



INDIGO MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

A Sanctuary for Wild and Exotic Animals

Sanctuary • Rescue • Education

Volume 7, Issue 1

November, 2007

It's Been a Busy Year

We have been very active with the rescue and placement of animals this year. As one state after another bans the private ownership of wild and exotic animals there are more animals in dire need of rehoming than ever before. Many Animal Rights organizations are leading a war on exotic animals, unfortunately there have been many casualties and too few quality sanctuaries to care for them. Not a day goes by that we don't learn of at least one animal in desperate need. Sadly, we can't say yes to them all and still provide the highest quality of care. But we have been instrumental in rescuing a number of animals this year and the sanctuary is now home to a few new faces.

The first inhabitants were three Bengal cats named Snoopy, Jones and Fancy. Snoopy and Jones had been rescues from a Denver shelter. They have since been adopted out to a very qualified home. Fancy, a retired breeder lacks the socialization that she needs to be adopted out to most homes. She is quite shy and aloof. So it looks like she will be making IMNC a permanent home.



Fancy

It wasn't long before word got out that we were rescuing hybrid cats. Sure enough, we got a call from a man looking for a home for his Bengal because she had taken a liking to his expensive Persian rugs. It seems Rupee believes they make a great litter box. She is a beautiful seal mink Bengal with intense pumpkin colored eyes.



Rupee

Inside this issue:

A BUSY YEAR	2
GOODBYE	3
THANK YOUS	4
DAVE RIZER	4
TURKEY TIME	5
SANTA WOLF	5
NEWSLETTERS ONLINE	5



We have talked about turning the cabin into an enclosure for years, and we finally got around to doing the necessary renovations this summer so we could provide a safe and warm home to some hybrid cats that wouldn't enjoy our cold, wet winters.

Indigo Mountain Nature Center

P.O. Box 208
Lake George, CO 80827
www.indigomtn.org
719-748-5550

Board Members:

George Bianchi
Jim Broyles
Sue Cranston
Marsha Gilbert
Carol Scarborough
Cheryl Streater
Nancy Weber

A Busy Year continued

The Bengals aren't the only new critters to call Indigo Mountain home. A number of local animal shelters contact us for help with all sorts of alternative pets and exotic animals big and small. So it wasn't out of the ordinary to get a voice mail from one shelter manager saying she needed our help with something a little different.



Bert

What was out of the ordinary was the request to take in some American Green Tree frogs. That isn't something we get a lot of calls for, but it was a species we knew a little bit about. Sue spent more than her share of time playing with the little amphibians in her youth.

Bert and Ernie were casualties of the pet trade. Someone thought they would be fun pets that wouldn't take much time and didn't cost a lot. Then they found out that they require high humidity levels and temperatures not easily duplicated in Colorado. They also eat live crickets and require supplements to keep them healthy. If that isn't enough, 90% of all reptiles and amphibians carry and shed salmonella. All in all, they aren't the ideal pet for a first time amphibian owner.

The diversification of species continued when we received a call from a woman begging us to take in an African Pygmy hedgehog that her ex-husband had obtained for their 8 year old son. It seems she was none too thrilled with the prickly little pet and he



Humphrey

had to go that day! So Humphrey, the hedgehog is now taking up residency with us.

In August, Sequoia, a high content wolfdog escaped her backyard in Utah and promptly landed in puppy prison at the local Animal Control. This was her second offense and very nearly ended her life. Fortunately, Heidi Franc from Wildgain Utah was able to rescue her from the gas chamber and a week later Heidi transported her to Colorado to meet us.



Sequoia

Sequoia is a beautiful, but very shy wolfdog that is taking a lot of our time to try to teach to trust humans again. Due to her poor socialization while growing up she is not considered to be "companion" quality and therefore, not adoptable.

In September, the Nebraska Humane Society asked for our help in placing a number of animals



Teton

that had been confiscated from a breeder in IA. They had 50 dogs, wolfdogs and bobcats needing homes. Once the case was settled and judge signed

the them over to the Humane Society, the low content Great Pyrenees-Malamute-Wolfdog puppies from two different litters were brought to Indigo Mountain. Most of the pups have been placed in experienced homes, but two of the 2 month old pups remain with us as they continue to battle canine influenza.

Thank you to Dr. Joel Stahlecker of Cotton-

A Busy Year continued

woods Veterinary Services and to Dr. Jeffrey Steen of VCA/Alameda East Veterinary Hospital for their help



Shastina

in getting these puppies healthy.

We would also like to thank Darlene Kobobel and the staff at Colorado Wolf and Wildlife for

helping in the placement of these puppies.

We couldn't handle a third litter from Nebraska without seriously losing our sanity, so we asked Karen Cooper, a wolfdog rescuer in Oklahoma for her help. She stepped up to offer one of her foster homes to care for the 5 border collie-wolfdog mixes until they can be placed in permanent homes.

Thank you to Karen for all her help to save these little guys. You can see all the adoptable animals at www.indigomtn.org. Just click on the Adoptables button. Help us find them a home!



Goodbyes: Ahyoka

We are told Ahyoka, her mate and seven tiny puppies had been collected from the mountains of New Mexico after their owner had died in 1999. They were taken to the North American Wolf Association. Four short years later, she and her pups were in need of rescue again. This is when we first met Ahyoka. We found her malnourished, dehydrated and running a high temperature. She was petrified of people and huddled in a corner of a tiny cage with her son, As Gaya Dihi.

A few short months later, Ahyoka and the rest of the NAWA rescues were brought to their new home at IMNC. They thrived on their new diet, fresh water and plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. In

time, Ahyoka was comfortable around the people who cared for her daily.

Sadly, in April Ahyoka suffered a stroke. She rebounded throughout the next few months and received the extra care she needed, but by mid July she seemed to be disoriented more often and her health was clearly declining.

One Sunday morning in July we found her huddled in the far corner of her habitat. She was completely disoriented and barely able to move. We quickly carried her into our clinic area to do a physical exam and began trying to locate a vet. It never fails, emergencies happen on Sunday mornings!

We were able to find Cheryl Streater at home and she in turn was able to reach Dr. Joel Stahlecker. We discussed the options and decided it was time to end Ahyoka's suffering. That morning we made the decision to help Ahyoka pass peacefully away surrounded by all those that cared for her.



Ahyoka

Thank you to Dr. Stahlecker and Cheryl Streater.

**Thank You for your Support
We couldn't do it without you!**

Kelly Ade
Diane Alexander
Ron & Cindy Altman
Kristi Angell
Animal Health Options
Apogee Inc.
Helen Barclay-Lind
Doreen Barnhart
Kathleen Bergman
George Bianchi
Diana Biggs
Bob & Carol Bishop
Janet Burk
Diana Butera
Barbara Cranston
Michael Davis
Kathryn Derr
Harold DeVore
Elitch Gardens
Lyndsey Ervin

Gerald & Theresa Farney
Heilke Franzen-Pratt
Front Range Bears
Sasha Gaynor
Marsha Gilbert
Good Search
Janice Gurney
Regina Guzzo-Ward
Claire Haas
Carrie Herring
Tina Herron
Elizabeth Hirose
Sue Holman
HSBC
ING
Jenkins Science Club
Mack & Sharon Johnson
Robert & Marsha Lamb
Dian Lea
Jerry & Shelley Leiser

Janet Mallow
Bruce & Karen Marr
Caroline Martin
Cassidey Messinger
Jim & Judy Miers
Katy Miller
Larry & Kathy Moore
Linda Noel
Park County Combined
Courts
Sheri Pigo
Dennis & Bonnie Pilgard
Purina Rally to Rescue
Miguel Razo
Stormy Renee
Rigden Inc.
Rocky Mtn Nature Assn
The Rophi Foundation
Mary Rowden
Ramie Saragian

Kaylyn Sievert
S.R. Simpson-Dogon
Aldytha Stewart
Maryann Streater
Lynn Swanson
Gisela Tilch
Peter & Connie Treasure
Skip Vena
Pamela Waddell
Barbara Walker
Ryan Watson
Nancy Weber
Thomas & Kathryn Willoughby
Carole Yourth

Thank You Dave!

Dave Rizer has been a strong supporter and a fantastic volunteer since 2002. He has manned the jackhammer, the auger, poured concrete and pounded fence staples until he couldn't raise his arms. He has endured the shoveling of bear poop and slicing and dicing trout for enrichment. He is wonderful with the animals and has been a huge help with our computer systems. In short, Dave is one of a kind!

Recently, he arranged for a donation of new computer equipment from his employer Hewlett Packard through their Gifts In Kind International Program. Dave and HP's donation will allow us to keep more accurate daily records of the animal's care, make our education programs more high tech and you will be seeing some wonderful upgrades to our website very shortly.

Thank You Dave for all you do!

Thank You to HP too!



Dave and Chato

It's Turkey Time: Become a Sponsor

Our animals are used to pumpkin smashing, apple bobbing, Christmas tree shredding and Easter Egg hide & seek parties. This year we thought we would add a few new enrichment events to their calendar. On December 1 we will have Turkey Time, a day where each of the critters will enjoy their own stuffed turkey. No, cornbread stuffing, just their vitamin packed "meatloaf" inside.

We'll take plenty of photos and load them on the website as we watch as they "wolf" down their treats.

But we need your help. Sponsor a turkey for \$25. This fundraiser will also help feed the animals for days to come. Remember, it costs \$1.56 per day for each canine. Please sponsor a turkey today!



Satinka enjoying a turkey leg

Santa Wolf is Coming to Town

The critters have all been good this year and we hear tell they have been sending their Christmas lists to Santa Wolf. In order to make sure Santa Wolf has a full sleigh we need your help. Please send your donations to purchase stuffed toys for all in time for Christmas. The Critter Christmas Party will be held on Dec 29.



Mofassa (above), Yana Usdi (left), Takoda (below)

Newsletter Online

Beginning with this issue we will be uploading our newsletters to the www.indigomtn.org website. This will allow us to reach thousands more and cut the costs of printing and mailing. We will still offer a printed copy to anyone who wishes. For those of you who would like to sign up for the on-line version please send an email to Maillist@indigomtn.org with your name and e-mail address and we will do the rest.

Spread the word. Be sure to tell your friends about us. Our success depends on community support.

P.O. Box 208
Lake George, CO 80827

Phone: 719-748-5550
Email: IMNC@indigomtn.org

We're on the web!
www.indigomtn.org

Your Contributions are the Life Blood of Indigo Mountain

- Please apply my contribution of \$_____ to the Turkey Time fundraiser
- Please apply my contribution of \$_____ to the Critter Christmas Party
- Please apply my contribution of \$_____ to the operation of IMNC
- I would like to volunteer with IMNC. I am available ___ weekday ___ weekends

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ ST____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Indigo Mountain Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Please accept our thanks for your continued support!