

Pet Lion, Crime Solver

By Zuzana Kukol, www.REXANO.org

Some of you might remember my article from FCF Journal, September/October 2006, titled: *Mouthy Lion's Life of Bam Bam-Or how I went from striped to slightly spotted buff.*

The short history is that I was always into tigers, than my magician friends' male lion decided to like me. Also, I was keeping two lions temporarily at my place, and fell in love with the male.

Long story short, when the two lions went back to their owner, I, my fiancé, Scott, and my neighbors missed the lions' roar at night, so we ended up getting our own lion, Bam Bam or BB.

BB was a retired photo cub, extremely sweet and socialized because of all the human interaction he got the first four months of his life before he came to live with me and Scott.

Our neighbors were delighted to have the lion's night sounds back in the neighborhood.

We live in Pahrump, Nevada, about a 1.5 hour trip from Las Vegas. Once in a while we have a dinner with friends in town and spend the night there.

In 2007, Pahrump had a rash of robberies throughout the town, and suspects kept evading the police.

Then one night when we were in Las Vegas, I got an email from my neighbor. Supposedly, the country house next door that was mostly unoccupied at the time (the owner's primary residence was Las Vegas) was being robbed and weapons kept there were stolen. When we got home to Pahrump next morning, all was back to normal other than the broken window that the thieves used to get into the house.

The mostly missing neighbor installed a new security system and recently his son moved there. We did not give the incident much thought after that. After all, we have guard dogs, wolf hybrids, lion, tigers, and our own weapons, and an eight foot tall electrified fence topped with barbed wire protecting us.

We are not the most social people in our country neighborhood. A few months ago we had lunch with one of the retired couples in our neighborhood. They noticed that Bam Bam roars more at night when we are



Mike Friese

not home, as he is missing us. They told us they talked to the neighbors who called 911 the night the weapon robbery was occurring. These neighbors informed them that they decided to call 911 after hearing our lion roar more than he usually roars at night when we are gone, he just refused to shut up. Our neighbors just knew instinctively something was going on. The wife supposedly said to her husband that she felt the lion was trying to tell them something.

The concerned neighbors were right. Bam Bam was roaring not only because he was missing us, but also because something unusual—new sounds and movements—were happening in what he considered his territory. He can plainly see the robbed neighbor's house from his habitat.

By roaring loud he was protecting his territory from what he considered to be the intruders in his territory. He also helped to solve the crime that was unsolved for many months by alerting the neighbors who called the police and who showed up and arrested the suspects. Since then, we started paying more attention and definitely noticed he roars more if something unusual is happening.

Thanks, Bam Bam. •

November 20, 2007

Large-scale burglary ring uncovered; suspects sought

By CHRISTINA EICHELKRAUT
PVT

Nye County Sheriff's Office general assignment detectives have linked together a string of burglaries that have taken place throughout the valley since late spring and early summer.

Although several individuals have already been arrested in connection with what the sheriff's office has called a large-scale burglary ring, they are searching for information for a number of additional suspects.

According to the sheriff's office, the burglars have been stealing and distributing large quantities of weapons.

In addition, in at least one of the burglaries, a residence was burned down.

Once the burglaries were committed, more individuals were involved, in either disposing of, or receiving the stolen property.

But property isn't the only thing getting stolen. Several of the victims had their identities stolen and used in fraudulent financial transactions.

Charges that may be filed against persons involved in the ring include, but are not limited to burglary, auto burglary, malicious destruction of property, grand larceny, grand larceny auto, grand larceny of a firearm, conspiracy to commit a crime, transfer of stolen property, ex-felon in possession of a firearm, habitual criminal, leaving the scene of an accident, possession of stolen property, first- and second-degree arson, use of a credit card without the cardholder's consent, receiving stolen property, forgery, and using the identification information of another.

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