

Celebrating Thanksgiving With Bob Barker



Bob Barker, and DJ&T Foundation director, Nancy Burnet, spent Thanksgiving at ARK 2000 and visited the wonderful habitats for bears and lions, and the third bull elephant barn — all funded by the Foundation.



Bob and Nancy with bull elephant Nicholas.

PAWS directors, Pat Derby and Ed Stewart, were delighted to host Bob Barker and Nancy Burnet, director of the DJ&T Foundation, for a Thanksgiving visit to see the wonderful habitats for bears and lions, and the third bull elephant barn — all funded by the Foundation.

Mr. Barker and Ms. Burnet were greeted by curious bears, Boo-Boo, Winston and Jack, as they toured the outer area around the spacious, forested bear habitat. All bears were engaged in their early morning foray for acorns when the visitors arrived. Oma and Sampson remained at a distance, but fat little Cinnamon waddled down the hill to check for possible treats.

Bolivia lions Camba, Daktari, Simba and Bambek sleepily watched the fascinated benefactors as they approached, but quickly flopped over to sleep in the morning sun in true lion fashion - quite a change from the snarling, frightened circus survivors we saw when they arrived from

Bolivia. Sheba, our female lion from Galt, was more alert, silently stalking the group from behind a large bush. Hope springs eternal in the world of female lions, the quintessential hunters; Sheba quietly waited for someone to stumble, allowing her to spring into action. After a few moments, she turned away and watched as a red-tailed hawk swooped past, patrolling the premises. Another quiet day at ARK 2000.

Nicholas, the first bull elephant rescued on behalf of Mr. Barker, seemed to recognize his friends who have visited him before, and happily dusted, played, accepted a treat bag and blew the elephant version of a kiss at Nancy. Elephants identify and recognize individuals by smell, and often blow long breaths at each other in the process. It resembles blowing a kiss, and is a delightful behavior to watch.

Our guests joined Pat and Ed for Thanksgiving dinner, celebrating the many blessings enjoyed by the animals

and provided by the generosity of the DJ&T Foundation. Just as they were sitting down for dinner, the phone rang with the news of the Toronto City Council's decision to send Thika, Toka and Iringa, the Toronto Zoo elephants, to ARK 2000. Although they were quite aware of the problems inherent in relocating elephants, and the challenges they will now face, everyone was happy and excited about the momentous decision.

Thanksgiving entertainment was provided by Pat and Ed's precocious housecats, Buzz and Julie.

Julie focused most of her attention on Nancy; Buzz was so fascinated by Mr. Barker that she climbed into his lap whenever he sat down, purring and preening in a blatant display of cat adoration. Mr. Barker is quite obviously her favorite visitor.

Thank you Bob Barker and Nancy Burnet and the DJ&T Foundation, for your dedication and support to the PAWS' animals!



