

In the Edmonton Journal on March 21, 2022 "Habitat for meerkats unveiled at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Meerkats are the latest animal to greet guests at the Edmonton Valley Zoo."

"Ah Ha!" I say to myself. "I love meercats. I'd better get myself over there to get some shots." Then I vaguely remember in my dark distant past.....I think I went many years ago to photograph Meerkats. I find, written in an old journal, the following.

June 2006

In search of solitude, I go to the Zoo with my camera to have a quiet day on my own. I want to shoot Meerkats. A small adorable-looking African member of the mongoose family. They have a broad head, large eyes and a pointed snout. Some years ago, I spent a magical hour capturing them at this zoo, sitting up, looking brightly about and together making little family scenes. I'd like more of the same today.

At the office, I learn that there are only three meerkats left. One, prone to seizures, lives in the office. The other two, sisters, share a house. One of them is quite ferocious and bites people and when a meerkat bites, it locks its jaws and doesn't unlock then till she's ready.

I ask if I may photograph them. They see my gear and say yes. One. They put the mellow meerkat sister on a leash and take her outside on the grass. I note she has only three legs. Hmmm, not exactly what I had in mind but?

How often does one get an opportunity to shoot a three-legged, mellow meerkat on a leash in the grass? Great wildlife photography op!