

WildTalk
Official Newsletter
October, 2001



9/30/01



Shawn, Curt and Zack

WildTalk
Winter Newsletter
October, 2001
Volume 5, Number 4

Our Mission

Our goal is to provide sanctuary and education to benefit animals worldwide as well as in our own communities.

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Vice-President

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Letter from the President

It is my hope that all who read this newsletter have not lost any family or friends during the events of the September 11th attacks. The WildTalk Family expresses our deepest sympathy to the victims and their loved ones.

The recent events have caused many of us to reevaluate our lives. After much thought, I have decided that it is in the best interests of WildTalk if I resign as President and turn full control of the organization over to Vice President Nikki Martin. Nikki puts her heart and soul into the care of the animals at WildTalk, and she is best suited to make day to day decisions.

While I still support WildTalk and all it represents, other obligations have taken priority and I cannot commit to the time necessary to do the job as it should be done. I would like to thank the membership for their support, both in the initial election as well as in my decision to resign.

I would like to extend my very special thanks to foster parents Holly, Stacy, Katherine and Ariel for opening their hearts and homes to "Cookie." Cookie was a special needs beagle who touched the lives of all who met her. She was blind, but it has been correctly said that, "blind dogs see with their hearts."

Also, special thanks to the Botts family, who rescued "Igloo", a 5 week old kitten with a broken leg. After a short time in foster care, Igloo, now renamed Dale, has found a loving permanent home.

Finally, I would like to thank Amy Schoofs and Jason Berkowicz of Half-Price Books in Milwaukee for coordinating their generous donation of children's books.

May God's Peace and Blessings be with us all.

Ann-Marie Schmid, D.V.M.

News Updates

On September 11, 2001, our Nation's history was changed forever. We at WildTalk express our deepest sympathies to those who lost friends and family in the tragic attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives Sept. 11th.

Summer Benefit

The WildTalk summer benefit was held at the WildTalk facility, in Lake Geneva, WI, August 19th, 2001, from 2-4 PM. Thank you to the 21 members and guests for participating and attending. Everyone had a fun time visiting with the animals. Mark Durham did the honors of barbecuing; guests and members each brought a dish to pass.

Greg Condos came the furthest distance, coming from Florida! Our newest member, Sonny Keberlein, drove down from Oshkosh. Sonny adopted Amber, a beagle that Paul Trump rescued. Many thanks to the team effort in helping Amber find a home. Marjorie Pfetsing, who lives in Virginia, put Nikki in touch with Sonny, who has been looking for a companion dog to travel with him. Thank you, Sonny, for taking her into your home and heart!

Members gave special thanks to Paul Trump, for his efforts in providing money for veterinary care and maintenance of many animals throughout the year. Paul also provided transportation for several home visits to the Chicago area this year. Thank you, Paul!

Tim Dunn, Bonnie Krieger, and Colleen Santini renewed their memberships for another year.

True friendship is a fabric that nothing can unravel.



Car Wash

Vickie Ippolito worked hard in organizing the WildTalk summer car wash event. The event was on Sunday, August 26th, at Dunn Lumber. Thank you to those that volunteered to work at this event. Volunteers washed 11 cars and one truck, raising \$65. Hot dogs and sodas were sold, raising an additional \$51. Tammy helped defer some of the costs of supplies with a \$20 donation, and Rhonda and Chris, visiting from California for the weekend, donated \$20, resulting in a grand total of \$156 that was raised.



Weblog

WildTalk now has a weblog to enhance our presence on the Internet. Check it out at:

www.xanga.com/home.asp?user=wildtalk

Memorials

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to those who have lost loved ones:

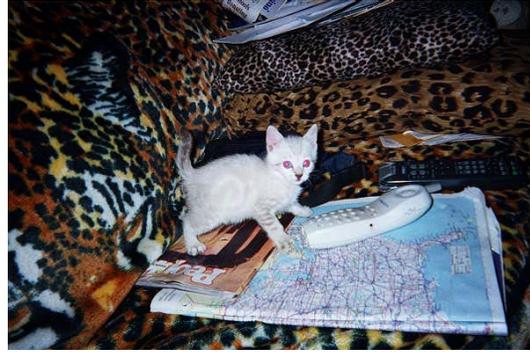
In memory of Gerard Kucharshi, Anita Liebl's beloved brother. Gerard was an animal lover, who is deeply missed.

In memory of Earl H. Olson, who lost his battle with cancer Sept. 2. Grandpa Olson enjoyed a home visit at his Olgby residence from Gracie the mountain lion and Kani the pygmy goat. Mr. Olson loved animals. We will miss his gentle, kindhearted spirit.

In memory of Paka. Ginger Butchart lost her beloved pixie bob, Paka, to cancer on September 12th. Ginger thanks everyone that prayed for Paka last year when he became ill. Her family felt blessed that Paka had a year of love, and cherishes their memories of him. Paka had a rare cancer that affected his bone marrow. Blood transfusions helped prolong his life. He is deeply missed.

(Editor's Note: This is the last newsletter that I will be editing. I have enjoyed the time that I have spent working to produce a quality newsletter that everyone can read and enjoy. However, due to circumstances that have arisen recently, I believe that it is time for me to move on. I hope that the newsletter will continue to maintain its standard of quality in my absence and give the newsletter staff and everyone else my best wishes.)

You cannot always change circumstances, but you can always change your reaction to them.



A very cute kitten looks at a map and waits for a phone call, hoping he will be adopted.

Internet Joke Book

Ginger put together an Internet joke book for WildTalk. Copies are available for a \$10.00 donation. The book has a wide variety of jokes and cartoons that were previously only found on the Internet. They make great gift ideas. Anyone who is interested in obtaining copies, please contact Ginger or Nikki. We have raised \$50.00 so far in the sales of the Internet joke book. Please participate and order your copy today (see the last page of this newsletter).



Guest Article

WildTalk Goes West By Tammy Wallsch

Recently I had the opportunity to travel with Nikki to Los Angeles, California for a weekend visit I will never forget!

A long-time WildTalk member & friend of Nikki's, Marina Cappas, was our gracious hostess. Her home is at the foothills of the stunningly beautiful San Gabrielle Mountains in the San Fernando Valley. Marina is a freelance cartoonist and lives in a beautiful home with her six cats.

Marina arranged for us to go to the Wildlife Waystation, nestled in the mountains of the Angeles National Reserve. Owned and operated by a fascinating woman named Martine Collette, Wildlife Waystation takes in animals (currently 1,300) that have been abandoned by their owners or subjected to cruelty, including parrots, chimps, tigers, lions, zebras, wolves, bears, and fox.

Along with caring for these animals, the facility also has a small hospital and veterinary staff. They pride themselves in recently developing a surgical technique to repair poorly done declaw surgery that maims or cripples the large cats. We saw some of the cats that recently underwent this reparative surgery, and they were walking normally again.

Our tour guide, Dennis, spent several hours giving us a private tour of the facility. He explained the many problems they are facing because Fish and Wildlife in California is extremely difficult to work with.

One of the main problems they face concerns water. All water for the compound has to be brought in by truck or private auto and carried in buckets. The animals used to have wading pools to splash about in, but Fish and Wildlife made them stop filling the pools, claiming the runoff was creating problems for the environment, an allegation not substantiated by the facts.

After our tour, Martine Colette met with us on the patio of her home, which is inside the compound. We sat amid the roar of tigers and the call of parrots and talked, and for a brief while, I felt as if I had been transported to heaven. Martine is mother to several baby chimps. Thank you, Martine, for a most incredible afternoon at your facility. We all learned so much!

We also met other friends and members of Wildtalk, including "Catbert," "Fud Lady," and "Jenipurr" from the Cat's Window bulletin board where I originally met Nikki. We are grateful for Marina's wonderful planning of our time and putting together an impromptu Summer West Coast WildTalk Meeting (our first), for our members and family on the west coast. It was such a joy to meet other members, animal lovers, all with common bonds and goals.

Nikki's long time friend and mentor, a fascinating lady named Jan Giacinto, showed us around her beautiful home. Jan was a gracious hostess and showed us her beautiful cats, including a Bengal cat that had to be the largest any of us ever saw. She also shared pictures of some of her white tigers and other exotic animals. Jan has two facilities, one in Nevada and one at her home in Los Angeles. Jan Giacinto has a non-profit for animals also called Fin, Feather, and Fur. For more information, contact Nikki.

Our last day concluded with Nikki and a woman named Sandy Leos doing an hour-long educational program at a private school in the area. Ms. Leos brought a serval, a lynx, a sphinx cat and a baby raccoon.

The children asked lots of questions. You could feel their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn all they could about their wild friends. It was wonderful to see them all so interested in the animals. The teachers seemed as excited to see the animals as the children were. It is a fun way to learn about the animals that share our earth.

Many thanks to all who made this weekend such a fascinating adventure! It never ceases to amaze me how people with common interests can reach out across the globe and find instant friendships that last forever.

Internet Joke Book

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, Ginger has created an Internet Joke Book. This is your chance to order this book and let the laughter enter your home.

As always, we also need money for food and other items for the animals at the facility. Please consider making a donation to our cause. For your convenience, a form is included below.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.



Ginger and Cuzco

-
- Yes, I want to help the animals. Please accept my donation for \$ _____
 - I'd also like to order one of the Internet Joke Books (\$10).
 - I'd like to renew my membership. Please find enclosed \$ _____ (\$35/family, \$25/person).
 - I would be interested in volunteering some time to help out.*

Total Gift: \$ _____

Please Return to:

WildTalk
P.O. Box 187
Williams Bay, WI 53191

* Volunteers should call (262) 245-3368 to arrange a date/time. Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday are (almost) always good days; other days may work on a case by case basis. Please make arrangements in advance and confirm the day before your volunteer day.