

CAN BE BITTERSWEET, PARTICULARLY WITH OUR RESCUED, PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Often, they come from less than auspicious beginnings and seem broken, almost as if they've "checked out." Our friend London was a perfect example.

Born in 2005 and purchased by a trainer in Hollywood in the hopes that he would become a tv/movie "actor", London had other ideas. Needless to say, London flunked acting school and eventually found his way here in 2009. Initially, he was afraid of everything, staying in the back of his enclosure, tail tucked, ears in an "airplane" position and skulking around seemingly to avoid drawing attention to himself.

As a sanctuary, we do not force any relationship on our animals. We prefer to let them "be" which, we have discovered, is best for them.

Eventually, London began revealing his true nature and we witnessed, for lack of better words, a lightness of being. Soon he was constantly at the front of his enclosure, tail and hackles raised (looking like he'd stuck a toe in a light socket) and making eye contact with us. This was not in a threatening manner, and it always made our hearts happy, seeing how bold he'd become (though if anyone stepped in his direction, he was gone in a flash... a bit of false bravado, but bravado nonetheless).

It's hard to do justice to such an amazing spirit in a few paragraphs. Fortunately for those who met him and those who had the honor of caring for him, his memory is not relegated to a tribute... He lives in our hearts and we miss him every day.