

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 10
Senior	\$ 15
Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 40
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Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

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Crittter Creek Wildlife Station  
36710 Sand Creek Road  
Squaw Valley, CA 93675



# Crittter Creek Chronicle

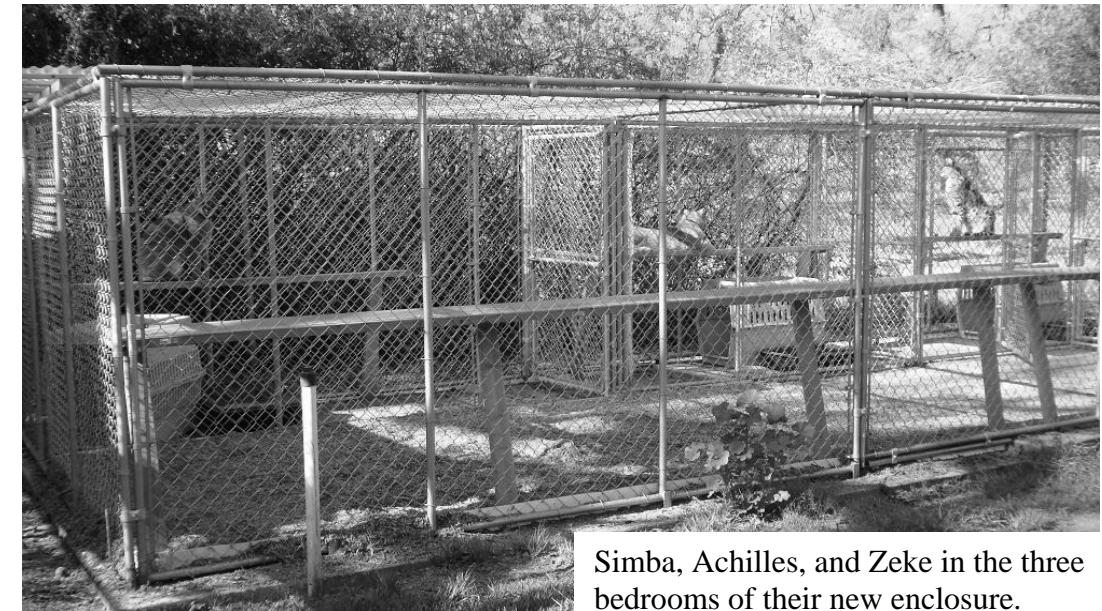
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## TRI-CAT CAGE COMPLETED!

The tri-cat cage is completed despite having to make adjustments and going over budget. A portion of the exercise area is full of shredded wood. This has become the cats' favorite area. Beginning the first day, Achilles, Simba, and Zeke were in heaven, rolling on their backs, legs flaying in the air enjoying the spring warmth. With spacious individual bedrooms off the exercise area, each cat can eat in peace.



A special thanks to the Kings County Fish and Game Commission for funding the majority of the cost and to the volunteers for helping to build the roofing, platforms, etc. that make the enclosure comfortable for the cats.



Simba, Achilles, and Zeke in the three bedrooms of their new enclosure.

Come to our next Open House and see our new enclosure.

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>,  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Last tour begins at 1:30 p.m.



**Crittter Creek Chronicle**

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## ANOTHER PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETED

The safety barrier around the fox and coyote enclosures should be completed in time for our open house. Again we wish to thank Kings County Fish and Game Commission and our intrepid volunteers for this beautiful, maintenance-free vinyl fencing.



## YEE-HAW!

Our deer release adventure started early one Saturday morning when volunteers arrived to construct PVC pipe into panels and to attach tarps to create a makeshift loading “chute.” It would take two volunteers per panel to “hold the line.” Other volunteers would act as “cutting horses” isolating a few and trying to head them toward the chute. With our lightest volunteer perched on top of the wooden crate ready to drop the slide door, the “rodeo” was on.



We want to thank all the volunteers who helped both of those Saturdays to load the deer. With patience and perseverance, we were able to transport the deer with no animal injury and minimal volunteer injury. The Department of Fish and Game requires us to return deer to the same range. Travel time to a safe place in the foothills was just under an hour and both days were cool making the venture a complete success.

## A GOOD REASON TO BE SURLY

Around March 5<sup>th</sup>, we received a red-shouldered hawk from the Porterville Police Department. It had been confiscated from individuals arrested during a drug bust. They had the hawk “housed” in a zippered tool bucket. They had clipped the flight feathers of one wing and had clipped all the tips off of its talons. The nare (the soft tissue above the beak) had been damaged and scarred fortunately not so bad



as to block the air passages. The hawk was also malnourished since they had been feeding it packaged raw chicken rather than a natural diet of rodents.

I am sharing this incident to help explain why we get short or snippy with people sometimes. There is a commonly



held belief that those who get involved in animal rescue are just not good with people. I don't believe we start out that way, but as much pain and suffering as we see each day caused by human abuse of animals can be



overwhelming. I also realize that humans aren't so kind to each other either, but we are so immersed and invested in the majesty of wildlife, it can be disillusioning to grapple with humanity's cruelty. We recover in time because we surround ourselves with loving, gentle, and caring supporters. Don't ever underestimate the role you play in keeping all of us at Critter Creek functional.

By the way, we think the red-shouldered hawk will recover from its encounter with the criminal drug culture. It will take close to a year, but he should be releasable.

## SPRING IS HERE

- Reminder please put off trimming trees.
- Remember that with the exception of the turkey vulture most birds have little sense of smell, so if you find a baby bird that has fallen from its nest, you can place it back into its nest without causing problems.
- Never relocate an animal during the spring, because you will doom their young to starvation.
- If you own a swimming pool, frequently check your yard for wild, nesting ducks. Baby ducks just don't appear in your pool.