

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

April – May 2011

Tiger Art

Recently four tiger fans commissioned a painting by Zoo Sanctuary tigers.* The zookeeper set up a painting area that has a gate with a painting port. Tiger fans were safely to the side behind the keeper. Black, white and orange colored paints (do you sense a color plan here?) were squirted on the concrete floor. To set the mood both tigers lapped up some of the non-toxic paint. Thus fortified **Misty's** Artistic Muse appeared. She planted a paw in the paint, targeted (put her painty foot on) the canvas, got a sip of meat juice from a syringe. The process was repeated until masterpieces were created. Yes, the tigers were arrayed in extra black orange and white for several days.

***Art With Animals** (bears, wolves, cougars, & tigers). Email avandermolen@folsom.ca.us or call the Zoo at 351-3527. For a fee of \$150 you select an animal artist and up to three paint colors. Pressed for time? Choose the animal artist, 3 paint colors and we'll have the painting created and ready for pickup. Plan to schedule two weeks in advance.

Job /Description (The Fine Print)

Misty, artistic endeavors concluded, was prepared to show off another tiger talent. She turned her back clearly with the intent of spraying one of her unsuspecting Art Patrons. Spotting the impending catastrophe, the keeper stuck out her left hand, impeding the flow so discretely that visitors didn't even notice.

Bi Lingual

Long ago handsome green & yellow former pet Amazon parrot **Larry Bird** arrived at the **Zoo Sanctuary**. His person apparently taught him to say "go outside right now" which is extremely cute, and doubtless earned Larry many treats. At least for the first 500 times he said it. Hours and days of this cuteness begins to pall which may be the reason Larry came to live at the Zoo. Over the years, staff and visitors haven't reinforced this phrase and currently all that remains is a garbled version of *go out*. True to his code, Larry repeats the phrase frequently and with fervor. Recently he caught the attention of a volunteer. "He's speaking German!" she exclaimed. The words she heard are *mach auf*. Say this phrase aloud a couple of time in a shrill parrot voice. Sounds like *go out*. Right? In German *mach auf* means *go out*. It's likely that most Zoo Sanctuary animals are

bi-lingual. Zoo staff is not, so communication is conducted in Californian.

Cranky

Late in the day on a warm afternoon macaque **Wallace** drew quite a crowd. On the outside of the exhibit wire there's a black metal bracket onto which a tough plastic waterbottle with a spout can be affixed. This particular bottle was empty. And Wallace was not pleased. You knew he had issues because his little hand was outside the wire slapping the bottle back and forth and up and down creating lots of noise. It was also apparent that monkeys, like humans, are able to frown in anger. Concerned visitors informed the ticket booth that "the poor little monkey is without water." Untrue. He was, however, out of the apple juice /water treat. This is why in the future visitors will see a sign near the waterbottle that explains what a cranky primate looks like and why.

Cranky #2

Somehow the macaques got an un-inflated yellow balloon, possibly donated by a misguided member of the public. And while it's not likely that a smart monkey would swallow a balloon, there could be a health issue if he did. So a keeper stood outside the exhibit with a cup o' raisins and **Darwin**, "the reliable macaque" dumped the balloon for a treat. Naturally, his less tractable roomie **Wallace** grabbed the balloon. Raisins and sweet talk were tendered. Wallace would offer the balloon. And jerk it back. And offer the balloon, etc. Ultimately the keeper got the balloon, but she had to pay dearly.

Speaking Of Food

The Zoo received a call from the New York publication **Smart Money** with a question about how zoos save \$\$\$ by serving road kill which conjures visions of hit-by-car raccoons, opossums, snakes, etc. Not at the **Zoo Sanctuary**. Every so often, Folsom Animal Control officer **Cindy Walden** will be contacted about a roadkilled deer. It seems to happen more in spring when the thoughts of deer are on romance rather than street safety. At the Zoo the deer are frozen for a month to kill parasites and served as whole carcass, steaks / roasts for carnivores. Is \$\$\$ saved? Maybe a little. Do animals enjoy the wild food? Apparently. An interesting sidelight historically is that Zoo black bears, upon receiving a large deer portion have been seen standing in

bear pools with the deer skin gripped between their teeth tossing their heads and slapping the skin back and forth across their shoulders.

Speaking Of Bears

The **Henry** Show continues. After the bear pool is cleaned, during refill a substantial flow of water cascades over an overhang that's probably 8 feet above the bottom of the pool. It really thunders down, which is just what bear youngster Henry likes. Crowds gather as he plunges through deep water in the pool and stations himself under the waterfall. Resting, he may look like a Teddy Bear but as he powers around the pool with his hair plastered down he's 100% muscle.

Cedar And The Big Cats

Docents report that senior mountain lion **Ventura** still spends a lot of time laying next to the closed gate next to growing mountain lion kitten **Cedar**. At one point he was next to her and she was able to touch his paw with both of hers stretched under the fence railing. He gently mouthed her paws, and touched them with his own. Then Ventura licked the wire and moseyed away. After he left, Cedar spent some serious (and possibly enlightening) time sniffing the wire where he licked. On this particular day, **Rio** came and went during the hour and interacted nose-to-nose through the wire with no incident. Ventura has also been reported letting Cedar pat his tail with her feet.

Attendance in May was a hefty 11,332 visitors braved rain squalls, etc. to visit with the animals.

Screaming

Much has been written about the ear splitting screaming of members of the parrot family that have been spending time in the **Zoo Classroom** and the **Ops Building**. A current issue is the sound emanating from Goffin's Cockatoo **Pogo**. He's a handsome fellow, white feathers tinged with yellow and melon colors. And Very Smart. Pogo and lovely African Gray parrot **Mesa** have big cages located next to the Ops office. A heavy door between the two areas somewhat dampens the mega-decibel yiyiyiyiyiyiyiyiyi that Pogo uses to seek attention. Clearly, smart humans should have learned that to go into the parrot area to chat with Pogo when he is screaming reinforces the behavior. But like some human endeavors, sometimes You Just Can't Get It Right. Pogo was engaged in a ten-minute yiyi-ing session when a partially deafened human in the Office got up to shut the door, accidently and unfortunately

making eye-contact with Pogo. "Hi" he said, raising his clawed black foot in greeting.

KEEP YOUR BRAIN IN GEAR! SUMMER STUFF AT THE ZOO!

ZAP! ZOO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!

Kids ages 11 – 15 can learn what it's like to be a Zookeeper! Each day the ZAP class cares for an animal: prepares diets, cleans the exhibits, works on craft projects for animal enrichment, and more. 2nd & 4th weekends of each month through October.

<http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us> click Activity Guide, click Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary or kkolodziej@folsom.ca.us

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEARS!

Pack up a Picnic Breakfast and enjoy a private rental on the bear deck before the Zoo opens to the public. You and your friends will be inches away from the five black bears as they forage for their breakfast on the other side of the glass wall. Rental includes 30-minute behind-the-scenes tour of the bear exhibit and excellent photo ops. Available 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$249 includes tables and chairs for up to 20 people. Call (916) 355-0045 for reservations.

ABC ZOO CAMP

Little ones ages 4 to 7 explore the wonders of wildlife through crafts, songs and hands-on interaction with some Outreach Animals. Each child takes home a booklet with photos of themselves and the animals that visited the Classroom. Snack provided daily.

<http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us> click Activity Guide, click Summer Day Camps.

JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER CAMP

Ages 7 to 10. Learn hands-on what it's like to be a zookeeper! Help prepare animal diets, make toys for the animals, participate in animal handling and clean exhibits. Keepers demonstrate training techniques!

<http://webtrac.folsom.ca.us> click Activity Guide, click Summer Day Camps.

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new home address