

UPDATED 6-11-26 LISTS OF ONLY A FEW OF MY PERSONAL ANIMAL STORIES

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Animals are “persons” because each has a different “person-ality”. Not human persons, yet still persons deserving comfort and not cruelty.

** From birth and throughout my life, friendships with animals kept me from falling into the full depths of suicidal depression caused by family dysfunction & PTSD. That’s one of the reasons I eventually became a family counselor using Animal-Assisted Therapy, and why all throughout my youth and adulthood I’ve simultaneously served as a wildlife rescue-rehabilitation volunteer. I’ll be adding to these lists below, not only more individual animals as I remember them, but also clarifying details of those currently listed here, AND eventually creating full multi-page stories of each animal’s life as my final years unfold. So keep rechecking this list for new animals, and recheck our website [RESOURCES PAGE](#) for some of their full personal stories.*

**** STATEMENT ON ZOOS & CAPTIVE ANIMALS** — Have you had negative feelings about zoos and captive animals? I empathize with you! If you research carefully, you will find that good, bad, and very ugly exists across the wide range of facilities and activities. When it’s bad and ugly, it’s sadly easy to see — while the good and wonderful is often more subtle and behind the scenes. The best of facilities are motivated and designed around compassion, conservation, and education. Their animals are loved and protected by their caregiver keepers, and enjoy far better lives than those in the “wild” who must struggle and suffer violent competitive survival of the fittest, coolest, and cruelest, against predators, disease, drought, floods, fires, etc. Without captive animals, many species would otherwise go extinct. And the educational impact of new generations seeing, hearing, and caring about their local captive animal “friends” motivates actions to preserve and protect the world’s natural habitats and inhabitants. For more, see: *American Zoo: A Sociological Safari*, by sociologist David Grazian; and *Zoo Story: Life in the Garden of Captives*, by Thomas French.

GATORS

GATORS (Pierre, Bayou, Missy)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **GATORS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **ATCHAFALAYA SWAMP**, the largest river swamp in the U.S., at over 1,400 square miles was my go to place for spiritual solitude and countless stories of gators, otters, snakes, dragon flies, giant spiders, etc. Swimming with gators and otters in the foggy cypress pools of the swamp was like being on another planet.
- **PIERRE** a rescued young gator who loved head rubs & would hang over his huge water enclosure edge to beg to be rubbed
- **BAYOU** another rescued young gator similar to Pierre. The story of my foolish self-test to measure his bite power with my finger did not go well for me. Yet it proved Bayou’s great reluctance to bite.
- **GIANT REX** was a huge 12 foot king of the swamp gator in the wild who twice almost knocked me and my kayak over

ELEPHANTS

ELEPHANTS (Panya, Jean, Annette-Marie, “Tina”) - They can live over 70 years with stages much like human life stages.

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **ELEPHANTS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

*** The names of my other co-workers and even the real name for the huge adult elephant I’ll be calling “Tina” have been disguised. The reason is that in the decades after I left the zoo, “Tina” and her human “owner” (companion, friend, trainer, caregiver) experienced some controversy around the country due to the debate around “working” elephants.*

- **PANYA** was a big tall sweet female elephant who was rescued by our senior elephant caregiver. He had heard about her from his friend who said she was owned by a facility that was financially struggling and failed to feed her properly. When Panya arrived at our compassionate zoo, she was weak and emaciated. But the zoo, and our senior elephant caregiver using his own money) bought the best supplemental feed, veggies, and fruit to add to her diet of nutritious hay.

*** After she had gained strength and trust in all of us, one day on her early morning daily walk around the zoo, Panya on her own figured out how to turn on hose faucets with her trunk to drink & then turn them off when she was done drinking. Another day, Panya was on a walk and saw some landscape workers who were struggling to pick up a huge concrete fence post base so they could put it into a truck bed. Panya on her own walked over and lifted it with her trunk and put it in the truck for them. Another day, she boldly protected her favorite human caregiver friend from an out of control angry co-worker.*

- **JEAN** was a very young elephant only 9 or 10 years old when I started as her caregiver. Yet she created tools, for example using special stones she she’d hold in her trunk tip to scratch her dry skin. And when she found a very effective stone, she’d keep it under her tongue all day and take it out to scratch as needed. She also used a tractor tire as her favorite toy, which she carried around and protected for years..

She would play a “game” when I had to put her foot safety chain on at night (she’d position her butt to poop on my back)

- **MARIE**, was also young when I started (maybe 10 or 11). Marie was mischievous and pushed Jean into moat out of fun or dominance jealousy. She was eventually bought and taken by our most experienced elephant guy, along with “Tina” the big adult elephant (see below). In later decades, Tina loved her “work” giving people rides at fairs, etc., around the country.

- After I left the zoo and became a biology educator, JEAN & MARIE for years helped my students, on our annual “Touched By An Elephant” field trips, to experience their brilliance and deep emotion up close and personal in the elephant barn.

- **TINA**, (*** not her real name, note above*) was a huge adult, former circus elephant who at the circus had become bitter & dangerous. She was rescued by our experienced elephant caregiver and comfort trainer (*** I’ll call him “Bill”*) who bought and brought her the zoo for rehabilitation. He saved her life because the circus had been planning to euthanize her due to her

angry aggression which the circus old school harsh treatment had caused over the years. But thanks to Bill's wise experience, he "rehabilitated" Tina using a balanced combination of self-sacrificial love and strong training discipline (which I'll describe in the eventual longer story). "Tina" learned to trust and love him, and also to respect him as her alpha leader.

* Tina's strength was amazing. One unique day Tina, she was clearly excited with JOY to use her harness and pulled a giant 1/2 ton truck up and out of deep mud. She didn't have to even strain. The big truck popped out of the mud and bounced behind her like it was a toy. Later my for decades Bill and Tina traveled the country giving rides at festivals and parades, and all the while teaching about elephant biology, psychology, and social nature. More importantly, they taught thousands of people about the urgent need for protective conservation of wild elephants.

- **ELEPHANT TRUNKS** can do with astounding things! They can pick a penny up off the ground, unscrew or undo handles, find the best small rocks to use as tools for scratching their dry skin (and then store a favorite scratching rock under their tongue for use throughout the day). Elephants can fill their trunk up with water to drink or to spray on their back or on the visitors for fun. They use them to examine people's pockets for treats, and to examine the shape and scent of people faces to meet and identify new friends.

PRIMATES:

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **PRIMATES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

GORILLAS (Scotty, Momma)

- **SCOTTY** PTSD from past abuse and afraid of brooms. Yet he was naturally gentle and proved it one day when his night den door was accidentally left open by another keeper, and Scotty escaped.

- **MOMMA** was Scotty's mate and they were devoted to one another.

ORANGUTANS (Frankie, Molly)

- **FRANKIE**, once used a steel bar as a tool to try and open his lock. Another time he used a tree limb to hit some drunk men who were taunting him. (This was when he was temporarily housed in a habitat with bars, while the huge beautiful orangutan outside and inside environment was being built with grass, trees, a water creek, climbing ropes, etc.)
- **MOLLY** was Frankies "wife" and Frankie was her vigilant, loving protector. Older keepers who still used old school force and fear would use powerful high pressure water hoses to force them into their night-time enclosures each evening. Molly like all female orangutans would scream like a human woman when hosed by those old school cruel keepers. What Frankie did as a result was so amazing, it would put most human husband's to shame.
- **A SMALL YET STRONG GIBBON** - The smallest of the apes. Due to my carelessness, he grabbed my hair and pinned me to his cage bars until his caregiver Dan rescued me.

LIONS

LIONS (Rare Asian Lions - Bratar, Rani) = brother sister pair born of brother/sister parents (2nd generation inbred)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **LIONS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- **BRATAR** - due to pride and showing off to college girls, I fell in lion's den and almost died. Bratar was wild and dangerous, yet one day a spider crawled up on his foot and he freaked out.
- **RANI** the female, and her brother Bratar, hated people and were miserable in captivity. Many stories of their lives in the zoo illustrate the need to do better when preserving rare, endangered animals like Asian Lions in captivity.
- At one point to increase the Asian lion population the zoo chose to breed them even though they were already 2nd generation, inbred from previous brother/sister pairs. A keeper colleague & I tried to convince the zoo it was a bad idea. They did not listen, so we went to the local newspaper to stop them. A feature expose article was published, but the zoo bred them anyway. The resulting issues with their highly inbred cubs proved my coworker and I were right to be concerned.

TIGERS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **TIGERS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

TIGERS (Akela, Rakshi) - also brother/sister but not an endangered species so they were never bred.

- Akela and Rakshi were hand-raised and LOVED their human keepers (me and a coworker).
- Akela would greet me every morning with a powerful, wall shaking deep ghostly moan as I unlocked the night dens' hallway door. Then as I eventually walked up to their night den wire mesh doors, they'd both say, "Good morning we love you, please touch me!", by "chuffing" air through their fluttering lips — a hello sound by tigers, clouded-leopards and other big cats.
- The day a foolish head-keeper decided to go inside Rakshi's small night den area with her and try to force interaction is a story with a lesson in how the proverb, "pride goes before destruction" is one we should all take very seriously.

BEARS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **BEARS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

BEARS (Banu, Byomi, Candra)

- **BANU** Genius Comedian who would laugh by shaking his head back and forth after a prank he would create. Tongue prank visitors, & teased his mother Candra with his tongue and the mote of water
 - * Invented a way to make his water faucet Licks-it spray onto his dry food to wet it
 - * Played games of Hide and seek with me, hiding by hanging from the ceiling on the ceiling light's wire grate cover.
 - * Ripped steel door off concrete wall to get out of his night den
- **BYOMI** Sweet gentle and loved her morning grapes and nose rubs. But almost died when Banu attacked her after a coworker gave a grape to her and not one to Banu. - We used an electric cattle-prod stick to stop him and make him run outside into the outdoor bear yard.
- When we first were given the electric cattle prod stick, I decided to first try it on myself to see if it was humane for use on my beloved bears friends. Coworkers Warned Me Not to Try It On Myself! I should have listened.
- Is an electric stick or an electric dog collar humane? Both can and have saved the lives of many zoo animals and dogs when it was necessary and was used properly.
- Byomi survived her injuries from that attack, yet it was such a deep grief for all of us. Remember, in the "wild" small females Asian sun-bears are always at constant risk of attack from male bears, tigers, and poachers.
- **CANDRA** cantankerous old mother of Banu. His regular pranks and teasing of his mother were just like a mischievous human boy, even though he was a full grown adult bear.

LEOPARDS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **CLOUDED LEOPARDS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

ASIAN CLOUDED-LEOPARDS

Clouded-Leopards are the closest relatives to the ancient extinct saber-toothed tigers. Clouded's have very long sharp canine teeth compared to their bodies.

- **MANDY Clouded-Leopard**, - She was hand raised, full grown, and gentle as a kitten. I went inside with her into both her outdoor jungle yard and her indoor night-den. I even held her in my arms as we mutually hugged when the vet vaccinated her.
- I took naps with her on her heated indoor den floor, & outside on her jungle logs.
- BUT when a woman zoo visitor accidentally walked up and saw us
- The only time she bit anyone was an abusive head keeper who was later fired. The guy had a severe anger problem and often took it out on the animals. Mandy's one reluctant bite was a last resort effort in self-defense.
- **KOA, Young Clouded-Leopard** was not hand raised and loved to play bite our butts if we bent over while sweeping her den.
- **HANOI Clouded** was our only male clouded leopard. He was wild and dangerous - so no one went inside with him.

INDIA LEOPARD (BLACK PANTHERS)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **INDIA LEOPARDS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- Angry **ALI**: bitter enemy transformed into friend
- Crazy **NIKI**
- Sweet **SHEBA** was hand-raised and craved human attention and touch. But she had not been handled or even been in the same enclosure with humans for a few years. So to go in with her was a risk. When we first received her at the zoo, she was kept in her own separate night-den inside the night building. Her wire mesh den was next to our two other very wild and aggressive India leopards (Ali and Niki). Gradually introducing a new zoo animal to their same species zoo "companions" was always a risk. I new the zoo was planning to mix Sheba too soon into the outside yard with Ali and Niki. I was right. The result was not good and resulted in permanent PTSD for poor, sweet Sheba from then on.
- The head keeper, who was eventually fired for numerous things, one day pridefully went into the jungle yard to try and "play" with Sheba alone. Again, the proverb, 'pride goes before destruction" should have been heeded

TINY SOUTH AMERICAN MARGAY CATS

MARGAYS (Zeus, Zera, Wizard)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **MARGAYS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- **ZEUS**, the Daddy, a tiny terror who also tried to teach the foolish head keeper that pride goes before destruction
- **ZERA**, the gentle Momma who treated her keepers as if she was our caregiver.
- **WIZARD**, the little bad boy prankster

WOLVES-COYOTES

ENDANGERED ASIAN WOLVES

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **WOLVES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- **SHANKAR**, who wisely and gently taught me my own proverb lesson about “pride going before destruction”. Often I’d have to go out into his grassy outdoor habitat in the evening and “run” with him until we went into the dark tunnel leading to his inside sleeping den (each animal had their own for safety at night).
- **LADY** the female Asian Wolf and Shankar were like a loving, loyal, married couple.

WILD COYOTE CAUGHT IN A WIRE FENCE

- **COYOTE** (Not a zoo animal) I “rescued” this large coyote from a wire cattle fence, years after I’d left the zoo and volunteered as a licensed wildlife rescue/rehabilitator for the Dept. of Wildlife. This poor coyote had been hanging in the wire fence for days. Though wild, this sentient animal responded with patience and what seemed like gratitude for my long effort to gently cut away each section of wire that was wrapped all around the body. The rest of this story and how it ended revealed many truths about the intelligence and emotion of sentient animals, as well as the many different results that can be called “rescue”.

HYENAS

HYENAS INDIA-STRIPPED (Pandita, Bala)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **HYENAS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **PANDITA**, the old hyena guru who loved to meditatively sit in his beautiful grassy habitat and watch the crowds of people. Pandita didn’t like his inside concrete night time den, so many evenings I had to go out in his yard and “encourage” him to go inside to be safe for the night. He never showed aggression, just the stubbornness of an old man stuck in his ways.
- **BALA** sweet boy, tongue hanging out, loved nose rubs

RACCOONS

RACCOONS (Little River, Rory, Momma/Kittens)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT **RACCOONS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **COUNTLESS ORPHANS** rescued, rehabbed, and released. Too many stories to tell.
- **LITTLE RIVER**: our rescued, raised, and adopted, originally unreleasable class companion coon. We received a permit to keep her for life due to her having a hernia from birth. But the state Dept. of Wildlife years later changed their rules and forced us to release her. That story is one of the most touching, yet difficult my wife, kids, and I experienced, only days before a Mother’s Day. When Mother’s Day came around, my wife’s motherly love begged me to go and verify that little River’s release was successful.
- **MOMMA & kittens** on a different Mother’s Day, all rescued from an attic in a person’s house, and then released together in a safe woodland area. What this animal mother did on that Mother’s Day to protect her babies and then find them a safe place in a state park was a testimony to love that matches any human example.
- **RORY**: Who was shot in spine out in the countryside, and left to die, but saved and transformed into a human trusting friend.

OPOSSUMS

OPOSSUMS (Molly, Tom/Jerry, Opie, Ralph)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT **OPOSSUMS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **MOLLY**: blind, disability ambassador
- **TOM & JERRY**: brotherly love
- **OPIE**: rare bold assertive, and never played dead
- **RALPH**: nipped boy eating, LSU euthanized tested

SQUIRRELS

SQUIRRELS (Zoe, Blind Buddy)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **SQUIRRELS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- Disabled & Extra loved not aborted as the Gov’t demanded.
- **ZOE** The cutest, “not-crippled” yet disabled squirrel (no tail no rear left foot) who learned to be astoundingly acrobat, playing chase with my, my kids, and my Scotty. She could spin around chair legs like a gymnast.
- **BLIND BUDDY LOVE**: Life/Death/Heaven? Buddy the squirrel like many with congenital eye issues also had heart malformations. His life was short, yet filled with love, trust, and joy.

DEER

DEER

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **DEER** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **BAMBI**: The emotional forensic story of a mother doe who had obviously jumped a six foot iron fence, and her baby fawn who’d tried to squeeze through the fence but had gotten stuck — revealing the intense bond between a doe & her fawn! The mother’s tracks showing the history of her panicked pacing back and forth around her imprisoned baby, and the baby’s own physical evidence of a desperate attempt to get to mom.

- **FALINE**: the little fawn with injured neck we rescued, bottle fed, loved and comforted but could not rehabilitate.

COWS

COWS (Curly), BANTENG (Spot = Bull-Headed)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **COWS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **CURLY** was my unofficially adopted dwarf calf orphan when I was a teenager. Curly apparently lost his mother and was rejected by the rest of the herd in a wooded pasture land near my home where I regularly hiked and explored as a boy and teen. Curly needed, wanted, and searched for a momma as much as any lost human toddler. For a short but mutually transcendent time, he and I were a more than friends — we were a family.
- **BLACKY**, a sweet petting zoo cow who loved to lie down so little kids like my son Steven at 2 could lay on top of her and give her a big hug!
- **SPOT** my Big Banteng Gentle-Giant friend when I was a zoo caregiver. Big Spot loved to lick the salt off of my sweating arms. He learned how to gently yet powerfully discipline our much smaller male deer who would lose his mind during rut. Even as a young, inexperienced zoo caregiver, and because I “knew” Spot personally, I had the privilege to rescue him from the older supposedly more experienced yet insensitively cruel old school keepers who only used pain, force, and fear to control animals. Spot had to be moved to a different zoo and the plan was to get him into an 18-wheeler truck for transport. Spot refused to obey their commands and attempts to pull him with a rope by the horns. So they wrapped a steel cable around his horns and tried to use a farm tractor to drag Spot into the 18-wheeler truck. Spot refused and dug his hooves into the ground as the tractor and steel cable nearly broke his legs. I yelled out at the older keepers and begged them to stop and to let me try to get Spot into the big truck. Because Spot “knew” me as a trusted friend who loved him and only had given him comfort, plus the lure of a few veggie treats, the big ox eagerly followed me into the scary truck.

PIGS

PIGS/HOGS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **PIGS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **ARNOLD** the tiny super tough wild wire haired black hoglet we rescued and rehabilitated for the zoo. Arnold was only about 8 inches or so in length and 5-6 inches in height, yet his assertive personality led him to constantly try and battle us for food in our hands. Even so, he learned to love being stroked, petted, hugged, and held until he fell asleep.
- **ROSIE**: Long time gentle giant petting zoo favorite of all visiting kids. The kids actually loved her “nosey” kisses.
- **HOG HUNTERS??**: Hog-dogs, horrible swords, and insecure men hunting for their manhood. A story about a man who was my friend, but lost my respect when I discovered how he and his friends chose to hunt wild feral hogs. This story opens the important and needed discussion not just about hunting and also culling, but also about methods — what kinds of hunting are less humane than others. This especially addresses what kind of weapon (killing device) the hunter chooses to use (gun, bow & arrow, spear, sword, and even traps of various degrees of cruelty).

EQUINES

DONKEYS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **EQUINES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **DAVY CROCKETT**, a tough as nails male (gelding) mini-mule (half donkey / half miniature horse) with PTSD due to past less than compassionate treatment, who needed loving socialization to learn trust for necessary vet care & grooming. My friend Terri adopted Davy to become a companion for her sweet gentle giant of a horse Amiee, a 16 hands female (mare). Terri and her mare Amiee have been wonderful additions to little Davy’s life and Terri is becoming his momma. Even though Davy is only about 300 lb and Amiee is over 1,000 lb, Davy (being half donkey) dominates her, especially when he is jealous of attention from Terri or from me. Amiee, instead of using her huge strong legs to overpower Davy, tolerates and runs from him if he nips at her. Lots of wonderful stories about my times with these equines.
- **“PATIENCE”**: My made up name for the donkey in the Bible story about Balaam the abusive selfish prophet. (“Patience” comes from the Hebrew = awthone = patient, strong) She endured abuse, then spoke to power (Her Abusive “Owner”) and actually saved his life as a result.
- **MARBRIDGE FOUNDATION C3 EQUINE THERAPY PROGRAM: (All male-gelding horses, each with unique personalities)**
Animals are “persons” because each has a different “person-ality”. Not human persons, yet still persons deserving comfort and not cruelty.
 - * **JOEY** (40), an old donkey at Marbridge
 - * **PEANUT** (30’s) an old donkey at Marbridge

DOVES/PIGEONS (Bob, Woody, Freddie, Racer)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **DOVES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
- **BOB** storm injured, then Hurricane Katrina released as fat and unable to fly
- **FREDDIE PTSD** Pigeon survived bloody attack, proved to be Self-Aware in mirror by accident

- **ALPHIE:** had to amputate his wing
- **RACER:** flew home using magnetic field of earth
- **WOODY:** released yet stayed around house, roof visit mornings

DOG <-> The letters backward spell "GOD". Dogs model humble dependence on the one they believe is the source of LOVE.

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **DOGS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

THERAPY-DOG to SERVICE-DOG ...

(3 of the Bible references are positive re: dogs - Job's sheepdogs, Lazarus's medical dog, & the family pet dogs mentioned by the non-Jewish woman to Jesus)

- **BIFF**, a Rat Terrier was my first dog when I was a baby and toddler
- **PEPPY**, who sadly for only a year was my family's inbred black poodle with epilepsy when I was a boy.
- **MISSY**, who was my first canine counselor as a pre-teen and teen. She was a mixed beagle whose empathetic loving compassion keep me from falling into the full depths of suicidal depression caused by family dysfunction.
- **SUZY** genius frisbee counselor
 - * Answered Prayer for a Collie or a Husky
 - * Looking to the Master
 - * Blowing Up Can Crack a Relationship
 - * Frisbee Obsession - The Power of Praise
 - * Consistency - The Key to Training
- **SCOTTY** Good Shepherd sheepdog
 - * barking at little girl to get her back in the group a little lost sheep
 - * rescue kittens I SCOTTY gently using his nose to push them back into the giant rubber tub for safety.
 - * God's gift of mini-wolfhound
 - * Gentle-Giant counselor, evangelist for heaven
 - * loves babies, kept kittens in tub with nose
 - * herded girl back to group in woods
- **DUKE 1:** Street pump Heart Worms, Phone CPR Crisis of Tears
- **DUKE 2:** David's hound dog, died of bloat on the phone with me and David
- **DIESEL:** Neglected, addicted to affection & food
- **GINGER** gifted us rolls in each bed
- **JACK:** ate mud pies to please the girls
- **ANGEL:** tiny momma
- **RUSTY:** Gentle Giant Yellow Lab / Dane Mix
- All 3 after Katrina in the NOAH'S ARK RESCUE warehouse & especially Jack howling when Rusty was begin taken out of the cage next to him and led away to be adopted.
- **BUDDY:** covid puppy neglected or abandoned. Linda: "If it's meant to be, God will put a dog in your path".

*** HURRICANE KATRINA & NOAH'S WISH RESCUE**

- * a 6 ft Tidal Surge in Slidell; survived in my 12 ft tall Kid Fort
- * City & neighborhood destroyed, multiple tornados, Massive pine trees down in yards, streets, roofs
- * All 3 dogs PTSD, in Police Warehouse w/ thousands
- * Rusty and Jack in Kennel together
- * When Rusty taken out to be adopted, Jack howled over and over again like a deeply grieving, wailing person
- **WILLOW:** crippled wild pup living under rusted car (part Malinois) adopted by lawn care guy
- **SAMMY:** Grieved Gran, knowing death and loss

SHEEP / LAMBS: ARE DUMB, GULLIBLE, STUBBORN, & NEED A SHEPHERD:

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **SHEEP** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

Jesus's use of "sheep" to describe humans was not to build our self-esteem

- ZOO, my sheep Mary & her little
- The family pet lamb story told by the prophet Nathan to convict King David of his horrific sin against the young woman Bathsheba who was Uriah's wife.

GOATS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **GOATS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- **COCO:** baby not weaned, diarrhea \$700 Vet bill
- ZOO: goats genius escape artists

SNAKES (Lizaboa, Candy, Layla, NEVER LIVE FOOD

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **SNAKES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

LIZABOA 12 ft Red-Tailed Boa, loved hugs

- * Emotion of guilt/apology if accidentally bit me

- * The story of her escape and rescue by my teenage daughters when I was out of town presenting a talk was a testimony to Lizaboa's gentleness, my daughter's compassion, and more.

- **"CANDY"** a beautiful, partial albino corn snake, loved hugs. The day she crawled down a visiting young woman's shirt and wrapped up in her bra was an hilarious day, not for her, but definitely for me, my daughter,
- **LAYLA** - a beautiful ball python. Layla means "black beauty" in an African language.

LIZARDS (Charlie, Drake, Moses, Amos, Spock)

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **LIZARDS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

CHARLIE: Russian legless old man 40 years

- **DRAKE:** Tegu monster learned respect & trust

- **MOSES:** Uromastix lizard

- **AMOS:** Bearded Dragon begged to be held

- **SPOCK:** Chameleon live long and prosper

- **EDEN:** Crested Gecko, vegetarian, gentle, soft

- **YODA:** 10 years, therapy Lizard to 100's of kids

TURTLES (Chewy, Tiny, Tank)

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **TURTLES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

CHEWY: and many others

- **TINY:** MBD (Metabolic Bone Disorder)

- **TANK:** MBD

GEESE (Stubby)

- - MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **GEESE** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

STUBBY angel-wing deformation, yet parents self-sacrificing love protected with their lives

- **WATCHMAN:** Giant Chinese Goose the volunteer super-sitter, servant protector (abad/shamar) of other goslings

CHICKENS & THE ROSTER (Big Joe Cocker)

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **CHICKENS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

BIG JOE COCKER: drop neck abuse

OTTERS (Squirt, 5-Zoo-Boys, OLLIE at Zoo2U)

-- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **OTTERS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

- **SQUIRT**

- **THE BOYS:** 5 at Zoo, bit me when I teased

- **OLLIE:** orphan, rehabbed, adopted by Zoo2U

BIRDS

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **BIRDS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

SARIS CRANES - Five Foot Birds Swords for Beaks. Never Sword Fight a Crane, without the Right Weapon!

OWLS:

- **OTIS:** H.B.Car; One-eyed, Government demanded flight cage 8x8x8, caused his death (law vs. love)

- **OLLIE:**

- Many more

DUCKS:

- **BARTLEY:** & girlfriend white domestic duck DAISEY #2 & their adopted "babies"

- **DAISEY 1:** Wood Duck taken by Clearwater

HAWKS: 4 or 5 of them but forgot names

- **BIG RED**

SKUNKS (Rose and Bud)

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **SKUNKS** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
Bud the Bad Boy Skunk who would pull himself up on my rubber boot & bite my chin
Rosy the sweet gentle female skunk

GIRAFFES: Jenny, John, baby six foot drop, Bob almost kicked

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT THE **GIRAFFES** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...

STEVEN'S BOYHOOD WISE COMMENTS:

- MANY MORE STORIES ABOUT **MY KIDS ANIMAL WISDOM** THAN THESE FEW LISTED ...
Steven re: Swamp Flies & a Father's Protective Hand over his head 1 Peter 5:5-9
Saw A young Komodo Dragon, and said, "He Wants His Mommy?"
A Gator and a Dragonfly - Steven said, "Look Dad, they're mating."

ROACHES: No need to be afraid of the, so why are we? Social conditioning as children.

- * My kids would rescue and set them free outside

SPIDERS: ROSIE & HARRIET out huge Rose-Hair Tarantulas

- ROSIE,
- HARRIET,

MY HUNTING GRIEF - I stopped hunting even though my father was furious & ashamed of me:

- Nightmares & grief because my friends & I pridefully accidentally killed a scared rabbit in Greg's yard
- Nightmares & grief because I pridefully shot 2 rabbit friends from moving car
- Nightmares & grief because I pridefully shot 2 exotic ducks 1 shot thru heads
- Nightmares & grief because I shot & wounded Nutria from 60 feet above on railway bridge. Searched for hours to find him and euthanize to stop his suffering.

HUNTING HORRORS BY PEOPLE I'VE KNOWN

- Un-Christ-like "Pastor" *friend* who hunted hogs with dogs, spears, & swords
- A student's father & his friends who shot over 1000 doves on a hunting vacation to Mexico
- The Pres. of a Seminary whose huge office was full of exotic animal "trophies" (lion, zebra, etc.)
- A student's "Dad" who taught him how to hit opossums off their fence with baseball bat