

# Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo  
(a nonprofit organization /EIN: 33-0350180)  
VOLUME XXXVIII                      SUMMER 2022

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's VISION is to be a valued nonprofit, whose cooperative support will be a key partner to ensure the success of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's MISSION is to support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo by inspiring understanding, respect, and environmentally responsible action for the stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat through conservation, education, volunteer support, and fundraising.



## WE HAVE TWO SEASONS—

Snow and Roadwork!! Moonridge corridor is smack dab in the middle of our roadwork season, but we beg you NOT to let it interfere with your plans to visit the zoo! There are detour signs up, so please be patient and follow them; they'll "release" you right in front of the zoo. No worries, and the zoo parking lot is just a couple hundred feet up Moonridge on your right. You're not lost—you're on a safari to meet our spectacular animals ;)

*FOBBAZ thanks each and every one who has supported us over the years. ♥*

Many and profound thanks to the Board of Directors, Docents, our Office Manager, and Zoo Staff for their generous contributions to this publication.

Laurey Haviland, Editor

**Thank you for helping us "go green" by joining our online service!**

**☛ IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.....**

**Please send us an email at [fobbaz@fobbaz.org](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)**

**E-newsletters arrive promptly and allow FOBBAZ to use more of our funds for the zoo!**

## **BBAZ is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE zoo!**

Here is a listing of *a few* of our recent releases:

A Cooper's Hawk (minor injuries) and a Red-Tailed Hawk (all fixed up).

Three Scrub Jays (differing ages) flew raucously away.

Numerous raccoons, rarin' to go—don't leave the dog food out at night!

These animals are kept separately from the zoo's collection, and the keepers make sure they're not overly exposed to humans as a preventive measure to ensure they don't become dependent on people—they stay "wild" and can therefore be released to thrive on their own. Further, every effort is made to release these animals in their NATIVE habitats.

Unfortunately, most of the animals brought to the zoo for medical assistance have been hit by cars and left injured on the road. Some other injuries are animal attacks, and some are unresponsive animals. **We ask you to continue to be aware that this mountain is home to many, many species of wild animals, all of whom are vital to the environment.**



### **FOBBAZ Calendar of Events**



#### **WOLF AWARENESS DAY**

**October 2022, Date TBA**



#### **TWILIGHT SAFARI**

**2 weekends in October 2022**

**Dates TBA**



#### **BOO! AT THE ZOO**

**Saturday, October 29, 2022**



**See you at the zoo!**

### **President's Message**



It's been another busy time of the year. Our long-awaited bathrooms are in and look great. The electricity is connected and the plumbing should be connected by the middle of the month. The concession window should be ready to open by the end of the month or the first part of September. Thanks to all for your help and patience.

We were represented at the Tour de Big Bear. Many thanks to Erin, Meg and Peg for all their help.

FOBBAZ Board elections are coming soon. We will announce our new Board in the next printing.

Our next two major projects are getting the shades for the zoo, and plans for enlarging and creating a better Rehabilitation Facility. We have many new and ambitious docents joining us with great ideas. Watch us grow!!

**Sharon Johnson**

**FOBBAZ President**

## A Tearful, Yet Loving Good-bye to a Favorite Docent!



It is with great amounts of JOY and REGRET that we say farewell to our beloved Kitty Backus, who is moving to Oregon to be with her daughter. Kitty has been a stalwart and giving force in FOBBAZ, a friend to the community, and a faithful voice for the animal ambassadors of our zoo. She has been a hardworking member of FOBBAZ since 2003, on the Board of Directors for five years, and has overseen the Community Can Fundraiser for many years. Her beautiful spirit and generosity will be lovingly held in our hearts as she begins her new journey. Happy Trails to you, dear friend!

Please Meet

## Alyssa Lakota

### Registered Veterinary Technician



This dynamo triages sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Out of all the animals that arrive at the zoo, ninety percent are rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Those who are unable to be released have a home here. In addition to her job at the zoo, Alyssa works at VCA Lakeside Animal Hospital. Before she moved to Big Bear, Alyssa spent 13 months at The Wildlife Center of Virginia as their LVT (Licensed Veterinary Technician) Intern. Before that, she worked at Telluride Animal Hospital in Colorado as a CVT (Certified Veterinary Technician). Alyssa changed careers back in 2017, moving from Vermont to Colorado to attend the veterinary technician program at Colorado Mountain College. While in school, she volunteered at Pauline Schneegas Wildlife Foundation and C.A.R.E. Upon graduating with honors in 2019, she traveled to Uganda with Mission Rabies and Clinician's Brief to vaccinate more than 4,000 dogs. She hiked to some of the most remote regions to eradicate rabies where it is still life-threatening. Alyssa worked several years in film, television, and radio prior to changing careers. While working at The Point radio station as Production Director and DJ, she developed a show for broadcast, "Paws to Consider – Your Animal Awareness Program." This production prompted her return to school to make a greater impact on the welfare of animals. Today, Alyssa is excited to merge her worlds as an RVT and as the host of "Paws to Consider - Sometimes Talons and Beaks," a podcast series now available on Amazon, iTunes, Spotify, Soundcloud, and Lakotafilms.com. Alyssa Lakota is grinning ear-to-ear with excitement to be here in Big Bear! The zoo is her new happy place.

**WE are grinning ear-to-ear to have her zest and expertise here at OUR zoo!**

We Had *SCOOPS* of Good Times  
at  
**ICE CREAM SAFARI!**

It was a beautiful Saturday in Big Bear, and everyone enjoyed the weather, the animals, and the ICE CREAM. North Pole Fudge and Ice Cream Shoppe (in the Village) provided 5 wonderful flavors for our guests—vanilla, chocolate, birthday cake, chocolate-mint chip, and cotton candy. Everyone's favorite was *ALL OF THEM!*



Julie and Kassidy in front of the Donor Wall, scooping out Tried & True Vanilla ;)



The grizzlies (behind the glass on the left) tried every which way to get Meg and Sandra to give them some Cotton Candy ;)



Our Mule Deer were begging Erin and Fletcher for some of that Champion Chocolate stuff ;)



# Over 67 Tons of Great News!

It has been more than a 2-year trek, but FOBBAZ finally witnessed the delivery and installation of the new restrooms/concession building we purchased for the zoo! *Hallelujah!* Below are a few narratives and pictures you might enjoy.



The building pieces were trucked from the mid-west in three 45-thousand pound sections.



With not enough room for the trucks, a heavy-duty crane was ready to lift the sections over the fencing.



All told, there were about a dozen very strong, highly knowledgeable men moving the sections and placing them on the prepared pad.



The gates had to be removed to allow the crane to reach the trucks carrying the sections.



This picture times three—flying the sections of the building. Fortunately, it WASN'T a windy day!



Section now on the proper side of the fence, it had to be flown once more into place on the pad.



Three parts make a whole building! This shows the south end of the zoo—playground and picnic tables. On the left is the Grizzley enclosure, and *boy* did they have a great day: front row seats complete with suggestions and comments. Harley wanted to help, but the men had it handled. Thanks anyway, big guy!

# Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

This is our way to phrase the passing of one of our beloved animals. We believe it offers a bit of hope, as a bridge always goes somewhere! Unfortunately, we must tell you of the loss of three of our friends.



Our beautiful mountain lion sisters, **Canyon** and **Cascade**, have left us, and we're simply bereft! They came to us as orphaned 4-week-old kittens in 2002, and were raised together into stately and gorgeous girls. Never apart from birth, they passed within weeks of each other. By being sheltered and cared for here at the zoo, we more than doubled their life-span. All of us bid them a loving and heartfelt farewell!

**Logan**, the eighth of the nine wolf pups born here at the zoo in 2009 has passed. She leaves one remaining sister—Spirit. As with so many other species, being cared for here at the zoo more than doubled these wolves' life-spans. In human terms, this beautiful lady was about 89-90 years old. What a celebrated life she had!



## *New Friends to Meet at BBAZ*



Update on the Golden Eagles: **Maverick** and **Midas** are doing very well on exhibit. One is a full-wing amputee and the other sustained a wing injury that left him flightless. Both are adult males. They came to us from CALM in Bakersfield, CA.



The San Joaquin Kit Foxes (also sent from CALM) have been named **Heath** and **Joy** (to follow the Kit Kat theme, of course). Heath (3-legged male) needed a splenectomy, but is recovering in grand fashion.



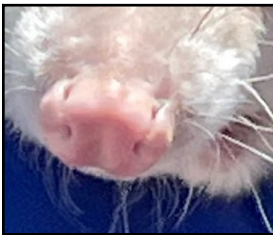
**Juno** is a female Opossum, happily residing with Jupiter in the Reptile House (even though she's a marsupial). Though not a mating pair, they get along just fine. Juno is a confiscated illegal pet, and will be with us permanently.



## Kids' Korner

## Which Animal Is It?

The zoo has many different kinds of animals who have been rescued. Unfortunately, not all the rescued animals are able to be released back into the wild for a variety of reasons: orphaned with no mama to teach them *how* to be their species, confiscations (illegal pets), nuisance animals (potentially harmful to people out in the wild), and injured who could not thrive in the wild (one-winged birds, for example). Below are some *animal parts*, and your job is to use the picture and the clues to try to figure out WHICH animal it is. They all live here at the zoo!

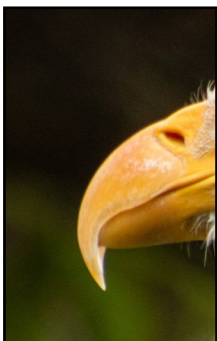


These marsupial mamas carry their babies on their backs.

These animals are highly nocturnal.

Sometimes they "play dead" to fool a predator.

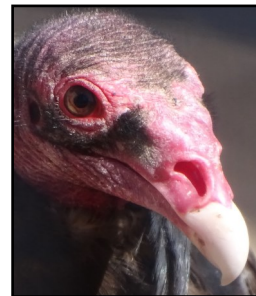
I am an \_\_\_\_\_.



This beak can exert up to 400 psi (pounds per square inch) which is *ten times* the grip strength of an average adult human.

I am the national bird of the USA.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_.

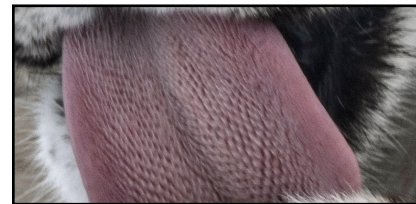


These birds have no feathers on their heads, necks, legs, or feet.

Sometimes, they're called "Mother Nature's clean-up crew."

Though they do fly, they build their nests on the ground.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_.



The rough tongue is great for stripping meat from bones.

This animal lives up to 20,000 feet in an Asian mountain range.

This animal's tail (as long as its body) helps it to breathe warmed air when it's placed over the nose.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_.