

THE BIG CAT TIMES



HELPING BIG CATS WORLDWIDE



Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity at:

smile.amazon.com/

For every purchase you make using this portal a donation will be made to the big cats. It's a free and easy way to give without any extra cost!

BIG CAT RESCUE LENDS TO SUPPORT TO PROJECTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Big Cat Rescue not only provides the best care possible to our nearly 100 residents, but also lends a helping hand to organizations in need across the country as well as globally. Our most recent projects include; assisting with the design and development of a big cat sanctuary in Spain, funding enclosure construction for displaced jaguars in Belize, and working with the government of Mexico to provide housing for big cats that are no longer permitted to be used in circus acts. Thanks to our wonderful supporters we are able to provide guidance and funds that will directly benefit big cats world wide.

MEXICO BANS BIG CATS IN CIRCUSES AND AGREES TO BUILD A SANCTUARY

On April 21st in Mexico City, Mexico, Carole Baskin, CEO of Big Cat Rescue, Antonio Franyuti, Founder of Animal Heroes, and Lourdes Lopes, Federal Deputy for the Green Party PVEM, entered into a Declaration that they would work together to find and build sanctuaries to care for the big cats who have been relieved from performing thanks to a ban on their exploitation. The contract was signed following a two-hour presentation to the media and members of Mexico's congress. The commonly referred to Circus Ban, even though it extends far past just circus abuse, prohibits the use of wild animals in public performances. We hope that the government will also include the rampant cub photo schemes that litter tourist areas.



Photos by Jamie Veronica unless noted.

BIG CAT RESCUE HAS NEW TOUR TIMES

Reservations are now required for all tours.

Call 1-888-316-5875 or go online at: zerve.com/bigcatrescue

Day Tour: Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 3 PM, Sat & Sun 10 AM & 3 PM

Kids Tour: Sat & Sun 12 PM

Feeding Tour: Wed, Fri & Sat 9 AM

Keeper Tour: Sat & Sun 10 AM



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Big Cat Rescue
12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625

GO PAPERLESS

Subscribe to receive The Big Cat Times digitally at:
tinyurl.com/m2mgylg

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TAMPA, FLA.
PERMIT NO. 3084



Vanessa Fernandez Thomas and her adoring husband, Omar Gallegos, had been instrumental in bringing this day to fruition. After spending many months petitioning Congress, and creating and posting more than 200 enormous billboards across the country, that exposed the cruelty inherent in making wild animals perform, Mexico passed one of its most forward thinking laws to protect wild animals. The new law made it illegal to use wild animals in circus acts or in any kind of performance. The law was set to become enforceable in July 2015.

Those who have made money from abusing lions and tigers did everything they could to prevent this day. They boasted to the media that they would kill the animals if they were no longer permitted to use them for profit. In turn the media pointed blame at the Mexican government for causing the animals to be threatened. More than five hundred angry circus carnies surrounded the building to try and prevent Mexico's Congress from being able to go inside to vote for the bill. In contrast 80% of the citizens polled were in favor of the law.

The purpose of the day's press conference was to show that the public supports the law, the international community is prepared to help with the placement of the wild animals, to announce the Green Party's commitment to build sanctuaries for the animals, and to amend the law to prohibit the owners from killing their animals just to spite the authorities.

Sitting on the panel, before 6 television cameras and approximately 30 interested parties, including Vanessa and Omar, and reporters was Jesus Sesma Suarez, the Deputy of the Green Party in DF. Jesus had been a long time voice for the animals and was a key player in getting the first

Mexican law to prohibit cruelty to domestic animals passed. His most recent work with regards to banning the use of wild animals in circus and performing acts was supported by the masses, but brought down upon him and his family a rain of threats from the circus owners. Despite their attacks he bravely moved forward and along with the Green Party championed the bill through Congress.

Also on the panel were Carlos Puentes who is a Federal Senator of the Republic of Mexico and thought to be a favorite for the position of Governor in the next elections and Antonio Franyuti the vegan leader of Animal Heroes. Antonio and his small band of 30 animal advocates made a huge impact on thousands of wild animals when they employed the power of the social influence. In a calculated and well thought out strategy, they contacted celebrities and asked them to personally call members of Congress to ask for their support of the Circus Ban.



Carole Baskin shared more than 20 years of knowledge with the panel and media through the use of photos, videos, and protocols in her presentation. From building the facilities, to providing humane and adequate care for the big cats, to utilizing local and international volunteers and interns to staff a big cat sanctuary.

The presentation was enthusiastically accepted and the decision was made to move forward with the construction and development of a new big cat sanctuary in Chiapas, Mexico. Chiapas is a great location based on Panthera's



Jaguar project in the region and the potential for international visitors and volunteers who wish to experience the wild jungles of Mexico.

Mexican authorities agreed to share information with the global rescue community in order to make the transition from lives of deprivation and abuse to sanctuaries as smooth as possible. The Congress has extended the time for enforcing the ban until October, so that the sanctuary can be started and arrangements can be made for placement of as many big cats as the circus owners are willing to hand over. In addition laws will be put in place to penalize owners for killing their animals to spite the government.

Following the conference Omar was asked by Jesus and Carlos to oversee the building of the new sanctuary. Omar and Vanessa will see to it the funds are used to build large enclosures of 1500 square feet per cat, with a 2.5 acre vacation area to be shared with 20 cats who will be rotated through individually or in family groups.

Big Cat Rescue has pledged to assist with the design and implementation of the sanctuary to ensure the safety of the facility for the cats, the keepers, the visitors, and the surrounding area. We will gladly provide training to the keepers hired to staff the sanctuary as well as promote their volunteer opportunities to our own volunteers and interns. We are sure our volunteer veterinarians would also be happy to provide aid to newly rescued big cats as well as spay and neuter them to ensure that these are the last of their line to be born in cages.

Mexico has joined an ever growing number of countries to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. We hope that the US will soon follow.

BCR PROVIDES TRAINING TO HEAD BIG CAT KEEPER AT PRIMADOMUS IN SPAIN

Nearly 2 years ago Big Cat Rescue was recruited to offer our expertise and guidance in the development of a rescue center in Spain that will be broadening their focus from primates to now include big cats.

AAP Primadomus is located on more than 400 acres in Villena and currently houses a variety of primates that have been rescued from private ownership, circuses, and laboratories. They are now expanding their focus to also



rescue countless lions and tigers that are in need across their country.

In an effort to prepare for this project nearly a dozen experts were invited to a symposium that focused on sharing information regarding the proper care of big cats in captivity, emergency protocol development, and enclosure design.

Big Cat Rescue President Jamie Veronica and volunteer veterinarian



Justin Boorstein traveled to Spain and joined experts from Italy, South Africa, France, Austria, the Netherlands and all across the United Kingdom.

Over the course of three days the team worked tirelessly to provide as much information as possible to the members of not only AAP Primadomus, but its origin center Stitching AAP.

Stitching AAP is a rescue center for apes, monkeys and small exotic animals in the Netherlands that was founded more than 35 years ago.

Big Cat Rescue has continued to work with AAP remotely throughout the development process. Using skype we have poured over floor plans to give our recommendations on the design and materials used for the big cat enclosures.

Earlier this year we invited Primadomus' head of the big cat department, Olga Bellon, to stay with us for a few weeks and get a crash course on everything involved with the day-to-day care of the big cats. Olga was trained in every aspect of the sanctuary operations including cleaning enclosures, feeding,

enrichment, operant training, and veterinary procedures. We provided Olga with digital copies of every training class we offer as well as all of our documentation and protocols for the care of big cats. Since her return



to Spain we have stayed in touch and continue to offer support as they near their first big cat rescue this summer.

We are so pleased to provide assistance to organizations that are saving big cats across the globe!

DISPLACED JAGUARS FIND REFUGE IN BELIZE

In October of last year Big Cat Rescue President Jamie Veronica and volunteer veterinarian Justin Boorstein travelled to Belize for a two part mission.

The first part was to provide free spay/neuter and routine vet care services to a rural community near San Ignacio. Dr. Boorstein joined a team of veterinarians, brought together by Clara Lee Arnold and the Hopkins Belize Humane Society, who spent the day examining dogs and cats, providing flea and parasite prevention, as well as performing minor surgeries. Nearly 40 animals were spayed and neutered throughout the day.



The second part was to visit the Belize Zoo to discuss their Jaguar Rehabilitation Program and the possibility of Big Cat Rescue becoming involved.

The zoo should really be called a sanctuary. (A point we discussed with the staff there considering the shift in public opinion towards zoos in recent years.) All of the resident animals were native to the country and had been rescued either from being kept illegally as pets or after having been injured in the wild. The enclosures were also very much like that of a sanctuary in that they were very large and provided so much foliage cover that the animals could stay hidden from the public if they so preferred. It was clear that the enclosures were designed with the comfort and needs of the animals first and the expectations of the public second.

The region has a very healthy population of Jaguars with the network of protected park lands connected via the Jaguar Corridor initiated by Panthera Founder Alan Rabinowitz.

Occasionally older or injured jaguars will venture away from these protected areas in search of easier prey. Unfortunately this prey is in the form of livestock which is the lively hood of the farmers.

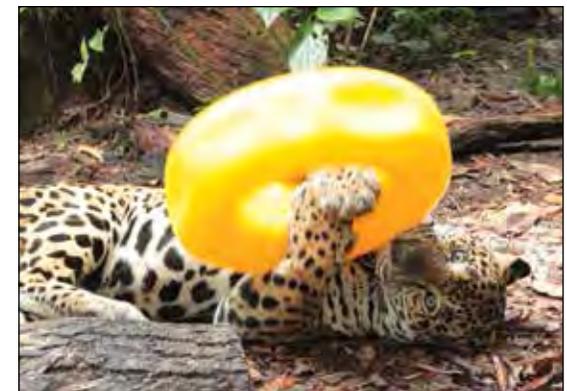
In the past these nuisance jaguars would have been shot and killed at first site. This is what prompted the Belize Zoo's Jaguar Rehabilitation Program. This program provides a permanent home in captivity to these problem jaguars. Because the wild jaguar population is so dense, experts have advised us that there is nowhere left to release these nuisance cats.

After having discussed all of the options, weighing the pros and cons, with Panthera's Jaguar Program

Executive Director Dr. Howard Quigley, Big Cat Rescue has decided to help fund the construction of additional enclosures to expand the zoo's rescue efforts. The new enclosures will house the two newest rescued jaguars, Lady Hill and Mistletoe.



It was surprising to see how well the jaguars currently living at the zoo had adapted. They were healthy and seemed happy and content. Their spacious natural enclosures were not on exhibit, but rather in a secluded area of the zoo. Each jaguar has a large enclosure with thick foliage and swimming pond. In preparation for their visit Jamie and Justin gathered a collection of big cat appropriate toys to donate to the resident jaguars in honor of Big Cat Rescue's staff, volunteers, and interns.



The construction of the new enclosures is underway and Jamie has provided support along the way with advice on how to build enclosures and swimming ponds on a budget which will save the zoo thousands of dollars.

Photos: Green Party, Carole Baskin, Animal Heroes, and Vanessa Fernandez Thomas, signing of the Declaration, Cameron the lion, Alex the tiger, big cat compound at Primadomus, construction of the big cat compound, Olga Bellon, Lauren Buckingham, Bethann Bluder, and Dr. Boorstein moving Reise the cougar, Dr. Boorstein at spay/neuter day in Belize, Lucky Boy rescued from abandoned tourist attraction in Belize, Rocky playing with a toy donated by BCR.

**7,300 PEOPLE HAVE MADE
THE PLEDGE. HAVE YOU?
PLEDGE TO BE CIRCUS FREE!**



If you love lions and tigers and elephants, please show them you care by making a pledge to not attend circuses with wild animal acts.

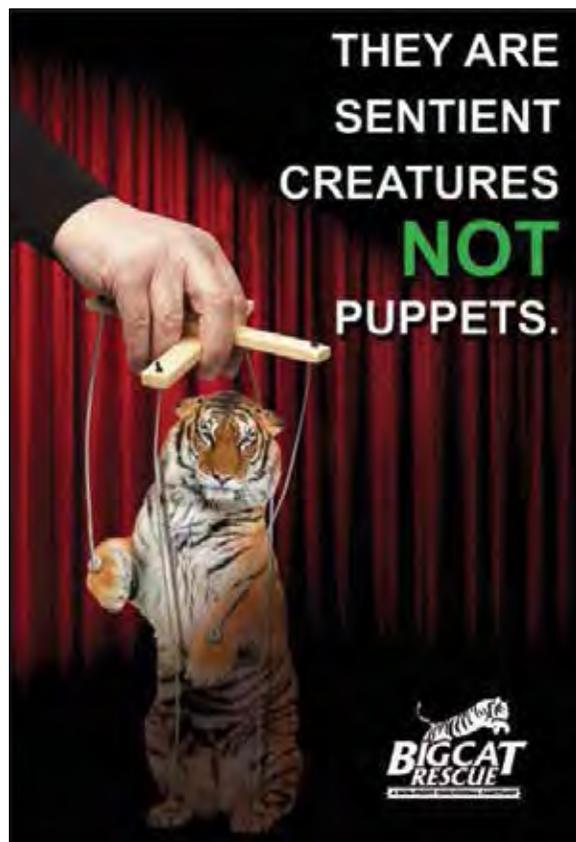
The circus makes big cats and elephants do unnatural tricks like jumping through rings of fire or balancing on balls. We believe the animals perform because they are afraid of the circus trainers, who use painful bull hooks, electric prods and whips. Tigers and lions should not live in tiny circus cages with barely any room to move. And elephants should not be tied up with ropes and chains so short they can't even walk.

Big Cat Rescue would like to see ONE MILLION kids and adults pledge to be CIRCUS FREE! We promise to make sure the politicians in Washington know that all of us who LOVE wild animals want the circus to stop exploiting them! Big cats and elephants belong in the wild...not in circus cages and wagons.

You can make the Circus Free pledge when you visit Big Cat Rescue or by going online to:

NoCircusKids.com

Please make the pledge today and tell your friends!



ROARING THANKS TO OUR AUTOMATIC SUSTAINING DONORS!

Supporters who make their donations by monthly, quarterly or annual automatic donations from their bank account, credit card or PayPal become members of our Sustaining Donor Society. For donors, this method of contributing has two advantages. First, it saves the time it takes to write checks or go online repeatedly to donate. Second, it conveniently spreads the donations out across the year for those who choose the monthly option.

For the sanctuary, these donations are particularly helpful because it allows us to better plan our cash flow to care for the cats and process donations at the lowest cost. These automated donations can be changed or discontinued at any time.

Members of our Sustaining Donor Society receive special recognition on our website, in the Big Cat Times, and on a sign in our tour waiting area. You can set up an automated donation by emailing finance@bigcatrescue.org or on our website click the Give Now button, and on the donation box select the frequency of the donation.

ON BEHALF OF THE CATS, THANK YOU!

This list is maintained manually, so if you make regular automatic donations and are not listed, please accept our apologies and email Finance@bigcatrescue.org so we can correct the list.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh | Graham & Jenny Dudley | Linda Howard | Daniel Pursel & Lisa Minich | Naomi Shank |
| Susan & Mazhar Al-Abed | Aaron Dunlap | Alice Hyde | Sunny Minorics | Clyde Sharpley |
| Christine Anderson | Kristi & Andrea Earle | Jocelyn Ivanoff | Dennis J. Mizdail Jr | Stephanie L. Shiley |
| Pamela & David Anderson | Michelle Eisner | Kathryn Ives | Christina Modl | Deborah Smith |
| Kathleen Andrews | Judith Embry | Douglas Jackson | Jan M. Monk | Jason C. Sosinski |
| Emily Arnold | Scott Ewing | Deepa Jansen | Joyce Moody | Taylor Spencer |
| Daveen Aubin | Christina Farah | Rudy Jasko | Larry S. Moore | John & Sandra Speziale |
| Nicole Babyak | Melinda A. Faulkner | Beverly Jennings | Carol Myers | Kathleen M. Spiegelberg |
| Elda L. Bader | Lorrie Fetrow | Allison Jirsa | Roger & Rebecca Nagle | Ernest & Lois Spinelli |
| Jenny Barker | Donna Fontaine | Sara Jouin-Nash | Karen Nakamaki | Ronald Squibbs |
| Marvin & Ellen Barnes | Wladimir Foo | Carol A. Judge | Lisa A. Nance | Sheila J. Squires |
| Howard Baskin | Sharyn Fox | Erik Jungk | Nicole Naser | Rosemarie Stadelman |
| Monique Beatty | Alexis Foxx | Laura Karcher | Donald S Natterer | Nicole Steed |
| Nancy Bellamy | Dawn Freeman | Aparna Kareti | Michael Neblock | Anne & Robert Steele |
| Susan M. Bemis | Jeanine Fultz | Sali Katz | Bruce Newborough | Leone E. Stewart |
| Elyssa Bernard | Jeffrey Fusco | Linda Kemper | Joan Nodwell | Richard & Lee Ann Stiles |
| Melissa E. Black | Cheryl Fuson | Ann Ketterer | Mikhail V. Novgorodov | Joseph Street |
| Linda Boder | Amy Gamber | Jeena Khan | David Nugent | Jessica Stull |
| Amy J. Bown | Felicia Gardella | Hunter T. Kingsley | Carole & Dennis O'Connell | Leslie Suppan |
| Joyce Brady | Marilynn Gash | Sylvia Kinoshita | Lynn O'Donnell | Margaret Sweeney |
| Gaston Moran Celayes & Andrea Bretal | Pat Gaspar | Dayle Kline | Pamela Olson Koonts | Christine Dorchak & Carey Theil |
| Amy G. Brown | Kerry & Don Gilbert | William Konopaske | Alison Owens | Donna Tosoni |
| Donna Brown | Nathalie Gilder | Wanda Kothlow | Andrea Papageorge | Catherine Traversone |
| Vivian Bullion | James Godshalk | Mary E. Krehbiel | Adrienne Parkhurst | Christopher D. Treichel |
| Barbara B. Bunn | Diane & Stanley Goldfarb | Rebecca & John E. Lawrence | Robin Parks | Amy Truax |
| Donald & Lynn Bush | Jeremy Goodman | Jeffrey Layson | Ann E. Pattin | Gio Valiante |
| Mary Byrd | Terri Gott | William Leary | Patricia A. Perkins | Eugenia Van Bremen |
| Daniel Carbone | Susan Gotta | Marie Anne Lefebvre | David Peterson | Griffin Vancil |
| Stacie Carpenter | Sanam Govari | Rachel Leigh | Tanya Pierce | Nancy Vaskas |
| Steven Carter | Douglas Graham | Linda Lemmer | Christophe Pirrie | Jon Ventimiglia |
| Eduardo Castro | James Grant | Jessica Lindquist | Michael Plummer | Joel & Lani Walker |
| Jennifer Caswell | Renee & Michele Grimmett | Robert B. Logan | Melinda Poss | Jack Weaver |
| Jodina Chagnon | Joanna Haasis | Jack Longo | Anna Price | Audra Webb |
| Diane J. Chase | Arthur Haines | Mary D. Lucas | Collins Purchase | Elizabeth Webb |
| Judy Chesnutt | Darla Haines | Suzanne & Alan Lucas | Pattie Quinn-Bennett | Jennifer Wellins |
| Jane Colbert | Judy Hajer | Greg Lutzen | Alexandra C. Raffiani | Barbara White |
| Florence Colomb | Fran Hamilton | Nicki & Paul Lyford | Anita Rallo | Patricia White |
| Elizabeth Conklin | Havelin Hamilton | Michael & Krista Maddox | Alice Raum | Cynthia A. Whitehouse |
| Nicholette Cotter | Larry Han | Toby Malina | Lynne Raybould | Ida L. Widmann |
| Tessa Coupar | Gordon & Hollace Hannaway | Sole Riley Marittimi | Mary Raymond | Lisa Williams |
| Diana Cowans | Patricia Hannon | Margarida D. Marton | Paul Reavis | Eric Willis |
| Emily Craddick | Kristen Hansen | Sindhu Mathew | Colin Reeves | Annette Winterbottom |
| Michele Crissinger | Emily Harris | Ken & Cindy Maybury | Todd & Susan Richerson | Andrea & Richard Wistner |
| Haley Cristea | Teresa & Sean Harris | Elizabeth McCaulley | Pamela Rodriguez | Marsha Woerner |
| Leslie Crowell | Steven & Anne Harrison | Monique McGee | Stephanie Rogers | Susan Wolf |
| Kelly Cruickshank | MaryLouise Hawken | Judy S. McKeoun | Sue Rohling | Christie Wood |
| Ana Cruz | Christina Heinle | Melinda McLane | Amanda J. Rubin | Tracey, Tim, & Leo Yang |
| Brandy L. Cumming | Marion Hellthaler | Teri McLeish | Joan Rutherford | Patricia S. Ziehm |
| Alan Cunningham | Gary Henderson | Margaret L. McManus | Marilyn L. Salazar | Mary Zieten |
| Cecelia Curtis | Terry Hess | Jim Meeks | Ali N. Salur | Dave Zunac |
| Elizabeth Daniels | Mary & Craig Higgins | Mindi & Daniel Meeks | Maria Sarno | |
| Laura & Dave Davis | M. Diane Hodson | Charles & Patricia Miller | Doris Schlichter | |
| Robert Derosa | Kristen M. Holtz | Madelaine & Sandra Miller | Sheila Seitz | Thank you all so much for your deciation to the big cats and for supporting our mission! |
| Janice Devine | Leslie Homan | Marcia Miller | Phil Sellery | |
| Roberta L. Dougherty | Yvonne M. Homan | Todd Miller | Kaushik Sen | |
| Dawn Douglas | Carroll A. Hood | | Jennifer M. Senn | |
| | Nancy Hoppe | | | |

GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS



Time Honored Genuine Big Cat Rescue Gray S, M, L, & XL **\$29.75** XXL **\$31.89**



Keep Calm and Big Cat Rescue Green or Orange S, M, L, & XL **\$19.05** XXL **\$21.05**



Luminous Leopard, Fitted Cut S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Tiger Poop Brewed Daily at Big Cat Rescue S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Lion Outburst, Fitted Cut S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Panthera Tigris V-neck S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Roaring Motors Lion Tee S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



King of Beards Tee Blue or Brown S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Rhinestone Fitted Cut, Stretchy Tiger, Snow Leopard or Leopard S, M, L, XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



Rhinestone Tank Snow Leopard S, M, L, XL **\$22.26**



Tigers Photo 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



Fidel Cap Embroidered with BCR & Running Cat Black or Khaki **\$20.12**



Embroidered Baseball Cap White BCR Logo **\$22.40**



BCR Supporter Bracelet **\$3.68**



Leopard Clicky Pen Rotating message w/ each click **\$4.00**



Bengali Tiger Mouse Pad **\$15.84**



BCR Tumbler 16.oz **\$17.05**



Big Cats Photo 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



Crazy Cat Lady Board Game **\$26.54**



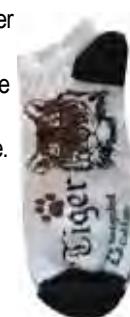
Crazy Cat Lady Toy 5.25" comes with 6 cats **\$15.84**



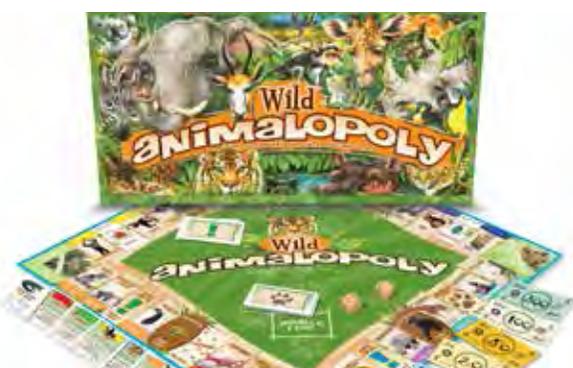
Neck Pillow **\$13.70** Choose Tiger or Lion



Collapsible Tiger Purse Hook Keep your purse off the floor hang from table. **\$29.75**



Medium Socks Women 6-11 & Men 5-10 **\$9.49 ea.** Choose White Lion w/BCR Logo, Black Tiger w/ BCR Logo, Lion March, or Shorty Tiger made of recycled materials



Animal-opoly Themed Monopoly Game **\$28.54**



12" Dream Eyes Tiger **\$15.48** Snow Leopard 7" **\$10.56** 11" **\$15.91**



14" Lioness & Cub **\$35.10**



BCR Photo Collage License Plate Frame features 18 resident big and little cats of Big Cat Rescue. Standard size and four holes make easy installation. **\$15.84**



BCR Ribbon Magnet Gold or Silver **\$8.35**



Carabiner Key Ring Choose Gold, Black or Blue **\$5.21 each**



Engraved Wood BCR Pocket Knife **\$11.70** Lighter **\$7.35**

ORDER ON PAGE 10 OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: LEOPARDS - PANTHERA PARDUS

Size and Appearance: The leopard is the smallest member of the 4 “great cats” and most closely resembles its cousin the jaguar. Leopards vary in length from 3-6 ft with a tail length of 22-43 inches, and stand 17-30 inches high at the shoulder. Males weigh between 80-150 pounds and females between 60-100 pounds. This spotted cat has short powerful limbs, heavy torso, thick neck, and long tail. Its short sleek coat varies greatly from pale straw and gray buff to bright, deep ochre and chestnut, and sometimes black (found mostly in wetter, dense forests). Large black spots are grouped into rosettes on the shoulders, upper arms, back, flanks and haunches, smaller scattered spots appear on the lower limbs, head, throat and chest, and the belly has large black blotches.



Interesting Facts: The leopard is capable of running just under 40 miles per hour for brief periods. It can leap more than 20 feet horizontally, and 10 feet vertically. It is also a very adept swimmer. This cat, in its melanistic color phase, is often mistakenly referred to as a black panther.



Habitat: The leopard can adapt to almost any type of habitat that provides it with sufficient food and cover, which excludes only the interior of large deserts.

Distribution: Throughout Africa, from the Arabian Peninsula through Asia to Manchuria and Korea.

Reproduction and Offspring: Leopards are capable of breeding at 2-3 years of age, and produce 1-3 cubs after a 90-100 day gestation. The cubs become independent between 13-18 months. Siblings may remain together for several months after leaving the mother before separating. In captivity, leopards have lived over 20 years, as compared to 10-11 in the wild.

Social System and Communication:

Leopards are solitary cats, and use the same methods as the other cats for defining their territory: scent marking, feces, and scratch marks. It has a variety of vocalizations including grunting, growling, hissing and meowing. One of their most recognized sounds is their distance call which sounds something like someone sawing wood.

Hunting and Diet:

Leopards are very opportunistic animals and have an extremely flexible diet. Their main diet consists of over 30 different species including: medium sized antelopes (reedbuck, impala, Tommy’s gazelles) and the young of larger species (topi, hartebeest, wildebeest, zebra) as the primary food sources, with hares, birds and small carnivores rounding out the list. In order to keep other animals from stealing their food they will drag their kills high up into the tree tops so they can eat at leisure.



Principal Threats: This species has been (and is still) illegally hunted throughout its range for sport, and for its fur.

Meet Sabre: Sabre, a male black leopard, was 3 years old when he arrived at Big Cat Rescue in 1995 twenty years ago. Though he was only supposed to be housed here temporarily, his former owner moved and left no forwarding address. Sabre is very playful and fun loving and always has a mischievous look on his face. If it weren’t for the his fur being peppered in gray you would never guess he was such an old guy. **You can help us provide a wonderful life for Sabre by sponsoring him. See page 8 for info and page 10 to order.**

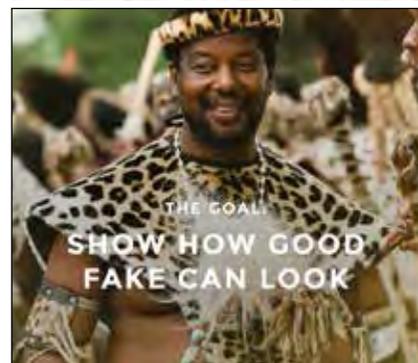


MORE LEOPARDS ARE KILLED EACH YEAR THAN ANY OTHER BIG CAT

While leopards are also threatened from loss of habitat and conflict with people, the demand for their skins is one of the main causes of their decline and has landed them on the “near threatened” list by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Once you’re on that list, it’s hard to get off it.



Panthera’s Furs for Life Leopard Project is providing a simple and sustainable solution that protects leopards but also supports local culture. Collaborating with digital designers, Panthera has created a high-quality and realistic fake leopard skin to replace the real skins worn at ceremonies. More than 5,000 fake leopard capes have already been donated in southern Africa, and Panthera’s new partnership with the Peace Parks Foundation and Cartier will enable the distribution of at least another 13,000 more.



Panthera has launched the #IFAKEIT movement with Shania Twain to raise awareness about the plight of these beautiful animals on a global scale; to send a thanks to those willing to help fake it for leopards; and to help stop the demand for leopard skins around the world.

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

Just post a photo wearing leopard print with the hashtag #IFAKEIT to join the movement. Help Panthera reach their first goal of 18,000 unique hashtags to accompany each cape, as a thank you to the communities willing to fake it for leopards.



BCR Interns showing how they #ifakeit

Want to do more? Donate to Panthera! Thirty dollars can create one fake leopard skin cape and help save a leopard.

Your Tweets, Instagram photos and Facebook posts will drive a global conversation about protecting these beautiful cats, and encourage a new generation of leopard champions to join us in the fight to save their spots.

MORE INFO: ifakeit.org

SAD FAREWELL TO FURRY FRIENDS

Taking care of 88 exotic animals is a roller coaster ride of emotions as we try to provide the best possible life for them and yet deal with the gut wrenching decisions of life and death. Of our 89 animals, 71 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 62 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 24 are 20 years or older. It is with heavy hearts we must say good bye to these beautiful cats who have touched our hearts forever.

ALEXANDER



1994 - 2015

Alexander had a playful spirit. He was an outgoing and fun loving bobcat who would act silly to get a chuckle out of his keepers. His mate Windsong was the founding bobcat of Big Cat Rescue. The two were inseparable. Alexander brought out the curiosity in Windsong and because of his influence she became more comfortable around those who cared for her daily. Windsong has long ago passed and now Alexander has joined her. A cancerous mass in his throat had partially blocked his airway and was not in a location in which it could be removed.

CHEROKEE



1994 - 2015

Cherokee was 21 years old. She came to Big Cat Rescue from an exotic animal auction when she was just 6 weeks old. Even at this young age Cherokee was completely wild. She remained such for most of her life. She hid in her den and slunk through the brush to get from one place to another. As she got older she allowed a few keepers to get close. At their presence she would emerge from her den with her wide eyed gaze looking for treats or enrichment. Cherokee had been in kidney failure for quite some time and had finally decided she had enough. When she stopped eating the sad but humane decision to euthanize was made.

CYBIL



1996 - 2015

Cybil was the typical serval - hissy and spitty. She did not like people very much and preferred her privacy. To make her feel more comfortable her enclosure was set off the tour path. Cybil loved one thing in this world more than all else...food. At feeding time she would race around her enclosure frantically awaiting her meal. When her food was placed in her bowl she would give her keepers a hearty hiss and growl before chowing down. Her way of saying "thank you" perhaps. When Cybil suddenly became disinterested in food she was examined only to discover she was in the final stages of kidney disease.

NICO



1993 - 2015

Nico was born into the pet trade. Her story had made its way to Big Cat Rescue from time to time. She was a wild spitfire who bounced from home to home. It seems that the smaller the wild cat the more fierce. It makes sense considering they have to defend themselves from so much more in the wild. Finally Nico found her way to her permanent home at the sanctuary. She arrived in a cardboard box that was bound shut with rolls of tape. Apparently she was not easy to capture and when she was her previous owners wanted to make sure she could not escape. When Nico first arrive we were told she was a male. Upon further examination it was discovered that "he" was a "she". Nico was once one

of the most feared cats at Big Cat Rescue. Her wild and unanticipated tendencies kept her keepers on their toes. It was sad to see Nico lose that fierceness little by little. She grew older and grayer. Spending most of her day napping on the highest platform of her jungle gym. Pancreatic cancer claimed Nico at the age of 22.

RENO



1997 - 2015

Reno was retired to Big Cat Rescue from the circus. He had been forced to perform for many years riding in the back of a horse drawn chariot. When his act was cancelled Reno found himself unemployed. Fortunately for him his owner did the right thing and retired him to a sanctuary instead of selling him to a road side zoo or canned hunt. Reno finally had the chance to live life on his own terms lounging in the soft grass and climbing high up in his trees in search of enrichment. Even after Reno was retired he remained quite the star. He was featured on CNN's Anderson Cooper Report, Geraldo At Large, Animal Planet, and many other news stories that seek to expose the magnitude of the illegal exotic animal trade around the world. Reno fell ill suddenly. He was rushed to the University of Gainesville for a full work up where he was found to be in liver failure.

SERENGETI



1996 - 2015

Serengeti and her sister Kalahari became unwanted pets after their owners divorced. Even people with the best intentions are not usually prepared for the life time commitment involved in owning an exotic cat. Serengeti was the opposite of her outgoing sister. She was reserved and shy. Sadly she was euthanized after discovering that her liver was full of cancerous tumors that could not be removed due to their entanglement with the blood supply, organs and surrounding tissue. Two weeks after her passing Kalahari was also found to have a large mass. Hers was in her reproductive tract which was removed, hopefully giving her a few more years.

SIERRA



1997 - 2015

Sierra was rescued along with her mates Andi and Rocky. The bobcat trio were bred for display at the Tennessee National Zoo, however, they were too shy and would hide from the public. They grew up in a holding facility at the zoo. Years later when Big Cat Rescue stepped up to rescue Nikita the lioness the zoo asked if we would take the bobcat trio as well. Rocky was the leader of the group and after his passing several years later Seirra and Andi fought for the dominant role. Their fighting was relentless and so the two were separated permanently. They seemed to prefer the new living situation and remained neighbors. Sadly, Sierra recently lost her battle with renal failure.

SIMBA



1994 - 2015

Simba and his sister Nyla came to Big Cat Rescue when they were quite young. The two had been the result of breeding for profit. When Nyla was discovered to be cross-eyed both her and Simba became unwanted due to their poor genes. Simba and Nyla lived together until they were mature and then they were separated to prevent them from breeding. Over the years Simba was neutered and Nyla was later spayed. The two lived next door to one another for most of their lives. However it was not until near the very end they seemed to miss one another's company. They would sleep as close as they could to one another with two enclosure walls separating them. Keepers took notice and a careful reintroduction was made. It was as if no time had passed at all since the two were last together. Nyla immediately began to bathe Simba and he called to her with his signature mew. The two stayed side by side in their short time together. Sadly weeks after their introduction Nyla passed away. Simba was devastated and alone again. He turned his attention back to his favorite people and carried on for nearly a year. During this time his arthritis and bad knee joints worsened. Medications helped for a while, but Simba's mobility continued to worsen and he seemed to be frustrated with his abilities. The decision to end his suffering was made.

BIG CAT RESCUE SUPPORTERS

Donations Received Jan 1st - Mar 31st					
\$19,000 Vanessa Fernandez-Thomas & Family	\$450 Sindhu Mathew	\$200 Amanda J. Rubin	\$100 Deborah Appello	\$100 Kimberly Mackey	
\$16,000 Sarah & Bruce McWilliams	\$400 Larry S. Moore	\$200 Tony Russo	\$100 Jasmine Baleva	\$100 Sylvia Manders	
\$13,000 Estate of Lona Feingersh	\$400 Mei Mei Wong	\$200 Joel & Marie Schoubert	\$100 Tod & Jeanne Balzuweit	\$100 Michele Manos	
\$10,000 Lee Ebs	\$350 Kirk & Aileen Davis	\$200 Robert & Chin Sekac	\$100 Ward Barritt	\$100 Kathy Marcus	
\$7,500 Pollio Family Foundation	\$300 Dayton Foundation Depository, Inc.	\$200 Diane Sharp	\$100 David Baugher	\$100 Jessica Mault	
\$5,000 C1 Bank	\$300 First Unitarian Universalist Church	\$200 John & Margaret Skenyon	\$100 Edith Baum	\$100 Cameron McCaskill	
\$5,000 Jean Fraley	\$300 Amy G. Brown	\$200 Lizzy Southwell	\$100 Belden & Rae Bell	\$100 Charles & Tammy McKay	
\$5,000 Mary MacLean	\$300 Laura Crompton	\$200 The Eckmann Family	\$100 Karen Bensingier	\$100 Jennifer Merritt	
\$5,000 Donald MacLean	\$300 Cynthia Evans	\$200 Paul Thurman & Cynthia Touchton	\$100 Christina Bond	\$100 Kristina & John Miano	
\$5,000 Elfriede MacLean	\$300 Melinda A. Faulkner	\$200 Shari Tripp	\$100 Michael Bonema	\$100 Linda Miller	
\$3,300 Fields-Gordon-Galley Private Foundation	\$300 Fran Hamilton	\$200 John Ullman	\$100 Pete & Pat Booth	\$100 D. Dewey Mitchell	
\$3,150 Miami Palmetto SHS Interact Club	\$300 Kurt & Vicki Heidemann	\$195 James Grant	\$100 Thomas & Belinda Bower	\$100 Sheila & Brent Morgan	
\$3,000 Lilian Y. Giraldo	\$300 Heidiemann	\$195 Gordon & Hollace Hannaway	\$100 Paul Brinkman	\$100 Debbie Mull	
\$2,080 Raj & Kiran Bahl	\$300 Christina Heinle	\$195 Rosemary Webster	\$100 Amy Caldwell	\$100 Karin Myers	
\$2,000 Panther International, LLC	\$300 Mitchell & Louise Kanaan	\$180 David Hoang	\$100 Anna I. Cameron-Gomez	\$100 Marty Myler	
\$2,000 More4Apps	\$300 Greg Lutzen	\$150 Survey Sampling International LLC	\$100 Heidi Canner	\$100 Matt Navarre	
\$2,000 Jerry Palin & Sheila Siderman	\$300 Nicki & Paul Lyford	\$150 Nights of Shimmering Lights	\$100 Erin Carden	\$100 Neema & Vafa Nayeb-Hashemi	
\$1,950 Sole Riley Marittimi	\$300 Jim Meeks	\$150 Marvin & Ellen Barnes	\$100 Alexis Carmenaty	\$100 Pamela Neumann-Liedke	
\$1,812 Centre Club	\$300 Daniel Pursel & Lisa Minich	\$150 Janice Devine	\$100 Charisse Castagnoli	\$100 Teresa Newgent	
\$1,724 American Fundraising Auctions Inc.	\$300 David Nugent	\$150 Helaine Dubach	\$100 Claudia Chang	\$100 Barbara Nicholas	
\$1,500 Beckie Tomlyn-Litten	\$300 Deanna Raney	\$150 Robert Fersh	\$100 Xiao Yi Chen	\$100 Christopher Nowak	
\$1,250 Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill	\$300 Robert Irvin & Sharon Sauro	\$150 Michael Virruso & Gretchen Gallagher	\$100 Rebecca Childress	\$100 Cindy O'Brien	
\$1,250 The Family of Susan A. Sousa	\$300 Jason C. Sosinski	\$150 Marilyn Gash	\$100 Jo Coffey	\$100 George Papachristu	
\$1,000 Desmond Fowles	\$300 Tanya W Tetu	\$150 Larry Han	\$100 Rick Cohn	\$100 Carol Parrott	
\$1,000 Cliff Benson	\$300 Steve & Samantha Walker	\$150 Steven & Anne Harrison	\$100 Cynthia Conger	\$100 Marilyn Pease	
\$1,000 Jeffrey Hardy	\$250 Diane Bryan	\$150 Marion Hellthaler	\$100 Rick Copley	\$100 Lora Pinkston	
\$1,000 June Mayeda	\$250 Robert Cohen	\$150 Gary Henderson	\$100 Charlene Czajkowski	\$100 Jerome Pollitt	
\$1,000 Andrew, Julia & Gigi Menard	\$250 Harrison R. Davis	\$150 Dianne Hodgett	\$100 Michele Devincenz	\$100 Glenn Puncochar	
\$1,000 Leslie Newberry	\$250 Elizabeth Delgado	\$150 Yvonne M. Homan	\$100 Catherine Dexter	\$100 Kathy Randazzo	
\$1,000 Susan Wilcox	\$250 Suzanne Ewanowski	\$150 Susan Hoover	\$100 Alysha Dixon	\$100 Jimmy Reed	
\$908 Shari Sawyer	\$250 Fay Forman	\$150 Erik Jungk	\$100 John & Susan Dobi	\$100 Traci Richard	
\$900 Suzanne & Alan Lucas	\$250 John Genter	\$150 Rachel Leigh	\$100 Alex Dolan	\$100 Freddy Richard	
\$808 Eugenia Van Bremen	\$250 Neal Gillespie	\$150 Ken & Cindy Maybury	\$100 Janene Edgar	\$100 Michael Rubin	
\$730 ECHOage	\$250 Michael R. Heintze	\$150 Margaret L. McManus	\$100 Christina Edwards	\$100 Cathy J. Rudyk Laaly	
\$600 Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh	\$250 Diane L. Meeks	\$150 Mindi & Daniel Meeks	\$100 Barbara Engel	\$100 Jerry Schachterle	
\$600 Steven Carter	\$250 John Olin	\$150 Joyce Moody	\$100 Rachel Fallbacher	\$100 Donna Schaefer	
\$600 John Healy	\$250 Roycie H. Roeder	\$150 Michael Neblock	\$100 Andrew Fallon	\$100 Beth Smink & Craig Schrotter	
\$600 Dan LaFever	\$250 Devan Sewell	\$150 Adrienne Parkhurst	\$100 Joe & Merry Feagins	\$100 Joseph & Carolyn Self	
\$600 Pamela Olson	\$250 Shelley Tipping	\$150 Doris Schlichter	\$100 Michael P. Fetrow	\$100 Tina Semotan	
\$600 Koonts	\$250 Jon Wilhite	\$150 Betsie Scott	\$100 Lisa Fiorilli	\$100 Charles Shanberg	
\$600 Joe Sokolosky	\$225 Jacque Boutin	\$150 Rosemarie Stadelman	\$100 Lela Djakovic & Geoffrey Frank	\$100 Timothy Snider	
\$500 Loomis, Sayles & Company LP	\$225 Ali N. Salur	\$150 Richard & Lee Ann Stiles	\$100 Brenda Frankart	\$100 Katja Steinmann	
\$500 Andre Beaudry	\$200 Nicole Ackley	\$150 Patricia White	\$100 Joe & Jake Fukuda	\$100 Deb Talbot	
\$500 Craig & Nancy Hackett	\$200 Mary Bilinski	\$150 Lisa Williams	\$100 Michael P. Fetrow	\$100 Michael Tauber	
\$500 Geraldine Paniccia	\$200 Sandra McClueb & Paul Bishoes	\$150 Christie Wood	\$100 Lela Djakovic & Geoffrey Frank	\$100 Colleen Terry	
\$500 Carol Partridge	\$200 Steve & Veronica Boose	\$125 Harold Anderson	\$100 Lela Djakovic & Geoffrey Frank	\$100 Greg & Andrea Thomajan	
\$500 Judi Pate-Rodriguez	\$200 John & Terry Cipriani	\$125 Marina & Chuck Cawley	\$100 Linda Fritz	\$100 Sara Thomas	
\$500 Michael Popham	\$200 Stephen & Janet Daniels	\$125 Janet Darmanin	\$100 Joe & Cathy Gardner	\$100 Dian Thompson	
\$500 Jan & Bill Riley	\$200 Tony Ficarra	\$125 Kristen M. Holtz	\$100 Steve & Cathy Gardner	\$100 Steffany Toppin	
\$500 Joseph & Cynthia Sansone	\$200 Greg Frank	\$125 Torri Randa	\$100 Nancy Godwin	\$100 Debra & Robert Tribbey	
\$500 Carl & Betty Schino	\$200 Danielle Gardner	\$120 Lorrie Fetrow	\$100 Jeffrey Greenspan	\$100 Betsy Turner	
\$500 Patricia & James Sheridan	\$200 John Wiggins & Toni Jordan	\$120 Raymond Hirst	\$100 Jackie Grimes	\$100 Eric Tyler	
\$500 Barbara Zingg	\$200 Jennifer M. Lange	\$120 Donald S Natterer	\$100 Lesa Gubbini	\$100 Janet Urian	
\$492 Olga Kruse	\$200 Michael & Kathy Laudenslager	\$113 Valerie Balavage	\$100 Dennis & Beth Hammer	\$100 Nadine Wadsworth	
\$479 Shalen Hamar	\$200 Lynda Licht	\$108 Melissa E. Black	\$100 Diane Hanson	\$100 Eileen Walker	
\$450 Christina Farah	\$200 Martha Morandi	\$108 Amy Stuckey	\$100 Bill Campbell & Birgit Hanson	\$100 Susan & William Walls	
	\$200 Roberta & Jeffrey Newton	\$108 Marsha Woerner	\$100 Katherine Harbison	\$100 Cheryl Ward	
	\$200 Benjamin & Cecilia Miller	\$105 Kathleen Andrews	\$100 Virginia Harris	\$100 Denise & Fred Watkins	
	\$200 Ashwin & Carol Patel	\$105 Kerry & Don Gilbert	\$100 Caryn Harris	\$100 Brian Weaver	
	\$200 Paul Pinchuck	\$105 Vinay Hathiramani	\$100 Rae Karen Hauck	\$100 Aaron Cooke & Mary Wells	
		\$105 Derick Mendoza	\$100 Heather Heath	\$100 Laura Wetzel	
		\$105 Christine Dorchak & Carey Theil	\$100 Gerald Hill	\$100 Jessica Wilcock	
		\$103 Diane Eder	\$100 Nevin Hoke	\$100 Louise M. Wilker	
		\$100 Nutritian Smart	\$100 Richard Holloway	\$100 Francine Willison-Perry	
		\$100 The Eichholz Law Firm	\$100 Linda & Jeff Horstman	\$100 Susan Wright	
		\$100 Peter & Jean Albini	\$100 Sheena Johnston	\$100 Ellee Wynn	
		\$100 Stephen Almeida	\$100 Christopher Jordan	\$100 Ann Yager	
			\$100 Diana Jun	\$100 Aaron Yurewick	
			\$100 Kim Kowalski	\$100 Theresa Zurilla	
			\$100 Bill Laughlin		
			\$100 Howard & Elaine Ledder		
			\$100 Robert & Carole Lee		
			\$100 Heidi Lepail		
			\$100 Christopher Litt		
			\$100 Lori Lorentz		
			\$100 Brenda Lovley		
			\$100 Allison Lyons		
			\$100 Leslie W. Macdonald		

BIG CAT SPONSORSHIP

All kits include the following appreciation gifts: 4-page color fact sheet about the species, Big Cat Rescue logo window decal, Registration Card to select the cat of your choice. 8x10 color photo of the cat you choose to sponsor with the cat name and your name as sponsor printed on it. The sponsor levels below include these additional benefits and donor recognition:

\$25 BIG CAT BUDDY – KIDS

Coloring pages featuring wild cats and 1 Kids Tour Pass.

\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER

10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop.

\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND

10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop and 1 Day Tour Pass.

\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR

10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 2 Day Tour Passes, 30 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times.



\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR

10% off purchases at the Trading Post gift shop, 4 Day Tour Passes, 60 big cat mailing labels, Donor name and gift amount listed in the Big Cat Times.

\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR

Conservator Benefits above plus: 4"x4" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 6"x12" Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year.

\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO

Conservator Benefits above plus: 6"x6" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 9"x12" Engraved plaque on the tour path with donor name displayed for one year, and Private Tour for up to 10 people.

\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION

Conservator Benefits above plus: 8"x8" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 12"x12" color plaque on tour path with cat photo and donor name displayed for one year, and Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.

\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS

Conservator Benefits above plus: 12"x12" Ceramic plaque with big cat photo and donor name displayed at the sanctuary, 18"x24" Sign with big cat photo and donor name displayed on the tour path for one year, Private Founder Tour for up to 10 people.



SECOND ANNUAL GIVE DAY TAMPA BAY IS ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS FOR BIG CAT RESCUE



The second annual Give Day Tampa Bay fundraising event was held on May 5. Presented by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Give Day Tampa Bay is a region-wide day of giving. Non-profits have the opportunity to win a number of huge cash prizes throughout the 24-hour event. This year more than 550 non-profits participated and more than \$1.7 million was raised.

We are so excited to share with you that Big Cat Rescue was No.1 for both MOST INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS and MOST DOLLARS RAISED! We are so grateful and thankful to everyone who

supported Big Cat Rescue with your generous donations! We raised more than \$340,000 for the cats!! We truly have the BEST SUPPORTERS IN THE WORLD!

In addition to the much-appreciated donations, Big Cat Rescue won 4 cash prizes totaling \$30,000:

\$12,500 -- Large non-profit with most dollars raised

\$10,000 -- Non-profit with the single largest donation

\$5,000 -- Non-profit in the animals category with most dollars raised

\$2,500 -- Non-profit in the animals category with the most individual donations



KIDS FOR KATS

On February 26th Miami Palmetto Senior High School's Interact Club held their annual talent show titled Panthers Got Talent. We were so honored to learn that Leemay Chen, the club's Director for Foreign Affairs, chose Big Cat Rescue as the event's beneficiary. The

show exceeded expectations, raising \$3,150.00! A Big Cat thank you to school principal Dr. Allison Harley, club sponsors Rotary International and Mr. John de la Cruz, and to the students of Miami Palmetto Senior High.

We are fur-ever grateful to the local Cool Cats of Corbett Prep for their generous donation of \$1,346.50, which they raised in an Economics class fundraiser. These students have sponsored our cats for many years and we are always impressed by their compassion and big cat knowledge.

Last, but definitely not least, a big cat shout-out to Broadmeadow Elementary School in Needham Massachusetts. Their fifth graders raised money for charities by participating in a read-athon and donated \$2,271.04 in support of our work to create a home for wild cats. On behalf of the cats, thank you!

VOLUNTEERS AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

Congratulations to the following Big Cat Rescuers who have been recognized for their outstanding commitment to the mission of Big Cat Rescue. In honor of this service they were each presented with an award called the S.A.V.E. and allotted \$500 to spend on their favorite feline friends.

S.A.V.E stands for Scratch's Award for Volunteer Excellence. Named for an outstanding cougar, Scratch, whose lifespan reached 30 years, the SAVE Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer or intern each month.

We are so excited to present this award to Deidra Ritchie. Deidra is always willing to jump right in and help out in any way. She is a dedicated and hard working volunteer.



Long time Big Cat Rescuer Cindy Kuharek was also recently honored. Cindy has been caring for the big cats for more than 10 years. She has dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to ensuring that each and every big cat resident is well cared for.

Big Cat Rescue is so lucky to have outstanding volunteers and interns who give not only their time to help the big cats, but also go above and beyond the call of duty!

Do you want to help the big cats and make new friends? Big Cat Rescue is always looking for volunteers. Keepers clean enclosures, feed the animals, and landscape. Partners work in the gift shop and guide tours of the sanctuary. Check us out online to get all the de-tails!

BigCatRescue.org/volunteer



TIGERS 4 TIGERS AWARENESS MARATHON

Tigers for Tigers is a national coalition that represents students of schools with tiger mascots. There are 56 United States university tiger mascots – that's 450,000 students being represented! The organization formed at Clemson University in South Carolina in April 2013 and has since grown to include schools all across the nation. Carole Baskin spoke at this event alongside the late, great, Ron Tilson.



Big Cat Rescue's Legislative Intern, J.J. represented Big Cat Rescue at the Clemson Chapter in South Carolina 5K Run for the Tiger on Saturday April 11th. It's an annual event they have for Big Cat welfare and awareness. Big Cat Rescue provided free tees for the winners. Photo above is for another marathon run by RIT Tigers4Tigers.

LION AND BOBCAT HAVE SIMILAR SURGERIES BACK TO BACK

Cameron is a 14 year old male lion who was rescued in 2004 from a run down road side zoo in New Hampshire. He lives with his best friend Zabau, the white tiger. He has been neutered and she has been spayed so the two can spend their lives together without the possibility of producing cubs.

Cameron's keepers noticed a small wound on his shoulder. It appeared to be a puncture wound, most likely from Zabau. Occasionally the two get rough when they are playing and will leave a mark when they scratch or bite one another.



Typically when these small war wounds appear the keepers will distract him or Zabau with food treats while the veterinarian flushes out the wound. Then a course of antibiotics follow and after a couple of weeks the evidence disappears. However this time the wound remained which was cause for concern.

The vet team made a plan to sedate Cameron in order to more closely inspect the sore. Thanks to our wonderful donors Cameron's trip to the hospital was a quick one. He was lured



into his feeding lock out, darted, and then transported to our fully stocked on-site Windsong Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Boorstein and Dr. Wynn got a closer look at the wound and determined it was actually a small mass. Dr. Boorstein removed the mass while Dr. Wynn drew blood, took vitals, and examined the rest of Cameron.

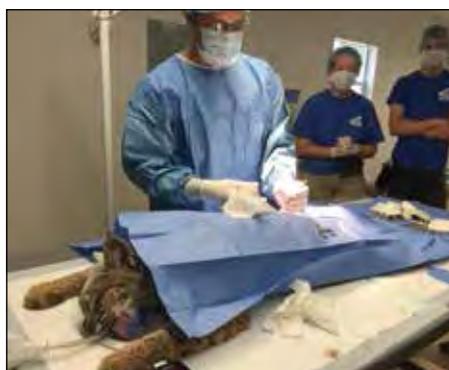
The mass was sent to the lab for testing and it turned out to be a basal cell carcinoma. This type of cancer is usually only located in one area and when good margins are taken it will most likely not return.

Cameron's surgery was successful and he was returned to his enclosure hours later. Because of his sutures he and Zabau had to remain separated for a couple of weeks. He was not happy about the situation and pined for her at

their adjoined wall. Zabau on the other hand took full advantage of her no-boys-allowed vacation! In the end, she too began to miss Cameron. Their reunion was full of chuffs and rubs.



Just two weeks prior a small mass was discovered on Angelica, a 19 year old female bobcat. Angelica was rescued in 2000 when her owner went into foreclosure and could no longer afford to care for her.



The dark black circle about the size of a quarter was removed and tested. The result was a subcutaneous melanoma. The lab warned that this type of cancer is most likely a secondary location. Two weeks

later when her sutures were removed the vet team looked over her entire body very carefully, but no other masses were found.

Angelica was returned to her enclosure and is doing fine. Her keepers are aware of her condition and will monitor her closely for a reoccurrence.



SMALL CAT VACATION ENCLOSURE UNDER WAY!

By the time you read this, or worst case very shortly after, our work on the Small Cat Vacation Rotation Enclosure should be under way. We had been waiting for new caging rules that are under review by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to determine if we needed to roof the cage. But we have decided to design it with a roof and proceed.



We have now completed the design, including how cats will be transferred, via tunnels, to and from their vacation. We have a few more landscaping issues to deal with that involve moving trees and then will begin. How long it will take will depend on the weather and some of the more difficult elements of design that include varying roof heights to incorporate some of the terrain.



We are very excited about giving our smaller cats the enrichment value of experiencing this much larger and different enclosure. If they enjoy it even half as much as the big cats have enjoyed theirs it will be a huge success.

Our sincere thanks to the many donors who supported this project and particularly to the major donors whose recognition sign is already in place where the new enclosure will be.





WILDCAT WALKABOUT
SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 AT 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
BIG CAT RESCUE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA



Show the king of your pride how much you appreciate him and join us on Father's Day Sunday June 21st from 12 PM - 3 PM for our first annual Wildcat Walkabout.

Big Cat Rescue's Wildcat Walkabout is an open house event where guests are free to roam the tour path at their own leisure to meet and learn about wild

cats big and small. Download our free app to learn even more about our cats! Anyone with a smart phone can walk up to a cat, choose their name in the app and play their story! To download visit iTunes or Google Play and type in Big Cat Rescue app for phone.

After your self guided tour of the sanctuary pur-r-ruse our gift shop, enter for a chance to win raffle prizes, enjoy fun family activities, and satisfy your beastly appetite at one of the gourmet food trucks.



Tickets for the Wildcat Walkabout are \$10 each. Fathers (accompanied by a family member) are free! This event is extremely popular and is half sold out. Tickets are limited so go online today to get yours!

For Info: BigCatRescue.org/safari-days/
For Tickets: zerve.com/BigCatRescue/Safari
or call (888) 316-5875



BACK OF TEES



If you can not attend the event you can still support the cause by purchasing an event tee.

Charcoal Tee or Women's Hot Pink V-neck S - XL \$15 XXL \$20

WHEN IS THE NEXT BIG RESCUE?

In just the last few years there have been 16 big cat facilities that have gone under where they had from 10 to 60 big cats at the time. We know that it will cost us about \$10,000.00 per big cat, per year to care for them until they die of old age. In most cases people are trying to get rid of last year's cubs that they cannot use any more.



Keisha kept in barren conditions in a backyard in NY

By 2003 we had to turn away 312 big cats for lack of room and funding. Every other year that number was doubling. We knew that if we couldn't take them in they would almost always end up in miserable conditions. It's heartbreaking to turn a cat away. It makes all the hard work of caring for a big cats seem pointless when the bad guys are increasing the number of suffering cats faster than we can raise money to save them.

One law saved more big cats than all sanctuaries combined. The Captive Wildlife Safety Act made it illegal to sell a big cat, across state lines, as a pet in 2003. The following year, instead of turning away what we expected to be 500-600 big cats, we "only" had to turn away 110. By 2011 that number dropped to 15 as 10 more states have banned the private possession of big cats.

The number one reason for unwanted big cats is that they are used as pay to play props by con artists who assure the public that the cats have been bred to save the species from extinction. None of these back yard breeders are involved in any real conservation efforts and there are no release programs for big cats. Cubs are bred, used and then discarded as yearlings to well meaning rescuers who love being able to help a big cat. These same "rescuers" often post pictures of themselves petting the big cats, silently saying to the world, "Do as I say, and not as I do."

Just this week we have

offered to help take in or place animals from seven exotic owners who were given their last warning in Ohio. Just last month we offered to take in and help place 27 white tigers, owned by Hawthorn Circus.

In that case I spoke with his tiger manager who said they currently spend about a quarter of a million dollars a year just on food and vet care for the cats, which is about what it would cost us. The owner was made rich off these tigers and can afford to provide for them until they die of old age.

He had tried to dump them in Ohio, right before Ohio passed their ban. The jury is still out on whether or not he will set up a trust fund for their care and let them come to Big Cat Rescue or some other good sanctuary.

Of the 62 cats who were abandoned in 2014, we took 9 and offered to take 16 more but there was one issue that kept us from taking those 16 cats; the owners refused to sign an agreement that they wouldn't just go right back out and buy another one. We aren't ending the problem if we just allow irresponsible people to dump last year's baby on us, so they can go out and buy or breed more.

There is a Solution and YOU can be a part of it!

The answer is to end the practice of keeping big cats captive and we have been championing a bill before congress during the last two sessions. We hope to have it reintroduced soon and will be asking you to help us take it across the finish line this year. It will ban the private possession of big cats. Owners can keep the cats they have, but cannot buy or breed more. Once this passes, 99% of the abuse will end, because cubs won't be bred for pay to play sessions and then discarded. Once we have ended the problem at its root we can take on more animals without the need for the contracts because the owners won't be allowed to continue buying and breeding.

Sign up for our email alerts so you will be notified the second we have introduced the bill, and make the Circus Free pledge at NoCircusKids.com.



Keisha running wild in the Vacation Rotation Enclosure at Big Cat Rescue