

End of the Year Update



Greetings from the ranch to all our faithful loving and generous donors,

It has been a year like no other, a year filled with abundant blessings and unexpected surprises. If you have been one of our donors that has kept faith in us and our mission throughout the years you will know that much love, sweat, tears and a tremendous amount of sacrifice went into keeping our dream our mission our dedication to these wonderful animals alive. We have built our family up these past years both personally, with animals that needed us and with our donors. We cherish each of these directly into our hearts. We strive to keep a personal touch and familiarity to each person that not only donates but also comes through our new doors. It is this family like atmosphere we have taken much pride in and hope you do to.

Let us start first with the obvious. The Almquist family was given a huge gift by being chosen by the ABC Extreme Makeover Home Edition Team that also drastically improved the Forever Wild Sanctuary. Words cannot express our appreciation to all the people that nominated our family for this most blessed opportunity. It is a true honor that so many people not only noticed our hard work but that would believe in us and our goals. It is now and always has been our dream to make Forever Wild a great resource for all.

After the long battle with the our county that kept us closed for about 6 months for a road issue we were finally able to open our doors with their permission on July 6, 2009. It was a very slow start since most people were still under the impression that we were closed and we could not advertise. Once we brought it to the county's attention that not advertising was hurting us badly they gave us the ok and we have been trying to put the word out ever since.

Since the makeover we still had many projects we had to get done. The tortoises and parrots were left in the back room with no new homes. This was one of the first projects we dedicated our time and funding to. We also had to build a pig cage for Sophie, horse corrals for the rescues we take in occasionally, cougar cage for YaYa, serval cage for Eureka and Sabor and more barrier fencing for around birds, servals and extend viewing area near Gypsy. This all was not cheap but it has made life much better for so many. We were borrowing many of the cages we had these guys in and the people needed them back so we had to make it all happen and fast. Modifications and improvements had to made to many different things to adjust to the new way of life. It has been a challenge and expensive this year but it is all panning out to be for the best for operations and well daily life for the animals. Much had to go into organizing the new office and creating a wonderful and successful gift shop. Hint Hint if you haven't come to visit yet please do.

We have taken in many animals since the show and true to form have provided loving homes for all of them. Gypsy the lioness, Princess Diana the white tiger, Chloe the bobcat, Isis and Osirus the servals, Boogie the bobcat, a green mamba from a 17 year old boy (illegal by far), alligators, Norman the deer, 5

llamas, 2 horses, opossum, a couple of tortoises, Diego the blue and gold macaw, 4 other amazon parrots, Rodger Rabbit, various snakes and lizards. We are looking for a loving and caring home for the 2 horses. If you know of anyone or yourself that may be interested please call us here at the office.

This time of year is the hardest for us and there is a lot of stress on how to make ends meet. The weather and the holidays play a big part in our almost completely absent donation intake. So it causes much alarm as to how to keep out of the deep dark red we are certain to see this month. This is why we have tried harder than ever to bring more ways to help the animals this month. We do our best to not hassle or bother any of our donors throughout the whole year on more ways they can help. We also do not sell information at all to other organizations. But this time of year we get a little panicked. We know that times are tuff for most of you and do appreciate you completely, you see without you all there is no us. So please bare with us as we go over some of our new programs.

We have a new \$5 dollar challenge which we are just starting in hopes we can get more people involved. This program is to get more people to help out for the price of some people's coffee. The object is to sign up for 12 months at \$5 a month with a debit, credit or check every month. Then you can recruit more to do the same and as you bring us more people signing up for the same program you start getting rewards. Sign up and get a magnet, get 2 people to sign up and get a 8x10 picture, get 5 people and get a t-shirt, get 10 people and get a guided tour pass, you get over 15 you are a rock star and get a general tour annual pass. Of course any of these people can donate more than 5 dollars a month at anytime.

A special boutique of our gift shop and vendors has been put together for the December 12th but due to bad weather we are rescheduling for December 19th from 10-3. Get gifts for loved ones knowing the money is helping care for animals with a second chance. Local companies were kind enough to help us put together gift bags for kids that tour in December filled with free coupons to their establishments. These along with candy canes are being passed out and if we can get more tours in and the weather will improve we have one of our volunteers dressing up as Santa on the weekends. Last is a raffle going on until December 20. Tickets are \$5 each and we put your name and phone number on a ticket and if you win the necklace is on our website by our donor Karen Braverman-Freeman. She was the costume designer for Baywatch, Charles in Charge and Knight Rider and recently did the AMA Awards. It is made of Sterling silver, tiger eye beads, Swarovski crystals and is worth \$220. So far we only have 3 people that have bought tickets so your chances are pretty good. We still have our 400 club and our sponsor an animal programs that you can join anytime also, makes great gifts people and comes in special Christmas envelope right now.

Well I never meant for this letter to end up being so long but I have a way of chatting a lot. It is just that each of you have a special place here and in our hearts and we feel that it is only right that we keep you all very involved in the updates and growth of this truly wonderful ranch. We have big plans and goals set for this next new year and will need each of you to help us keep things moving forward. We pray that each of you have great holidays filled with love, laughter and warm blessings. Please feel free to call anytime, ask any questions and most of all keep in touch. We are on Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and always check our wonderful website.

May the Lord Be With You,

Joel, Chemaine and Forever Wild