Isis and Boo looking on at Lea Juanakais’ Tiger World!
Welcome from the President

My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotic. Our monthly newsletters are provided essentially for our members who may not have access to our website in an effort to keep our membership well informed regarding organizational business and abreast of current legislation regarding private ownership.

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.”

In our monthly newsletters, you will also find information regarding husbandry, upcoming meetings, rescue, cage design, safety and much more.

If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/. You can join the e-list at http://phoenixexotics.org/ then click on the link for E-groups email list. ENJOY!

-Jeanne Hall

Letter From Editor

Our monthly newsletter is a compilation of articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items.

Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication.

Our thanks goes to the “Associated Press” for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter.

We encourage member participation by submitting stories and photos of your animals to us with their expressed written permission to use the material for the newsletters and website. If you wish to remain anonymous, just express it with your consent. Thank you!

-Rhonda Kiker

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Rhonda Kiker

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Mo. lawmakers want tougher exotic animal laws - (Jeanne Hall comments)

Submitted by (southzoo) Thu, Aug 7, 2008
By Betsy Taylor - Associated Press Writer

St. Louis (AP) - State legislators who favor tightening laws on keeping exotic animals plan to keep pushing for reforms in the wake of two tiger attacks this week in Missouri.

Senator Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, and Rep. Mike Sutherland, R-Warrenton, both have tried unsuccessfully to strengthen exotic animal law in Missouri.

“We were hoping to be proactive, rather than reactive,” Dempsey said Wednesday. He called it unfortunate that two tiger-related tragedies “should bring the issue to the forefront.”

On Monday, 16-year-old Dakoda Ramel was critically injured by a tiger at a southwest Missouri attraction authorities know as Predator World, where he worked as an intern.

The business, which also calls itself the Branson Interactive Zoo and Aquarium, said Ramel had entered a pen to take pictures for a customer in “clear violation of policy.” The company’s statement said Ramel slipped and fell, and was unconscious when a tiger dragged him to “what she would have felt was safety.”

Stone County Sheriff Richard Hill expressed skepticism, saying, “I don’t buy the story the tiger was a lifesaver.”

Hill cited witness accounts of Ramel entering the pen to take pictures for a visitor and tapping a tiger’s nose as he left. The witnesses said the tiger leaped on Ramel and grabbed him by the neck, the sheriff said.

Witnesses ran for help and returned to see three tigers around the teen, Stone said. Staffers used carbon dioxide to move the cats away and removed Ramel, who remains hospitalized.

The business said it does not plan to euthanize the tigers because “Dakoda’s family has made it clear that is not what he would have wanted.”

In eastern Missouri, a 26-year-old volunteer was mauled Sunday at the Wesa-A-Geh-Ya animal facility in Warren County. Jacob Barr later had part of his leg amputated, and the business’s owners now plan to shut down and are looking for new homes for dozens of animals.

The two maulings have renewed debate in Missouri about what should be allowed under the law. The Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, an animal welfare legislative organization, said it supports an update of a dangerous-animal registration law. It wants owners of certain animals to be required to microchip and register them annually, and it promotes better safety guidelines.

Sutherland, who lives in the county where Wesa-A-Geh-Ya is located, said members of the House have been supportive in recent years of efforts to strengthen the law, although no bill has passed.

“Once people got over the ‘lions and tigers and bears, oh my,’ thing, they started taking it seriously and realized it was important to public safety,” he said.

Sutherland said it was difficult to write a bill that would protect people without intruding into their lives. One of his proposals drew opposition because it would have banned breeding certain exotic animals.

Another issue is determining which state agency would take charge of exotic animal registrations and inspections, Sutherland said. But he called it likely that he would pursue legislation again.

Jeanne Hall, president of the Washington-based Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines, said her organization’s members generally oppose regulations like statewide registries for
exotic animals. Hall said the country already has many laws on public safety and animal welfare.

For many exotic animal owners, Hall said, the issue is tied to personal liberties.

“The majority of exotic animal owners you never see,” she said. “They privately have these animals; they never have an incident of any sort.”

Exotic animal organizations, like the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association where she is also president, work hard to educate people about the commitment involved in being a responsible exotic animal owner.

Hall said she thinks exotic animal requirements should vary from region to region, what works in rural Missouri isn’t the same as in New York City. She said any proposed changes in law should involve exotic animal owners who are well-versed in what certain animals require.

Also on Wednesday, the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wrote to Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt seeking a statewide ban on private possession of “wild and dangerous” animals.

PETA noted past problems at Predator World, such as a leopard biting a volunteer in 2004, and a civil penalty imposed on Wesa-A-Geh-Ya in 2006 for Animal Welfare Act violations.

Blunt leaves office in January, before the next legislative session begins, and spokesman Rich Chrismer said the governor was not inclined to take up a special session on the issue.

**MN: Officers shoot bear with jar stuck on head**

Minnesota wildlife officials tried for six days to capture a bear that had a plastic jar stuck over its head, but ended up killing the animal after it wandered into a city during a festival.

The wild black bear, whose head got stuck inside a 2 1/2-gallon clear plastic jug presumably while foraging for food - ambled into the city of Frazee, about 200 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, during the town’s busy Turkey Days celebration.

“When it got into town, our main concern was public safety,” said Rob Naplin, the Department of Natural Resources’ area wildlife supervisor in Park Rapids.

The bear was first reported near the town of Lake George, about 60 miles east of Frazee, on July 21. While the bear could breathe, it couldn’t eat or drink and was likely suffering from dehydration and hunger. "I'm sure there was high anxiety and frustration with its predicament,” Naplin said. There was no evidence the bear was baited by hunters, Naplin said. The legal baiting season doesn't open until August 15th. The bear season opens September 1st.

In the six days that followed the initial sighting of the bear, officials tried to trap it, tranquilize it in numerous locations, but to no avail. By the time the animal showed up in Frazee, conservation officers decided it needed to be killed to avoid conflicts with humans.

"You don't want it knocking over a kid or getting hit by a car," Naplin said.
"Showing up in Frazee escalated the urgency of dispatching it."
Baghdad zoo welcomes pair of US-donated tiger cubs -Mindy Stinner

Submitted by (southzoo) Fri, Aug 8, 2008
By Kim Gamel, AP Writer

The Baghdad Zoo on Friday welcomed a pair of rare Bengal tiger cubs that were donated by a North Carolina animal sanctuary despite protests by animal rights activists.

The tigers, a male and a female named Riley and Hope, frolicked with red and blue balls in a wading pool and playfully wrestled with each other in their cage, while U.S. soldiers and journalists snapped pictures and delighted Iraqis strolled by.

The animals, which were donated by the North Carolina-based Conservators' Center, arrived Monday after being flown to Baghdad from the United States in a $66,000 trip funded by the U.S. Embassy and transported to the zoo by the U.S. military.

Like many other Iraqi institutions, the Baghdad Zoo is struggling to emerge from years of devastation amid the violence that followed the U.S. invasion in March 2003 and officials showed off the tigers as proof of progress.

"This is a good day for the tigers, the zoo and the people of Iraq," zoo director Adel Salman Mousa said at a news conference at the park in central Baghdad.

But animal rights activists led by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals criticized the move, saying it was premature as Baghdad continues to suffer from violence and destroyed infrastructure. They also pointed to past violence against animals at the zoo, many of which were killed amid widespread fighting and looting that ensued after the Americans captured Baghdad. A U.S. soldier shot and killed a tiger at the zoo in September 2003 after the animal bit another soldier who had reached through the bars of the cage to feed it.

"Our heart goes out to the two tigers who had to endure the long trip to Iraq and a dangerous future at the Baghdad Zoo," PETA's Lisa Wathne said in an e-mailed statement. "These tigers will be caged, helpless, and completely dependent on humans to survive in an area where many people live in fear and are still without access to basic necessities."

Actress Kim Basinger also sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unsuccessfully appealing for it to revoke the export permit for the Bengal tigers, which are an endangered species.

The Conservators’ Center, a nonprofit sanctuary and conservation breeding facility in Mebane, North Carolina, said it decided to send the tigers, which weigh 150 pounds each, to Baghdad to aid restoration efforts and education work at the zoo. "We have the utmost concern for the well-being of the tigers," the organization's executive director, Mindy Stinner, said in a statement. "We have full confidence that the Baghdad Zoo has the staff and facilities to care for them long into the future."

U.S. military and zoo officials said they had spent more than a year preparing for the tigers' arrival and expressed confidence their care would meet international standards.

Mousa said the veterinarian staff has been trained to care for the tigers, who would be fed 13 to 18 pounds of red meat each day. It was the first foreign donation of animals to the zoo, which has 788 animals in 62 exhibits, he said. Mousa also said he hoped to add more in the future to provide important educational opportunities for Iraqi youths. An elephant and a giraffe were at the top of his wish list.
U.S. and Iraqi troops occasionally patrol the zoo and it was heavily secured for Friday's press event, but security is normally provided by a private company, officials said.

Some wild animals roamed the park freely before officials reasserted control months after the invasion, including a bear that mauled three civilians, and three lions that were shot to death when they tried to pounce on a contingent of invading American soldiers.

The surviving animals were later nursed back to health, and others were brought to the main park from private zoos found in the palaces of ousted leader Saddam Hussein's family.

The zoo, which was established in 1973, has enjoyed a revival with the recent decline in violence, boasting an average of 2,000-3,000 visitors on weekdays and 10,000 on the weekend, according to Mousa. That was up from about 120 per day in 2006, when sectarian attacks were pushing the country to the brink of civil war.

Ahmed al-Dairy, 38, brought his wife and three young sons to the zoo for the third time this year, saying it was the only decent public place to enjoy a day out in the heavily barricaded capital. "Last year it was a very bad situation in Baghdad, but now it is good," he said, standing in front of a cage holding two lions that was adjacent to the tigers. "Still there are bombings, but we must adapt to this."

**Good Read**
Submitted by (Mbrafford) Thur, Jul 24, 2008

There is a book mentioned in Time Magazine last week, "Where The Wild Things Were" by William Stolzenburg. I just started reading it today, so saying its a good read may backfire, but it is science writing and the header says, "Life, Death and Ecological Wreckage in a Land of Vanishing Predators."

It looks like someone is defending the predators, wolves, tigers and such.

Is this guy for real? Has anyone read the book?

Mark

**New cub, momma lion on exhibit at SC Zoo**
Submitted by (south zoo) Thur, Jul 17, 2008

Columbia, S.C. (AP) - The latest cub is being raised by handlers as its mother recovers from lifesaving surgery to remove a ruptured uterus. Lindsay, a 7-year-old pedigreed African lion, was rushed into surgery last month, weeks after giving birth and caring for her cub.

Lindsay's sole cub joins four older ones that already have drawn their share of cooing fans.

Zoo officials say there are 140 pedigreed African lions in 40 institutions nationwide.

**Rare lion cubs**

AP - John James

The white lion cubs, born to two different mothers, take the number of white lions at West Midland Safari Park to 19, thought to be the world's largest pride of purebred white lions in captivity.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Mo. lawmakers want tougher exotic animal laws - (Jeanne Hall comments)
  
  cubs - Mindy Stinner

- Baghdad zoo welcomes pair of US-donated tiger cubs — Mindy Stinner

- New cub, momma lion on exhibit at SC Zoo

TO: