



Kids Get Up Close and Personal with "Alternative" Pets

A talking cockatoo, a personable rat, and a friendly tortoise were on hand at the "Alternative Pets Info 2000" symposium, which took place July 8 in Freeborn Hall on the UC Davis campus.

The event, free to the public, offered seminars on the care and handling of alternative pet species. Pet breeders and veterinarians answered questions about a wide variety of animals in informational displays provided by breeders and animal organizations such as the

Capitol City Bird Society, Rat Fan Club and San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society.

More than 1,300 visitors of all ages got a chance to find out about special pet care and health needs, and to see or interact with animals such as iguanas, chinchillas, snakes, rabbits, skinks, geckos, koi, parrots, cockatiels, guinea pigs, monitor lizards, racing pigeons, and tarantulas. Alternative Pets Info 2000 was sponsored by the school's Center for Companion Animal Health and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council.



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