

# KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

September – October 2012

## The Problem With Ferrets

Male ferret **August** is sort of a large economy size ferret. His delicate white female ferret companion **Cinnamon** is petite. It seems to be true that August likes going for walks decked out in his lime green tube-shaped ferret harness (available in pet stores everywhere in a state where ferrets are illegal pets) since he can poke his inquisitive snout into everything. Recently a **Docent**, on her way to a **Storytime**, was walking through the Zoo with August lying comfortably along her arm. Other Docents were in the wolf dog hybrid exhibit brushing and socializing with **Lincoln** and **Kya**. The people, of course, stopped to talk and August stretched himself out and looked up at the hybrids. Unimpressed, Lincoln walked away. Not Kya. She spotted the “wild” ferret and began digging out. When this proved to be futile she attempted to climb up / or through the fence, to no avail.

## Marcus Barks At Cats

Walks before the Zoo opens are good for **Docents** and beasts alike. Livestock Guarding Dog **Annabelle** often lollygags along and **Marcus** barks at cats. All cats. Bobcats. Tigers. Mountain lions. Which attracted the attention of brown-eyed mountain lion youngster **Echo** who crept up ever-so-slowly to the fence in stalking mode. Inevitably he was joined by young female **Cedar** who apparently was not dog watching, but planning a little cat spat.

Marcus, also a professional Livestock Guarding Dog was recently sort of run over by a pig (which he most likely was harassing) and was limping a bit. Unkind persons suggest that where “injuries” are concerned Marcus is a Big Baby sometimes.

## Rolling

It should be no surprise that spunky prairie dog **Holly**, currently residing in the **Zoo Classroom**, has a serious daily routine. In the morning she awaits the arrival of a keeper, preferably a keeper with a breakfast of chopped fruit and greens and rodent chow (she’s a rodent.) Meal completed, she naps, but at some point Holly becomes the Digging Demon Prairie Dog From Heck whose aim at that particular moment is to completely destroy whatever has been lovingly placed in her cage. Hammock straps: chewed in pieces. Comforting flannel bedding folded just so: wadded into piles. Both climbing

ramps that ease her rotund body up and down the multi-floored cage: detached. All newspaper is shredded into stamp-size pieces. And, to assure that anyone within fifty feet is aware of her efforts, she gets a grip with her sharp pointed nails and pounds incessantly on the cage floor with her apparently indestructible nose. The day’s work done, Holly retires, rolled up face down in her little faux fur bed to nap profoundly. Do *not* attempt to arouse this animal. Fortunately, Holly has an unbreakable giant blue hamster ball in which she seems to enjoy a substantial amount of time rolling through rooms, bouncing off chairs, ricocheting off table legs and walls and generally snooping. Extra tape is used to assure the stability of the lid.

## Wild Behavior

During the hot days of summer, Zoo visitors rest on benches shaded by big white canvas umbrellas. Earlier this year the umbrellas were moved to the excellent **Top Of Folsom** event and returned to the front area of the Zoo to be redistributed. Early one morning, volunteer **Gunter** hefted a folded umbrella and hauled it past the monkeys – which set off macaque **Wallace** who shot to the top of the exhibit and vocalized (actually he yelled) something very loud and possibly very aggressive.

This behavior was mentioned to Gunter, who is experienced and animal savvy, so he walked back to spend some time talking to the macaques. Wallace came to the fence for a peaceful chat and then went on about his business. After a lot of discussion, Zoo people concluded that the umbrella folded on a long pole looked to Wallace, who in a previous life was a laboratory primate, like a net for catching up animals.

## Mini Donkey Spicy Jalapena Recovering

Plagued by a very painful abscess in her right front foot, miniature donkey **Hallie** (aka Spicy Jalapena) has been recovering at **Loomis Basin Equine Center**. Hoof abscesses can be caused by a tiny puncture wound or when objects like gravel work up into the hoof. Hallie is doing well and will be home soon.

As it is with all things Zoo, there’s a side-story. During the Sunday afternoon animal check, Hallie was discovered in severe pain. She was loaded into the horse

trailer and off she went to Loomis Basin. On the way a radiator hose burst, so donkey & staff pulled over at **Beals Point** and called Zoo staff person **Stu** who was out to dinner with family. He arrived with another truck, switched the horse trailer and, finally got Hallie to the vet. Does it surprise you that there were quite a few (unmentionable) donkey jokes on the journey?

### **Zebu**

The zebu came to the Zoo as a temporary **Public Service Display**. Their family was pleased with the high standard of care and visitors liked them a lot so the zebu stayed on. Zebu are an old and rare breed of miniature cattle. Originating in India, zebu are naturally small – forty-two inches at the shoulder - and they top out at 500 pounds. Pale gray, fading to white, zebu have distinctive shoulder humps, attractive droopy ears and large dewlaps. When they first came to the Zoo, **Ernie** and **Issac** were very overweight and have slimmed down substantially. They appear to enjoy being brushed by Docents and really like the proffered (of course wholesome) “zebu cookies.”

**Attendance:** September and October brought 14,823 visitors!

### **Marching Along Together**

Carrying a banner and animal hand puppets **Zoo Docents** joined at least half the citizens of **Folsom** marching in the **Veterans Day Parade**. Now a Folsom tradition, the first parade consisted of Zoo Docent and Veteran **Wayne Spence**, who with an American flag held high, marched all alone down Natoma Street. The parade is now named after Wayne, and his friends remember him as we honor the Veterans who gave so much for all of us.

### **Fire Hose**

Finding a source of retired fire hose is a big deal. It's the Best Thing Ever for animal hammocks: strong, sturdy, long-lasting. Recently **Eric Rusch** with the **California Department of Forestry** offered the Zoo some taken-out-of-service hose that has a history: it was used in **Auburn**, **Forest Hill** and the state of **Washington**. This heavy-weight hose is ideal for bears hammocks and the smaller hose is great for bobcat or raccoon hammocks where you'll see them, feet up, sound asleep.

We're looking for **Eagle Scouts** who might be interested in putting together some bear-size hammocks. It's not an easy job. but a very worthy enterprise.

## **Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals!**

**Thursday November 22 11 a.m.**

Join in the annual tradition of a holiday celebration for the animals. Watch as the animals receive their festive Thanksgiving meals, including pumpkin pie.

**Regular Zoo Admission**

## **Annual Holiday Party for the Animals**

**Saturday, December 8**

**Free Admission**

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Celebrate the best-of-all-animal parties!  
Santa will be on hand for Holiday Wishes!  
Each animal will receive festively wrapped packages!

For more information:

[www.folsomzooofriends.org](http://www.folsomzooofriends.org)

Your canned food donations are collected for  
**Folsom Twin Lakes Food bank.**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Holiday Event**

### **Wild Nights, Holiday Lights**

**Admission: \$5 per person \* Ages under 2 free**

Thousands of colorful LED lights!  
Enchanted Forest of Decorated Lighted Trees!  
Carolers! Refreshments!  
**Santa Claus & Santa Paws**  
Animal Presentations!  
**Starlight Express Train** (tickets \$2 )

**Hours: 5 to 8 p.m.**

**December 7 to 9 and December 14 to 23**

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