



5/8/2023

Dear County Commissioners,

This letter is concerning the Conditional Use permit for Tails of the Wild in the upcoming County Commissioners meeting on June 6th. In the Land Development meeting this past week there were issues brought up on safety and concern for the community. I can absolutely appreciate the concern for human safety, and I want to communicate directly with you on this issue. We have been in Polk County for nearly 20 years, and we have seen massive growth in Polk County. One of the reasons we have decided to make a move was because in our current location we are on a small lot, and we now have neighboring homes around us. I have been looking for property now for a few years and I am sure you can appreciate that with the growth of Polk County finding rural land that is accessible is hard to do. We chose this spot as we feel that future growth when it comes to human population will be minimal due to the green swamp. We also specifically choose this lot as the land behind us is swamp lands, which will not be developed and the property to the North of us is all farmland being used for Strawberry fields. Therefore, this location is way better from a safety perspective than our current land and fits within an area with zoning that still allows for us to be there. We chose this area also based on the fact that there were several other similar facilities within minutes from this location, Ringling Bros Facility and Safari Wilderness.

The management of Exotic Animals has changed drastically over the past 10 years and if this was 10 years ago, the level of concern would be justified as there were a lot less regulations and private ownership was a concern. In today's world the level of safety concerns is at a minimum in comparison, as the regulations of both Florida Fish and Wildlife and USDA has drastically increased including the ban of private ownership for most exotics. The regulations and building standards we must follow today significantly decreases any concerns of escape or harm to the public and in recent years there have been no issues. Not only have the regulations changed, we also must undergo regular detailed inspections by both government organizations consistently through the year.

There are many safety precautions that we must follow, which starts with someone living in the house on the property 24/7. We also keep on site in a locked case, a rifle as well as a dart gun with drugs to be used in emergency situations. Both the county Sheriff's office as well as the fire rescue will also come to do an inspection and visit the facility. The design of the enclosures with the current regulations call for a 16 foot, 6 gauge with schedule 40 Pipe for all large cats as well as fully enclosed enclosures for certain species which would prevent any sort of escape. All primate cages are also designed to be fully enclosed unless surrounded by a 9-foot moat filled with water. All Animal enclosures will be equipped with double entry doors at any door entering or exiting an enclosure. The doors will also be wrapped with chain and locked with a pad lock. The double doors prevent any sort of escape if any door for any reason fails. All

animals will also have an indoor den that can be locked down in case of hurricanes or emergencies. Fish and Wildlife require an emergency action plan in writing in case animals need to be moved or locked down for any reason and adequate transport equipment must be available at all times.

While I can appreciate the concern over safety let me reassure you that the rules and regulations of Florida Fish and Wildlife as well as the United States Department of Agriculture and the inspections on those regulations should help feel reassured of their safety. We have been in Polk County for almost 20 years and pride ourselves on our safety measures and facility standards.

As a requirement by USDA we also follow a very strict Veterinarian Health and Safety Plan that requires regular visits, up to date vaccines, regular deworming and proper health certificates when animals are added to the collection. We have a Veterinarian that is a part of our organization that oversees all medical care.

As far as the development of the land our goal is to keep the majority of it in its natural state as our goal for our animals are to create as natural as an environment we can for them.

I graduated with a Degree in Animal Science from a specialized program for Exotic Animal Medicine and have been in the exotic animal care business for nearly 30 years. I have included in this packet some letters of recommendations that we have received over the years including some recent ones that were written specifically for your consideration. We have had letters from State of Florida representatives, to personal references from college, places I have worked, veterinarians who have worked with us, volunteers, and school group organizations we have served, as well as awards I have won in recognition of what we do. Please take time to read them all so you are aware of the lives we have touched, and the effort we put in to always being safe and providing amazing homes.

We get that owning an exotic animal facility is not what everyone would describe as "normal" however it is an important part of our world and loved by many. We take pride in what we do and not only does our safety record and our facility speak for itself, so do so many people that we have served in the Polk County Community.

Thanks for taking time to read this letter and reading the attached letters. I look forward to seeing you on June 6th!

Jarrold Davis



President, Tails of the Wild

383 Dawes Rd.

Frostproof, FL 33843

863.242.6742

May 5, 2023

To: Polk County Commissioners

I am writing this letter in support of Jarrod Davis and Tails of the Wild. I have been a volunteer at Tails of the Wild for 4 years. I started volunteering at Tails of the Wild after I came out for a tour and inquired about volunteering. I was really impressed with the level of care the animals received and the work that Tails of the Wild was doing.

When I first started at Tails of the Wild, we really focused on the rescue of animals that were in need of good homes and that was our primary focus. While we still do rescues, the regulations of private ownership has really slowed down the need for rescues, which I know is a good thing. Now our focus has really turned towards the educational aspect of conservation with private groups and school tours at our facility.

Jarrold has always stressed to us that safety in animal care is a major priority. Jarrold always focuses on keeping up the enclosures and maintaining the facility. At no point in my 4 years have I felt unsafe at the facility or felt that any of our guests felt unsafe. We are now highly regulated by the government and Jarrold has always passed every inspection without any issues. Since being at Tails of the Wild we have never had any incidents where animals escaped and to the best of my knowledge Jarrold has never had that happen.

Tails of the Wild is a very special place and I know many exotic animals are misunderstood. Jarrold has taught us to work with the animals closely to prevent any aggressive behaviors which in turn allows these animals to live in natural environments that they feel safe in. I would recommend Tails of the Wild to anybody who wants to learn more about animals and I personally would have no safety concerns about Tails of the Wild being in my neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Pondo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ann Marie Pondo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cheri Rigby
1010 Summer Glen Dr
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-604-7193

May 10, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am the director of Journey Homeschoolers, a homeschooling support group in Polk County. One of my jobs is to schedule field trips to different venues for homeschooling families to attend. We have over 200 families in Journey, so sometimes we have to schedule multiple trips to the same venue to try to accommodate as many members as possible. Tails of the Wild has been a very popular venue for our group and over the past 2 years we have scheduled 16 field trips there.

I like to ask for feedback from our members when they have attended a field trip, and every family has given me the same statement about Tails of the Wild - that the field trip exceeded their expectations, that it was very educational, that the staff went above and beyond in interacting with the kids, and that the animals were amazing. These were my exact thoughts when I took 2 of my children on the field trip, as well. It is a safe, protected way to introduce kids to some endangered animals up close to get them interested in conservation and preservation.

We would love to see Tails of the Wild move to a larger area, and we plan to continue scheduling field trips for future years wherever they go.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheri Rigby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheri Rigby
Director of Journey Homeschoolers

May 11, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my advocacy for Tails of the Wild and their business. This facility is one of the few facilities that offer a wonderful experience where you can safely get up close and personal with some of the most amazing animals on this planet. Upon my last visit, I was able to have a firsthand experience unlike any other. With the emphasis on conservation and preservation for these animals in their care, Tails of the Wild is making a difference. The tour groups that come through will have a lasting memory and leave with bigger desire to make a difference and a want to do their part in the aspect of conservation. As David Attenborough said, "no one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced".

Overall, I would recommend this place to anyone who wants a safe and exhilarating animal experience and I am excited to see their new facility once it is built.

Sincerely,
Morgin Wheeler

Claire Winans-Keech
17 William St
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
528-796-6869
Winke52@gmail.com

May 8, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I have been snowbirds since 2014 and we started visiting Sebring many years before that. We became familiar with Tails of the Wild through a neighbor in our park, who was acquainted with Ann Marie Pondo. We first visited in 2019 around Christmas time. We had my cousin visit and took her to see all the animals. We have always enjoyed being able to view the animals a bit closer than you would at a commercial zoo. The tour felt much more intimate with just the 3 of us and we could spend as much time as needed to photograph the animals and birds as well as snakes and tortoises. The tour guide was extremely knowledgeable and very patient. We came away from our first tour knowing the animals were well cared for, very healthy and happy.

We have visited a couple more times since then and have always enjoyed the tour. We always were treated to a personal tour and allowed to interact with some of the animals.

Our last tour was in March of 2023 and I arranged it with Ann Marie because my daughter was visiting for the first time in 12 years. We met her on site and she was very informative and patient with us. My daughter enjoyed being able to view the animals much more closely than a normal zoo setting. Ann also arranged a photo of us with the white tigers in the background.

I would recommend Tails of the Wild to anyone who enjoys a zoo. This one specializes in personal tours with knowledgeable guides who have first hand experience with these animals. Their surroundings are very clean and the premises are well kept. The cats seem very happy in their areas and always appear clean.

We look forward to more visits in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Winans-Keech". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Claire Winans-Keech



Denise Grimsley
Florida House of Representatives
District 77

District Office:
205 South Commerce Avenue
Suite B
Sebring, FL 33870-3604
(863) 385-5251
(863) 386-6002 (Fax)

Toll Free Number: 866-888-6516
Email: denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov

Tallahassee Office:
223 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-3457
(850) 414-8737 (Fax)

August 27, 2008

Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1499 Highway 17 North
Wauchula, Florida 33873

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to support Tails of the Wild, Inc. application for financial assistance. In addition to their goal of educating the public about wildlife and their natural habitat, the program also houses abused, abandoned, and neglected wild animals.

Due to increasing expenses, safety issues and regulations it is becoming tougher to visit schools and events to teach children about the conservation and preservation issues surrounding us today. Tails of the Wild is trying to open its current facility to school groups and events so they can continue their focus on education. In order to achieve their goal, they need to update their parking facility as well as the building to accommodate visitors.

I encourage you to recognize the wonderful and productive effort of Tails of the Wild and give favorable consideration to their request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Grimsley".

Denise Grimsley

Chair, Committee on Agribusiness; Environmental and Natural Resource Council;
Committee on Healthy Families; Health Care Council; Select Committee to Protect Personal Information



THOMPSON'S

VETERINARY CENTER



CATS, DOGS AND OTHER SMALL ANIMALS

August 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been our pleasure to help Tails of the Wild with Veterinary services over the past year. Working with them has been a great experience and we hope to continue a supportive working relationship. They have always shown the utmost care for the animal's well being and provide great husbandry practices.

We ourselves have taken many people on private tours of the facility and people are always amazed at the knowledge that Jarrod has about these animals. As we are always around animals, sometimes we take for granted the knowledge of the general public, but it always pleases me to see just how much Jarrod is able to teach our friends and visitors when they tour the rescue.

We think that the chance to be involved in a project like Tails of the Wild is an excellent opportunity to promote conservation of animals as well as of the environment itself. For us, as a veterinary hospital, the opportunity to expose our clients to such an unusual, exhilarating experience is a thrill for us, as well as a very effective advertising tool for our business.

It is my sincere hope that Peace River Electric Company joins Jarrod and Thompson's Veterinary Center as we strive together to provide a pleasant living experience for the wildlife, and an educational experience for the guests.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Thompson VMD

Brian Thompson, Owner



August 19, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We have used Tails of the Wild, Inc at a few of our corporate events as educational entertainment. They have always brought a lot of energy and excitement to all our events and we would recommend them to any event. Their knowledge of animals and their ability to work with them in a safe manner is amazing. People left with a new respect for animals and knowledge of how they can help in their own lives through conserving our environment.

We used Tails of the Wild at our event as we felt they were a great organization for us to support and came highly recommended to us. We know things have become more challenging for them to bring animals to our events but we are now awaiting them to open their facility to host some events for us. We highly recommend them and look forward to a continued business relationship with them.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Michelle Schmick
MCA Manager
(407) 445-7000

**Countrywide®****HOME LOANS**

COUNTRYWIDE BANK, FSB
5100 W. KENNEDY BLVD. STE 180
TAMPA, FL 33609

(813) 207-5800 MAIN LINE
(866) 504-4932 TOLL FREE

August 21, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

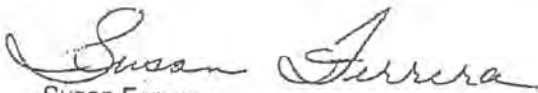
The big phrase these days seems to be the "AHA" moment. Well, I have had mine & know that many others have had theirs because of an amazing place called Tails of the Wild. The AHA is made up of numerous things that I have learned from Jarrod Davis & others at Tails of the Wild.

Tails of the Wild is an phenomenal place that I have shared with others. My first comment when taking someone to visit is, "you will never be the same after you leave." The amount of knowledge that Jarrod Davis shares is mind boggling. From why Tigers have spots on the back, of their ears to grooming characteristics of monkeys & what exactly they are picking off each other (it's not bugs!). You'll have to go visit to find out the answer.

One of the main points that Tails of the Wild instills, especially for the younger kids, is practicing conservation. Talking about how important it is to leave these animals in the wild. Why they are important to the Eco system. Very few places that have exotics really hit that point. Tails points out that the animals they care for; really shouldn't be there. They should be in the wild, but because humans tend to profit off of these glorious creatures they unfortunately have to spend their lives in captivity. That being said, if they cannot live in the wild, then Tails of the Wild is where they would want to be. It's very enlightening when you listen to Jarrod speak.

I have taken many tour groups to Tails of the Wild & the enthusiasm & excitement is always the same. One of the most repeated phrases I constantly hear while taking a tour & afterwards is, "I never knew that about..." I would love to see this become a place open to the public to teach awareness, conservation & information on just what incredible creatures we have on this earth & what species we have lost forever. It's also a chance for kids & adults as well, see these animals up close & watch them interact with each other.

While there are many facilities that deem themselves as animal sanctuaries or rehabs, none of them that I have seen are as clean & well built as Tails of the Wild. Many of these facilities have been shut down due to improper caging, lack of cleanliness & many other reasons. Tails of the Wild is very impressive. The care is excellent & I know that Jarrod Davis works hard to provide food & shelter for these magnificent animals. It's exhausting for him, but when you ask him why he does it he simply answers, "I made a promise to these animals when I got them, I will not break my promise."


Susan Ferrera

Home Loan Consultant, Countrywide Home Loans

Countrywide Bank, FSB

813-207-5824 office

Donna Farmer, Esq.
34 Chive Street
Winter Haven, FL
33884

Dear Sir/Madame,

I have in the past financially contributed to Tails of the Wild. I believe the work that Jarrod Davis is doing with the animals is beneficial for wild life conservation as well as education. I believe he is a true advocate for the animals and in his capacity running Tails of the Wild serves a very valuable function using the animals as ambassadors to educate the public on wildlife issues.

I have known Jarrod and his work with Tails of the Wild for the past 3 years and would love to see them move in the direction focusing on education. Jarrod has a vast knowledge of animals and the environment which I think are essential educational aspects that we all need to know more about!

Kind Regards,
Donna Farmer, Esq.
Cell 1-646-414-9895



Exotic Animal Training and Management America's Teaching Zoo Moorpark College

7075 Campus Road Moorpark, California 93021 805/378-1441, fax 805/378-1499

June 6, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is to serve as a letter of recommendation for Jarrod Davis.

I have known Mr. Davis for approximately 9 years. First as a student in the Exotic Animal Training and Management program at Moorpark College and then as I have followed his career. The Exotic Animal Training and Management program is an intensive blend of hands on husbandry care and animal training using the 175+/- different non domestic animals found at the teaching zoo, plus a very rigorous academic schedule. The average college credit load per semester varies between 15 to 20 credits in courses such as Animal Behavior, Animal Diversity, Nutrition, Care and Handling, Anatomy and Physiology, Health and Safety, Veterinary Care, plus others all related to non-domestic species. In addition, the demands placed on the student in the areas of personal growth and development such as time management, interpersonal skills and communication, both on a personal level and in groups, are very high. In summary, this is a very rigorous 22 month long program which is highly structured and very demanding. Both of these individuals did well as students in this program. While in this program Jarrod worked with several species of big cats as well as a variety of primates, hoof stock, avian species and reptiles.

Following graduation, Jarrod Davis was employed by Siegfried and Roy, the internationally known illusionists. He was, in part, responsible for the care of their world famous white tiger collection. Following that position he has worked for several other facilities where large exotic felines have become his interest.

Jarrod Davis brings a high level of enthusiasm and much experience to the area of exotic animal care, feeding and training, I highly recommend him.

Sincerely,

James F. Peddie, D.V.M.
Staff Veterinarian



June 27, 2001

To whom it may concern:

It is a real privilege for me to recommend Jarrod Davis for any position related to animal handling and training.

I have known Jarrod on a professional level since 1997. Part of my responsibilities include, overseeing the Lion Habitat on our property. Jarrod has worked for the MGM's Lion Habitat for the past 5 years and has been a beneficial employee. In addition to handling the cats within the Habitat, Jarrod also displays cats at Special Events through the MGM/Mirage properties.

Jarrod is highly knowledgeable and respected throughout the industry. He will handle any task assigned to him with enthusiasm and drive. I find that he has a unique work ethic, extremely organized, efficient and a team player.

His expertise as an animal trainer/caretaker has made him a valued asset to our company and anyone fortunate enough to hire him or work with him should consider themselves in good hands.

If you require any further information on Jarrod, please feel free to call me at (702) 891-7135.

Sincerely,

Todd Dougall
Vice President of Entertainment

TD/lm

TAMING TIGERS

*From Tiger Stripes
to Pin Stripes: You can
Conquer the Wild and
Unexpected Challenges
of Life and Leadership!*

Dan Stockdale

As interviewed by:

abc NEWS

The New York Times

Woman's
World

FOX
NEWS

You face 'tigers' in your life every day – in your business and corporate life as well as in your personal life. 'Taming Tigers' will teach you how to apply the principles used by real exotic animal trainers to achieve extraordinary, life-changing results with your 'tigers'!

Learn how a trainer establishes a relationship with his tigers. See the methods a real tiger trainer uses to communicate with a dangerous beast that speaks a different language – a language of dominance, power and aggression! Hear about brushes with death in the tiger arena and in the business arena.

'Taming Tigers' is certain to forever change your approach to your business and personal relationships. It is a must read for anyone who faces challenges as they forage a path through life's jungle!



Whether you are the CEO of a successful airline, the manager of a local chain restaurant, or an entrepreneur with fresh vision and soaring aspirations, your success depends directly on your ability to overcome the 'tigers' you face every day! 'Taming Tigers' provides the road map you need to not only face your 'tigers', but to conquer them. 'Taming Tigers' is a 'must read' for anyone in a position of leadership!

Howard Putnam 
Former CEO Southwest Airlines
Speaker, Author of 'The Winds of Turbulence'



'Taming Tigers' is a great metaphor for dealing with life's challenges and issues that many families face everyday! Dan does a wonderful job applying his techniques to the 'tigers' of raising children and having healthy relationships. His approach will be very beneficial to parents and families who want to have even better relationships!

Rachel A. Neal, Ph.D.
Professor of Family Studies



'Taming Tigers' is a fun, new look into approaching the leadership skills we all need to be successful, not only in business but also in life! Dan's knowledge of real, living tigers has provided a great background for his techniques of dealing with people, situations & challenges in the business world.

Jack Hanna, Director Emeritus, Columbus Zoo
TV Wildlife Correspondent
www.JackHanna.com

I love exotic Animals and learning how the relationship between humans and animals can create dramatic results! I use the words "Taming Tigers" but I want you to understand Tigers will never be tamed but the principles in Training Tigers are very real in facing challenges in our own daily lives.

I want to thank Jarrod Davis from Tails of the Wild. Jarrod is a renowned Tiger Trainer and Animal Expert. Jarrod patiently worked with my photographer and me to capture tiger, primate, and macaw photos in our adventure. He was there and good naturedly accommodated my first hands-on encounter with Tigers. This book has been in the making since 2003 and I appreciate the knowledge and insight on training tigers. His back ground includes stints with many of the most well known training facilities in America and as an Animal expert on Animal Planets "King of the Jungle."

Imagine you have been given the opportunity to hang out with me while I work with a 500 lb Tiger named Taj. In fact you do everyday, in the form of difficult and upset people. Wouldn't a few ideas from a professional Tiger Tamer help?

First I noticed his calm, matter-of-fact approach. He does not let a few growls upset him and he does not try to change natural instincts, nor does he let their behavior affect him. Also I notice his air of quiet confidence; the tigers know too, his healthy respect for the beasts combined with love and compassion. There was also a mutual respect trust built in to the relationship from his first encounter with the animal. His job is to tame tigers, not to out growl them. Taming tigers is a mental ballet that involves anticipating the tigers actions and giving the tigers space they need by respecting their feelings and being mindful of what may be affecting their behavior. Don't try to out roar your Tigers and never intentionally provoke them, don't be vindictive! Your approach and attitude will allow you to create strong lasting relationships!!

WILD ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

To Whom it concerns;

I have worked with Jarrod Davis over the past 28 years in many capacities. We attended Moorpark College together and then have gone on to work together in different areas of the Animal Business. We have worked over the years with many types of animals and we both have an Exotic Animal Training Degree. The rules have changed over the past many years and I am happy to write a letter of recommendation for Jarrod on the species that I know we have worked with together to verify the necessary hours.

Jarrod has worked doing an Intern as a Zoo Keeper with both the Los Angeles Zoo and the Santa Barbara Zoo. At both these Zoo he worked specifically with Elephants and Giraffes in the care, husbandry and veterinary work required to keep these animals. In both facility he has worked hands on and in protected contact environments, for well over 1000 hours

From there Jarrod went to work full time with Birds and Animals and Steve Martins Working Wildlife where he worked hands on with Chimps and Orangutans. There he worked with adult breeding chimps as well as hand raising young chimps and Orangutans. Jarrod worked full time with Birds and Animals 40 hours a week and his primary role was in caring for the Apes. He worked for Birds and Animals for about 7-8 months.

From there he went to work with Siegfried and Roy and after that he worked with MGM Lion Photo Studios. At both places he worked hands on with a large variety of Big Cats, he worked with Lion, Tigers, Leopards, Jaguars, Cheetahs and Cougars. At both facilities he handled all the big cats in public environments as well as the care and husbandry. Again, he worked in both facilities full time for over 6 years and has any necessary experience needed to own any of these animals.

After that both Jarrod and I started our own companies. Since 2001 Jarrod has owned Tails of the Wild which started in Tennessee where he opened a park and owned wolves, lions, cougars and Tigers. He also had spider monkeys, macaques and Marmosets as well as had a full herd of deer and other varieties of hoof stock. I also know Jarrod worked at Disney's Animal Kingdom on a part time basis with the Bird show flying many types of Birds of Prey, primates with Chimps and Gorillas as well as the Big Cats with Cheetahs and Tigers.

I have full confidence that with Jarrod's extensive 30 year Animal background that he will always deliver the highest level of animal husbandry and work with them in a safe and protective environment for both his staff and the general public.

Sincerely,

Dan Breeding

Dan Breeding 2/14/2022

The Trustees of the Ventura County Community College District
on recommendation of the faculty of

Moorpark College

have conferred upon

Jarrod Eabis

who has satisfactorily completed the requirements therefore the degree of

Associate in Science

Exotic Animal Training & Management

with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto
Given this month of May, nineteen hundred ninety-five



[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Dean, Faculty & Students

Certificate of Merit

REALTOR® Magazine's Good Neighbor Awards presents this
2006 Certificate of Merit to acknowledge your dedication to community service.

Jarrold Davis

Tails of the Wild, Inc.

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
and REALTOR® Magazine thank you for this
unselfish commitment to improving
the quality of life for others.

Frank J. Sibley

Frank Sibley
Publisher, REALTOR® Magazine

Tom Stevens

Thomas M. Stevens, CRB, CRS, GRI
2006 President, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



Good Neighbor Awards sponsors:
Founding sponsor eNeighborhoods Inc.
Co-sponsors Fannie Mae and LandAmerica



Certificate of Appreciation

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

JARROD DAVIS

IN RECOGNITION OF VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

NOVEMBER 17, 2004

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

H. W. GRADY ELEMENTARY
3910 W. MORRISON AVENUE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33609



Melanie M. Palmeri

MELANIE M. PALMERI, PRINCIPAL

Jarrood Davis

October 14, 1974

Contact

Tel : 863-242-6742

e-mail : tailsofthewild@gmail.com

Address

383 Dawes Rd, Frostproof, FL 33843

Profile

Objective *To provide excellent leadership in Animal Care Management focused on conservation utilizing my experience in zoo management, animal husbandry, animal training, vet care, and wildlife education.*

Accomplishments

- Featured as an animal expert on Animal Planet's hit reality show "King of the Jungle". Show entailed Animal Experts being put to the test with physical, mental and psychological competitions.
- "Animals at the Movies" on Animal Planet followed me as I trained a black leopard, dogs, and a rabbit utilizing operant conditioning for a feature film in Alabama. The series was developed around training animal in positive environments for the film industry.

Education

1993 to 1995	BS Degree in Animal Science – <u>Exotic Animal Training and Management</u> Moorpark College, Moorpark, CA
1991 to 1993	General Studies for BS Degree Memorial University, St. Johns, NF, Canada

Work Experience

Tails of the Wild, Inc (Non profit)

August 2001 to Present

President

Tennessee/Florida

- ✓ Planning Educational Events focused on conservation and preservation.
- ✓ Planning and Organizing Fund raising events.
- ✓ Managing Animal Facility, training and staffing a volunteer program in the Care and Handling of animals which includes variety of carnivores, birds, and reptiles.
- ✓ Managing a veterinarian program and monitored health and welfare of collection.
- ✓ Training a variety of animals utilizing operant conditioning for contract shows and film industry.

Disney's Animal Kingdom

December 05 to December 08

Animal Care Staff

Orlando, Florida

- ✓ Assisted in the training and husbandry of animal collection including raccoons, porcupines, skunks, and many other North American animals.
- ✓ Worked as a fill in for the many other areas of the park including African safari, Primates and Big Cats
- ✓ Assisted in training for veterinarian procedures, capture and restraint, and enrichment programs.

Disney Animal Kingdom- Natural Encounters Inc.

December 06 to December 07

Animal Trainer for Bird Show

Orlando/Lake Wales, Florida

- ✓ Training and Husbandry of animals for the Show, utilizing hawks, eagles, parrots, vultures, cranes, including many other exotic birds.
- ✓ Daily Care and Maintenance of facility offsite.
- ✓ Participated in enrichment design and show design for other external contracts for zoos and aquariums.

Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies**June 03 to October 03****Show Diver****Gatlingburg, Tennessee**

- ✓ Narrated Shows for aquarium guests in simulated coral reefs with many exotic fish from the Indo Pacific Ocean as well as diving for a show where I hand fed stingrays and a variety of species of sharks.
- ✓ Monitored the feeding programs of sharks including target training of many fish, stingrays and sharks to monitor the general health and well being of the collection.

MGM Grand, Lion Photo Studios**Sept 98 to August 01****Animal Care Supervisor****Las Vegas, Nevada**

- ✓ Supervised up to 13 employees and managed 5 acre facility/ Hotel Exhibits.
- ✓ Inventory and purchase of materials needed for daily maintenance of animals and facility.
- ✓ Assisted in 9 million dollar Exhibit design and construction.
- ✓ Responsible for the care and raising of more than 26 lions, tigers, cougars and leopards.
- ✓ Oversaw media production including photo shoots, and filming a variety of animals including birds, leopards, cougars, tigers and lions.
- ✓ Interview future employees, co-ordinate and supervise college internship program at both facilities. Train and supervise employees at both facilities.

Siegfried and Roy Productions**August 95 to Sept 98****Animal Handler****Las Vegas, Nevada**

- ✓ Daily Husbandry for 46 Large Carnivores including Tigers, Leopards, Jaguars, Cheetahs, Cougars and Lions.
- ✓ Performed in two nightly shows handling Big Cats using positive reinforcement.
- ✓ Assisted veterinarian in anesthesia and other medical procedures.
- ✓ Assisted in the design and implementation of multimillion dollar exhibit, "The Secret Garden".

Birds and Animals Unlimited- Universal Studios**Feb 95 to August 95****Animal Caretaker- Summer Paid Intern****Orlando, Florida**

- ✓ Daily husbandry of facility which included Primates, birds, and marine mammals.
- ✓ Training and daily care of Chimpanzees and Orangutans.
- ✓ Husbandry training of sea lions and otters.

Job Related

License's Florida Fish and Wildlife- Class I, II, and III- knowledgeable in all state regulations
 USDA- knowledgeable in all federal regulations

Safety 100% Safety Record in all facilities under my supervision

Computer Basic Computer Knowledge and Proficient in Microsoft Applications and Adobe
Training PADI SCUBA certified

First Aid and CPR

AZA- understanding of guidelines and standards

Internships Los Angeles Zoo, Zookeeper

Daily care and husbandry of hoof stock including Elephants, Zebras and Giraffes as well as a variety of African antelope.

Santa Barbara Zoo, Zookeeper

Daily care and Husbandry of hoof stock, primates and Giraffes.

Knotts Berry Farm, Pacific Pavilion, Marine Mammal Show

Did show twice a day with 2 bottle nose dolphins and 4 California Sea Lions

Steve Martins Working Wildlife

Cared and worked with black and grizzly Bears, and wolves in the film and television field

Helped raise and care for young chimpanzees

References Available- See Supportive Documentation for Letters of Recommendations