FREE SPIRIT MESSAGES

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Inspirational Offerings *You Requested* from THE SACRED AERIE

Welcome back to *FREE SPIRIT...*

An uplifting *Wind Beneath Your Wings* to carry you through these challenging times.

Prepare to celebrate! This is the triumphant sequel to "Crone Wisdom" *(see *FREE SPIRIT* webpage archives) when a yearling raccoon lost his front paw to a cruel leg-hold trap. At last, a very happy ending to *this story...*

" WIZARD'S TRIUMPH"

In mid-April 2011, nearly a year after becoming a 3-legged raccoon, Wizard has reluctantly checked-out of his Rehab Hilton. During many months of captivity, he more than earned his keep by patiently raising several litters of orphaned raccoons like a kindly old uncle...

WIZARD, FIERCE PROTECTOR

Wizard was particularly bonded to a timid, brain-damaged coon named "Little Guy." Whenever I visited, Wizard quickly tucked Little Guy behind him, stood on his hind legs, growling and hissing a warning not to come any closer. Nothing could ever take the *wild* out of Wizard. And nothing would ever harm Little Guy as long as Wizard was around!

When the long-awaited evening of liberation finally came for Wizard and the others, Little Guy was secured in a small crate inside the much larger raccoon enclosure. Too handicapped to survive in the wild, he'd have to stay behind.

"LITTLE GUY"

My heart was in my throat when I learned of Wizard's imminent release. Was this band of masked marauders really ready to meet the challenges and dangers of the great unknown?

I kept reminding myself that ***even one day of freedom is worth a lifetime in a cage.*** Surely this applies to us two-leggeds as well, though our 'cages' are so often *self-imposed!*

What happened next, in the words of The Rehab Angel herself:

Hi T,
Mission Accomplished!! No one wanted to leave, Wizard kept running back in to Little Guy who was locked in a crate, very emotional, always is. Went well, took about 3 hours for all of them to finally leave the pen. Of course, they're up in the old hay barn this morning, sleeping… had a busy night! Wizard was climbing trees and going pretty high up— scary! Will keep you posted…

Wizard the Astronaut

"Look guys… *no hands!*"

"Hey, feeding yourself is hard work!
What time does the café open?"

A week later, another welcome report arrived:

Hi T,

My husband fished in the gorge today and saw major raccoon activity at the river, tons of tracks and lots of signs they've been feasting on clams & crawdads. I followed the tracks to the cliff. All but one has gone to the river now *(400 feet below).* ***They must have followed Wizard down since he's the only one who knows "the ropes" of how to be wild...***

Here's To The Eternal Call OF FREEDOM!

… With Very Special Thanks
To all the Rehab Angels of the world!

May this humble offering inspire
The Extraordinary Being
You *already are*...

Many Blessings,
Teryl "T" Johansson

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