

Save The Date: National Ferret Day is April 2nd!

That's right, April 2nd is National Ferret Day! We honestly didn't know these little guys had a day dedicated all to themselves, but we are happy to celebrate them!

For those of you that have ferrets as pets, did you know that ferrets have been domesticated animals for 2,500 years? The majority of ferrets are kept as pets nowadays, although there are still some parts of the world where ferrets are used to hunt pesky rabbits.

A few other facts about ferrets: They are crepuscular animals, which means they sleep 14-18 hours each day (lucky them). They are most active around dusk and dawn. And when feeling excited or playful, they do a move nicknamed the "weasel war dance." Ferrets are social animals, living in groups that are called a "business."



The ferret is a much maligned and misunderstood animal, widely believed to be a smelly, quarrelsome, amoral, biting beast. All you have to do is take a quick look at some of the most popular children's stories like Wind in the Willows to observe this phenomenon. However, this stereotype couldn't be further from the truth. Ferrets are often kept as working animals due to their agility and intelligence, but are also known to make loyal and rewarding companions. Ferret Day promotes the true virtues of this cute, cuddly critter and furthers the welfare of ferrets everywhere.

FUN FACTS

- Ferrets cannot catch colds from their humans, but they can catch influenza and sinus infections.
- Ferrets can easily be trained to use a litter box, like cats.
- Ferrets have been used to run wire in places like Buckingham Palace and Greenwich Park during some of the most important events in England's history.
- The most famous artistic portrayal of a ferret is undoubtedly Leonardo da Vinci's painting, "Lady with an Ermine," that dates back to 1490.

NON-FUN FACT: In California and Hawaii, it is illegal to have a ferret as a pet.

<http://thejunglestore.blogspot.com/2012/04/happy-national-ferret-day.html> & <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/ferret-day/>

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Calendar of Events

April 1st – Lake Isabella Clinic – Lake Isabella Blvd – 9am
April 5th – Shelter Clinic – 5pm
April 12th – Shelter Clinic – 5pm
April 19th – Shelter Clinic – 5pm
April 19th – ACC Meeting – CAO's Office - 6pm
April 23rd – Mega Adoption Event – KC Fair Grounds
April 23rd – 29th – National Volunteer Week
April 26th – Shelter Clinic- 5pm
April 29th – National Volunteer Day – 10am



OUR TAKE

ZIP

ZAP



ZIP: Zap and I must confess that we knew this day was coming.

ZAP: Yes this is an unfortunate day for us, but I wasn't totally ready!

ZIP: The editor has decided that "OUR TAKE" isn't really holding its own.

ZAP: So with that, in June, it will be our last column as we bid goodbye to all 3 of our loyal readers that have been with us through thick and thin.

ZIP: Mark, Janeth and William. We thank you from the bottom of our animal loving hearts!

ZAP: We have enjoyed our time with everyone. When we bantered back and forth with some of the volunteers, that was so interesting.

ZIP: When we close our column in June it will be a year. And in the newspaper business, we know that sometimes things don't always go your way.

ZAP: One of my favorite parts was when we had our family and friends take our places.

ZIP: Oh yeah!! Zoot was a wonderful replacement. A cat stuck in the sixties in all aspects. Never in my life have I ever thought of kicking someone out of the studio while writing a column.

ZAP: Zoot is my uncle and I agree he is stuck in the sixties, but he is really a cool cat (snicker) pun intended!!

ZIP: Oh man.....horrible pun!

ZAP: What about Captain Jackie. Female Pirate Chihuahua! Really!

ZIP: Oh stop being jealous! Just cause you don't have anyone as cool as Capt. Jackie to help out.

ZAP: Um yeah.....help out in another language....aaarrrrr Matey and stuff.

ZIP: And even that costume at Halloween. Minion Zap! It's all been so much fun messing with you!

ZAP: Yes....and it has been an honor to spread the animal knowledge around. So much knowledge, so little time. And the fun never ceases to amaze me or anyone else. April Fools Day!! We are not leaving. Jeff couldn't handle writing another column!

ZIP: BARK BARK BARK!!!! Too funny....we got you!

TRAINING



TIMEOUT

Treating Sago Palm Toxicosis

Dogs are commonly exposed to trimmings of sago plants when outdoors, while cats are generally exposed to the toxin from indoor palm plants. Sago palm plants are part of two different types of plants collectively referred to as Cycads, *Cycas sp.* and *Zamia sp.*, and the concerns are similar for all plants in these two genera.

Exposure Signs

Cycads can cause CNS (Central Nervous System) signs in cattle (referred to as Zamia Staggers), but we will be concentrating on dogs and cats in this article.

The first signs we typically see are gastro-intestinal related and start within 12 hours after ingestion. We will see vomiting and diarrhea, often both with blood.

We can see the development of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, severe abdominal pain, dehydration and shock. We can also see neurologic signs, such as tremors and seizures. One of the biggest concerns is for hepatotoxicity (liver damage) and potentially hepatic necrosis (liver failure).

Treatment Plan

Bloodwork should be monitored closely, and increased liver enzymes can take up to 48 hours to occur. Treatment is often extensive and intensive. If there is a recent ingestion and the pet is asymptomatic, decontamination can be attempted, and emesis may recover plant material or seeds from the plant. Activated charcoal is effective for this, but often pets are too symptomatic for charcoal by the time that they present to the hospital.

- Intravenous fluids are indicated for this exposure, and we will typically add dextrose and B Vitamins to help protect the liver and prevent and/or treat hypoglycemia.
- Plasma transfusions can help improve oncotic pressure and provide clotting factors to coagulopathic patients.
- Colloids may also be indicated, once bleeding is controlled.
- Antiemetics are typically indicated and several may be necessary to control vomiting.
- Gastroprotectants will help with the irritating effects of the Sago palm.
- Seizures are typically treated with antiepileptics.

<http://aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-poison-control/treating-sago-palm-toxicosis>



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT CHENE GONZALES

Hi!! My name is Chene Gonzales, I'm a wife and a mother of two amazing children 3 and 8 years old. The past 10 years I have enjoyed working for multiple companies along with owning my own business which I just recently sold. My husband was a professional wakeboarder for 20 years and recently retired. So we are enjoying the next chapter in our lives!

I'm currently a volunteer at Kern County Animal Services and loving every minute of it! With recently selling my business and wanting to find a way to give back, I have told my husband for years I wanted to volunteer at the shelter being that I love all animals and enjoy the happy endings of adoptions. Being a mom of two is hard as it is and my husband being a retired athlete and getting his hands on multiple hobbies I needed to find time, but I said what the heck! Let's try it :)

I have been a volunteer since January 2017, in the puppy rooms. I know! So horrible haha – right?. I love seeing all their happy faces when I'm there and they are just as excited to get a clean kennel and some love. I was able to adopt my newest member (Bear) a Chihuahua from there and she fits right in with my pack! We have 3 (now) Lincoln, LoLo and Bear and an American Bully who thinks he's a Chihuahua.

We recently bought a house with property and my goal is to eventually have my little rescue there. My children and husband are great big animal lovers like me, so we enjoy our fur children, even our goats!!!! Which my daughter named Daisy and Duke. They are so much fun and great with my kids.

My daughter Jaylee barrel races and is kicking butt at it and we couldn't be more proud! Our son Jr is going to the next big thing in sports and a lefty at that! Being such an active, busy family we sure do enjoy our quality time as a whole including our fur babies!

If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?

I would live in a super small town with tons of acres between the houses and a market and a bar haha to walk to. Like the movie Sweet Home Alabama. Just a little country town with beautiful scenery and better air quality :)

If you just won the lottery, what is the one thing you would spend money on?

I would make sure my parents and children are set for the rest of their lives and donate to or start a rescue .. not just saying that either! I have said it for years!

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?

It would have to be being invisible haha . We have all been there when we wish we were a fly on the wall etc., but I really would want to be invisible and be able to go wherever unnoticed :)

News & Notes

MILESTONE HOURS (as of Feb 28th)

Rhonda Montgomery	1948	Rhonda Smith	425
Deborah Waits	814	Ben Neal	421
Shawn Fernberg	807	Rowena Yong	401
Crystal Struckhoff	567	Emily Barclay	366
Barbara Fowler	536	Teddi Rawles	363
Megan Reyes	527	Darlene Walker	348
Barbara Beckstrom	484	Nancy Ballinger	290



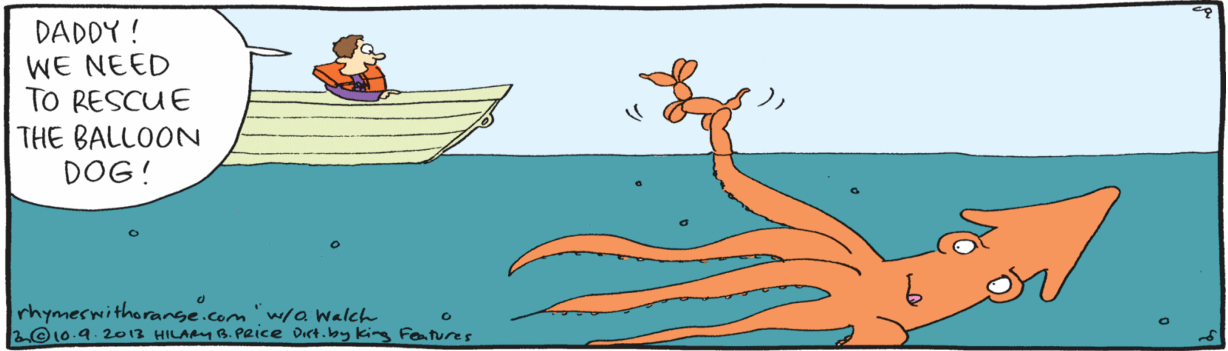
APRIL BIRTHDAYS DAY

Joan Payton	5 th
Amy Tillery	14 th
Grace Milburn	15 th
Grace Burch	18 th
Madison Coleman	30 th

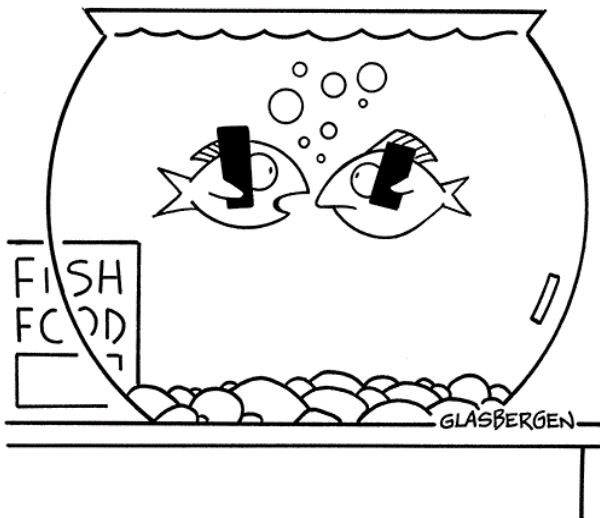
MONTHLY HOURS REPORT

March

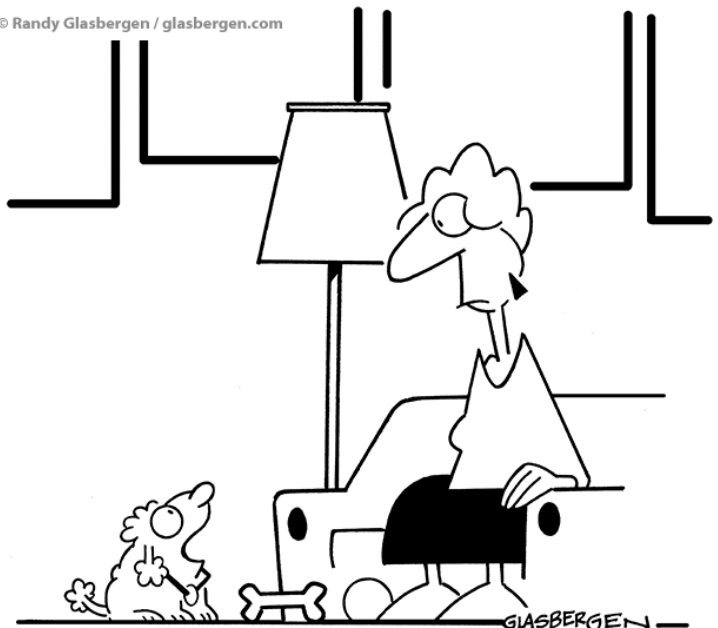
Core Volunteers	1355
Employment Prep Program (EPP)	595
Mexican American Opp. Foundation (MAOF)	188
Work Release	457



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"What cellphone service are you using?
It sounds like you're talking under water!"



"I've been listening to your motivational programs while
you're at work and I've decided to become a Great Dane!"



Coordinator's Corner

Since I showed off some of my heritage in March with my Irish right leg, my Scottish left arm got jealous.....so here is to the Scots and celebrating the Kilt on April 6th.

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Several events are occurring this month and we will need everyone's help! Look for the sign up sheets next to the sign in binder.

April 8<sup>th</sup> is Love Oildale, an event we've been to in the past. We will be holding a vaccination clinic that day to help people get their dogs up to date. We will need people to work a Volunteer table for the time that we are at Standard Park: from 7:30am – Noon.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be another vaccination clinic at Heritage Park. It's on Mt. Vernon Ave. This is historically a very large event and we will need extra help for that day. Times are 8:30am – 12:30pm.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Mega Adoption event at the Kern County Fair Grounds. We have created family day with animals and events galore for all Kern County residents to enjoy. There will be vendors, including food vendors, businesses from Kern County and most importantly, many of the shelters and rescues in our county will be on hand with great adoptions specials.

April 23- 29<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week.

April 29<sup>th</sup> is the Shelter's National Volunteer Day. We have a whole day planned with specialized activities to draw the residents into the shelter for special adoptions fees, tours of the facility, mini orientations and other fun things. KRAB radio will be on hand to entertain the crowd. The event is from 10:00am – 2:00pm. This is one of those "all hands on deck" events, since we will need people for both regular duties and event duties. I will need a setup crew and a take-down crew.

With all of these events, if you commit, please keep your commitment to help us out. It is essential to have people helping in all areas!! When you sign up, we are counting on you to show up!



*April 23, 2017*

10am - 4pm



Kern County Fair Grounds

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY!**

*April 29, 2017*



3951 Fruitvale Ave, Bakersfield CA 661-868-7100