



# THREE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY



## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to positively impact the environment while educating Hawaii's children about their place in the natural world. Our goal is to assist in the development of an environmentally responsible generation of youth. We are licensed to rehabilitate and possess endangered species, allowing us to teach about the fragile ecosystem we impact on a daily basis, while giving visitors a rare chance to see the animals up close. Native animals brought to us with injuries are cared for and released when able. Our resident animals will live out their natural lives at the facility.



Aloha Friends of the Sanctuary,

Many of you know we have been talking about a newsletter for some time now. Finally Norm has been home enough so that he could set up a format that even a computer helpless zookeeper such as myself could fill in the blanks.

We will have sections in each new edition where we will tell the stories of the Sanctuaries resident creatures another section will be about our many educational programs. Every newsletter will have an area for our younger readers called "creeping with the critters", and area where we tell you how you can help the animals.

Yes, we really do need your help. For all we are able to do and all we are getting done here in Kona we are a 100% volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit facility and with all of the natural disasters our world has suffered in the past few years donations have fallen off. As you read this first newsletter please consider becoming a supporter of the Sanctuary or adopting one of the creatures that live here. On the last page of the newsletter there are links and information to our web site and the mailing address. Consider becoming an animal volunteer and enriching your own life as you enrich theirs.

Without further fuss let me be the first to welcome you to our newsletter!

Regards,  
Ann Goody, PhD  
Curator, Three Ring Ranch



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Newsletter designed and produced by WebDoc @3RR.org



TOP: Flamingos bathing on arrival in summer 1999.  
 BOTTOM: Birds in excellent health, dancing on the bank, one year later.

SPECIAL THANKS  
 TO

CYANOTECH  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 AND STAFF

For the annual donation of spirulina algae and astaxanthin that we use twice daily to make the flamingo's "soup". Without you, they would not be dancing.

## ANIMAL NEWS

Lessor flamingos are found in several areas of Africa. They are highly social birds who live in very large, closely packed flocks. Ours came to us from a wild flock in Tanzania's Lake Manyara district which is in the Rift Valley. In 1986, a group of 100 birds were captured by Bell Birds International (a bird broker) for the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Sea World San Diego, The Honolulu Zoo and the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens. Of the 25 birds sent to Hawaii, 11 went to the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens on the Big Island near Hilo.

The climate in Hilo is very tropical, but cool and wet. Rain falls nearly daily with periods of cold wind and a scarcity of the hot, dry days that lessor flamingos require. The birds enclosure rapidly became overgrown by tropical trees that cut off the little sun that had managed to shine on the birds. Over time, the flock dwindled in number from 11 to 6 and the Garden's management knew something was amiss. They took the birds to a local avian vet who ran lab tests and treated leg sores. The birds were given the best possible care but the environment was unsuitable for them. The Garden's management knew that the birds would do better in the sun of Kona and wanted to maintain the health of the remaining birds.

The flock was donated to our sanctuary in the end of February 1999.

Once in Kona, the birds were treated to a new pond that was deep enough to allow swimming and bathing. The birds appetites increased and each of them gained nearly a pound. All of the plaques and sores on their legs healed and the birds began to exhibit pairing behavior. Several nests on the clay bank of the pond have been built and one pair mates annually. Only once have Lessors produced a chick in captivity (San Diego Zoo & Wild Animal Park flock) and with only five birds, we do not expect our "older" birds to be successful in raising a chick. In May of this year we were shocked to find a pale, pink egg on the bank of the pond. The egg was thin shelled and cracked, but amazing to see all the same. To see the birds obviously content in their surroundings is wonderful and we are thankful that the Tropical Botanical





# ANIMAL NEWS

(cont.)

Gardens was so concerned about their well-being.

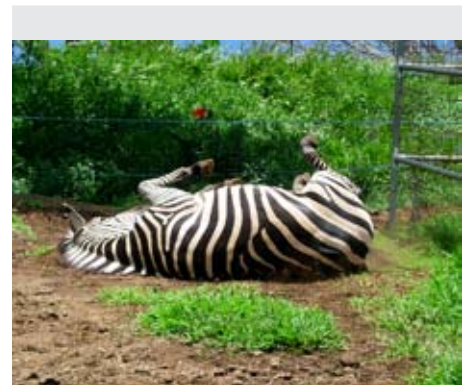
The nutritional needs of our flock are met by providing a twice daily gruel of Krause Flamingo Diet, blended with Spirulina and astaxanthin (donated by Cyanotech). The birds are filter feeders who in the wild eat only blue-green algae. These small flamingos are not usually shrimp or krill eaters. However, we have witnessed an occasional "hunting" movement by the birds. They appear to be eating the newly hatched fish and fresh water shrimp at the pond edge.

The birds spend much of their day napping on the pond bank or in the shallow areas of the pond itself. They are most active in the later afternoon with loud calling and activity until nearly 2 a.m. Sporadically throughout the day the entire flock will become active and flap up and down the grassy bank into the pond and out again. The birds will hover over the water then begin to bathe energetically. This period of intense activity will last only a few minutes, then the birds are back to napping and it is hard to believe what was just witnessed.

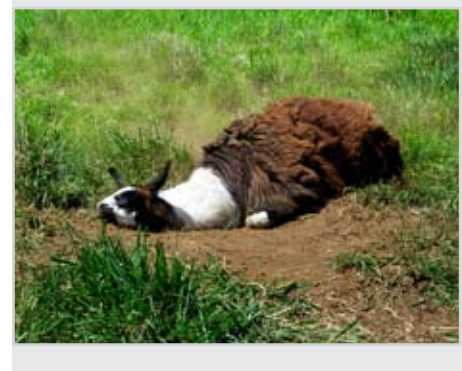
## Creeping Around with Critters

### Dirt is not dirty.

Well, some people think so, but the animals have a very different opinion. Rolling in dirt is one way animals have to keep clean. Yes, to keep clean and healthy. The fine dirt actually works down into their coat to keep skin oils from clumping together the hair. If a coat is oily it does not keep an animal warm or, in some cases, waterproof. If a fuzzy animal like a chinchilla is not fluffy and dusty the skin under the hair may also get diseases, kind of like "athlete's foot" fungus. In other types of animals the dust gets down to the skin and helps prevent insects from biting. Nothing like a good coat of dust to keep the mosquitoes and flies from biting. Also, some animals just love the feel of a good roll in cool mud. Oreo, Zoe and Tootsie will line up and wallow one after another in the mud after it rains. So, next time you get told to go clean up for dinner, maybe you could go roll in a soft pile of dirt....maybe not.



photos of Tootsie and Juan by Jane Park, pre-vet intern, 2006





## BEHAVIORAL ENRICHMENT

I often start educational tours at the Sanctuary with the following statement, “Kalani, a fourteen year old umbrella cockatoo, is the most difficult creature who lives here.” Many people look at her as she happily greets them in the barn with, “Say hi to Kalani”, “Go outside”, “Go bye bye”, “Have a French fry?”. Most people see a bird that not only uses speech as we know it, but also is clever enough to use it at times to get a response from us when she seeks an action from us. The more complex an animal’s social behavior, the more difficult it is to care for it in captivity appropriately. This is where the behavioral enrichment programs here at the Sanctuary come into play. Every creature here has a program created by volunteers geared to its unique species and needs. Some programs may be as simple as providing natural habitats so that the residents are able to forage and behave as they do in the wild and others require a more hands on approach.

This column is dedicated to our Board member, Dr. Hal Markowitz, whose inspirational work has improved the lives of captive animals worldwide

For Kalani, who has highly adapted feet and a beak, (and the ability to make toothpicks from nearly anything wooden) we provide objects for her to touch, feel, chew and destroy, always taking care to use non-treated materials and organic objects from our ranch, if possible. A favorite is toys that encourage her to find food objects hidden inside of other larger objects, which stimulates her mind while encouraging her to use her nimble feet and beak. Time out of her cage, up in her climbing tree or out on the picnic table each day, is mandatory. But like with any two-year old child, she does not know what can harm her and poisonous plants, dangerous animals or power cords all pose risks she must be protected from.

That is why this type of bird is not a safe or wise choice for a “pet”. Just imagine having a two year old for the next 70 years!





**SAVE A TREE (and a stamp)**  
 send a blank email to  
[news-subscribe@threeringranch.org](mailto:news-subscribe@threeringranch.org)  
 and you will be subscribed to our electronic  
 mailing list and receive future newsletters via  
 email\*

## EDUCATION



After school mentors are school children, 12-13 years of age who come up one day a week, in small groups, to learn basic animal care and conservation. These children become "junior keepers". They learn animal communication, how to provide behavioral enrichment, proper nutrition for captive creatures and wildlife care, just to name a few things. As their own skills grow their own confidence increases. They become leaders and eventually teach other students the skills they have learned. Their program runs for 10 to 12 weeks. Any local student may apply by sending an email. Students will then be selected from those applications.



We also host special sessions for adult members of our community who are interested in the animals and what it takes to keep them happy and healthy. Adults may call or email the Sanctuary to set up these programs. We try to fit as many of these in as possible but can not make any guarantees of availability. We also offer open days that are advertised on community bulletin boards and over public radio. These will be offered several times a year, as well as several training sessions for our volunteers and new recruits.

TOP: Natalie, a student in our after-school mentoring program, gives a "dust bath" to some of the chinchillas.  
 BOTTOM: One of our pre-vet interns, Anna, feeding flamingos. Anna is now entering her second year of vet school in Nebraska.

We also offer intern/externship programs. The Sanctuary offers both summer internships for pre-vet students and externships for second year veterinary students. We currently have affiliations with both UC Berkeley and UC Davis. We welcome other students if space is available. Students are selected early each year for the two 3-week summer programs. Year-long pre-vet internships are also possible. Our interns have been 100% successful in entering into a veterinary college!

## ADULT VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Ever wanted to work with animals? Now is your chance!

Become a volunteer keeper. Learn to care for the animals at the sanctuary.  
 Must be reliable, committed, easy going.

No experience is required! Must be at least 17 years old.

Learn to care for all the critters over several months as you enjoy providing the daily enrichment and stimulation they need.

Or form a team and take over the regular care of one of our animal environments. Come up twice a month with your group and keep the flamingo garden, an aviary or the nene pond blooming.

331-8778



# HOW YOU CAN HELP US HELP THEM

Regular monthly support is key to provide food water, medical care and to provide for the educational programs here at the Sanctuary. Without your generous support none of this can continue. While grants do cover many large capital projects and expenditures, the day to day business and maintenance must be paid for by the donations that you and others like you provide.

Although fund raising events, like our Art 4 Animals, raise awareness and dollars, they are very expensive to host and take us away from our work with the animals and children. Therefore, we try to encourage supporters to adopt an animal for a month or even a year. This can easily be done online from our web site. There is an animal for every budget from \$5 to \$125 per month (\$60-1500 year).

Another way you can support us is to consider naming the Sanctuary in your will or through planned giving. There are many ways of taking the tax benefits on your estate now and leaving a gift to the non-profit of your choice. One way is a retained life estate. Some benefits may include: removing a major asset from probate, avoiding estate taxes, getting a tax deduction and bypassing capital gains, all while getting to use the asset for your entire life!

Talk to a qualified estate planning attorney to discuss the benefits and issues as they may apply to you personally in any planned giving. We recommend Darl Gleed 808-329-6600. He is a member of our Board and an expert on this subject.

All donations are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit facility. We gladly provide receipts to our donors.

The Sanctuary is run 100% by volunteers. There are no paid staff.

**THREE RING RANCH**

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