoordinator@earthlink.net
Zoo keeper had close encounter with polar bear
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Jul 8, 2005

(AP) An employee at Brookfield Zoo had a close encounter with a polar bear after the bear wandered through an unlocked door and came within 10 feet of the zoo keeper.

The zoo keeper was not injured in the June 24 incident and zoo patrons were never in danger, Brookfield spokeswoman Sondra Katzen said Thursday.

The 1-year-old polar bear, named Payton, should have been locked in the den when the keeper went into the exhibit to clean up toys, Katzen said. Checking the locks should be part of the zoo keeper's routine, and the zoo had not determined Friday if any disciplinary action will be taken, she said. After the polar bear pushed through the unlocked den door, he walked past the zoo keeper and went into a separate alcove area. The zoo's emergency response team arrived within one minute to rescue the employee from the exhibit, Katzen said.

Katzen said in the 18 years she has been with the suburban Chicago zoo, she could not recall any incidents in which an animal badly injured a zoo keeper.

Earlier this week a gorilla bit a worker on the back at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. A 32-year-old female intern suffered a small puncture wound and a sprained ankle during Tuesday's attack. The zoo and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating the incident. It came less than a year after two lions at the Lincoln Park Zoo mauled a keeper, injuring her head, neck and arms. An OSHA investigation later found that zoo keeper forgot she let two lions into the zoo yard before she entered it.

In January, a zoo keeper in Kyoto, Japan was injured when a polar bear attacked him. An 11-year-old boy was killed by two polar bears at the Prospect Park Zoo in New York City in 1987 after the boy climbed into an enclosure housing.

Hurricane Season

It's that time of year again! Hurricane season officially started June 1st.

Last year was a busy year with many storms. Experts at the National Hurricane Center are predicting even more hurricanes this year. It is July and we are already on our third or fourth named storm this season.

Now is a good time to make preparations and to go over those contingency plans.

A quick checklist may include:

- Phone number list
- Checking crates, moving equipment, tranquilizers.
- Current caging structures.
- Overhead limbs or trees that may damage fences and cages.
- Stored water, food, batteries, generators, etc.

There is much more, but please be smart and be prepared early to prevent later stress and confusion.

Be safe!

Rhonda Kiker
Big Cat Attacks: Observations
Submitted by (gemojungle) Tue Jul 5, 2005

Members of the public are harmed or killed by bigcat, pet owners, sanctuaries or inexperienced zoo keepers, not animal trainers. Real animal trainers who work big cats (the couple dozen + or - that exist), very rarely if ever have accidents with members of the public. Trainers are bitten and even sometimes killed, while working and always by making stupid mistakes. Trained big cats are rare, 99.9% of all big cats are not trained. Training is bridging the gap between what you want the animal to do, and getting him to do it. It is the language that you use to talk to animals if you want them to do something. An animal is not trained unless it will do basic behaviors regularly and repeatedly without trouble. Behaviors being done to commands, is a language you create. This language allows you to communicate with big cats. With out this language put in place, you have random communication with the cat and safety is precarious. Being able to have a cat walk over to you after you open the door and lie down at your feet and then allow you to make contact, is the beginning of a safe relationship. Having the cat stay in the cage with the door open until you request it to exit is essential to safety. Trained cats will sit, come, stay, steady, back up, lie down, go to, get on etc... just like a trained obedience dog will. Trained cats will do this regularly and repeatedly, inside or outside of the cage without food rewards. A trained cat will climb onto a seat or table 5 to 10 times in a row without breaking down. In my experience, only 1 in 8 cats will ever be trained enough to have a contact relationship with you. When it's an adult of 7 years or more, most stop being interested in the first 3 years and become aggressive when asked to work, many within a year. It takes a lot of time, many hours a week to start training. That will usually end in disappointment after a few years and a few thousand hours but to have real trained cats is the only way: try and try again. Many cats are very nice when they are young, but most will become killers as they mature, no matter how you treat them. Many people try to "train" cats with food. This type of reward system creates a food drive, that can lead to, and create a dangerous response. If you are working a cat outside of a cage like this, when no food is available, you are no longer in control. You can bridge certain behaviors with food, but you must then do them without, to assure the behavior is solid. One of the first things our more than 50 lions, tigers, leopards, ligers and jaguars are trained to do, is come out of a door or gate, by us calling their name. These animals are in groups of up to 10 or more, they have to wait their turn, and not push past an opening. Most of them have to do this 2 x a day as they are taken in from multi-acre habitats, and brought into the main house for care, observation and feeding with full contact with the trainers the whole time. A trained cat will walk into a strange place and do what you want when you want because you ask it, not feed it. A cat that you fool around with in a cage or through a cage is not trained. Without solid behaviors that are regular and repeatable you are at risk. The only sure way you know what the animal will do is when it does what you ask repeatedly. So many people are caught up in what I call the" Born Free Myth" thinking that if they care for an infant cat it will bond to them and have a less dangerous relationship with them. Raising a cat from birth or from young has very little to do if anything with it growing up and having a relationship of trust and contact with it throughout its life. Most pro trainers prefer to
start cats training at 1 year old, this prevents many of the juvenile behaviors of testing and aggressive play from being a part of the trainer's relationship. These are just some of my observations over the last 24 years as I have trained some 400 big cats and met hundreds more. By big cats, I only mean the Panthera family (lions, tigers, leopard, jaguars and hybrids); all the rest are in a different category and the small cats (including cheetah and pumas) are in a different class. They will kill you, but it is not with the same intent and aggressive behavior. Of course there are exceptions to every rule and many a keeper, handler/pet owner thinks the perfect one, but they are 1 in a thousand and you cannot tell you have one until it is seven to ten years old and by that time it's usually too late and someone has paid the price. A single person or a pair of people cannot work a big cat outside of a cage. It takes a team of highly trained people to walk and work with a big cat. 3 to 4 or more people with years of experience are needed to make it happen safely. The time and commitment it takes to train a big cat is huge and goes on for years. I have met no one who understands and practices it who is not doing it professionally, i.e. being paid on a regular basis to have cats out of cage and who has no other job and does only animal training full time. Everyone else is generally fooling around and is a hazard to himself and anyone who comes in contact with his cats. It takes ten years + of full time big cat experience with many different animals under the guidance of a trainer to begin to understand big cat training. Male lions are 100 times harder to train than tigers. Do not expect to understand Tigerese half as fast as you would Chinese. Animal training is a set of experiences that must be had in order to understand it. When working with and/or training an animal if you are touching it for self gratification, then stop. You are going backwards. I hear over and over that Roy's tiger attacked him! "Roy, who has taken medication for high blood pressure for years, says he had recently begun to suffer dizzy spells. This one spell, unfortunately, occurred in the presence of a very large tiger. "I started feeling kind of weak," says Roy, who still speaks slowly but has recovered most of his German-accented speech. "I fell over." If you fall over even the best of cats will give you a bite. Trainers need to stay on their feet and be in top physical shape. Roy was not in top shape. He had heart trouble. If he was driving on the highway it could have been much worse. I still think this is your right to have your own tiger and to be killed by your own tiger. Just keep it in a cage forever and don't let anyone else near you or watch you have it happen. I know this rambled on a bit but I was trying to make several points that are hard to explain. I often say that as an MD., I can talk you through taking out someone's kidney, but I can not talk you through tiger training. You have to live it to understand it.

Dr. Bhagavan Antle

Highlighted In This Issue:

- Big Cat Attacks: Observations
- Zookeeper had close encounter with polar bear
- Prognosis isn’t good for zoo’s ailing lion

Reminder!

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

TO: