



SanctuarySCOOP

Keepers of the Wild | 13441 E. Highway 66 | Valentine, AZ 86437
www.keepersofthewild.org | info@keepersofthewild.org



(Tina Matejek, Hank Bargine, Greg Dobbs & Jonathan Kraft)

In mid December, Keepers of the Wild was contacted by veteran television journalist, Greg Dobbs. He asked if we were interested in a "behind the scenes" type segment featuring Keepers of the Wild. We agreed and set the date to start filming on January 22.

If you are not familiar with Greg Dobbs, he is an Emmy Award-winning and former longtime correspondent for ABC News (on World News, Nightline, 20/20, and Good Morning America). Dobbs currently reports for [HDNet's weekly television program called "World Report"](#).

Dobbs arrived as scheduled with cameraman Hank Bargine. Dobbs actually learned about us through Bargine who had shot a segment with Jonathan & Tina for National Geographic several years prior. On their first day here they filmed various aspects of sanctuary life including routine chores, staff and animal care. In addition, they were able to document the arrival of 2 new tigers that were retired from the entertainment industry. They were here for a couple of days and we enjoyed every minute of it. This show will air sometime in late February to early March...we'll keep you posted!

NEW ARRIVALS: MEET MERCURY & SAMPSON

Mercury and Sampson were both raised from babies to be used in the entertainment industry and have performed their entire lives. Recently they were brought to Keepers of the Wild where they will no longer perform and can enjoy their retirement--maybe even learn how to be tigers.

Mercury is a nine year old orange tiger & Sampson a sixteen year old white tiger, both are Bengal tigers. They are

currently in our quarantine area and are adjusting very well. We hope to build them a nice natural habitat in the very near future. If you would like to help contribute or sponsor a habitat, please contact us at: info@keepersofthewild.org or call 928-769-1800 Ext. 24



A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE AT KEEPERS OF THE WILD

Bam Bam the cougar was born March 1, 1994 and has been with Keepers of the Wild since 1996.



A little over a week before Christmas, Bam Bam had stopped eating. On the third day Jonathan & Tina decided to

load him in the transport for observation. Then they decided to take him to the veterinarian first thing in the morning.

Early in the morning, I (Nichole) walked into the care center and witnessed Jonathan curled up lying next to Bam Bam in the transport cage. Bam Bam was covered with a blanket and Jonathan had his arm and head resting on Bam Bam's still body. Tears welled up in my eyes--I thought Bam Bam had passed away. A quick sigh of relief came when I saw Bam Bam's eyes open. My "relief" did not last long--Jonathan lifted his head and I saw tears streaming down his face. He said, "I do not think he is going to make it to the vet, he's bleeding out", as he lifted the blanket back to reveal the soaked blankets. Jonathan has a lot of experience with older cats and has seen similar symptoms--he did not hold much hope. Jonathan got clean blankets and held Bam Bam up while I tucked the new blanket under Bam Bam's body. Jonathan then covered him back up and continued to talk and comfort Bam Bam while we waited for the team to arrive. Bam Bam was weak but was responsive and seemed appreciative of the care and affection he was receiving.

Once the team arrived they loaded the transport cage into the trailer and took him to the veterinarian. After a thorough examination and tests, the vet concluded that he was in the early stages of renal failure. Renal failure is very common in cats because their diet is high in protein. Also, in the wild a cougar would only live 10-12 years, Bam Bam will be eighteen in March.

Bam Bam was put on IV fluids to replenish his depleted state. Bam Bam was put on a regimen of medications and fluids---and lots of prayer. Bam Bam started to improve and would drink on his own but still refused to eat. Jonathan was getting nervous as time passed knowing that if Bam Bam would not eat, he would have to be put down. Then one glorious day there was a call that came over the radio- "BAM BAM ATE A PIECE OF LIVER!". Random radio keys were pressed from around the compound with the sounds of volunteers and staff rejoicing. While it was a small piece of liver--it was a big serving of hope to all of us! For a few days Bam Bam needed a little assistance to keep the food in his mouth--it was almost as if he had forgotten how to eat. After that he started eating his full portion of his food without any assistance from us. The year 2011 was a hard one but it sure ended well and started our new year out right!



MEDICAL NEWS: ANTHONY THE LION

We all knew that surgery was going to be a reality at some point in Anthony's future. However, that time has come earlier than expected. Anthony's condition is rare and more severe than we originally thought. He is scheduled for surgery this Saturday.

Our local veterinarians, Dr. Koeing and Dr. Cartwright, will be making the trip to Las Vegas to meet with the specialists. Dr. Walker & Dr. Arn are reproductive organ specialists that will be performing the surgery at the Desert Inn Animal Hospital in Las Vegas. Dr. Walker is flying in from Virginia & Dr. Arn from Nevada, as there are few veterinarians that have the knowledge or ability to perform this complex surgery.

We will keep you posted !

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!



Bob
African Spurred Tortoise
1/13/1997



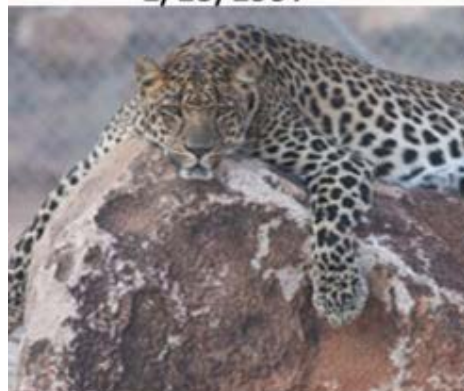
Elmo
Green Iguana
1/11/1996



Willie & Zeus - Cockatoo
Moluccan & Umbrella
1/1/1998



Bryce
Military Macaw
1/1/1998



Kobie - Spotted Leopard
1/29/2002



Akasha - Spotted Leopard
1/4/1993



Angel - Bob Cat
1/29/2002



Max-Brown Capuchin
1/1/2004



Snap- Pygmy Goat
Acquired on 1/15/2010



Crackle- Pygmy Goat
Acquired on 1/15/2010



Pop- Pygmy Goat
Acquired on 1/15/2010

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Anthony's Surgery Update:

Reproductive organ specialist, Dr. Walker, performed reconstructive surgery on Anthony early this month. This intense surgery lasted 3 1/2 hours to complete--we were all on pins and needles.

It was discovered that Anthony is a hermaphrodite and that his urethra ran into his colon which started to cause infection along with a myriad of other issues. In short, Anthony had some reconstructive surgery along with being "re-plumbed".

Anthony was brought back to the sanctuary and placed in the care center after his surgery. Anthony was not down for long, he was only in the care center for a couple of days. On the third day he outright demanded on being returned to his habitat and reunited with his coyote pal, Riley. To our surprise, once they were reunited, Anthony initiated a light round of play with his friend.

With a major surgery like this, Anthony must be continually monitored to make sure he is healing well and everything is functioning properly. However, he seems to be on the road to recovery and Dr. Walker seems very pleased with his progress so far. We will keep you updated on his progress.

Bam Bam Update:

Bam Bam our cougar is doing fantastic. He has been off all medications for about a month now and continues to eat his full diet.



Quality beef comes at a price!

In December we were forced to find a new meat vendor for our carnivores due to quality concerns. While the quality of the new beef is outstanding, so is the price--we have now tripled our beef bill.

Please do not forget about the "Freezer Fund". Now more than ever we need a freezer! Currently, we can only store 2-3 weeks worth of beef. We are unable to purchase meat in bulk at a discount because we do not have anywhere to store it.

Through on-line donations and checks received to date, we have raised a total of \$5034.00 toward the Freezer Fund.

To donate on-line follow this link: www.razoo.com/story/Freezerfund

Send checks or money orders to:
Keepers of the Wild | 13441 E. Highway 66 | Valentine, AZ 86437
or call (928) 769-1800 ext. 21 to donate by credit card.

T H A N K Y O U !

New Habitats Underway!



Our latest arrivals, Mercury and Sampson, will soon be able to enjoy roomy natural habitats. Construction started on February 26 and we hope their new habitats will be completed within two to three weeks. This will be the first opportunity in their lives in which they will not be confined to a pen with a concrete slab. We are very excited to see what their reaction will be once they are released.

If you would like to sponsor a habitat, please contact us at (928) 769-1800 ext. 24.



We would like to take a moment to thank Jim & Molly Woods for their dedication and support of our sanctuary. To show our appreciation and gratitude, they were presented with a plaque of sponsorship for one of our monkey habitats. It is amazing people like this that give our sanctuary the hope and support it needs to survive. Again, thank you.

We are forever grateful.



A big " THANK YOU" to Sandy & Allan Pompa for their generous donation of a 2001 Kawasaki Mule. Sandy & Allan are always very thoughtful and bring food and enrichment items for the animals on a regular basis. We would not survive without caring supporters like the Pompa's. Again, thank you!

HDNet's "World Report" Update:

The Keepers of the Wild segment will not air until the end of March. The exact air date has not been determined yet. When we find out we will send out an e-mail notification to all of you that receive our e-newsletter so you can tune in!

"BREAK THE CHAIN"

Please join us to Break The Chain in the United States, and help create a national network of dedicated campaigners, determined to end the suffering of animals in circuses.

Support H.R. 3359, the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act, federal legislation introduced by Congressman Jim Moran which seeks to end the use of wild animals in traveling circuses

[Click here to send an automated
email message
to your member of congress!](#)

or contact

Arizona Congress:
Trent Franks (623)-776-7911
Washington: (202)-225-4576
Staffer: bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL TODAY!!!

[Click here: Animal Sponsorship Form](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Moondance
Hybrid Wolf
DOB: 2/5/1997



Smellvin
Champagne Skunk
DOB: 2/20/2008



Snickers
Llama
Acquired: 2/5/2011



Archie
Green Winged Macaw
DOB: 2/16/1993

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THANK YOU!

THE FREEZER FUND IS FUNDED!!

We are happy to announce that the Freezer Fund has been funded. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who donated to the Freezer Fund.

Long-time supporters of Keepers of the Wild, James and Virginia Stevenson, contacted us this month and donated a staggering \$20,000.00. We are in awe and humbled by your generous donation.

We are currently making arrangements for the set-up and purchase of the walk-in freezer.

Again, thank you- we are so grateful to all of you!



Grace: Bengal Tiger 3/19/2003



Sasha: Bengal Tiger 3/17/2003



Skylar: Bengal Tiger 3/17/2003



Sebastian: Bengal Tiger 3/17/2003



BamBam: Cougar 3/1/1994



*It is springtime again and babies are being born. If you encounter a baby alone in the wild, **DO NOT REMOVE** it from its environment!*

Wild animals are much more adapted for survival than most of us realize. So while it's appropriate to help a young wild animal who falls victim to pesticides or automobiles, we should be aware that we may cause more harm than good when we step in to help.

The best thing to do if you have a concern about an animal in the wild is to contact your local Game and Fish Department or your local Animal Control.



Rocky: Coatimundi 3/2004

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Greta: Pygmy Goats 3/29/2010



Heidi: Pygmy Goat 3/12/2010



Slippers: Rooster 3/15/2004



Zoe: Bobcat 3/2008



Chloe: Bobcat 3/10/2010



WORLD REPORT AIR DATE:

The Keepers of the Wild segment will air Tuesday, April 10th on HDNet's weekly television program called "World Report".

World Report airs on Tuesday nights at 9 p.m. EDT, 8pm Central, 7 p.m. Mountain and 6 p.m. Pacific...then again three hours later in each time zone.

HDNet is on DirecTV, Dish Network, Comcast Cable, AT&T Cable, and most of the other cable systems (but not all) across the US. To find out if this broadcast is available in your area, [click here](#) and enter your zip code into the channel locator.

You can also watch on-line episodes of "World Report" by visiting HDNet's website by [clicking here](#).

AROUND THE PARK

We have completed new den boxes for four of our tigers- William, Victor, Ben & Sheena. These are state of the art permanent boxes with interchangeable panels.

The den boxes are constructed of solid steel framing with 3/4" plywood panels that are thoroughly sealed and all of the edges are lined in aluminum. Each den box is 17 feet in length, 4 feet deep, and 3 1/2 feet high. The average cost is \$1,800.00 per den box.

*****A special thanks goes out to long-time volunteers, Red Harper and Don Martin, for contributing their time and skills. These den boxes greatly improve the quality of life for our animals.*****

HABITAT UPDATE: The habitats for Mercury & Sampson (bengal tigers) are still in the works. The project is taking longer than expected due to broken equipment, which required ordering new parts and repair.

Anthony: African Lion 3/16/2011

ANTHONY UPDATE: We are in communication with Dr. Walker on a regular basis and continue to monitor Anthony closely. It will be a long healing process but Anthony is doing well and better than expected this early after surgery.

Anthony turned a year old this month on the 16th. He is eating up to 7 pounds of beef per day now. He is quite playful and is working very hard on his roar--- our sweet little lion is growing up!



NEW PROJECT: EXPANSION FUND

We have many plans for the future development of the 175 acre property that Keepers of the Wild is nestled on. However, our first priority is to expand several of our smaller animal habitats including coyotes, raccoons, coatimundis, bobcats and to build four new outdoor aviaries for our birds.

If you can help with a donation of materials, labor or are interested in sponsoring an animal habitat, please contact us

at:

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THE FREEZER HAS ARRIVED!

The freezer was delivered on Friday, April 27th. Upon the freezer's arrival, the first attempt to unload it from the semi was unsuccessful...Mike's towing company had to call in their largest wrecker for this job. After the arrival of the second tow truck it went smoothly and the freezer was placed near the Animal Care Center.

The electrician is here today to wire it and hopefully we will be able to use it very soon.

Again, a big "THANK YOU" to everyone that made the purchase of the freezer possible- we are eternally grateful! You will see a very happy Jonathan in the photo below.



THANK YOU to Discount Tires & Bill Simpson of Prescott, AZ. for the generous donation of four tires for our quad, we truly appreciate it!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month we would like to introduce you to Shawn Cornwall, a.k.a. "Burger". He has shown a unique interest and dedication to all of the animals and everyone at the sanctuary. Shawn was hired on as a part-time employee and continues to donate 2 days a week. This is the kind of care and team spirit we strive for!! Thank you Shawn, we are glad to have you on our team!!

-
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Break the Chain- Help Stop Circus Animal Suffering

Minutes of Entertainment = A Lifetime of Misery for Exotic Animals

Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act, H.R. 3359

We urgently need you to contact your member of Congress and ask them to support HR 3359, the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act, to restrict the use of wild animals in traveling circuses.

The Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act, HR 3359 was introduced in congress by Congressman Jim Moran (Virginia) Ringlings home state.

[H.R. 3359](#)

[Read a copy of the bill](#)

Take Action!

Contact your member of Congress and ask for their support and co-sponsorship of this important animal protection legislation.

UPDATES:

1) If you were unable to view the Keepers of the Wild segment that aired on HDNet's World Report... you can view the segment by following [this link to our website](#) or visit our [Facebook page](#).

2) Bam Bam our senior cougar is still doing great...he is amazing!

3) Mercury & Sampson's habitat is still under construction but making progress. We will post photos in next month's newsletter.



Young Scholars Academy Field Trip to Keepers of the Wild

On April 16th , two 3rd grade classes (approx. 50 children) from Young Scholars Academy took a field trip to Keepers of the Wild.

Unbeknownst to us, they conducted a food drive and surprised us with all the food items they collected for the animals. It is inspiring to see the younger generation learning the value of giving back. We are so grateful and enjoyed their visit.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Malachi, Moses, Marilyn & Millie
Bengal Tigers
4/8/2006



William & Victor
Bengal Tigers
4/22/2006



Jack & Jill
Coyotes
4/2007 & 4/2009



Scooter & Tess 4/2008
Randy & Chevy 4/2010
Raccoons



Pawnee, Tewa & Montana
Grey Wolves
4/20/1999



Colorado
Grey Wolf
4/20/1999



Tara
Bobcat
4/28/1994



Baby
Cougar
4/18/1995



Kitty
Eurasian/Siberian Lynx
4/11/1997



We received a call about an abandoned baby owl that was found in the desert near Kingman, AZ. The baby had no apparent injuries. Jonathan picked up the owl in Kingman and drove it to Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center located in Phoenix, AZ. If the owl does not have any health or physical limitations, he will be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.



Riley
Coyote
4/18/2011



On April 26, 2012 we lost our beloved leopard, Emma. She passed away due to complications of old age. Emma was born on May 5, 1991.

We miss you Emma!

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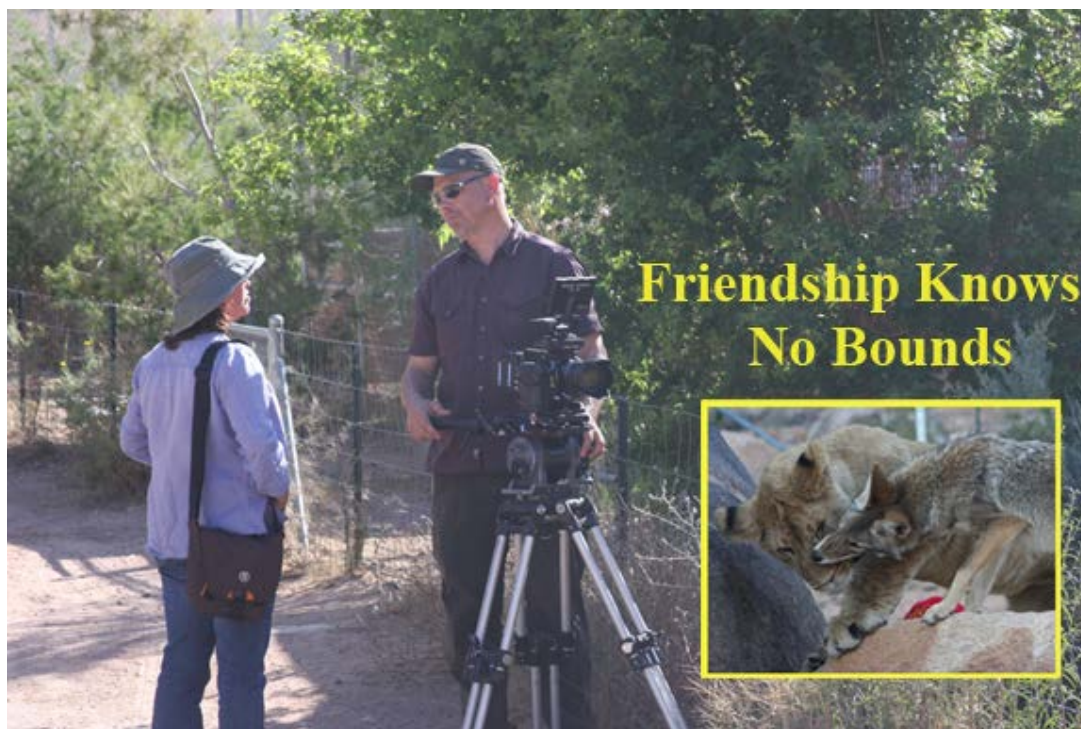


Jonathan Kraft, Congressman Paul Gosar & Tina Matejek

Tina, Senator Ron Gould & Jonathan

Jonathan and Tina were able to meet and speak with Congressman Paul Gosar & Senator Ronald Gould in regards to bipartisan bill HR 3359. Keepers of the Wild is not endorsing or affiliated with any party or candidates, our mission is to educate and raise awareness about the abuse of exotic animals and the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act (HR 3359) to everyone. We felt both candidates were very receptive and willing to review the packages we provided them. We are encouraged and look forward to a response. We will keep you posted!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Producer, Susan Fleming and cameraman Keith were on-site at Keepers of the Wild for a few days to shoot footage for a documentary film for the PBS television series *Nature*. The focus of this documentary is to reveal inter-species relationships – animals of different species who have formed a unique bond or friendship. While their primary focus was the special bond between Anthony and Riley, they said the park was beautiful and enjoyed their time here. The documentary will air sometime in October or November. Don't worry...we will let you know the air date.



We were visited by a large group of students from Aberdeen, Scotland this month. They watched the Keepers of the Wild segment on "Billy Connolly's Route 66". They decided to come experience the "Wild Side" of Route 66 for themselves. Thanks to the exposure of the Billy Connolly series we've received much European support. Thanks again Billy!

We've actually had a spring filled with many field trip visits from various schools and youth groups. In May alone, close to 300 children visited the sanctuary including Blake School, Manzanita, Mohave Valley, and the Girl Scouts.

Our educational tours and presentations are designed to enhance an individual's knowledge regarding the plight of exotic and wild animals in captivity, including why these animals do not make good pets. We are excited to help educate the next

generation and would like to share one of the letters we received this month from a child in the second grade... [click here to read.](#)



Mercury & Sampson's habitats are almost finished. We cannot wait to see the tigers released into their new home! All of the fencing is up but still needs some spot welding in a few areas. We have to level areas for the holding enclosures and then disassemble, move and reassemble the holding enclosures at the habitat site. The perimeter fencing around the habitats is being staked out today and must be completed before we can move the tigers. We should have the tigers set up and moved in by June 15th. This project has taken much longer and cost far more than expected with the terrain and equipment issues we've had. We are looking forward to the completion of this project and would like to thank Tim Curry for all of his help and work!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Bengali (Bengal Tiger)	05/02/2001	Squeak (Stump-tail Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Shelby (Grand Eclectus)	05/16/1993
Niko (Siberian Tiger)	05/20/2004	Buster (Stump-tail Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Sparkle (Sun Conure)	05/2004*
Zeus (Siberian Tiger)	05/20/2004	Cinderee (Bonnet Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Edgar (Raven)	05/01/1999*
Sultan (African Lion)	05/02/2001	Carlos (Bonnet Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Poe (Raven)	05/01/2004*
Hope (Jaguar)	05/14/1994	Dexter (Stump-tail Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Leonardo (Alpaca)	05/10/2000
Jordan (African Serval)	05/2002*	Tempur (Bonnet Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Katie (Ball Python)	05/12/1994
Meika (Raccoon)	05/12/2000	Vladimir (Bonnet Macaque)	05/24/2007*	Cody (Coatimundi)	05/16/2007
Wici (Raccoon)	05/12/2000	Juliette (Bonnet Macaque)	05/24/2007*		
Cornelius (Raccoon)	05/30/2009 *	JoJo (Spider Monkey)	05/24/2007*		

We do not always know the exact birthdates of our rescued friends. Dates starred are acquired dates for those we are unsure of.

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL TODAY!!!

[Click here](#) to sponsor your favorite animal with our new on-line form!



One of our favorite gift shop gals, Ali, moved to Colorado on Memorial Day. We miss you Ali!



On May 20th, we unexpectedly lost our male ostrich, Q. His BIG personality will be missed by all!

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(Photos taken on day of arrival)

Mercury & Sampson "Free at Last"

Sampson is 16 years old and Mercury is 9 years old, they were both raised from babies to be used in the entertainment industry and have performed their entire lives. They have only known small chain link enclosures, cement flooring, and transport cages.

They were retired at Keepers of the Wild in late January and remained in our quarantine area while we constructed their new habitats. The great news is that the habitats are complete.

The really exciting news is that they were released into their new habitats on June 15th. For the first time in their lives they experienced grass, trees, natural rock formations and have plenty of room to roam. OHHH! and let's not forget about their pools.

We created a slide show so you can see the journey for yourself! [Click here](#) to watch.

In addition to the tigers getting a new habitat, the ravens and hawks also were introduced into new extended flight enclosures.

At this time we want to focus on the expansion of the coyote habitat and are in desperate need for bird aviaries. If you would like to help with or sponsor a habitat, please contact us at: (928) 769-1800 ext. 24.

It has come to our attention that the saga of Karl Mitchell continues. If you are not familiar with this individual, he is a well known animal abuser - amongst other things. [Click here](#) to read the article by George Knapp, an investigative reporter for KLAS Channel 8 in Las Vegas.

Throughout the years along with George Knapp and Linda Faso, we continue to watch and try to get him shut down. We have witnessed some of his animal victims, including Elvis the lion.

It will be a proud and successful day in the animal world if we can stop this individual from owning and mistreating another animal.



Akila is a 14 year old hybrid wolf that recently underwent surgery. It was observed that she was experiencing discomfort when she ate so we took her to the vet to have her teeth checked. It was discovered that it was not her teeth that were the problem but rather a large tumor on her tongue. They had to remove about an inch off the right side of her tongue. She is recovering nicely and eating on her own.

[Click here](#) if you would like to view our 2011 Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements or visit our website at: www.keepersofthewild.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Bobcats:

Annabelle 6/10/2010

Casanova 6/2010

Flo 6/2010

Daisy 6/2010

Coatimundi:

Meeka 6/15/1998

Emus:

Sir William 6/1/1997

Gertude 6/1/1997

James 6/1/1997

Penelope 6/1/1997

Ralph 6/1/1997

Rhett 6/1/2002

Llama:

Snowy 6/01/2001

Raccoon:

Lily 6/2010

Iguana:

Charmaine 6/01/2000



All the tigers pools were distributed and they are putting them to good use!

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