

IT'S CRITTER TIME!

PETS ARE FAMILY TOO

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FRIENDS MAY BE FLEETING, but the bond with a pet lasts forever. While some Pumas had more traditional furry friends like dogs, some opted for more exotic pets including reptiles, rodents and bees.



ROWDY RODENTS

5 **PLAYING WITH HER TWO CHINCHILLAS**, Brooke Panza, 08, welcomes the newest members to her family. Named Rosa and Pedro, the chinchillas are very high maintenance. Panza must give them a dust bath every night and feed them hay and replace their water bowl. The female chinchilla, Rosa, is pregnant. "The original owners could not take care of them anymore, so now we have them and they have a home," Panza said. *photo courtesy of b. panza*

1 SLITHERY SNAKES



A REPTILE LOVER Sophia Bren, 07, has six reptiles in her care. Bren owns a crested gecko, two leopard geckos, a bearded dragon, a blue tongue skink and a ball python. Out of all of Bren's reptiles, the ball python is her favorite. "They are cool, curious and calm," Bren said. Acquiring all of her reptiles in the past year and a half, Bren fed each one a different meal every morning. *photos courtesy of s. bren*



4 MAN'S BEST FRIEND

THE BEST MEMORIES for Alexander Meiselman, 07, are of time spent with his dogs. Meiselman has had his dogs, Rocky and Stella, and Mugsy, who recently passed away, as long as he can remember. Meiselman loves to play with his dogs, taking his dogs on hikes, and walking them. "Mugsy and I went on a trail that we have never been on before, and we got to take lots of pictures," Meiselman said. *photo courtesy of a. meiselman*

6 A TRAVELING TURTLE

AS A PRESENT, Jacob Acker, 06, received his pet turtle, Philip, just last year for Christmas. Most days, Acker's turtle can be found walking around the backyard and feasting on a diet of lettuce and water. Acker's favorite memory with Philip is when he first got him; a moment filled with joy and excitement. Often, Acker takes his turtle on a trampoline and bounces with him. "One time he got stuck upside down on his shell and couldn't get back up. It was super funny," Acker said. *photo courtesy of j. acker*



2 A LOUNGING LIZARD



A COLD BLOODED REPTILE, Leon is Jackson Scott's, 08, leopard gecko. Scott's gecko ate a diet of live mill worms and crickets. Leon preferred hunting his food swiftly. To entertain his pet, Scott let Leon run around his house until he became tired. "He will sit on your shoulders for hours," Scott said. *photo courtesy of j. scott*

3 HORSING AROUND

GRAYSON is the name of Cearie Weber's, 08, horse, who she hangs out with on the weekends. Weber decided to get Grayson after she went horse back riding at camp. Weber took riding lessons every Sunday. "After camp, I thought it was really fun, so I told my parents, and now we have Grayson," Weber said. *photo courtesy of c. weber*



7 BEEING FABULOUS

BEEKEEPING IN HER OWN BACKYARD, Nina Kozinski, 08, started a new hobby after learning bees are in danger of extinction. Kozinski took classes at Hudson Gardens, a program that provided her with a beekeeping uniform. Kozinski's bees are more active during the summer months than in the fall or winter. With each harvest, the bees produced about three liters of honey. The first year, Kozinski checked in on the bees regularly, now she monitors them two to three times a week. "It's fun and it's not something many people do," Kozinski said. *photos courtesy of n. kozinski*

WE'RE GOING EXOTIC STUDENT LIFE

PETS INTERRUPTER **OUR TIME 333**

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