

BIG CAT RESCUE'S

# BIG CAT TIMES

FALL 2015



[BIGCATRESCUE.ORG](http://BIGCATRESCUE.ORG)

BENGALI TIGER



## A MESSAGE FROM BCR PRESIDENT & EDITOR

*Jamie Veronica*

I am so excited to bring to you the completely redesigned Big Cat Times! We have come such a long way since our very first issue 19 years ago.

Our newsletter launched in the summer of 1996. It was titled Cat-Tales and was a 6-page black and white leaflet.

In 2004 we upgraded the publication to a newspaper format and renamed it The Big Cat

Times. This was a very exciting step forward as we were able to bring to you color photographs for the first time ever.

Now here we go again. The Big Cat Times has received a major upgrade to this beautiful glossy color magazine...but at what cost?

Actually, very little more than the cost of the previous newspaper format.



For the mere pennies extra per issue we feel that this sturdier version of The Big Cat Times will have a longer shelf life and will turn get passed around between family and friends.

You can help spread the word about the plight of captive big cats as well as their wild counterparts by sharing your copy of The Big Cat Times. Every person touched by one of these stories is another voice for the voiceless.

So go on, dive in, and enjoy the stories in this issue including the latest bobcat rescues, our federal bill, an important notice regarding the Florida Panther, and more!



Scan QR Codes, in this issue, with your smart phone to get more info.



Big Cat Rescue, one of the world's largest accredited sanctuaries for exotic cats, is a leading advocate in ending the abuse of captive big cats and saving wild cats from extinction. We are home to 87 lions, tigers, bobcats, cougars, servals and other species of exotic cats, most of whom have been abandoned, abused, orphaned, saved from the fur trade, or retired from performing acts.

The sanctuary, located on 67 acres in the Citrus Park area of north Tampa, was founded in 1992 and is a 501c3 charity.

Big Cat Rescue is accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries, certified by Independent Charities of America as a "Best in America Charity", a member of the World Society for Protection of Animals, rated 4 Stars by Charity Navigator, and is part of a global coalition including HSUS, IFAW, WWF, GFAS, Born Free and other animal protection groups working together to end big cat abuse.

Read more about Big Cat Rescue and the cats who call it home at: [BigCatRescue.org](http://BigCatRescue.org)

Tour Info: [Zerve.com/](http://Zerve.com/)  
[BigCatRescue](http://BigCatRescue)

# WILD FUTURE

for Four FL Bobcat Kittens



Big Cat Rescue is excited to announce the recent rescue of four orphaned Florida bobcat kittens! This group of wild babies will be raised here at the sanctuary in our rehabilitation area until they have purrr-fected their survival skills. Then they will be released back into the wild from which they came.

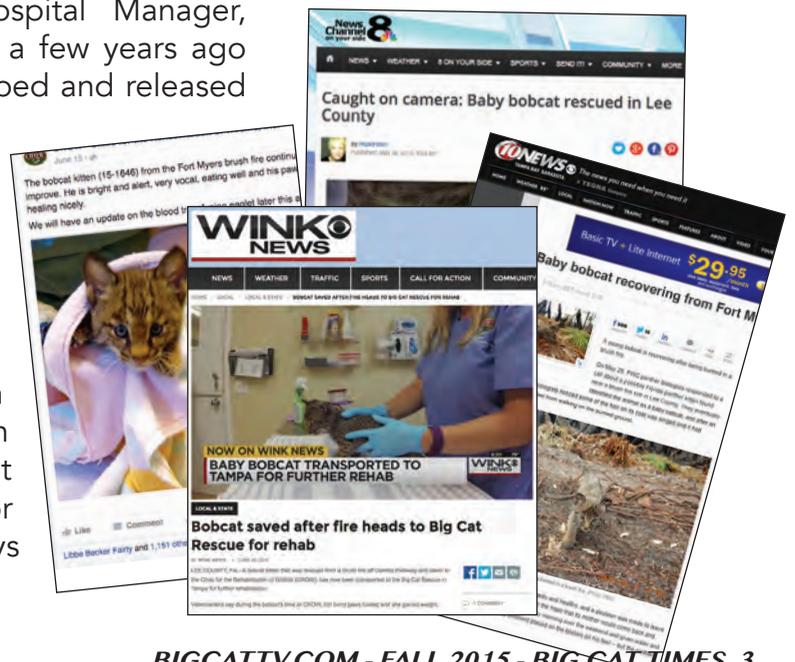
*Phoenix treated for burns to his paws at CROW*



Phoenix managed to survive a forest fire in Lee County, FL in May. Officials hoped to reunite the kitten with his mother by leaving him near where he was found after an initial assessment that he seemed ok. In the meantime his story spread like wildfire via local media. Three days later, the kitten was dehydrated and still calling frantically for his mother,

so he was sent to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW). Staff at CROW evaluated Phoenix and treated his burns. We think there could be no more appropriate name than Phoenix, the mythological symbol who rises from the ashes to be reborn.

Shortly before Phoenix's arrival CROW received another orphaned kitten. Captiva's story is every bit as heart rending, but didn't make the news. She was the one Big Cat Rescue agreed to take first. Gareth Johnson, the CROW Hospital Manager, worked with us a few years ago when we rehabbed and released bobcat Copter. Gareth called Big Cat Rescue on June 1st to report that some people had trapped a bobcat kitten and then left it in the trap without food or water for a couple of days before deciding





*Captiva introduced to the outdoor rehab enclosure*

CROW has state of the art medical facilities, but is not set up for long term bobcat rehab. Raising and rehabilitation of a bobcat requires a lot of space and infrastructure. Because these two kittens would need long term care CROW contacted the wildlife rehabbers at Big Cat Rescue to see if we had room for the duo. Both kittens were transported to Big Cat Rescue on June 25,

they should feed her something. Of course, they had no idea what to feed a 4-week-old nursing bobcat kitten, so what they fed her made her sick. Lucky for Captiva, they finally made a good decision and dropped her off at CROW. The kitten was stabilized, despite the fact that she had arrived in such bad shape.



*Phoenix's first day outside*

2015 for the next phase of their rehabilitation. Upon their arrival Phoenix was estimated to be 9 weeks old and Captiva 11 weeks.



*Captiva & Phoenix*

Unfortunately due to the extensive hands on care Phoenix initially received to treat his injuries, he is not as wild as we would like. He seems unafraid of humans and will usually approach keepers when they are cleaning his water dish. On a positive note however, his wild instincts when it comes to hunting are right on track. We hope that housing him with Captiva, who is much more wild and extremely leery of humans, will teach him how to appropriately respond when approached by people (run and hide).

Pairing Phoenix and Captiva will ensure a greater chance at survival once released. The two will most likely stay with one another for a period of time while they both adjust to life in the wild.

Three weeks after the arrival of Phoenix and Captiva we received another call to action. Two bobcat kittens were found playing near



*Captiva*

the side of a busy highway. A passerby stopped and captured the kittens and then took them to a nearby veterinary clinic. A knowledgeable technician at the practice took the kittens back to where they had been found in search of the mother. When a mother bobcat gets separated from her kittens she will call out to them for days. Sadly the tech heard no such calls and had no other choice but to bring them back to the clinic.

Big Cat Rescuers made the 5 hour round trip to Lake Placid, FL to collect the kittens. At just 9 weeks old this brother and sister had a lot of growing up to do before they would be able to survive on their own. In the wild bobcat kittens will stay with their mother for up to a year before disbanding in search of their own territory. Their arrival came in the wake of a difficult loss at the sanctuary. Raindance, one of the founding bobcats of Big Cat Rescue, had recently passed at the age of 22. Her loss was felt deeply as she had become an icon at the sanctuary and was admired and loved by all that met her. In honor of Raindance we decided to carry on her spirit with the lives of these two wild ones. And so they were affectionately named Rain and Dancer.



*Rain is not trusting of humans, which is a good thing*

All four rehab kittens are doing great. Phoenix and Captiva have become efficient and successful hunters. Phoenix is still approaching his keepers at

to be a minimum of 40 acres of privately owned land near where the bobcats were originally found. We typically release our rehab bobcats on several hundred or even thousands of acres. If you or anyone you know live in the area and would be willing to help Rain and Dancer by providing a release site please email [jamie.veronica@bigcatrescue.org](mailto:jamie.veronica@bigcatrescue.org)



*Rain on left, Dancer on right*

times, however he occasionally follows Captiva's lead and runs off to hide. Rain and Dancer have just recently moved to the outdoor rehab enclosures and have transitioned to a whole prey diet. They will move on to live prey (rats) in the coming weeks.

So what's next? Securing a release site for Rain and Dancer. The law calls for a release site

Thanks to CROW's connections a site has already been secured for Phoenix and Captiva.



*Perches in rehab enclosure*

# Sad Farewell

Taking care of 87 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 87 animals, 69 of them are over the age of 12, which is about as long as they live in zoos or in the wild. An amazing 60 are over the age of 15 (90+ in human years). Even more incredible, 22 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.

## ARIZONA



1989 - 2015

**Arizona** has reigned as the oldest serval at Big Cat Rescue since her arrival in 1997. Upon her passing she was 24 years old. Despite having lived her entire life being confined to a cage and dominated by humans, Arizona's spirit was truly wild until the very end. Arizona passed away due to kidney failure, a common cause of death in elderly felines.

## RAINDANCE



1993 - 2015

**Raindance** came to Big Cat Rescue from a fur farm in Minnesota. She was 1 of 56 kittens that were purchased in order to save them from being slaughtered for their fur. This rescue was in our early days and soon after we stopped paying to rescue animals because it does not solve the bigger problem.

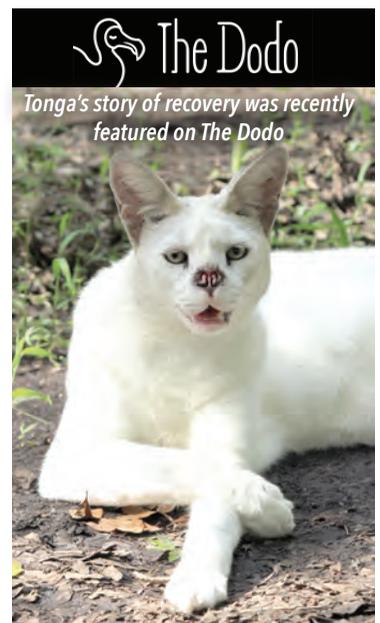
Raindance got her name because she loved to splash around in the rain. She would run and pounce into any muddy puddle she could. By the time she was done, you couldn't even tell who she was, other than her bright, happy eyes gleaming behind a mud soaked coat.

She was a huge favorite at the sanctuary, probably because no matter who you were or what you were doing near Raindance, she would stop whatever she was doing to come over and see what was going on. Once she got your attention she would rub her cheeks on the side of the enclosure with a blustery purr.

In the end it was kidney failure that took Raindance away from us. She was 22 years old.

## TONGA CELEBRATES 3 YEARS CANCER FREE

Tonga, an 18-year-old white serval, is not a rare breed, but rather shares the same genetic mutation as does the white tiger. In 2012 Tonga was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. A CT scan confirmed surgical removal of the nose was the best option. His prognosis after surgery was 1 year. We are so happy to report that Tonga is happy and healthy!



*The enrichment team made this awesome tiki bar for Tonga to enjoy. The Tonga faces are uncanny. Photo by: Michael Heap*





Give Day Tampa Bay was established by The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and Florida Next Foundation as a means to raise the profile of charitable giving in the Tampa Bay area. This is accomplished by awarding charities prize money in several fundraising categories. We are so grateful to the over 500 supporters (more than any other nonprofit) who made

winning this prize money possible, including the donors of \$100 and above listed below. This year we won \$30k as follows: Most Dollars Raised \$12,500, Single Largest Donation \$10,000, Most Dollars Raised in Animals Category \$5000, and Most Individual Donors in Animal Category \$2500. Our \$30k in prize money was twice as much as any other nonprofit. We would like to give a roaring thanks to all of the donors!

<i>Estate of Lona Feingersh</i>	<i>Barbara Wenicur \$500</i>	<i>Gregoire Bergier \$100</i>	<i>Kimberly Feitl \$100</i>	<i>Leslie MacDonald \$100</i>	<i>Tedford Rose \$100</i>
<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>Andrea DeCapua \$300</i>	<i>Charlene Boden \$100</i>	<i>Janice Fischer \$100</i>	<i>Matthew Malicki \$100</i>	<i>Julia Rosenthal \$100</i>
<i>Tigers in America</i>	<i>Jon Ohman \$300</i>	<i>Carol Boyse \$100</i>	<i>Deepak Gangadharan \$100</i>	<i>Jennifer Marzo \$100</i>	<i>Mary Salzman \$100</i>
<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Lynn Baumeister \$250</i>	<i>Dorothy Brink \$100</i>	<i>James Grant \$100</i>	<i>Lois Masso \$100</i>	<i>Nancy Sanderbeck \$100</i>
<i>Reitzel Foundation</i>	<i>Linda Davis \$250</i>	<i>Rebecca &amp; Denis</i>	<i>Michelle Haast \$100</i>	<i>Jan McIlhenny \$100</i>	<i>Barbara Scheer \$100</i>
<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Lyndsey Hewitt \$250</i>	<i>Brunetta \$100</i>	<i>Melinda Harris \$100</i>	<i>Anna Meckley \$100</i>	<i>Lesley Schultz \$100</i>
<i>Matt Burghdoff \$5,000</i>	<i>Laura Martin \$250</i>	<i>Kevin Burke \$100</i>	<i>Janet Heinig \$100</i>	<i>Mike Nagy \$100</i>	<i>Sara Simmons \$100</i>
<i>Jefferson Bank \$2,500</i>	<i>Daniel Shea III \$250</i>	<i>Robert Campbell \$100</i>	<i>Michael Heitnze \$100</i>	<i>Leslie Newberry \$100</i>	<i>Timothy Smith \$100</i>
<i>Gillian McPhee \$1,500</i>	<i>Barbara Archer \$200</i>	<i>Wendy Dinsmore \$100</i>	<i>David Herbert \$100</i>	<i>Maria Patterson \$100</i>	<i>Krista Stafford \$100</i>
<i>Jan Edenfield \$500</i>	<i>Candice Azurmendi \$200</i>	<i>Vicki Dizney \$100</i>	<i>Nikki Holbrook \$100</i>	<i>Lucretia Phillips \$100</i>	<i>Elizabeth Thomsen \$100</i>
<i>Daria Kiselica \$500</i>	<i>Cari Mustard \$150</i>	<i>Deanie Dorwart \$100</i>	<i>Cynthia Hutton \$100</i>	<i>Michele Prekop \$100</i>	<i>Barry Vaughan \$100</i>
<i>Lynn &amp; Stuart Lang \$500</i>	<i>Susan Al-Abed \$100</i>	<i>Don Eyres \$100</i>	<i>Mary Krantz \$100</i>	<i>Kelley Price \$100</i>	<i>Laurel Wehrman \$100</i>
<i>Joseph Sokolosky \$500</i>	<i>Russ Alba \$100</i>	<i>Assana Fard \$100</i>	<i>Carole Lee \$100</i>	<i>Karen Quinn \$100</i>	<i>Marsha Woerner \$100</i>
<i>Suzanne Spantidos \$500</i>	<i>Carol Atkinson \$100</i>	<i>Leonard Fehskens \$100</i>	<i>Laura Lidral \$100</i>	<i>Shirley Reeve \$100</i>	

## 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. Please join us in congratulating the following S.A.V.E. winners!

Some volunteers truly shine and Rebecca Williams is one of the brightest. She started out as an



intern and after progressing through all of the levels she decided she could not live without the big cats and moved to the area so that she could continue to help them by becoming a volunteer. You deserve it Rebecca!

We are so excited to present this award to Matt Ruszczyk! Matt has been a dedicated and hard working volunteer for more than 15 years! Throughout his career as a volunteer his passion for caring for the animals has been passed on to hundreds of volunteers and interns.



Kristen Dawley first became a volunteer a little over 4 years ago. Since she first started she has been a dependable and dedicated member of the team. Thank you for your service Kristen!



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.

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. Get all the de-tails at:

**[BigCatRescue.org/volunteer](http://BigCatRescue.org/volunteer)**

## ADVO-CATS IN ACTION!

We use the term AdvoCat to describe people who care enough about the plight of big cats to add their voice to help stop abuse of big cats. AdvoCats help in a variety of ways from assisting with projects and programs to participating in action alerts by writing letters and calling their legislators.

One such AdvoCat, Kristina S., brought Big Cat Rescue's message to her community by tabling on our behalf at Concord Market Days in New Hampshire. "We were successfully able to bring awareness to hundreds of people. As the event was three



days long, some came back and said they had found Big Cat Rescue's page and posted on their personal pages the reality behind cub petting and white tigers. "

Displaying home made posters

and educational materials supplied by Big Cat Rescue, Kristina, along with her family and boyfriend Victor, were successful in getting over 400 signatures on a petition aimed at New Hampshire Senators and Representatives to support big cat safety and protection laws. They also raised funds for the cats and were highlighted in an article about the event in the Union Leader on NewHampshire.com.

"It was an amazing experience and something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. If my actions helped big cats and prevented people from going to roadside zoos and participating in cub petting in any way, I am so humbled and grateful. Thank

you for letting me help!" We say, thanks to you Kristina for being a valuable voice for the cats!

To learn more about the AdvoCat program and how you can be part of this p a w - s o m e team, visit:

[bigcatrescue.org/advocats](http://bigcatrescue.org/advocats)

Already an AdvoCat? Be sure to join our new AdvoCat Facebook group at

[www.facebook.com/groups/BCRAAdvoCats/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BCRAAdvoCats/)



## YOUNG NOT POWERLESS

We love when young people advocate for big cats! It gives us great hope for the future of our planet and for the preservation of exotic cats!

Teenager Makenna from Florida was inspired by our May AdvoCat newsletter to write a blog post in June entitled "The Irony Kills Me" about the new CBS show Zoo, which sadly is using live animals rather than computer-generated images (CGI). Way to go Makenna! Read her post and great tips for taking action for animals here at:

[www.greenfirefox.com](http://www.greenfirefox.com)

Would you also join us in politely asking CBS to stop using real wild animals on Zoo? Email David Stapf, President of CBS Television Studios, at [dstapf@cbs.com](mailto:dstapf@cbs.com).





## FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE BENEFITS BIG CAT RESCUE

Charters School in Berkshire, England is organized into four houses, one of which is called Pankhurst Panthers, and of course they have a panther mascot. The students of Pankhurst House selected Big Cat Rescue as the beneficiary of a series of fundraisers they held during their academic year. The events included a Valentine's Day bake sale, a

teachers' karaoke and an 'Hour Challenge' in which the Pankhurst students were sponsored to do as many laps of the school field in an hour as possible.

The result of their efforts was an impressive 1346.27 British Pounds, or \$1980 donated to Big Cat Rescue. Many thanks Pankhurst House!



### EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A big cat "roar" to Reese W. and his friends from Madeira Beach Fundamental K-8. The kids raised funds as part of a 5th grade service project by selling Tampa Bay Times newspapers at a Rays game. Reese chose to support Big Cat Rescue! We are so grateful for our young supporters!



### CRAFTY WAY TO HELP BIG CATS

The cats are so grr-ateful to Madeline O., Elle G., and Isabella K. for donating the earnings from their crafts business! Over this past year the girls sold crafts with animal print or animal designs to their friends and family. The group visited on a Kids Tour and were excited to see how their donation helps the cats.

# Cecil Lion CHANGED the World

Centuries of humans destroying the planet and everything that is beautiful and magnificent, to pursue personal wealth and status has brought on the sixth mass extinction, with lives being extinguished at rates that are 10,000 times the norm. The mounting evidence of the destruction being caused, hasn't been enough to make the masses stop and take notice, but Cecil did.

When Cecil the lion was lured from a protected area onto private land to be brutally shot with a bow and arrow, caused to suffer for 40 hours as he ran for his life, only to be gunned down by a rich American, so that his head and skin could be stolen as a trophy,



Cecil shines brightly on the Empire State Building

it was an act so egregious millions across the globe were outraged.

For days his plight made every media outlet even though animal abuse is rarely discussed in mainstream media, for fear of offending industries that profit from animal suffering who also happen to bring in big advertising dollars to networks.

Social media first broke the news of Cecil's torture and slaying, and the public outcry was so enormous that mainstream media couldn't ignore it. Jane Velez-Mitchell from CNN passionately spoke about how we have finally reached a tipping point in our attitudes toward animal protection at the Animal Rights Conference 2015 in Washington, DC on August 1st.

"The evolution revolution is a process, not an event, and we are headlong into that process." said Jane Velez-Mitchell

What is it about Cecil's story that so moved everyone? What made this lion different from the hundreds of thousands of lions who have been massacred since the 1940's when there were estimated to be 450,000 of them in the wild?



Cecil the lion.

Photo courtesy Andrew Loveridge/Wildlife Conservation Unit

The drop in wild lion populations to 30,000 by 2011 was enough to prompt many large wild animal protection groups to petition the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list lions as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Four years later lion numbers have dropped to as low as 20,000, and yet the USFWS has failed to implement this much needed change in status with little public outcry...until Cecil.

Thanks to Cecil a bright light is shining on not only the issue of trophy hunting, but also what is happening in our own back yard.

So what are we going to do about it? What can we do? We can save big cats in the wild and in captivity with our voice. Some may think that just one voice doesn't matter, but it does. Sometimes one voice can make all the difference. The voice of just one lion, Cecil, has brought about more awareness in the past few weeks than in all the decades of slaughter.

**DHL Express, Delta, Air Canada, United Airlines, American Airlines, & 33 others have implemented bans on the importation of Africa's Big 5; Elephant, Rhino, Lion, Leopard, and Buffalo**

## Let your VOICE be heard. Roar for Cecil!

Here is how you can help Cecil and the many like him that lose their lives each and every day:

Thank the airlines who have banned the transportation of animal trophies, sign petitions and call your legislators to voice your support of laws to protect big cats, donate to conservation efforts focused on preserving habitat and protecting wild animals.

While the tragic demise of Cecil has captivated the world there is a more sinister market exploiting lions and tigers that is thriving right here in our own back yard.

*Exhausted tiger cub at pay to play operation*



- An estimated 200 lion and tiger cubs are being bred by a handful of Americans each year for the pay to play schemes where people pay to see or pose with a cute cub.

- These cubs are stolen from their mothers when they are just a few days old, never to return to her comfort again.

- Lion and tiger cubs can only be handled by the public for a few months. During this time frame



they are not fully vaccinated to protect them as well as the public. After this window expires their profitability is depleted.

- The vast majority of those now useless cubs just disappear off the radar.

- It is believed that these cubs end up in slaughterhouses to supply the exotic meat trade in the U.S.

96% of Americans care about protecting animals from cruelty and every year that number grows as older generations and their outdated beliefs die out.

In recent times when celebrities ignorantly chose to pose with these wild animal cubs they have been reprimanded via mainstream and social media for doing so.

But why isn't the outrage as strong yet against those who perpetuate the exploitation of cubs as it was against the dentist who poached Cecil the lion this summer?

Cecil had the benefit of being raised by his own mother and living free for 13 years. Big cat cubs who are born into the trade

at the hands of greedy breeders for the sole purpose of public interaction have never had the benefit of being raised by their mothers or living wild and free.

Maybe the difference is that their ultimate plight is hidden from view? Being shot with an arrow and then with a gun are a pretty gruesome way to die, but the public isn't privy to the suffering, neglect and disposal of captive cubs when they grow up. They quietly disappear behind closed gates and doors.

Maybe it is because we didn't know their name?

The killing of Cecil has brought to the forefront a long fought battle to protect wild lions. His name has put a face on the issue that the public can identify with and champion for.

Unfortunately there is not a clear name and face aligning the masses in support of protection for big cats in captivity. But that can change right now. YOU can be that name, YOU can be that face. Each and every one of YOU matter, can make a difference, and can change the world.

Roar for all of the big cats! Contact your member of congress and ask them to champion the Big Cats & Public Safety Act.



# FEDERAL BILL

**If you take just ONE action for big cats this year, this should be IT!**

Congress operates in two year sessions. At the end of each session, any bills that did not get signed into law "die" and have to be re-introduced in the next session.

Once a bill is introduced, legislators can "co-sponsor" the bill by calling the legislator who introduced it. The co-sponsor names are published online.

Being a co-sponsor shows support and basically means you are going to vote for the bill if it comes to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote.

We are part of a coalition of animal welfare groups that in February 2012 introduced a federal bill to ban private breeding and ownership of big cats with limited exemptions. The bill would put an end to the rampant breeding of cubs for pay to pet schemes and tens of thousands of big cats living in miserable conditions in back yards and roadside zoos like those pictured here.

In the ten months we had left in the 2011-12 session we got up to 60 cosponsors in the House, which was great. We re-introduced the bill in 2013 and by the end

of the 2013-14 session we were up to 119 cosponsors out of the 435 members of the House, more than 25%!

At the end of 2014 our primary Republican sponsor retired. So in 2015 we have been working on finding a suitable new main Republican sponsor to join our Democratic main sponsor Loretta Sanchez of California. At this writing we have a great new Republican main sponsor in the House who has not yet been announced and we are working on lining up what are called "initial cosponsors" whose names are submitted at the same time the bill is "dropped" or "introduced." In the Senate, our past champion Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut will be re-introducing the bill.



*Tiger kept in a concrete floored cage inside of a shed, deprived of the outdoors for years in a backyard in FL*

2 Tigers and 2 lions kept together in cramped filthy conditions after being abandoned by their owner in OH



By the time you read this, or shortly after, we expect the bill to have been introduced and have bill numbers in both the House and Senate. Then, what we need is your help in urging your Representatives in the House and your Senators to co-sponsor the bill.

When you get this, please check the status of the bill at:

**StopBigCatAbuse.com.**

If it has been introduced, right there you can send an email to your legislators urging them to co-sponsor. You CAN play a meaningful role in stopping the abuse by helping pass this bill – but it is critical that your legislators know you care!

In addition to sending the email, even more effective is to also make a phone call to the legislator’s office and ask for the staff person who handles animal welfare issues. To find your legislators and their phone numbers visit

**<https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>**

All you need to say is that you would like the Congressman or Senator to “co-sponsor the Big Cat Public Safety Act.”

If you cannot call during business hours, or simply if you are shy, call at night or on the weekend and leave a recorded message. It is helpful to include the bill number, which we do not have yet but will be at [www.StopBigCatAbuse.com](http://www.StopBigCatAbuse.com)

by the time you read this hopefully.

If you have any questions about the bill or making the call, just email Howard Baskin at:

**[Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Howard.Baskin@BigCatRescue.org)**

StopBigCatAbuse



CongressLookUp



# GIFT SHOP PURCHASES DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE BIG CATS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Tiger Sunglasses Orange Tee  
S, M, L, & XL **\$24.40** XXL **\$26.54**



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



Fidel Cap BCR & Tiger Black or Tan **\$20.12**  
White Baseball Cap with BCR Logo **\$20.12**  
Tan Visor with BCR Logo **\$15.84**  
Blue Plaid Cadet Cap BCR **\$21.19**

Tiger in Text  
Light Weight  
Hoodie



S, M, L, & XL  
**34.03**  
XXL **\$36.17**



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

**ORDER ON PAGE 19 OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT [BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ](http://BIGCATRESCUE.BIZ)**



Tigers 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



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



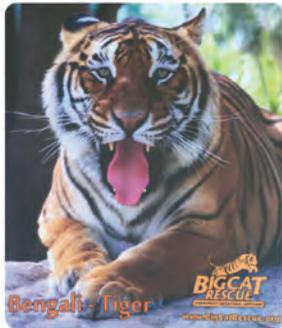
Bobcats 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



Little Cats 15 oz Mug **\$15.84**



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



Bengali Tiger Mouse Pad **\$15.84**



Luggage Tag Choose White Tiger, 3 Cougars, Bobcat, Black Leopard, Tiger, or Lion **\$6.74 each**



Wool Snow Leopards (save wild snow leopards) **\$13.70**

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



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



BCR Supporter Bracelet **\$3.68**



Lion & Lioness Bumper Sticker **\$6.21**



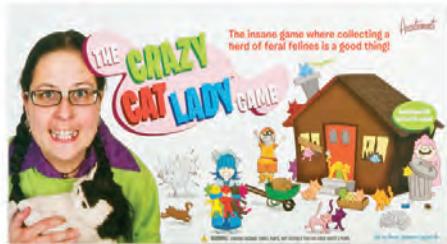
BCR Photo Collage License Plate Frame features 18 resident big and little cats of Big Cat Rescue. Standard size and four holes make easy installation. **\$15.84**



2-sided acrylic key chain is 2" x 3" Choose Tiger, Leopard, Bobcat, Sand Cat, Black Leopard, or Lion **\$6.21 each**



Collapsible Purse Hook Keep your purse off the floor hang from table. Choose any species at BCR **\$29.75**



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



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



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



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

11" Snow Leopard **\$15.91**

12" Dream Eyes Tiger **\$15.48**



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



# SUMMER FUN

ARTHUR, THE TIGER GOES FOR A DIP IN A POND





Florida can get quite steamy in the summer months. Thanks to our awesome enrichment team our cats have lots of fun ways to beat the heat and celebrate summer!

Clockwise from left: Zabu the white tiger plays with a dolphin, Pharaoh the white serval drools over his jelly fish, Aspen the cougar puts the finishing touches on her sand castle, Armani & Jade the leopard sisters take turns putting their favorite toys in their pool , Joseph the lion munches on an ice cold watermelon, Ares and Orion the cougar brothers decide they prefer their pool on the other side of their enclosure.



# WAYS TO HELP

[bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/](http://bigcatrescue.org/get-involved/)

## AMAZON SMILE

Select Big Cat Rescue as your designated charity at:

[smile.amazon.com/](http://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!



## SPONSOR A CAT

All kits include: 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: Wildcat coloring pages, 1 Kid Tour Pass

\$25 BIG CAT SUPPORTER: 10% off card

\$50 BIG CAT FRIEND: 10% off card, 1 Day Tour Pass

\$100 BIG CAT PROTECTOR: 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 30 mailing labels

\$250 BIG CAT CONSERVATOR: 10% off card, 2 Day Tour Pass, 60 mailing labels

\$500 BIG CAT WARRIOR: Conservator benefits plus 4"x4" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 6"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10



\$1,000 BIG CAT HERO: Conservator benefits plus 6"x6" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 9"x12" engraved sign displayed on tour path, Private Tour for 10

\$2,500 BIG CAT CHAMPION: Conservator benefits plus 8"x8" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 12"x12" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

\$5,000 KING OF BEASTS: Conservator benefits plus 12"x12" photo donor plaque displayed at gift shop and 18"x24" photo donor sign displayed on tour path, Private Founder Tour for 10

## PAVE THE WAY

Receive recognition for your support or honor or memorialize someone else with a custom engraved pathway brick. The bricks will make a lasting impression on visitors year round as they line the path entering and exiting the gift shop. Laser engraving changes the brick color to create the letters deep into the brick so they will never wear off or fade away. Great gift for any occasion!



**ORDER TODAY!**

8"x8" \$200

Your Name or Company Logo Here

4"x8" \$100

Your Name Here

**BigCatRescue.biz**

Now available Heart Bricks!

## PROJECT CATER-WALL

The perimeter of the sanctuary is 7,200 feet. We have completed construction on 2/3 of this project, and need your help to finish the remaining 2,300 feet. You can sponsor 1 linear foot of wall for \$100. For your donation you will receive a BCR screensaver, 2-for-1 Tour Pass, and name listed on donor sign.



## BIG CAT WISHLIST

Donate a new or used item from our wishlist online at: <http://tinyurl.com/n42yjmh>





## Donations Received Apr 1st - Jun 30th

Estate of Margerie Rhodes \$25,000  
Piper Mongan Properties \$10,000  
Lawrence & Pamela Trissel \$10,000  
Greg & Sue Taylor \$5,000  
Micol Bartolucci \$3,000  
SB3 Charitable Trust \$3,000  
Zach & Natalie Zgabay \$2,555  
Saint Pete MRI \$2,500  
Broadmeadow  
Elementary School \$2,271  
Linda LaMaire \$2,000  
The Manny & Ruthy  
Cohen Foundation \$1,800  
Sole Riley Marittimi \$1,500  
Corbett Preparatory  
School of IDS \$1,346  
Styx/Rock to the Rescue \$1,250  
Verena Ottman \$1,030  
Roderick & Shelly Barbanica \$1,000  
Diana Brookes \$1,000  
Betsy Coville \$1,000  
Hunter Truck Sales  
& Service Inc. \$1,000  
Lynn Russell Advised Fund at  
Aspen Community  
Foundation \$1,000  
June Mayeda \$1,000  
Brian Rush \$1,000  
Jill Stevens &  
Elizabeth Watts \$1,000  
Kristina Weingartner \$1,000  
Jason Wright \$1,000  
Suzanne & Alan Lucas \$900  
Donna Anderson \$875  
Pamela Rodriguez \$750  
Shannon Flory \$640  
Linda Bongiorno \$625  
Brittney Zeher \$625  
Frank & Mavis Ainsleigh \$600  
Steven Carter \$600  
Sindhu Mathew \$600  
Ann Zaharis \$515  
Geoff Blades \$500  
Arlene Braga \$500  
John Bushnell \$500  
Susan Connolly \$500  
Jacqueline Fazekas \$500  
Scott Greer \$500  
Lisa Jaroske \$500  
Victor Lebedovych \$500  
Anthony Malafrente \$500  
Brian McKinney \$500  
Minda Nagy \$500  
William Pocius \$500  
Edward Roeder \$500  
Marjorie Salmonsens \$500  
Nanci Spires \$500  
Mary Stephens \$500  
Patricia Taylor \$500  
The Kutch Family Fund of The  
Dallas Foundation \$500

Walter Wassung \$500  
Joyce Williams \$500  
Lynn Wilson \$500  
Victor Chouinard \$450  
Eugenia VanBremen \$440  
Diane Hosenbold \$405  
Aladdin Oil & Gas Ltd \$400  
Daniel Green \$400  
Michele DeVincentz \$400  
Melinda Faulkner \$400  
Daniel Green \$400  
Helmut Heidemann \$400  
Dawn Howell \$400  
J M Smith Foundation \$400  
Greg Lutzen \$400  
Jeffrey & Roberta Newton \$400  
Barbara Orloff \$400  
Rosemary Lupo &  
Chris Rottmayer \$400  
Laura Neher \$385  
Leonard Domzalski \$375  
Sue Lindhorst \$375  
Renee Martin \$375  
Michael Spatola \$375  
Kellye Williams \$375  
Shalen Hamar \$374  
Robert Jennings \$360  
Tim Case \$350  
Kirk & Aileen Davis \$350  
Janice Elliott \$350  
Sherry & Chris Sutton \$350  
Annika Mottus \$343  
Mary Fiumara \$336  
Michele Vaughn \$330  
Laura McSoley \$328  
Karin Hurley \$325  
Susan Hamghey \$320  
Kelly Bowen \$320  
Robert Souder \$320  
Barbara Alber \$309  
Brian Hopkins \$309  
Joyce Almas \$306  
Amy Brown \$300  
Dawn Demeere \$300  
Cynthia Evans \$300  
Christina Farah \$300  
Christine Heinle \$300  
Diana Jun \$300  
Marie Lopez \$300  
Robert McKinnon \$300  
Daniel Pursel & Lisa Minich \$300  
David Nugent \$300  
Helen Prather \$300  
Deanna Roney \$300  
Jason Sosinski \$300  
Vidya Vaidyanathan \$300  
David Freeman \$288  
Hans Peter Hansen \$288  
Jerome & Susan Burch \$271  
Judith A. Elssesser \$270  
Hollis Brookline  
Middle School \$269  
Lise Hudson \$263  
Heddi Holmes \$260  
Sara Miller-Hornick \$260  
Matthew Sorg \$260

Victor Vidal \$260  
Michael Wahoske \$260  
Lambertus Kim Warmolts \$260  
Anthony Wysk \$260  
Robert Davis \$258  
Maggie Fox Dierker \$258  
Maggie Fox Dierker \$258  
Jacquie Boutin \$255  
Balazs Lorincz \$255  
Stephanie Gonzalez \$252  
Karl Klunenberg \$252  
Knifin Kurzka \$252  
Sandra April \$250  
Reid Back \$250  
Danielle Bradley \$250  
Jenna Burke \$250  
Joseph Butts \$250  
Gail Carolan \$250  
Phyllis Chauveaux \$250  
Vicki Chorman \$250  
Stephen Chupack \$250  
Jared Coco \$250  
Carey Collins \$250  
Christina Cyriotis \$250  
Stephenie Davis \$250  
Sabrina Di Fulvio \$250  
Danielle Eccles \$250  
Jeremy Eckenrode \$250  
Holly Elliott \$250  
Elizabeth Fazio \$250  
Theresa Flynn \$250  
Rita Frederick \$250  
Richard Geiger \$250  
Girl Scouts WCF Inc  
Troop 50025 \$250  
Nancy Hamilton \$250  
Susan Haughey \$250  
Michael Herem \$250  
Cindy Hogue \$250  
Sven Johnson \$250  
Lisa Juriga \$250  
Vicky Kang \$250  
Bryan Launer \$250  
Charlene Martel \$250  
Becky Nesbitt \$250  
Steven Olson \$250  
Vicki Osborne \$250  
Ruben Rangel \$250  
Patricia Raymond \$250  
Brian Rice \$250  
Jennifer Rimes \$250  
Christine Robinson \$250  
Donna Rondolone \$250  
Peter Rosenstein \$250  
Anthony Russo \$250  
Patricia Scheid \$250  
Misty Seaton \$250  
Neil Smith \$250  
Barbara Steinberg \$250  
Gaylin Thomas \$250  
Elizabeth Tudryn \$250  
Diana Volling \$250  
Brian Zuckerman \$250  
Girl Scout Troop 601 \$240  
David Cook \$237

Matthew McKenzie \$237  
Gary Karpuleon \$236  
Jean Kimball \$236  
Dylan Hutchinson \$235  
Patti Hewlett \$228  
Gayle Phillips \$225  
Michael Biller \$216  
Christian Coon \$216  
Gail Flanagan \$216  
Chris Gatley \$216  
Diane Jackson \$216  
Jenny Kessel \$216  
Janis Long \$216  
Lucas Starrett \$216  
Nancy Sanderbeck \$208  
Joyce Almas \$206  
Jessica King \$202  
John Bernier \$201  
Ballen & Company, Inc. \$200  
Michael Bogdasarian \$200  
Elizabeth Bohn \$200  
Sean Britt \$200  
Brownie Troop 32895 Kaiser  
Elementary School \$200  
Suzanne Campbell \$200  
Corina Cross \$200  
Alex Drugos \$200  
Roger Barnard & Cheryl Freyer \$200  
Beverly Geiger \$200  
Anthony Gelona II \$200  
Clifford Hallberg \$200  
Clifford Hayman \$200  
Debbie Hiatt \$200  
Joan Woodland  
Charitable Foundation Inc. \$200  
Angie Korsun \$200  
Stefanie Kraus \$200  
Barbara Lauterbach \$200  
Paul & Nicki Lyford \$200  
Robert Marwin \$200  
Jim Meeks \$200  
Larry Moore \$200  
Martha Morandi \$200  
Theresa Patterson \$200  
Shirley Powless \$200  
James Riley \$200  
Marcia Sellner \$200  
Joy Smith \$200  
Tanya Tetu \$200  
Karen & Joe Torok \$200  
Starla Trivilino \$200  
Margaret Wetzell \$200  
Louise Wilker \$200  
Tamar Diana Wilson \$200  
Jill LeMire \$199  
Sasha Molai \$199  
Leslie O'Connell \$199  
Amy L. Brown \$195  
Michelle Hapich \$195  
Doris Knowles \$195  
Mary Lou Norton \$195  
Jessica Rivera \$195  
April Putzulu \$194  
Elaine Scott \$194  
Melissa Carter \$190  
Stuart Cunningham \$190  
Daniel Draghiceanu \$190  
Dr. James Loebell \$190  
Teresa O'connor \$190  
Wade Schalles \$190  
John Sevos \$190  
Ronald Yukas \$190  
Veronica Wawzonek \$190  
Terry Younghusband \$190  
Sharon Lovell \$184  
A & B A/C Heating &  
Refridgeration \$183  
Kara DeGraft \$182  
Eleanor Mottern \$182  
Gen Penland \$182  
Andrea Teran Chavez \$182  
Ricardo Topham \$182  
Joyce Andrasz \$180  
Stan Birkhofer \$180  
Patricia Forte-Williams \$180  
Ashley Gibson \$180

Vicky Hand \$180  
Bill Heath \$180  
David Hoang \$180  
James Hodges \$180  
David Hoglund \$180  
Romy Jurado \$180  
Rajashekar Kadari \$180  
Jean Kinney \$180  
Scott Mc Gann \$180  
Daniel Penn \$180  
John Piechocki \$180  
Joan Robinson \$180  
Lisa Salmon \$180  
Carol Sponagle \$180  
Lisa Studer \$180  
Gail VanZanten \$180  
Felicia Whittaker \$180  
Janice Winters \$180  
Dianne Cox \$175  
Jeanne Tedesco \$175  
Cecilia Donat \$173  
Deborah Esayian \$167  
Nick Tucker \$165  
Patrick King \$164  
Jeanne Merlo \$164  
Samuel Waters \$164  
Scott Bricker \$163  
Corinne Charwood \$163  
Alan Crew \$163  
Michelle Eallonardo \$163  
John Marino \$163  
Willi Mathisizik \$163  
Dawn McGee \$158  
Dawn Pearson \$158  
Dan Wahl & Kelly McMahon \$155  
Marc Gozlan \$154  
Reda Green \$154  
Kathy Hargin \$154  
Lori Kollmeyer \$154  
Kristina Weingartner \$154  
JoAnn Bogner \$150  
Deglos Dominique \$150  
Rosa Froshuaer \$150  
Jennifer Garber \$150  
Michael & Julianne Green \$150  
Alice & Vincent Luce \$150  
Patricia & Lon Wojtowicz \$150  
Julie Hough \$148  
Jill DeGood \$146  
Chrissy Murphy \$146  
Heather E. Adamczyk \$144  
Hares Assumal \$144  
Lorie Becker \$144  
Ian Bentley \$144  
Julie Bjorkman \$144  
Jessica Brewer \$144  
Travis Bronik \$144  
Kathryn Brown \$144  
Virginia Cramer \$144  
Matthew Casteel \$144  
Kevin Cayton \$144  
Tabitha Connell \$144  
Peter Cornick \$144  
Miles Cousins \$144  
Kayla Cwalinski \$144  
Lori Desotell \$144  
Kimber Dickson \$144  
Barbara Drake \$144  
Paul Dunnington \$144  
Karen Eaton \$144  
Jamie Ehrenkauser \$144  
James Feltes \$144  
James F. Fitzgerald \$144  
Megan Fordham \$144  
Arthur Garcia \$144  
Valerie Giammoria \$144  
Amy Gibbs \$144  
Stephanie Grove \$144  
Joyce Haasnoot \$144  
Mitch Hall \$144  
Daniel Hays \$144  
Lynnette Hefley \$144  
Joe Hervey \$144  
David Isen \$144  
Jamie Iskra \$144  
Keith Jacobs \$144

Todd Jensen \$144  
Alan Johnson \$144  
Kristen Jones \$144  
Judith Kalee \$144  
Caitlin Keese \$144  
Dana Kirchof \$144  
Barbara Kissen \$144  
Darci Koepf \$144  
Tim Kuiper \$144  
Joel Kummings \$144  
Sara Ladaf \$144  
Kate Lambert \$144  
Jennifer Lantz \$144  
Lisa Laufen \$144  
Evan Laufer \$144  
Kemper Lipscomb \$144  
Christine Lucchefi \$144  
Chad Lumley \$144  
Mark Maguire \$144  
Doug Mallard \$144  
Kathy Mazza \$144  
Jennifer McIntosh \$144  
Brooke Moore \$144  
Andres Mora \$144  
Jossie Morales \$144  
Carol Moyle \$144  
Sandra Murakami \$144  
Linda Myers \$144  
Joseph Nadeau \$144  
Nadine Neel \$144  
Bari Nemeth \$144  
Tanya Oplanic \$144  
Traci Orsini \$144  
Yank Ortiz \$144  
Melvin Owens \$144  
Marc Peltier \$144  
Marjorie Peters \$144  
Ramon Portu \$144  
Lori Posadas \$144  
Christy Raspotnik \$144  
Don Rice \$144  
Kim Rito \$144  
Edwin Rivera \$144  
Cassandra Santos \$144  
Plutarco Santos \$144  
Chris Savino \$144  
Timothy Schofield \$144  
Mary Schroeter \$144  
Pat Sheckler \$144  
Henry Sherard \$144  
Don Simmons \$144  
Robin Simmons \$144  
Joshua Sizemore \$144  
Lisa Smith \$144  
Andrew Smith \$144  
Gerry Spracklin \$144  
William Starkloff \$144  
Richelle Steinke \$144  
Elisa Tasker \$144  
Barbara Taylor \$144  
Nathan & Rebecca Tomlinson \$144  
Hans Vanderkolk \$144  
Chris Vengzke \$144  
Pavel Vulkh \$144  
Alexandra Walker \$144  
Marcy Warner \$144  
Bre West \$144  
Amy Whitley \$144  
Jayne Wolff \$144  
Michael Yehl \$144  
Michele Young \$144  
Warwick Community School, c/o  
Trish Baldwin \$143  
Sonnia Hove \$141  
Melvin Eaves \$139  
Laura Cronk \$136  
Denis & Christine Edwards \$132  
ECHOage \$130  
Ryan Alday \$130  
Sam Asgarian \$130  
Denell Barbour \$130  
John Blackwood \$130  
Megan Cole \$130  
Amelia Dean \$130  
Amber Dyer \$130  
Suzanne Edie \$130

Jessica Fairweather \$130  
Christopher Gregg \$130  
Anne Griffith \$130  
Katie Griswold \$130  
Sebastian Hahl \$130  
Mike Hartnepp \$130  
Tiffany Hickman \$130  
Derek Hockenberry \$130  
Keith Hodges \$130  
James Kennedy \$130  
Ellen Kotis \$130  
Tony & David Madden \$130  
Jean Mayer \$130  
David McEachern \$130  
Gary Mical \$130  
Becky Murray \$130  
Sharon Pearcey \$130  
Louie Petrocci \$130  
Michael Sampson \$130  
Michelle & Ian Smith \$130  
Stephanie Walker \$130  
Timothy Webber \$130  
Diana Wiercinski \$130  
Shaun Williams \$130  
Natalie Yefimenco \$130  
Jean Garrison \$130  
Cindy Holinsky \$130  
Ashley Hunt \$130  
Mark Malik \$130  
Cindy Hardy \$129  
Kellmeny Jeffercoat \$128  
Leland Lakeland \$128  
Malena Vik \$128  
Neil Belcher \$127  
Athina Calderon \$127  
Sarah Edgar \$127  
Jochen Ehlers \$127  
Jamie MacHaffie \$127  
Wendy Mitchell-Covington \$127  
Frederico Salazar \$127  
Celeste Semenas \$127  
Julie Ahrens \$125  
John Marc Anderson \$125  
David Barna \$125  
Shannon Berendes \$125  
Melissa Berger \$125  
Robin Bisha \$125  
MaryAnne Blackburn \$125  
Anne Cuccchiara \$125  
Wadine Dinsmore \$125  
John Dolina \$125  
Nichole Dudack \$125  
Lynda Hall \$125  
Shirling Hsu \$125  
Charles & Rae Ellen James \$125  
Dee-Ann LeBlanc \$125  
Brendan O'Bryan \$125  
Greg Peinado \$125  
William & Alexis Reishus \$125  
Sabine & Raymond Hirst \$120  
Gretchen Buytas \$118  
Francis DCruz \$118  
Heather Gaffan \$118  
Christene Leber \$118  
Vickie McAfee \$118  
Judy Ostermeier \$118  
Cathy Russell \$118  
Mark Thoreson \$118  
Nicholas Vicari \$118  
Sara Walser \$118  
Sharon Yattaw \$118  
Elite Moving Labor \$115  
Susan Adams \$110  
Jeanette Barker \$110  
Graeme Burns \$110  
Shannon Campbell \$110  
John Carey \$110  
Venu Cherukuri \$110  
Jessy Chiu \$110  
Thomas Green \$110  
Dennis Mhindu \$110  
Elizabeth Paterson \$110  
Kavitha Ramchandran \$110  
Mary Schmidt \$110  
Charlotte Swanson \$110  
Alexandra Taylor \$110  
Dennis Van Aken \$110  
SooHee Ahn \$108  
Loretta Ammert \$108  
Lindsey Armstrong \$108  
Michael Aserov \$108  
Carol Ayers \$108  
Leonardo Barbosa \$108  
Rebekah Beal \$108  
Doreen Belcher \$108  
Lawrence Berk \$108  
Robert Bledsoe \$108  
Laura Bolling \$108  
Cindy Brazil \$108  
Hazel Breton \$108  
Doug Brown \$108  
Jody Bruckert \$108  
Raymond Brunelle \$108  
Barbara Burtner \$108  
Andrea Canedo \$108  
Kristina Carmichael \$108  
Debra Carter \$108  
Melissa Carter \$108  
Julie Catalano \$108  
Amy Cirno \$108  
Carla Collins \$108  
Allyson Cooper \$108  
Diana Coppola \$108  
Kevin Cowley \$108  
Elaine Crawford \$108  
Walter Dicks \$108  
Dan Dirago \$108  
Heather Dodd \$108  
Carley Donovan \$108  
Jill Doran \$108  
Laura Dorton \$108  
Shari Dowling \$108  
Erik Duma \$108  
Alexis Dunkin \$108  
Michael Dunn \$108  
Clare Early \$108  
Deborah Elliott \$108  
Kelly Elsberry \$108  
Lisa Emmerdoyer \$108  
John Everett \$108  
Michelle Faust \$108  
Steve Featherstone \$108  
James Foley \$108  
Sarah Ford \$108  
David Forrest \$108  
Mike & Pat Francis \$108  
Kristen Frank \$108  
Ellis Frost \$108  
Barbara Gaines \$108  
Robin Galison \$108  
Jill Garcia \$108  
D. Gibson \$108  
Linda Gilley \$108  
Tina Gould \$108  
Jane Graham \$108  
Mary Grimm \$108  
Lynn Grossheim \$108  
Ralph Haffenden \$108  
Glenda Hannings \$108  
Kathleen Hansen \$108  
Robert Hansen \$108  
Stephanie Hanson \$108  
Harrison Heysel \$108  
Brenda Hillman \$108  
Susan Hirsch \$108  
Nancy Hottinger \$108  
Monique Hunt \$108  
Angela Hyssong \$108  
Matthew Jackson \$108  
Paula Jones \$108  
David Joseph \$108  
Debra Karstadt \$108  
Christopher Kayser \$108  
John Kelly \$108  
Logan Kelly \$108  
Sherry Kendall \$108  
Kathy Kent \$108  
Daralyn Kingma \$108  
Georgia Klamon-Miller \$108  
Cynthia Klingensmith \$108  
Paul Kramer \$108  
Diane Krasinski \$108  
Lisa Langenbach \$108  
Joseph Latour \$108  
Becca Leahey \$108  
Lauren Leveton \$108  
Mandy Liu \$108  
Jake Logan \$108  
Lori Logan \$108  
Delphia Lozada \$108  
Hillary MacKinlay \$108  
Tammy Madison \$108  
Myrla Magness \$108  
Jeff Mann \$108  
Brenda Mapes \$108  
Nancy Martinez \$108  
Matthew Mastick \$108  
Shelly Maynes \$108  
Samantha McKinney \$108  
Toni McMurphy \$108  
Victor Michnowicz \$108  
Martha Miller \$108  
Kathleen Miller \$108  
Sandie Minor \$108  
Eliel Morell \$108  
Shannon Murphy \$108  
Annika Nelson \$108  
Celeste Nicaise \$108  
James Noble \$108  
Megann O'Rourke \$108  
Celena Ossi \$108  
Art Parker \$108  
Manon Passino \$108  
Deb Paul \$108  
Maria Perry \$108  
Paisley Petrey \$108  
Arthur Podgurski \$108  
Nicole Potter \$108  
Raghavendra Prata \$108  
Sandra Price \$108  
Bart Rainone \$108  
Jocelyn Raquepau \$108  
Jennifer Redd \$108  
Kristine Reed \$108  
Leah Retamozo \$108  
Carol Rhodes \$108  
Roy Rimmer \$108  
Shoshana Robuck \$108  
Kristine Roome \$108  
Nathan Roustio \$108  
Kami Ruple \$108  
Evan Saber \$108  
Gerard Savino \$108  
Marcia Sellner \$108  
Luda Semeniuk \$108  
Fayez Shafi \$108  
Prमित Shah \$108  
Gina Silvia \$108  
Glyn Simpson \$108  
Jane Singleton \$108  
Chad Smith \$108  
Jean Smith \$108  
Janise Smith \$108  
Heather Smith \$108  
Joshua Sponar \$108  
Jonathan Sporn \$108  
Mary Straw \$108  
Angie Stringham \$108  
Hans Stuhldreier \$108  
Amanda Tate \$108  
Tracy Taylor \$108  
Grace Thornton \$108  
Christine Topalian \$108  
Michael Turner \$108  
Thodd VanAllen \$108  
Jacki Vorhees \$108  
Katy Walters \$108  
Deborah Watson \$108  
Cindy Weinel \$108  
Jeff Whitlock \$108  
Deanna Williams \$108  
Kathy Wood \$108  
Anne Woods \$108  
Carrie Arndt \$107  
Howard Cronson \$107  
Alan Brunelle \$105  
Mary Collazo \$105  
Dnna DeCeco \$105  
Priya Deokie \$105  
Andy Fleetham \$105  
Scott Roberts \$105  
Darlene Turcotte \$105  
Barbara Alber \$103  
Mari Dawley \$103  
Stacey Gallagher \$103  
Katherine Hazelwood \$103  
Katherine Hazelwood \$103  
Joseph Huckaby \$103  
Barbara Johnson Truncala \$103  
Laura Minter \$103  
Amy Mohr \$103  
Carson Morrow \$103  
Laurie Shentalevonn \$103  
Janet Waite \$103  
Charity for Change \$102  
Colleen Blanchard \$101  
Jacqueline Albin \$100  
Erin Amerman \$100  
Jean Anthony \$100  
Cassandra Ardern \$100  
Leo Asadoorian \$100  
Thomas & Margie Berman \$100  
Bruce & Bette Berman \$100  
John & Diane Blackmon \$100  
Noelle Blick \$100  
Katrina Bogardus \$100  
Cornelius & Margo Boomsma \$100  
Erin Carden \$100  
Carol Carson \$100  
Krisha Carter \$100  
Tim Case \$100  
Robert Cayton \$100  
Roosey Church \$100  
Citrus County Fair Association \$100  
Lezli & Ian Clark \$100  
Cynthia Clement \$100  
Kathleen Cole \$100  
Thomas & Mary Beth Collier \$100  
Edward & Carol Collins \$100  
L. Catherine Crompton \$100  
Laura Crompton \$100  
Linda Dees \$100  
Ann Dehoff \$100  
Matthew & Allyse Denmark \$100  
Toni Derr \$100  
Victoria Descalzo \$100  
Terri Dixon \$100  
Paul & Doris Dorfman \$100  
Brandon & Ashlee Drumm \$100  
Bobbi Emmons \$100  
Krista Endres \$100  
Angela Fasoli \$100  
Elizabeth Fazio \$100  
Pilar Fierro \$100  
Gary Fisher \$100  
Gail Fournier \$100  
Mark Freeman \$100  
Colleen Gallagher \$100  
Ed Gardner \$100  
David Gill \$100  
Neal Gillespie \$100  
Brett Gobehe \$100  
Jeannette Goebel \$100  
Patrick & Mary Goshtigian \$100  
Paula Gower \$100  
Candy Grasty \$100  
Joan Griffin \$100  
Kinsey Grow \$100  
Daniel & Lindsay Hamminga \$100  
Lindsay Hamminga \$100  
Rebecca Harper \$100  
Russ Harvey \$100  
Rachael Hastings \$100  
Nancy Helm \$100  
Liz Henri \$100  
Barney & Lyndsey Hewitt \$100  
Tarek Hijaz \$100  
Nevin Hoke \$100  
Stephen Hutnik \$100  
Jenna Garcia & Carol Jankuv \$100  
Mary and Grady Jeter \$100  
Chris Jordan \$100  
Leisa Jordan \$100  
Timothy Juliani \$100  
Craig Kaczay \$100  
Carol Kilbey \$100  
Susan King \$100  
Roberta Knapp \$100  
Georgia Kropp \$100  
Roland Kunkel \$100  
Val Kuntz \$100  
Letitia Latek \$100  
Kim Lemmer \$100  
Dorothy Lewis \$100  
Donna Long \$100  
Sherrie MacDonald \$100  
Michele Manos \$100  
Elena Marchenko \$100  
Charlene Martel \$100  
Albert & Madeline Marx \$100  
Sandra McClaob \$100  
Daniel & Dorothy McCormick \$100  
Kimberly McKean \$100  
Frederick Mendoza \$100  
Richard Mizel \$100  
Maryanne Mothersole \$100  
Garvan & Nicole Murtha \$100  
Robert & Nichole Muzina \$100  
Kenneth Newman \$100  
Barbara Orloff \$100  
Norman & Joan Oyen \$100  
Jennifer & Joe Pamlyane \$100  
Todd Parker \$100  
Marilyn Pease \$100  
Carol Peele \$100  
Victoria Perepelitsa \$100  
Elaine Peterson \$100  
Robert & Charlotte Pierce \$100  
Janice Prescott \$100  
Ruth Punt \$100  
Amanda Raymond \$100  
Erin Regan \$100  
Freda Remmers \$100  
Laurie Remschel \$100  
Brian, Tracey, & Michaela Rice \$100  
Joseph Ricker \$100  
John & Patricia Robbs \$100  
Karen Robey \$100  
Barbara Rogers \$100  
Roy Rollo \$100  
Marlene & Brady Russell \$100  
Sofia Saenz \$100  
Sharon Sauro \$100  
Ronald Shaeffer \$100  
Wendy Sherrock \$100  
Kari Simoneone \$100  
John & Ilyna Simon \$100  
Tyler Sipe \$100  
Ryann Smith \$100  
Dina Smith \$100  
Lindsey Smythe \$100  
Timothy Snider \$100  
Robert Sornogni \$100  
Julie Sordi \$100  
John Stillman \$100  
Dawn & Kevin Stoppello \$100  
Deborah Storey \$100  
Maureen Stuart \$100  
Douglas Taplow \$100  
Sonya Taylor \$100  
Art & Lynn Tharp \$100  
Gaylin Thomas \$100  
Lucy Tidwell \$100  
Gloria Van Grove \$100  
Roger VanDerlip \$100  
Robert Waters \$100  
Rose Watson \$100  
Charles & Darlene Weir \$100  
Milton Weisman \$100  
Brent Welling \$100  
Louise Wilker \$100  
Nancy Wilkinson \$100  
Ronald & Susan Williams \$100  
Angela Winn \$100

Thank you for your support! If your donation came toward the end of the quarter, it may not have been entered into our database in time for this newsletter and will appear in the next. Donation data entry is manual and subject to occasional errors, so if your donation should appear and does not, please email:

[Chelsea.Feeny@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:Chelsea.Feeny@BigCatRescue.org)

so we can investigate and correct our records if there is an omission.



# THE INTERN EXPERIENCE

By Ellie Richardson



While on a family vacation, I came across a leaflet for "Big Cat Rescue". I had always loved and admired big cats so I persuaded my family to visit this sanctuary. Most people on the tour were there to see a big cat up close, as was I. However by the end of the tour, I realized that this sanctuary was very different than most other animal facilities – their ethics included no breeding, and no contact. This seemed strange at first, as most other animal exhibitors, such as zoos frequently promote these aspects. I learned a great deal on the tour that ended up affecting how I looked at the animal industry. I discovered the major problem of private ownership of exotic animals in the U.S., and I wanted to help stop this. My experience influenced what I wanted to do as a career, and so after high school I began studying for a degree in animal science at a local university in Edinburgh.

Five years later, I applied to become an intern at Big Cat Rescue, and was accepted! I arrived in Tampa in June. After approximately 20 hours of traveling I was tired, and slightly jet lagged but excited to start a new adventure.

During the 12 week internship I will learn how to clean and maintain enclosures, and be trained in diet preparation, feeding techniques, operant training, and enrichment. Housing is provided as well as a grocery stipend.

At orientation I was given an overall briefing on the sanctuary, its goals, and what I could expect as an intern. My first week was reasonably calm, easing me into the internship, so I could get an idea of how the sanctuary operated on a day to day basis.

Over the next few weeks daily activities fell into a routine. In the morning we feed & clean, then we break for lunch. The afternoons are spent working on projects and guiding tours.

Prior to arriving at Big Cat Rescue I had worked in jobs that required interaction with members of the public, and so I enjoy speaking with and educating guests. I found tours to be really rewarding - it was a great feeling knowing that I had the power to teach people about various aspects of animal care, and issues we at BCR are fighting to change.

As an intern I also take part in the sanctuary's 'Kitten Foster Programme', that is organized with the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. We are responsible for litters of orphaned kittens or young families that are not quite ready to be adopted. These cats are reared and socialized increasing their

chances of being adopted later on.

I am often asked which cat is my favourite. After 6 weeks of being here, I have managed to narrow it down to a few. Narla the cougar is a sweetheart, she is blind and mostly deaf, but is very talkative and happily greets keepers. I found Sabre, a 23 year old black Asian leopard, acting particularly silly during one of my tours on afternoon. He sprinted around his enclosure and pounced on and attacked his toy ball, it was a special moment to witness this old man having such genuine fun. Finally my favourite cats include the 'Texas Tigers' – Amanda, Andre, and Arthur. These cats to me, represent 'unbroken' animals. At feeding time their roaring is especially unrelenting, and though I have been scared by them on many occasions, I admire their will power to remain true to their wild nature behaving how tigers should.

The work here is hard, but it is also very rewarding. Big Cat Rescue is an excellent example of how far people can get with determination. BCR and it's huge support base are at the forefront of supporting legislation to better protect big cats in captivity. I am honoured to be able to say I have been a part of this sanctuary's journey.



Amanda, Andre, & Arthur enjoying tuna popcicles, photo by Lauren Buckingham



On Father's day a sell out crowd of 550 people joined us for our first annual Wildcat Walkabout. The event was a roaring success and raised over \$6,000. This year's Walkabout was in support of lion conservation. All of the proceeds from the event as well as pre and post event tee sales were donated to two worthy causes; Build a Boma project led by National Geographic and Lion Guardians. You can read more about these projects at: [buildaboma.org](http://buildaboma.org) and [lionguardians.org](http://lionguardians.org)

A limited supply of event tees are still available.

Order yours today before they are sold out.



**Charcoal Tee  
or Women's  
Hot Pink  
V-neck  
S - XL \$13  
XXL \$15**



**BACK**

**PLEDGE TO BE  
CIRCUS  
FREE**

**12,054 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. 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.

## TIGER SELFIE CHALLENGE

Public opinion is evolving when it comes to using wild animals as photo props. Once thought to be a thrilling experience resulting in a cute photo, is now widely known to be CRUEL not COOL. Wild animals are pulled away from their mothers and forced to interact with the public

for hours on end for the sole purpose of profiting the breeders and dealers. Once these cubs age out of the window in which the public is permitted to have contact with them they are discarded, ending up in canned hunts and the black market. Get the Tiger Selfie app for iPhone and

help spread the word about posing with wild animals by posting your cruelty free tiger selfies on social media sites.

**TigerSelfieApp.com**



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:

**NoCircusTigers.com**

Please make the pledge today  
And tell your friends!

## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: TIGERS



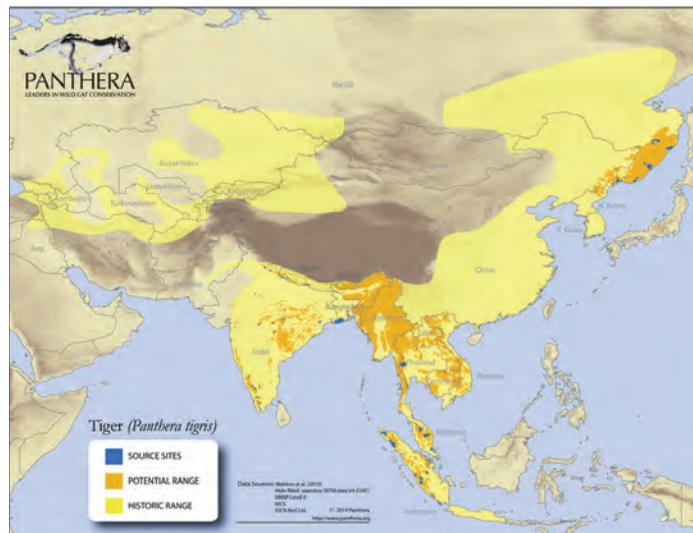
**Population:** Just over 100 years ago, there were as many as 100,000 wild tigers living in Asia. Today, there are fewer than 3,200. There are 6 existing subspecies of tigers; three have gone extinct in the last century. Existing: Bengal, Indochinese, Sumatran, Siberian, Malayan, South-China (No signs of the South-China subspecies have been found in the wild in the last decade). Extinct: Javan (lost in the 1970's), Caspian (lost in the 1950's), Bali (lost in the 1930's). Tigers are listed as "Endangered" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

**Size and Appearance:** The largest of all the living cats, the tiger is immediately recognizable by its unique reddish orange coat with black stripes. Stripe patterns differ among individuals and are as unique to the animal as are fingerprints to humans. Body size of the tiger varies with latitude, the smallest occurring at low latitudes in Indonesia and the largest at high altitudes in Manchuria and Siberia. The largest, the Siberian tiger can reach weights exceeding 700 pounds and lengths of 10+ feet.

**Habitat:** The tiger requires dense

vegetative cover and sufficient large prey. Range size is based on the habitat conditions and availability of prey. Indian tigers generally have a range of 8-60 square miles, Sumatran tigers 150 square miles, and Siberian tigers 400 square miles. Tigers have lost more than 40% of their habitat in the past decade.

**Distribution:** Tigers exist in 13 Asian countries and are extinct



in 11 countries. Tigers no longer live in 93% of their historic range.

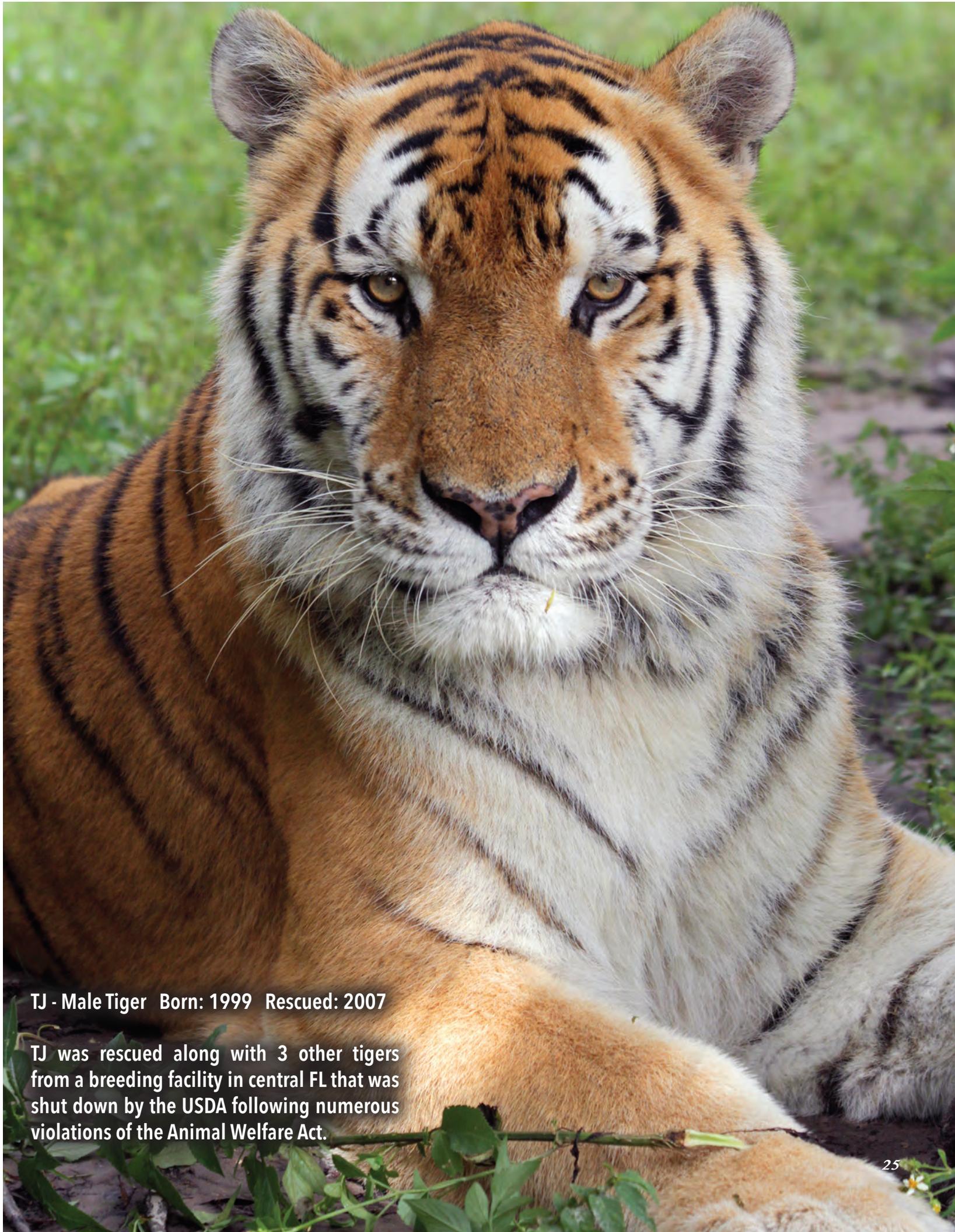
**Reproduction and Offspring:** Tigers will mate throughout the year, but most frequently between the end of November to early April. After a gestation of 103 days an average litter of 3 cubs are born. Cubs will leave their mothers between the ages of 18 - 28 months. During the first year, mortality can be as high as 35%, and of that 73% of the time it is the entire litter that is lost. The leading cause of mortality is attacks from other animals, although fire and floods are

contributors as well.

**Social System:** Tigers are solitary, however, they are not anti-social. Males not only come together with females for breeding, but will feed with or rest with females and cubs. Females with cubs have also been seen coming together to share meals. Most likely, in all of these cases they are somehow related. Males will kill cubs from other males, so it is likely that the offspring in question is his own.

**Hunting and Diet:** Tigers hunt primarily between dusk and dawn. Once prey is killed, the tiger either drags or carries its meal into cover. A tiger can drag or carry an animal twice its body weight and will consume anywhere from 35 - 90 pounds of meat at one sitting. Tigers are not the most successful of hunters. Only 1 in every 10-20 attempts will be successful. The most common prey items are various species of deer and pig.

**Threats:** Wild tigers are being hunted to meet the demands of the illegal wildlife trade market, a \$20 billion a year industry. Tiger parts are consumed for traditional medicinal purposes across Asia, with a heavy demand in China. Wild tigers are persecuted when villagers take retaliatory measures to protect their livestock. Tiger habitat is increasingly under threat from agricultural developments, like palm oil plantations.



**TJ - Male Tiger Born: 1999 Rescued: 2007**

**TJ was rescued along with 3 other tigers from a breeding facility in central FL that was shut down by the USDA following numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act.**

# WHY is the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Giving up on the Florida Panther?



In the 1930's scientists reported that no more than 30 Florida Panthers remained in the wild and that many of them suffered from birth defects due to inbreeding.

In 1958 the state made its first stride in protecting the Florida Panther and put an end to hunting the big cat.

In 1967 the Florida Panther was listed as Endangered. For 30+ years the federal government has maintained that for panthers to be taken off of the endangered list their South Florida population must be increased to 240 individuals as well as two additional populations of a minimum of 240 be established elsewhere in the state. This goal,

most recently reviewed in 2008, is based on scientific research supporting these numbers will ensure the panther survives another 100 years.

Throughout the past several decades conservation efforts have increased the panther population to an estimated 100-180 individuals as well as restored genetic diversity through the brief introduction of Texas cougars.

On June 23rd, Nick Wiley, executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), proposed a plan that would weaken protections for the endangered Florida Panther. The policy proposal which was co-authored by FWC commissioner and cattle rancher Aliese Priddy appears to be the first step towards legalizing the hunting of Florida panthers.

Separately Priddy is among a group of land developers that are

**Proposal to weaken Florida Panther protections submitted without expert input from the states' panther biologists.**

seeking a special federal permit to kill a certain number of panthers should they get in the way of their development plans. These developers include; two major sugar companies, Alico and King Ranch; the Half Circle L Ranch; Pacific Tomato Growers; English Brothers; and the Barron Collier Partnership and Collier Enterprises. The group intends to turn 45,000 acres of their 177,000 acres of prime panther habitat in Colier County into a town that would be home to mining, oil exploration, agriculture, and 10,000 residential homes.

Over 600,000 acres of traditional panther habitat have been mostly abandoned by panthers due to impacts of periodic high water events since the 1970's. Clearly a town in the middle of current panther habitat is not in the best interest of the species.



Wiley and Priddy's policy proposal suggests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's goals are not realistic so it is time to change them. The policy included language that would give the wildlife agency more flexibility when dealing with panthers that are considered a nuisance by allowing for the killing of them as is currently permitted with alligators and bears. Current federal law protects panthers from being hunted, while Florida law makes killing a panther a third-degree felony.

On a side note, Wiley and Priddy submitted their policy proposal regarding the Florida Panthers at the June 23rd meeting where the FWC voted in favor of removing protections for the black bear that had been in place for 21 years. Despite public outcry the FWC has opened up the first black bear hunting season since 1994. Current population estimates are unknown, but thought to be around 3,000 bears. The cost to kill a black bear \$100-\$300.

Reasons cited in Wiley and Priddy's proposal for weakening the protection of Florida panthers were: the growing panther population, estimated between 100-180, has led to an increase in predation of domestic pets and livestock (estimated 20-30 annually), human-panther conflicts (20-25 road kills annually), and the hindrance of land development. "Panther populations are straining and currently exceed the tolerance of landowners, residents and recreationists in the region," according to the proposal.

The proposal would also change

## **FWC wants to abandon federal required recovery plans to establish additional FL Panther populations**



how the FWC protects the endangered cat by focusing the agency's resources on controlling the growth of the South Florida population, addressing lost live stock, and putting the responsibility of establishing the two additional panther populations on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Removing protections for the Florida Panther would be a big step in the wrong direction for the future of the state's big cat.

Instead the focus should be on protecting habitat and establishing wildlife corridors that would contribute to the success of the panther throughout Florida and into Georgia and Alabama.

The state pays nearly \$1 million a year to biologists to study the Florida panther. Yet these panther biologists were not consulted during the drafting of this policy proposal regarding the protection of the panther. Wiley and Priddy (who claims to have lost 10 cattle to panthers) appear to have an alternate agenda.

The proposal stated that panthers have outgrown their "carrying capacity" in their habitat south of the Caloosahatchee River, claiming there are too many for the area to support naturally. When the wildlife commission's panther biologists did get to see this proposal, after it was drafted, they strongly disagreed.

"There is no science supporting the statement about 'exceeding carrying capacity,' " panther biologist Darrell Land, who has been studying the big cats since

1985, said in a May email to his bosses. "I am unaware of any analysis ... that reached that conclusion. ... It is an opinion, not a fact."

After hours of public comments regarding the proposal and a strong backlash from the public and the media the FWC delayed their vote until September so that more data could be collected. The delay gives Floridians a chance to speak out for the Florida Panther and demand that preservation of the species continue.

In response to the uproar caused by the first draft of Wiley and Priddy's proposal, a second draft which includes input from the agency's biologists, the public, and the other 6 commissioners has been made public.

The new version, posted in its entirety on the FWC's website has removed language stating the primary focus will be on protecting livestock, and has also made clear that there are no intentions of removing the Florida Panther from the Endangered Species List any time soon. However, it still

calls for federal officials to lessen their criteria for taking panthers off the endangered list. The current criteria set a goal too high to be achieved, the draft says. Also still included is language regarding the need to deal with human-panther conflict. Which may, in turn, open the door to hunting the endangered cat.

FWC commissioners will vote on adopting the new policy on September 2nd. Big Cat Rescue will be present at the meeting to speak out in support of the continued preservation of the Florida Panther. For an update regarding the outcome of this meeting visit:

**[BigCatRescue.org/FLPanther](http://BigCatRescue.org/FLPanther)**



## COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) DONATES OVER \$100,000!

Each autumn generous federal government employees, including the armed forces, have an opportunity to make a pledge to have a portion of each paycheck donated to their chosen charities. These donations come to us from federal employees all over the world. About 80% of the CFC donors do so anonymously, which means we do not get their names to thank them individually. In some cases we get their names but not the amount of the pledge. The cats at Big Cat Rescue have been blessed to have been selected by so many of them that collectively the donations we receive through the CFC total over \$100,000 each year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank those listed below whose names we do have, listing them by pledge amount where we have it. At the same time we would like to thank the estimated 1,500 others who have donated anonymously. Your contributions cover a significant portion of our annual budget and truly make a difference in allowing us to give the best possible care to the cats. THANK YOU ALL!



Sandra Barnes \$3,250  
Charles Graham \$1,200  
Rachael Myers-Ward \$1,131  
Debra Bailey \$1,040  
Sandra Shull \$1,040  
Laurence Miller \$1,040  
Scott Hill \$1,000  
Vivienne Halpern \$1,000  
Joelle Starefos \$780  
David Ellis \$700  
Gillian Cohen-Boyer \$554  
Daniel Morris \$540  
Richard Perry \$520  
Christine Athey \$520  
Anne Lloyd \$520  
Paula Gray \$520  
Christina Anderson-Plimpton \$500  
Sarah Hoffman \$450  
John Newman \$442  
Stacie Blizzard \$400  
Janice Burke \$390  
Kelly Hays \$390  
Kasmira Kolden \$390  
John Leszczynski \$390  
Nicole Foust \$390  
Anastasia Hetman \$360  
Elizabeth Gannaway \$360  
Laura Cooksey \$351

Karen Maskew \$325  
Erin Mettee \$325  
Denise Nichols \$312  
Jonathan Richard & Nat Weaver \$300  
Robert Vaughn \$300  
Michael Manning \$300  
James Smith \$300  
Katheryn Hoke \$300  
November Stonely \$300  
Alanna Youngblood \$300  
Melissa Miller \$300  
Christopher Bunyea \$286  
Susan Jaworski \$260  
Brenda Marinke \$260  
Marilee Smalley \$260  
Robert Rhodes III \$260  
Siobhan Feliciano \$260  
Megan Edel \$260  
Gretchen Persohn \$260  
Christine Curley \$260  
Kim Ann Gerwer \$260  
Arianda Sugar \$260  
Paul Stabile \$260  
Lucia Wakeman \$260  
Julie Wilkinson \$260  
Michael Young \$260  
Roxanne Gerry \$260  
Joseph Spencer \$260  
Stephen Nickerson \$260  
Michele Poulos \$260  
Rene Coughenour \$260  
Kurt Brown \$260  
Cahterine Parker \$260  
Terri Diehl \$260  
Rainer Brown \$260

Theresa Ogden \$260  
Dana Cook \$260  
Travis Webb \$252  
Edward Gow \$251  
Ilse Lore Passalacqua \$250  
Deborah Gilliam \$247  
Carol Tritt \$247  
Micheal Creeden \$240  
Barry Dersh \$240  
Anne Cook \$240  
Lynn Isaak \$240  
Reenah Schaffer \$240  
Derrick Thorson \$240  
Cinda Lautenschlegar \$234  
Christine Birkenmaier \$234  
Amy Pryor \$221  
Bruce Lady \$208  
Angela Huss \$208  
Abbie Nestler \$207  
Deborah Gunnlaugsson \$200  
Diane Kistler \$200  
Celeste Plaisance \$200  
Angela Micheli \$200  
Marvin Levine \$200  
Jane VanDerlip \$195  
Todd Walters \$182  
Karl Fuchs \$180  
Paul Banas \$179  
Gemel Thomas \$175  
Lieneke Massey \$166  
Mary Arndt \$160  
Gina Marvin \$160  
Shannon Bradbury \$156  
Barbara Freeby \$156  
Marianna Martindale \$150  
Jeffrey Felty \$150

Louis Baralot \$150  
Jocelyn Winslow \$143  
Maegan Evanisko \$132  
Janet Briggs \$130  
Homer Janssens \$130  
Sandra Carlson \$130  
Barry Goldsmith \$130  
Lindsay Dahlstrom \$130  
James McDonald \$130  
Mark Altier \$130  
Jennifer Howard \$130  
Yvonne Thorne \$130  
Stacey Wilson \$130  
Jeanne Ruski \$130  
Michael McElroy \$130  
Doreen Sears \$130  
Natalie Dalessandro \$130  
Donna Raihl \$130  
Elizabeth Lee \$130  
Rosemary Hazard \$130  
Carl Wescott \$130  
Phillip Canterbury \$130  
Crystal Buffert \$130  
Joane Holmes \$130  
Joel Strawser \$130  
Shannon Thompson \$130  
Dorothy Retallack \$130  
Renae Voelkel \$130  
Jeff Carlile \$130  
Joanne Ottens \$130  
Charles Speth \$125  
Jill Murphy \$125  
Tricia Van Den Top \$120  
Kristen Pacheco \$120  
Rachel Schofield \$120  
Jamie Fiddleman \$120

Kenneth Bowling \$120  
Joseph Ivy \$120  
Kody Sessions \$120  
Rebecca Waddington \$120  
Samuel Fry \$120  
Kathy Verduzco \$120  
Cassandra Kaiser \$120  
Jonathan Conner \$120  
Trisha Brockoff \$120  
Suzanne Tenorio \$120  
Debra Taylor \$115  
Hermine Vaughn \$114  
Fred Nichols \$108  
Christine Resch \$104  
Jennafer Sancho \$104  
Erika Nieves \$104  
Jeffrey Swank \$104  
Julie Zambrana \$104  
Jessica Salyers \$100  
Kimberly Gates \$100  
Jody Hughes \$100  
Stephen Bernard \$100  
Tracy Gieger \$100  
Forrest Williamson \$100  
Jillian Andrews \$100  
Susan Matchett \$100  
Kathleen Maupin \$100  
Thomas Thomas \$100  
Rick Mitchell \$100

# VET REPORTS:

## AMANDA TIGER GETS SPAYED AT 19

Amanda was rescued along with Andre and Arthur from a sanctuary that went bankrupt in Texas. The trio had lived with several other big cats. All of the males had been neutered to prevent breeding. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for female cats to have complications later in life if they are not spayed.

Keepers noticed something was wrong right away when Amanda was not interested in food. She along with her siblings are always very excited when its feeding time. Instead she lay quiet in her den.



Because this was so unusual for her it was decided that an exam was critical. Amanda was sedated and examined. During the exam it was discovered that her uterus had become infected. In the veterinary field this is referred to as pyometra. Pyometra is considered a serious and life threatening condition that must be treated quickly. Treatment involves entire removal of the

reproductive tract, in other words spay.

Dr. Helga Blaeyart performed the surgery along with the assistance of Dr. Sami Peterson, Dr. Tammy Miller Michau, and Dr. Wynn.



Dr. Blaeyart & Dr. Peterson operate on Amanda

This normally routine procedure was anything but. Because of the severity of the infection there was a very real risk of the uterus rupturing which could flood Amanda's abdominal cavity with bacteria laden pus.

Thankfully the surgery went smoothly and after a short time recovering in our hospital cage she was returned to her permanent enclosure and reunited with her brothers.

## GROOMING BIG CATS

Some of our cats are very old and with age comes arthritis. A few of our cats have very bad arthritis that inhibits their ability to move freely in all directions so they can groom those hard to reach areas. While on medications to help their joints and ease their pains, they require assistance with regular grooming.

One way we help these cats is by

using extendable back scratchers. These scratchers allow a trained keeper to brush out loose or matted fur, while maintaining a safe distance from the cat. However, some cats need more than a little brushing.

Sassyfras the cougar and Angie the bobcat must be sedated periodically and completely shaved. Sassyfras is new to the back scratcher and will only allow for a few brushes here and there. Hopefully with time and patience we will be able to groom him completely using this method so that he does not have to be sedated. Angie on the

other paw is very distrustful and will not come anywhere near her



Little Feather allows keepers to remove mats from her fur using a back scratcher



Angie being shaved by Dr. Wynn



*Sarah, Joanna, and Gale move Sassyfras to the recovery cage*

keepers so unfortunately she will require routine sedation for grooming.

## MYSTERY ILLNESS AFFECTS KING TUT

One morning in April King Tut was found in his enclosure shivering and laying in a crouched position. He seemed very uncomfortable and unable to pick his head up to a normal resting position. His keepers had just seen him an hour earlier and he was acting completely normal, following them around the enclosure looking for his morning meal.



*King Tut is a hybrid between a serval and a domestic cat*

He was sedated and examined by Dr. Boorstein. Nothing obvious was found during his exam, so blood was drawn and sent to the lab for testing. In the meantime he was started on a course of steroids in case he had injured himself. This seemed to fit given the fact that he was seen earlier in the day acting normal.

King Tut was taken to the Animal Care Institute for an MRI to see if there was an injury to his back or tumor in his brain. The specialist who examined the images noted that there was a slight swelling along the spinal cord which could be caused by injury or disease. It was recommended that a spinal tap be performed in order to narrow down the cause of the swelling. The bad news is King Tut had to be taken off the steroids that were making him feel better in order to obtain an accurate reading from the test.

After weaning him from the medication he was sedated a third time so that Dr. Boorstein could collect a sample of the fluid that surrounded the spinal cord.

The results from the CSF (cerebral spinal fluid) were inconclusive. The cause of King Tut's condition could have been due to injury or any one of dozens of diseases including disc disease, FIP, meningitis, or even cancer.

Some of the listed causes would respond to steroids and so King Tut was put back on this medication at an increased dose.

Throughout King Tut's ordeal we thought many times that he would not make it. He would refuse food and in turn not take his meds. He was so sick he allowed the veterinarians to inject him with medications to increase his appetite and decrease nausea



*Dr. Boorstein preps King Tut for an MRI*



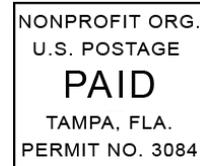
*Dr. Boorstein & Jamie Veronica collect a CSF sample*

and fluids to keep him hydrated. His keepers tried every kind of meat you could imagine to get him interested in eating again. King Tut spent several weeks under intensive care in our onsite Cat Hospital.

Suddenly he turned the corner. King Tut began eating small meals and drinking on his own.



12802 Easy Street  
Tampa, FL 33625



:CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

As the steroids started to do their job his shaking went away all together and he seemed much more comfortable.

Once he was back to normal King Tut was returned to his outdoor enclosure. He will remain on steroids indefinitely and will be monitored closely by the vet team.

We are so grateful for each and every one of you who donate towards the care of these great cats. Without your help we would not be able to provide them with such excellent veterinary care. King Tut definitely thanks you!

### JOSEPH'S LION EYES



Joseph is probably one of the grumpiest cats here at the sanctuary. He has a right to be. He was rescued along with 3 others from a facility that chained

and drugged their big cats so the public could pet them. Enduring a lifetime of being forced to do something you do not want to is bound to make anyone grumpy.

Needless to say when he had to be sedated for eye surgery the keepers were not looking forward to his reaction. It took two people to dart Joseph, one to distract and another to deploy the dart. Joseph roared in retaliation. It was over in seconds, but Joseph will unfortunately remember it forever.

Once sedated he was transported to the Windsong Memorial Hospital where a team of vets and keepers worked simultaneously to perform a routine exam as well as eye surgery.

Joseph's right eye had developed a luxated lens. This means the lens which is responsible for focusing and is suspended just behind the pupil becomes detached and floats into the front of the eye. Dr. Tammy Miller Michau (eye specialist) and

her team carefully removed the lens.



Meanwhile, Dr. Wynn and Dr. Boorstein drew blood, collected samples, and monitored his anesthesia.

Post surgery Joseph required eye drops several times a day for 5 weeks. Surprisingly he was a compliant patient and allowed his keepers to do this as long as there were treats involved. His eye has healed well and he will still have vision in it, although it will be farsighted.

