



WINTER 2020

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## Urgent Surgery Successful for Kya

If you know Kya, you'll notice something different in her latest photos.

The difference? She has lost her right eye. Kya suffers from glaucoma, and has for most of her life. We accepted Kya at three years old to Popcorn Park in 2013, contacted by another facility, where she had been showing signs of glaucoma from as early as 6 months of age. Over the next 2-1/2 years there she had gone blind. They knew, with our mission to help special cases such as handicapped animals, that we would provide her the best care possible. And that we have, including modifying a tiger enclosure/den to be safe for a sightless animal in preparation for her arrival.

Over the time we have had Kya, she's gotten her eye pressure checked on a regular basis, and has been on medication to reduce the pressure in her eyes. This has been successful although her right eye has always had higher pressure.



This past November, Kya's caretakers noticed her pawing at her right eye. The next day she was squinting and blinking. We quickly called Dr. Paluch, her veterinarian, who put her on pain medication until he and Dr Culbert, from NorthStar Vets, could come the next day.

Kya was sedated; the exam showed that her eye had ruptured and unfortunately, had to be removed. She was prepped and the surgery was started right away. In a little over an hour, it was completed. She came through it well and a couple of hours later was walking around in her den and relaxing on her bench. We kept her inside for the next few days, much to her dislike, but when she was able to go out on a nice day she did well, rolling around on the grass and lying down, stretching out in the sun. Kya has adjusted well and is doing great.

For additional photos, visit our website: <https://www.ahscares.org/ContentPage/4260>

## No One Is Too Big - or Small - to Help



### Who's this little cutie?

Meet a diamondback terrapin hatchling, about the size of a nickel. On December 4th, Public Works crews were flushing out the storm drains on Long Beach Island. A great deal of mud gets pumped and washed out, and the work crew saw something move. There among all the mud was this tiny terrapin.

They called Popcorn Park and we went right on over to pick the little guy up. He enjoyed a brief (continued Page 2)

### Who's Zoo?

1. She came to us with a bonded mate who has since passed away. Together they had the name of a famous duo known for bank robberies in the Great Depression. Who might she be?
2. This bonded pair lives together and grew up together. There was a time when they were ready to live in the wild, but to protect one, we needed to keep both. Ideas?
3. We picked up this animal as a youngster in a strip mall parking lot. Amazingly, he never ventured out onto the busy highway at the edge of the lot, but seemed to be waiting just for us. Who is he?

Answers Page 3

# No One Is Too Big - or Small - to Help

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*This little one was so young, he still had his egg tooth, the single tooth used to break out of his egg.*

*Someday, he'll grow up and look like this.*



PHOTO: RYAN HAGERTY

overnight stay at the Refuge, and was then transported over to Project Terrapin, where they will care for him until he's ready for release next year.

Project Terrapin focuses on the conservation, protection, and stewardship of diamondback terrapins in Barnegat Bay and throughout New Jersey, including key bay habitats such as salt marshes, barrier island dunes, and back bay shoreline areas.

## Popcorn Park Wish List

Even though we've not had much snow in New Jersey (so far), and by all standards, it has been a fairly mild winter (so far), our residents still need extra calories in the colder months. All animals below have shelter, but they also enjoy being outside and doing a little sunbathing whenever possible.

If you'd like to help provide those extra calories, below is our wish list for some of our animals:

- \*\* Timothy hay for the horses, cow, goats, sheep, donkeys, llamas, alpaca, deer.
- \*\* Cracked corn for the ducks, geese, guinea hens, chickens, peacocks and peahens,
- \*\* Molasses-based horse feed for the deer
- \*\* Duck Pellets
- \*\* Apples/carrots for horses, farm animals, deer, and bears
- \*\* Straw for bedding for the pigs, and all farm animals



**"Thanks for the yummy hay!" says Bella, our resident Holstein cow.**

You can visit the Monmouth Feed Shop in Farmingdale to pick up items on our wish list as this is where Popcorn Park buys the above food supplies.

Or ... send us a gift card of any kind so we may purchase supplies, or simply send a donation to Popcorn Park and we will purchase whatever is most needed for the animals at that time. Just let us know it's for feeding the animals at Popcorn Park!

Thank you!!

## MARRIED FOR LIFE (IN MOST CASES)



PHOTO: JOHN KLAVITTER/U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SVC.

**A Laysan Albatross named "Wisdom" with her chick on Midway Atoll in 2011- then estimated to be 60 years old.**

following year to the same mate. And in a tiny percent, there may be a "divorce."

Did you know that many bird species "marry", i.e. form lifelong bonds with their mates? Birds we see every day such as cardinals, mourning doves, blue jays, juncos, and Canada geese are among them, as are bald eagles, black vultures, mute swans, red-tailed hawks, and barn owls. And the list goes on to include Atlantic Puffins, the Laysan Albatross, and many more.

Bonded for life generally means that the pair stays together all the time, but in some cases, they may separate after mating season and the fledglings have flown, but will return again the following year to the same mate. And in a tiny percent, there may be a "divorce."

After the death of a mate, the survivor may "remarry". In the case of mute swans, a female may find a new mate in as little as 3 weeks, while a male may wait until fall or winter, defending the nest until he has finished raising the cygnets.

The Laysan Albatross lays only one egg per year, and doesn't breed until eight or nine years old. Each year they solidify their bond with ritual dancing. If one loses their mate, they may mourn for a year or two before searching for a new mate.

Atlantic Puffins are also very seriously bonded, and even return to the same burrow each season, sharing egg-incubating and all parental duties. They don't breed until they are three to six years old.

Despite all this, bonding is not as much an emotional connection as it is a practical one. The traditional courtship rituals serve to attract the strongest mates who will produce the healthiest and most plentiful offspring.

As one may imagine, birds are endangered everywhere in the world. At least 800 million birds die annually from flying into glass windows. And sadly, and even more preventable, another 800 million are estimated to die from attacks from house cats, an excellent reason to keep kitty safe and inside.



PHOTO: JOANNE GOLDBY / WIKIPEDIA

**Two Atlantic Puffins by their burrow on Skomer Island, Wales, UK**

*Info courtesy - Audubon*

## From Winter ... to Spring

### For the birds ...



PHOTO COURTESY: ALI TAYLOR

Are you feeding birds or backyard wildlife this winter? If so, please be aware that you need to continue feeding them until their own natural food supply is in abundance. Food can be hard to find in the winter, and the animals will come to rely on you for their meals, and will continue to do so for quite some time in the future. Of course, if you delight in watching your feathered friends in spring and summer, too, they won't complain about food being set out all year!

**A nuthatch having a meal from a backyard feeder.**

### and bees ...

Before you know it, it will be time to start planting and potting early blooming flowers and shrubs, and your chance to save honey bees (and other pollinators, all critical to our food supply.) Be sure anything you buy does not include a neonicotinoid pesticide such as sulfoxaflor. Neonics kill bees in droves. Here's how - 1. They make it difficult for bees to groom themselves, making them more susceptible to disease and mites. 2. Neonics make bees lost and confused and affect their ability to get back to their hives. If they can't return, they will die, and all in the colony, expecting the worker bees who never come home, will also die. 3. When bees return covered in pollen contaminated with neonics, other bees will also become contaminated. Learn more: <https://earthjustice.org/tags/bees>



**Honey bee collecting pollen.**

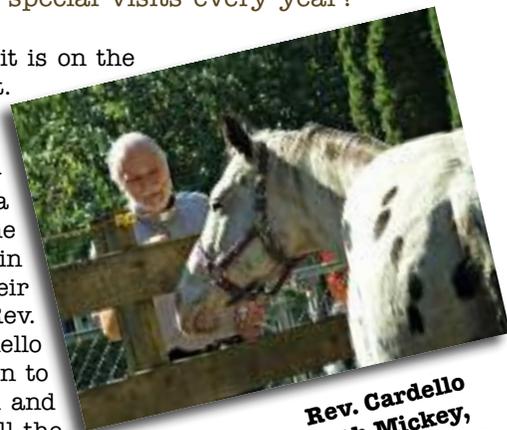
## Answers to Who'sZoo?

1. Bonnie is a Green-Winged Macaw who came to us in 2006 with her best friend, Clyde. They were turned in to us when their owner was moving, claiming they were too big to move. Clyde passed away, leaving Bonnie to make some new avian friends.  
2. Snowball and Ponz were orphaned squirrel littermates that we raised for ultimate release when they were ready. But Snowball's white coat prevents her from camouflaging herself and she becomes an easy target in the woods. We decided to give the little duo a fabulous - and very safe - life here at Popcorn Park.  
3. We received a call from a puppy store on Rt. 9 in Waretown, that a small goat was outside their shop. That was our Andy, a very sweet pygmy goat that someone had apparently abandoned.



**Did you know ....** ... that our Refuge residents get two very special visits every year?

The first visit is on the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi - October 4th - when there is a blessing of the animals in honor of their patron saint. Rev. John Cardello comes down to Popcorn Park and visits with all the Refuge residents, as well as the animals in the shelter.



**Rev. Cardello with Mickey, our Appaloosa**



**Santa has some popcorn for Aramis**

The animals get a second wonderful visit when Santa comes around in December, bringing treats for all.

There is a third annual visit the animals always look forward to ... and that would be yours! Come down and say hello!

## Join the Zoological Society & Save on Visits All Year Long

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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 - Family             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 - Single   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - Golden Opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 - Sustaining   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - Donor             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - Sponsor |

I don't wish to choose a membership category at this time, but enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Zoological Society. Please send me the ZoonooZ for one year!

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

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

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

\* NOTE - Membership prices are subject to change

**You can also learn more/ join online - [www.ahscare.org](http://www.ahscare.org) - go to Shop and select Zoological Society.**

# ZOONOOZ

Popcorn Park  
P.O. Box 43  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0043

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## Check Out the Eagle Cam!



PHOTO COURTESY: PETER K. BURIAN / WIKIPEDIA

The highest concentration of bald eagles in New Jersey occurs along the Delaware Bay in Salem and Cumberland counties but they are also found in central and northern New Jersey near lakes, reservoirs, and rivers.

The bald eagles, our national bird, was once nearly extinct in the U.S. due largely to the widespread use of DDT as a pesticide for over 20 years. Due to a broad effort, bald eagles have made a comeback and now can be seen more frequently by New Jersey residents. While we may see them flying overhead in parts of the state, we also have the opportunity to watch a pair nesting and raising their young - just tune in and watch the Eagle Cam, a joint project of Conserve Wildlife Foundation NJ and Duke Farms in central New Jersey. This page is updated daily with latest news of eggs being laid, hatched, the parents feeding them, fledglings leaving the nest, etc. The Eagle Cam has been following this mated pair since 2008, nesting in two different locations. Check out the eagles live at: <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/eaglecam/>



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**ZoonooZ ..... Jeanne Balsam  
Popcorn Park Gen. Mgr. ... John Bergmann**

*Photographer*  
**John Bergmann**

Please address all correspondence to:

**John Bergmann/ ZoonooZ  
Popcorn Park  
PO Box 43  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0043**

Or e-mail: [NJHumane@aol.com](mailto:NJHumane@aol.com)



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## WEIRD BUT TRUE!

1. *When sleeping, the bottlenose dolphin can shut down half of its brain and the opposing eye while the other half and eye remain awake and alert for predators.*

2. *Certain species of female dragonflies will sometimes fake their own death to avoid mating with an aggressive male.*

3. *Kinkajous have the ability to rotate their feet, enabling them to run backward as fast as they can run forward!*



THANKS TO SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN; SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. PHOTO: DICK CULBERT

## Mythbuster!

**MYTH - If you bother a skunk, you will get sprayed.**



PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

## Busted!

Not necessarily. Skunks are very docile creatures who much prefer to avoid confrontation, but in the face of being bothered repeatedly? They will warn you first by stomping their feet and slapping their tails on the ground. Spotted skunks will even do dancing handstands as a warning.

If the pestering persists, the skunk will turn its back to you and raise its tail (see photo left) - that is your last chance to move! A skunk can aim its spray for a distance of 10' and aims for the eyes. Spraying, however, is truly a last resort, because it can take up to a week for the skunk to build up that amount of fluid in its anal glands, leaving it vulnerable to predators.