Chance. Smashing photo of the year! © NJ Wright
Donors

10 years or more


Please let us know if your name doesn’t appear.

“Kindness is the light that dissolves all walls between souls, families, and nations.” —Paramahansa Yogananda

Friends we have lost

Mollie Bradley  Lynda Donelle  Linda Coté  Lin Barbara Stevens

2
Hello Kind Friend,

I always look forward to this time of year when all things are put in their place and everyone is tucked in nice and cozy for the winter. It is quiet at Fauna and it is the perfect opportunity to catch up with one another, to fill you in on everything that happened in 2015 and tell you about our plans for the year ahead. I hope you enjoy reading our second Annual Report. It has been a busy year indeed!

I must say, what I like the most and what is important to me at this time of year, is the chance to personally reflect and remember who was there for us and who inspired and encouraged us to do more. It is a chance to express why we care so much about you and just how important you are to me and to all of us here at Fauna.

Bless you and thank you for the love and light you bring into the lives of Fauna’s special residents. Your acts of kindness inspire us each and every day.

As the years go by and our friendships deepen, I find it more and more difficult to put into words the gratitude and joy I feel in my heart for the blessing you are in our lives. Thank you.

“You can create miracles in your own life, and in the lives of those around you because you are a miracle, and you are connected to the source of all miracles.”

I want to thank you for making miracles happen for all of Fauna’s residents, every single day. Without your love, compassion and most appreciated support, their world would not be what it is today. A better, brighter more hopeful place to live than the world they experienced before coming to Fauna.

We must never forget where they came from, or how much they endured and suffered. But, we can try to help them forget by making new beginnings each and every day. We can help them forget their past by being the kindest people they have ever met in their lives. Friends they can trust! We can help them forget the deprivation they suffered by offering good food and choices, lots of choices!!!

We can help them forget their discomfort from the past by offering a clean, comfortable and enriching environment to live in. We can offer special foods for those who are on restricted diets; foods that make them feel better. We can provide medication and supplements for their health and wellbeing, helping them to feel better with whatever their conditions are.

We can offer favorite foods and choices for those who have preferences; green apples instead of red, black blankets for those who love black, purple Gatorade instead of orange; whatever they prefer we can try to offer them, thanks to you.

And last, but certainly not least, we can provide an amazing caregiving staff! Special people who care, who are deeply compassionate, empathic, kind, nurturing, intelligent and lots of fun!!!!

We can do this because of you!!!

“Believe that there’s a light at the end of the tunnel. Believe that you might be that light for someone else.”

Thank you for making a difference in someone’s life.

To be kind, to be compassionate and to believe in your power to make a difference is to be special, to be “a light.” You are a single shining star in the universe but together all the little shining stars will light the lives of many who have lived in a dark place and need a glimmer of hope.

You, kind friend, are a light in the lives of those you care for, you make a difference in not only the lives of the chimps of Fauna, but you have helped make a brighter future for all chimpanzees!

Without you things would not be the same. You make things better and that is more than a miracle, it is a blessing.

With warmest wishes and much love,

Gloria xo
New Construction

Skywalks, Tunnels and Electric Fencing at the Chimp House

Fauna raised a total of $21,582 in the Skywalk Appeal. In addition to these funds we also received a donation of steel for the project valued at $15,000! We added 148 feet of outside Skywalks, tarps to cover some of them in the winter, and some new doors to allow more flexible access.

In addition to the new skywalk, we also added three “popover” tunnels inside the Chimp House this year. These short tunnels allow the chimpanzees to more easily move from the upstairs mezzanine to the rooms in front of the kitchen—where so much action takes place. The chimpanzees love these new tunnels as they are a great place to sit with an easy view of every place in the building.

The Chimp House is surrounded by an electric fence. This year we replaced many of the posts. What this project lacks in glamour, it gives in safety.
Monkey House Renovation

The Monkey House saw a big transformation this year. Much of the old wooden structures in the monkeys’ enclosures were damaged and worn out. We replaced almost all of the structures with new wood paneling and added new poles and platforms. Eugene’s precious house got a face lift! Some of the structures now include a food puzzle component that can be used daily for extra enrichment. Theo’s room has new platforms and ladders. All in all the monkeys are loving their new and improved abode!

“Act as if what you do makes a difference, it does.”

—William James
Visiting Intern Program Summer 2015

This summer Fauna hosted its first Visiting Intern Program. Four interns from Canada and the U.S. participated. They spent days in the new Education Space and the Chimp House and nights in the RV’s on the property. They learned about chimpanzees as a species and the residents at Fauna. They collected data on how the chimpanzees use their space. The program will be offered again in Spring and Summer 2016.

In our Education Appeal donors gave $7,480 toward the housing for the interns and the creation of the Education Space. This versatile space is used in a variety of ways. Equipped with a laptop and large flat screen, we can display videos and PowerPoint presentations for training purposes. The many tables and seating allows for up to 25 people so we can accommodate larger groups such as the Sanctuary Symposiums. Volunteers use the space to create enrichment, and it acts as storage for the many enrichment supplies. Weekly staff meetings are also held in this space.

Sanctuary Symposiums

Fauna offered a total of five Sanctuary Symposiums between July and October. There was only space for 20 people at each session and 92 people attended this season.

Visitors first spent one hour in the Education Space learning about the natural history of chimpanzees, the history of Fauna Foundation residents, and ways to be a “polite”, humble, and submissive visitor. Then the group walked around the Fauna property, which included a stroll by the Chimp House and Monkey House. The chimpanzees always have a choice of coming out to see the group via the skywalks and islands or they easily can stay away from the group. Visitors practiced their headnods and playfaces to greet the chimpanzees who chose to come out.

The participants at these informative and lively sessions left with a much deeper understanding of and respect for chimpanzees and our other fellow beings. We are calling it a success and have dates for the 2016 season listed on our website.

McGill Student Internship

In 2015 Fauna started an internship for students of McGill University. Students divide their time between husbandry and a research project. One student is exploring the chimpanzees’ daily moods using records from the caregiving staff. Another is exploring the patterns of the chimpanzees’ group partners and locations in the building.

Central Washington University Graduate Students

Mary Lee Jensvold advises graduate students enrolled at CWU, Tatu and Loulis’ former home. Some of these students have received training and behavioral study opportunity at Fauna. Katie McDonald came as a graduate assistant and completed video recordings of Tatu and Loulis. Holly Soubeia came as part of the Visiting Intern Program and will use the summer space use data for her Master’s thesis.
Volunteers

The volunteer program saw a revamp this year. All new volunteers now attend an orientation. They learn about Fauna’s mission, our residents, our volunteer program options, how to operate a walkie talkie and then have a tour of the property! We offered 4 of these for a total of 33 individuals. We had 51 people come and volunteer at Fauna assisting in a variety of areas including gardens, clerical, hosting events, cleaning, laundry, and preparing enrichment.

Fauna participated in Concordia’s annual volunteer fair Thursday, October 1st from 10am to 3pm. Open to the public, with over 700 visitors, we were able to reach a wide range of people informing them of our volunteer opportunities. We were the most visited booth at the fair with approximately 50 sign ups!

We’ve made a lot of changes to our enrichment program this past year, nearly doubling our list of ideas! It takes creativity, patience and experience to come up with enrichment ideas that the monkeys and chimps will appreciate. It has to be fun, messy, destructible, and not too hard to maneuver or it will be left untouched. Cleaning days make for extra fun because these days are themed days. These include: matching drinks, frozen treats, décor, toys, and other enrichment items to decorate the entire Chimp House, themed days are quite a sight to be seen! Sometimes the look on volunteer’s faces are priceless when we ask them to paint goldfish, or make only blue frozen treats. It seems rather odd on its own, but when everything comes together for “under the sea day” it’s quite beautiful!

One of my favorites is “spider web day.” We attach yarn absolutely everywhere in the enclosures and tape nuts and dried fruit to the yarn. Even hula hoops are transformed into “spider webs.” Everyone “appreciates” the enrichment in their own way. Petra will walk around and remove every single treat whereas Sue Ellen will do all she can to avoid the webs as though they are motion detectors.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our volunteers and the copious amounts of donations from supporters! Our new cabane is loaded with toys and supplies and our volunteers are here every single week keeping up with our crazy ideas. Every piñata, pasta necklace, goodie bag, painting, hair brush etc. adds something special to our residents’ routines. Thank you!

Volunteer Led Events

Fauna volunteers Lara Mackenzie and Marianne Mandrusiak hosted a yoga fundraiser event at Concordia University on November 26, 2015. Sixteen people attended and they raised $300.

Fauna participated in the 2015 Timeraiser on the evening of April 30th. Timeraiser is an evening of art, music and giving back. Skilled people bid on artwork in number of hours they want to volunteer for a specific organization. They then complete their hours in an allotted time to receive their artwork. Fauna caregivers Tanya, Kaeley and Laurence represented Fauna at this event and met a lot of interested candidates and Laurence won a painting!

"Few are the giants of the soul that actually feel that the human race is their family circle."  —Freya Stark
Volunteer Highlight—Tara Snively’s Fauna Fun Girls Night

Every June, my friend, Tammy, and I clean out our closets and anything else in the house we are looking to declutter and ask our friends to donate any unwanted gently used items and we host a yard sale in my old work parking lot. It is a lot of fun and we get to talk to a lot of people about the chimps and the importance of being a friend to all animals.

I hosted a Fauna Fun Girls Night early in February this year. I invited my girlfriends over to shop from my “cleaned out closet.” I also had a few local businesses donate items for a silent auction as well as lots of great gift prizes. A few of my girlfriends donated their services to add to the fun, two aestheticians set up shop and provided mini manicures and hand massages for a donated fee. My hairdresser did mini hair makeovers and fun colored extensions. We also had a fitness trainer come and give healthy eating and exercise tips and my Arbonne representative came and did makeup makeovers. All products that were promoted were 100% cruelty free and we gave a nice little presentation about the importance of shopping cruelty free!! (I believe that consumers have the power to end useless animal suffering!) There were lots of healthy snacks and of course lots of vino! Everyone had lots of fun and we raised somewhere around $1400!

Our volunteers this year were:

Alexia Armato
Aurelianne Belliard
Alyssa Flynn
Andrew Prior
Anne Turcotte
Bianca De Filippis
Carol Arthur
Catherine Brodeur
Claire David
Chris Dolla
Chantale Lauzon
Chandal Nolosco de Silva
Caitlin Shey
Camille Troude
Danielle Boulais
Derek Donelle
Dale Henshaw
Elyse Leveille
Erika Thibault
Emily Thompson
Helene Beauregard
Ingrid Fortin
Julie Anderson
Johanne Belanger
Julie Comeau
Jacinthe Daprato
Julie Matson
Julie Peltier
Johanne Ruel
Julia Stirling
Janet Warne
Kathy Bocsi
Jeff Shimizu
Kimberly Hains
Karen Wu
Lara Mackenzie
Marie-Pierre Bonin
Mira Grandillo
Marianne Mandrusiak
Michele Soucy
Monick Vial
Nathalie Brunette
Simon Abramovitch
Sarah Fay Girard
Sophie Vadnais
Sandi Young
Tara Snively
Chris Snively
Amanda Bradley
Jim Sibley

Our offsite volunteers this year were:

Carole Moore
Lori Waters
Lisa Drew

“Everything is a miracle, not just the beautiful and lovely things.”
—Anonymous
Our Residents

Monkeys

“Each and every animal on earth has as much right to be here as you and me.” —Anonymous

Farm Animals

Photos © NJ Wight

Passings

“Don’t grieve. Anything you love comes round in another form.” —Rumi

Boxer (chicken), 2014
Betty (goat), January 2015
Riley (chicken), winter 2015
Lili (llama), February 2, 2015
Addison (rabbit), early spring
Cloe (rabbit), early spring
Angus (goat), June 2015
Megan (chicken), July 2015
June (cow), August 31, 2015
Beverly (swan), November 27, 2015
Axel (cow), December 3, 2015

Sophie (monkey), October 15, 2015
Donations

» We received gifts from our Amazon Wishlist totaling $9,645.
» We received in-kind donations totaling $15,107.

Lifetime Care
This year the Lifetime Care Fund reached its first milestone of one million dollars. We still have a way to go to ensure the residents of Fauna have financial security for a lifetime. Thanks to the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS) and other generous donors for helping us reach this milestone.

Corporate Giving
» Matt and Nat is a company that manufactures ethically and naturally sourced bags, wallets, and accessories. For the Hope Charity Bag, the customer can choose a charity to receive all of the proceeds of the purchase. Fauna is one of the charities! mattandnat.com
» Maison Bourdon is a line of sunglasses manufactured in Montreal. Fauna receives $10.00 for each pair of sunglasses that are purchased.
» Genuine Health is donating food supplements to the Fauna chimpanzees which make smoothies better than ever!
» This year Google included Fauna in its employee giving matching program. Gloria and Mary Lee spoke about Fauna at the Google office in Montreal. Thanks to Greg Thompson for organizing this!

Grants
Friends of Washoe provides support for various programs at Fauna. This year it provided support for travel to Chimp SSP Conference matching $504, visiting intern housing $2,300, and immigration matching $2,465. David Bohnett Foundation has funded a two year grant of $25,000 for support of a signing caregiver to assist with care of Tatu and Loulis, and their family. This caregiver can provide the language support that Tatu and Loulis need and assist with maintaining records of their continued signing. Friends of Washoe supports Mary Lee’s position at Fauna.

Great Ape Giving Day
Great Ape Giving Day was on October 14, 2015. In this online crowd funding event, eight participating GFAS-accredited North American sanctuaries were able to increase awareness, support and funds to better rehabilitate, protect and provide quality welfare for apes in their care. Fauna raised $4,895.

Expense concepts
» The cost of food for the chimpanzees and monkeys in a year is about $95,000.
» The average weekly cost of produce alone is $1,163.
» The cost of all animal care staff for one year is $385,750.

Learn more at FaunaFoundation.org
Distribution of Funding Sources

- 83% Private Donations
- 10% Grants
- 5% Outreach Programs
- 2% Adopt-a-Chimp

The Number of Adoptions for Each Chimpanzee

- Binky: 13
- Chance: 9
- Jethro: 4
- Loulis: 2
- Maya: 8
- Petra: 5
- Rachel: 3
- Regis: 5
- Spock: 3
- Sue Ellen: 6
- Tatu: 12
- Toby: 6
“Safe guarding the rights of others is the most noble and beautiful end of a human being.”

—Khalil Gibran

“...
This year marked the end of chimpanzees’ use in biomedical research. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has deemed it will no longer fund biomedical research. In addition the US Fish & Wildlife Services uplisted chimpanzees to Endangered, which will provide much greater protection. Now our sights turn to the individuals who will still live for another 50 years, with damaged souls, that deserve to have the rest of their lives in peace, undisturbed, and free of exploitation. There are hundreds of these chimpanzees.

Fauna was a co-petitioner on a Rulemaking Petition to the USDA asking for better Animal Welfare Act standards that promote the psychological well-being of primates in research. The Petition, submitted by NEAVS, the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA), the Laboratory Primate Advocacy Group (LPAG), and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) seeks to assure that the psychological well-being of primates in labs—as already required by the Animal Welfare Act—is truly protected. Without the specific and enforceable regulations requested in the Petition, labs will continue to interpret the law to their convenience.

Fauna is part of a coalition of concerned individuals and organizations working to ensure lifetime care for a large group of former research chimpanzees that have been abandoned by the New York Blood Centre (NYBC) in Liberia.

We are part of a coalition to stop the transfer of eight chimpanzees at Yerkes to an unaccredited zoo in the UK.

**Presentations**

NAPSA hosted a virtual workshop this year in which Fauna had two presentations. One, an introduction to Fauna Foundation and the other, Caring for Chimpanzees. This is still available on APSA’s website.

**Local invited presentations:**

» Sigma Xi McGill University Chapter, Google (Montreal office), Trafalger School for Girls, John Abbot College, and McGill University.

**Co-authored professional presentations:**


**Publications**


**Fauna Productions**

Fauna produces a printed copy of our newsletter, *The Scoop*, which come to the mailbox of $50 or more donors. This went out in Summer 2015. We also produce an e-newletter, also called *The Scoop*, which comes for free to those who sign up to receive it. This must be done through our website. This went out in February and September 2015. Additionally we sent our first Annual Report in 2015.
**GFAS**

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is an organization that provides standards for care in nonhuman animal sanctuaries. They have the highest standards of care and provide accreditation to sanctuaries. This year we received our reaccreditation which included an on-site inspection.

**Website**

This spring Fauna worked with a new partner to redesign and improve our website, www.faunafoundation.org. While the overall look of the site has stayed somewhat the same, we have greatly improved the navigation and underlying structure of the site and added more photos and exciting new features, including a Blog and News section. The hard work has paid off as we have seen a significant increase in our website traffic since the launch in June.

“*When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or the life of another.*” —Helen Keller

**Estate Planning—A meaningful way of giving**

A number of our supporters have enquired about putting Fauna in their estate plan. This form of giving is very important as your will is a statement of your values and reflects those things that are significant in your life. In addition to family and friends many people wish to remember those organizations whose work most closely reflects their values. A charitable bequest simply is a clause in your will directing your executor to pay a portion of your assets to a named charity. Below is a sample of how you can include Fauna in bequeathing funds:

“I bequeath to the Fauna Foundation of Carignan, Quebec _____% of the residue of my Estate to be applicable to the general purposes of the Foundation.”

Please call our office at 450-658-1844 for more details. We are thankful for your meaningful gifts.
Social Media

Facebook

Our Facebook page has seen a great deal of activity this year and an additional 1,000 friends have Liked our page. In addition to photos and updates about the Fauna residents, this year we have used our Facebook page to try shed light on important animal welfare stories from around the world. Our fans have responded in a big way. Our posts with the greatest REACH this year have been important news stories that social media has helped communicate.

Tatu’s 40th birthday post was one of the most popular photos liked and shared by our Fauna Friends on Facebook.

Instagram and Twitter

Fauna’s Instagram and Twitter channels continue to grow! You can find us on Instagram @fauna.foundation and on twitter @faunafoundation.

Media coverage


» Another Court Denies Legal Rights for Chimpanzees. Brandon Keim, January 5, 2015 http://www.wired.com/2015/01/court-denies-kiko-chimp-rights

» Mary Lee Jensvold was featured in Scientific American and interviewed. To view it please visit https://www.sigmaxi.org/news/meet-your-fellow-companions/mary-lee-jensvold

» Music video producer Lisa Mann and composer Deane Nesbitt Jr. came to Fauna to film for a music video in October.

» The CBC TV show La Petite Seduction has a concept to seduce an artist, while discovering the attractions and beauties of a municipality to its viewers. Carignan, the town where Fauna is located was featured and filmed in October. The film crew visited Fauna, filmed, and interviewed staff as well.

» Documentary Unlocking the Cage follows animal rights lawyer Steven Wise in his unprecedented challenge to break down the legal wall that separates animals from humans. Filming was at Fauna during summer 2014, and the producers worked all 2015. The World Premiere was at the Sundance Film Festival 2016.

Upcoming in 2016

» Unlocking the Cage will air on HBO in July.

» The episode of Petite Seduction will air in July.

» NAPSA will have a workshop in Tacoma, WA September 22 – 23, 2016. This is open to the public.

Stay Connected

Website: faunafoundation.org
Facebook: facebook.com/FaunaFoundation
Blog: faunachimps.tumblr.com
Instagram: instagram.com/fauna.foundation
Nature Reserve

The total area of Fauna lands has grown in size since inception with additional holdings added gradually over the years. Some of the new areas contain truly exceptional trees. Shagbark hickories, American lindens and black cherries grow amongst red and silver maples along with some truly impressive red and white oaks, three of the latter exceeding 200 years of age. Much of the original holding however is either retired agricultural land still in the field state or in the early and middle stages of passive restoration whereby cultivation, mowing and grazing have ceased and where invading weedy species are closely followed by perennials and woody plants. Our aim is to enhance this process of natural succession by adding native species that would otherwise arrive eventually but only over a long period of time. Propagation begins with seeds gathered from local sources and grown in containers. We prefer starting from seed because each plant is an individual with its own unique character thus providing greater biodiversity. In addition, local provenance helps ensure that developing plants will better tolerate our temperature and environmental conditions. Initial efforts saw us plant black cherries, butternuts, American beech and shagbark hickories, all of which are indigenous to our area. In addition, we grew black walnuts, one of the most valuable hardwoods in North America. They are native to neighboring Ontario but still thrive here under cultivation.

“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book Write a good one.”

—Anonymous
Please let us know if your name doesn’t appear.

Donors

Nine years or less

Simon Abramovitch
Denise Abramovitch
Carolyn Abshire
Arlene Aish
Rolande Allaire
Anne Anderson
Sandra Anderson
Barbara Andrews
Michael Angus
Kim Annala
Grayme Anthony
Evelyn Antypowich
Virginia Ardia
Julia Aronov
Carol Arthur
Wendy Asprey
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Danielle Doyon
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Elyse Claude Leveille
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Chris Lewis
Richard Lipman

Helena Lobato
Jennifer Lobb
Margaret Lock
Jim Greenbaum
and Lucie Berreby-
Greenbaum
Sarah Luik
Geraldine Lukos
Patricia & Richard Lynch
Heather Macdonald
Cathryn Jean Macpir
Dorothy Pecuch
Marion Pennell
Dr. Linda Penoyer
Richard Perin
Dianne Perrine
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Joni Petrica
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Stephanie Picard
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Year End Wrap Up From Caregiving Staff

By NJ Wight, Photographer

In-between photo opportunities I am fortunate enough to be an observer at Fauna and one day in particular stands out...

There were several people at the monkey house one morning in August. Power washing was going on inside, sweeping, cleaning, garbage bags full of trash...

Mario and Wayne were hammering away building new platforms inside Theo’s enclosure. A cage had been set up outside in the sun for Sophie and she was enjoying some fresh air.

Karen was coming out and making sure there was shade over her cage and offering her grapes and water in a syringe. Tanya—she was up to her ears scrubbing toys! There were so many toys and she was cleaning all of them. Everyone was working SO hard on behalf of those five precious little beings. It was amazing to watch.

The work the caregivers and staff do—it always amazes me to see how physically demanding it is and how energetic they all are. Quite humbling. So, that was a special day.

By Ben

Some of my favorite Fauna moments happen on the weekends when I work on the farm. Whenever I come up to McLeod the horse, I put my hand on his forehead, at which point he usually starts to rub his head against my hand. He really seems to enjoy when I massage him as well. Every time I start rubbing his shoulders and his chest he cranes his neck a little bit so he can give me kisses. It’s a very special feeling to have such a magnificent animal show you some love and appreciation, and those moments fill me with joy and gratitude for being able to do the work that I do.

“Lord, make me an instrument of they peace.

—St. Francis of Assisi
By Kelsi

I am new member of the Fauna team. I am going to share two stories: The first is a story of reuniting with two special people in my life and one of making a new friend.

I have known Tatu and Loulis for quite sometime now. So when I first arrived to Fauna and walked over to the outside window to say hi, Lou could not control his excitement! He signed “CHASE” and it erupted into a huge game! Then I said hello to my old friend Tatu. Now, Tatu can be choosy about whom she wants to sign “FRIEND” to. I squatted down and signed “Hi friend” and she signed “FRIEND.” Right there my heart jumped out of my chest! But I had to play it cool so I didn’t look too eager. She also proceeded to sign “HURT”; I have a nose piercing. I signed “You right that hurt.” I would say that was an amazing welcome!

As for making new friends this one warms my heart. Maya is hard to read. You can tell she wants your attention, but then also wants you to leave her be. My favorite time so far with Maya was one relaxing weekend when Maya was feeling especially friendly. She engaged in games of chase, played with bubbles, and groomed! Maya and I were upstairs grooming when I decided to try putting a mask on to see if she liked it. She didn’t like it, she LOVED it. We were breathy panting, she gave me kisses and she gave the mask kisses. To share that experience with Maya was one that I will never forget!

Photos © NJ Wight

By Kaeley

Regis is sort of known for being a “chimp’s chimp.” He prefers to spend his time with his chimpanzee friends, especially if it involves grooming or playing chase. But, once you finally win him over, granted this is after many mouths full of water aimed in your general direction, he’s so very sweet and so very smart. Regis is sweet, but always in secret. Sometimes, on a quiet Sunday afternoon I’ll catch him lounging in one of the front rooms, keeping an eye on the humans. Regis isn’t one to spend a lot of time in the front rooms but I think when it’s calm and quiet, he likes to hang out with us, even if it’s from up high. On other days, you can simply walk to whatever
area he might be in that day, back scratcher in hand, and he will come from high up in the catwalks to sit and groom with you. He’d sit for hours if we could. Not often, but on rare occasion, he is known to keep soft stuffed animals like penguins or teddy bears in his pelvic pocket. Sometimes he carries them around for a few days only to be discarded when no longer needed. Most people aren’t lucky enough to meet a guy like Regis, but for the few who do get to know him, know what a sweet soul he truly is.

By Tanya

Everyday at Fauna I have a new story to tell about one of the residents. I could write pages and pages of stories but the ones that stick out to me the most are the times the animals have made me and subsequently anyone else I happen to tell these stories too, chuckle. Here are some of my recent favorites and some of the lessons I have learnt.

1. **Never turn your back on a donkey.**
   Anyone who has been to fauna has definitely seen our two beauties out in the front pasture, Eeyore and McLeod. In the winter months these two wait by their barns for breakfast. One morning while I was feeding McLeod, don’t I feel a chomp on my backside! Thankfully I was wearing snow pants, but yes, Eeyore bit my butt!

2. **Boys will be boys.**
   Binky has always been a goofball. Lately Jethro has been spending quite some time with him, and the two of them together are a riot! Playtime with these big boys is nothing but breathy pants and chasing each other. They also happen to love when I flip my hair back and forth as though I’m playing air guitar.

3. **Chimps make weapons.**
   Right… You already know this… but have you seen it with your own eyes? Imagine tiny yet determined Tatu turning a hula-hoop into an arrow, fitting it through the tunnel caging, and launching it at the welders. By the time they figured out what had happened Tatu was long gone.

4. **Chimps do not like plastic snakes.**
   Halloween enrichment this year definitely shook up the chimp house. Plastic snakes spooked Toby, made Regis and Petra very skeptical, and Rachel was very curious. Let’s just say the snakes have been retired to the storage shed.

5. **When a chimp wants some one-on-one time, they mean it.**
   One day, as I sat and groomed with Spock, I could hear a noise coming from the stairwell. Here came Sue Ellen, slowly inching her way towards Spock and I. So what did Spock do? He got up and barricaded himself into a corner using two benches in order to keep Sue from interrupting our grooming session. He was successful. (Don’t worry, Sue didn’t care! She turned around and went to groom with someone else.)

6. **Chimps aren’t good at keeping secrets.**
   Binky will literally squeal if you give him an extra piece of fruit, or leftover smoothie. Tatu will pant hoot at the top of her lungs when she asks for milk and you nod yes. Toby can’t contain his excitement for eggplants, and as for Sue, she does the same for tomatoes and grapes. Give someone his or her favorite snack and you better believe everyone will hear about it!
I was nervous and excited for my visit with the chimps after being away for 10 months on maternity leave. I was hoping they wouldn’t be too upset but if they were I totally understood. Petra showed me how she felt by spitting water at me while Binky and Jethro played it cool and didn’t seem to care that I was there. I had some good catch-up time with both Rachel and Toby. Chance and I sat together and talked. Sue Ellen made me smile with her excited breathy pants. Tatu wanted to smell my breath and have a little grooming done. Spock came down while I was grooming Tatu and sat in front of her so I could say hello to him and play a little game of ‘catch your toes.’ Loulis wanted to play chase. Maya made my heart swell when I saw her come from the upstairs all the way down to see me. We sat for a long while, grooming, sometimes talking, sometimes just admiring one another. As Maya and I were enjoying each others company, Regis came over to say hello and presented his back for some grooming. I happily obliged. When it was time to leave, it wasn’t sad like the first time because I knew in a couple of months I would be back for good. I missed the chimps and I think they missed me too…well some of them anyway. I couldn’t have asked for a better visit.
Kathleen Williams is one of the key volunteers for The Cat Action Team, a non-profit organization that cares for the feral cat population in PEI. She dedicates her time helping this organization by collecting donated cat food and providing it to those individuals caring for feral cat colonies. She also handcrafts catnip toys and paints beautiful pet portraits to help raise money for The Cat Action Team.

Kathleen painted this portrait of Chance from a photo by NJ Wight as a special gift for Fauna Foundation.