

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: March 1, 2025
Re: *Company*

Depending on whether you have visited Raven Hill Discovery Center or not, the Animal Room is always a popular place! It is an orphanage for pet store animals who no longer have a home. Sometimes a pet becomes too expensive to feed. Often, kids lose interest and no one wants to take care of them anymore. They live out their lives at Raven Hill and enjoy being held by visitors. We do not have birds or mammals, because many visitors suffer from allergies. There are no venomous snakes here AND there is no such thing as poisonous snakes. Snakes inject venom with fangs. You don't get a "poison ivy-type" rash from touching a snake! Finally,

A painted turtle by species, not by artist



Painted turtles are one of a few species of turtles that are specially adapted to tolerate freezing temperatures for extended periods of time. They have an antifreeze-like substance in their blood that keeps their cells from freezing. We'll wait until it's warmer though. This guy hasn't lived in the wild since it was caught by someone as a baby and raised as a pet illegally for several years.

Checker's Michigan cousin, Milky!



My granite countertop works perfectly as camouflage for this baby milk snake, who is a member of the rat snake family, just like Checkers the corn snake. These little guys often end up in basements, gaining access through cracks in a house's foundation.

there are no Michigan animals in the Animal Room. For one thing, it is against the law. Most states and countries protect their animals and outlaw keeping them in captivity as pets. Another reason that there are no "wild" animals in the Animal Room is that they can transmit diseases to our pet store animals.

Sometimes, Raven Hill receives animals that are not appropriate for the Animal Room. That's when I end up with company at home. Right now, my temporary friends include a painted turtle and a baby milk snake. Like most of us humans, both reptiles are anxious for the warm weather to come. When temperatures permit, my company will return to their homes in the wild and I'll be on my own once again!!

Raven Hill Discovery Center is open during the winter for regular weekend hours, which are noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. To make an appointment for weekdays or other times, call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org. Be sure to schedule field trips, birthday parties or scout groups soon. A lot of spring field trip days are already booked! Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you here soon!

Cheri