



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo  
 (a nonprofit organization /EIN: 33-0350180)  
 Volume XLIV WINTER 2024

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.



*Winter Thoughts...*

Big Bear had a late start to the winter season- but we made up for it in one week ! Please enjoy the beautiful mountain air and snowy weather. Kindly remember that our "wild" life is all around us and drive carefully.

The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is open every day from 10 am to 4 pm. The only delay to morning activity is if zoo-staff have to clear the walkways for visitors (and that's usually only an hour or two) and to make sure our residents can wander about.

Our beloved animals—being alpine critters—just LOVE the snow !

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

Many thanks to the FOBBAZ Board of Directors, Docents and Zoo Staff for their generous contributions to this publication.



**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!**



We had a successful launch of our new volunteer/docent training program on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The program started with a full day of general orientation. At the end of that day each participant decided if they would like to be a volunteer or a docent. If they chose to become a docent, there are 4 more afternoons of training. If they chose to be a volunteer, they pick one area to be trained in such as working in the snack bar or performing meal prep in the kitchen for the animals.

Both paths are extremely important. We wanted to give our new FOBBAZ members ways to serve that suits them best. The difference between volunteers and docents is that docents are educators and work directly with the public. Docents roam (walk the zoo), give tours and work events in an educational capacity. Volunteers work in the zoo kitchen, bingo, snack bar, donation can collection and non-educational jobs during events to name just a few volunteer jobs. Docents can do all the jobs volunteers do, but volunteers do not educate the public and so are limited in the areas they can serve.

We would like to invite you to consider serving as either a volunteer or docent with us. If this sounds like it might be of interest to you, please go to our website for more information.

-Jilda Hellinga, Docent



Contact us :

909-878-4200    fobbaz@fobbaz.org

## Big Bear Alpine Zoo is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE center!

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

- Raven—nicknamed “ Boyfriend” came in as a young imprinted bird. He is currently living in the medical building.
- Saw-Whet Owl was released back into the wild. The owl came to us with head trauma— had hit a window,

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.

The remainder of animals who’ve recently come in to rehab will be released when they’ve healed or remain with us at the zoo, and will be on exhibit. If we feel they will not thrive back in the wild, we will keep them with us and the Big Bear Alpine Zoo will be their forever home.

**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 our environment.**

## COMING UP....

### “BOWLING FOR THE ZOO”

April 28, 2024

3 to 6 pm

Big Bear Bowling Barn

40625 Big Bear Blvd.



Want more information????



## Many Thanks to Our Local Supporters...

by Kimberlee Kidd, Docent

### Donations Dedicated to Veterinary Services

Meet Ken Gilbert, the proud owner of Our Town Village Liquor Market for 9 years. Ken has had a Friends of Big Bear Alpine Zoo (FOBBAZ) donation can on his counter longer than any of us can remember. His can is always brimming full every month... often twice a month. This is because his employees are great supporters too. They happily encourage customers to part with that annoying change in our can... and it adds up fast!

Ken was more than excited to receive a free family membership to Big Bear Alpine Zoo for 1 year. He was like a kid at Christmas... could hardly wait to take his grandchildren to the zoo... twice already. It was the least we can do show our appreciation.

FOBBAZ has donation cans all over Big Bear Valley. We are grateful for major contributors like Our Town Village Liquor/Market. All the donations are dedicated to much needed veterinarian services for our precious wildlife ambassadors.

I might add, Ken just donated \$176 worth of liquor for our 2024 Bowling for Zoo Fundraiser coming soon in April. It is going to make a great Bourbon Basket for some lucky silent auction winner.

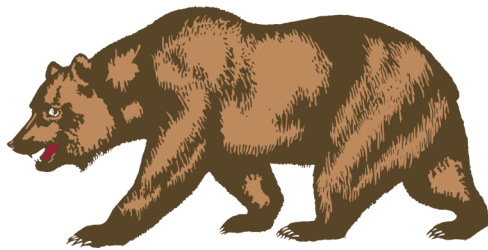
Bobby, an employee, could not help adding that “Ken is the best boss ever!” Clearly, Friends of Big Bear Alpine Zoo thinks Ken is great too!

*Our Town Village Liquor Market is on the corner of Village Dr and Big Bear Blvd coming into town. This liquor/convenience store has all the essentials for a good time. There are also 6 Tesla Super Charging stations for our convenience.*

# Happy 40th Birthday Mama Tutu!!



Grizzly Bear, Mama Tutu celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year during the third week of January . The day started out with a huge wrapped box containing several different enrichment foods and activities for Tutu to “play” with on her special day. The “kids” - Harley and Ayla stayed at a respectable distance until their “mom” was done with her gift. The two 29 year old Grizzly’s swooped in later and devoured the remainder of the treats.



As luck would have it, I was leafing through a scrapbook and found a fantastic picture from 1995.

Mama (at the time of the picture- just identified as a “mother bear” ) is most likely at the Zoo in Washington State. The three Grizzly’s were short term residents at that zoo after they were removed from Yellowstone due to Mamas multiple rule violations. The picture indicates that Mama has her 14 month-old cubs with her and that they must be moved to a permanent location. FOBBAZ raised the required \$55,000 to move Mama and her two cubs to Big Bear. They joined our mountain family in 1996.

Our Grizzly family is special for many reasons, but their age and the fact that they are still a family “unit” make them very unique. Bears are typically solitary critters and usually send the children on to their own life when they are about 2 or 3.

**If you are visiting the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, be sure to stop by and wish Mama Tutu a Happy Birthday !**

-Megann Robertson (FOBBAZ)



# What's for Breakfast ??



As Docents, roaming about the zoo, we are often asked “ What do you feed them?”

In this edition, we will take you behind the scenes to the prep kitchen. This area is located off the beaten path up in the animal support building. Every day...food is prepared for each of our special residents. Everyone has a special dish, bowl or bucket which is used to deliver their food to them in their various areas.

Maintaining a complete diet is an important part of human health and its just as important for our animal ambassadors. **This is why we are very vigilant about what might accidentally get tossed into an animal enclosure.**

Food preparation starts very early in the morning. Volunteers and Zoo Staff prepare the various menus based on diets developed and recommended by our veterinarians. As an example:



Bodhi- our Grey Wolf will receive:

- 1839 grams of Nebraska Slab Meat served with a ½ cup of Exotic Canine Kibble ( to make sure he is getting all of the nutrients he needs)
- Three times a week he is offered a bone.

Example of the Grizzly Bear Page 

0.1 M96002 - Grizzly Bear - "Tutu"

Food item	Amount Given	Units	Days of the week
Bear Maintenance Kibble (ave 985 gm per scoop)**	1415	g	SMT RFS
Protein	335	g	SMTWRFS
Celery (ave 650 gm)	495	g	SMT RFS
Romaine (ave. 350 gm)	266	g	SMT RFS
Yams ( ave 250 gm)*	832	g	M R S
Carrots (ave 150 gm)*	683	g	S T F

Ravens- Gracie and Winston’s menu includes:

- 20 grams of omnivore Kibble (soaked)
- 62 grams of chopped vegetables ( varied types)
- 10 grams of crickets or mealworms
- 2 grams or peanuts or mixed nuts

A few times a week they get some variety with mice, meat or a hard-boiled egg.

As you can see from the menu items- each component is carefully measured and weighed.

Our residents are monitored frequently to ensure they are maintaining a healthy weight range.

Our veterinarians will recommend any changes to specific diets with a message to the kitchen crew on the communication board.

Volunteers are a vital part of this food production process.

If you have some time to help prepare food or assist with the clean-up process in the kitchen, please give FOBBAZ a call.

## Santa stopped at the ZOO !

For three Saturdays in December (2nd, 9th and 16th) Santa and his gang of reindeer stopped by the zoo for a much needed break. Reindeer were taken care of behind the scenes and Santa rested in his special chair by the Wolf area. Fun was had by all as the Mountain Marvels Caroling Show joined in and provided some holiday cheer. Santa's elves made sure that each of our small guests had a chance to talk with the "big guy" and get in some last-minute requests before the holiday rush. Lots of parents got into the spirit as well- singing and dancing along



If you have visited the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, you may have noticed this lovely picture spot with a very long bench in front.

This is the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo (FOBBAZ) Donor Wall area.

Very special Donors- Families, Trusts, Corporations and Individuals have donated funds to FOBBAZ that results in the honor of a space on this special display. The amounts break down as follows:

- \$1,000 to \$4999 results in a 3" disc
- \$5,000 to \$14,999 results in a 4" disc
- \$15,000 to \$24,999 results in a 5" disc
- \$25,000 and higher- a 6" disc is displayed.

There is still room on the wall. If you would like to discuss the possibility of your name or business being up on our display, please call the FOBBAZ office to discuss the many options with one of our board members.

# Crossing the Rainbow Bridge



What can we say about these two...

**Huckleberry** and **Zuni** passed on in November 2023.  
They were the dynamic duo of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

**Zuni** came to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo in 2000 when he was about 6 to 8 months old. He was found in a watermelon patch—very thin and in poor health.

He grew strong at the zoo and was a very sweet boy!

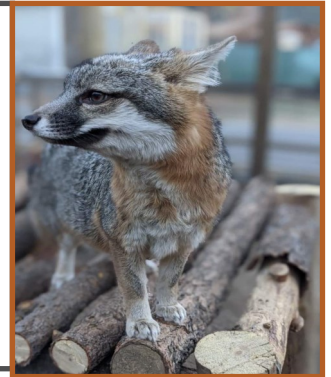
**Huck** came to live with us in 2002. He had been hit by a vehicle and he only weighed about 13 pounds when we received him ( he should have been closer to 50 pounds). Hucks front leg required amputation and he needed round the clock care. The veterinarians expected him to only live for 10 more years. Huck was a favorite of guests, keepers and FOBBAZ and eventually grew to 450 pounds of fun. He loved his pool and foraging for treats.

Both bears had several health and old age issues. While we morn the loss of these two beautiful black bears, we can reflect on the two decades we were able to spend with them.



**Michael J Fox**— a Gray Fox, came to Big Bear Alpine Zoo in 2018 as a rescued illegal pet. He captured all of our hearts with his undeniable charm.

Michael J's health began to decline and in recent months he was monitored closely to ensure his quality of life. Michael J passed away peacefully in November at the age of 10 in the environment he called home.



**GUMP**— a Raven, came to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo in 2007. She was found on the ground with a broken wing. She could not fly but she was very good at hopping around. Gump passed away in January of old age related issues.



Contact us :

909-878-4200

fobbaz@fobbaz.org

www.fobbaz.org

# KIDS PAGE



Spring is coming !  
 Can you find the  
 Butterfly ?



## Winter Word Search

S	K	I	I	N	G	S	N	O	W	B	O	O	H	T
S	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	I	N	G	E	O
L	I	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S	C	N	Y	T	S
E	W	S	B	C	O	L	T	R	A	E	S	T	A	C
D	I	M	L	R	O	W	S	N	O	U	G	H	E	A
D	N	U	I	A	U	L	O	W	P	S	H	T	O	R
I	T	F	Z	E	S	A	D	E	H	A	T	A	O	F
N	R	B	Z	B	A	E	R	O	W	P	L	Y	I	I
G	C	O	A	T	O	T	L	Y	D	M	W	L	C	R
I	T	O	R	H	A	F	R	O	T	A	S	U	I	E
P	O	T	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	I	L	C	L
L	A	S	N	C	R	O	V	I	N	C	L	O	L	R
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M	I	T	T	E	N	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	E	L

- |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| BLIZZARD | FIREPLACE | PLOW     |
| BOOTS    | FROSTY    | SCARF    |
| COAT     | HAT       | SHOVEL   |
| COCOA    | ICE       | SKIING   |
| COLD     | ICICLES   | SLEDDING |
| DECEMBER | JANUARY   | SNOW     |
| EARMUFFS | MARCH     | SWEATER  |
| FEBRUARY | MITTENS   | WINTER   |



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