

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

February – April 2014

OCTOBER 2000. Bumpy's Hotel: Gray squirrel **Bumpy** is greatly loved and admired by visitors and **Zoo Crew** alike. When he was a baby Bumpy apparently took a header out of his nest high in a tree and is not releasable because of neurological damage. Bumpy's name comes from the fact that his personal computer doesn't always work as fast as his feet and he bumps into things. However, he rises above these difficulties. Bumpy is spunky. He clings upside down from cage wire to drink from his water bottle when he could just as easily stand on the floor. He extravagantly paws food out of his bowl, tossing aside The Unacceptable, which he often eats after finishing The Favorites. Unable to crack nuts, he receives two tablespoons of nutritious peanut butter daily, which he usually smears on everything. Bumpy often has endearing little pink bald spots on muzzle, arms and chest from "over cleaning" his luxurious gray fur. Recently, Bumpy's real estate holdings increased with the addition of **Bumpy's Place**, small models of an ice cream parlor complete with a little sign, a hotel and a nifty white stucco cottage, all built by a volunteer designer / carpenter. These "buildings" are part of the cage furnishings and provide squirrel shelter and delight for human kids." Bumpy: 1992-2002 Acquired 1997

OCTOBER 2000: Sally

"Another gray squirrel spent some time at the **Zoo Sanctuary**. **Sally** came from a rescue situation and was thought to be a "keeper" – an animal that couldn't survive wild. At one point everyone hoped she could be a companion for Bumpy. Sally moved into the clinic for routine quarantine. Keepers soon learned, however, that beautiful Sally had Very Forthright Opinions – and teeth to back them up. Nuts and acorns were provided and she cracked them with great skill. It soon became apparent that Sally would also be willing to remove fingers or other human body parts if given the chance. Obviously, she was not a suitable friend for gentleman Bumpy. After a vet evaluation staff decided that Sally would do well living wild. Provided with a pile of acorns, a nest box, and good wishes, Sally was released into oak and pine wooded areas. If you hear news reports of a terrible gray monster preying on bears in the woods you know who it is."

2014: Lady

Wolf dog hybrid **Lady** recently arrived at the Zoo from **Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC)** in Los Angeles. She is a rescue from **Wolf Country** in Alaska where she spent most of her life on six-feet of chain with 50 other wolves and hybrids. Visitors paid to feed treats to the animals. Lady is considered a "high content Wolf Hybrid". She recently lost her elderly wolf companion at LARC and Zoo Staff is hoping that she and Zoo male wolf **Yucca** will bond. Currently Lady and Yucca are separated as they move to different sites in the exhibit with the hope that they will bond. If not she has the option to move back to LARC.

Undaunted

Dr. Mira Sanchez visited Livestock Guarding dog **Marcus** for surgery to remove a mass on his lower

eyelid. He received eye meds twice daily for 7 days plus one of those excellent clear plastic "cones" that animals like so much. Obviously these cones have been scientifically designed so that a wise dog can plop the cone down on top of a feeding bowl and with a little help from a long tongue, manage to stay well-nourished. Marcus seemed to take surgery in his stride. For his companion **Annabelle**, it was a different matter. She was Lonely. Ultimately both dogs moved next to each other in the wolf-dog off-exhibit area, and although separated physically, Annabelle could commune. Now back in the pasture, Marcus apparently is feeling quite well. Recently Keepers arrived at the Zoo in the early a.m. to discover that he Once Again jumped the pasture fence and was hanging out with big horse **Gus**.

Thousands

All praise to **Folsom Zoo Sanctuary Docents**. This new year Docents have been guiding truly thousands of little kids, their teachers and families through the Zoo. Good Will & Excellent Organization saves the day. Thanks Docents.

Thousands & Millions

While the Zoo Sanctuary respects all animals Great & Small, some are harder to embrace than others. There are thousands and millions of ants in the **Zoo Reptile House**. Every effort to remove them has been thwarted. Exhibit windows were tightly sealed. Outside there was ant bait and diatomaceous earth. Inside non-toxic home remedies were tried including white chalk. So far the unwelcome marching invaders are still among us.

West Nile

Twice a year Zoo birds have health check-ups which include physicals and blood work and in many cases, vaccinations for **West Nile**.

West Nile Virus is a mosquito borne *zoonotic arbovirus* first identified in **Uganda** in 1937. It was considered a minor risk to humans until 1994 when there was a large outbreak in **Algeria**. By 1999 WNV spread to **New York City** and in the next 5 years moved throughout the **US** and **Canada**. Mosquitoes are the vector. Birds are the host of the virus: humans and horses are called "incidental hosts." Since WNV is 80% subclinical (no detectable symptoms) it's possible that you've already experienced WNV. For perspective, as of April 2014 in all of California no more than 10 dead "West Nile" birds have been reported so far.

Attendance: February 7,133 & March 8,356.

Ferret Comfort

Ferrets **August & Cinnamon** are **Outreach Animals** and between engagements they hang out in the **Zoo Classroom** in classy three level condo. Daily housekeeping provides lots of clean newspaper on each level and a colorful array of soft velvety lounging mats, plus a hanging collection of fabric bag

ferret hideaways. Room service provides a daily big bowl of ferret chow and two little personalized bowls with just the right number of nutritious live mealworms. At game time or outreaches the ferrets frolic in their collapsible play pen under supervision of Docents. Not surprisingly, pet stores have extensive and pricy ferret paraphernalia. Ferrets, legal in adjoining states, are illegal pets in California.

Lily Land

Zookeepers can step over the building blocks that contain desert tortoise **Lily's** outdoor garden, which includes an easy-entry sandbox, a doghouse for a little privacy and a big summer umbrella that shades a bench for **Docents** who spend quality time to assure that Lily is safe and sound. When not in the turtle yard she hangs out with the reptiles in the **Red Barn**.

Flight

While clearly it's not an easy job, peacocks with their handsome long flowing tails can fly at least high enough to roost up in Zoo trees at night along with the peafowl hens. Sadly about twice a year an enthusiastic peacock decides to fly over a Zoo fence. Landing in the pasture or the sheep enclosure or the deer forest is OK. Landing on wolf **Yucca's** home ground is not. Rescue isn't an option.

STUFFED ANIMAL CLINIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Exam by Stuffed Animal Veterinarian
Repairs & Mending by Stuffed Animal Surgeon
TLC tips for a Healthy Cuddly Friend

PLAN NOW!

Friends of the Folsom Zoo

Growl, Howl & Wine

Saturday Evening

September 6, 2014

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