



# THREE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY



Aloha  
Petroleum

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## 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.

"Ginko Balls"- need I say more?  
Thank you to everyone that sent kind and supportive notes during our email-nightmare Nov27. You helped us survive it with a smile...

Aloha Friends of the Sanctuary,

We have had a busy Summer and Fall with many animals coming in for care and our intern programs in full swing. Our new ink jet cartridge recycling campaign is really taking off, helping to keep the landfills empty while raising funds for animal care and educational programs. Recently, we also had several large items donated. The most unusual was a gold "Excalibur" limo (think Herman Munster) which was sold to benefit the animals. We were also gifted a car, by Dr. Hal and Krista Markowitz, which will be used as our new intermobile. A donation of steel racks by Island Pet Supply now allows us to store the feed in our supply room off the floor and we received a generous donation from Foodland's Give Aloha Campaign.

We recently had our annual "surprise" visit from USDA inspector Dr. Betsy Lyons. As usual, she was very pleased with the facility and the quality of care all of our residents receive.

This issue profiles Oreo, one of the Sanctuary favorites. I know you will enjoy learning about this magnificent creature. There is also a profile of our intern program. We tell how they learn the "delicate firmness" required to work with a wild animal so that it allows you to safely be close enough to work on them.

Enjoy this issue and please share it with your animal-loving friends.

Regards,  
Ann Goody, PhD  
Curator, Three Ring Ranch





# ANIMAL NEWS

## Meet Oreo



SPECIAL THANKS  
TO  
**ISLAND PET SUPPLY**  
73-4976 Kamanu St. #109  
in Kona above Home Depot



[www.kailua-candy.com](http://www.kailua-candy.com)

**FOODLAND/SACK 'N'**  
**SAVE AND**  
**WESTERN UNION**  
FOR THEIR GENEROUS  
DONATIONS



give aloha

Oreo is a 21 year old plains zebra. She was wild caught in Africa and sold by a Kenyan animal dealer and transferred to a Texas dealer. She was then shipped to a safari park on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai where she was exhibited with many other African animals as a tourist attraction. The park, however, also served a darker purpose as a breeding facility for a hunting park owned by the same company. Clients could select an exotic animal to hunt and kill for sport. The animals at the hunting park were not protected by any government regulations, as protection under the USDA's Animal Welfare Act does not apply to "game preserves" (the politically correct term for a "canned" hunting park). The ranch ownership subsequently changed hands and during the changeover many animals starved to death or became "unaccounted for". The new owners did not wish to continue the safari park and attempted to place some of the animals with a State approved facility. We were very lucky to receive State approval and grateful to be able to offer sanctuary to Oreo and several other animals. We will always be grateful that the new owners of the Molokai Ranch allowed the animals to be transferred to our sanctuary.

Oreo was "in foal" (pregnant) when we were notified that we could take her. However, she first had to be herded from her 150 acre compound into a "capture pen". Oreo was unwilling to enter the pen when the other animals did and, as her pregnancy advanced, time was running out to get her moved. In the meantime, another uncooperative, but non-pregnant zebra was darted by helicopter for another facility. With Oreo being so far along in her pregnancy, we were unwilling to risk injury by trying that for her (being chased by a helicopter can be very stressful). She was eventually lured into the capture pen along with several zebra stallions. Soon after, she delivered a healthy filly (who would also end up with us and would eventually be named Zoë). The transfer to our facility had to wait until the filly was old enough to be safely tranquilized for the barge trip between islands. During this time in the pen with the stallions she again became pregnant. Her next filly (whom we named Tootsie) was born at our sanctuary on October 5, 1999).

When Oreo arrived at our sanctuary she was stressed from the transfer that had taken five days and involved truck, boat and trailer travel. As any wild animal will do when cornered, Oreo was ready to fight and protect her baby. When she was first let into her new enclosure, she bit at and struck the fences looking for a way to escape. Over the next two days, though, I spent hours just sitting near her trying to let her relax and adapt to captivity and, in time, she came to trust me. Oreo is a wonderful mother and through all of this she remained attentive and nurturing to her baby, Zoë. Within a week, Oreo was responding to simple commands and I was able to work within the enclosure near her. Although Oreo has now become quite calm and comfortable in her new home, she will never be a "pet" and as a wild animal is never to be trusted. Probably the most dangerous animal is a wild one who loses their fear of humans. They may appear "friendly",



# ANIMAL NEWS

(cont. from page 2)

but underneath that, their true wild instincts ultimately influence their behavior. This is sometimes easy to forget (since she now walks quietly near us and takes food from our hands) but it is something that anyone who works with the animals must always be alert to. The fact remains that the animals will react as they have been "programmed" to react from thousands of years of evolution and life in the wild.

Now that she is at the Three Ring Ranch, Oreo will never be bred again. She will live out her remaining years in comfort, with the company of her two daughters. She has come half-way around the world, from her birthplace in Africa to her home in Kona, and it has not been an easy trip. The capture and sale of exotic animals from the wild is a brutal business and one that should not be encouraged. Zoological parks and zoos produce far more offspring than they can ever display. Animals such as zebra are easily bred in controlled captive environments. If animals are bred only as needed for accredited zoological parks, the trade in exotic animal surplus can be reduced and the trade of wild caught animals ended. Please support your local zoological park and encourage only controlled breeding of its specimens.





# Creeping Around with Critters

Being a zookeeper means you have to understand each animals varied diet and what each needs to stay healthy. What goes in must come out and we are always aware of what normal poo should look like for each creature.

## Who poo'd it?

Match the pictures below with the animals' diet and with its poo!

INPUT

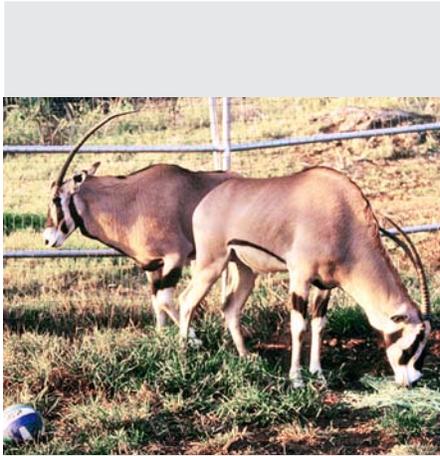
eating machine

OUTPUT



THE RING RANGER EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY

ANSWERS 1-C-e 2-E-a 3-A-b 4-B-d 5-D-c



## BEHAVIORAL ENRICHMENT

This excerpt is from an article written by Stephanie Wan and Rell Parker. Our summer interns co-author an article with Ann as part of their program. It was published in the *Sanctuary Workers and Volunteers Association* newsletter, allowing us to share what we do here for oryx enrichment with other facilities.

Oryx is a large antelope found mostly in arid regions of Africa. In their native habitat, they eat grasses and browse thorny bushes, such as acacia pods. They will also eat wild tsama melons, cucumbers and dig for tubers, roots, and flower bulbs. The main water source for an oryx is their food. They may drink if water is available but can go long periods, days to even weeks, without drinking.

At the Ranch, we have a mother and son pair of *oryx gazella* (gemsbok), subspecies *besia*. They are kept in a naturally planted enclosure and fed a mixture of grains, pellets and oat alfalfa cubes twice daily. In the wild, oryx spend much of their time grazing and browsing on different plants, therefore offering captive oryx a variety of feed is an excellent form of enrichment. There are mulberry trees, monkey pods, palm trees and grasses planted in their enclosure to provide variety for grazing. We also collect plants that grow at the sanctuary; bamboo, hibiscus, buffle, cane and guinea grass (especially those with seed heads, as they tend to keep the grass in their enclosure trimmed below seed height). We also collect plants from surrounding communities. One of their favorites is keawe, which resembles the acacia trees native to Africa. Attempting to replicate their natural habitat, we present their browse in a variety of ways. Sometimes we scatter clumps of plants, hang bamboo along the fences or arrange big bouquets of grasses around the enclosure. To provide additional stimulation in their environment, we also put logs, empty feed bags, orange cones, etc. in their enclosure. You can collect edible plants at or around your facility, then do an oryx taste test to identify their favorite browse.

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

for full text see [www.3rr.org/articles/oryx\\_swava.pdf](http://www.3rr.org/articles/oryx_swava.pdf)



## SAVE A TREE (and a stamp)

send a blank email to

[email\\_list-subscribe@threeringranch.org](mailto:email_list-subscribe@threeringranch.org)

and you will be subscribed to our electronic mailing list and receive future newsletters via email\*

# EDUCATION



TOP: Jane Park, a UC Davis vet student  
 BOTTOM: Becca Walton, a Hawaii pre-vet student

One of our many educational programs at the Ranch is a summer residential internship. We host two 3-week sessions and the interns live with us, at the Sanctuary, as they learn animal communication (body language), how to care for the resident creatures, sanctuary management and rehabilitative care. We usually pair a second year veterinary student with a pre-vet college student who is about to apply to vet school. During each of the sessions, the teams are required to coauthor a publication which will have a positive impact on animal care and/or understanding.

This past summer, each of our teams coauthored an article. One of the articles, titled "Keeping Our Cages Empty", has been picked-up by The Humane Society of the United States for distribution during their educational outreach programs.

During the program, the interns are also able to assist with any rehabilitation or rescues. This summer, a local colony of Jackson's chameleons was observed to suffer multiple unexplained deaths. Necropsies were done and specimens were sent to Dr. Kurt Benirschke, a noted pathologist affiliated with the San Diego Wild Animal Park in California. A parasitic infection was found in the livers of each of the animals. Based on these findings we could now treat any other chameleons should they become ill. In addition, the specimens we provided to Dr. Benirschke were photographed and he will be adding this data to his web site so that scientists and researchers worldwide can access it.

## 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



# THE SANCTUARY NEEDS

## A NEW HOME

### The Three Ring Ranch is outgrowing its current location

We are now in the process of searching for a place to build a new, **100% green facility.**

The ideal place is, of course, in Hawaii. The Big Island, our current home, is our first choice but we would also consider rural land on Oahu or Maui. The best solution would be a larger piece of property (10+ acres) where we can create a Sanctuary, built with renewable resources, solar power and catchment water. We would also like to be able to grow nutritious grasses for the grazers and plant fruit crops for the parrots and reptiles.

We are currently located on five acres in Kailua-Kona. However, due to Kona's rapid rise in land values and increasing density, we have been unable find anyone willing to donate or sell us land at a reduced price, even to a non-profit such as ours. We did have a very kind offer of land in Hawi, at the northern tip of the island, but the location had very difficult access that would have probably required at least \$300,000 in infrastructure before even considering construction costs.

We are willing to visit almost any site suggested to see if it would work, but one of our limitations is that we need to be accessible for students, interns and volunteers.

**Any ideas?** As a non-profit facility, land donated to us would be a tax write off as well as a benefit to the entire community. Even a partial donation of the land may work if we could raise the balance. In addition to building a curator's home on the property, our dream for the new facility includes construction of cottages for keepers and interns, barns, ponds and a building or set of buildings to use as a classroom, a place to display our collection of teaching specimens and a hospital/ICU/quarantine facility. The photos below show some of our current facility, including aviaries, the barn, which houses some of the smaller animals, has a feed storage room and a treatment/ICU/holding room and one of our 2 ponds. Re-building and moving will be a tremendous project but that's what it will take to create a truly world-class facility.



THREE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY



## HELP US HELP THEM

Without your generous support we would be unable to provide the food, water, enrichment, medical care and educational programs at the Sanctuary. While we have been fortunate enough to receive a number grants that helped cover some large capital expenses and projects, the day-to-day feeding, business and maintenance must be paid for by the donations that you provide.



Our new **RECYCLE FOR THE RANCH** program is growing into a wonderful way to support the animals while reducing pollution and saving energy. We mail pre-addressed, postage paid baggies to anyone with an ink jet printer or fax machine. When the ink cartridge in your machine is empty, you simply toss the cartridge in the baggie instead of the trash and it goes directly to the recycler who pays a small bounty to the Sanctuary. Want to help out? Even if you don't use ink jet cartridges, if you send out Holiday greetings this year, you could still help us by adding one or two baggies in with each card. It will not raise the postage cost and we can accept baggies from anywhere in the USA. To get baggies just go to [www.threeringranch.org](http://www.threeringranch.org) and click on the **RECYCLE FOR THE RANCH** link in the left column (or just click HERE). Once you send us your address and the number of baggies you would like, we'll get them right out to you.

2006 is nearing its end. With the holidays just about here, we hope you will consider a gift to the Sanctuary.

### Perhaps consider adopting an animal for 2007

Please visit the web site to donate and adopt  
or call us for further details at 808-331-8778.

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

