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25 Years of Zoocracy Bring Tears, Cheers, and Calls for Reform

MAMMALIAN DAILY CELEBRATION REPORTER

Swaying to the strains of the Endeke Elephant Band, Ute Orangutan was moved to shed a tear when she spoke about her maternal grandparents, Zanneke and Carlton Orangutan. The Orangs, who fled persecution in their native land, were among The Park's first citizens.

"They settled here because they believed that, in The Park, they could build a better life," she said. "I will always be grateful to them...and I will always feel a sense of responsibility to The Park."

Such sentiments were not unique during the two-day celebration this Winter that marked the 25th anniversary of zoocracy in The Park.

For Jacinta Kri-Kri, the highlight of the occasion was the unveiling of the monument to Jor, The Park's first leader and the founder of modern zoocracy. With her Kids in tow, the Kri-Kri made a dedication of her own, as she placed a wreath of rosemary at the foot of the marble statue.

"I want my Kids to learn Park



history so they can understand why Jor is a hero to us," she said, between bites of one of the many treats that were on offer at the festivities.

Park history was also on the mind of Sagar Hog-Deer, whose family emigrated from the foothills of the Himalayas six years ago. For Sagar, Park history means a solid record based on the principles of tolerance and the welcoming of all species -- principles that, he feels, may be hard to maintain in the future.

"The Park is being assaulted from the outside and we are just

beginning to see the effects of it," he said, pointing to the upcoming census, talk of currency amalgamation, and looming political reforms as evidence of the erosion of Park values.

"We need to take a step back. We don't need to change [things] if there isn't a problem in the first place," he emphasized.

While Hog-Deer sees no problem with the status quo, scores of Animals who attended the celebrations say they see the need for immediate changes in The Park.

"We've been at a standstill for years. Some aspects of Park life

are downright archaic and, some, I might say...were [the result of] hare-brained schemes in the first place," complained Mason L. Tortoise, head of SARG, the Small Animal Reform Group, which has called for sweeping changes in many Park policies.

Despite the political debate, Park Animals were up for the two days of merrymaking and were quick to declare the event a "roaring success."

"I think it was a tribute to the power of Jor's vision," concluded Humphrey Hyrax, the festival's organizer.

Mapping a Changing Landscape

MAMMALIAN DAILY PARK POPULATION REPORTER

How will The Park of the future look?

That will be the topic of discussion this Autumn, when a delegation of experts gathers in The Park for a conference on "the nature of the future and the future of nature."

The three-day symposium is entitled "Our Memories of the Future" and the panel of zoographers, ecologists, geographers, historians, and population specialists is expected to draw heavily on historical trends in order to create a "map" of The Park as it will be in the year 75 AZ.

Is Your Spell Check Software Specist?

MAMMALIAN DAILY TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

As residents of The Park rush to embrace technology, experts in the field are voicing their concerns about its appropriateness to the Animal world.

"The problem with much of the new software," says technology expert Llewellyn Fox, "is that it is not configured to deal with many of the nuances of Animal life."

Fox, who is president of Quick Brown Fox Technologies, S.A.

(QBF), a computer consulting company, spoke recently at a gathering hosted by The Poplar Press, publishers of his new book, "The Lazy Dog's Guide to Technology."

continued on page 2

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Vox Animalorum Vox Mundi

When Beggars Become Choosers, We All Become Losers

The line at the top of the **CatsCare** letterhead tugs at the heartstrings: "When the heart is full, the stomach rarely grumbles."

How ironic that exhortation to all of us to feel for the less fortunate seems now, in light of the recent undoing of that charity's board and the unseating of Bentley, its founder and president.

While it is too early in the investigation to render the final judgment, it is much too late for the rest of us to pretend that we had no inkling that something was rotten in the state of one of The Park's oldest charities.

To be sure, there were signs. First among them was the 22 AZ decision made by the **CatsCare** board to accept only cash donations.

When a charity that feeds, houses, and provides medical care for needy Cats refuses to take donations in kind, what are we to make of it? And what, we must ask, is the effect of such a policy, not only on the recipients of their charitable aid, but on the donating population, as well?

In the case of **CatsCare**, the policy's intentions have become all too clear in recent months. Yet, the effects of this folly have been far more profound than anyone ever intended: for, while Bentley and his board were busy fattening up their bank accounts with Ftoo siphoned off from donated funds, they were, at the same time, violating the trust of those who rely on them, abusing the trust of their donors, and shattering the confidence of all Park Animals in the idea of assisting each other by means of institutions set up for that purpose.

The breach is wide. The healing will take much time. But profound changes must occur.

No matter what the courts find, it is clear that **CatsCare** violated the code of ethics. Yet, where, in law, can we find this code of ethics? Alas, we cannot, for we have not committed it to law. This we must do, now. We must inscribe in law what we believe to be the proper behaviour for our charities. We must also imbed in any definition of "charity" this simple but essential idea: that we must take from our donors and give to the needy *whatever it is that they need in such form as they require it*. Only then can we restore the confidence of the donating public.



Support Grows for Unified Currency

CURRENCY WATCH

Listed below are major currency equivalents posted at the close of business 29 MYRODIA 25 AZ

All equivalents based on Ftoo (F)

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------|------|
| Ape | 2.6 | Hedgehog | 4.9 |
| Bear, Brown | 3.2 | Hyena | 4.1 |
| Bear, Polar | 2.9 | Kangaroo | 5.7 |
| Canary | 5.0 | Lion | 4.0 |
| Chicken | 5.9 | Mongoose | 11.1 |
| Cow | 4.7 | Ostrich | 4.7 |
| Dog | 2.8 | Pig | 3.3 |
| Donkey | 4.7 | Salamande | 7.3 |
| Giraffe | 4.8 | Wolf | 3.0 |
| Goat | 4.3 | Yak | 5.0 |
| Groundhog | 2.1 | Zebra | 4.4 |

Hard currency only

Down at the Battering Ram Café, the grass is cool and green, the staff is warm and friendly, and talk among regulars is of a future, red-hot economy.

"It's possible," muses Musidora Mouflon, "but we need a unified currency first. We can't trade outside The Park without one."

Indeed, a poll conducted recently confirmed that extra-hortulalian trade is the main reason that Animals would consider currency amalgamation.

"It's time to stop separating the Sheep from the Goats," said the Mouflon.

Our Readers Respond ...

Re: UWT Professor Encourages Animals to Defend Zoocracy (Winter 25 AZ)

It's very easy to defend zoocracy when it's clear that zoocracy is to your benefit, but there are many Animals who live here, I among them, who feel far removed from the zoocratic workings of The Park.

In fact, a poll conducted before the New Year by researchers at an independent agency found that as many as forty percent of resident Animals felt that the government ran Park life without desire for their input. More than sixty percent said they could make a list of ten or more improvements, and over half said they doubted whether Park Archons would even listen to them.

There is no doubt that our present system of government is superior to its predecessor and it is, of course, far better than living under Human law. I just don't think we should be expected to be "proactive in its defence." Does the government work for the citizens or do the citizens work for the government?

Edwina L. Porcupine
The Park

Re: Census Matter! (Winter 25 AZ)

I have a question for those researchers at the Medical College of the University of West Terrier: if an Animal sighs in the forest, and nobody hears her, does she make a sound only when you have a grant to study it?

Your "discovery" is old news to those of us in health-related businesses. I have been dealing with Animal stress and its attendant "sighs" on a daily basis for years. I have seen, first hand, what this can do to an Animal – and I mean physical deterioration all the way to premature death.

I noticed your article made no mention of any treatment or cure. It's about time someone actually started to treat Animal stress, instead of just plotting statistics on a graph.

Coretta - Head Masseur
The Lion's Den, The Park

Re: Census Day Declared Amid Animal Protests (Winter 25 AZ)

After all the stomping and head-shaking is over, maybe we will be able to put this head count to some use. Let's hope so.

Bettina Bobcat
The Park

Spell Check

continued from page 1

In the book, Fox laments the dearth of Animal-appropriate software and lays the blame for many of our current problems on the species that developed it.

"The problem is, in effect, its lack of Human ec-centricity," Fox declares. By this, he means that certain features of the applications, which have been designed by and for Humans, are what he terms "Human-centric."

"Their core functions are trans-special," he emphasizes, "and, as such, they present no difficulty to the average Animal." The trouble occurs, he says, when some of the applications' tools are used.

As an example, Fox points to the spell check tool that is included in his word processing package.

"No matter what species you key in, the word processor supplies the initial letter in the lower case."

Fox is quick to concede that even the word "Human" is not delivered to your screen with the initial letter in the upper case.

"Some Animals might not see this as anything more than a nuisance," he admits. And, of course, the software can be set to change a lower case Animal name to an upper case one.

The problem, though, is less a practical one and more a matter of attitude.

"It's not just a matter of a capital letter here or there," Fox says. "If our young are raised to use this software — and they will be — it won't be long before they start to write the way Humans do — simply because it takes less effort to let the software dictate the way you express yourself."

Additional areas of concern include the dictionary and several other language tools. These functions, says Fox, provide the user's vocabulary.

"It's not so much a problem of the words that the software does supply," he emphasizes. "My complaint is that Animals are likely to be told by this software that the words they key in do not exist."

Fox is not alone in being wary of Human software. Several newspapers in The Park, including this one, are currently negotiating with software companies to offer a choice of different Animal dictionaries in their word processing software.

But the final decision, say the software manufacturers, will be an economic one.

"If enough Animals are upset by this and they are not willing to buy our product, then we will have to take a look at what we're offering," says a spokesman for a leading computer programme manufacturer.

Until then, however, Park Animals will have to put a special effort into making word processing technology their own.

Have you had similar experiences with software and information technology? Email us at: feedback@mammaliandaily.com and tell us your story!

Kipos Gallery



an artistic depiction of
contemporary life outside
The Park

on view
1 Karpos - 1 Karpouzi

Official Census Day: 15 Karpos



Wee Paws
for
Species
Identification

Count Yourself in!
Park Census Office



CMA Announces Award

MAMMALIAN DAILY
MUSIC REPORTER

In recognition of the pioneering efforts of Thisbe and the Barkettes in the field of Canine music and Canine music awareness, The Canine Music Association has announced the establishment of the Thisbe and the Barkettes Honorary Award for

Excellence in Music and Musical Citizenship.

At a press conference held at his office, R.F. Aarrf, President of the CMA, said the award will recognize those Canines who have achieved success, not only in their own musical careers, but also in the promotion of Canine music and interspecies understanding and acceptance.

"This is where our future lies [in global recognition] and no one has made a more important contribution in this area than Thisbe and the Barkettes," said Aarrf.

Citing their 19 AZ world tour in support of universal peace and interspecies harmony, Aarrf noted that the Barkettes had forged friendships with musicians who belonged to a wide variety of species.

"I think they have been an inspiration to many musicians," he said. "I think a lot of young singers [of any species] look at the Barkettes and think that, maybe, it is possible to achieve their dream, and it is largely because of the Barkettes that this is so."

The prize, which will be awarded annually at a dinner hosted by the CMA, will include a recording contract as well as a cash payment and gold tag.

The Barkettes, on hiatus after the cancellation this year of their farewell tour, issued a statement saying they were "humbled" by the naming of the award.

Squiggles and Scribbles

Albert: A Life on the Street

By Digby

Tall Tail Books, 130 pages

Tagged as a sure winner for a prize in the Biography category at the upcoming Feline Fiction Fest (14-17 Karpos), this book tells the moving story of Albert, a Cat who was abandoned by his Human protector and forced to live on the streets outside The Park. As told by his friend, Digby, Albert evolves from a mean-spirited to an affectionate, trusting specimen of felinity until the fateful night when he is struck by a car and left to die by the side of the road.

Digby's book, then, becomes not only a poignant memoir of a unique friendship, but an indictment of the world outside The Park.

Other Titles to Watch For:

The Siamese Connection

Himalayan Histories

Jor: An Unauthorized Biography

The Digby Diaries (Les Journaux de Digby)

The Persian Version

Murder at the Fishbowl

Addicted to Freedom: The

Psychology of the Runaway Pet

Mark your calendars
NOW!
The Feline Fiction Fest
14-17 Karpos
The Wishing Well



BLOG ON:

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mammaliandaily.blogspot.com

The Mammalian Daily Writer's Blog:
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A Poem of Love Inspired by Water

When I look at you
the love flows out of me
like water from a tap
racing to the drain.
I hope you feel the same.

- Nestor P. Cat

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the Topaz Toepad



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Ask a Poodle

Collar ID

DEAR POODLE: I am wondering what your opinion is of the latest fashion accessory for Dogs (and other Animals) – by that I mean collars that have name tags hanging from them.

I was given one as a gift, but I can't bring myself to wear it. I have a friend who thinks I'm daft. She says that they are not only beautiful, but they are practical, as well.

What do you think?

- TRADITIONALIST

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: There are, of course, at least two sides to every story (as well as to the name tags hanging on these collars), and as many opinions as there are Animals.

But, as far as I'm concerned, this is one of the most demeaning trends in fashion The Park has ever seen. I also find it quite baffling that this fad has taken hold in the same year that we are celebrating 25 years of Animal self-rule.

These items hearken back to a time when all Animals were the chattel of Humans. Despite our best efforts, this is still a reality for many Animals and we would be much better off wearing a tag that called for their emancipation than acting as though we have all risen above this sad and shameful part of our past.

As for the practicality of wearing our identities around our necks (as opposed to our hearts on our sleeves), I don't find this argument compelling. Nor do I believe that our young should be encouraged to sport a look that shouts "I Am Property!"

As for the aspect of beauty, there are many things more beautiful than an ID tag – namely, freedom, respect, and Animal dignity.

Ask a Poodle (askapoodle@mammaliandaily.com) appears in every second issue of The Mammalian Daily and alternates with Dear Noreen (noreen@mammaliandaily.com). Please e-mail your questions to them or post them to The Mammalian Daily and mark the envelope "Dear Noreen" or "Ask a Poodle." We regret that neither the Poodle nor Noreen can send responses directly to you.

THE MUST-SEE MOVIE OF 25 AZ!

"Black Cats' will
make you weep!"

"A daring endeavour
by a novice filmmak-
er!"

"Black waters run
deep!"

THE PANTHER POST

The Simian Spectator

The Halibut Herald

"Four toes up for this
picture!"

THE MAMMALIAN
DAILY

A DOUGLAS CHEETAH FILM

BLACK CATS CAN'T JUMP

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A DOUGLAS CHEETAH FILM "BLACK CATS CAN'T JUMP" PETER L. PANTHER
BRANDON OCELOT MONIQUE TIGRESS LIONEL L. LYNX WILLEM LEOPARD
GERALD H. PUMA AND MARY MARGAY EDITED BY I.R. JAGUARUNDI

Some Scenes in this Film May Be Inappropriate For Young Animals

blackcatscantjump.com

Now playing at the Park Cinema

Park Braces for Panzootic as Small Ball Fever Claims New Victim

SPECIAL TO THE MAMMALIAN DAILY
The recent death of a Squirrel has alerted The Park's medical community to the necessity of implementing measures to deal with the possible onset of a panzootic, according to a spokesanimal for The Park's Department of Well-Being and Safety (DWBS).

Kostas Apollonios Eusebios Squirrel died on 26 Varrah as a result of small ball fever, six days after he had extensive contact with a small ball which he imported to The Park from a local field.

An internal memo from the DWBS, made available to this newspaper, reveals that the likelihood of a small ball fever panzootic is greater this year than in previous years, in large part because of the proliferation of small balls in the communities surrounding The Park.

Every year, the DWBS monitors the influx of small balls into The Park. This year, the number has increased ten-fold. Experts say this is due, primarily, to



Anatomy of a Small Ball: The virus resides in the dimpled surface, but it replicates in the internal layers

the early onset of warm, sunny weather.

"Small balls are the bane of our existence," said Cornelius Kakapo, Director of Public Relations for the DWBS. "We can contain them inside The Park, but there is nothing we can do to restrict their number outside our borders," he said.

Small balls were first sighted in The Park more than a decade ago, but their number has grown

exponentially over the past five years. The balls, which are better known outside The Park as "golf" balls, harbour the deadly Small Ball Fever virus inside their dimpled surface. The SBF virus is spread when it leaks through cracks in the ball's surface and makes contact with mucosa in the mouth or nose. Symptoms include extremely high fever, chills, aching muscles, and, eventually, pulmonary dysfunction. All Animals are at risk of developing small ball fever but some groups of Animals, including Squirrels, Donkeys, the elderly, and the infirm, are at particular risk.

The DWBS's Kakapo was quick to assure Animals that the Department is doing everything in its power to limit the spread of small ball fever and to protect The Park's population from a panzootic.

For more information, please consult The Park's Department of Well-Being and Safety pamphlet, "What you should know about small ball fever."

When Iris Eyes Are Smiling

MAMMALIAN DAILY
 FOOD REPORTER

*When Iris eyes are smiling,
 Sure it signals that it's Spring.
 In the silence of the morning,
 You can hear the Bluebirds sing.
 When Iris beards are glistening,
 With their droplets of Spring rain,
 You can harvest them for supper,
 And sure go home again.*

Traditional Park Harvesting Song

In the Spring seasons of my youth, my littermates and I would go petal-picking with our mother. After we'd collected the

flowers, our mother would sort out the best for that evening. Soon, the fragrance of fresh flower petals, seasoned with her special blend of herbs, would fill the air.

This particular recipe, though it does not use Irises, was one of my favourites.

Nut-Stuffed Nasturtiums

Ingredients:
 Nasturtium flowers
 Assorted nuts in the shell (e.g., peanuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts)
 Chives

Lemon Catnip
 Method:
 Wash and dry 16 flowers.

Shell* enough nuts to make 1 cup. Mash** nuts between two rough stones. Add 1 tbsp shredded lemon catnip and 1 tbsp chopped chives to mashed nuts. Place small amount of nut mixture into the centre of flowers and pull petals upward to cover the stuffing. Press petals lightly into stuffing. Arrange on large leaves and serve.

Serves 4-6 mid-sized Animals.
 * Ask a Squirrel for help, if necessary.
 ** Ask an Ape for help, if necessary.

THE AGORA

SUMMER RENTALS

Cabana located outside the Park. Close to pool, shade trees, vegetable garden. Suitable for up to four Rodent families indoors and/or one Bird family outdoors. Available Summer 25 AZ from 28 Karpos - 29 Otium. References required. Call 78663861 (summerfun1).

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Do you belong to a species that has been officially designated as "endangered" by The Park's administration? If so, you are entitled to a number of special services offered at no charge by The Park. These include:

- Entry into the The Park's Endangered Species Registry (ESR)
- Official Endangered Species Photo Identity Card
- Health and Dental Insurance (medicaments included)
- Longevity check-up (once per year)
- Legacy photographs of your family taken by official Park photographer
- Family tree plotting (1 copy per resident)
- Estate planning services
- Taxidermy/Cryopreservation/Burial consultations and services
- Free admission to all Park museums and attractions

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Are you sitting on a nice little nest egg?

Think only the early Bird gets the Worm?

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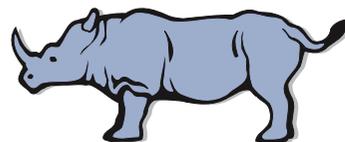
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Look Who's Horning in on the Family!

Elspeth and Gerald Rhinoceros announce with great joy the arrival of their strapping 32.8 kg son, Ambrose, born 28 Varrah, 25 AZ. A brother for Amelia. Many thanks to friends and family for all their good wishes.

The Park is pleased to welcome Agnes, Barclay, Morgan, Hume, Maeve, and Buckley Muskrat, born 23 Myrodia, 25 AZ to Felicia and Carlton.



Baa, Baa, Black Sheep!

Yes! We have three! Aidan, Bridget, and Gretchen! Born 2 Myrodia, 25 AZ. Proud parents Angus and Morag are busy, but well.

Let's Talk Balls!

with Bailey



Today's Ball is the BOWLING ball.

The bowling ball has a long history with Dogs.

Originally designed as a culinary tool, cynologists (those who study Dogs) believe that the bowling ball was the first vessel used by the Cave Dog when he began to mix and cook his morning gruel.

Shards gathered at the rich clay areas of The Park suggest that the first bowling balls were earthenware creations. These balls originally had no holes; later balls discovered near the site were found to have three holes. Scholars postulate that the Cave Dog added holes at a later time in order to allow steam to rise from the ball when it was placed on the open fire.

As Canine cooking methods evolved, Dogs began to favour open pots. Bowling balls were relegated to the shelves as decoration until many centuries later, when they became one of the tools of War Dogs in Human mili-

tary campaigns.

Military logs displayed in The Park's Canine Military Museum reveal that the bowling ball was used by the War Dogs as a "paw grenade." After filling it with gunpowder, the Dogs rolled the ball into enemy territory, where it exploded. So successful was this manoeuvre that it was employed in many wars and came to be known as the "three-hole punch."

As more sophisticated combat methods replaced the "paw grenade," the ball's use became strictly recreational. Since that time, the bowling ball has provided many hours of joy for Dogs everywhere.

Sources: *Canine Culinary History, Volume 1; Annals of the Canine Military Museum, "Lenfer, c'est la guerre," by Denis Bagarre; Various newspaper articles and reports.*
 bailey@mammaliandaily.com

Whelpings and Passings

Make Room for More Ruminants!

The Hartebeest herd is pleased to announce that on 16 Barnabus, 25 AZ, a son, Yaw Zuberi, was born to Nkiru and Jelani Hartebeest at their home in The Park.

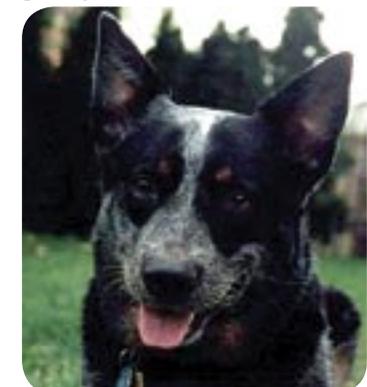
Beat the drum loudly!

Chipo and Kayode Bongo are ecstatic to announce the birth of their daughter, Abena, on 25 Proto, 25 AZ weighing 18.2 kgs.

Kostas Apollonios Eusebios Squirrel (Gus).

Peacefully, on 26 Varrah, in the comfort of his own home, as a result of small ball fever. Kostas A.E. Squirrel, Park citizen, sports enthusiast, avid wood sculptor, and passionate collector. Often described as a "Rodent's Rodent," Gus was, nevertheless, a shy soul who, despite having many friends, enjoyed spending time alone. The proud father of 16 and the grandfather of 8, Gus was also a loyal and loving mate, brother, and friend. He will be sorely missed, especially during this coming Tulip season. In accordance with the family's wishes, donations in memory of Gus may be made to The Small Ball Fever Research Fund, University of West Terrier, or to the charity of your choice.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Foster, a superior cattle dog, an independent thinker, a tough competitor, and a fiercely loyal companion. He is greatly missed.



Foster
 11 AZ - 25 AZ