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Cougar owned by Phoenix member, Vicki Winland-Tarsaka
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/ and 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 your 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

Membership & Membership Renewal Form

Name(s)_________________________ Phone _____________________ Dues _______ x $10 _______
Mailing Address ___________________________________________ Total enclosed: _______
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at southzoo@aol.com
Rhonda Kiker

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
Responsible Ownership Series #1

Friendly Felines
Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
Responsible Ownership Series #2

Living with Monkeys

T-Shirts in Goldenrod or White with PhoenixBird logo are $12, $14 for XXL

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Front Back

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 Rhonda Kiker

T-Shirts in Goldenrod or White with PhoenixBird logo are $12, $14 for XXL
The Frogs Are Cooking And Don't Know It
Submitted by (lion guy) Wed Mar 4, 2009

There's an old maxim about boiling a frog: If you toss a frog into hot water it will instantly leap out, but if you slowly warm the water it will stay until it is too weak to escape.

That is a good description of animal owners today. While some noticed the fire under the pot a generation ago, millions still don't feel it.

It was predicted back then that the battle would eventually come to owners of cats and dogs - and it has - but a compliant media has not performed its duty of alerting people to the plague.

There isn't a part of the country that is not trying to restrict possession of even dogs and cats, yet nobody in the general public knows this. They all think it's just their local people. Some aren't even aware of it or, worse yet, think it's a great idea.

Like the warming frog they won't realize their situation until the day they can't have their dog or cat without approval from some bureaucrat - which they may not be able to get.

It started years ago with tigers and lions, then worked state by state until today where federal restrictions apply and are tightening. Throughout that time many, owners could not see the danger, some even insisting it was good. Instead of stamping out the early embers of the fire that would consume them they supported it, some even turning on friends and allies to do so.

Many of these people no longer have the animals themselves, learning too late that those they argued with and fought were right.

Now a diminished community fights on and the activists move to the next stage.

Once it is acknowledged that "people shouldn't be allowed to own" something, the battle is won by the banners. All that is left is cleanup. Yesterday it was the tiger, the zebra, the elephant. Today it is the German Shepherd, the Fox Terrier, the Golden Retriever.

The frog is well on his way to the plate and yet doesn't know it. In most cases he doesn't even feel warm yet.

How can we alert the frog to his predicament? An army of these frogs could demand an end.

No primates registered in Conn., state says
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Feb 20, 2009

Hartford, CT (AP) - Connecticut officials say 11 permits have been issued since 2005 to state residents to own non-domestic animals, and none have been requested or issued to own a primate.

But neither the state nor municipal animal control officers know how many primates may be illegally owned statewide along with pets like crocodiles, poisonous snakes and other exotic animals, said Edward Parker, chief of the State Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Bureau. Nine of the state permits since 2005 went to licensed wildlife rehabilitators who wanted to own and care for raptors, while one was a licensed rehabilitator in Winsted who wanted to care for a bat.

The other permit went to an Ashford resident who found a three-legged box turtle -- a species listed as a "special concern" animal because its numbers have decreased -- and state officials concluded the turtle might die if left in the wild.

Connecticut state law prohibits ownership of certain types of exotic animals without permits, including those in the bear and wolf families and large members of the cat family such as tigers and jaguars.

"People who possess these animals generally do not request a permit, and that is one of the problems that underscores what we have to deal with," Parker said.
Exotic animals orphaned because of recession
Submitted by (south zoo) Tue Feb 24, 2009

Sarasota, FL (AP) - People who purchased or raised pricey exotic animals during good economic times are losing their homes or their jobs and can no longer take care of them -- and are putting the creatures up for adoption. According to the owners of Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Coast Sanctuary in Sarasota County, exotic pets such as tortoises, monkeys and even raccoons have been dropped off at the no-kill shelter in recent months.

At the same time, donations have been harder to find, and every animal means more costs for the nonprofit. Bills add up for food, building habitats, veterinarians and heating.

Ga. man fined for wildlife violations
Submitted by (south zoo) Wed Feb 25, 2009

Atlanta, GA (AP) - A Georgia man has been fined $15,000 for possession of a snow leopard carcass and 45 skulls of endangered or protected animals in violation of federal wildlife laws.

Federal prosecutors say 49-year-old Toru Shimoji of Smyrna purchased the leopard carcass on the Internet from an undercover agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Attorney David Nahmias said that in a search of Shimoji's home agents discovered illegal skulls of birds in his private collection.

U.S. Magistrate Judge E. Clayton Scofield III also ordered Shimoji on Tuesday to serve two years probation and forfeit all the wildlife seized from his collection.

Bill would wrest wolf control from feds
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Feb 19, 2009

Helena, MT (AP) - A Republican lawmaker says Montana should assert its authority over wolf management, despite recent signs the federal government may be about to relinquish control.

Senate Bill 183 voids existing state and federal agreements about wolves. It would also compel the Montana attorney general's office to seek compensation for wolf damages from the federal government.

The attorney general and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks oppose the measure introduced by Republican Sen. Joe Balyeat of Bozeman.

The U.S. Interior Department decided to remove wolves from endangered species protections in the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes region, but that decision has been held up by the Obama administration. The change would shift management from the federal government to the states.

Balyeat told lawmakers the bill would give Montana leverage for asserting control over wolves.

House tightens fed controls over pet primate trade
Submitted by (south zoo) Tue Feb 24, 2009

By Jim Abrams, Associated Press Writer

Washington (AP) - Eight days after a 200-pound chimpanzee critically mauled a woman in Connecticut, the House moved Tuesday to ban the transport of monkeys and apes across state lines for the purpose of selling them as pets.

The legislation to prohibit interstate commerce in primates also passed the House last year, but bill sponsor Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., said the "horrid chimpanzee attack" that stunned the nation last week would bring "renewed urgency" to the need to pass the bill into law.

The importation of primates for the pet trade has been outlawed since 1975, but Blumenauer said 30 states, including Connecticut, allow the keeping of the animals as pets and it is easy to purchase a primate from exotic animal dealers or over the Internet. He said there have been at least 100 reports of attacks over the past decade, 29 involving children.

The Humane Society of the United States, which supports the legislation, said nonhuman
primates can also pose serious health risks to humans, spreading diseases such as Herpes B and tuberculosis. "There is no reason for any private citizen to keep a primate as a pet, and this trade is driven by unscrupulous dealers who sell primates across state lines for thousands of dollars," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society.

The measure passed 323-95, with several Republican opponents saying that animal control was a state, rather than federal issue, and that spending federal dollars to prevent interstate commerce would do little to stop animal attacks.

The bill, said Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, does nothing to prohibit a monkey from biting, such as in the Connecticut incident, "unless the monkey was willing to chase the woman from Connecticut over to New York State." He compared the 100 attacks over 10 years to the 100,000 people who go to the hospital every year with dog bites. "I would respectfully suggest that having your face ripped off is not the same as just an animal bite, a nip here or scratch there," Blumenauer said. "We are dealing with animals that have the potential of inflicting serious damage and death." He estimated that up to 400 chimpanzees are kept as pets in the United States.

The 14-year-old chimp Travis, owned by 70-year old Sandra Herold of Stamford, Conn., was shot and killed after a brutal 12-minute attack on Herold's friend, Charla Nash.

Four teams of surgeons operated on Nash, 55, for more than seven hours to stabilize her before she was transferred Thursday to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. She remains under sedation while being evaluated by doctors.

The bill amends the Lacey Act, first passed in 1900 and amended several times, that stops the importation of potentially dangerous non-native species. It is similar to a law enacted in 2003 that banned interstate commerce in lions, tigers and other big cats for the pet trade.

The measure, which does not affect the purchase of animals by zoos or research centers, now goes to the Senate.

The bill is H.R. 80.

Sickly Honolulu Zoo lions euthanized
Submitted by (south zoo) Wed Feb 25, 2009

Honolulu, HI (AP) - Honolulu city officials say two African lions at the Honolulu Zoo have been euthanized.

The officials cited multiple health problems suffered by the twin sisters named Ethel Louise and Samantha. They were nearly 23 years old.

The two lived at the zoo for 11 years. They were born at the Wild Wilderness Zoo in Gentry, Ark., and arrived in Honolulu from the Pittsburgh Zoo in 1997.

Zoo officials are expecting to obtain a male lion within the next month from the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Puerto Rico decides to ship wild monkeys to Iraq
Submitted by (south zoo) Wed Feb 25, 2009

San Juan, Puerto Rico (AP) – Puerto Rico has found an unlikely solution to ease its surplus of pesky wild monkeys: ship them to Iraq. About a dozen patas monkeys will fly across the Atlantic on a commercial carrier in upcoming weeks, courtesy of the Baghdad Zoo, according to the Caribbean island's Department of Natural Resources.

Puerto Rico is eager to rid itself of the estimated 2,000 patas and rhesus monkeys that have taken a toll on wildlife and agriculture in the Lajas Valley since escaping from nearby research centers 30 years ago. "We will give them all the monkeys they want," said Sgt. Angel Atienza, a ranger with the department. "We don't have a problem with that."

Unlike rhesus monkeys, patas are not
considered desirable for research, and there has been little demand for either from zoos — until now.

**Siegfried and Roy bow out with infamous tiger**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sun Mar 1, 2009

Las Vegas, NV (AP) - Illusionists Siegfried and Roy — and the Bengal tiger that ended their careers — shared the stage again Saturday night for a haunting final performance.

The brief charity show saw Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher side by side with Montecore, the massive white tiger that brutally mauled Horn during a 2003 performance.

Horn re-emerged Saturday dressed in black robes, his face covered with a skeletal mask. The dark stage was covered in smoke. Horn limped slowly onstage, often steadying himself on Fischbacher's shoulder.

The two slowly performed a signature illusion as Fischbacher, dressed in white robes and a mask, stood inside a cage, which was then cloaked in drapes. As Horn removed the curtain seconds later, Fischbacher appeared across stage, a hulking tiger in his place.

As the crowd took to its feet, the men removed their masks. Fischbacher standing between the tiger and Horn. They waved and blew kisses at the audience, but said nothing.

An announcer left the crowd with this final thought: "Within all of us there is an illusive melody, which when heard and followed will lead you to the fulfillment of your fondest dreams."

The performers' manager, Bernie Yuman, later confirmed the tiger was Montecore.

The pair claims that a stroke caused tiger attack.

In October 2003, the tiger sank its teeth into Horn's neck, dragging him offstage in front of a horrified audience. The illusionist, now 64, was partially paralyzed, suffering a damaged neck artery and crushed windpipe.

After 13 years and more than 5,000 performances, the "Siegfried & Roy" show at The Mirage immediately went dark, ending one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history.

The Saturday performance at the Bellagio hotel-casino was the highlight of a lavish benefit for the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. The center, which will treat brain disorders like those Horn now suffers, is set to open later this year in a building designed by architect Frank Gehry.

Siegfried and Roy's performance will air Friday in a one-hour special on ABC's "20/20."

During Horn's long rehabilitation, both men remained devoted to their exotic habitat on the Las Vegas Strip. The Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at The Mirage hotel-casino houses lions, tigers and leopards. Fischbacher, 69, has called it Horn's "reason to get up in the morning."

The pair have said they believe Montecore sensed Horn was having a mini-stroke and was dragging him to safety, rather than attacking him. Animal experts have disputed that theory.

After a two-year review, federal investigators never determined what set off the tiger. The U.S. Department of Agriculture did find that the "Siegfried & Roy" show failed to protect the audience because it had no barrier separating the exotic animals from the crowd. The illusionists' production company, S&R Productions, received a letter of noncompliance but was not fined.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- The Frogs Are Cooking And Don’t Know It
- Siegfried & Roy bow out with infamous tiger
- House tightens fed controls over primate trade

DONATIONS NEEDED!
Due to economic hardship, Phoenix Exotics is asking its members for an additional donation for 2009. In the past, Phoenix has offered its services for low membership fees. Donations are now needed in order to cover postage, printing and general operation costs. Any donated amount will be greatly appreciated and will enable us to continue our services. Thank you!