

KEEPING TRACK. FOLSOM CITY ZOO

September 2014

The Importance of Honey Bees for Sustaining Life on Earth

Students in a **Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary Summer Classes** learned a lot about honeybees. How important are honeybees? According to the **US Department of Agriculture**, these under-appreciated workers pollinate 80% of flowering crops which constitute 1/3 of everything we eat. Dietary staples like apples, broccoli, strawberries and nuts would be lost. Dairy industries depend on bees to pollinate the alfalfa for livestock feed. Zoo students wrote wonderful, brief, thoughtful letters and addressed them to **President Barack Obama**. They received the following letter in response (along with color photos inside the White House, a “signed” photo of the President, and some thought-provoking information. The letter follows:

Dear Students

Thank you for the thoughtful note you sent me. I have heard from many young people about animals they care about, and I am glad you took the time to write. It is up to all of us to be good stewards of the world we live in. One thing that means is we need to do everything we can to protect wildlife and its habitat. It also means taking good care of animals in our own neighborhoods – especially those that still need loving homes. Letters like yours give me the great hope that we can meet those responsibilities. In the years ahead, I encourage you to talk to adults you know and see if there are ways you can help animals in your community. By coming together behind causes we believe in, we can make lasting change. Thank you, again, for writing to me. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely, **Barack Obama**

Kayli

Cynomolgus Macaque

Macaques **Kayli** and **Wallace** both were born at a research facility, Kayli in May 2005 and Wallace one month earlier. Kayli recently moved to the **Folsom Zoo Sanctuary**. For several days she was separated from Wallace providing adjustment time for both primates.

On her own in a new place, Kayli carefully checked out her surroundings. She investigated the primate night-house and carefully viewed the visitor observation area. Kayli looked up and studied the sky. She tracked airplanes. She stretched out her arms and climbed up and down from perches and high resting areas, exercising new muscles and skills. Macaque face-to-face meetings between Kayli and Wallace were calm with Docents watching for any problems.

Now the monks spend days and nights together. There are hours of serious, gentle grooming and

sunning themselves. They sit together, touching, as good friends will.

Wild *Cynomolgus* macaques live in social groups in **South East Asia**. Female groups stay bonded while many young males move on. Like humans, macaques are “opportunistic omnivores – eating fruits, seeds, nuts, flowers, eggs, birds, frogs – whatever they can catch or harvest.

Lucy Has A Stuffy Little Nose

When one thinks of reptiles at all, they rarely consider that snakes may have uncomfortable stuffy noses just like humans. It was off to the Vet with snake **Lucy*** After a careful exam he returned and was placed into a humidity box of damp moss and was treated for a mild sinus infection. In Doc Talk, Lucy’s *nares* were plugged up and he had labored breathing. Lucy received an injection every 72 hours for a bit and has moved on to healthy snakehood.

*Back in the day snake Lucy was named after actress **Lucille Ball**. **Folsom Zoo** Lucy is a Royal Ball Python (get it?) and now all are aware that he is and always has been, a male snake.

Attendance: Many of September's 7,785 Zoo visitors were Moms with babies and little ones taking advantage of Zoo morning hours. Lots of walking and animals to see that leads to yes! – lengthy naps at home.

Missing Canyon

It's always difficult for a Zookeeper to discover an animal in distress. Raven **Canyon** was found "down" in the exhibit. Canyon is named after his Grand Canyon birthplace where he was discovered with a permanent wing injury and rescued. After recovering with a licensed wildlife rehabilitation volunteer Canyon moved to the **Zoo Sanctuary** in 1999. We are all saddened by his passing.

Aerial's New Perch

In 1991 barely fledged Great Horned Owl **Aerial** was found on the ground and "rescued" by a well meaning family that kept her in a parrot cage and fed her cooked hamburger. When it became clear that she was not doing well, Aerial moved on to a veterinarian. Both wings had been fractured and she was diagnosed with metabolic bone disease. Ultimately Aerial became a ward of the **Wildlife Care Association** and came to the **Folsom Zoo Sanctuary** in 1996 where she was an impressive **Outreach Animal**. Now retired, Aerial recently moved to a new, larger exhibit with neighboring male Zoo owl **Phineas**. Currently she spends lots of time at the highest place available – on top of her owl house. Aerial has also become very spunky, backing keepers off in no uncertain terms.

Study Your Own Owl Pellet

Great Horned owls get their name from feathers that stand up, like horns, on their heads. These owls are native to the Americas. For years kids in **Zoo Classes** have studied owl pellets, which are about the size of an oval golf ball. Owls swallow their food whole and eventually cough up a fully formed

dark gray or black owl pellet. To find your own owl pellet (and to see wild owls) approach **Folsom City Hall** from the **Zoo** side. When you come to the stairs, look to your left. In the soil near the wall you will, with careful observation, see many owl pellets. Then walk up the stairs. Look up to your left and high on the building you'll see a nice owl perch under the eaves, perfectly rain and wind free and decorated with owl- provided white streaks.

Pig Rules!

While there are two pigs at the **Zoo Sanctuary** **Wilber** is The Ruling Pig who at feeding time makes it his aim in life to run off pig-mate **Templeton** and donkeys **Rosarita** and **Spicy Jalapeno**. Wise livestock guarding dogs **Annabelle** and **Marcus** stand back, possibly amused and watch this daily scuffle. A Zookeeper confronts the animals. Then the whole troop moves toward private dining enclosures in the barn, pigs first, with donkeys thoughtfully bringing up the rear. No surprise that Wilber goes in first. The gate is secured. Templeton moves in next door. Donkeys each have their own separate private dining areas. And all is well. Until mealtime tomorrow.

Piggy Meals

Members of the porcine family really aren't picky but Zoo pigs receive well-thought out chow. Daily pig diets are a combo of chopped leafy greens, assorted veggies and fruits, plus three nutritious cups of pig chow.

Up Coming!

Annual Party for the Animals!

Saturday, December 13, 11 a.m. to 1 pm

Wild Nights – Holiday Lights

The Zoo Sanctuary Transformed!

Ablaze With Lights!

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