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129 S. Mulberry St
Jackson, GA

Wednesday, April 09, 2008

Who lost a zebra?

Diane Glidewell
Reporter

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Butts County Deputy Zane Perry holds a young zebra's lead in the thigh-high grass beside Exit 201 as he waits for Noah's Ark to take custody of the zebra. Photo by Diane Glidewell

Just about lunchtime on Tuesday, April 8 the Butts County Sheriff's Office received a call from a motorist traveling on I-75 that there was a zebra beside Exit 201. Upon responding to the call, the Butts County ICE team observed a young zebra grazing just south of the exit off of the northbound lanes of I-75. The Sheriff's deputies contacted Georgia Fish and Wildlife, and Ranger First Class Wil Smith of the Macon office was dispatched.

"I spent two years on the Georgia coast and was used to calls about alligators, but this is the first call I've ever had about a zebra," said Smith.

The zebra was a young female about six months of age; she was wearing a halter with a red lead line attached. She had suffered some deep cuts to her back legs and hindquarters but otherwise seemed healthy. She was calm and seemed used to being handled.

Smith released the zebra to Noah's Ark of Locust Grove to be held as evidence and to obtain veterinary attention. She was loaded into the Noah's Ark van without difficulty.

Smith explained that a special permit for exotic animals is required by law to keep a zebra. Therefore, his office would be waiting for an owner to contact it and verify that he or she was in possession of the zebra legally.

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