

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

July – August 2015

Back To July, 2004. Puppy Stuff. “Wolf pups **Joshua** and **Yucca** are the darlings of their pack, the media, and apparently everybody else. They’ve appeared on television channels **3, 10, 13, 40,** and **31.** They’ve been featured in color on front pages of the **Folsom Telegraph, Folsom, Life, El Dorado Hills** and **Folsom** regional editions of the **Sacramento Bee.**” There’s a story. “**Joshua** is a fan of all things wet. He sits in the pool. He hunts submerged rocks. He sits in the galvanized tub of water and is occasionally distracted by that wolf tail that always seems to be there.”

“Keepers will let the hose run full blast across the concrete floor of the holding pen. **Yucca** plays at the fringes but **Joshua** digs and skids and has too much fun. Recently, he laid his cheek on the concrete snapping at the stream of water while his stomach slowly expanded.”

What’s A Meerschweinchen.

Two of them live at the Zoo. They originated in the Andes. Western traders introduced them as pets in the 16th Century. They are a diet staple in Peru and Bolivia and are served both at home and at restaurants. They are easy to keep and are high in protein and low in fat and calories. They are large for rodents. Unlike rats, they are poor climbers. Although shy, they will become friendly, loving pets. Humans can recognize quite a few of their vocalizations. One day in the **Zoo Classroom** guinea pigs **Pebbles** and **Coco** “trapped” themselves under the white shelf paper that covers the floor in the enclosure. Their screams were amazing. (They were rescued faster than you can pronounce Meerschweinchen.)

Mother and Child

As the long, hot summer slowly moves along young peafowl are still learning how to be grownups. In the center of the **Zoo** it is likely that some inventive climbing child up-rooted a very elderly plant. This area has been

cleared for fall planting. But a lovely peahen and her good looking teen-age chick have taken over the space. Mom and child have excavated a sizable dusty area adjacent to macaws **Rocky & Bingo.** Like chickens and many other birds, keeping feathers functional requires constant care. Some other dusting animals include bison, horses, prairie dogs and, yes, Zoo pigs **Wilber & Templeton.**

In April peahens lay an egg every other day until there’s a clutch of 7 to 10 eggs, which, with luck, will hatch in 27 -30 days. Peahens talk to chicks (called *poults*) by chirping. Youngsters stay with Mom for more than a year.

Snakes

In the summer it is not uncommon for snakes to move in, possibly seeking water that is available at all animal enclosures. The Zoo has spiffy **Snake Handling Equipment** which includes tongs specifically designed for the job plus a tall, deep bucket with a sturdy

lid. Captured snakes are carefully relocated back into the wild and where there is water.

Isabella

We are saddened by the passing of fox **Isabella**. She was the only fox in her litter of four that had a “cross” of dark fur on her shoulders. Isabella and siblings **Fern**, **Forest** and **Jasper** were born in 2001 at a Southern California facility that provided “wild animals” to the entertainment industry. As the last of her family at the **Zoo** Isabella spent a lot of time lounging on a six-foot high platform reached by a series of narrow walkways.

George

Handsome red rooster **George** has passed away as well. Several years ago he was “dropped off” at the Zoo and moved in with gentle chicken **Henny Penny**.

The chicken clan is thought to have been domesticated 10,000 years ago in **India** and now are the most widely farmed animal – some 25 billion worldwide. When you gather up some eggs from the box in the refrigerator you might be surprised that omnivorous chickens eat what you would expect – wholesome grains – and what you might not expect: lizards and small mice

Aerial

Children found Great Horned Owl **Aerial** after she fell from her nest. Trying to help, they put her in a small cage and fed her raw hamburger, not knowing that birds need natural foods with calcium and minerals. Her bones grew weak and a wing broke in three places. A veterinarian amputated the wing. Aerial moved to the Zoo when she was 5

years-old. Feathers help camouflage the Great Horned owl as it day sleeps in trees. Owls have excellent eyesight: their eyes are different than ours: they are long tubes supported by bony eye sockets. These birds don’t move their eyes from side like we can: they twist their heads almost all the way around so they have an excellent range of vision. Face feathers funnel sound to the bird’s ears so they hunt in the dark by listening, and glide silently on soft feathered wings to capture prey with sharp, hooked claws called *talons*. Rodents are primary prey, but these owls have a poor sense of smell and hunt skunks too!

GROWL, HOWL and WINE A Benefit for the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary

**Saturday, September 12
6 – 9 p.m.**

**At The
Folsom Community Center
52 Natoma Street**

**Sponsored by
Dignity Health – Mercy Hospital of Folsom**

**Wines! Tastings of Food & Beer!
Live Music!
Live & Silent Auctions!
Animal Encounters!**

**For Tickets & Information
FolsomZooFriends.org/GHW**

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