

KEEPING TRACK. FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

July – August, 2014

Keeping Track August 2005: “Born last October, crab-eating Macaque **Darwin** was 8-months old when he moved in with **Claudia**. Possibly enjoying the quiet and orderly life of a monkey in her 39th year, the arrival of Darwin may have seemed like the toddler dropped off with Great Grandma. “This is great, but you *are* picking him up tonight, right?” Not quite. Early on, Darwin wanted to be embraced and held. Long term, this was not going to happen. Darwin could sit near Claudia as she ate breakfast and dinner. He could groom her shoulders if he was careful. After a few days, Darwin could lie on Claudia’s back embracing her as she napped face down on her little bed. Daily, Darwin becomes more and more agile. He can climb his cotton ropes with alacrity and wade in the shallow pool and –yes- jump over the waterfall without mishap.

Bring a monkey, and a rickety one at that, Claudia walks more or less on ‘all fours’ – the back legs take most of the weight with the arms and hands helping. She’s been spotted scuttling along with Darwin on her back. He’s holding on to her hair with both hands, balanced with one foot on Claudia, the other sort of pedaling along on the ground. And yes, Darwin teases Claudia, and yes, she reacts. He wiggles his fingers in her face. He’ll dismount from his rope by just skimming off Claudia’s back. He pulls her tail and snitches food.

But it seems, playing aside, he wants to cuddle. This is most apparent at naptime. There are two theories: either Claudia is a very sound sleeper, or she just doesn’t want to deal with Darwin’s shenanigans. A few days ago, Claudia was, as usual, snoozing, face down, and Darwin was hugging her back. He had a good grip on her crooked tail, apparently for security. Then he slid down and pulled her foot over his neck. Not quite comfy, he flipped over and by pushing up on Claudia’s foot and tail and digging in his feet, he managed to jam nearly half of himself under her. A little bit like a mother’s (or great grandmother’s) embrace.”

Claudia passed away December 14, 2005. Recently **Darwin** was diagnosed with diabetes. Upon further examination, a serious infection that most likely started in his pancreas was diagnosed. Because of the severity of the infection there were no treatment options and Darwin was gently euthanized on August 18, 2014. The Zoo is seeking a companion for Macaque **Wallace**.

Eggs

You may have noticed that Nature is thinking up some different scenarios for this dry year: trees are working overtime to produce bigger than usual leaves, and at the **Zoo Sanctuary** the peahens don’t seem to be following the usual protocols. One hen has a teenage chick while other hens are just hatching tiny babies. Then there was the hen who laid four eggs on top of coyote **Maggie’s** enclosure. Mom would hop off the 10 foot high roof with, one assumes, the thought that chicks would follow. They (wisely) didn’t. Clearly the chicks would starve. So a zookeeper clambered up onto the roof, caught the chicks and collected two remaining eggs. Interestingly, with people and animals safe on the ground, the chicks apparently thought the last face they saw was their

Mom. No. So the human “mom” gently plopped the chicks back in the green bucket and stalked the real Mom. Chicks were gently shoved in front of her, she chirped to them, and off they went to join into a little flock that had gathered at the end of the Zoo.

Cat Walk

What do high fashion models have in common with **Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary** mountain lions? Sleek elegant coats, attitude, stunning good looks, and their very own Cat Walk. Being more agile and cool than the humans, Zoo cats **Cedar**, **Rio**, **Flash** and **Echo** do in fact have it all, including long, very narrow 12 foot high wooden lounging platforms with steep, but thoughtfully designed, ramps for up and down moves.

Shedding

Shedding winter hair is not a big deal. Many months ago **Folsom Zoo** animals shed a little hair here, a little there and pretty soon they were sleek and good looking for months to come. There are two stunning exceptions: coyote **Wild Iris** and red fox **Isabella** have been shedding big hunks of hair starting in early summer and continuing almost into fall. Very occasionally Iris will permit some human intervention - at the most 10 minutes of brushing / plucking until she shows what sharp teeth she has.

Beautiful, elderly Isabella shows off a lovely coat of fur most of the year. Then there will be 8 to 12 weeks of visitors asking “what’s wrong with that fox?” Her previously luxuriant coat has changed into tufts of fur that cling for weeks at a time. At one point it appeared that Isabella had two long tails –a ratty looking real tail and a big fluffy 14 inch long Other Tail which fortunately fell off. With shedding complete, she once again appears to be quite small. With every hair in place at last, she’s truly beautiful again.

Attendance: July – August 11,146 - many of The Brave shared very hot summer days with the animals (who are always Cool.

Ernie

With the passing of his friend **Isaac**, zebu **Ernie** moved to the pasture with Barbados mama sheep **Maggie** and daughter **Princess**. Known as “easy keepers” all three of these animals seem comfortable during Folsom’s hot summers. A lot of thought goes into making any changes in an animal’s life so a keeper was on hand for introductions when Maggie charged like a freight train down the hill and head butted Ernie – several times. Now life in the pasture is quiet. Sheep and Ernie seem content

Getting To Know You

Wolf hybrid **Lady** is 7 or 8 years old. She spent most of her life in Alaska at a “wolf reserve” where for a donation you could pet an animal that is chained to his or her dog house. Fortunately an organization called **Lockwood Animal Rescue** was able to move these animals to a safe environment and ultimately find homes and. Lady came to the **Folsom Zoo Sanctuary**. Handsome male **Yucca**, was born in 2004. He and

Lady have spent quite a few months in the Zoo separated in the big exhibit where they could “touch noses” and socialize. Ultimately with all signs that they would be safe and compatible they moved in together. Lady was flirty and wanted to play for hours. Yucca was apparently happy, exhausted (and limping) at the end of the day. As time goes by both seem content.

Busy All Summer!

Zoo Camp - 5 weeks – 9am to 2pm. Twenty Campers (always supervised) spent mornings cleaning pasture animal areas and moved on to bear, tiger, small animal exhibits, etc. There were lots of fascinating hands-on projects aimed at **Learning Responsible Behavior Toward All Animals**. **Senior ZAP Kids** pretty much worked on All Of The Above, learned a lot and improved the lives of resident animals. **Pony Land** spent 4 weeks at the **Zoo Sanctuary** with lots of classroom activities and learning pony lore and appropriate handling of ponies. And Yes! Popular **Storytime for Little Ones** continues through the summer!

Saturday September 6th 6 – 9 pm

GROWL, HOWL & WINE

Local Tastings – Food, Wine & Beer

Live and Silent Auctions

Music! Zoo Animals! Fun!

Get tickets NOW

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HOWL-o-WEEN

Saturday, Oct. 25

**Small crafts and info tables about your favorite
creepy crawlers & nocturnal animals.
Special Halloween-inspired treats for Zoo animals
available for purchase.**

Wear your Costume for a Special Surprise!

Free with regular admission.

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