

ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE & SPCA
TEEN TRACKS
 TOMORROWS LEADERS OF THE PACK

Teen Track Times

Spring 2016

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ANIMALTALES™
 EDUCATION CAMPUS



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Stellar Service

This semester we visited 2 facilities for our service days: Horses Help and the Rio Salado Restoration Area. During our time at Horses Help, the Teens built new riding paths, cleaned the garden, constructed a child obstacle course, and set up new riding obstacles. During our time at the Rio Salado Restoration Area, we beautified the area by cleaning up invasive species, brush, and trash. Everyone that attended put in so much hard work that impacted so many species of children, adults, and wildlife; thank you for all your hard work!



Animal Care Corner

Rajah the Rosy Boa

When you think of desert reptiles, you'd probably come up with rattlesnakes, horned lizards, and maybe a chuckwalla or gila monster. The rosy boa is one of only two boas native to North America, and the only native boa to the Southwest region. Since they are found all along the Southwest, they can adapt to a variety of temperatures and can regulate their temperature by hiding in burrows and rocky outcrops.

Diet: In the wild, their main diet consists of small mammals, birds, and lizards but at AAWL, we feed Rajah mice. Since they are one of the slowest-moving species of snakes, they typically employ a "sit and wait" type of hunting, then proceeding to constrict their prey before consuming (as they are nonvenomous).

Appearance: Coloration varies from pink, copper, red, grey, tan, brown, and sometimes black with longitudinal stripes running the full length of the body. They have plump bodies and small heads, with a stubby tail and can be up to 3 feet long full grown.

Care: Since Rosy Boas inhabit the deserts of the Southwest, they can survive in a drier habitat. A medium-sized enclosure (20 gallons) is an ideal size for a smaller snake, all the way up to 50 gallons for a full-grown Rosy Boa. The cage should be set up with a small mist box with a few different choices of hides along with dirt or reptile bark as a substrate. A mouse about the size of the head should be given about once every 1-2 weeks.



<http://www.vmsherp.com/CarePages/CareRosyBoa.htm>

SUMMER CAMP COUPON



10% Off

Arizona Animal Welfare League

This coupon is good for Teen Tracker, a sibling, and/or a friend to come to camp. Please call Rosi Sevic to redeem.

(602) 273-6852 x146

Expiration Date: 08/01/16

Pick of the Litter

Perfect Prudence



Breed: American Staffordshire Terrier,
Australian Cattle Dog
Adoption Price: \$60.00
Gender: Female

Big lovable mush: Check. Totally overcame adversity: Check. Queen of the belly rubs: Double check!!!! Hi, Prudence here, and if "adopt awesome dog" is on your to-do list, I'm here to help! There was a point in life when it was hard to see how I could come out of things alive let alone okay, but I did! (Cue theme from "Rocky.") Thanks to my friends at AAWL I'm all healthy and triumphant, and ready to take a victory lap right into your arms! I am loving, snuggly, and still ready for a good walk despite my age. I love toys, and I would like to be your one and only. If you would like to come down to the shelter to meet me, COME ON DOWN! I will be waiting in my kennel just for YOU!

Fabulous Frisky

Hi, my name is Frisky! I'm a very affectionate gentleman just waiting for my new family to come find me. If you come to meet me, I'll climb right into your lap. In fact, sitting in laps to get pets is my favorite!

Come ask about me today, you won't regret it!



Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Adoption Price: \$75.00
Gender: Male

Letter from the Director

Prior to starting in AAWL's education department in January, I wasn't familiar with the Teen Track program. My second week here, I was able to shadow the program and meet some of the teens on a chilly January Saturday. What saw was an amazing group of teens that are participating in this program! The teens were not only willing to help in whatever way they could, they followed directions perfectly and had a fun time doing some not so fun tasks! Over the past few months, I have been able to watch many of the teens become more comfortable with the group and really shine. I am so impressed with this group of teens and how well they work together! I am really excited about this program and getting to see the teens back again next semester for some new opportunities and adventures.

Thank you Teen Trackers Spring 2016 – you guys are AWESOME, hope to see you in the fall!

Heather Buck
Director of Education

Artist's Nook



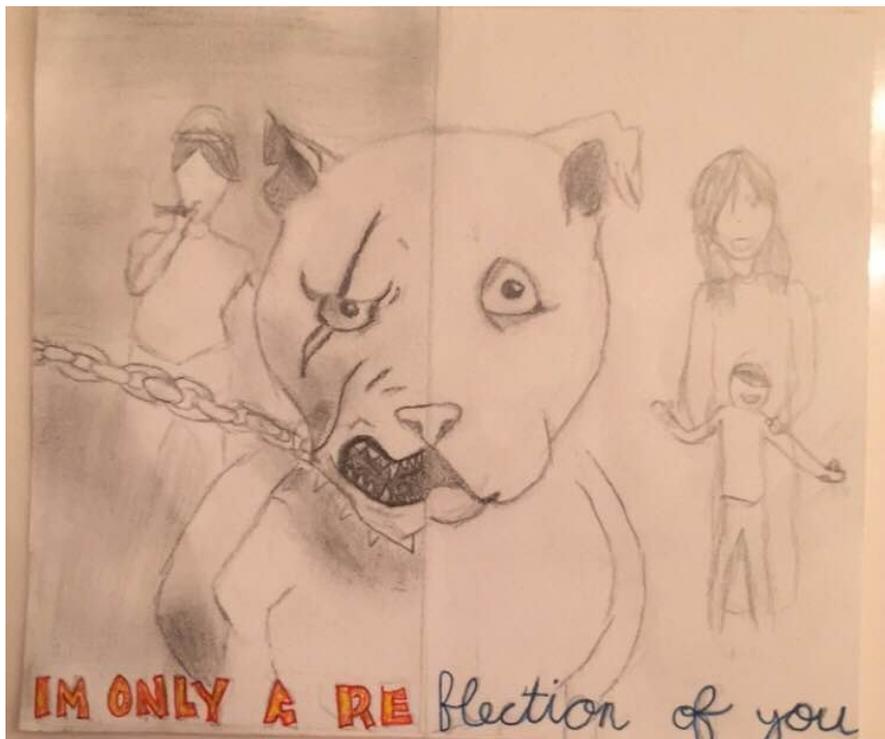
By Camryn Craig



By Janie Christensen

Watch her documentary here! <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=iGMAQ4VcZGM>

Artist's Nook



Peaches
By Shaalin Sehra

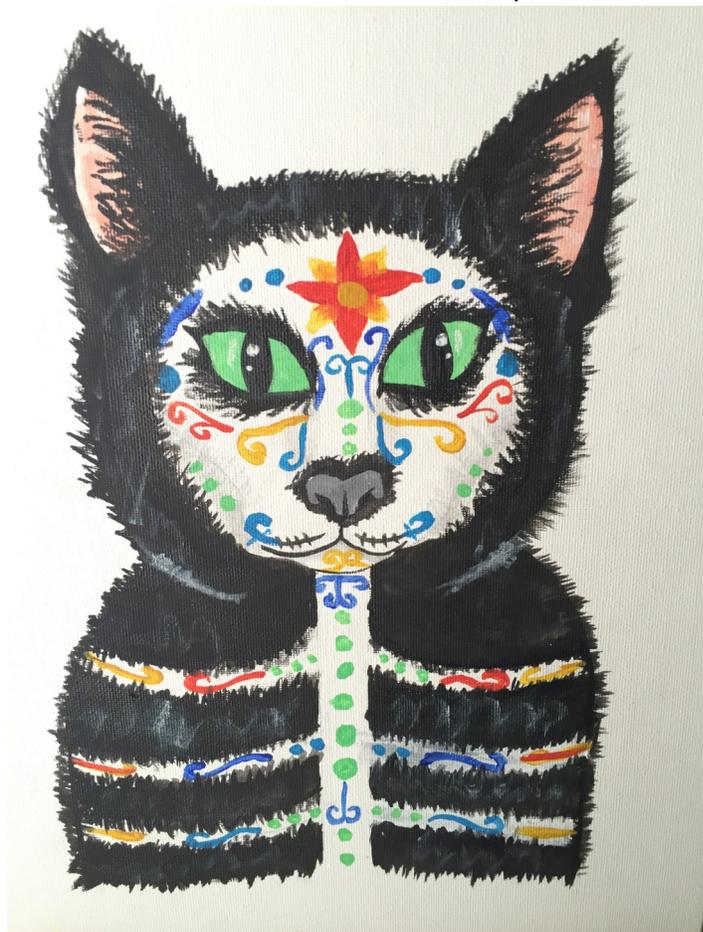
*She walks around slow
Regally like a princess
Our princess peaches*

By Devyani Sud

By Makenna Martin



By Haley Kohl



My Teen Tracks Experience

Friends Never Say Goodbye

By Taylor Sheard

I have been here for six semesters now, and unfortunately it is time for me to say goodbye to the Teen Tracks program. I have made friends from across the valley, all with the same end goal in one way or another; help animals to live a better life. I am off to college this year and I unfortunately am moving away. As some of my friends know, I am a huge music nerd as well, and I could not say it better than Sir Elton John, in the song “Friends Never Say Goodbye” in the lyrics “Who’s to say who’s right or wrong, Whose course is braver run, Still we are, have always been, Will ever be, as one... The same joy, The same sadness each step of the way, That fought me, and taught me, that friends never say goodbye.” Now that I am leaving this song helps to remind me that I don’t have to say goodbye at all, I just have to say until next time my friends. I do hope to come and visit over the next couple months to say hi and give a helping hand.

I hope to come back as a volunteer in the summers when I come home, but that has yet to be seen. I love the experience that I have gained and the friendships I have made, and yet it must come to an end. All good things that end lead to another experience that is just as great as the last. I now have conquered my fears of tarantulas thanks to Autumn, learned how to be able to speak in public, and learned the importance of having friends who will be there for you when you falter. I have learned so much from Sam and Rosie, and I now know they have taught me what I need to know to survive on my own and continue helping animals. I hope that the people I leave behind will be able to grow and learn just as much as I did from them, if not to surpass the knowledge that I have acquired. The camps that I have been a Jr. Camp Counselor for have taught me to hold my own and have confidence in what I know.

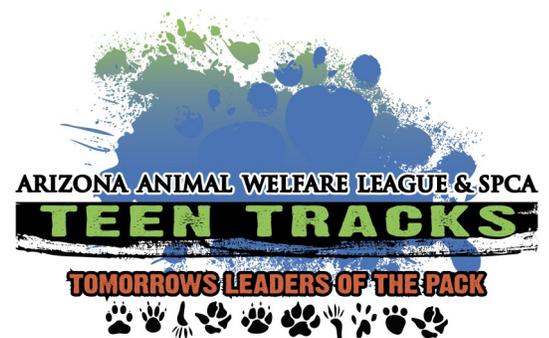
Now that I can look back to all of the laughs and smiles, or the times I got up before eight in the morning to come and see my friends, mentors, and the faces of the animals. I also will never forget that I had the opportunity to be able to have my mother in the room while I interviewed for the first time to help give me

My Teen Tracks Experience

the confidence to be myself in there. And now as I look at the room full of my fellow teen trackers and remember throwing cardboard at Harrison or Sam teaching me how to hold the chinchillas, even getting up early on my summer vacation just to volunteer my time to camps. If you are a new teen tracker and you are reading this, it may feel like you have forever until you leave, that is what I thought in the beginning too, but here I am, and in just under four months I am moving away. I thought I had all the time in the world, yet now as I look around for the second to last time I think of all the fun and trouble I helped cause, which may or may not be good depending on who you ask, is what built the memories I will have for a lifetime. If there is any one piece of advice I can give, it would have to say is to listen and cherish every minute you can spend here, because in the blink of an eye, it could be gone. Thank you to everyone who has helped me become the person I am today here at Arizona Animal Welfare League, I have learned so much and gained the best education that cannot be taught in a conventional classroom.

By Naomi Baker

I have had such an amazing time in Teen Tracks. I've got to meet so many people that want to help the world. This program has helped me get to where I need to be. My career will be much more accomplished because of my knowledge from this program. I have got so much learning from this program and it will pay off. I got to hang out with a bunch of the animals and help/care for them. Its amazing that I got accepted into this program. I've learned so much and it will later in life make me successful.



For Your Consideration

Obesity in Dogs

By Jake Heninger

When people eat too much, and doesn't exercise, they can become obese. Humans become fatigued easily, have heart problems, as well as other organ issues. Similar to humans, dogs can become obese as well.

Causes of obesity in dogs include: a high calorie diet, hyperadrenocorticism (high cortisol levels), and a sedentary lifestyle. A dog is considered obese if they weigh 20% or more above their ideal body weight. Similar to humans, obesity in dogs affects bones, joints, digestive organs, respiratory organs, and even shortens the lifespan of the dog. Other long term effects are: heat intolerance, high blood pressure, lowered immune system, osteoarthritis (lameness), and cancer. Obesity affects all ages of dogs, but middle aged dogs 5-10 years old, are the most likely to be obese, along with dogs who are neutered.

The prevention of obesity can lengthen the dog's life. Preventing obesity in dogs requires regular exercise and a low calorie diet, as well as eliminate giving table scraps. Focus on high dietary protein and fiber with low fat foods. Protein makes the dog full so that they will not overeat, as well as speed up the metabolism. Fiber has low energy but like protein it quickens the metabolism. There are also healthy treats that you can give in moderation to still reward the dog. Also, walking the dog for 15 minutes twice a day and playing fetch is recommended exercise. The best way to combat obesity is to put the dog on a proper diet and enjoy time exercising with your dog.

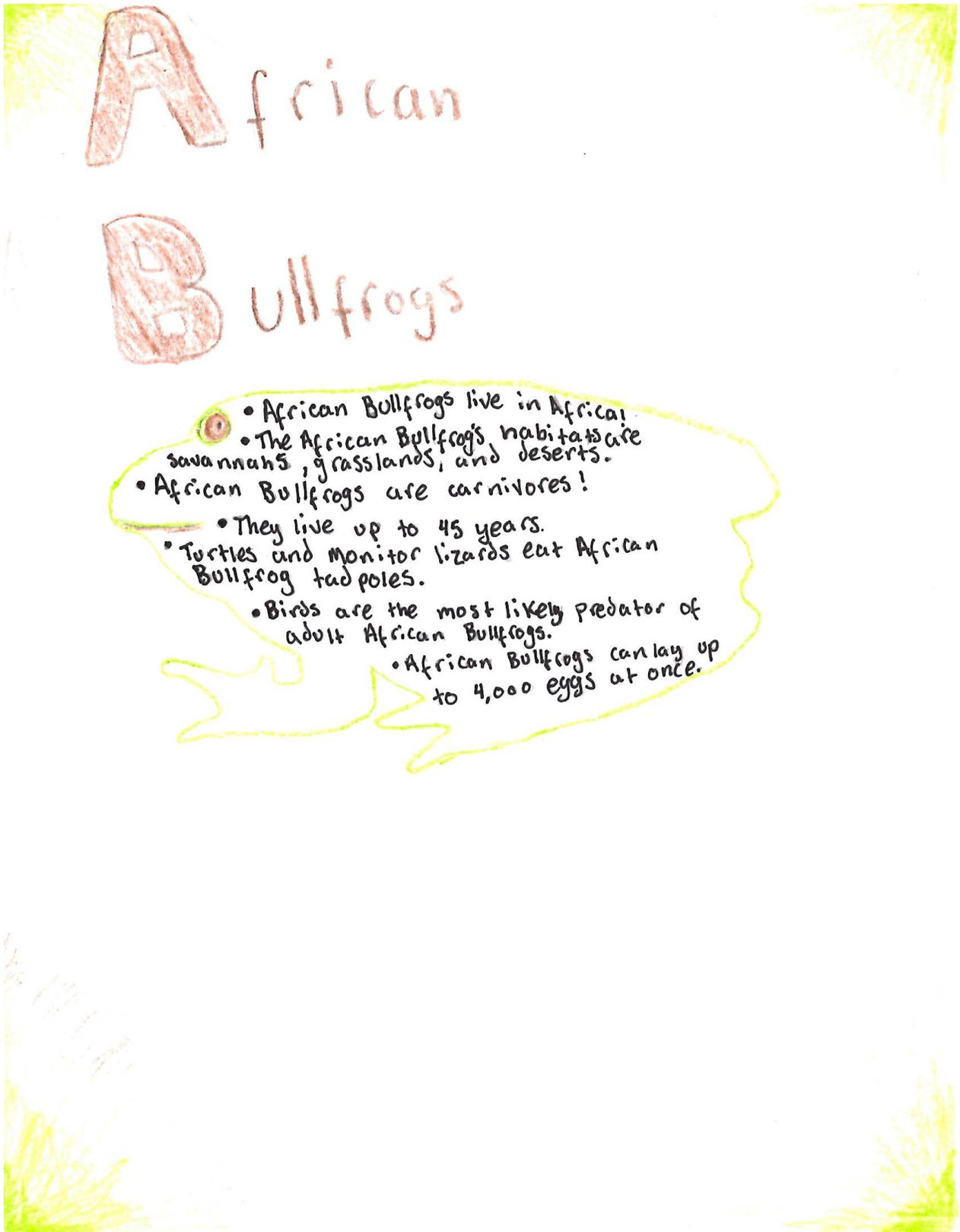
The Cheetah

By Shannon Gough

Cheetahs are only found in Africa. Their long legs make for a lean, mean, running machine. They are taller than leopards but smaller than lions. Contrary to popular belief, cheetahs cannot roar, instead they purr like a domestic cat. Unlike other big cats, cheetahs can't retract their claws. Cheetahs sport one black stripe under each eye. Those black stripes reduce the glare from the sun as they hunt. They are the world's fastest mammal, reaching top speeds of seventy five miles per hour. They eat gazelle, antelope, hares and other small mammals.

Unfortunately, these wonderful, spotted creatures are endangered. Habitat loss reduces the cheetah's hunting and territory range. Herdsman in Africa don't like cheetahs because they think cheetahs eat their livestock. But that is not true, cheetahs won't hunt cattle or sheep because they prefer smaller and easier prey. They also avoid human settlements. So the hunters shoot them on sight for a misconception. Also their fur is highly prized in the fur trade so they are poached. Cheetahs are also favored in the pet trade.

If you want to help save and protect these wonderful creatures, donate to the Iucn Red List, the World Wildlife Fund, the Cheetah Conversation Fund and Panthera. Help save these wonderful animals before they go extinct!

For Your Consideration**African Bullfrogs**

- African Bullfrogs live in Africa.
- The African Bullfrogs habitats are savannahs, grasslands, and deserts.
- African Bullfrogs are carnivores!
- They live up to 45 years.
- Turtles and monitor lizards eat African Bullfrog tadpoles.
- Birds are the most likely predator of adult African Bullfrogs.
- African Bullfrogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs at once.

For Your Consideration Cont.

The Big Cat and Public Safety Act

By Emma Offenberg

The Big Cat and Public Safety Act (BCPSA) is a bill that will ultimately end the private ownership of big cats. Big cats” includes lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, etc... This bill is extremely, EXTREMELY important. Although ownership is illegal in most states, there are still a few states that allow ownership of big cats, and even more that allow purchase and distribution. “Lions, cougars, even cheetahs, are popular “household” pets because they are “cool” or “exotic”. I understand the appeal. When most people see a picture of a cute tiger cub, the first thing they say is: “I want it!” But no one ever indulges these impulses, right? Think again. Over 10,000 big cats are in private homes in the U.S. 5,000 of those are tigers. And with only a little over 3,000 tigers left in the wild, that’s a pretty big number. There are more tigers in homes in the U.S. right now than there are in left the wild. Tigers are close to being extinct, and scientists believe it may happen in the next two decades. It’s pretty clear there is a problem.

This bill **does not** include accredited organizations like zoos, and does not include rescue organizations or sanctuaries. It is only targeted towards private owners and breeders. The current owners will be able to keep the cats they have now until they die off, but will not be able to breed them. This will help keep the cats out of the exotic animal trade, which puts them in extreme danger. Whether you’re a fan of big cats or not, (which I don’t understand because they’re awesome), you can learn more about the act by visiting the Big Cat Rescue and the Big Cat Allies webpages. The links are down below. I encourage you to learn a little bit more about this very important act and how you can make a difference. Animals can’t speak, so we must speak and act for them. All this bill needs is a little encouragement and it will hopefully be the beginning of important nationwide change.

Big Cat Rescue: <http://bigcatrescue.org/>

Big Cat Allies: <http://www.bigcatallies.org/>



For Your Consideration Cont.

“Changing the World, One Lizard, Rat, Pit bull, Snake, Bug– At a Time”

By Emma Solomon

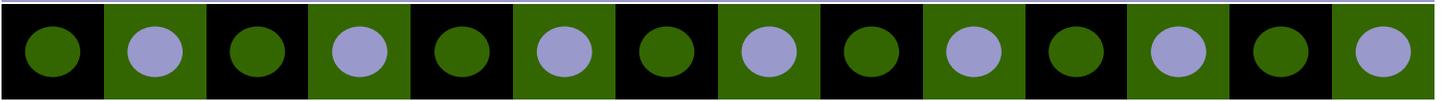
The situation is predictable time and time again: shrieking in fear as a person sees, possibly for the first time, a rat. A snake. A tarantula. They tend to either run in the opposite direction, or ask questions from a safe enough distance. Having worked with many “creepy crawly” animals for a number of years and having a few of my own, I find it interesting that one of the first questions people tend to ask is, “Does it bite?” Why isn’t that the first question people ask dog owners? Reality is that any animal can bite, it is up to the person in control of the situation. It’s like the fear of these types of animals is bred into us, but it does not make much sense on the surface. You don’t see any other species run away from a big lizard or rat unless they are predators to their species, and we all know very well that the little gecko on your back fence is not going to hunt you down.

The truth is, it’s not about evolution nor instinct. It is a societal issue. An enigma that has no reason to be ignored. Judging a type or breed of animal is as prejudice as judging a type of person before you have any personal experience with them, and it is a toxic issue. We need to stop stereotyping. Pit bulls, for example, exemplify this issue perfectly. Ask any random person what they think about pit bulls, and the response is more than often negative. Dog fighting, news articles, and lies about this breed is something that will plague them for a number of years as we see them fill up pounds and shelters. They might be killed merely for being their breed, or their owners might even have to give them up because of breed-specific legislation. This is one of many the many negatively-associated species of animals. You can help make a change by giving animals a chance. They will more than likely impress you, and you will see the least likely species of animal be just as loyal, if not more, than a dog, just as loving as a cat, and just as fun as any hamster or bunny could ever be. After all, humans have so much to learn from animals.

Loyalty, forgiveness, dedication, unconditional love, and being nonjudgmental are a few characteristics animals have down to a T, and that humans hold much room for improvement. Working through Teen Tracks has helped me discover how I want to spend my life, and that is dedicating myself to changing this perspective on animals through education and hands-on experiences for kids because kids are our future! It has helped me because I got to see the different types of animals that people tend to stay clear from and I got to see a trend in the general public’s reaction as I show them, say, a bearded dragon; an animal whose spiky and intimidating looks stray far from their laidback and docile personality, as well as the glimmer in kids’ eyes as their fingers run down the back of a Madagascar hissing cockroach. Show people what animals are capable of, change the world.

“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That’s the problem.”

A.A. Milne from Winnie the Pooh



Congrats Grads!

Congratulations to all of our teens graduating this semester! We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope to see you all again soon!

For those of you returning in the Fall, we look forward to having you back!



Things to Remember



Upcoming Dates:

New Teen Application Deadline: September 10, 2016

First Day and Orientation for New Teens: September 24, 2016

Summer Camp: May 30-August 5 2016

See you in the Fall!

Have a good idea for the newsletter?

Do you have a brilliant idea for future Teen Track session topics or want to get more involved in creating art, success stories or other interesting pieces? E-mail all submissions to Rosi Sevic at rsevic@aawl.org or call 602-273-6852 ext. 146 if you have questions.