

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

December 2013 – January 2014

December 22, 2000. “**Stubborn.** For cat fans, the stubbornness of their feline friends is endearing. And so it is at the **Folsom Zoo.** For example, the snarls and threats of three legged bobcat **Akio** are – well – spunky. Mountain lion **Juniper**, however has Stubborn down to a science. Week after week, the **Keeper’s Journal** notes that “Juniper won’t move into the holding pens from the exhibit”. Conversely, she “won’t move out of the holding pen”. Spunky. A classic sight recently was Juniper Not Going In Even Though There Was Food Awaiting. She was sitting at the lower end of the outdoor exhibit, ears laid back, lovely long tail twitching just so – bottom end firmly planted in a big rain puddle. Immovable. Implacable. Spunky.”

New Zoo Signs! Leadership Folsom, 2013

Visit the astonishing and colorful new 3 foot by 4 foot Interactive Signs at the **Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary.** There’s lots to see, touch, and hear thanks to the generosity of: **Empire Ranch – All In The Family?**, **ThinkSmartInc. – Tiger Trivia**, **Brighton Schools–Pesky Parrot?**, **Vierra Moore Inc–Cool Cougars**, **Mercedes Benz, VanHousen.com – Oh Deer**, **Revolutions Naturopathic– Stay Safe In Bear Country**, **Folsom Tourism – Battle of The Bears**, **Palladio – Resourceful Raccoons**, **Folsom Tourism – Predator or Prey?**, **Procida Landscape Inc. – Wolf Whisperer**, **Folsom Auto Mall – Speak Horse? Of Course**, **VITEK Mortgage Group – Antlers or Horns**, **INTEL-Donkey Details**, **Procida–Wolf Behavior.**

The Quanset Hut

Long ago **Terry Jenkins** purchased a livestock size Quanset hut at **Placer Farm Supply** not anticipating its present use as a toy (as opposed to a shelter) for tiger **Misty.** Several times weekly everyone at the Zoo – and possibly all foothill communities – can hear Misty pushing her quanset hut around. Her strength is astounding. First the right leg. Screech! Then the left. Bang! Screech! Again and again, then a pause for short climb up and over the roof and back for more muscle work. Fortunately the hut is big enough that it jams against a strong fence pole in the center of the exhibit. Doing what cats do, after a workout with her Quanset Misty takes a nap.

Quan’set In 1941 the **United States Navy** needed an all-purpose lightweight building that could be shipped anywhere and assembled without skilled labor. **George A. Fuller** construction company produced the first batch in 60 days. More than 170,000 Quanset huts were manufactured during **World War II.**

The Strange Animal In The Classroom

The animal looks like a big gray rat with an extra thick tail upon which there were multiple scabs. The

first thought was that this was an exotic rat – but wait. No. It’s sweet blind gray squirrel **Helen** whose tail had been nipped numerous times by roomie **Nesse** and shaved by the vet. Never mind that these squirrels lived together in peace. Can’t you hear Nesse going on? “Everything was fine for years and years and suddenly I snapped” in this case literally. With a furless tail Helen seems to appreciate the warmth of the **Classroom** and the well-mannered animals in nearby cages: ferrets, Guinea pigs, prairie dog Holly, and lots of TLC from Zoo humans.

Cautionary Tale #1

Mini-horse **Dasher** nipped gentle zebu **Issac** for reasons of his own, but hard enough to draw blood. Issac received wound care & lots of sympathy from Zoo staff.

CT #2

A keeper pulled out his phone and took photos of poor pig **Templeton’s** bleeding tongue which is believed to have been bitten by his pasture – *um* – companion **Wilber.** (*Friend* wouldn’t be the appropriate word here). The photo was checked out by **Dr. Bob Morgan** at **Loomis Equine Hospital.**

Templeton is OK but he stayed in the stalls for a bit so keepers could gently rinse his poor tongue several times daily with cool, clear water.

CT #3

Spunky little (300+ pounds) female bear **Tahoe** has Attitude, but several weeks ago she had very unhappy insides. And no wonder. Tests showed that her intestines were harboring *Neorickettsia helminthoeca* But sympathy also should go to a trematode called *Nanophyetus salmincola* that was comfortably living in a wild trout that was served up for brunch. No big mystery to veterinarians. Tahoe and all the bears received 3 weeks of meds that were mixed with peanut butter & jelly served in ice cream cones. (Cook your trout.)

CT #4

Not to be left out, tiger **Pouncer** apparently lived up to her name leaving **Misty** with blood pumping out of a bite wound on her right rear leg. Keepers encouraged Misty to move to the smaller portion of the exhibit and because of on-going training she let keepers flush the wound with sterile saline.

The New Year Begins! Every day is a good day at the Zoo. Rain or shine, hot or cold, the animals raise everyone's spirits. **Wild Nights! Holiday Lights!** had the best year yet, with more than 8,600 attending. Total attendance for the month of December: 13,590.

Remembering A Cockroach

Madagascar Cockroaches have a long history with the **Zoo Sanctuary**. They are one of the quintessential "animals you can touch" for kids and even for squeamish adults. They're big, clean, don't bite and the males hiss in a satisfyingly creepy way. We are saddened that at five years of age, long lived **Bill** was the last of his cockroach group. There are 4,000 species of cockroaches and only 30 are considered (by some) as pests. Think how exciting it would be to have one of Bills's relatives, a 4-inch long giant cave cricket under your kitchen sink. By consuming organic waste cockroaches make the

world a better place. The tradition continues with a fresh batch of fine-looking cockroaches.

A Star Is Born

Handsome skunk **Funk** went traveling in his crate to a **Gold Country Wildlife Care Meeting** in Loomis. This was the first time he was away from home so the pressure was on. No surprise that Funk, when released into his little circular cloth corral was calm, inquisitive, handsome - a star. Yes, he's been de-scented.

Live! On TV!

Good Day Sacramento recently came to the **Zoo Sanctuary** to film macaques **Wallace & Darwin** as a way of thanking **La-Z-Boy** for the generous donation of \$2,500 to remodel the **Macaque Exhibit**. Cameras were ready. Monkey snacks were in place. Zoo People were ready. Microphone in hand **Cody Stark** from Good Day was ready. And out came the monks. This is where macaques paused and – what's the word? It's perfectly acceptable that camels have humps. Less acceptable with monkeys. Good Day blanked the screen. Laughter from everyone. Screen cleared. Monkeys took ten steps and continued, Etc. More laughter. Eventually the monkeys moved to the food. Thanks La-Z-Boy, the exhibit is greatly improved. Cody and the cameraman managed to gain enough control for a safe ride back to the studio.

Amazing! Astounding!

Friends of the Folsom Zoo

The Return Of

Growl, Howl & Wine

Saturday Evening, September 6, 2014

Mark your calendar now!

rratcliff@folsom.ca.us