

# ZOO NOOZ

## THE NEWSLETTER OF POPCORN PARK



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### Our Two Handsome Boys Troy & Mickey

Troy arrived back in 2006 with two other miniature horses, Star and Early Surprise. They belonged to an elderly couple and were loved all their lives. Troy was the brother of Star, a mini mare, but when an unexpected foal was born - thus the name Early Surprise - Troy was gelded immediately. In time the couple could no longer manage their farm, and had to put it up for sale.



Fortunately, they had planned ahead and made arrangements with Popcorn Park for the minis' care.

Although Star and Early have since passed away due to old age, Troy is still happy and healthy at 21 years old. He loves staff, is great for the farrier, and when visitors come by with popcorn, he taps on the bottom rail of his fence to make sure they share!



### WhoZoo?

1. Popcorn Park rescued my Mom. She was playing around the Garden State Parkway. Shortly after she arrived, she gave birth to me and my brother. Who am I?
2. I was raised from a baby by someone who didn't understand my needs. Because of this I grew up unable to defend myself as members of my species normally can. Who am I?
3. In my natural habitat, I am native to only one country, Japan. But animals like me became part of the pet trade all over the world. Who am I?

Answers - Page 3

Mickey is an Appaloosa, now 21 years old. He was 8 when he came to us in 2009, another much-loved

horse whose future became uncertain when the farm where he lived had to be sold. One of the two owners passed away, and it was not possible for one to manage the farm. All the other horses



were young and rideable, and found homes, but Mickey was neither. He was handicapped, blind in one eye and had a turned-out front foot. The remaining owner loved Mickey, and was determined that he not go to auction to face an uncertain fate. He began his search, and found Popcorn Park.



Mickey with his little buddy, Holly.

Once Mickey had settled in, he was paired with a small donkey named Holly. She didn't like the company of most other equines, but she and Mickey hit it off and were companions until she passed away of old age. Today Mickey lives on his own but has Jezebel and Jenny nearby to

play with over the fence, plus extra attention from staff. He is handsome, gentle, and a real crowd-pleaser, eager to greet visitors at the fence.

# Giving Thanks ...



As autumn days drift into snowy ones, and on into the holidays, know that we here at Popcorn Park are grateful for your support ~ now and all year 'round. From our pint-sized residents to our biggest, we thank you!!  
Happy Holidays!



Kya



Snowball



Seven



Our white-tailed deer

## The Egg-A-Day Plan



Our Popcorn Park Director, John Bergmann, is a pretty popular guy. Just check out his fans in his field office inside the refuge barn.

The red chicken sitting on his chair gifts John daily with an egg. Whether that's Barbara Jean's way of saying 'thanks, I'm glad I can live here.' or it's just what chickens do, we'll never know, but we do

know she is very consistent.

Her pal Maddie, on top of the desk, seems to just enjoy watching what's happening in the barn, which is a center for all kinds of activity. The heated barn serves as a wintering-over haven for our reptiles and parrots, houses a surgical suite for some of our residents, as well as a recovery area, and John's command center when in the refuge.

The barn was once home to Sonny our African elephant, and later to Princess, our camel, famous for her acuity in picking winning football teams year after year.

## Answers to WhoZoo?

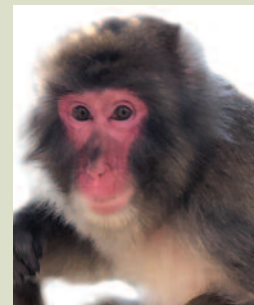


1. You could have guessed either North or South, so named because their mom, Reeba, had been playing on both the north and southbound sides of the Garden State Parkway. The little twins grew up fine and healthy, and North tends to look up to South as his "big brother."



2. Hamburger is a cautionary tale for all who pluck wildlife out of its natural environment and try raising animals on their own. Someone meant well when they raised Hamburger from a hatchling, but did not provide the UV light turtles need to grow their shell. Hamburger's shell never grew properly and he cannot defend himself by pulling his head and limbs inside. Happily, he's safe with us and his turtle pals.

3. Tess is a Japanese snow monkey and was purchased and raised by a woman to be brought to classrooms to educate and entertain children. As is generally the case when monkeys reach maturity, Tess challenged the woman for dominance. It was no longer safe to keep Tess, but the woman loved her and brought her to us. Gentle Tess loves grooming our staff and spending time with them.





Max settled into the bed of the pickup truck, above left, and strolling along to his winter enclosure.



## Moving Day for Max!

Our 450 pound Aldabra tortoise Max has a ritual twice a year, moving between his indoor and outdoor areas. Chiller temperatures are now upon us! When it becomes less than 50 degrees at night, it's time for Max to move into the barn for the winter.

When Max heard the pickup truck and saw all the regulars coming his way, he started walking to his gate, knowing that it was that time of year again. It takes a

at least 6 strong guys to get him into the bed of the pickup and settled in for the short 3 minute ride. Once lifted off the truck and placed down in the barn, Max started walking straight to his winter digs, about a 75' walk.

He knows exactly where to go and, of course, he takes his time looking around to see what's new. Once in his pen, he went right over to his hay pile and started eating lunch. With Max settled in for the winter, we start seeding his enclosure so it's ready for him next spring.



Max and his moving crew!

## Learn About ... North American River Otters

They're local to New Jersey, but also everywhere in the United States! The U.S. is home to two species of otter, the sea otter and the North American river otter. River otters belong to the same family as skunks, weasels, wolverines, and badgers, and weigh about 10-30 pounds.



IMAGE COURTESY CHRIS PAUL/WIKIPEDIA

They are accomplished swimmers at speeds of 7 mph. But even on land, where they spend 2/3 of their time, they are quite speedy, running at 15 mph. They can dive to a depth of 60 feet, and can hold their breath under water for as long as 8 minutes.

River otters consume plenty of fish, but also eat amphibians, turtles and crustaceans, birds' eggs, and even aquatic plants. Very clean, they wash themselves after every meal. Their underground dens are built near the water's edge with multiple entrances above and below

water for their safety.



IMAGE COURTESY AMANDA WAYNE/SHUTTERSTOCK

The very playful river otters love to slide ... on the ice in winter, and in warmer weather, down riverbanks!

Researchers discovered that they do this, not only to get from one place to another, but simply to play. They also juggle rocks when hungry or bored, especially the young or older otters!

You can find these animals by you if you live near a body or water - lakes, backyard ponds, rivers, streams, inlets, docks, and wharves -- wherever fish may be in good supply. Keep your eyes open. The North American river otter may be in your backyard!

North American river otters can often be found on docks and wharves up and down New Jersey's coast. Check on YouTube - River Otters Manahawkin - and watch them play!

## Join the Zoological Society & save on visits all year long! You can also give a membership as a gift!

Yes! I want to help support Popcorn Park. Sign me up for the Zoological Society!

- Please sign me up as a new member at the membership level below:
- Please renew my membership at the level below:
  - \$75 - Family
  - \$60 - Single
  - \$50 - Golden Opportunity
  - \$90 - Sustaining
  - \$150 - Donor
  - \$500 - Patron
  - \$1,000 - Sponsor
- Zoological Society General Support - Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please send me the ZoonooZ for one year!

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also join at [ahscare.org/popcornpark](http://ahscare.org/popcornpark) where you will receive the ZoonooZ digitally or can request it by mail, and can order a membership as a gift!

# ZOONOOZ

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## What's Not to Love?



BoBo sunbathing on her jungle gym in the yard.

***They're friendly, playful, and just plain adorable!!***

Popcorn Park is home to quite a few rescued goats. In 2020, we took in 10 from a hoarding situation, but others have been rescued from unique circumstances -- Andy from a parking lot where he was abandoned, Callie, a tiny kid, from a large herd where she couldn't find her mom, and Pike from the New Jersey Turnpike! One thing they all have in common is that they love to jump, climb, and relax on their jungle gyms. If you like goats, and are handy with a hammer and saw, you may want to build one for our kids. They make great Eagle Scout projects and our goats love them. Contact us if interested!

## Treats for Our Friends



The holidays are a time of giving, and many of our supporters ask what they can get for the refuge residents as special treats. That can be a tricky question as we feed so much fresh food, but there is something we can always use, and that is seed treats and toys for our birds, particularly the aviary birds! If you have any questions about what to buy, call us first!

We also welcome gift cards from Monmouth Feed Supply in Farmingdale, NJ, and we'll buy what we need most!

## Mythbuster!

**Myth** Owls can turn their heads in a 360-degree circle.

**Busted!** Not quite 360 degrees, but it's still pretty amazing - an owl's range of head motion is approximately 270 degrees! (Compare to a human's ability, which is between 160 and 180 degrees.) Because an owl's eyes are fixed in their sockets with no side-to-side mobility, they've developed a greater head-turning ability.



This little cutie is a baby screech owl, rescued by Popcorn Park back in 2015!

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