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Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675



Newsletter of Critter Creek Wildlife Station Spring 2007 Volume 12, No. 1

OPEN HOUSE WILL FEATURE A SPECIAL DEBUT ON APRIL 21ST

SHASTA

Shasta is a 7 month old mountain lion cub that was surrendered by a family who recently moved to California from Nevada where a utility crew found the cub, so young its eyes were still closed. Assuming it had been abandoned, the crew left him in the care of the family. After several months of diligent care, the family moved to California, learned that it was illegal to have any wildlife as a pet and arranged for its care with Critter Creek. Mountain lions, from in or out of state, are not rehabilitated in the state of California. For the last 3 months, we have been working with Shasta to keep him as handle-able as possible. He is currently in his juvenile outdoor enclosure getting accustomed to more and more visitors. We have plans for a permanent adult enclosure which we hope to have completed in 6-8 months.



Critter Creek Chronicle

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Come to our next Open House and meet our new residents.

Saturday, April 21st, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Last tour begins at 1:30 p.m.



CHEENA

It has also been a very busy winter season for us. The Selma Police Department brought us a capuchin monkey they caught roaming the city. After reporting the monkey to Fish and Game, we learned that a perpetrator fitting the monkey's description had ransacked two different homes in a Sanger neighborhood. One neighbor recognized it as a pet owned by someone in the neighborhood. Fish and Game had been trying to track down the monkey when it appeared in Selma. Now no one claims ownership so Cheena has become a permanent resident and Critter Creek is again home for an orphaned monkey.

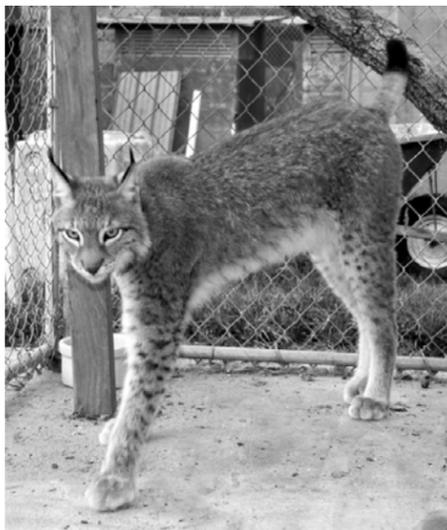


AMAZING CATS

We are also temporarily housing three very exotic cats confiscated from Armona. For a time, you will be able to meet:

Achilles (Siberian lynx)

A lynx is a medium-sized cat with a short tail and long legs. On the Siberian lynx the end of the tail looks like it has been dipped in black paint. The head has a cheek beard, and the long, tapered ears have tufts. These tufts act as antenna helping them to hear and locate sound sources. They have large paws that have fur padding on the edges and between the balls of the soles. This adaptation increases the surface area of the paw preventing them from sinking in the snow and protecting them from cold. They are found in forested regions in northern Eurasia. They can live over 21 years in captivity.



Simba (caracal)

A caracal is a close relative of the lynx. It has long legs, ear tufts, but lacks the cheek beard. The body fur can range from wine-red to yellow-gray. The underside is white. It has black spots above the eye and black on the whiskers. The caracal is found in both Africa and Asia. It lives in savanna or rocky terrain. A favorite food is low-flying birds that it is able to catch by jumping high into the air. The caracal breeds readily in captivity.



Zeke (serval)

A serval is a medium-sized cat with long legs. It has a narrow head with broad, rounded ears whose inner edges almost touch, giving it a highly attentive look. The coat is leopard-like with spots that span a wide color variation. They are from western and central Africa in savanna/shrubby regions. They prefer grassy, reedy areas near a water source. The slender forelegs are used to test rodent dens and rocky crevices for food. The serval can climb skillfully and is not afraid of water.



Source: *Grzimek's Animal Encyclopedia*

All three were part of the exotic pet industry, so they have been neutered and declawed. We do not know what the outcome will be of the court case, but we have given them as much love and attention as they desire. They have very striking features and are comfortable with the attention of visitors.

THE PROCESS OF REARING BIRDS OF PREY

Baby season is only beginning. We have received the first of our barn owls, great horned owls, red-shouldered hawks, and opossums. These youngsters will not be on display, but come learn how we help a "fuzz ball" become a full-grown bird of



prey, able to hunt, survive on its own, and

then be released. This is a fascinating process that keeps us involved in rehabilitation year round. You will be able to see the facilities we use to move a baby bird through the steps to eventual release.

