

# Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

## Animal Facts

Breed: PATAGONIAN CAVY

Names / Sex / Age:

Joey                      F                      5

Previous Home: Found abandoned, then relocated by a good Samaritan to Black Pine.

Native to: Arid grasslands of Argentina in South America

Weight: 30-40 pounds, up to 18" tall

Life Expectancy: 10 years

Status: Good, but declining

Diet: Grasses and other plants

Facts:

- Also known as a "mara"
- Cavies are rodents
- They are closely related to the capybara
- They can run up to 35 miles per hour to escape predators, can jump up to six feet high, and can dig and burrow
- In the wild they often live in groups of as many as 70 animals, and will mate for life
- Due to the introduction of European wild hares into their habitat, competition for food, cavy populations are on the decline
- Cavies are most active during the day, and are still alert at night - a defensive mechanism developed because of the many predators who prey upon them
- Their long ears not only help them hear well, they also serve to increase their body surface to help cool them in hot weather

Personal History:

Joey, named because she looks like a baby kangaroo, was found abandoned, stuck under a fence in someone's back yard at their home. The homeowner was familiar with cavies and attempted to keep her, but things didn't work out. Her caregiver asked Black Pine to give the animal a permanent home, and donated \$1000 to help build her a habitat.

In 2009 Eagle Scout completed Joey's new outdoor habitat.