Looks like Phoenix member Denise’s 8-year-old blue & gold Macaw, Cleo, is ready to fly into spring!
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

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at southzoo@aol.com
Rhonda Kiker
Oldest known Sumatran tiger dies at Zoo Atlanta
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Apr 24, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia (AP) – One of the oldest known Sumatran tigers in the U.S. has died at Zoo Atlanta.

Zoo President and CEO Dennis Kelly said Thursday the 21-year-old cat, called Sekayu (Seh-KYE-yoo), was euthanized after her health declined. Zoo spokeswoman Keisha Hines-Davis says veterinarians had been treating her for age-related health issues.

Sekayu came to Zoo Atlanta in 1993 after spending time at the Phoenix Zoo. She was born at the San Diego Zoo in 1987.

Zoo Atlanta has two other Sumatran tigers, which are considered to be the world’s most critically endangered tigers. Researchers believe there are less than 400 left in the wild.

Zoo officials did not know how many of the tigers were in captivity.

Cash-strapped Bronx Zoo lays off animals
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Apr 24, 2009

New York, New York (AP) - The recession is evicting hundreds of animals from the Bronx Zoo.

Cash-strapped zoo officials told a New York City Council committee Thursday that they need to send away deer, bats, foxes, antelopes and other creatures to zoos around the country.

Officials say they’re also closing four exhibits to close a $15 million budget shortfall.

The 114-year-old institution is the country’s largest city zoo. More than 2 million people visited last year.

The exhibits that are closing include World of Darkness, which includes bats, porcupines and primates including night monkeys. Three other exhibits that are home to antelope, deer and a South American relative of the llama are also going away.

Police seek monkey that bit girl
Submitted by (south zoo) Mon Apr 20, 2009

Salem, Oregon (AP) - Police are looking for a man and his pet monkey after the monkey bit a six-year-old girl at Salem’s Riverfront Park over the weekend.

Salem Police Sgt. John Hardy says he is confident the man and his monkey, who was wearing a diaper, will be found.

The girl, Serena Taylor, is taking antibiotics for possible infections.

Police told the Salem Statesman Journal newspaper that the man and his monkey were on a park bench, and a crowd gathered. Serena asked the man if she could pet the monkey, who looked agitated and jumped at her.

Jan Mothershed at the Oregon Zoo said the animal likely was scared and should not have been taken out in public.

CT considers ban on owning primates, exotic pets
Submitted by (south zoo) Tue Apr 21, 2009

Hartford, Connecticut (AP) - A Connecticut legislative committee has endorsed a ban on private ownership of large primates, alligators and other potentially dangerous pets.

The proposal comes in response to a Feb. 16 incident in Stamford, where a 55-year-old woman was critically mauled by her friend’s 200-pound chimpanzee.

The proposal, endorsed Tuesday by the legislature’s Judiciary Committee, now goes to the state House for consideration.

It would ban private citizens from owning a variety of exotic and potentially dangerous animals ranging from coyotes and jungle cats to tarantulas, poisonous snakes, prairie dogs and
Gila monsters.

Exceptions would be made for small primates such as trained capuchin monkeys that work as service animals for their disabled owners.

**Woman Sues Wal-Mart Over “Pet Nutria”**
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu May 7, 2009
By Curt Sprang

New Orleans, Louisiana (AP) - An Abbeville woman says a nutria known as Norman ran at her in her local Wal-Mart, scaring her into a panic attack and making her injure her back and foot.

Rebecca White's lawsuit says employees not only knew a wild animal was at large in the store, but had given it a pet name and failed to warn shoppers.

Nutria look like small beavers with rat-like tails. Would-be fur farmers around the country imported them, then released them in swamps when they proved unprofitable.

The Whites' attorney, Anthony Fontana, says White needed surgery for bones broken and nerves damaged when she pulled her shopping cart toward her in an attempt to protect herself.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Michelle Bradford says the company has not been served with a lawsuit but is investigating.

**Oregon woman gives sanctuary to near-wild wolves**
Submitted by (south zoo) Wed Apr 22, 2009

Waldport, Oregon (AP) - You can hear the wolves long before you see them. Their unmistakable drawn-out howls float lightly on the breeze before you reach the 10-foot-high chain-link fence that marks the beginning of the animals' domain. Their home, found on a gravel road tucked into the Coast range east of Waldport, is known as the White Wolf Sanctuary.

Once you reach the center of the sanctuary, they are there too: 10 regal snow-white Arctic wolves, carefully watching with yellow eyes as they pace the perimeter of their huge wire-enclosed territories, their tongues the color of Pink Pearl erasers, at the ready to greet visitors who befriend them.

Arctic wolves are a subspecies of the gray wolf that originates in the cold climate above the Arctic wolves. These Arctic wolves all have been rescued from domestic circumstances that ranged from owners' ill health to neglect to outright abuse. They have been brought to the sanctuary to live the rest of their lives in near-wild comfort.

It's the brainchild-cum-obsession of Lois Tulleners, who left behind previous careers as singer and band member, manufacturer of exercise equipment, karate school entrepreneur and private eye to answer the call of the semi-wild.

"When her father heard she had bought this place, he said, 'What else is that girl going to do?'" Tulleners' mother, Rose White, recalls.

Nothing, because, "This is my life," is Tulleners' quick answer. "I have a better relationship with these animals than most people. It's my responsibility to give them the most natural lives they can have."

She first encountered the wolf personality when a long-ago boyfriend acquired two wolf-dog hybrids, then left them with her when the couple broke up. She began studying the pure species, Canis lupus, and "the more I learned about wolves, the more I became obsessed with their plight," Tulleners says. "Wolves are one of the most persecuted animals in the world."

It shouldn't be so, she argues. "Wolves are the top of the food chain, and when the wolf population is healthy, all other animal and plant populations are healthy."

(Continued on Page 6)
She knows farmers and ranchers take a different view, but she's talking ecosystems, not economics.

The wolves "are natural controllers of herbivores," keeping their numbers down so they don't destroy too much vegetation, which leads to erosion and further destruction of habitat, Tulleners says. "There's a scientific basis for encouraging a well-balanced wolf population."

Of course, for her personally, maintaining her private wolf population is as much emotional as scientific.

"When I first started, Arctic wolves were so rare and beautiful, I just fell in love with them," Tulleners says. Her devotion drove her to create the sanctuary just for the white wolves, which means she has had to turn down other types of wolves and animals in need of a home.

As a nonprofit sanctuary, she has to meet federal regulations that maintain her certification with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"If you're just going to keep a wolf as a pet, you are licensed through the state Department of Agriculture, but it's federal when you have a sanctuary," she says. "I have to meet all the requirements for fencing, food preparation, water quality, health and medication. There's a whole book on what you have to do to meet the federal regulations. And they do send the inspectors out."

That's never been a problem for White Wolf Sanctuary, she says proudly. "One year, they wrote us up as the best facility they've seen."

Of her 60 acres of land surrounded by national forest, 47 are dedicated to fenced-in wolf habitat, Tulleners says.

The fences are from 10 feet to 14 feet tall, depending on the lay of the land, and they also extend three feet down into the ground.

"I've never had a wolf try to dig out, but I don't think it would even be possible," she says. The fences are set up to form five different enclosures "in kind of a circle" around the property. The runs vary in size, up to 23 acres, and two wolves reside in each space. The enclosures are connected with a series of lanes and gates that allow wolves to be escorted from one area to another without coming in direct contact with each other.

"We do that so they can change habitats occasionally and not get bored," Tulleners says. "I look at it as 'enrichment, and they love it.'"

Most of the shelters are as big as backyard sheds, but the one known as the Wolf Church is larger. The building used to be a hunters' cabin before Tulleners bought the property, and it gained its holy name from a single stained-glass window.

Tulleners' house is at the center of the property, where all the enclosures meet, and she can give educational instruction to visitors from her porch in full view of the wolves, if they choose to make themselves available.

"People come by appointment only. Wolves are very sensitive, and I don't want people just showing up to gawk at them and disturb them," she says.

"When people come, they have to be educated about wolves and how to approach them. Then I show them a video, and after that we take a walk and they meet all the wolves. After that, they come back to the porch, and we have a question-and-answer session. Most people are here for 2 1/2 to 3 hours."

"When encountering a wolf, always approach with your body turned at an angle rather than straight on, and do not prolong eye contact, because that's a provocation," Tulleners says. "Speak softly and calmly and avoid quick
movements. Hold the back of your hand to the fence, and if the wolf wants contact, it will walk sideways along the fence to be scratched through the wire and perhaps stick its nose and tongue through for closer communication."

She never allows visitors to go into the wolf pens, although purebred wolves generally are not aggressive toward humans. Even so, "I have a few scars. The young ones play rough with each other, and when you're around them all the time and play with them, sometimes they forget you don't have fur," Tulleners says.

Adult Arctic wolves raised in captivity generally range in weight from 110 to 175 pounds. While life expectancy in the wild is about 8 years, wolves in sanctuaries easily can live 15 years.

Oregon’s climate may not be ideal for the Arctic wolf, "but when it snows, they really love it," Tulleners says. "Most of the time they stay outside their shelters, but when the weather gets really rough, they go inside."

The sanctuary goes through tens of thousands of pounds of dry food and meat every year. Fortunately, Tulleners has special dispensation with the state Department of Transportation to pick up roadkill from area highways to augment the wolves' diets.

"This is a scary time for us because of the economy, just like everyone else," Tulleners says.

"There's a challenge every day. But it's not like these wolves have any choice, they weren't raised in the wild, so they don't have the experience of taking care of themselves. That's what I'm here for."

Iraq to kill 3 wild boars at zoo amid flu fears
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Apr 30, 2009
By Kim Gamel

Baghdad, Iraq (AP) – The Iraqi government decided Thursday to kill three wild boars at the Baghdad Zoo amid worldwide fears of swine flu, officials said.

No cases of swine flu have been reported in Iraq, and global health officials have said there is no evidence that people have contracted swine flu by eating pork or handling pigs. But Iraqi officials say they don't want to take any chances.

Iraq has few, if any, pigs used as livestock because its dominant religion, Islam, considers the animals impure. Wild boars roam the countryside in some areas.

"The ministry of agriculture made a decision today to kill the three pigs in Baghdad Zoo as a precautionary measure," Dr. Sabah Jassim Mozan, the head of the ministry's veterinarian department, told The Associated Press.

No date has been set for their killing, according to Dr. Ihssan Jaafar Ahmed, who heads Iraq's swine flu committee. Zoo officials could not be reached for comment. Earlier Thursday, the mud-covered boars grazed quietly inside their large pen at the zoo.

Iraq's decision is among several drastic measures governments have taken to combat swine flu. Egypt began slaughtering the roughly 300,000 pigs in the country even though no cases have been reported there.

World health experts say many of these measures may not stop the disease from spreading. The World Health Organization, which has stressed it has not found any association between pigs and the disease in humans, said Thursday it would stop using the term "swine flu."

The fast-spreading virus has been blamed for more than 160 deaths in Mexico and one in the United States and has been detected in several other countries, including Israel.
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Oldest known Sumatran tiger dies at Zoo Atlanta
- CT considers ban on owning primates, exotic pets
- Oregon woman gives sanctuary to near-wild wolves

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!