

PAW PRINTS

September 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #27

National Elephant Day, September 22nd



Elephants are large mammals of the family Elephantidae. Elephants are scattered throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. The largest living terrestrial animals, male African elephants can reach a height of 13ft and can weigh 15,000 lbs. These animals have several distinctive features, including a long proboscis or which is used for many purposes, particularly for grasping objects.

African elephants are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), while the Asian elephant is classed as endangered. One of the biggest threats to elephant populations is the ivory trade, as the animals are poached for their ivory tusks. Other threats to wild elephants include habitat destruction and conflicts with local people. Elephants are used as working animals in Asia. In the past they were used in war; today, they are often put on display in zoos and circuses. Elephants are highly recognizable and have been featured in art, folklore, religion, literature and popular culture.

Elephants exhibit mirror self-recognition, an indication of self-awareness and cognition that has also been demonstrated in some apes and dolphins. Elephants are popularly thought of as having an excellent memory. This could have a factual basis; they possibly have cognitive maps to allow them to remember large-scale spaces over long periods of time. Individuals appear to be able to keep track of the current location of their family members. Scientists debate the extent to which elephants feel emotion. They appear to show interest in the bones of their own kind, regardless of whether they are related.



Taken from <http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/elephant-appreciation-day/17210.html>

ZIP



ZAP



Our Take

ZIP: WELCOME TO OUR TAKE!! Zap is back and I am so happy.

ZAP: I bet you are! How was ZOOT?

ZIP: Zoot was cool.....if you like being stuck in the 60's!

ZAP: MEOW MEOW MEOW!!! Now you know better to leave me with someone not so intelligent!

ZIP: (sigh) Anyways, we are back to our old crabby selves this month. Wanted to touch on a couple of foods that are not healthy to your animals.

ZAP: Grapes & raisins top our list. While a tasty treat even to us, they are really bad for us too. Those sweet little critters can really cause some major issues.

ZIP: Kidney failure can be the result of ingesting large amounts of these. One or two grapes or raisin will be a major problem.....but if you throw away a bunch or spill a bunch.....and your pets gets them.....it could be bad.

ZIP: Another bad one for all animals is, Nuts. You know that like our human companions, we like the taste of salt too, but the nuts that are under all that salt can cause violent vomiting.

ZAP: Milk and milk products can do us harm too. I learned that the hard way once when my human left his hot fudge ice cream sundae out.....well.....my tummy didn't like it.....and neither did the result for my human.

ZIP: Citrus.....big NO NO! Now in small amounts....like an orange wedge isn't all that big, OK maybe.....but let's say you have orange trees in your back yard and your dog or cat happens to eat an orange or six.

ZAP: Your animal can pay the ultimate price. But in the least circumstance, the oils in citrus can attack the central nervous system of your pet. This is still a bad situation.

ZIP: Let's review. No grapes, raisins, nuts, milk, or citrus!

ZAP: Let me add. ALCOHOL! Don't leave your human "adult" beverages unattended, especially the fruity smelling ones!! Have a great month.

VOLUNTEERING

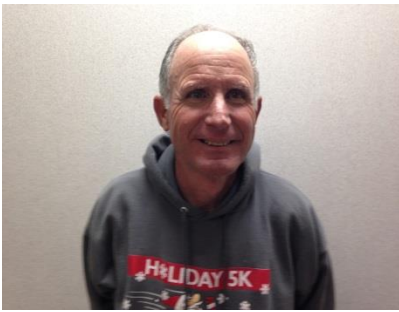
Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer? We are looking for some key volunteers to help with our Bed making project on Thursday afternoons.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping out with this and other fun projects, then KCAS is the place to be.

Ask those interested to contact Jeff George at 661-868-7130 or email jeffg@co.kern.ca.us.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Nicole Palmer	4
Yoceline Urenda	7
David Sanchez	8
Ashley Sessions	11
Katie Ramirez	14
Kristen Falls	14
Marcela Chavez	17
Liz Keogh	18
Linda Edwards	20
Heather Higgins	22
Logan Wilson	29
John Harrer	30



Volunteer Spotlight

John Harrer

Paraphrasing Henry Hill from the movie *Goodfellas*, "As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to work with animals." At age 15, in March of 1970, my Dad drove me to Stiern Vet Hospital because I wanted a job. They needed someone right away. I started that afternoon as a kennel person, but soon assisted in surgery, developed x-rays, and worked in the treatment room.

In 1974, I worked for Parker Pet Hospital in Studio City, the veterinarian to the Hollywood stars. Clint Eastwood, Linda Ronstadt, and Emmy Lou Harris brought their pets in for treatment. When California law established the Licensed Animal Health Technician in 1975, I became one of the first certified. Later, I helped set up one of the first in-hospital veterinary blood labs. Veterinarians had to send their samples out for analysis. Known as an innovator, Dr. Parker purchased the equipment and trained me how to use it. Veterinary medicine moved into the modern age.

Over the years my wife and I have owned some wonderful dogs and cats. Smokey and Boomer, our two Frisbee dogs, performed at many events, including half times at the Rose Bowl and a playoff game in Candlestick Park. Max earned his CD in obedience at 6 months. Murphy worked as a therapy dog. The five cats, Pepper, Smokey, Sparky, Panama, and Shadow, do a fine job of sleeping and eating.

Our horses, Dusty and Jessie are awesome on the trail and compete in sorting and trail trials. In 2015, I trained a wild horse from a herd roaming in the Tehachapi Mountains. Scratch, as I call him, is now a versatile ranch horse.

In January of 2016 I enlisted as a volunteer at the Shelter as a way of "giving back" to the pets who have enriched my life. As part of the Pet Detective Team, we work to return dogs to their owners. The Pet Detective Team is always looking for extra help. If you are a whiz at Social Media, please consider joining us.

Questions We All Want Answered!

If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live? My wife and I love Ojai, California with its beautiful landscapes, wonderful hiking and horse trails, and creative atmosphere. Plus, it has a awesome animal shelter.

If you just won the lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on? A house in Ojai. They are waaay out of my price range. Come to think of it, I might need to win two lotteries.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why? Remember Obi-Wan Kanobi from *Star Wars*? He had a mind control superpower. He waved his hand and people would do his will. I would walk around town waving my hand at pet owners saying, "You will chip, spay and neuter your pets." They would. Problem solved.



Coordinator's Corner

So, it's back.....the fun time of the year that we get to call FOOTBALL SEASON! Oh yeah, school is back too.

Just kidding!! School is important, otherwise I wouldn't have a special behind the scenes editor of this news letter to make sure I do not sound bad with my writing. On wards and upwards.....

Surprisingly, this month has many different celebrations that we have not covered in the past.

National Guide Dog Month

National Guide Dog Month is a celebration of the work of guide dogs in the United States as a way to raise awareness, appreciation and support for guide dog schools across the United States. It was established in 2008, as a fundraising drive to benefit non-profit guide dog organizations accredited by the International Guide Dog Federation). It is

observed during the month of September.

National Chicken Month![®]

For over two decades, the National Chicken Council has banded together all of the major chicken producers in the U.S. to promote chicken sales in September, turning a once slow month, as the summer grilling season waned, into one of the year's best performing sales periods.

14th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week September 18th-24th 2016

Sea Otter Awareness Week falls on the last week in September and is an annual recognition of the vital role that sea otters play in the nearshore ecosystem. Each year, zoos, aquariums, natural history museums, marine institutions, filmmakers, researchers, academics, educators, and the public participate in various events and activities highlighting sea otters and

their natural history and the various conservation issues sea otters are faced with.

International Rabbit Day

International Rabbit Day is an international day which promotes the protection and care of rabbits both domestic and wild. International Rabbit Day is held on September 24th.

On International Rabbit Day, we think about the many ways that rabbits bring joy to our lives, and the many ways in which they are harmed, by hunting, eating, medical experimentation, product testing, fur-farming, and living isolated lives in outdoor hutches.

Finally.....

Before I close this month's corner, be safe with school starting. Whether you drive or walk or even take the buses.....just be cautious and careful.

Have a great month.