

KEEPING TRACK. FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

June – July, 2014

Keeping Track May, 2003: Pig Trap. As a child you were no doubt convinced that you could catch Whatever by putting down a trail of bread chunks leading to The Trap. As an adult, you learned that this is a failed concept. But, there are exceptions. The big pine tree in the pig exhibit was leaning dangerously and the pigs needed to move so a crew could cut the tree. Keepers – all children at one time – laid out a long row of bagel pieces leading to the nearby aviary safety fence gate. Pigs, no doubt with lore of their own, immediately figured out what was required. **Charlotte** and **Wilber** (or **Templeton** – they look very much alike) hopped over the sty fence and followed the bagel trail without incident. Templeton (or Wilber) took a little longer to grasp the concept but ultimately managed to get where he needed to be.

Taking Care Of August

Ferret **August** was adamant: he was *never* going to sit still for meds, but Zoo ferrets with diarrhea don't get to choose. Staff intuited that August would be very squirmy when held, so everyone settled down on the floor. **Keepers** squirted meds into a spoonful of jelly. August lapped up the jelly. Two other meds had to be squirted directly into his mouth which seemed to work OK but by the 3rd med August seemed "uninterested" (similar to the phrase "no way!") P.M. meds went better. The keeper holding August had a syringe filled with peanut butter. While the ferret licked, another keeper squirted meds on the peanut butter that was already in his mouth. Success.

Hunting Wolf

Given the number of free-roaming Zoo Fowl it's surprising how few are caught by alert predators. For example, the peafowl frequently hang out in the grassy, shady garden areas at the wolf exhibit. Several times a week one of these big birds, mostly males, will flap up and land precariously on the wolf fence. Rarely does one of the birds land inside the fence. But not never: several weeks ago wolf **Yucca** caught an unfortunate peacock and skipped his dinner that evening.

Hunter Macaque

Since most peahens and their chicks avoid the core Zoo area, everyone was surprised to see a peachick in – *yikes* - the **Macaque monkey** exhibit.

Fortunately a Keeper who was faster than a speeding monkey locked the monkeys out of the area thus being able to shift the macaques into a secure place and get the chick safely back to Mom.

Wallace

Macaque **Wallace** has epilepsy and receives meds twice daily which are, of course, mixed with peanut butter, jelly, and flavored yogurt. On occasion, Wallace willingly (if treats are involved) lets keepers draw blood from a rear leg artery.

There's a prominent sign on the Macaque monkey exhibit: "Please be aware. Although monkey Wallace is on long-term medication, he occasionally has seizures and he may be Down and Out for several minutes. If you see him fall, please contact the Zoo Ticket Booth." Visitors are always very concerned and cooperative.

Famous Bear

Recently young **Folsom Zoo Sanctuary** black bear **Henry** was once again the star of a segment on **Good Day Sacramento**. While he usually settles down for breakfast in his private night house with a big bowl of greens, assorted fruits and veggies (and ground meat or chicken three days a week) this special meal had been scattered in Henry's exhibit for better TV viewing. Since black bears have an endless list of favorite foods, Henry managed to get a lot done during the program. Thanks Good Day Sacramento!

Peacocks, Peahens, Peachicks

While the handsome males show-off in core Zoo areas, peahens with chicks usually stay in the shady fenced areas in the sheep and deer areas. Visitors can see little pea-families, with mom in the lead, youngsters all in a row and auntie taking up the rear as they march to the deer buckets in the forest ravine. Although hens are expert at camouflage and hiding eggs, the Zoo makes an effort to keep the peafowl population a reasonable size so keepers gather up whatever eggs they find for Zoo animal treats.

Attendance: May and June combined: 20,383!

Crash's New Friend

Before the Zookeeper could rescue the unfortunate visitor that was swimming in **Crash's** big pool, the raccoon became curious and snatched up the little lizard with his strong, black five-fingered right paw (he's very right handed). For several minutes Crash seemed to play with the lizard, which got away several times but was unable to climb up & out the slick sides of the pool. Crash watched, then grabbed it again until (as Nature intended) the lizard lost its tail. With Crash concentrating on the wiggling detached tail the Keeper was able to scoop up the little lizard and release it in a safe place.

Wild Birds

You've probably thrilled to the mega thousands of blackbirds spiraling into the sky at the **Yolo Causeway**. And while Zoo wild bird flocks currently are in the lower digits, the extended **wild blackbird family** that has returned to the Zoo for several years has grown in number. They hang around and then fly on to other lives. However, a young female blackbird spent several days seriously harassing one of the peacocks, riding on his back and pecking at him for hours.

The resident **English sparrow family** has expanded and apparently learned new skills. Several take baths in the cool shallow coyote pools, and are not adverse to carrying off little beaks-full of coyote

Iris's ground meat breakfast, so far with no incidents.

Gourmets

Imagine you are a Zookeeper delivering a bowlful of formerly frozen breakfast rats and being greeted by two *really big* swooping eagles with six-foot wingspans, serious beaks and sharp talons – birds who want their breakfast rats *now*. After this unsettling experience the Zoo humans decided on a food increase for the summer.

Hot!

With **Folsom** temperatures hitting the 106 mark a surprising number of visitors braved the weather until early afternoon. While many Zoo animals were on view, some were not. The tigers were belly down on the newly washed cool concrete floors of their dens. Wise monkeys were in and out of their air conditioned off-exhibit areas. Enterprising visiting kids discovered the fine mist spray attached to the aviary fence placed there specifically for Visiting Kids.

However, one of the champions of cooling down is big black bear **Sequoia** who was spotted submerged in his off-exhibit pool, chin resting on a round tan plastic floating drum with a V in the middle that exactly fits the chin of this formidable bear.

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Zoo Camp
ABC Camp
Pony Camp**

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