



CRITTER CREEK WILDLIFE STATION WINTER OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, Dec. 22, 2018 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM



Gate will close at 1:30 pm to allow you enough time to tour. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures (all have put on their best winter coats). Our volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions and to share stories about some of our permanent residents. Visit our gift shop where you'll find unusual handcrafted gifts for the holidays. Relieve the stress of the season with a visit to the foothills with family. We have a picnic area, so bring a lunch, or the country store next door has refreshments. Admission is by donation. Call **(559) 338-2415** for information or look online at www.crittercreek.org

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Street _____

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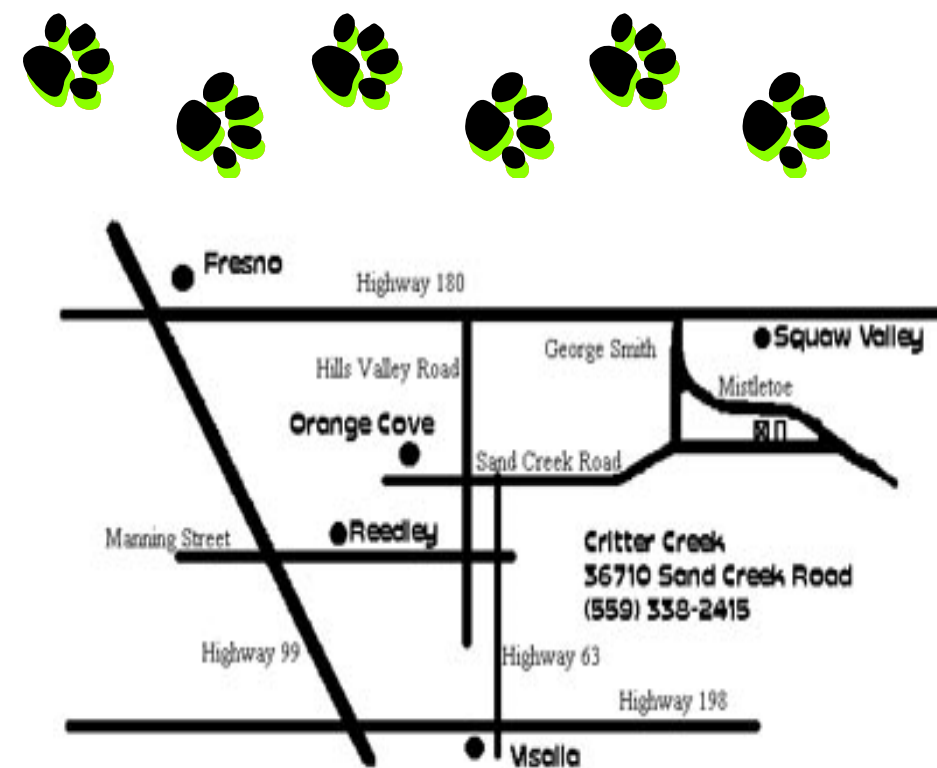
Telephone _____

Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 15
Senior	\$ 15
Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 50
Sponsor	\$ 100
Patron	\$ 250
Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

Make checks payable to:
Animals for Education

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit CritterCreek.org to see back issues of the Chronicle

Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675



Larger Pond Acquired for Alligators

The alligators, especially Tick Tock, have outgrown their winter quarters. We purchased a larger indoor pond for him; however, someone had to dig the smaller pond out and make the hole deeper and wider in order to install the new pond. Thankfully two volunteers, Tim and Travis, stepped up to do the hard work of digging. In one day they had the work done--just in time for the cold nights. Within a few days Tick Tock was using the new, larger pond. Just a reminder, we are still on the hunt for another 8 foot long diving board to attach to the other diving board to make it wide enough for Tick Tock to bask in the sun.



Permanent Resident: Coyote (Canis latrans) Lonesome

Late in the summer, we were called to a small farm in the little town of Minkler. A lady had a very young coyote hanging around eating her peaches. She thought it had a broken leg so it was unable to keep up with its family when they left the area. It was terribly skinny, but was able to move quickly enough to evade a net. Worse yet it had a severe case of mange. We left a baited trap. She promised to keep a close watch on it and would let us know if we got lucky. Within 24 hours she gave us a call. One of our volunteers picked up the trap, complete with injured coyote, and transported it up the Critter Creek. He was covered in fleas and ticks, had tapeworms and mange- an awful sight. We were able to medicate him for all the parasites, and within a week he was showing improvement. In the end he grew his fur back and gained weight. He still was not moving very well. An x-ray showed that both back hips were injured, one worse than the other. However in true coyote fashion, he adapted to a point where he could get around by using both back legs simultaneously, like a bunny hop. We don't feel he would survive in the wild but his life is doable here at Critter Creek. Mrs. Minkler had named him Lonesome when he was left behind and the name has stuck. He joins Wiley and Star in our coyote enclosure.



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Update on Mountain Lion Loft Project

We have made progress on the loft for Tonka, our mountain lion. The platform is built and the new roof is over the structure to protect it from the sun and rain. We appreciate all the help from Sean Fedor. We are in the process of welding a doorway/double entry and a sliding door leading to the main enclosure. Tonka has been helping and is very curious. He climbs up the poor beleaguered trees in the enclosure to get a better look. Once the door systems are welded into place, we need to adapt a set of stairs to help him get up to the loft (though I doubt he will need much help). The loft is an additional feature and will give him some sense of privacy when he wants to avoid people. He does this now by retreating into his cave or his bedroom. However, mountain lions prefer to be above people where they have a better vantage point. The loft will also give the trees in the enclosure a much needed break. It's tough trying to support an over 100 pound cat!



Romeo and Acorns

Romeo is a pot-bellied pig who lives on the outside of the mountain lion, Tonka's, enclosure. He lives an easy life with ample food, water, and wild grape. Our wild grape has dwindled with the cold nights, so he has been on the hunt for some other treat. The acorns have proven to be his favorite replacement; however, there are none in his part of the enclosure. He managed to push through the plastic safety fence in the viewing area and get into the larger compound area where he has access to unlimited acorn. To keep him in his enclosure, we had to repair and reinforce his fencing. We also have been providing him with acorns. Again we want to thank volunteers for the hours it took to do the work and for collecting the acorn.

