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#### A FURRY FRIEND IN NEED

Baker had a unfortunate accident recently. He's one of our favorite feline fur babies at *Project Ride* and he somehow broke his hip! Best guess is a car accident, but they don't know for sure. *Marisa* and other staff put up a poster asking for contributions to help defray the substantial costs of his surgery, and we just couldn't say no, so we put a donation envelope together and delivered it personally on one of our volunteer excursions. They were very appreciative and moved by our gesture. The best news is this: the surgery went very well and *Baker* is up and about already! He still looks a little funny and lopsided because of the shaving prior to his operation, but otherwise he's doing great! *Marisa* said the main problem was just keeping him confined and inactive while he healed. He hated that! *Baker* finally convinced them to let him out of "jail", and he was running and jumping around the barn two weeks after major surgery!

Cats must be quick healers!!





## TWO NEW STAFF!

*Community Skills Trainers Don* and *Symone* both joined our program recently. They bring a wealth of knowledge, infectious smiles, and a very caring attitude. We look forward to learning more about them!

**NEW CLIENT** *LaTisha* began attending ACE-IT I this month, and she's already proving to be a wonderful addition to our group. *Welcome, LaTisha!* 







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#### YUBA CITY ARCADE FUN! We took another long drive up to meet our friends at Millennium

Family Fun Center for a wild day of entertainment. The bumper cars

were a big hit, as usual, and we also had a great time with all of the arcade games. Roseline, Lizzy, and Robert all managed to win squishy ball prizes from the "Claw Machine". Before we returned to program, Ken had to switch buses to drop a bus from ACE-IT III at Paratransit for a service call, and the bus we ended up with didn't have great air conditioning, so we opened up the windows, drank lots of water and made the best of it. To take our minds off the heat, Ken tried to hornswoggle us with more tall tales of his youthful adventures. Nice try, Ken!







## A VERY FAIR DAY OUT

We had some lovely weather for our trip to the Sacramento County Fair this year...warm, but not too hot. We got to visit with exotic camels, goats, sheep, alpacas, kangaroos, wallabies, desert tortoises, and a very impressive African Crested Porcupine with some sharp quills over a foot long. <u>Yikes!</u> We also stopped by a booth all about the life cycle of honey bees. Inside the exhibit hall, we saw a fun *Puppet Show* and did some shopping. Cathie found herself a nice new green fanny pack! On our way out, we were tempted by all the fair snacks being hawked around the midway, and Dante even ran into Captain Jack parrow! Aaarghh! Shiver me timbers, matey!!









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\*Circulation provided by ACE-IT I Pony Express Team! SCIENCE OUTING: UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

We took a bus trip to *Phoenix Field Park* and went on a refreshing hike to learn about the fascinating *Vernal Pools*. A vernal pool is a seasonal body of standing water that typically forms in the spring, dries up completely in the summer, often refills in autumn, and provides an important breeding habitat for many terrestrial or semi aquatic species, such as frogs,

salamanders, and even *Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp*. These tiny creatures feature stalked compound eyes, no carapace, and eleven pairs of legs! The fairy shrimp swim by moving their legs from front to back in a wave-like motion. They eat algae, bacteria, protozoa, rotifers, and detritus, and are eaten by birds and other animals, notably by the tadpoles of *Spade Foot Toads*. Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp have a lifetime of about two months. They usually hatch in early January and die in early March. The female Fairy Shrimp lay drought-resistant eggs shortly before they die. The eggs sink to the bottom of the vernal pools, embedding into the soil when they dry. When the vernal pool refills the next winter, the eggs hatch,

starting the process over. When we visited, the remains of the shallow pools were completely dry, but we plan to go back again sometime in the winter when they are full of water to see the difference!





# POOL SAFETY: TOE PROTECTION!

One day while *Elean* was swimming with us, *Lori, the Pool Director*, noticed when he was practicing his "waterwalking" that his toes might be dragging on the pool bottom. She asked him about it and he said they were, so she



suggested that he get a pair of waterproof "pool shoes" to wear while he exercises in the pool. She found a great pair for him that had never been claimed from their lost-and-found cabinet! They fit well and they're easy to slip on and off. *Elean* loves them and plans to keep them in his locker for future pool days. *Thanks Lori!* 







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### NEW MEXICO VACATION ADVENTURE

*Ken* and *Janelle* returned very tired but relaxed, rejuvenated, and refreshed after their spiritual retreat in *Santa Fe* with *Amma*. They enjoyed the art scene and all the delicious food. The weather was lovely and they even got some afternoon rain while they were in town! One early morning, they took a long hike around the scenic landscape surrounding the hotel and marveled at how immense the sky seemed over the arid horizon. The evenings

at how immense the sky seemed over the arid horizon. The evenings were especially wonderful and the warm air was filled with chirping swallows flitting about after *Mayflies* and other insects. The best part, of course, was the time spent in meditation and contemplation with *Amma*. After a very long night at the *Devi Bava* ceremony, they made all their flight connections and thought they were home free, only to find that *Ken's* car had a dead battery in the airport parking lot! They had to call AAA for a jump start and the hapless tow truck driver then got completely lost trying to find the disabled car. They finally got home by 10:30 at night, and the cats were very glad to see them! *Ken* even made it to work first thing the next morning!!









## CALLING ALL MALL RATS!

A Power Walk at Arden Mall is one of our backup plans on inclement weather days. It was too hot for our outdoor sports day, so we decided to visit some of our favorite air -conditioned stores. We stopped by the old-fashioned carousel and waved to the little kids as they laughed and rode in circles. Next, we found our way to the Disney Store, where we did some shopping and had fun with the animated movie characters. Frank and Earline both liked Minnie Mouse the best, while K.K. was drawn to the Buzz Lightyear character. Josh found some cool Tigger merchandise. The colors even matched his outfit!







Stumpers!



Put on your thinking cap and your *smarty pants* and win a \$10 gift certificate!

A Toy Story! What fun toy prize did some of our ACE IT I folks win this month?

Be the first to email or call ACE IT I at 916-564-6117 and let us know the answer and what page it's on and you will fatten your wallet with a <u>\$10 gift certificate!</u>

