

Don't abandon pets when PCSing

Options exist for leaving pets behind

By Christi A. Bayha
414th Base Support Battalion
Pioneer librarian

Back in November I made an impulsive decision. A friend of mine had rescued two water turtles, North American red-eared sliders to be precise, that had been abandoned — and I adopted them.

At the time I knew nothing about turtles. Now I know quite a lot. I don't regret taking them in, but I know that taking them home to the United States with me is not a practical idea. If I knew where we were moving to, if I knew how long we'd stay and if I were sure I could provide the right environment, I would take them with me in a heartbeat.

But that is a lot of "ifs," so I've made the decision to leave them in Germany. As I was thinking over my options I realized that I'm not the only American who has had to make this difficult decision. Many families have to make the choice whether to leave pets behind for any number of reasons.

As hard as this decision is for

the human members of the family, it's a sad fact that some families make a horrible and heartless choice for their pets — they abandon them.

Abandoned pets rarely live happily ever after. A lucky few will find a loving home with a new family, but most are destined to live short, unhappy and frightened lives, not knowing when their next meal will come or understanding why they were abandoned.

Along with my turtles I'm lucky to share my home with two calico cats that are the offspring of an abandoned cat. They lived feral lives until they were about five months old, when they were captured in a "fix and release" program. Some installations in Germany conduct these programs to spay the female feral cats for population control. Since I had experience with abandoned and mistreated cats I was allowed to adopt them, knowing that they would go back to the United States with me.

If you are a pet owner deciding whether or not to take a pet along with you when you move, you're probably wondering what your options are. You have many.

Give them to a friend or neighbor who wants and is able to care for them responsibly. Never dump a pet on another family at the last minute. Take the time to ask ques-



Christi Bayha's cat, Louise, and turtles, Shelby and Innes, share their bathtub peacefully. The lamp keeps the cold-blooded turtles warm.

tions, make sure they know what they are getting into and that they're ready for the responsibility. I don't recommend giving your pet to a family with very young children or to a family that has never owned pets before.

Place an ad in the Stars and Stripes to sell or give away your pet. Ads run for four, seven or 10 days. Call the classified ad department at civ(06155)601 447 during business hours or email them at clasad@mail.estripes.osd.mil. The

cost of running an ad is a small price to pay for the life of an animal.

Contact your local veterinary clinic and ask if they have a waiting list of families that wish to adopt. The Hanau Veterinary Clinic on New Argonner Kaserne has a bulletin board where you can post a flyer. Call mil 322-8160 or civ (06181) 888 160 for details.

Put up flyers at the PX and local pet stores.

Contact the German Tierheim (animal shelter) near you and post a flyer announcing you have an

animal available for adoption. As a last resort you can hand the pet over to the Tierheim before you leave the country. The Tierheim in Hanau is located at Post Strasse 13. Their phone number is civ(06181)62712. A complete list of local Tierheims is available at the Hanau Veterinary Clinic. My turtles are still growing. According to the books I've read I can expect them to grow to be as big as dinner plates. That's one reason I'm hoping to place them with a German family. They need a yard with a pond, somewhere to swim and stretch their odd little legs.

I've posted flyers with my German reptile veterinarian and at the pet store where I buy all of their supplies.

Next week I'm going to the Tierheim. I have a lead on a German elementary school where they raise animals as part of their curriculum and another for a family that raises turtles. I'm lucky that I have time enough to find a good home for them.

If you have pets that you can't take with you when you leave, start your search early for their next home. You'll feel better, and they'll live better and longer if you do.

Büdingen Family Fitness Fun

Büdingen community members enjoyed an Army Community Service sponsored Family Fitness Fun Day July 19 at Armstong Barracks parade field. The ACS staff organized basketball and volleyball games, a family walk, music and good food.

"It's just a day for the families of Büdingen and Gelnhausen to come out for family fun," said Mike Hamm, Büdingen ACS outreach coordinator. "Before our community consisted of soldiers and their families, now we only have left the spouses and kids. Our thinking needed to change. Our events must be family oriented; they should be stroller friendly and easy to get to. This summer has been so gorgeous, we want all the people who live here to be as excited to be in Germany as we are."

"Last Friday night (July 18) we had a Family Entertainment Night where we showed a movie under the stars. Seventy-four people came out with their lawn chairs and blankets to watch the Disney film, 'SpyKids.' We projected the movie on the end of Building 2207



ACS staff and children play basketball at Family Fitness Fun Day.

and everyone got free popcorn and soft drinks. We're going to show 'The Iron Giant' next, on Aug. 8," said

Hamm. "The outdoor movie was a great hit and we plan to show more movies throughout the summer."



Photo by Dennis Johnson

ACS celebrates 38th birthday

Sandi Horyza cuts one of the birthday cakes offered at the Army Community Service birthday celebration July 25 that marked ACS's 38th birthday. The staff in Hanau threw a party to celebrate outside the Wolfgang Outreach Center. They invited the entire community for a barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs sizzling from the grill, chips and soft drinks.



Bulletin board

At the movies Aug. 5-22

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- Aug. 7-8 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (PG) 4 p.m. Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 14 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15-16 — Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Finding Nemo (G) 4 p.m. The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- Aug. 9 — X2: X-Men United (PG-13) 3 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Daddy Day Care (PG) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- Aug. 8 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 3 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Bad Boys II (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Finding Nemo (G) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

- Aug. 7 — Identity (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Identity (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 14 — Daddy Day Care (PG) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 16-17 — Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- Aug. 5 — The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 6 — Sinbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (PG) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Finding Nemo (G) 3 p.m. 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 12-13 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Dumb And Dumberer (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Phone Booth (R) 7 p.m.



Will Smith (left) and Martin Lawrence star as Miami narcotics detectives in "Bad Boys II."



Charlize Theron stars as Stella and Mark Wahlberg as Charlie in "The Italian Job."

- Aug. 19 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 — Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- Aug. 5 — Daddy Day Care (PG) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 6 — The Matrix Reloaded (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 7 — Daddy Day Care (PG) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m. The In-Laws (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m. Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 11 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 12 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 13 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 14 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — Gigli (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Italian Job (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m. Gigli (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Finding Nemo (G) 4 p.m. Gigli (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 18 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 19 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- Aug. 6 — Bad Boys II (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 5 p.m. Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 13 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Finding Nemo (G) 5 p.m. Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Bringing Down The House (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 — Gigli (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- Aug. 6 — Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13) 7 p.m.

- Aug. 13 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- Aug. 7 — Bad Boys II (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — Poolhall Junkies (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 14 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — Gigli (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- Aug. 5 — Daddy Day Care (PG) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 6 — Poolhall Junkies (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 7 — The Matrix Reloaded (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 8 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m. Bad Boys II (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 9 — Holes (PG) 4 p.m. The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m. Bad Boys II (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Holes (PG) 4 p.m. Bad Boys II (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 11 — Bad Boys II (R) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 12 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 13 — The In-Laws (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 14 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 15 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m. Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — Finding Nemo (G) 4 p.m. Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Italian Job (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Finding Nemo (G) 4 p.m. Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 18 — Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 19 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 — The Italian Job (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 21 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

Bad Boys II (R) — Will Smith and Martin Lawrence are back on the streets of Miami as narcotics detectives Mike Lowrey (Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Lawrence). This time they've been assigned to a high-tech task force investigating the flow of designer ecstasy into Miami. Their inquiries inadvertently lead them to a major conspiracy involving a vicious kingpin (Jordi Molla), whose ambitions to take over the city's drug trade have ignited a bloody turf war.

The Italian Job (PG-13) — After pulling off an amazing heist from a heavily guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy, Charlie (Mark Wahlberg) and his gang — inside man Steve (Edward Norton), computer genius Lyle (Seth Green), wheelman Handsome Rob (Jason Statham), explosives expert Left-Ear (Mos Def) and veteran safecracker John Bridger (Donald Sutherland) — can't believe it when one of them turns out to be a double-crosser. Now the job isn't about the payoff, it's about payback.

Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines — A decade has passed since John Connor (Nick Stahl) helped prevent Judgment Day and save mankind from mass destruction. Now 25, Connor lives "off the grid" — no home, no credit cards, no cell phone and no job. Out of the shadows of the future steps T-X (Kristanna Loken), a sophisticated cyborg killing machine. Connor's only hope for survival is the Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger), his mysterious former assassin.

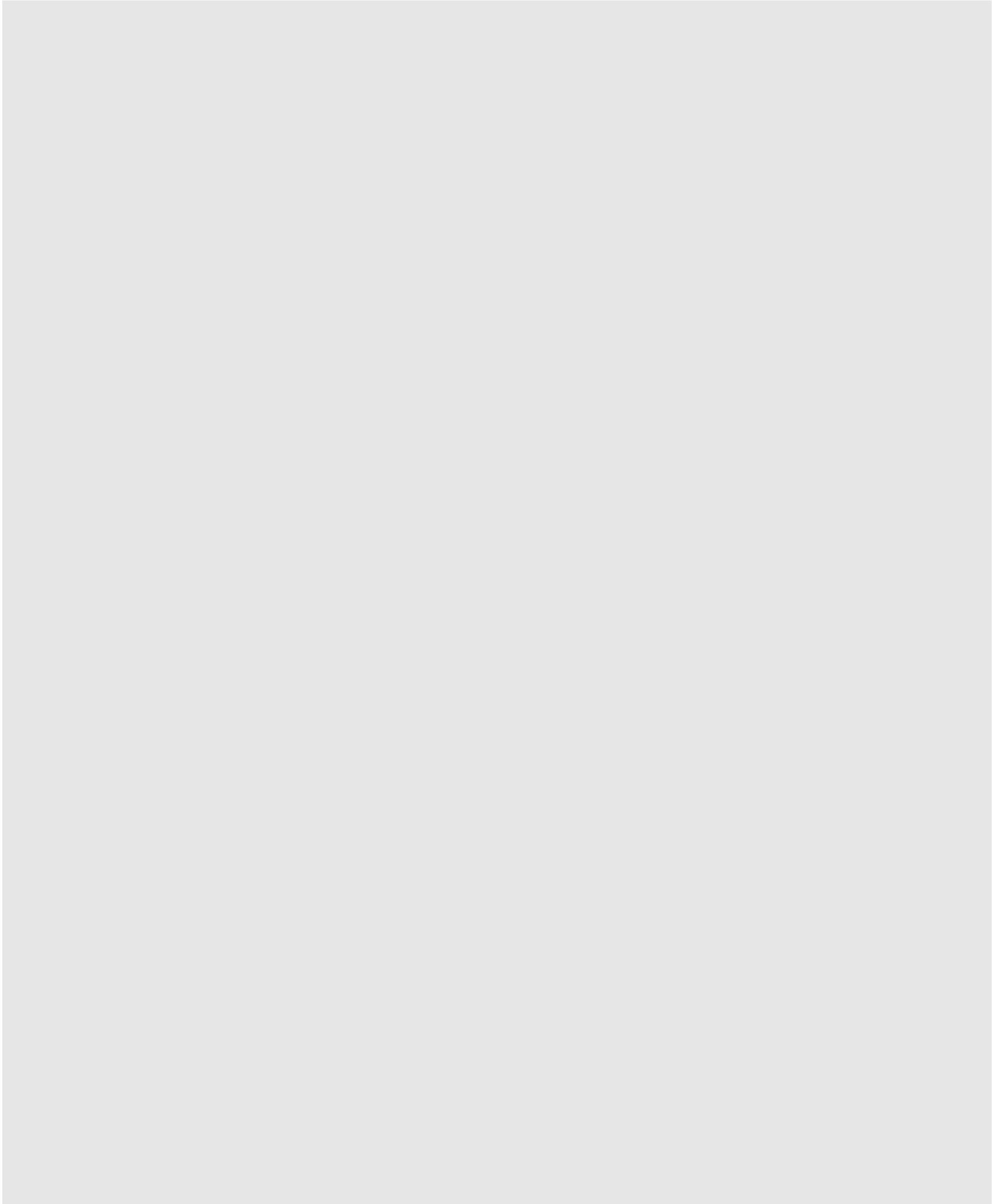
Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13) — For Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) the crystalline waters of the Caribbean are a vast playground where adventure and mystery abound. But Jack's idyllic life capsizes after his nemesis, Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush), steals his ship and later attacks the town of Port Royal, kidnapping the governor's beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley). Elizabeth's childhood friend, Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), joins forces with Jack to rescue her.

Finding Nemo (G) — This latest feature from Pixar Animation Studios and Disney follows the journey of two fish — Marlin and his curious son Nemo — who become separated in the Great Barrier Reef. Buoyed by the companionship of Dory, a friendly-but-forgetful fish, Marlin embarks on a dangerous trek to rescue his son.

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) — Reese Witherspoon is back as Elle Woods. Now a rising young lawyer, Elle is about to make partner at her firm. When she finds out her beloved canine's relatives are being used as cosmetic test subjects, Elle heads to the capital to take matters into her own well-manicured hands.

Bruce Almighty (PG-13) — Bruce (Jim Carrey), a TV reporter in Buffalo, N.Y., is known for doing homespun, human interest stories, but he would rather be replacing the soon-to-retire anchorman, or at the very least, reporting significant news from international hotspots. After blowing a story and a shot at the big leagues, Bruce appeals to a higher power for better luck. The result is much more than he expected. Also stars Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Anniston.

Herald Union classifieds



Sports and leisure



Photo by Karl Weisel

Cosmos seek players

The Frankfurt Cosmos lacrosse team seeks male and female players of all ages and experience levels. Beginners are welcome. Call Bob Scheider at civ (0160) 9565 0171, email bob@frankfurt-cosmos.de or visit a practice any Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Sportclub 1880 (behind AFN Headquarters in Frankfurt). Players are needed to compete in the Division II championships in Amsterdam Aug. 20-23 and for the 2003-2004 Westdeutsche Lacrosse Liga season which begins in September.

Things to do ... Things to do

Tanks in Town

The city of Mons, Belgium, commemorates the liberation of the city by the 3rd Armored Division and the 1st Infantry Division during World War II with a living museum of armored vehicles Aug. 30 and 31. The historical city center will be a showcase of vehicles including Shermans, Chafees, Pershings, tank destroyers, half-tracks, M8s and M10s. For more information visit the www.tanksintown.be website.

Holiday Park trip

The Frankfurt Church of God in Christ hosts a trip to Holiday Park Aug. 27. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$20 for children age 12 and under including transportation and entrance to the amusement park. The bus leaves from Hanau's Old Argonner Kaserne at 6 a.m. or from the Rhein Main Airbase PX at 7 a.m. Call civ (0172) 681 0300 to reserve a seat.

Business Club

The Kaiserslautern American German Business Club invites interested people to its "Art of Negotiation" meeting and dinner Aug. 26 at the Rosenhof Hotel and Restaurant in Landstuhl. Social time starts at 6:30 p.m. Psychologist Dr. Powell "Tony" Owens will speak after dinner at 8:15 p.m. Send an email to Larry_Zani@compuserve.com to make reservations and for directions.

Festivals galore

Now's the time to get out and enjoy one of Germany's many summer festivals. Upcoming events include the Offenbacher Beer Fest Aug. 7-12, the Hattersheim Fish Fest Aug. 8-10, the Königsteiner Castle Fest Aug. 8-11, Wiesbaden's Rheingauer Wine Week Aug. 8-17, the Offenbacher Medieval Market Aug. 16-17, Frankfurt's Museumsuferfest Aug. 29-31, the Bingen Vintner Fest Aug. 29 to Sept. 8, the Mainz Wine Market Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 and the Frankfurt Dippemess Sept. 12-22.

Bingo Bowling

The Dexheim Bowling Center features Bingo Bowling Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. and the Wiesbaden Bowling Center Aug. 27 at 5 p.m. Bowl a strike in designated frames and win prizes. Also bowl any game during this period and enter to win an

Enjoy Tours overnight or express tour. The Dexheim Bowling Center features 50-cent bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, \$1 bowling weekdays from 2-5 p.m. Disco bowling is featured from 7-11 p.m. Fridays (bring your own music on CD). Call civ (06133) 69-743 for details.

Exhibitions around the region

An exhibition of photos from Operation Iraqi Freedom by Reuters war correspondent Kai Pfaffenbach will be featured at the Artothek gallery in Hanau's Grossauheim, Hautstrasse 46, through Sept. 28. The free exhibit, aimed at showcasing the human context of war, is open Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2:30-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call civ (06181) 52490 for more information.

Ronneburg Castle, located between Büdingen and Erlensee, will hold an exhibition of artworks by Altstadt artists Eva and Willem Heer Aug. 10 to Sept. 14. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The city of Bad Orb features its "Sea of Lights" in the town's parks Aug. 8. With the theme "Austrian Nights," the event will include a light show, entertainment for children, refreshments for sale and musical performances. Entrance to the park area is €2.50 for adults and €1 for children.



Photo by Kai Pfaffenbach

Human-Power-War is the title of an exhibition of photos by Reuters war correspondent Kai Pfaffenbach. See above.

Sports shorts

Fitness fair canceled

The Hanau Health and Fitness Fair scheduled for Sept. 13 has been canceled. The Health Promotion Council and 414th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness staff will reschedule the event to a later date.

Mountain biking

Giessen hosts one leg Aug. 9 and Dexheim another Aug. 23 of the 2003 Chrysler U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series. The events, open to all U.S. armed forces ID card holders, will feature various categories and course lengths. Call Maurice Hamler at mil 343-8202 for information about the Giessen race or Joe Harris at mil 334-5818 for details on the Dexheim race.

Football clinic

A 414th Base Support Battalion Flag Football Officials Clinic will be held Aug. 26-28 starting at 6 p.m. each evening at Pioneer Fitness Center. Those interested in officiating must attend. Call mil 322-8197 or 9617.

Rugby players sought

The U.S. Forces Europe Rugby Football Union seeks players for a rugby select team as the European representative for the 2003 USA Rugby National Military Club Championship to be held Aug. 29-31 in Columbus, Ga. Only the top selected players are invited to compete in this prestigious event. Call mil 379-5121, civ (0160) 3652 536 or mil 370-7944 for more information.

Women's Equality Run/Walk

The 104th Area Support Group and 414th Base Support Battalion Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity offices host the third annual Women's Equality Day Fun 5-K Run/Walk starting at Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center at 8 a.m. Aug. 26. Register from 7-7:45 a.m. The first 100 people to register get a free T-shirt. The event is free and open to everyone. Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 322-8012 or Valerie Evans at mil 322-1540 for details.



Flag football season

Baumholder Sports seeks soldier players for its unit flag football teams. For information and to register call mil 485-7176/6671.

The 414th Base Support Battalion flag football season kicks off Sept. 2-4 with a pre-season tournament. The season starts Sept. 8. Units must submit their letter of intent to participate by Aug. 30 to their local fitness center. Call mil 322-8197 or 9617 for more information.

Golf charity event

The Wiesbaden Association of Good Neighbors German-American Club raised several thousand euros at their annual charity golf tournament July 27 at Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course. Nearly 150 German and American golfers competed including the youngest player from Hanau, Justin Fotter, age 15; and the oldest, former World War II Buffalo Soldier Cecil White, age 82, from Wiesbaden. Dr. Franz Walter, president of the Wiesbaden Association of Good Neighbors, presented €1,500 to the Federation of German-American Club to be used to support the organization's student exchange program and €500 to the 221st Base Support Battalion to be used for the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. (Courtesy of James Federline, Wiesbaden Association of Good Neighbors vice president)

More golf action

Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course features its 2003 Club Championship Aug. 16-17. Entry is \$40 including food and prizes. Non-members pay greens fees. Sign up by Aug. 13 at the Pro Shop. Call mil 485-7299 for details.

Sports and leisure

How to get started in volksmarching

By Donald Seltzer
Special to the Herald Union

Hiking trails through fields and woods, seeing Germany from a different perspective and spending quality time with friends and family — these are among the attractions of volksmarching.

You'll find it's easy to get started in the sport. Volksmarchers are welcoming and friendly. There's always someone who speaks English, so language won't be a barrier to having fun. Bring a friend or family member along and have a great time. Interested? Here's a quick guide to the sport.

Your first event will be an adventure. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing on that first trail. You can bring bottled water along, but free sweetened tea is available at the start and at control points along the trail.

More than 35 countries participate in volksmarching under the umbrella organization Internationaler Volkssportverband, the IVV. Sanctioned activities include walking, bicycling, cross country skiing, swimming and, recently, inline or roller skating.

Events are generally held on weekends. Distances are most often five, 10 or 20 kilometers (about three, six or 12 miles), but trails of other lengths, such as 42-kilometer marathons, are often offered.

Pick an event by checking the *Herald Union* every other issue or by pointing your browser to www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and clicking down to "Take a hike" through the "Lots more useful links" hyperlink.

Plot your driving route to the start. IVV



Photo by Karl Weisel

Volksmarchers enjoy a range of German landscapes while relaxing with friends and family.

direction signs are generally displayed to assist drivers. Most start halls, where volksmarchers register for, begin and end each event, will display the IVV flag if the weather is agreeable.

Buy your start cards in the hall; look for Startkarte signs. Prices are €1.30 for distance and event credit only or €3.60 for credit plus a souvenir. Start cards for marathons are sold for €4.50, including a patch and certificate, or €2.50 for credit only. Some clubs offer souvenirs from previous years, known as B-medals, for a slightly reduced price; others will charge a nominal fee of €1.50 for late registration.

Event start times occur within a window of several hours, and hikers must return to the start hall by a specified time known as the Zielschluss. Times are determined by calculating a pace of five kilometers per hour.

Trails range from flat, concrete sidewalks and roads to hilly, barely-there trails in woods and fields. Note that runner's strollers for children will negotiate most trails, but folding strollers with small, plastic wheels may prove unpleasantly difficult.

Routes may be marked by tape, chalk, sawdust or signs staked in the ground or attached to trees. Follow trail markings care-

fully — if it's been a while since you've seen a sign, make sure you are still on track. Officials at control points along the trail stamp start cards and offer refreshments.

After returning to the start hall look for the Stempelstelle (stamp point) where walkers have their distance and/or event books stamped for credit, and the Medaille ausgabe table where souvenirs are distributed.

The stamp placed in your record book is recognized worldwide. Optional record books to track distance and number of events completed may be purchased at events for €4. Starter books to record 10 events are sold for €2 and include a certificate and pin for when the book is completed. Be sure your complete local, non-military address is legibly printed on each record book.

Volksmarching milestones are reached every 500 kilometers and every 25 events; however, the first three initial milestones are reached at 10, 30 and 50 events. When submitting a record book for an award you'll need to produce the completed book that immediately precedes the current achievement.

Join a local club

Those who take to volksmarching can join a local club for the fun of being with people who enjoy the sport. It's also a great source of information.

While this isn't a comprehensive guide it should help you feel comfortable about trying this novel sport during your stay in Germany. Feel free to email me at volksmarch@hotmail.com if you have questions.

A glossary of volksmarch terms

B-medal — A souvenir that has been offered at a previous event usually available at a reduced price.

Internationaler Volkssportverband — Commonly referred to as the IVV, the International Federation of Popular Sports is the umbrella organization under which all national organizations fall. In Germany it's the Deutscher Volkssportverband (DVV) and in the United States it's the American Volkssport Association (AVA).

Medaille ausgabe — This refers to the distribution of souvenirs. You'll need to exchange your start card for the event's souvenir. Just don't forget to have your record books stamped first before picking up your souvenir.

Startkarte — Your start card is stamped at control points along

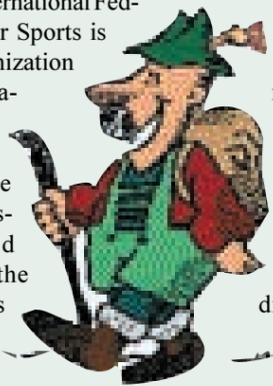
the trail, provides liability insurance coverage while on the trail, is proof that you earned the distance or event credit, and may be exchanged for a souvenir.

Stempelstelle — The folks at the stamping point in the start hall will need your start card in order to correctly notate the distance and/or event credit in your record books.

Streckenteilung — The trail splits here — make sure you're on the correct route for the distance you are hiking.

Werber — Brochures advertising upcoming events are provided for participants to collect. Some events offer early registration or have sample souvenirs on display.

Zielschluss — The time the hall closes. All participants need to be off the trail and have received their credit or souvenirs by this time.



Sports and leisure



Visitors marvel at the size of a pair of giant tortoises in the Darmstadt animal park.

Darmstadt's Vivarium

Zoo may be small but it boasts its share of attractions for all ages

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Darmstadt's Vivarium may not be the largest zoo you'll ever visit, nor feature the most extensive collection of animal species. But because of its modest size and visitor-friendly layout, it offers the perfect afternoon's outing for families with small children.

This time of year youngsters will especially enjoy watching the playful antics of baby snow owls, apes and bunnies as they explore their new worlds. Or they can observe as storks and herons tend to their young in nests high up in the trees of another enclosure. A petting zoo welcomes in visitors of all ages to use readily available brushes for a close encounter with a family of friendly goats.

Those with an interest in more exotic creatures can stroll through the indoor exhibits



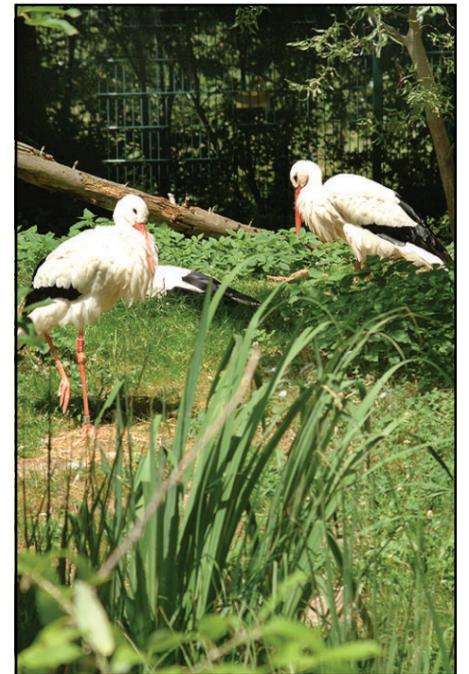
A young visitor has a face off with an Australian bearded lizard in the exotarium portion of the Darmstadt zoo. Various snakes, exotic fish and poisonous spiders are also featured.

featuring reptiles, amphibians and fish from far and wide. Piranha drift languorously in one aquarium while nearby rattlesnakes, pythons, toads and turtles occupy glass display cases. Huge lizards, furry spiders and colorful fish also inhabit the facility.

Some 700 animals from 150 animal species

are showcased in the Darmstadt zoo. Trails wind through a wooded area which leads visitors into a kangaroo enclosure, past ostriches and llamas, vultures and giant turtles, and to a large playground area.

An Italian restaurant is located just outside the Vivarium, and a guesthouse is lo-



Storks and herons gather around a pond and in nests in the surrounding trees of one enclosure.



A member of one of several ape species casts a quizzical eye at a photographer in the Vivarium.

cated within the zoo area.

Situated on the eastern edge of Darmstadt near the Technical University and the B-26 from Dieburg, the Vivarium is an easy drive from Hanau (take the B-45 in the direction of Dieburg and then follow the B-26 to Darmstadt). Set on the edge of the Odenwald and not far from Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne, visitors may also want to take a hike into the nearby forest. Several towers and a large play area are located in the forest between the Technical University and the nearby village of Traisa. Or drive into Darmstadt for a visit to the state museum — the Hessenlandmuseum — which offers a large collection of everything from renaissance furniture to dinosaur skeletons, modern artworks to age-old handicrafts.

Entrance to the Vivarium costs €3 for adults and €1 for children.

The Vivarium, located at Schnampelweg 4, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sept. 30. It has reduced hours during the fall and winter months.