

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

February - March 2014

The Arrival Of Tigers Misty And Pouncer February 2004

“Resident Animal Reception Committees. The first animal to have an *-um* – affiliation with the tigers was the white peacock whose habit it has been to nap in the sun on top of what is now the tiger exhibit. As **Misty** shot into the exhibit, **Mr. White** screamed impressively and launched himself across the pasture to crash-land forty feet up in a tree where he stayed the rest of the day. He wasn't the only peacock having trouble with the new arrivals. As the tigers were being off-loaded to the exhibit all the Zoo peacocks, perched as high as possible, screamed warnings. (Do the inherited hard-drives of Indian Blue peacocks have a few bytes of Tiger Alert?) During the rest of the day, resident animals didn't have a lot to say, although wolf dog hybrid **Lincoln** barked a little more than usual. But when the **Zoo** closed for the night a park worker who lives nearby was worried because the animals were making so much noise. Apparently if you could howl or scream or growl or huff & puff, you were doing it on Wednesday night. It's interesting that nobody remembers this happening with the arrival of new *native* animals. During the next few days the neighbors, wolves **Granite**, **River** and **Redbud**, lined up along the edge of their pool and barked and howled for hours, jerking their heads back if one of the tigers happened to move. Raccoons **Scout** and **Autumn**, who live directly across from the tigers, quietly huddled together in their highest nest box and wouldn't come out for breakfast.”

Arrival Continued: Meeting New People

Zoo animals settled down quickly but it became apparent that while the tigers were accustomed to adults, they had never been exposed to kids. Kids are small, they run everywhere and make lots of noise, all clues to tell a young predator that these little guys in strollers or hanging out with people are, yes, *prey*. **Misty & Pouncer** would hunker down and stalk little kids. And it didn't take little kids long before they knew what got the tigers riled up. So each visitor when entering the Zoo received a written request to please hold small children by the hand, and to tell older kids that running, jumping up and down, and yelling is Teasing. The Zoo's excellent cooperative visitors complied and the tigers lost interest in stalking.

Watch Out For The Rat

In the center of the Zoo Blue and gold macaws **Rocky** and **Bingo** share a roomy pavilions with windows all around so birds can look out and visitors can look in. Rocky & Bingo also have an excellent enclosed garden where they squawk and climb and enjoy the weather. With all these good

things readily available, it's no surprise that a wild rat has moved in and usually hangs out by the windows. Obviously, the rat is quicker than the macaws who could probably deal with him if they wanted to. So a Zookeeper removed one of the screens and opened a window just-a-crack. Currently the thought is to locate the entry point and work with trying to shoo the rat out forever.

Watch Out For Nessee

A door in gray squirrel Nessee's exhibit needed a little repair so a thoughtful keeper provided some nice acorn treats. Nessee was pleased with the goodies but managed to pause long enough to engage in a full blown attack on the keeper. Zoo lore maintains that Nessee attacks certain people, not others (yet).

Watch Out For Grayson

Housekeeping is an ongoing event throughout the Zoo. Recently a keeper with a long-handled brush climbed up a tall ladder to reach cobwebs in the

Barn Owl exhibit. A difficult endeavor particularly when owl **Grayson** dives at you, sharp owl beak right in the face. The unfortunate keeper ducked, wrapped his arms around the ladder and hunkered down. Brave Grayson was protecting lovely female owl **Guinevere**

Watch Out For Dasher

Like us, non-human animals can have a grumpy day. Mini horse **Dasher** is a case in point. On this particular day, Dasher moved into the pasture where pigs spend their days grazing on the green grass with their strong porcine lips. To be fair, at the Zoo there is history of long-standing animosity between pigs & horses*. In this particular case Dasher chased down **Wilber** and nipped him on the side. Wilber squealed. When the keeper checked no injury was apparent, but Wilber was not a happy pig.

*Some years ago lovely female pig **Charlotte** shared pasture space with young males **Wilber & Templeton**. (Does *Charlotte's Web* come to mind?) Charlotte spent a lot of time bossing the pigs around. One day, Charlotte decided to take on big, gentle, golden horse **Gus**. Observers gasped as Charlotte gathered herself together at one end of the pasture and charged between Gus's legs. Gus kicked. And Charlotte was forever blind in her right eye. Did this slow her down? Not much.

Attendance Even with on-again off-again rain and storms 15,512 visitors braved the elements to hang out with the animals in January-February.

Scout

Female raccoon **Scout** was a former illegal "pet" and in 1998 came to the Zoo from the **California Department of Fish & Wildlife**. Over the years she tended to mind her own raccoon business until

recently when she became an enthusiastic participant in training. In no time at all Scout moved willingly into a transport crate and permitted hands-on touching that would be necessary for a veterinary exam. As a raccoon with an understanding of the value of treats, Scout waited at the gate for the next training session. Sadly, recently Scout was diagnosed with cancer and was gently euthanized.

Jade

Cat **Jade** has also passed away. Some years ago a dedicated feral cat rescue person spent months at **Robert F. Bauder's** small urban ranch catching feral cats. Some were neutered / spayed and turned loose. Some were captured for adoption and seven moved to the **Zoo Sanctuary**. In his memory, Mr. Bauder's family financed the construction of a sizeable Cat House (with a viewing window for visitors) that connects to an enclosed Cat Garden through a Cat Tunnel. Over the years **Docents** have spent untold hours working with "the ferals." Some have been adopted and all have benefitted from TLC.

Save the Date:

Friends of the Folsom Zoo

Growl, Howl & Wine

Saturday Evening

September 6, 2014

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