

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

August – September 2013

Happy Birthday Zoo! 50 Years Old and Looking Good!

APRIL 28, 1999

“Serendipity! Elderly pet macaque **Claudia** needed a home and **Folsom Zoo** macaque **Macho** needed a friend. After Claudia arrived at the Zoo, the twosome met on June 2, Macho was in the exhibit and Claudia in the safety of a crate. Either these are Two Cool Monkeys or they just weren’t instantly overwhelmed with love: they pretty much ignored each other. After a vet check Claudia spent the night in the quiet of the clinic and early on June 3rd a primate keeper took Claudia in her little crate to the exhibit holding area. (Safety plans had been made for all contingencies). As it turned out, Claudia got gently out of the crate. The keeper opened the gate to the exhibit. Claudia walked in and immediately zeroed in on Macho’s leftover breakfast. Again, Macho and Claudia ignored each other. It must be reported that at one point Macho did shove Claudia and she squeaked. But aside from that, so far all seems peaceful. In fact, Macho was seen grooming his (possibly) new friend.”

“Claudia is very beautiful and just a little wobbly. She has long, skinny arms and legs – she’s a little knock kneed – and she has a very *retro* crew cut. She wears what appears to be pale silver blue eye shadow which she flashes when she shows her teeth in a “smile”. Since non-human primates don’t smile, is this a grimace that’s used for appeasement? Is this why we humans smile? In any case Claudia has very Endearing Ways. “

Worried

A worried crowd gathered in front of the tiger exhibit. And with good reason: it appeared that both tigers were bleeding. As they were deciding which one of them would seek help, a Zoo person arrived with a temporary sign: ‘Zoo tigers have red paint on their chests. Like most Zoo animals they are excellent artists and were engaged in painting pictures yesterday’.

Make A Wish

A Zoo visit wasn’t quite like hanging with heavy metal band **Avenged Sevenfold** (aka A7X) but perhaps it was a respite for the whole family of a **Make A Wish** recipient who, with his parents and brothers, spent 14 hours on a plane from **Davenport, Iowa** to the **Sacramento Metal Fest Concert**. In a calmer setting Zoo **Docents** displayed animal artifacts, tigers **Pouncer** & **Misty** painted predominantly red works of art (see above) and up-close visits with **Zoo Livestock Animals** were a big hit. Currently Avenged Sevenfold has 14,661,461 internet *likes* which is just a few less than the **Zoo Sanctuary** during the past week.

Napping

Looking good and wearing his characteristic upturned snout, hog-nosed snake **Flick** has buried himself in some warm dark Eco Earth in his boudoir in the **Ops Building** for the fall / winter season. From being really small, Flick has reached 16 inches and is still growing. Hognose snakes can be timid, but if annoyed will flatten their necks,

raise their heads like a cobra and hiss. If this doesn’t work they might just roll over on their backs and play dead, tongue hanging out of the little snake mouth with possibly a little drop of blood. If “rescued” they’ll often roll back down as if insisting they really are deceased. Apparently hog-nosed snakes keep an eye out and resurrect sooner if the threat is looking away. Wild hog-nose snakes specialize in eating toads. No wonder they’re cranky.

Beware

Docents spend a lot of time providing better lives for **Zoo Outreach Animals**. Dogs **Annabelle** & **Marcus** are brushed and walked. Wolf dog hybrids **Kya** & **Lincoln** are brushed and hugged. They commune the feral cat crew and guinea pigs **Coco** & **Pebbles**, chickens and reptiles and turtle **Lilly**. Plus **Holly**, ferrets **Cinnamon** & **August** and the excellent livestock. Handsome rabbit **Kevin**, attired in a harness, hops about in the core Zoo and on occasion meets & greets visitors. On this particular day, all was well until **Kevin** wisely tucked himself under a bench possibly because there was a hawk circling overhead. Both rabbit and Docent moved inside.

Helen’s Paper Bag

Gray squirrel **Helen** has cataracts in both eyes and spent four years with a rehabber before moving to the Zoo in 2009. Recently she discovered the bottom half of a brown paper bag in her exhibit. While there may have been something edible in the bag, the best thing about it was that she could add this treasure to the rest of the paper

carefully crammed into her squirrel box. Given that the bag was taller and wider than either Helen or the entrance to her nest, there was a bit of a struggle but with perseverance she hauled it to a slender branch that was the highway to the nest entry. Ultimately Helen positioned the bag under the branch, embraced it with her skinny little left arm and reached her skinny little right arm up and grasped the branch. Whoa! Her back feet shot forward and she was hanging by one paw. Helen tried again. Same result. At the end of the day, parts of a brown paper bag were found tucked into the neighbor's abode. Eastern gray squirrel **Nesse** (shanghaied from Tennessee) spends quality time transferring stuff from Helen's box to her own.

Orchid

For a long time opossum **Orchid** has stayed inside the quiet, warm **Zoo Education Center** for special care. Born in 2011 she came to the Zoo in June 2012. Sadly, these special animals have short life spans. She passed away recently and her Zoo family is sad.

The dinosaurs who roamed the Earth for 70 million years are gone but opossums shared the land with them. Pink, embryonic infant opossums are so small at birth that 20 could fit in a teaspoon. These little guys continue to develop inside the pouch, then cling on mom's back until they're able to fend for themselves. Which North American animal has 50 teeth? And has an exceptional prehensile tail? You know who. Spotting an opossum in the wild is a treat and lucky is the neighborhood with these ancient animals cleaning out garden pests and rodents

Attendance for August was 10,098 nearly 3,000 more than last year at the same time.

Communication

As you know, prairie dog **Holly** rules the Zoo Ed Center, which also contains Zoo offices. Recently a staffer in one of the offices sneezed very hard. Holly immediately responded: chirp-*CHIRP!* and went back to her nap.

Yikes!

A lot of the zoo "electrical stuff" (technically speaking) is outside and adjacent to the **Zoo Ops** building. One morning recently an unfortunate rat climbed into the transformer and was electrocuted which blew the breaker. A keeper called a contractor who works with the Zoo and caught him moments before he left to go out of town for the weekend. He fixed the unit but while he was working on it he had some suggestions / warnings. The inside of the large breaker box had water sitting in it. It must be dry. This situation was remedied and the vigorous plant

growth surrounding the breaker box area was cut back. We're sorry for the rat.

Karen's Bakery and Café Does It Again!

Benefitting **Folsom Historic District**, the **Zoo**, and the **Friends**, the **Top of Folsom** event on top of **Sutter Street's** parking structure truly is the **Event of the Year**. On a warm evening the wines and brews and food and musical performances and crowds of spirited people were exceptional. Colorful works of art by **Zoo Animals** were snapped up, including *all* of squirrel **Helen's** paintings. An astonishing not-your-everyday windmill was created on site by artist **Rolf Samulewicz** Big silver feathers spin with the wind and the tower is braced on four levels by struts with silver animals - 4 wolves, 2 bears, 2 mountain lions rampant reaching toward a single howling coyote.

And the food - and the astonishing ice-cream sundae created in a big shiny brand-new 3-foot stock watering tank resting in dry ice. From the floor above Karen dropped gallons of vanilla ice cream into the tank. She poured warm chocolate sauce and scattered bags of walnuts on the ice cream. Below, 18 **Culinary Students** sprayed mounds of whipped cream on the nearly complete sundae. Then, the *piece-de-resistance*: from above Karen dropped one (1) perfect red cherry that landed in exactly the right place. Students, with pride and aplomb, delivered servings of this Amazing Creation to guests. Thanks, Karen.

Celebrate the Zoo's 50th Birthday

Saturday, October 5 . 10 am to 4 pm

Meet & Greet Special Animals

Check Out Animal Artifacts

Root BEAR floats by the Friends of the Zoo

Birthday Card Crafting Station

Face Painting Party Games

Sing & Dance with Music Mike

plus

A Special Birthday Treat for You!

Bring a Birthday Gift for the Animals!

Find the Wish List at
FolsomZooFriends.org

rratcliff@folsom.ca.us

