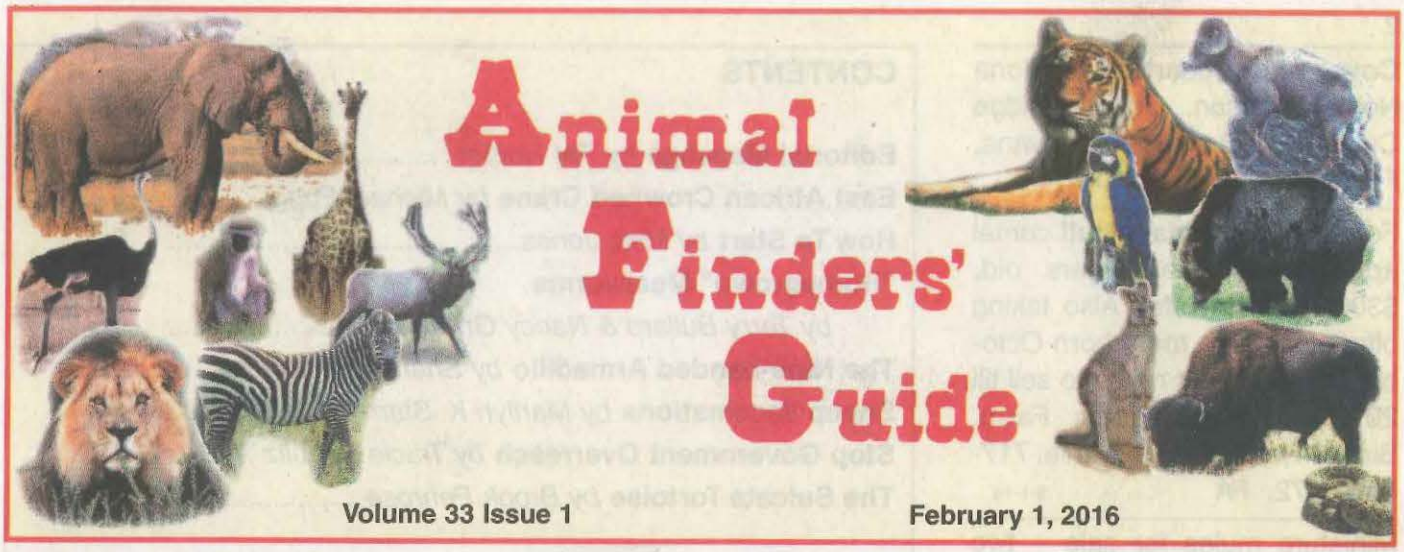

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For sale: **dromedary bull** camel approximately ten years old, $3000 or best offer. Also taking offers for **white male** born October 20, 2015, not ready to sell till 2017. Miller's Organic Farm, Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania. 717-556-0672. PA 3-1-16

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Baby zebras or sale. Five month old unrelated pair of baby zebras, hand tame and socialized by our staff, almost weaned, handled by our staff every day. Selling both together, $8500. Call Michael, 954-258-6954. FL 3-1-16

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Bottle baby red kangaroos and bottle baby wallaroos. 903-588-2727. www.trilakesexotics.com Northeast Texas. 10-1-16

Three dromedary camels, two females, six and ten; one male, eight. All proven breeders. $28,000 for all. 580-759-3665. Oklahoma 3-1-16

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TERM DEFINITIONS: 1.2 means one male, two females. The first digit denotes number of males and the second digit denotes number of females. 1.1.3 means one male, one female, and three that are sex unknown. The third digit could be animals of any age that have not been sexed or, possibly, the babies of a pair that have not yet been taken from the mother to be sexed. 1.0 means one male. 0.1 means one female.

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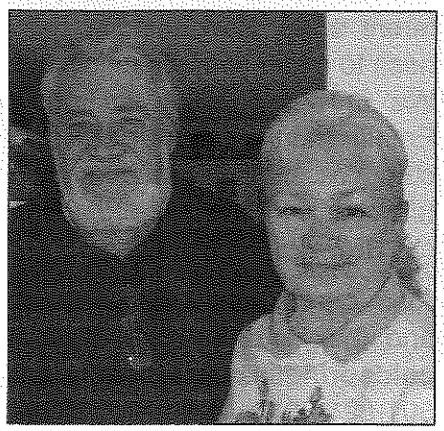
January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1
February 1	May 1	August 1	November 1
March 1	June 1	September 1	December 1

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Hi!

I hope you, your family, your friends, and all your animals are doing well, and are not getting too cold or buried in the snow. Sharon and I are looking out at the two inches that is on the ground, hoping that the monster snow storm stays south and east of us. (Our sympathy goes out to all in the storm's track.) Every year that goes by, looking at the heating bills, and feeling the pain in our joints when it's cold out, we think how much nicer it would be to be in the Carolinas or further south. I have to say I doubt I would ever miss seeing snow again (Bah, Humbug!). I do not have a clue how the people or the animals further north of us survive.

Isn't it amazing how different things get as we age. I can remember, many years ago, spending all day working or playing out in freezing weather.

When I write to you about storing extra feed for your animals and home storage for your family I know some of you who are younger laugh, or perhaps even some of you who are older who have forced yourselves to forget might laugh as well, but I haven't forgotten my childhood or, for that matter, much later in my life.

No, I never had to walk to school with rags tied around my feet in the winter but, believe it or not, my dad had to while growing up in the "great" depression. But sometimes to stay warm for part of the night I remember sleeping with a brick that we heated on the top of a space heater then wrapped in a towel. It was nice to cuddle up to going while to sleep but sucked about four in the morning after it had cooled off all the way.

My dad was in construction and we "made due" in the winter when there were no jobs to be had. My Grandma's canned goods got us through more than one winter. Back then there were no food stamps. You worked or you made due. Now over fifty percent of our once great nation is on food stamps and other government assistance. Somehow we have become complacent and forget that, with just a few pen strokes, the three and four generations of welfare and food stamp recipients could find the dole cut off.

How will they survive then? If the rest of us suddenly find our country in a conflict that disrupts our way of life, even for a few short weeks, can we feed ourselves, let alone our animals? Do you know how to get water from your well if you have no power? Do you know how to can, smoke, or dry your food to save it? Do you know how to load shells for your weapons? Do you have guns and shells for them so you can hunt for something to eat? Do you know how to take nylon string and knit fishing nets and make animal traps? Folks like me grew up learning most of those things but I bet very few now days do.

Talking this way seems so silly unless one day you find you and your family with nothing to eat and no way to get anything to put in your stomachs. I hope and pray that day will never come for any of you but you best not forget that never in the history of the world has there not been some place where people were starving and/or at war. We have had it so good for so long here that the rest of the world's troubles seem like just a television show, not real. It is real, though! And, sadly, if the wrong things happen it could become real here in this country.

You likely have spent a small fortune on insurance over the years to protect you in case you have a loss. So it would seem that most of us understand stuff can and does happen. If you store food for your family and animals, building your supply slowly and keeping it rotated, it will cost very little to be prepared. Learning the things I wrote about can be fun and make you feel better knowing you are capable of being self-sufficient.

One lift of a hoop net can feed a family for days, the same goes for a seine or gill net. Two pounds of nylon and a few hoops, or some rope, can fill stomachs if you know what to do.

When Sharon and I were much younger and had two sons at home, we saw times when we canned over three hundred jars in a summer, and kept a big deep freezer full with what we raised in our garden, caught in my nets, or shot with my guns. I had twenty hoop nets, but only fished a few

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

each day. Almost every day I sold fish to folks that many filled their freezers with to get them through the winter.

I am not complaining, I loved my life and enjoyed doing what I did and if, I had the youth and health, would enjoy doing almost all of it again. In my spare time I still enjoy knitting nets. I could buy factory made netting almost as cheap as doing it myself but I enjoy taking a ball of twine and turning it into a net that could feed a whole family.

I realize this is far from what most think of as an editorial in a animal publication, perhaps it is – but if stuff happens, perhaps it's not.

In your service,
Pat Hoctor

Breeder ram black bellies, sell for $350 or swap for two female ewes. Six bison yearlings, photo available, male, female, $1200 each or swap for similar females. Five water buffalo yearlings, male, female, $600 each. kmonaco@stratusvg.com FL 2-1-16

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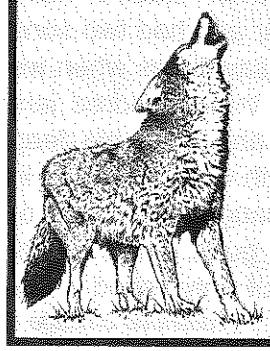
Bottle baby Grant's zebras for sale. www.trilakesexotics.com 903-588-2727. Northeast Texas 10-1-16

TARKINS – looking for proven breeders. joslinnat@gmail.com 860-599-3759, speak clearly. CT 3-1-16

Bull reindeer, five years old; and two zebu cows, six years old. Call Terry, 989-560-6940. MI 3-1-16

Two **dromedary** camels – one male, one female, not halter broke to lead, high pitched whine, fun to own, kids and friends enjoy them, $3500 each. Selling ranch. 916-686-6506 or 916-714-6506. CA 3-1-16

ON THE WILD SIDE



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1.1 binturongs, male one year, female two years, unrelated, handleable, intact, used for programs regularly, $12,000 pair, won't split. 1.1 Carpathian lynx, female two years, male one year, both handleable, leash/harness/collar trained, intact, $8000 pair, won't split. Seven year vested tamandua, leash/harness trained, captive born and raised, $4000. 1.1 sloth bears, male eight years, female ten years, proven, MUST PICK UP, $10,000. One year male caracal, neutered, leash/ harness trained, used in programs, SUPER SWEET, $2000, lives with serval listed. One year male serval, neutered, leash/ harness trained, used in programs, NOT hissy, $2000, lives with caracal listed. Eight year male howler monkey, intact, proven breeder, not handleable, switches used, $7500. All but bears can be delivered as far as Missouri in April. Email sloth.center@gmail.com if interested. Certified veterinary inspection and crates not included in price. OR 4-1-16

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Looking for deceased **animals** that can **legally** be used for taxidermy purposes. 402-630-1416. IA 4-1-16

Bottle baby dromedary and bactrian camels for sale. 903-588-2727. www.trilakesexotics.com Northeast Texas 10-1-16

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Wanted: groundhogs (woodchucks). Also any odd-colored groundhogs. 716-366-1424. NY 8-1-16

Capybaras for sale – three to four months old. Call Jim, 704-882-1315. NC 2-1-16

Miniature zebu, miniature longhorn, miniature highlander, miniature white park. 270-389-2523, 270-952-4651, or 270-952-6711. Email: medley8345@aol.com KY 9-1-16

For sale: ringtail lemurs, proven pair, $2000 firm. 570-556-9600. Pennsylvania 3-1-16

Elk for sale. Manitoba bloodline, bred for huge typical frame. 262-353-8597. WI 2-1-16

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East African Crowned Crane

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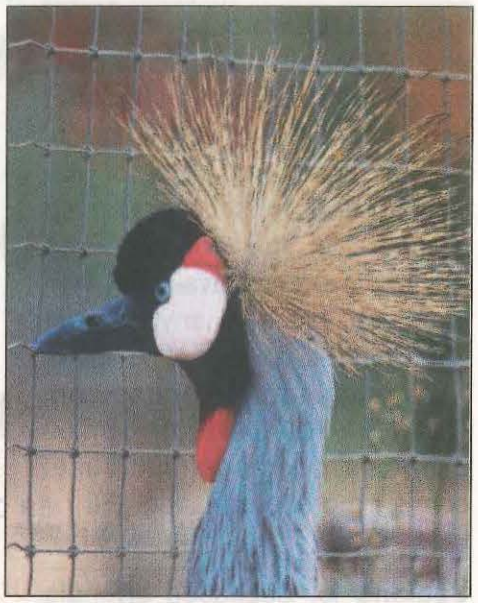

The East African crowned crane is a subspecies of the grey crowned crane, found from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo through Uganda (of which it is the national bird) and from Kenya to South Africa. Its natural habitat is open landscapes – marshy areas, low moors, rifts, bogs, along the shores of lakes, ponds and grasslands near water. Its body plumage is mostly grey, typically with white wings, and its head has a crown of stiff golden feathers. Males tend to be slightly larger than females, with average sizes around 1 m (3.3 ft) tall and weight at 3.5 kg (7.7 lbs) While in flight, the crane's wing span can reach six and a half or seven feet across. Young birds are greyer than adults.

This crane makes a unique and melodious honking call that involves the inflation of the red sac under its throat – this is especially uttered in a chorus of communication during flight. They are known to perform spectacular dances comprised of head-bobbing, wing fluttering, leaps and bows, not only for mating displays but also as expressions of joy.

As omnivores, East African Crowned Cranes eat plants, grains, seeds, insects, worms, frogs, small fish, snakes, and the eggs of water animals. Two to five eggs are usually the product of mating, and it is suggested that pairs remain monogamous. They are fully mature by two or three years of age, and can live 20-40 years.

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How To Start

by Mike Jones
Box 546 • Denison, TX 75021 • 903-893-5009

reprint

Collecting exotics began as rich people's private collections, when common folk were entertaining themselves by visiting insane asylums to watch the crazy people. When asylum doors were shut to sightseers, zoos went public so people could watch the wild animals instead.

If you are considering getting into exotics, there are some very important decisions and considerations you must face before you simply buy animals. This "craze" seems to come on you quite suddenly. It's usually accompanied by excitement and admiration of the simple, unspoiled beauty of the particular beast in question. Hopefully, a large part of your motivation is the love of animals and a desire to prevent them from being railroaded into extinction.

One very nice thing about all this is the fact that your land can be declared "agricultural exempt". This will reduce your school and county taxes. However, this only applies in two conditions. 1) you must have a fence and 2) the animals must be for human consumption. So, we are mostly talking about hoof stock with some exceptions like ostrich, etc. The county tax office was very pointed in their opinion on this – so if you are a kangaroo farmer you should consider a few deer or something to get your agricultural exemption before the government taxes us all out of existence.

First, let's look at how much property you have available. If it is restricted to limited acreage, you should consider smaller species. Otherwise, just a few large animals will strip all the grass and trees, leaving your place a dust bowl in the summer, a hog wallow in the wet season and a feed bill to stagger the national debt.

While you are considering what is practical for your situation, please talk to others in the business about their successes and failures. Read everything you can get your hands on. Subscribe to newsletters and magazines like this one. Attend exotic auctions and get to know people. Curators of exotic drive-through parks are excellent sources of information, but call for an appointment. It's just good manners and good business.

Most of us like more than one kind of animal, so let's talk about animal compatibility. One of the first things exotic people said to me was: avoid buffalo (bison) and zebra. In a group of animals these two eat first and they eat everything. Buffalo tend to go where they please, regardless of most fences. They cannot be herded. At least they can be "shooed" to some degree, or lured somewhere with feed.

Speaking of fences, this opens a very important and expensive part of exotic planning. Large acreage usually use an 8 foot game fence with treated posts for the most part. Smaller areas can be more elaborate with 9 gauge chain link and a concrete curb sunk 1½ feet into the perimeter ground to keep coyotes out and digging animals in. (Not appropriate for prairie dogs.) For poultry, pheasant and waterfowl, you will need smaller wire than chain link as small predators will pass through and sometimes over chain link. Chain link is very good for deer, antelope and marsupials. There is a certain give and rebound available if an animal runs into it. Never use chain link for any bovines – cattle, buffalo, bison, oxen, etc. These animals love to scratch themselves on it and will literally wallow it into the ground. If you are into marsupials – kangaroo, wallabies, wallaroo, etc. – be advised that they are susceptible to coccidiosis, a disease of fowl picked up in the earth through their feet. Also felines carry many things (mostly internal parasites) harmless to themselves but deadly to these marsupials through casual contact.

Switching to deer and antelope, let's look at your habitat. First off, you are dealing with a group of browsers (leaf eaters) and grazers (grass eaters). Some are exclusively one, some the other, while some are combinations of both. You are advised to check this out before you buy anything in this area. If you have lots of acreage of scrub brush and mesquite bushes, you are right for browsers like whitetail

deer and all small antelope. These are almost exclusively browsers, although supplement feeding of alfalfa hay, grains and pellets will get you by if you are not right for these. Example: International Wildlife Park in Dallas, Texas spends over one million dollars annually on such feedings. If, on the other hand, you have grasslands with large trees spaced park-like in a manicured setting, you are right for grazers like axis or fallow deer, along with some of the larger varieties of antelope.

Fallow deer are more trusting and gentle. To make axis like fallow deer you will need to start with a bottle raised doe – her fawns will be approachable if you work with them when small. You should never, never bottle raise a buck. He will have no natural fear of man. You will find this out one day when "Bambi" horns you in the butt during the rutt.

As to rutt, most of the small antelope are territorial. They go after anything that they feel is a threat, that they have no natural fear of, if it invades their territory. For example, a $200 blackbuck spears a $20,000 eland who unknowingly crosses its territory. The eland dies! You feel like a fool!

The largest four species of antelope do not spar with each other during rutt. These species depend upon "lateral display". The largest male displays his long horns, his thick neck, etc. to subordinate males who then move off. These are eland, kudu, bongo and probably gnu.

Larger antelope are combination grazers and browsers. Remember, the eland is a semi-desert animal as far as temperature is concerned. They can tolerate our winters, but will consume twice the food a cow would eat during the winter to increase body heat. Eland can clear a 10 foot fence if pressed – pretty good for a 1,600 pound animal. Russia has attempted to cross eland with cattle for years. So far with no success. However, they do have them domesticated enough to ride and milk. The kudu must be winterized and the bongo is endangered, as are white tailed gnu (not the brindled).

There are problems with the pot-bellied pig and the law. People in urban areas have had a problem with city ordinances which forbid swine in town. To these people, let me recommend the capybara (a rodent). In fact, the world's largest rodent. World record is 220 pounds and 4 feet over the back, from its horse-like muzzle to its button tail. Born in small litters, they are about the size of a small guinea pig at birth. At maturity, they average around 120-160 pounds. They are very intelligent with an I.Q. the equivalent of a pig, which is second only to apes and ourselves. These pompous beasts are very "laid back" and take up an attitude of gentle determination toward all members of the household, including dogs. There is even a documented case of one being used as a reliable seeing-eye "dog" for a blind farmer. They like water and spend a portion of each day in it. They also tend to breed in water. Diet is grass and water plants. In captivity, they like lettuce, carrots, sweet potatoes and an occasional monkey biscuit, (diet supplied by Todd Lantz.) In the wild, they will spend a good deal of their time sitting placidly on river banks and just blinking. Occasionally, they arrange themselves in orderly rows and watch in disdainful silence as a rowdy motor boat chugs by. In Argentina and some other South American countries, they sometimes appear on the dinner plates of tourists under innocent or high sounding titles. In the 1600's, the Vatican mistakenly assumed them to be aquatic (like fish) and OK'd the eating of them. Today, they are farmed in Argentina much as we do cattle. They have hard bristles of hair like a hog and will live a long time if water is provided. They do need to be winterized as they cannot tolerate our cold winters. With some work, these could compete with the pot-bellied pig. Inbreeding is not a problem among rodents, so there are obviously advantages to them. Remember, there are no city ordinances against rodents.

I want to touch briefly on nutrition. I know this subject can be most extensive so I will not dwell on it. If your animals are not browsers by nature but are suddenly stripping all the bark from your trees, one of two things is happening; 1) you have an over crowded situation, or 2) a zinc deficiency.

If you are interested in producing trophy antlers on your deer, you need to be feeding at least 17% protein with 0.64% calcium and 0.56% phosphorous by body weight. Some will produce better antlers than others due to better genetics and being the prime age. All three factors play a part.

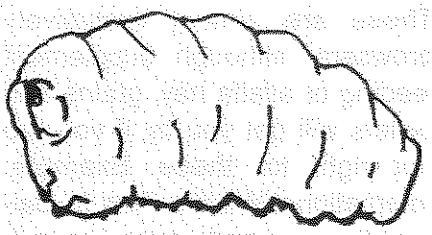
Under no circumstances should the novice exotic person

continued on page 15

reprint

"Homegrown" Mealworms

by Terry Bullard & Nancy Grunwald



Over the past year, we have varied the food supply in the bucket by using cornmeal and flours for food instead of bran, and carrots and apples along with potatoes for more moisture. Whichever procedure you choose, you will delight your little exotics with a continuous supplement of high-protein and vitamins, helping to maintain a more natural diet. For more detailed information, please feel free to call Terry at 702-9693249 or Nancy at 702-969-3310.

With the popularity of raising small exotics reaching an all time high, the goal of providing a balanced diet for these little mammals has become quite a challenge. Our interests have been centered around a high-protein diet for hedgehogs and sugar gliders that is as close to their natural diet as possible, and cost-effective as well. Dry cat food has been recommended by many breeders as the foundation diet for most small exotics, but the 20-30% fat content in some brands caused obesity in our hedgehogs, which resulted in poor breeding and/or poor milk production. One autopsy on a young female hedgehog revealed large pockets of fat around the internal organs. In sugar gliders, recent findings indicate that a high-fat diet may result in floating fat deposits in the eyes of the young, sometimes leading to blindness. Our solution to these problems has been to feed a low-fat cat food such as Science Diet "lite" to the sugar gliders, and to feed the new specially formulated dry mixes by "Pretty Pet" to our hedgehogs.

After getting the dietary fat under control, we searched for other sources of high protein, settling on the lowly mealworm as a natural supplement, much to the delight of our little critters who clearly consider mealworms a gourmet item. Mealworms are 47%+ protein, are 'high in vitamins A and B, and have a digestibility of 92%. Surprisingly, mealworms are also over 29% fat, so we offer only small amounts several times per week. One of the best things about mealworms is that with a small amount of time, space and money, it is possible to supply our animals with a constant supplement of "homegrown" worms.

To get started, we used five gallon buckets, a sack of bran from the local feed store, the morning newspaper, several potatoes, and a small carton of about 30-50 mealworms purchased at the pet store. Using the bottom of the bucket as a pattern, we traced and cut 10-12 circles of newspaper to fit inside the bucket. We poured a two inch layer of bran into the bottom of the bucket, covered that with three circles of newspaper (black and white print only), and continued this layering process until the bucket was half full. Keeping the level of bran at one-half depth prevents anything live from escaping the bucket. The newspaper attracts the beetles when they lay their eggs. The top layer of bran is not covered with paper. Next, we cut potatoes in half, lengthwise, and placed them cut-side down on the top layer of bran. The bran provides food for the mealworms: potatoes provide food and necessary moisture. Finally, we added the new mealworms. The bucket was then placed in a warm, dark spot, and checked weekly. When the potatoes were eaten away or become too dried, a fresh supply was added.

As the weeks passed, we noticed a number of changes taking place in our mealworm "colony". They go through a series of stages much like the life cycles of caterpillars. We noted the white, stubby pupae stage, which, ultimately produced ugly, black beetles (this we called the "yuck" stage!) that do not crawl out of the bucket, but simply eat bran and potatoes, breed, and lay eggs which hatch into mealworms.

When their cycle is over, they die. The entire mealworm cycle takes about two months from start to "harvest". When the worms reach the size of the original pet store purchase, we remove them from the bucket, place them in an open container of cornmeal and store them in the refrigerator. The cold temperature keeps the mealworms in a sort of dormant state, preventing development of future growth cycles.

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The Nine-Banded Armadillo

by Sharon Hoctor

The "little man in armor" was the name given to the armadillo by the Spanish conquistadores when they first came across this strange little animal.

Armadillos come in nine or more species with several subspecies in each. They range from three to eleven bands which vary from no hair to a dense covering of course hair. They vary in color from beige to dark brown and all shades of gray – their color often depending on the soil in which they burrow.

They are usually about fifteen to seventeen inches for the head and body, with another fifteen or so inches for the tail, and they weigh approximately seventeen pounds. They have a small head with a fairly long snout. They have strong, well-clawed feet with four toes in the front and five toes in the back.

The nine-banded armadillo is probably the most common and best known species. They usually do have nine bands of hairless armor but can have from eight to eleven bands. The upper side of the body and tail are covered with non-rigid bony plates that serve as armor. The belly has no armor and is, therefore, vulnerable to attack. They have short, powerful legs and grabbing claws. They have a very simple digestive tract and little or no appendix. Armadillos have a group of skin glands in the anal region which appear as two to four holes in the pectoral armor. A yellowish, smelly substance is secreted from these holes.

The armor provides an extremely effective means of protection from enemies. Folds in the skin between the armor plates and powerful muscles allow them to roll up very rapidly. Another very good method of escape from predation is their ability to dig very fast which allows them to virtually disappear into the ground. And even though they are a clumsy-looking animal, the armadillo is surprisingly fast. They have been seen to jump vertically and erratically when startled and then take off at a rather fast run.

Armadillos range from entirely insectivorous to eating snails, worms, ants, craw fish, small retiles, bird eggs, plant roots and carrion. Their teeth continue to grow and, if the food is too soft, the excessive growth will cause jaw and gum damage. In captivity, grains, roots, and fruits have been mixed with the food to keep the teeth in good condition. They have a poorly developed sense of taste with very few taste buds but they have a very well developed sense of smell and can smell insects several inches below the surface. Sometimes they will stand almost straight up while supporting themselves with their tail and sniff the air for a food source or danger.

The eyes of the armadillo are very small and lack the retinal cones which are responsible for color vision so they are, therefore, color blind. They are primarily a nocturnal creature so the visual senses are not as impor-

tant. However, it is not uncommon to see them out and about during the day or evening.

The nine-banded armadillo has been more closely studied than the others. It was found that this species requires considerably less oxygen than do cats and dogs of about the same size. It can hold its breath even during strenuous activity. This comes in quite handy while digging as it decreases the chance of inhaling the stirred up dust into the respiratory passages. It can fill its stomach and intestines with air and can cross wide rivers much more successfully than the other types of armadillo. It swims much like a dog and can even walk along the bottom of a creek or small river for short distances.

Its temperature regulation is not well developed, somewhat like reptiles. The body temperature will vary with the outside temperature. Nine-banded armadillos cannot withstand frost periods of long duration, even within a well insulated den. This prevents them from migrating into the more northern regions of the country.

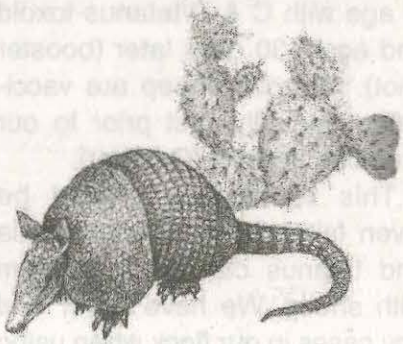
The nine-banded armadillo is a relative newcomer to the United States. They originated in Mexico and migrated north. They are popular because they feed on insects that are harmful to crops. Because of the warmer climate, they stay mostly in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida but have been found in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas.

They seem to prefer forested, slightly marshy regions and dig their dens on stream and river banks, always in the vicinity of trees and shrubs. They usually have more than one den but seem to favor one over the others. Often, several adult armadillos will share the same burrow. Grass and leaves are used as bedding which is changed frequently, especially after rain showers.

An armadillo reaches sexual maturity at about six months of age. Mating generally takes place in the summer. After fertilization of the eggs, only the first phases of growth occur. A cessation of growth, much like that in deer, then sets in. Implantation occurs after about fourteen weeks. Development continues then as in other mammals and lasts about four months. Four young are born in February through April and are always the same sex since they all developed from a single egg that divided into four babies. The babies are only about three ounces and are fully developed at birth with eyes open and can they walk around within a few hours. Their skin is soft during infancy but slowly hardens. They are nursed for several weeks. Generally, there is only one litter per year.

Because of the cell splitting to produce four identical babies, experiments requiring identical animals are often done on armadillo embryos or babies. The armadillo can carry a form of leprosy and have been used extensively in research on the disease.

Man, together with his dogs and automobiles, has replaced the large predators such as wolves, coyotes and cougars as the most significant enemies of the armadillo. The armadillo is often hunted for its meat and its decorative shell.



Sheep Vaccinations: *What, When, How, Where & Why*

by Marilyn K. Starr-Goetz

reprint

Vaccinations are always a topic for discussion. We never seem quite sure we are using the proper vaccine, at the proper time, the proper way, in the proper place, for the proper reason!

Through extensive conversations with our veterinarian, other shepherds, and our own personal experience, we have put together vaccination information that we use at Timberlane Exotics Farm & Flowers, working with Black Welsh Mountain Sheep. Please check with your veterinarian before administering any vaccinations as different areas of the country may require different vaccines.

Our first rule of thumb is if it isn't broke, don't fix it! Most people will agree with this. If you do not have any known problems or disease in your flock then the only recommended vaccination is C & D/tetanus toxoid. This covers enterotoxemia (overeating disease) and tetanus. This vaccine is administered subcutaneously (between the skin and underlying muscle tissue) or intramuscularly (in the neck or heavy muscle of the thigh).

We vaccinate lambs at 30 days of age with C & D/tetanus toxoid and again 30 days later (booster shot). All adult sheep are vaccinated annually, just prior to our breeding season (October).

This vaccination should be given faithfully as enterotoxemia and tetanus can be a problem with sheep. We have never had any cases in our flock when using the vaccine.

A worming schedule is also very important for your flock. Worming is usually done three to four times a year. If you follow a regular worming schedule you will be blessed with healthier sheep. A heavy load of parasite infestation will lead to undernourished sheep which, if left unattended, can cause anemia, weakness, and even death. We use Ivomec given subcutaneously, following the recommended dosage on the bottle.

We always worm our lambs at weaning time, between 2½ to 3 months of age. If you have too many animals on over-grazed pastures you may need to worm before weaning and then again when the lambs are weaned from the ewes. Everyone has a different situation so please check with your vet first.

Ewes (and rams) should be wormed prior to flushing, two to three weeks before breeding. If your ewes are in good condition they will produce more twins and healthier lambs. We worm ewes (and rams) again about three weeks after lambing as they will experience a worm burden at lambing time caused by hormonal changes in the ewe. If wormed at this time the ewe will have more energy for milk production.

We also worm during the summer after the grass becomes drier. This will take care of any remaining worms until flushing time. When the weather becomes hot and dry the worm larvae population is greatly reduced as their survival depends on warmer temperatures and adequate moisture.

Fresh, clean water should be provided at all times! Sheep lose moisture through their skin and,because of less moisture provided in summer pasture and hot, dry weather, they will consume greater amounts of water. Shade should also be provided. You will notice your sheep are less active during hot weather.

Salt should also be available at all times, free choice. Make sure you are feeding a trace mineral Sheep & Goat block. It contains no copper, which is toxic to sheep. If you have not been supplying any salt introduce it to them slowly so they will not suffer salt poisoning. If you provide a constant supply you will not need to be concerned with salt poisoning. Your trace mineral salt will also contain selenium which is required by sheep. Many areas of the United States are selenium deficient. If you are not sure about your area check with your veterinarian or county extension agent. NO selenium vaccines are necessary if you feed trace mineral salt.

We do not use any other vaccines at this time. We have never had a problem with disease. We attribute this to the hardiness and built-in disease resistance that the Black Welsh Mountain Sheep are known for.

How To Start
continued from page 9

consider animals like rhinos, elephants, Cape buffalo, etc. Leave the dangerous "biggies" to the pro's, or at least until you are more experienced.

There are a lot of good reference books available today. The ones I particularly like that cover the animals discussed in this article are as follows:

Living Mammals of the World by Ivan T. Sanderson, Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York.

Axis Deer in Texas, Exotic Wildlife Association, 216 Highway 27 West, Ingram, Texas 78025.

The Natural History of Antelopes by C.A. Spinage, Facts On File Publications, 460 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

Texas Zoos & Animal Parks by Ann Ruff, Taylor Publishing Co., 1550 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas 75232.

Zoo, The Modern Ark, Facts On File Publications, 460 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

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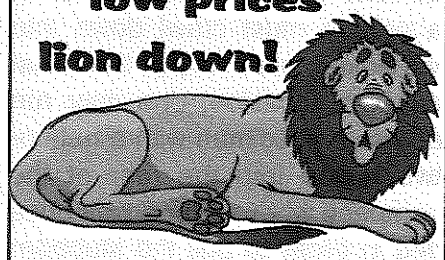

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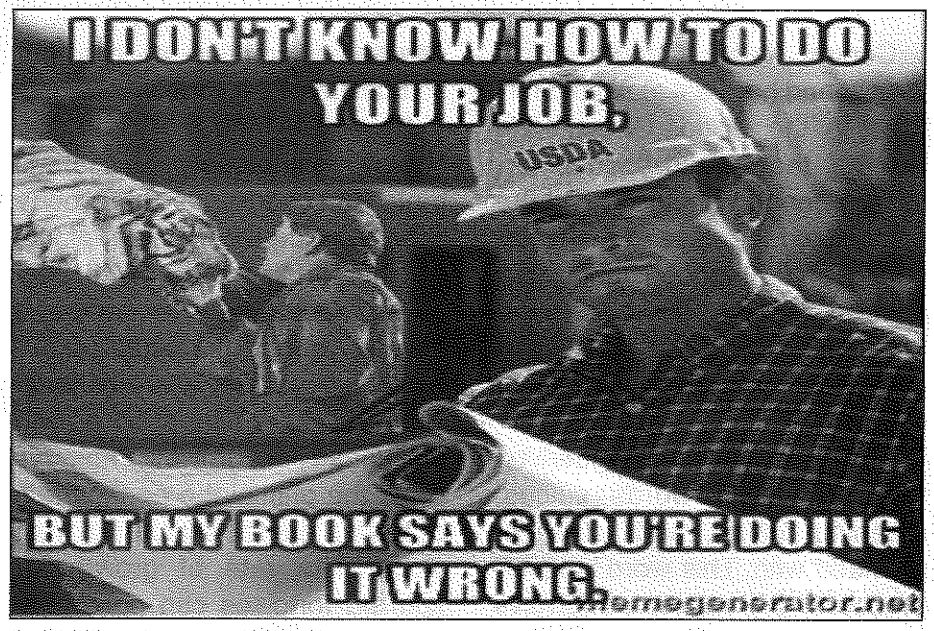
Stop Government Overreach

by Tracie Schultz



In a time when Government overreach and corruption is at its highest level we are raising money to defend the President of the United States Zoological Association (USZA) from ridiculous charges brought against him by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Doug Terranova has long fought for the rights of responsible animal owners and has been targeted by animal activists inside the USDA many times, including at public meetings and during inspections. In the last few years he has helped to file complaints against the USDA with the Office of the Inspector General as well as met with a multitude of Congressional Members and Committees to ask for Oversight Hearings of this agency.

For the past two years the USZA has been conducting investigations and collecting evidence in anticipation of a case like this. We now have the opportunity we have been looking forward to. Currently the USDA has filed an action against Mr. Terranova that will give us an important opportunity to publically expose, on the record, the hypocritical and corrupt goings-on inside the USDA APHIS Division. This is our opportunity to subpoena former Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) insiders at the USDA as witnesses, and to confront and cross examine them with hard evidence, publically exposing their hypocritical positions against Private Owners.

If you own, work, or breed ANY animal regulated by the USDA the outcome of this case will affect you. If you do not own or work animals but support those who do, you can help. If you are sick and tired of Big Government attacking small businesses and taking our rights away, you can help. Please donate to help in this legal fight to protect our rights.

The Sulcata Tortoise

by Brook Penrose

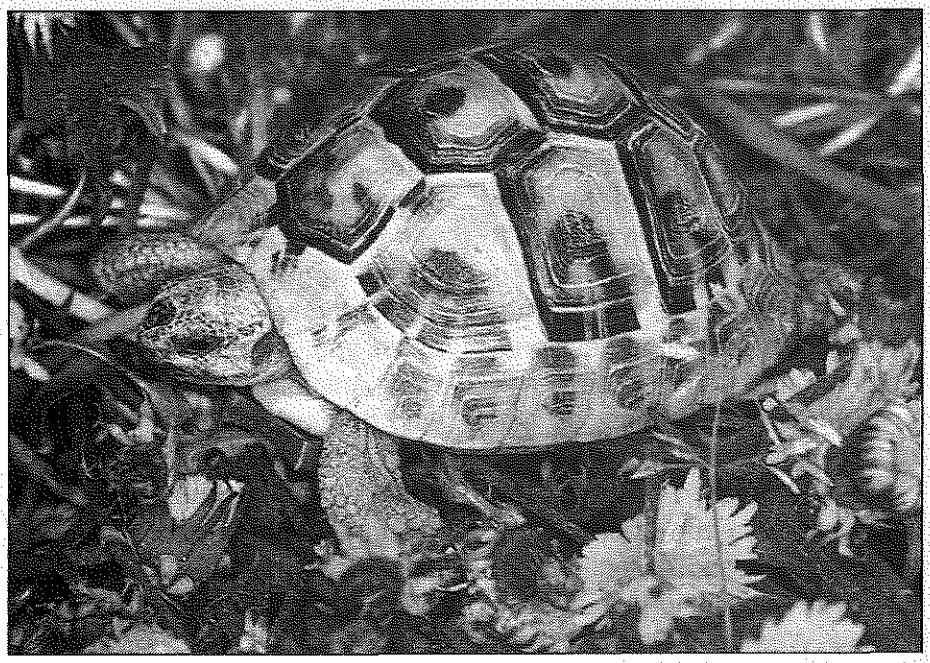
reprint

Central Africa is home of the largest and hardiest mainland tortoise in the world, Geochelone Sulcata, the African spurred tortoise. Second only in size to the giant island tortoises of the Galapagos and Aldabra Islands, the spurred tortoise can become a hardy, long lived pet which can potentially produce hundreds of offspring.

The term sulcata is derived from the Latin words sulcus, meaning furrow, and -atus, or provided with. This word is a reference to the concentric furrows found on the carapace of the animals. The English name "spurred" refers to the large, protruding spikes found on the hindquarters of the animals between the rear legs and tail. These specialized scales, accompanied with similar scalation on the forelegs, provide a formidable barrier to any would-be attacker attempting to bite the soft tissue of the tortoise.

Growth – Ping pong ball size at hatching, these tortoises will triple or quadruple their body weight during the first year of life. As the tortoise grows, the new growth can be seen as darkened borders around the scute (*external bony or horny plate or large scale*) borders. The shell growth on young or growing animals gives the animal the appearance of having a shell sculptured from wood. The rate of growth for spurred tortoises can potentially be rapid if the animal is well fed and kept in ideal conditions. I, personally, raised two individuals which grew from hatchlings to thirty pound beasts within six years.

Thermoregulation/Housing – Large sulcatas need to be maintained in an environment which allows them the opportunity to thermoregulate. This means allowing the animal enough space to freely roam into or out of areas of differing temperatures. This can be accomplished by suspending heat lamps or ceramic heaters from above to provide an area or "cone" of heat approximately 95°F to 105°F at the center. The animal must also have the ability to roam out of this heated area to keep from overheating. The ideal ambient temperature for spurred tortoises should range from 80°F to 88°F. It is very important to ensure this ambient temperature is consistent from day to day to ensure proper metabolism. An occasional dip to 70°F or even 65°F will not hurt a healthy animal. In its natural environment spurred tortoises may, during certain seasons, experience a day-night temperature differential of forty degrees or more. This fluctuation should not, however, be practiced on a regular basis. In the wild, spurred tortoises employ both passive and active means to deal with such temperature differences. To escape excessive heat or abnormally cool periods, tortoises will excavate burrows of often surprising depth. These burrows are sometimes so deep a person must crawl down into the hole in order to pull the beast out. On occasion, one may run across a specimen with a hole or two drilled into the rear of the carapace where a rope was once tied in order to pull the stubborn animal from a burrow.



Another means of dealing with less than optimal temperatures involves body mass and body heat. Adult spurred tortoises, by nature of their shear bulk, can "hold" an optimal body tempera-

ture temporarily during less than ideal conditions. This occurs because of a couple of principles. The first says that large animals (large meaning large body mass) produce very little body heat per pound of body weight. In other words, large animals "lose" very little body heat. Secondly, large animals will have less skin, or surface area per pound of body weight from which to lose body heat. This means that a large sulcata, when heated to a temperature of 85°F or 90°F, is going to "maintain" that temperature for a longer period of time than one of its smaller cousins. These principles serve the tortoise well when it comes to maintaining an optimal body temperature during a sudden overcast day, downpour of rain, or into the early hours of the evening. It is important to point out that even though a large sulcata may have an advantage over a smaller species, its metabolism is still not as efficient as a mammal of the same body mass. At its prime optimal temperature, a large sulcata's metabolism will still be about four times lower than that of its mammalian counterpart (Bakker, R.T.). This is a critical issue to remember when considering keeping large sulcatas.

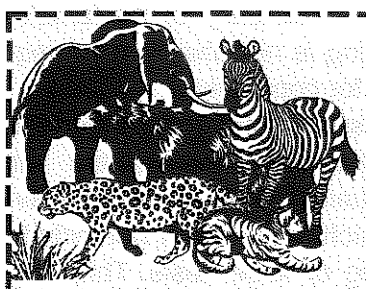
Feeding – One issue to consider when keeping spurred tortoises of any size is the amount of food required to keep them fed. In their natural environment spurred tortoises are grazers of grassy vegetation. As such, a diet for captive tortoises should consist of different types of grasses, clover, dandelions, alfalfa, and leafy lettuces (romaine, green leaf, red leaf, endive). During the summer months the primary food for our tortoises are the grasses growing within their half acre pen. This diet will be supplemented with apples, bananas, green peppers, squashes, cucumbers, egg plant, green beans, carrots, peas, melons, and berries. It has been my experience that spurred tortoises usually will eat any type of food placed in front of them. Some foods which the animal will eat may not be beneficial to its health. Monkey biscuits, dog food, cat food, raw beef, chicken, etc. will, no doubt, be consumed by these reptilian garbage disposals but may result in potential health problems if fed on a regular schedule. Some keepers of the sulcata believe that diets too heavy in animal protein will adversely affect proper shell growth and organ development (pers. comm. Steve Marsh).

Breeding – Although propagation may be successful in enclosures where tortoises are kept entirely indoors, chances of attaining consistent breeding success are improved for those keepers who maintain their collection in large outdoor enclosures all or part of the year. If maintained in areas of the United States where warm temperatures prevail year round, spurred tortoises may produce multiple clutches as often as every forty to fifty days. As with most tortoises, mating behavior can be somewhat violent. Male tortoises may feel the need to ram a potential mate into submission so that he may mount her with relative ease. This behavior is sometimes violent and, on one occasion, I have heard of an aggressive male killing a female by puncturing her soft tissue with his gular (*of, relating to, or situated on the throat*) scute. Fortunately for the female, ramming is not always a prerequisite for copulation.

If successful copulation is accomplished, the female will eventually initiate nesting behavior which may or may not include digging of false nests. This may be done in an attempt to confuse would-be egg poachers like birds or monitor lizards. Once a successful nest is dug, the tortoise will lay her eggs and gently position them with her hind feet withing the nest cavity. After the eggs have been laid, the female will cover the nest and depart the area. Some breeders prefer to increase the probability of hatching by removing the eggs from the nest and artificially incubating them. Under these conditions hatching can take from eighty-two to one hundred five days (Reptiles, pg 28, vol. 1 , #4).

Summary – Established Geochelone Sulcata are the hardiest tortoises in the world. They are long lived animals which require warm temperatures and enormous amounts of food to facilitate a healthy life. If breeding behavior is desired, it is best to keep tortoises outdoors at least part, if not all, year in enclosures which allow the tortoises plenty of room to roam. If these criteria are met, the African spurred tortoise will provide its owner with many years of companionship.

References: Aldernon, D., *Turtles & Tortoises of the World*; Bakker, R.T., *The Dinosaur Heresies*; Obst, F.J., *Turtles, Tortoise, and Terrapins*; Pritchard, P.C.H., *The Encyclopedia of Turtles*; Nichel, E., "*Geochelone Sulcata: Popular Exotic Pets*".



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- January 1 ❑
- February 1 ❑
- March 1 ❑
- April 1 ❑
- May 1 ❑
- June 1 ❑
- July 1 ❑
- August 1 ❑
- September 1 ❑
- October 1 ❑
- November 1 ❑
- December 1 ❑

Mail, phone, fax or e-mail
your ad information to:
Animal Finders' Guide
PO Box 99 • Prairie Creek, IN 47869
Phone: 812-898-2678
Fax: 812-898-2013
animalfinder@joink.com

For more information on ad rates call 812-898-2678
(1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) 24 hour fax: 812-898-2013
E-mail: animalfinder@joink.com
We accept check, money order, Mastercard or Visa.
If charging to credit card, please fill out information below.

❑ MasterCard

❑ VISA

Credit card account number _____

Credit card expiration date (required) _____

Three digit code from back (required) _____

Card holder signature (required) _____

Animal Finder's Guide

For more information on ad rates call:
Phone:812-898-2678 (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm) 24 hour fax:812-898-2013
e-mail:animalfinder@joink.com • www.animalfindersguide.com

DEADLINE
8 days prior to publication date.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Only 35¢ per word - $5.00 minimum per ad per issue - No Word Limit
Bold type $1.00 per word
WORDS ALL IN CAPITAL LETTERS (except for abbreviations of organizations) $1.00 per word
ALL CAPS AND BOLD $1.50 per word
e-mail and web addresses $2.50 each, bold type $5.00 each

Print your ad in the space provided below. For ad response you will need to include your phone number and address. Check, money order or credit card information must accompany ad.
Classified ads phoned, faxed, or e-mailed in will be accepted **ONLY** with a Master Card or Visa number, expiration date, and 3-digit code from the back of the card.

Please do not use abbreviations when placing an ad. The cost is the same for abbreviated and non-abbreviated words and words spelled out will decrease the chances of an error in interpretation.

ONE WORD PER SPACE, PLEASE Example (1) 3 (2) years (3) old

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
(4) _____ (5) _____ (6) _____
(7) _____ (8) _____ (9) _____
(10) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____
(13) _____ (14) _____ (15) _____
(16) _____ (17) _____ (18) _____
(19) _____ (20) _____ (21) _____
(22) _____ (23) _____ (24) _____
(25) _____ (26) _____ (27) _____
(28) _____ (29) _____ (30) _____
(31) _____ (32) _____ (33) _____
(34) _____ (35) _____ (36) _____

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- December 1 ❑

Please send to:
ANIMAL FINDER'S GUIDE
P.O. Box 99
Prairie Creek, IN 47869

For our records only, please fill out your name, address, and phone number below.

Name _____
Phone # _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Credit Card Order Information

Account Number _____

Expiration date _____ **3-digit code on back *(Required)*** _____

Card Holder Signature _____

❑ MasterCard
❑ VISA

Courtesy of Gene Merrell

Courtesy of Lynn Culver

Courtesy of Jerry Aswegan

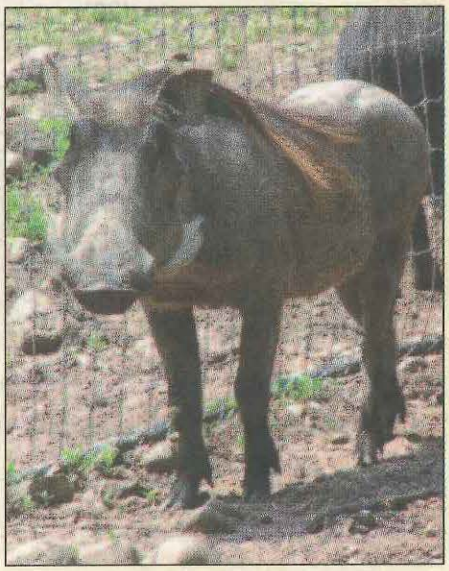
Courtesy of Jeremiah Tietz

Photo Gallery

Courtesy of Chelce Dower

Pictures from the past and the present. Some of these photos date as far back as 1984.

Courtesy of Dana Heyd



Courtesy of Carol Eiswald