

DAISY THE CANADA GOOSE GOES TO POPCORN PARK ZOO

Bonding has Consequences for Animals and Humans



Daisy trying to lift off runs along pier

Towards the end of the summer, the Wildlife Watch Hotline brought in a call from a Brooklyn family who had cared for a Canada goose gosling they found on their property. The gosling was alone, there were no other geese nearby, and the entire summer, she grew up with this family. As she began to grow, they realized that she could only “fly” horizontally by skimming above the water or land, but she couldn’t lift up to really fly, though she seemed otherwise normal. They spent their days with her, trying to help her to “take off” — but not being able to take off themselves, they were poor role models for her. Nevertheless, she had a family who loved her, spent their days with her, swam with her, fed her, worried about her, and watched after her. The call to Wildlife Watch came about the time they planned to leave their summer home to go back to their place in Brooklyn, NY, and taking Daisy was not an option. The family’s neighbors were not going to be staying either. Through word of mouth they located some farmers who were willing to take Daisy temporarily. Sadly, the only time Daisy flew high in the air was when Renate, her dear friend and protector, was leaving the farm and the gates closed behind her. In distress, Daisy then flew to the top of the ten foot fence to try to go with her. The people who said they would care for Daisy pulled her back. Some time later, in checking up on Daisy’s condition, her loving family discovered that Daisy was considered a “nuisance” by the “caretakers” and was being kept in a crate.

to pick up Daisy who was languishing in confinement and returned with her to their summer home to wait until they could find a suitable home. During that time, Daisy returned to “normal” life, enjoying the lake in freedom. Wildlife Watch reached out to find a place for Daisy where she would have shelter, food, and other goose friends in the winter. **Betty Butler**, a friend and someone who has been a savior of so many Canada geese and swans in New Jersey, immediately recommended **Popcorn Park Zoo**. Before you get upset, you need to know more about Popcorn Park. It is a wonderful place that only takes in injured, orphaned, disabled, or human-bonded wild animals who would not otherwise be able to fend for themselves in the wild.

Through Betty’s connection, **John Bergmann** of Popcorn agreed to take in Daisy. The idea of turning her over was so difficult for the family, especially after what Daisy had been through with their last attempt, and the weather was still so mild that it took until the end of October to Popcorn. Popcorn has promised that Daisy will have human and geese needed, and she will be free to visit the many other animals in their care. The best part is that she will be evaluated and if she ever can take off with other geese, she is free to go as well.

The family plans to visit Daisy, and so does Wildlife Watch. If you would like to join us at Popcorn one day, please let us know. Also, to learn more about Popcorn Park Zoo, please visit their website at:

<http://www.ahscare.org/page2.asp?page=popcornpark>

If you get there before we do, please ask for Daisy.



Daisy trying to lift off skims along water