Meet Med-Jai, a three year old Asian Black leopard, owned by Phoenix Member, Bob Pitt, Director H.O.P.E. For All Animals Inc. What a beauty!
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 October. 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 _______________________________
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:

- **DVD:** $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

OR

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

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**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!
Maui animal refuge extends care to cats with AIDS and leukemia
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Sep 8, 2007

Haiku, Hawaii (AP) Maui’s “Boo Boo Zoo” is opening up to more ailing animal outcasts.

Sixteen cats are the first occupants of the East Maui Animal Refuge’s newly opened AIDS and leukemia quarantine building.

Sylan Schwab, who runs the all-volunteer operation with his wife, says the new $250,000 building gives the ailing felines a place to live out their lives.

The two-acre refuge already had provided sanctuary to hundreds of injured, orphaned and sick animals, including deer, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, peacocks, cockatoos and dogs.

The no-kill shelter tries not to duplicate services provided by the Maui Humane Society.

Aimee Anderson is the director of animal control for the Maui Humane Society.

She says the East Maui Animal Refuge is one of only a few groups in the state capable of caring for wild and exotic animals.

Countries Agree on Plan to Save Animals
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Sep 8, 2007

(AP) - One hundred and eight countries have agreed on an action plan to save endangered livestock breeds, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said Friday.

The move follows warnings from scientists earlier this week that rare breeds are becoming extinct at a rate of one every month, taking with them precious genetic material that could be lost forever.

Delegates attending an intergovernmental meeting in Interlaken, Switzerland, unanimously agreed to create a global database of livestock breeds and their population levels.

Countries will also be encouraged to find ways of maintaining endangered stocks through sustainable use, and to set up gene banks "as a backup system" in case breeds disappear, Beate Scherf of FAO's Animal Genetic Resources Group said.

The U.N. agency estimates that one in five breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, horses and poultry are at risk because of farmers switching to high-yield animals such as Holstein-Friesian cows and White Leghorn chickens.

Scientists say rare breeds carry unique traits, such as resistance to disease or extreme weather conditions, which could become increasingly important as a result of climate change.

Alex the Genius Parrot Dies in Lab
Submitted by (TellFelids) Tue Sep 11, 2007

Waltham, Mass. (AP) - A gifted parrot that could count to six, identify colors and even express frustration with repetitive scientific trials has died after 30 years of helping researchers better understand the avian brain.

The death of Alex, an African Grey parrot, left Brandeis University researchers feeling as if they’d lost a colleague.

Brandeis University researchers say that the 30 years of research conducted on Alex helped revolutionize scientists' understanding of the avian brain.
"It's devastating to lose an individual you've worked with pretty much every day for 30 years," scientist Irene Pepperberg told The Boston Globe. "Someone was working with him 8 to 12 hours every day of his life."

Alex's advanced language and recognition skills revolutionized the understanding of the avian brain. After Pepperberg bought Alex from an animal shop in 1973, the parrot learned enough English to identify 50 different objects, seven colors, and five shapes. He could count up to six, including zero, was able to express desires, including his frustration with the repetitive research.

He also occasionally instructed two other parrots at the lab to "talk better" if they mumbled, though it wasn't clear if he was simply mimicking researchers.

Pepperberg said Alex hadn't reached his full cognitive potential and was demonstrating the ability to take distinct sounds from words he knew and combine them to form new words. Just last month he pronounced the word "seven" for the first time.

The cause of Alex's death was unknown. The African Grey parrot's average life span is 50 years, Pepperberg said. She said Alex was discovered dead in his cage Friday morning. Pepperberg said she waited to release the news until Monday so grieving researchers could get over the shock and talk about it.

Pepperberg said the last time she saw Alex on Thursday, they went through their goodnight routine, in which she told him it was time to go in the cage and said: "You be good, I love you. I'll see you tomorrow."

Alex responded, "You'll be in tomorrow."

**Minneapolis council to consider ban on circus wild animals**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Sep 22, 2007

Minneapolis, (AP) - The Minneapolis City Council today considers whether to ban wild animals from circuses in town.

Animal-rights activists object to what they consider inhumane treatment of tigers, lions and elephants.

But circus organizers say their animals are not abused.

If the ban is approved, Minneapolis would be the second major U.S. city after Albuquerque, New Mexico, to adopt such a measure.

The Minneapolis Shrine Circus is scheduled to perform at Target Center next month, but the proposed ban would not take effect until after this year's circus.

**Meerkats come to western New York zoo**
Submitted by (southzoo) Sat Sep 08, 2007

Rochester, N.Y. (AP) - A western New York zoo has a new exhibit of meerkats. The foot-long mammals are members of the mongoose family. They're very social, living in large colonies like prairie dogs.

Three female meerkats arrived at Rochester's Seneca Park Zoo from a zoo in Waco, Texas. Three male meerkats will be joining them soon. They're currently at the National Zoo in Washington D.C.

Seneca Park Zoo Society Executive Director Rachel Baker August said she thought the additional of the meerkats will further diversity the zoo population.

She said the energetic desert animals have unique mannerisms that are sure to delight both parents and children.

The zoo will be holding a naming contest for the new residents.
Microchip Implants Cause Malignant Tumors In Lab Animals
Submitted by (juliamgr) Sun Sep 9, 2007

Dr. Katherine Albrecht, Founder and Director, CASPIAN Consumer Privacy

The Associated Press will issue a breaking story this weekend revealing that microchip implants have induced cancer in laboratory animals and dogs, says privacy expert and long-time VeriChip opponent Dr. Katherine Albrecht.

As the AP will report, a series of research articles spanning more than a decade found that mice and rats injected with glass-encapsulated RFID transponders developed malignant, fast-growing, lethal cancers in up to 1% to 10% of cases. The tumors originated in the tissue surrounding the microchips and often grew to completely surround the devices, the researchers said.

Albrecht first became aware of the microchip-cancer link when she and her "Spychips" co-author, Liz McIntyre, were contacted by a pet owner whose dog had died from a chip-induced tumor. Albrecht then found medical studies showing a causal link between microchip implants and cancer in other animals. Before she brought the research to the AP's attention, none of the studies had received widespread public notice.

A four-month AP investigation turned up additional documents, several of which had been published before VeriChip's parent company, Applied Digital Solutions, sought FDA approval to market the implant for humans. The VeriChip received FDA approval in 2004 under the watch of then Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson who later joined the board of the company.

Under FDA policy, it would have been VeriChip's responsibility to bring the adverse studies to the FDA's attention, but VeriChip CEO Scott Silverman claims the company was unaware of the research.

Albrecht expressed skepticism that a company like VeriChip, whose primary business is microchip implants, would be unaware of relevant studies in the published literature.

"For Mr. Silverman not to know about this research would be negligent. If he did know about these studies, he certainly had an incentive to keep them quiet," said Albrecht. "Had the FDA known about the cancer link, they might never have approved his company's product."

Since gaining FDA approval, VeriChip has aggressively targeted diabetic and dementia patients, and recently announced that it had chipped 90 Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers in Florida. Employees in the Mexican Attorney General's Office, workers in a U.S. security firm, and club-goers in Europe have also been implanted.

Albrecht expressed concern for those who have received a chip implant, urging them to get the devices removed as soon as possible.

"These new revelations change everything," she said. "Why would anyone take the risk of a cancer chip in their arm?"

Catalina bison aren't purebred
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Sep 22, 2007

By Alicia Chang, AP Science Writer

Long thought to be purebred, the wild bison of Santa Catalina Island in fact have a little bit of cow in them, the first DNA analysis of the animals found.

Nearly half of the 98 American bison shipped off the island in 2004 have cattle genes that were passed on through the mother. Catalina bison were believed to be purer than those on the mainland because they lived in isolation on the island since the 1920s. "We were surprised because there's nothing cattle about them. They look like bison," said biologist Dennis Hedgecock of the University of Southern California, who co-authored the study.
The research done at USC and Texas A&M University appears in the latest issue of the journal Animal Genetics.

Scientists believe the crossbreeding occurred long before the bison were brought to Catalina Island. Hedgecock said the Catalina herd likely descended from animals on the famous Goodnight Ranch in Texas where cattle ranchers mated bison, also called buffalo, with cows to create a better beef animal. The ranch called the offspring of the union "cataloes."

Bison have roamed Catalina since 1924 when 14 head were brought in as extras for the silent film "The Vanishing American," though the movie did not include footage of the bison. The animals became a mainstay on the island and grew to a herd of 600 at one point.

Since the 1970s, the nonprofit Catalina Island Conservancy, which manages most of the island, has thinned the herd by auctioning the animals, some of which ended up in slaughterhouses. The conservancy ended the practice in 2003 and has since sent bison to Indian reservations for breeding and consumption.

Today, about 180 bison live on the island about 20 miles off the Southern California coast. The animals are a major tourist draw and throngs of visitors take Jeep and Hummer tours through the rugged interior to take a peek at the wooly beasts.

Conservancy spokeswoman Leslie Baer said there was great hope the Catalina bison would be genetically uncontaminated because they had been kept separate from domestic cattle. The conservancy plans to test every bison next year to see if any are purebred. "We don't stand out as we thought we did," Baer said. "But we still don't really know what the rest of our herd look like."

The Catalina bison had not been genetically tested before, so the researchers took blood samples from the animals that were rounded up and sent to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 2004. DNA analysis found 45 percent have a domestic cow as an ancestor. Although cattle genes were not detected in the remaining bison, scientists cannot say for sure they are not hybrids because of the limits of the DNA tests they performed.

Once on the brink of extinction, bison are often held up as a conservation success story. Of the estimated 300,000 bison in North America, the vast majority are mixed. In the United States, fewer than 5,000 bison are known to lack cattle genes, according to geneticist James Derr of Texas A&M, who co-authored the study.

**Panda cub born at San Diego Zoo is girl**

Submitted by (south zoo) Sun Sep 16, 2007

Zoo veterinarians said they determined the 6-week-old panda's sex after conducting a recent exam.

"She is developing right along schedule," zoo spokeswoman Meg Sutherland-Smith said.

The cub is the fourth giant panda born at the zoo, all of them to 16-year-old Bai Yun. The father, Gao Gao, also fathered her two previous cubs.

Following Chinese tradition, the panda cub will receive a name after she is 100 days old.

Only about 1,600 giant pandas remain in the wild, and fewer than 180 live in captivity.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Alex, the Genius Parrot Dies in Lab
- Meerkats come to Western New York Zoo
- Microchip Implants Cause Malignant Tumors In Lab Animals

Full Moon in Nevada, taken by Rhonda Kiker