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(850)488-6251, TDD (850)488-9542

March 3, 2006

Mrs. Lauri Caron
Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary
41660 Horseshoe Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Dear Lauri,

I wanted to take a moment to recognize the valuable partnership that has developed over the years between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Since 1979, when Pete Caron opened the Sanctuary with the vision of providing a safe haven for homeless exotics and wildlife, a relationship began to develop with state officials charged with protecting the natural resources. Pete worked closely with officers of both the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Florida Marine Patrol, which created a working relationship that was only strengthened by the merger and creation of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Octagon Sanctuary has time and time again assisted officers with issues relating to the care, housing and capture of wildlife. The assistance has been invaluable in the state's efforts to manage wildlife and protect citizens and the environment from free roaming exotics.

Since Pete passed away last year, you have continued to assist officers whenever the need arises. Just recently, you unselfishly volunteered your time, equipment and expert knowledge to successfully capture a red stag deer that had attacked and killed a pony, and captured a wallaroo that had attacked a citizen. These are just a few of the examples of Octagons continued commitment towards the protection of wildlife and the citizens of Florida. What is especially notable is that Octagon is a non-profit organization supported solely by donations from the community.

Again, from the officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife thank-you for your assistance and we look forward to working closely with you and members of Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lt. S. B. Mevers".

Lt. Steve Mevers
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
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Fort Myers, FL 33901
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