



Oreo, gone but never to be forgotten... Born in Africa. Captured as an infant. Sold to a safari park. Rescued by the Sanctuary in 1999. Died in Kona with friends 2008



Aloha
Petroleum

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Newsletter designed and produced by WebDoc @3RR.org



THREE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Aloha Friends,
I realize that it has been a long time since our last newsletter. Two rounds of interns have come and gone. We have an article published in the current Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation and a second article in final peer review. A total of eleven residential interns completed our summer programs in addition to two local interns. The students came from Washington, Hawaii, Oregon and California. I cannot thank the Hawaii County Council, and especially Ms Brenda Ford, enough for their support. This is the first time one of our programs received any local, State or Federal monies. The interns spent time at the local Humane Society working after a fire and evacuation to help me evaluate and treat over 200 animals before they could safely return to kennels. The interns also spent two days a week assisting in the operating room of the Humane Society's Spay and Neuter clinic. All of our resident creatures enjoyed getting their enclosures worked on. The zebra bedrom pens needed serious weeding, tree trimming and rock moving, the flamingo pond bank is always growing over its sides and the aviaries got new perches and clean floors.

Regards,
Ann Goody, PhD
Curator, Three Ring Ranch

BRAVO!!

On October 17, 2008 we were accredited by the American Association of Sanctuaries

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 teach about the fragile ecosystem we impact on a daily basis, while giving visitors a rare chance to see the animals up close. Injured native animals are brought to us, cared for, and released upon recovery. Exotic animals live out their natural lives at the facility as residents.

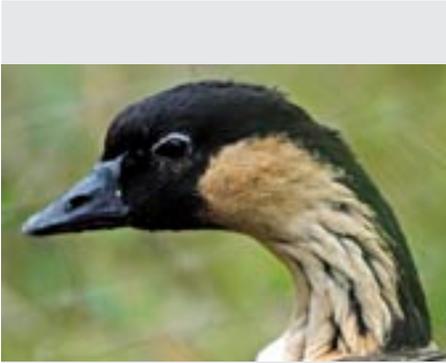


This is a very rare Hawaiian Petrel. There are probably only about 1,000 of these birds alive and they nest in the crater near the top of Haleakala volcano. Ann flew to Maui to pick-up this fledgling which had a broken leg. Here, he is getting his daily physical therapy. After 1 month of rehab and recovery at the Sanctuary, he was banded and released on November 12.



ANIMAL NEWS

Nene the Hawaiian Goose
Branta sandwicensis



Hawaii's state bird, the nene, is one of 30 birds species in Hawaii classified by both the State and Federal government as an endangered species. It is also the only goose endemic to the Hawaiian Archipelago which exists. At least eight other endemic goose species are known to have become extinct. As with all geese, the nene is monomorphic: that is, the sexes are nearly identical in appearance, with the male being somewhat taller and larger.

In ancient times nene ranged throughout the islands feeding on the lower slopes of all mountains as well as the coastal areas that had vegetation and water.

After the arrival of man, the remnant populations of nene on the Big Island are found primarily on the slopes of Mauna Loa, Kilauea and Hualalai. One of the largest flocks can be found at the Big Island Country Club. The reintroduced population of Maui is currently centered in the Haleakala Crater area. There are also small flocks on Molokai and Kauai. Nene can be found in the dry upland areas but as long as there is no pressure from hunters or predators they will utilize pasture and other grass lands. Given the choice of habitats nene will come and graze on grasslands near or behind cattle. The cattle eat down the taller grasses and allow the nene to feed on the younger green shoots. A new breeding flock has recently been established in Hakalau State Park on Mauna Kea. Some of these bird's offspring have been reported establishing new territories in rural areas of the island.

The nene is a member of the family that includes the whistling ducks, swans and true geese. Unlike most other geese, nene are non-migratory in that, generally, only island wide movement is known to occur. Nene are very good flyers and can move from one side of the Big Island to the other in a day. The nene and the Canada goose likely derived from a common ancestor. Nene love the water and when they come in contact with a pond or pool they will spend much of the day bathing and swimming.



ANIMAL NEWS

The breeding season (nest construction, egg laying, and incubation) of wild nene in Hawaii generally begins in October and ends in February. This corresponds more or less with the wet winter season in Hawaii, when most plant growth occurs. Because nene nest on the ground you might find one of these places while hiking. Please back carefully away so as not to disturb the nesting birds. Nene chicks are hatched as little gray fuzz balls. These babies will follow their parents for the next 5-6 months as they feather out and learn to fly. During this time they are especially at risk. The parent birds also molt and are unable to fly for 6 weeks during this time. Nene goslings on their own may not be abandoned! Please watch them from a distance so as not to pressure the parents into leaving the babies.

If you see an injured nene along one of our roads, please contact the DLNR, the Humane Society or the Sanctuary so that the bird will be picked up for medical treatment.

Creeping Around with Critters



1



A



2



B

THE EYES HAVE IT

Match the eye to its owner



3



C



4



D

THE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY



BEHAVIORAL ENRICHMENT

Environmental enrichment is the process of providing stimulating environments for animals in order for them to demonstrate their species-typical behavior, to allow them exercise control or choice over their environment, and to enhance their well-being.

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Enrichment includes the design of stimulating and naturalistic enclosures, the housing of appropriate social groups.

Enrichment is provided in a variety of ways, such as:

- Exhibit design: provides a variety of substrates, levels, and complexities. Think rocks, hills and trees along with native forage. Places to wallow, bathe and hide are essential.
- Training: interaction with the keeper and proper training allows an animal to choose to participate. This is also useful in gaining the animal's trust and allows the keeper close, visual observations of that animal. We train daily when feeding the raptors off our hands.
- Olfactory: a keeper can introduce natural predator or prey scents, in addition to novel smells or pheromone scents. Examples include placing dried cow droppings in the zebra wallow and grizzly bear fur on the oryx fence.
- Auditory: taped sounds or vocalizations can simulate things that an animal may hear in the wild. Examples: Music and sounds played during daylight hours for the parrots.
- Food related: this is the most widely used form of enrichment. Keepers can present food in a variety of ways such as in a simple puzzle feeder, hidden throughout the enclosure, scattered about the enclosure, or buried in a substrate. To get the food, the animal must use natural foraging behaviors and/or mentally solve the puzzle. All of the parrots and small fuzzy animals get this daily.
- Novel objects: various items placed in an animal's enclosure allow the animal to mimic behaviors exhibited in the wild or could challenge them. These items could include burlap bags, sheets, boomer balls, chew toys, or a hammock. The oryx are treated to forage and objects to touch, roll or bang.

Often, novel objects will be combined with food related enrichment. For example, burlap bags may be filled with hay and treats and tied closed. The animal would then have to get into the bag and sort through the hay to get to the treats. The flamingos walk up the bank to feed and see themselves in a mirror.

Each of our animal keepers participate in the animal enrichment programs. New ideas are always welcomed.



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



EDUCATION

Sometimes we get it right. When it pertains to educational programs we seem to have hit the magic formula. 100% of our last two summer's interns that we wrote reference letters for have been accepted to vet schools!

This past summer we hosted six residential interns in two sessions. This was our busiest summer yet. The girls worked two days a week at the Kona Humane Society helping them with spay and neuters. Our vet school students were doing the full surgeries by the time they left and our pre-vet interns were assisting with the surgery and anesthesia and providing pre- and post-op care. This synergy provided the Humane Society with free manpower while expanding the experience of our interns. One of the publications that we co-authored during the summer of 2008 is titled, "A traumatic head injury study in raptors of rehabilitation treatment protocols. Should we be taking a second look at steroids?" The paper has been submitted for review to The Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation. Even more impressive, the article co-authored by Ann with some of our 2007 interns, "Obtaining high tech wound care supplies for use in wildlife rehabilitation" was published in the current issue of that same prestigious, peer-reviewed journal.

The internship program has received support from our good friend Councilwomen Brenda Ford for both the 2007 and 2008 sessions.

Coming soon, the Three Ring Ranch Hands-on Science Center! This single room facility with an 18' x 20' covered lanai will house our extensive specimen collection, lab equipment, a microscope, a computer & video equipment. The building has been generously supported through grants from The Chelsey Foundation, The Atherton Family Foundation, Irene Croft & Jamie Lee and Johnny Holloway.



Pouring the slab last August for our hands-on science center. The building materials have been delivered and we're about ready to begin construction of the structure. We'll have extensive details and photos in our next newsletter.



a few of the hearts drawn in the new concrete



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Must be reliable, committed and at least 17 years old. Learn to care for all the critters over several months as you enjoy providing daily enrichment and stimulation.

331-8778

THREE RING RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL SANCTUARY



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.

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.

2008 is nearing its end. With the holidays just about here, we hope you will consider a gift to the Sanctuary.

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.

Perhaps consider adopting an animal for 2009

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.

Recycle for the Ranch Program URGENT UPDATE

Due to rising postage costs for the individual bags, the recycling company that we partner with now requires that we return the ink cartridges only in large, bulk boxes. You may still drop them off at the Sanctuary and in Kona at Sandwich Isle Divers or the Kailua Candy Company or in Waimea at the Kamuela Animal Clinic. If you have a large collection, we may also be able to pick them up.

Even if you are not in Kona, we can have a collection box and pre-paid FedEx label sent directly to you. Just pool your cartridges with those from your friends and co-workers and then send in the box once it is filled.

Contact us via email for more info or to request a box: recycle@threeringranch.org