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THE RESCUE RECORD

FRISKY'S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY

SAVING THE LIVES OF WILDLIFE AND PRIMATES SINCE 1970

Issue 9 • DECEMBER 2009

HOLIDAY ISSUE

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Visit us online at
www.friskys.org



Photo by Frisky's

MONKEY BUSINESS

BETTER BUSINESS PRACTICES LEARNED THROUGH MONKEYS PRESENCE

What would you think if someone you thought you had a great relationship with, pushed up their lower lip, stuck up their nose, threw back their head, and walked away when you stopped to talk to them? It doesn't take a bunch of human psychology classes to know that a greeting like that is not a warm one. That is exactly the kind of reception I had been receiving from Gizmo (a 32 lb. Rhesus Macaque monkey), for several weeks in a row. I knew for some reason, I was now on Gizmo's (*#%!) list. Why me? I know I had not been ignoring him—after all, I spoke his name just about every time I passed by him on the way down to the rabbits pens. One of the duties I have taken on at the sanctuary is to get the domestic rabbits out for some exercise while I clean their enclosures and replenish their food and water. Ah-hhh, lets back up a moment. I think it was the "in passing" part that Gizmo was upset about. He was never the one I was taking the time for and he knew it. It means little to "whisper sweet nothings" to someone only in passing, never taking the time to be with them. It is your presence that lets others know that they matter.

Ready to win back Gizmo's heart, I grabbed a lovely book off the Frisky's bookshelf that tells the story of the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Wildlife. The book contains short chapters and colorful pictures—just perfect to be able to read a couple of chapters at ten minute intervals. It didn't take long for Gizmo to realize that I was here with the intention to spend some time with him. I put work aside to save our relationship. I believe it matters to him and I know it matters to me. As I read, he sits or lies down next to me and I have not received the "head toss with nose up in the air" treatment since we have started story time together.

Psychiatrist, medical school professor and professional speaker, Dr. Clifford C. Kuhn (aka, the Laugh Doctor), tells about the time he was invited to give the keynote address for the annual meeting of a national corporation. An audience of 200 managers and supervisors applauded as the CEO stood before them to introduce Dr. Kuhn. In his introduction, he lauded Dr. Kuhn's work with humor and gave his personal endorsement to the

idea of having more fun in the corporate setting. He shook Dr. Kuhn's hand when he arrived at the podium and then promptly left the room and did not return. As he disappeared from sight, so did the enthusiasm of the audience. The energy drop was palpable. The CEO might as well have said the words "Now, if you'll excuse me, you are not important enough for me to join you in having fun," because that is the message that everyone received. Fun was had that morning, because you can't help but have fun in the presence of Clifford Kuhn, MD, but there was nothing he could do to restore the level of enthusiasm that was sucked out of the room after the CEO left (Clifford Kuhn, MD, *The Fun Factor*, 2003, pg.124-125).

Presence is more than just making an appearance or just going through the motions; it's being engaged. Some attention is on the words and the rest is on the feeling of being in the company of the other. The unspoken communication from the CEO above was heard louder and clearer than the actual words. When you are with people, are you giving them your full attention? Gizmo recognized when I wasn't giving him my full attention, so being fellow primates, I would imagine your employees and colleagues will recognize if you are fully present or just "whispering sweet nothings" as you are passing through. When you, as a leader, are present, it strengthens your team's willingness to commit.

Heather Wandell is a Certified Laughter Leader with the World Laughter Tour and is the CEO of her own company, Another Way To See It (www.anotherwaytoseeit.com). Heather is also the Director of Community Outreach at Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary in Woodstock, MD (www.friskys.org). She can be reached at haw@anotherwaytoseeit.com. Please e-mail Heather if you would like to receive this column monthly by e-mail. Copyright © Another Way To See It 2009.



I was six-years-old in 1980 when four-year-old, Elliott, killed the newborn rats with his dump truck. Despite how horrifying it was at the time, looking back I have accepted that Elliott was likely oblivious to the consequences of taking the babies out of their cage, where they safely nursed against their mother's warm body. At his age, he may not have understood that placing the fragile animals into the cold metal bed of his toy truck and racing them around the family room, would cause such significant distress to their tender new bodies.. They did not survive the shock and trauma. Elliott may not have made this connection yet, witnessing the atrocities of new life being so blatantly disrespected, troubled me to my core.

What created further agony, perhaps more so even than witnessing the act itself, was my own silence. Elliott's mother was my caretaker at the time, and yet her frazzled, overburdened mentality made her completely inaccessible to me. This was her home, her cage of rats, and her son. And so, I watched helplessly as the mother rat tried desperately to claw to the rescue of her babies, her bulging body swollen and grotesque, evoking a deep compassion and grief within me, nonetheless.

It had been 10 years or more since I'd reflected on the troubling images still branded in my mind, and when they flashed across my consciousness last week I determined it to be a random showing of memory. But, once again in my life, I'm reminded that nothing is random, and even the most treacherous experiences have a purpose.

When my husband, Craig, called to me from the patio yesterday afternoon, I nonchalantly wandered over without much curiosity. But in the first moment my eyes laid upon the cluster of five newborn mice, squirming and squealing from inside our gas grill, I was immediately overcome with a strong sense of urgency. It was with a mother's determination that I committed that this scenario would end much differently than the one of my youth.

After a brief search online I put a call in to Colleen Layton-Robbins, certified master rehabilitator, USDA-APHIS exhibitor and founder of Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary. Her expert guidance fascinated me as she described the most non-invasive and gentle approach to trapping the mice's mother alongside her babies so that the entire family could be trans-

ported to a more appropriate habitat. As the day turned into evening, and the chill of the air began to threaten the infant mice's survival, it became clear that mother mouse was not going to return in time to save her young from dying of heat loss.

I cradled the pale sluggish newborns in my palm as Craig prepared a soft bed of tissues and cotton in our kitchen. I delighted in the feel of the furless baby's cool skin warming in the palm of my hand, their bodies once again squirming and writhing with activity. After several minutes of watching them in fascination Craig suggested, "Val, you can put them down under the lamp now. You can take them to Frisky's in the morning." I resisted separating from these sweet little creatures, feeling my hopes for their survival becoming fiercer as I infused them with love and peace through the energy of my hands. "You're becoming really invested in them being okay. If they don't make it, I'm worried you might have a really hard time with it." I knew he spoke the truth; still, I couldn't help but perceive the outcome of this experience as an opportunity to heal my unfounded childhood guilt and somehow honor the lost lives of those helpless little rats, now almost 30 years passed.

When Frisky's opened to receive wildlife at 8AM the following morning, I was walking up the front steps, five pink, squealing live mice in hand. Still, I was unprepared for how astonishing and moving it would be to meet with Colleen and be present amidst the sanctuary's humble, yet impressive, grounds.

There is a definite aura of beauty and peace that permeates the woods surrounding the sanctuary's buildings. The feeling of love overtook me, simply from being in the presence of such dedication and honor. Life is sacred at Frisky's, no matter the size, no matter the type. The universal value placed upon each creature's healthy and happy existence is the same value that could ultimately heal far more than the birds, monkeys, foxes, bunnies, and other creatures residing there. It is the essence of love that could heal the world if we embraced it and allowed it to grow.

Like most non-profits staying afloat in today's economic challenges, Frisky's is starving for funding, supplies, and support. Perhaps different, though, is the lack of funding provided by the county, state or federal governments,



Photo by Frisky's

despite the significance of the service Frisky's provides the Howard County Community and beyond. Without this unique organization, a precious part of our delicate ecosystem would be consistently treated as a disposable inconvenience to our domesticated lives. Not only does this jeopardize the cycle and spirit of life around us, but more vital, it compromises our humanity.

When we stop viewing life, in all its various forms, as essential, sacred, and fragile, we unconsciously integrate the same detached belief system about ourselves. To devalue life is to devalue humanity and dehumanization is the first step in committing violent acts against one another. In the big picture, I dare contend that Colleen and her volunteer staff, not only save animals from undue suffering, but contribute to a more peaceful and loving existence for us all.

To learn more about Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary and how you can help ensure its' continued existence, please visit www.friskys.org, call 410-418-8899 or simply send a tax-deductible donation to Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary located at 10790 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, Maryland 21163.

*Valerie R. McManus, LCSW-C
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Author of, A Look in the Mirror;
Freeing Yourself from the Body Image Blues*

COMMUNITY TOURS

Frisky's Community Tours have been "Wildly" successful! Each year, between May and September, we offer four opportunities for the community to come learn about the work we do at Frisky's and to meet the animals we care for. Registration is **REQUIRED** and the tours fill up fast. The tour dates for 2010 will be posted on our website in March. Please visit www.friskys.org for registration information and dates.

Thank you for making the lives of those in need, a little more cheery

MEDICAL

- >> Exam Gloves
- Pedialyte Fluid Replacement (unflavored)
- Drapes, Masks
- Bandage Wrap
- KY Jelly

FEEDING

- >> Dog Food (Dry/Canned)
- >> Cat Food (Dry/Canned)
- >> Granola & Trail Mixes (low sugar)
- >> Jar Baby Food
- >> Guinea Pig Food
- Timothy hay
- Gerber Pasta Pick Ups
- Dry Cereals (Less than 3 Grams Sugar)
- Nuts (All Kinds, Prefer No Salt)
- Fruits & Vegetables (Fresh & Canned)
- Juices (Light & No Sugar Added)
- Dry Pasta
- Minute Rice
- Wild Bird Seed

CARE

- >> Avian Mite Spray
- >> Flea & Lice Sprays, Powders, Dips, Foggers & Bombs
- >> Sevin 5% Dust
- Heavy Duty Pet Dishes (Stainless or Ironstone)
- Kitty Litter (Plain) NOT Scoopable
- Frontline
- Plastic Baby Bottles & Nipples
- Pet Water Bottles
- Bottle Water

HOUSE AND BEDDING

- >> Pine Shavings (NO CEDAR)
- >> Blankets & Sheets (New or Used)
- >> Wash Cloths & Towels (New or Used)
- Critter Care Bedding
- Bird Toys & Baby Toys

HOUSEKEEPING

- >> Simple Green Cleaner
- >> Clorox Clean-Up
- >> Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
- >> Rubber Gloves
- >> Liquid Hand Soap
- >> Garbage Bags
- >> Zip Lock Bags (All Sizes)
- >> Paper Towels
- Clorox Bleach
- Scrub Brushes
- Sponges
- Antibacterial Dish Detergent
- Tide with Bleach
- Glass Cleaner
- Baking Soda
- Hand Sanitizer

MAINTENANCE

- >> Batteries (All Sizes)
- Flashlights
- Pressure Washer
- Diesel Generator

ADMINISTRATIVE

- #10 Envelopes
- VHS Tapes

MISCELLANEOUS

- Big Fish Net Poles
- Animal Catch Poles
- Smoke Detectors
- Fire Extinguishers
- Heavy Duty Ropes
- Bungee Cords

>> GIFT CARDS

Wal-mart, Sam's Club, Costco, Home Depot, Lowes, Pet Stores, Grocery Stores, Office Supply ANY and ALL cards can be used.

>> = Most Needed Items

For a full list please see our website. Revised 11/18/2009

MANY THANKS!!!

As the year comes to an end, we would like to thank everyone that has donated this past year.

We must thank Best Sheds again for their generosity. We are very grateful to Bobby at Allteck Heating & Cooling, for donating their time and materials to do the duct work in our Primate house. We look forward to the savings this winter. Chadwell Animal Hospital for helping us on a continual basis.

Most of all we want to thank YOU, the people that in one way or another continue to support Frisky's. For those that brought us injured or orphaned animals, you cared enough to take the time to make a difference in a life. For those that support us by donating money or goods, your support helps us continue to make a difference in the lives of those that we have been entrusted with. For those that adopted in the past year or years (all of our available "adoptable" animals can always be found at www.petfinder.com), we thank you for giving an animal a Forever Home. Without all of you we could not continue to make a difference in the lives of the animals that we care for on a daily basis. Last but certainly not least all of our Frisky's Volunteers, for all your time, effort and caring, you are truly a blessing that we are grateful for everyday.

We hope that the coming year will be one of much joy, happiness and good health. Thank you all for making 2009 a wonderful year, we look forward to seeing you in 2010.

Check us out on Facebook

Frisky's does not participate in the sale of any wildlife.

As always, you can go to our website and safely donate through paypal!



WHAT CAN I DO?

Frisky's is a 501 (c) 3 Organization. Frisky's **DOES NOT** receive any county, state or federal funding. Frisky's survives only by public donations. All proceeds and donations go directly to the care and welfare of the animals. Please donate an item from the wishlist, or write us a check! Donations, no matter how small are always needed, and they do make a difference. There is a mailbox / bin in the circular driveway at Frisky's where donations may be dropped off.

www.friskys.org • friskyswildlife@yahoo.com

DONATION RECORD FRISKY'S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY, INC.

10790 Old Frederick Road • Rt. 99 • Woodstock, Maryland 21163

*Your donation is 100% Tax Deductible
Retain this receipt for your records.*

DATE _____

CASH \$ _____ GOODS \$ _____

CHECK \$ _____ CHECK # _____

(DESCRIPTION OF GOODS)

Thank you for your Support!

DONATION RECORD FRISKY'S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY, INC.

Please remember to detach this form and leave it with your donation so we can thank you.

10790 Old Frederick Road • Rt. 99 • Woodstock, Maryland 21163

DATE _____

YES, You can count on me to help support your efforts to care for the animals of Frisky's!

My check/gift is enclosed. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Frisky's is a 501(c)3 organization and receives no financial support from federal, state or county government.

CASH \$ _____ GOODS \$ _____

CHECK \$ _____ CHECK # _____

(DESCRIPTION OF GOODS)

If you are interested in collaborative opportunities or donating your time and expertise, please write us with your thoughts, call or email Frisky's.

We try very hard to use your contributions for the most urgent need at the time we receive them. If you would like to restrict this contribution for a specific project, please mark here. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

With a donation, your name will be placed on our mailing list to receive The Rescue Record.

OH, THE PEOPLE WE MEET! by HEATHER WANDELL



There is nary a week that Sanctuary Manager and Master Wildlife Rehabilitator, Colleen Layton-Robbins does not count her blessings out loud. She has said, "I don't know what I did to deserve such a wonderful life!" This is coming from someone who has not taken a vacation since 1988, who does not get out for dinner with her husband, who never gets through a meal without someone arriving at the front door with an injured animal in hand, and has volunteers in her house all week long assisting with the animal care duties. She does not charge for her services, nor does she receive a paycheck. She does not get to pack up at 5:00 pm and go home. This is where she lives.

Ellicott City resident and grandmother, Jo Patzer, came to Frisky's door one day with her granddaughter, Emily Zwolfer (age 12). Jo was taking Emily on an educational day trip around the county and made the trip to Frisky's, where they met Colleen and learned about the mission at Frisky's. They were so influenced by this life saving mission, when Emily returned to her home in Springfield, VA, she asked her mother, Karin Zwolfer, if she and her sister Sarah (age 8) could set up a lemonade stand for Frisky's. They sold homemade chocolate chip cookies and lemonade.

Around the same time, Jo was preparing for an annual get-together of girlfriends at her

home. Instead of arriving for the weekend bearing gifts for her, she asked if they would bring supplies and donations for Frisky's. She sent them the wish list that is on the Frisky's website at www.friskys.org. On their way to the Howard County Annual Decorator Show house, they all came by the sanctuary to drop off the donations they had collected. Jo then followed up by registering herself, Karin, Emily, and Sarah for one of the Community Tours that Frisky's offers 4 times each year. The girls presented the proceeds from their sale on the day of the tour. Colleen Layton-Robbins, Heather Wandell, and Janet Styles (all volunteer Staff), were present to receive their gift. After the tour, we received a lovely handwritten letter from Jo, which with her permission, is shared below:

October 16, 2009

To: Frisky's

From: Jo Dawn Patzer

On October 3rd my family and I were elated with the most heart-warming and educational visit at Frisky's. You are to be commended for the loving care and devoted commitment you so unselfishly give to the habitants of the sanctuary. Your dedication radiates thru your eyes and the hearts of those given a second chance.

Sincerely,
Jo Dawn

You see, the animals that arrive at Frisky's Sanctuary do not come here on their own (with rare exception---we had a turtle climb over the fence to escape bulldozers and equipment on the neighboring farmland, which has been turned into a housing development). The animals are brought here by people; people, who like us, believe that all living creatures deserve a second chance; people who know that we are all in this thing called "life" together; people like Jo, Karin, Emily, and Sarah; people like you, who have come teary-eyed in their mission to save a life and are relieved that we are here to help. Oh, the people we meet..... Colleen is indeed blessed with her life work. In the words of Theologian, Frederick Buechner:

"The kind of work God usually calls you to do is work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world needs most to have done. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Written by Heather Wandell, Director of Community Outreach at Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary, Inc. (November 2009)

IT ALL STARTED WITH AN OPOSSUM by LISA KRATZ & GIRLS



An orphaned juvenile opossum, that's how it all began. My eldest daughter, Jessica, and I looked up wildlife rescues and made our way to Frisky's. We approached the porch and introduced ourselves. Colleen and Scott were there and looked at us a bit wonderingly; we were not caring a box or bag... What did we want? I explained that we had found a baby opossum and were hoping she could help it. Still looking, I am sure wondering where the creature was, Colleen said, enthusiastically, "sure". At that point my daughter removed the little opossum from its warm nesting spot... um, from in the front of her upper body. We explained that the animal felt safe and warm there.

Since that day, we have gotten to know Colleen and Scott as they have tried to understand us. "Us" being myself and my five children. All five are currently teenagers. What fun, and I work full time as an RN. We sincerely care for all fin, fur

and feathered beings. Often caring is not enough, knowledge and skills as well as the proper resources are needed. We volunteer at Frisky's because we care and because we learn from one with the knowledge and skills to truly help animals in need. We also try to help with obtaining the needed resources to do the good work Frisky's does. I think, if asked, most people would say they "care" about animals. Dedicating one's life to animals, to try and allow them a second chance to be happy, healthy and thriving is quite another matter. I truly respect Colleen and Scott in their dedication and life choice. They will never be rich with money, but they will always be rich with love, support and friends; they are truly blessed..

As for my kids and I, we do what we can, though I never feel like it is enough. Sometimes it is repetitive, like folding and stuffing thousands of news letters, or grimy, like cleaning cages, other times heartwarming, as

when caring for infant wildlife, or fun such as when organizing the sanctuaries "stuff". The problem being when Colleen goes looking for her "stuff", and its cleaner when she left us. But always rewarding in knowing we may play a small role in helping an animal return to its rightful place in the environment where its intrinsic value is beyond measure.



Photo by Frisky's

A STORY OF SELFISH REALIZATION by SANDY DORNSIFE



Photo by Frisky's

Obstacles always seem to pop up when it's least convenient. You are halfway to the airport, and you realize that you forgot your identification. You're getting ready for an event and suddenly a friend needs a ride to the doctor. You're walking your dogs on a cold and rainy day after a long day of work and looking forward to doing nothing but putting on sweats and snuggling up into bed when you come across a sick black crow struggling in the grass. Well, this last obstacle happened to me a few months ago, and as much as I love animals, I have to admit that at the sight of the bird, my first thought was, "Darn it." You see, even though I am on the Board of Directors of Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary and have a deep belief in helping animals of all shapes and sizes, Frisky's is a good hour away from me, meaning that the round trip would put my appointment with my sweat pants off for at least a good two and a half hours, not to mention the drive through the rain in rush hour traffic. Despite these thoughts, however, I trudged back to my house, got a cardboard animal carrier out of my car, put the crow into the carrier and drove off to Frisky's. I met Col-

leen, Frisky's founder and master rehabilitator, outside and reached in to retrieve the carrier with the crow. As soon as I picked the carrier up, I knew something was wrong. The weight of the box was all wrong. I opened the carrier and peaked in, only to find that the crow had passed away sometime during the drive. I couldn't believe it. I had driven all this way, and the bird had the nerve to die on me. Colleen carefully removed the bird from the carrier and treated it with the care and love that she treats all animals, alive or passed.

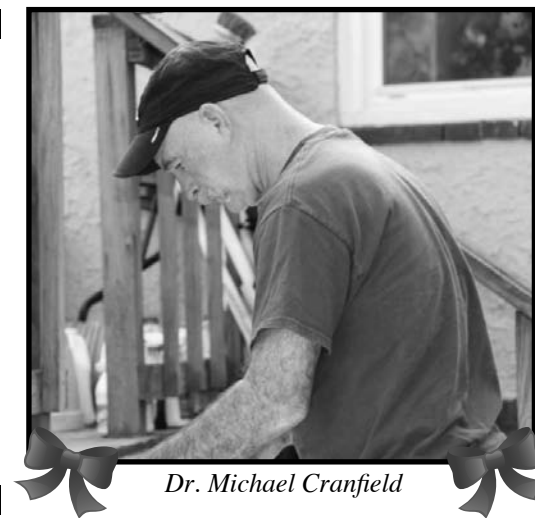
After a quick conversation with Colleen, I began the ride home, frustrated with my failed attempt to save the crow. As I drove back, however, I had some time to think. I realized that my frustration was mostly selfish. What are a couple of hours for me, compared to the life of another living thing? By putting aside my other priorities, I gave this bird a warm, comfortable place to pass on, and even though this bird didn't make it, the next one may. Not only that, but too many times in our lives do we see something that should be fixed or someone that needs help, and pass by, assuming that someone else will take care of it. The simple act of seeing an animal in distress and doing something about it makes me a participant in society instead of an idle observer. The act of doing something alone, makes the world a better place. For this reason, Frisky's recognizes the difficulty that the thousands of people who have visited the sanctuary with injured wildlife throughout the years have gone through just to make the trip. It is these thousands of trips made from all over the state of Maryland and beyond that demonstrate the compassion and love that exists in the world today. And due to this love and compassion, countless animals have received a second chance at life and are released back into the wild where they truly belong.

On October 22, 2009, ALL the primates that reside at Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, Inc. had their annual physicals.

Many thanks to Dr. Keith Gold, DMV & Dr. Michael Cranfield, DMV. Dr. Gold has his practice at Chadwell Animal Hospital, Abingdon, Md., he takes care of our Exotic Animals and Wildlife when they need medical attention. Dr. Michael Cranfield, is with the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, he is also the Executive Director of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. We would also like to thank Dr. Gold's medical staff, and the many Frisky's Volunteers that helped to make this another successful year.

PRIMATE PHYSICALS 2009

Everyone is in good health and looking forward to 2010.



Dr. Michael Cranfield



Dr. Keith Gold and his team.

MESSAGE FROM FRISKY'S FOUNDER

Dear Friends of Frisky's:

I first want to Thank all of you who have supported Frisky's' mission of caring for animals. Secondly, I want to wish each of you health and joy for your Holidays and New Year.

Scott Robbins, my husband of 19 years, was laid off from his job last January, until he found another job in September. During his time off, he was not bitter, depressed, lazy or in my way. He pitched right in 100%. But, all the directors and volunteers heard him, on many occasions, say "I don't know how my wife does it all," day in and day out, since "1970".

Yes, there are the who, what, where, when, and whys.

Who: Colleen Layton-Robbins

What: Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, Inc.

Where: Howard County, Woodstock, Maryland

When: Everyday - 8 to 8 since "1970"

Why: Because we really care and Can Do!

A TRIP TO SOUTH CAROLINA by ROSE ROSSMAN CRAIG

After retiring from the fire department I decided to volunteer at Frisky's Primate and Wildlife Sanctuary in order to help the wildlife in my area. I was impressed with the dedication of Colleen, her husband Scott and the volunteers who help the wildlife and primates which can't help themselves. I told Colleen I would help in any way she needed me to.

One day while I was volunteering I found two alligators had joined the wildlife at Frisky's. I asked Colleen what was to become of them. She said they would be going to Alligator Adventure in South Carolina, as soon as transportation could be arranged for them. I knew this was a job for my husband Dan and I.

After the necessary calls and paperwork were taken care of with the South Carolina DNR, a date was set with Ken at Alligator Adventure for us to transport the alligators.

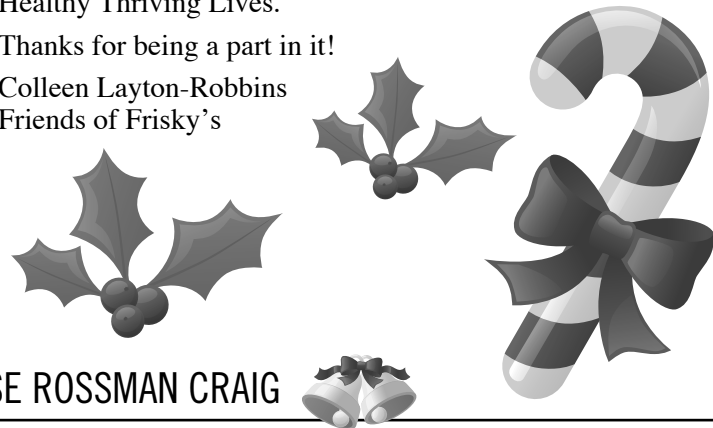
We found plastic containers which would hold the two and a half feet and three feet alligators. Dan drilled air holes on top and on the sides for the alligators to breathe through. The necessary precautions were taken for the safety and comfort of the alligators and ourselves. Their jaws were taped, and their eyes were covered. Towels were placed in the plastic containers for

Challenges are great. We sure aren't bored! Yet, we are usually broke. People are not charged for doing a good deed when bringing in an animal. So why do we continue to spend thousands of dollars and hours of labor caring for animals?

I feel, because we realize that life is a gift not to be wasted. Seeing animals in need of help and doing something - anything, is rewarding. We all have the same bottom line wish - Happy, Healthy Thriving Lives.

Thanks for being a part in it!

Colleen Layton-Robbins
Friends of Frisky's



their comfort. We made sure the handles on the plastic containers were locked tight, and the lids were taped.

Ready for their 8 hour car ride, we placed them on the back seat of the car, buckled them in and headed south. It rained all the way down to South Carolina but the alligators behaved themselves.

We met Ken at Alligator Adventure where we turned the alligators over to him. He named the larger alligator Big Guy Gator and the smaller one Junior Gator. This made me smile to know they now had a name.

Big Guy Gator was put in an area where the water temperature is controlled to 78 degrees year round. He immediately made new friends and swam away to check out his new home. Junior Gator was taken inside and would be placed in an aquarium fixed for his comfort until he got larger. As the alligators grow they will be moved to another area where they will be with alligators of their own size.

It was time for us to leave Big Guy Gator and Junior Gator but thanks to Ken and his staff at Alligator Adventure, we knew they would be well taken care of for the rest of their lives.

THANK YOU JONATHAN!

Jonathan Cohen of Troop #75, contacted Frisky's during the summer. He was just in the planning phase on his quest for an Eagle Scout Project. He asked if it was possible to set up an appointment for he and his parents to come by and talk about possible projects that he could submit for his project.

On the day that he came, we had just had one of those summer rains the day before, and we were slipping and sliding to and from the Foxes to the Raccoons. We asked him if it would be possible to put in a walkway. We also told him of a couple other things that we would like to have done.

He decided that of all the things that we talked about that the walkway was what was most needed. He said that he would make the necessary calls to see what he would need to do to make this a success and get back to us. Within a week, he returned took measurements and said that he would be in touch when he got approval from the Eagle Scout Board.

I have to say that Jonathan is a remarkable young man. He kept us informed on each stage of the project. From each submission to the Eagle Scout Board, to fundraising for the project. Once the project was approved and he raised the necessary funds, he let us know the schedule for the work. Every detail was planned and carried out without a hitch. They finished ahead of schedule.

This walkway has made things so much easier for us, and it isn't even into the winter yet. What a wonderful gift.

We at Frisky's want to thank Jonathan, his parents Michele and Stan Cohen, we are truly grateful for your generosity. A big Thank You also goes out to Jonathan's Scout Troop #75 and their parents for all their hard work.

An Eagle Scout Project although planned and run by the young man is never completed alone, it was truly a team effort.

We asked Jonathan to tell us why he chose Frisky's for his project, here is his letter:

"I had originally planned to do my Eagle Scout Project for Animal Advocates of Howard County, whom I helped for my Bar-Mitzvah project. They were not able to find a project for me, but referred me to Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary. I visited Frisky's to talk with Joyce and Colleen about possible projects, and I soon realized how much benefit they would get from my coming to help. We decided on building a path running through various outdoor animal enclosures. The path would enable volunteers and Colleen to move around the sanctuary without the hazardous conditions of mud, ice, etc. During the preparation for my project, it was very easy to get in touch and communicate with them, thanks to Joyce, and they were very flexible in the path design and the carrying out of the project. I lead my troop to build a 129 ft. stone path that connects the house, to the gate and fox pens. The building of the path took us three weekends, in which my volunteers and I were treated very nicely. I want to thank Scott for his help in cutting several of the stones, Colleen and Joyce for their overall help and support, as well as the many volunteers from my troop that came to help. This was a great experience, and I will encourage others in my troop to do their projects at Frisky's as well.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Cohen



Jonathan Cohen and his parents Michele & Stan Cohen



Natalie & Ken of Alligator Adventure



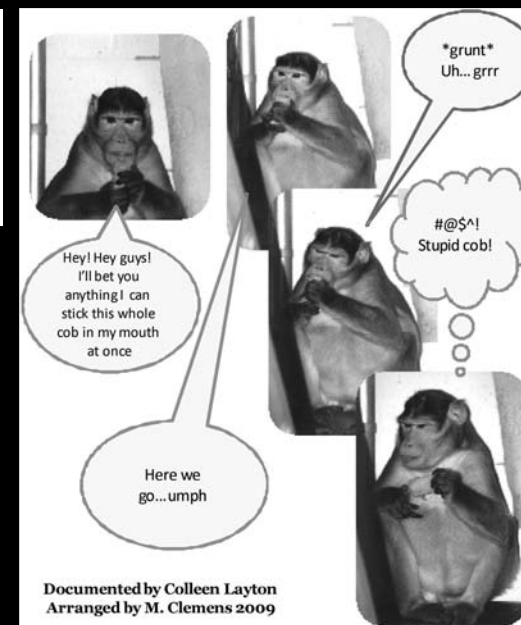
Big Guy Gator



Natalie, Alligator Adventure

And Now,
Another
Episode of...

Jesse James:
"The
Demon
Child"



Documented by Colleen Layton
Arranged by M. Clemens 2009