Raymond, Phoenix member Shelley’s 16 year old black & white cap.
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 July. 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 ___________________
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!

2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting DVD and/or VHS

I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held in Las Vegas, 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:

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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

PLEASE NOTE!!!

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!
Denver Zoo enlarges its elephant exhibit
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Jul 12, 2007

Denver (AP) -- While other zoos have gotten rid of costly elephant exhibits in the face of new regulations, the Denver Zoo is planning to build a $52 million park with lots of room for its pachyderms to roam and soak.

"We want to do much more," Denver Zoo vice president Craig Piper said. Elephants are not doing well .... We want to help develop self-sustaining populations in zoos as an insurance policy for the wild."

Using private donations, the zoo plans to build a 10-acre "Asian Tropic" exhibit, which will include five habitat areas and contain a hot tub, running rivers and scratching trees and room for six to eight adult elephants at a time. Elephants, rhinos and tapirs will be rotated in and out throughout the day.

For several years, animal experts have debated how to best care for the intelligent animals, who have bred poorly in captivity in North America. Last year, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums issued mandatory care standards for elephants covering medical care, space, exercise and ways to keep challenging elephants with new objects, scents and foods.

At least five zoos, including the nation's oldest, in Philadelphia, have closed their elephant exhibits because of the new regulations, the cost of caring for the animals and because it's so hard to keep them happy. The elephants have been sent to sanctuaries or other zoos.

"There's soul-searching going on," said Larry Killmar, collections director at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Fla. "I'm sure the animal-rights community would love to take credit for this, but I need to give credit to my colleagues for asking, constantly, 'Is there a better way of doing this?'".

Denver's two elephants, Mimi and Dolly, currently spend their days in a 16,000-square foot outdoor space which more than meets the new regulations, Piper said. Zookeepers have daily contact with them, checking their foot pads, drawing blood and administering medicines.

But the new park would allow zookeepers to use the "protected contact" approach, in which they only interact with elephants through bars. If an animal isn't interested, the keeper will leave it alone for the day.

Killmar said about half the zoos with elephants now use the technique.

Animal activist Catherine Doyle said the changes aren't enough.

"To really do what's best for Mimi and Dolly would be for them to live in a sanctuary with space, fresh vegetation, access to other elephants where they can choose their companions," said Doyle, elephant campaign director for the group In Defense of Animals.

Fire burns 40 acres near San Diego Wild Animal Park
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Jul 12, 2007

San Diego (AP) - Fire crews are battling a brush fire that broke out this afternoon a few miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Fire officials say the blaze, which has burned about 40 acres, was sparked by a traffic accident on San Pasqual Valley Road, near Bandy Canyon Road. Officials say airtankers have slowed the spread of the flames. Firefighters are making some progress, as long as the winds and weather continue to cooperate.

Woman Runs Retirement Home For Big Cats
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat July 7, 2007

Wellington, Fl AP - A Wellington woman is running a retirement home for big cats.
Judy Berens houses the cats in leafy enclosures separated by chain link fences on her ten-acre horse farm called Panther Ridge Sanctuary. She has a leopard, two jaguars, one serval, one caracal, four clouded leopards, five cougars and six ocelots. Berens said she goes through 100 pounds of meat a day and $150,000 a year caring for them. She said she pays for caring for the cats with fundraising through her nonprofit organization and donations.

Berens is careful to point out that although some of her big cats are social, they are not domesticated. She has been scratched and bitten enough times to remind her they're still wild animals.

**Bear stops traffic in S. California desert**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Jul 7, 2007

Lancaster, CA (AP) — Must’ve been a polar bear. A black bear climbed 100 feet up a power pole and brought traffic to a halt on a California desert highway below as motorists stopped to gawk and take pictures.

In fact, it was a black bear that climbed 100 feet up a power pole in the sweltering high desert Friday and brought traffic to halt on a highway below as motorists stopped to gawk and take pictures.

"Not a whole lot we could do except keep the people out of the area and let him decide he needs to come down and continue his way on to the mountains, and with the assistance of the Highway Patrol that's what we did," game warden Martin Wall told KCAL-TV.

After a couple of hours taking in the view from a crossbar supporting electrical wires, the bear came back to earth, walked across the highway and ran off into the desert scrub.

**Police find baby monkeys stolen from exotic pet store in Tennessee; 2 K.Y. teens charged**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Jul 7, 2007

Sevierville, TN — Two baby marmosets that were stolen from an exotic pet store have been found safe, and two Kentucky teenagers were charged in the theft, authorities say.

The monkeys were taken from the Exotic Pet Center in Sevierville early Thursday but were found in Maryville, about 30 miles west, authorities said Monday.

An 18-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man, both from Kentucky, are charged with felony theft and felony burglary. The monkeys were found in their car by Maryville police, who had been questioning the teenagers on an unrelated matter.

One of the monkeys, a common marmoset, has a retail price of about $2,800. the other, a rarer Geoffrey's marmoset, could bring up to $4,500. They appeared to be in good health.

The monkeys are both females born in captivity. One was about 7 weeks old, the other about 9 weeks old, said Gilbert Perez, owner of the pet store.

**Wayward alligator has new home at Norristown zoo**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Jun 23, 2007

Norristown, Pa. (AP) - A wayward alligator captured while sunning itself along the banks of a Montgomery County creek now has a new home.

The five-foot-long reptile is living at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown.

The alligator was found Thursday by a family walking along Pennypack Creek in Bryn Athyn. Animal control officers captured the gator, which they think was a pet that was set free when it got too big. It weighs 30 pounds.

The alligator is now a part of Elmwood Zoo's wetlands exhibit, along with otters, flamingos, turtles, and small wading birds.
Shark Pregnant in Aquarium With No Males  
Submitted by (tell felids) Tue Jun 26, 2007  
By Sonja Barisic

Norfolk, Va. (AP) - Veterinarian Bob George sliced open the dead shark and saw the outline of a fish.

Then George realized he wasn't looking at the stomach of the blacktip reef shark, but at her uterus. In it was a perfectly formed, 10-inch-long shark pup that was almost ready to be born.

He had been examining the shark, Tidbit, to figure out why she reacted badly to routine sedatives during a physical and died, hours after biting an aquarium curator on the shin. Now there was a bigger mystery: How did Tidbit get pregnant.

"We must have had hanky panky" in the shark tank, he thought.

But sharks only breed with sharks of the same species, and there were no male blacktip reef sharks at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach.

A recent study had documented the first confirmed case of asexual reproduction, or parthenogenesis, among sharks: a pup born at a Nebraska zoo came from an egg that developed in a female shark without sperm from a male.

One of the scientists who worked on that study contacted the aquarium, which sent him tissue samples from Tidbit and her pup for testing. If the pup's DNA turns out to contain no contribution from a male shark, this would be the second known case of shark parthenogenesis.

Tidbit had lived at the aquarium for most of her 10 years, swimming with other sharks in a 300,000-gallon tank.

The sharks get yearly checkups. On May 24, workers guided the 5-foot, 94-pound Tidbit from the main aquarium into a smaller corral to be examined out of public view.

Blacktip reef sharks are sensitive to change, so it was standard procedure to give Tidbit a sedative. This time, Tidbit went under the sedation too deeply - maybe because of a combination of the unknown pregnancy and the stress of being handled and of having recently been bitten by another shark, George said.

George and Beth Firchau, the curator of fishes, massaged Tidbit's tail to get her blood flowing and gave her a stimulant to help her breathe.

The shark swam away, bumped into a wall, headed back toward Firchau and clamped onto her left shin. Whether Tidbit meant to attack Firchau or just collided into her and snapped reflexively is hard to know.

The pain didn't hit Firchau right away.

"Oh, you're not supposed to do that. That was weird," she thought as she felt the shark tug on her leg.

Members of the shark physicals team pulled Firchau out of the tank and began administering first aid. She credits their swift reaction with saving her life.

Firchau was taken to a hospital to get stitches while George and other team members tried to revive Tidbit. The shark rallied a couple times but died about 12 hours later.

Since Tidbit hadn't looked pregnant - and there was no reason to think she was pregnant - the pup likely would have been born and immediately eaten by another shark, without aquarium employees ever knowing it had existed.

But Tidbit's death led to George stumbling upon a mystery of nature.

In normal reproduction, an egg is fertilized by sperm, producing an embryo that contains a set of chromosomes with half coming from the
mother and half from the father.

In asexual reproduction, an egg splits in two and DNA contributed from the mother doubles, so each resulting egg has a full complement of chromosomes from the female. The eggs then fuse, producing a single embryo with no DNA from a father.

Asexual reproduction is common in some insect species, rarer in reptiles and fish, and has never been documented in mammals. Until now, sharks were not considered likely candidates.

But with sharks, "this is probably something that does happen in aquaria, more often than we realize," said Bob Hueter, director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Fla.

He said the phenomenon is coming to light with the joint Northern Ireland-U.S. research that analyzed the DNA of a hammerhead shark born in 2001 in the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. The study was published in the Royal Society journal Biology Letters on the day before Firchau was bitten.

Asexual reproduction among sharks is more likely to happen in captivity, when there is no other option for reproduction, than in the wild, Hueter said.

Crossbreeding, on the other hand, is not known to happen at all among sharks, said Heather Thomas, aquarist at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

"It's not natural," Thomas said. "If you've got a shark that needs to swim to breathe and cross it with a shark that can lay on the bottom to breathe, what are you going to get? Are you going to get these weird mutations?"

If the pup indeed turns out to be a hybrid, DNA testing should be able to identify the species of the father. The most likely candidate would be a sandbar shark, the most similar shark to a blacktip reef in the aquarium, George said.

While parthenogenesis "is certainly kind of a spiffy, interesting thing," George hopes the tests confirm crossbreeding, since that would be a first among sharks.

**Man Viciously Kicks, Stomps Peacock**
Submitted by (tell felids) Sun Jul 1, 2007

New York, AP - A peacock that roamed into a fast-food restaurant parking lot was attacked by man who vilified the bird as a vampire, animal-control authorities aid.

Beaten so fiercely that most of his tail feathers fell out, the bird was euthanized, said Richard Gentles, a spokesman for the city's Center for Animal Care and Control.

"It's just unbelievable that someone would do something to a poor, defenseless animal and do it in such a cruel fashion," he said.

The peacock, a male several years old, wandered into a Staten Island Burger King parking lot and perched on a car hood Thursday morning. Charmed employees had been feeding him bread when the man appeared.

He seized the iridescent bird by the neck, hurled it to the ground and started kicking and stomping the creature, said worker Felicia Finnegan, 19.

"He was going crazy," she said.

Asked what he was doing, she said, the attacker explained, "I'm killing a vampire!"

Employees called police, but the man ran when he saw them. Authorities were looking for the attacker, described as being in his teens or early 20s.

It was not clear how the bird made his way to the Burger King, but a Staten Island resident who raises peacocks said he had given some to a person who lives near the restaurant.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Denver Zoo enlarges its elephant exhibit
- Shark Pregnant in Aquarium With No Males
- Bear stops traffic in S. California desert