

Baby zebra named Evidence settles into new home

By [SANDRA ECKSTEIN](#)

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Evidence, the baby zebra found injured along I-75 April 8, arrived with a police escort at his new home in Locust Grove Friday afternoon to the chants of school children and a donated cake and balloons.

He had been recovering at the veterinary school at Auburn University.



Noah's Ark

Officials at Noah's Ark, a rescue and rehabilitation center in Locust Grove for animals and children, took in Evidence — the name stuck after police kept referring to him that way — immediately after he was injured and welcomed him back.

No one claimed the little hooper after he was found grazing along the side of the busy highway with numerous wounds last month. Vets believe he was injured falling from a truck.

Evidence, the wayward zebra that fell off a truck last month on I-75, is in his new home at Noah's Ark. **Low Engineers, an Atlanta firm that has zebras as a mascot, gave Evidence the ride home after learning the center did not have a horse trailer.**

Noah's Ark had taken him to Auburn in the van they use to transport the children that live in the group home.

During his return trip, the Alabama State Patrol gave Evidence an escort to the state line, said Diane Smith, assistant to the director at Noah's Ark. Locust Grove police escorted him home once he hit the Henry County limits.

"He's eating well, he's drinking well, he's playing," Smith said. "He's even allowing people to love on him a little bit."

But he's not completely healed. He still has a catheter, and Smith said vets from Auburn will pay a visit in four to six weeks to remove it. While Noah's Ark has been a savior to the small, homeless zebra, he's also returned some help to the group. The center depends on donations to care for the more than 1,000 animals, including many exotics, and could not afford his surgery. Yet they approved it believing that help would come.

It did. People have donated about \$7,200 for Evidence's medical care, which covers his costs so far. And donors also have agreed to buy a horse trailer for the center and build a small barn where Evidence can live once he is [healthy](#). In the meantime, he'll be living in a stall fashioned out of part of the back porch of the children's home at the center.

"For now he'll need constant monitoring, so that's fine," Smith said.

She said Evidence won't be on public display right away, but once he's healed and comfortable, people touring the center will be able to see him. Anyone interested in donating to Evidence's continued care can call 770-957-0888 or go to www.noahs-ark.org.



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Evidence, the zebra, joins Ark animals

By Jaya Franklin

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Nearly a month after Evidence, a baby **zebra**, was found injured and wandering along interstate 75 near the Butts-Lamar County line, the animal has finally arrived at his new home.

The **zebra** was greeted by news crews and people from across Georgia, as the now-famous animal was welcomed to Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center and Children's Care home.

"I think it's wonderful," said Billie Swisher, 76, of Union City. "I would've brought my camera, if I knew that he was going to be here. That **zebra** put this place on the map."

Evidence arrived at Noah's Ark Friday afternoon for a welcome-home party. The three-month-old stood quietly, and allowed children and adults to pet him as they gazed at the beauty of the animal.



"He has a 10-inch laceration, his urethra is completely shattered, along with soft tissue damage, bruises, and two of his baby teeth were knocked out," said Diane Smith, assistant director of Noah's Ark. It is believed that Evidence sustained his injuries from being struck by a car while on the interstate.

Noah's Ark staff was contacted by the Department of Natural Resources, after the **zebra** was found abandoned and abused. "The staff went down there and got him," Smith added. "Our veterinarian determined that his injuries were too severe to handle here."

According to Smith, Auburn University's Veterinary School in Alabama, which treated Evidence's injuries, was the first to contact the center about keeping the **zebra**.

"The vets and students have grown attached to the **zebra**," she said.

Smith said the center is thankful for the support it has received from the community to help the **zebra** during his hardship.

Lowe Engineers, a civil engineering, mapping and land surveying company, adopted a **zebra** as its corporate mascot, and after hearing about Evidence, wanted to do something to help. Lowe Engineers' staff volunteered to transport the **zebra** from Alabama to Locust Grove to his permanent home.

"It was about a two-and-a-half-hour drive," said Chris Owens, principal of Lowe Engineers, who noted that the company has about 20 trucks and three boats that are **zebra** striped. "The **zebra** was fine during the ride."

The staff at Noah's Ark described the **zebra** as being shy and skittish, but because of the kindness of many, he will now have watchful eyes to ensure his care and supervision on a regular basis.

"We have a barn built especially for him," said Smith. "It's a 12-by-24-foot barn, which makes it easier to get in and work."

Smith said in four to six weeks, the veterinarians and students from Auburn will come to visit the animal and take out his catheter.

For more information on Noah's Ark and Evidence, log on to: www.noahs-ark.org

**Baby zebra named Evidence goes home
Injured zebra will start his new life at Noah's Ark**

By [SANDRA ECKSTEIN](#)

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After a rough start to his short life, Evidence, the baby zebra found injured along I-75 on April 8, is going to his new home in Locust Grove Friday.

Police found the zebra, estimated at the time to be 2 to 3 months old, grazing along the side of the busy highway.



Badly injured in an apparent fall from a truck, the zebra was taken in by Noah's Ark, a rescue and rehabilitation center in Locust Grove for animals and children.

But for the past three weeks the little zebra — named Evidence after police kept referring to him that way — has been at the vet school at Auburn University in Alabama, getting patched up.

Noah's Ark / Special

[\(ENLARGE\)](#)

Charles Hedgecoth, Jr. (in van) and Charles Hedgecoth, Sr. of Noah's Ark load Evidence, a severely injured zebra found along I-75, into their van April 9 to transport him to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University.

Officials decided on Thursday he's ready to return to Noah's Ark.

"He's eating well, he's drinking well, he's playing," said Diane Smith, assistant to the director at Noah's Ark. "He's even allowing people to love on him a little bit."

The shelter, which didn't have a horse trailer or a barn, has gotten some help from outside donations.



Lowe Engineers, an Atlanta firm that has zebras as a mascot, volunteered to go to Auburn and pick up Evidence. Another donor bought Noah's Ark a horse trailer, while a third has agreed to purchase a small barn where he can live. In the meantime, he'll be living in a stall fashioned out of part of the back porch of the children's care home at the center.

"For now he'll need constant monitoring, so that's fine," Smith said.

Evidence is feeling better, but he's not completely healed yet. He still has a catheter and will have to return to Auburn in about a month to have it removed.

It's still unknown where the zebra was headed, or who owned him, when he wound up on the side of the interstate.

Donors moved by the baby's plight also have donated about \$7,200, enough to cover his medical bills to date, Smith said.

"Not only have people donated for Evidence, but they've also rediscovered us," said Smith.
"That's been a great part of all this, too."

Anyone interested in donating to Evidence's continued care can call 770-957-0888 or go to www.noahs-ark.org.