This Lion and White Tigress Need Your Help!

Imagine the scene: A little roadside zoo and circus that makes its money by having cute little cubs on display, but the money is never enough. Many of the cages are corn cribs, meant for airing out corn, but frequently used as containers for big cats. They will live out their lives as the victims of boredom and suffering because people don’t know the real story.

As each cub grows up and is no longer profitable for petting and photo opportunities with passing tourists, it is crammed into a cage with more of its own kind. The breeding is continuous and the cycle of misery repeats year after year… and these are the lucky ones.

The ones who are not so lucky are the ones that are relegated to the basement. Generation after generation cats are bred and sold. After years and years of continued suffering and abuse one of the owners dies and some of the cats can finally be rescued.

Some claimed the cats were being sold. The volunteers were told that cats were being given away, but one pair had been held back. A male lion and a female white tiger had been raised together with the hopes of breeding them and creating white tigers. These would be very valuable to another circus or another road side zoo and might provide a means of supporting the zoo. These cats had lived together since they were cubs with just this very purpose in mind and now they were getting old enough to breed. They were separated last fall by the remaining owner, much to the distress of the lion, but there wasn’t money enough for birth control.

Male lions are often sold to canned hunts because they are not a protected specie and there are no laws to prevent “sportsmen” from shooting them in a transport cage in order to hang their heads on the wall and to have lies to tell their drinking buddies about their bravado. Tigers are illegal to sell across state lines, but the black market for their pelts and parts, puts them in peril as the U.S. is the largest provider of tiger parts to the Asian “medicinal” trade. Being a white tiger meant that Zabu could have been bred to death or sold for her fur and bones.

Back at the zoo, the money has run out, the food is getting more scarce and of lower quality. The cats are getting thinner and their coats becoming dull. No one wants these big cats. Many unaccredited zoos breed continuously to provide cubs to attract paying guests and have no where to dispose of last year’s cats. Most of the sanctuaries are full. There is nothing for a big cat to do in this situation but to circle endlessly waiting for that one chance at escape, even if it can only be through death.

The owner agreed that the home in Florida would be the best thing for everyone involved. Once the cats are healthy enough and out of quarantine, the lion will have a vasectomy or the tigress will be put on birth control so that they can live together once again.

It costs BCR $465/month or $5,580/year to give one of these large cats the food, vitamins and health care they need. Accepting these two cats creates a significant financial burden of over $10,000/year.

To help support these beautiful cats you can:
Mail checks to:
Big Cat Rescue
12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625
Donate over the phone by calling Barbara at: 813-920-6534
Or on the web at our secure online gift shop
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN RESCUING THESE TWO WONDERFUL BIG CATS!
CLAWS AND EFFECT:
The White Tiger Fraud

Over the years many people have asked us to take white tigers off their hands, but in every case it was only so they could breed more, so we declined. For years we have railed against supporting facilities that breed and exhibit white tigers because of the abuse involved in producing them. All white tigers come from inbreeding of father to daughter and brother to sister generation after generation. The myth of the Rare White Bengal Tiger was an illusion meant to deceive the public into thinking that these cats were endangered and being preserved for future generations. The truth of the matter is that they aren’t even pure Bengal tigers, but rather are all the offspring of an original Siberian / Bengal cross breeding. The inbreeding results in many defects, early deaths, still births and, as could be expected, the cats are not very bright which is why they are preferred for entertainment purposes.

To quote from Dr. Ron Tilson, Conservation Director of the Minnesota Zoo and manager of the world renown Tiger Species Survival Plan, “The white tiger controversy among zoos is a small part ethics and a large part economics. The tiger Species Survival Plan has condemned breeding white tigers because of their mixed ancestry, most have been hybridized with other subspecies and are of unknown lineage, and because they serve no conservation purpose. Owners of white tigers say they are popular exhibit animals and increase zoo attendance and revenues as well. The same rationalization can be applied to the selective propagation of white lions, king cheetahs and other phenotypically aberrant animals.”

“However, there is an unspoken issue that shames the very integrity of zoos, their alleged conservation programs and their message to the visiting public. To produce white tigers or any other phenotypic curiosity, directors of zoos and other facilities must continuously inbreed father to daughter and father to granddaughter and so on. At issue is a contradiction of fundamental genetic principles upon which all Species Survival Plans for endangered species in captivity are based. White tigers are an aberration artificially bred and proliferated by some zoos, private breeders and a few circuses who do so for economic rather than conservation reasons.”

Consider this: Only 1 in 4 tiger cubs from white parents are born white, and 80% of those die from birth defects associated with the inbreeding necessary to cause a white coat. Of those surviving, most have such profound birth defects, such as club feet, cleft palettes and grotesquely crossed eyes that bulge from their skull that only a small percentage are suitable for display. According to some tiger trainers, only 1 in 30 of those white cats will perform. The number of tigers that have to be produced and disposed of in order to fill the public’s desire to see white tigers on display is staggering.

Big Cat Rescue has never taken in a white tiger before because we did not want to enable people to dispose of their “defective” cats and cause so much more suffering and abuse by having an easy dumping ground for the cats who didn’t serve them.

Even though Zabu is black and white, the decision of whether or not to rescue her was not. When Zabu and Cameron’s plight came to our attention we had to think long and hard about whether or not we would have a white tiger on our tour. We didn’t want to be perceived as using a white tiger to draw visitors. Many times on our tours we tell guests about the fraud that has been promoted to the public about white tigers and talk about all of our golden tigers who ended up unwanted and abandoned at our door because they were the wrong color. Now we were considering turning away a white tiger because she was the wrong color. In her case the facility was being shut down and by rescuing her we were not enabling the owner to breed more and we were keeping a cat of prime breeding age from falling into the hands of people who would breed her to death.

Every year we have to turn away hundreds of big cats. Please do not support those who breed these majestic animals for a life of cruel confinement. No animal, especially a tiger, belongs in a cage.
DO NOT READ THIS!

If you’re just a spectator and a worrier over the plight of the big cats.

You must channel your concern into action for the cats. Become a Big Cat AdvoCat. Help us by bringing light to their plight. What’s their plight you ask? There are 300 each year that we can not help. They are turned away due to lack of space and funding. Why? Because there are many throwaways from roadside zoos and private owners and auctions who have no place to go. The country is flooded with these stories. We must stop the problem and not just patch it.

This is where you come in. One voice is strong but can you imagine all our supporters mobilizing over the important issues as they arise? We can write letters, spread the word and change legislation and most importantly minds. Also, we don’t plan on reporting just the challenging issues. We love to fill our newsletter with rescues, victories, breakthroughs, coming events and parties, new tour offerings, and more, so you can feel a part of our team.

Can we count on you to be an AdvoCat? If you are interested in joining the AdvoCat Program and receiving e-mail bulletins on how you can help, go to www.BigCatRescue.org/advocat.htm and give us your info. We will then be in touch with you.

NEW ONLINE GAME!

Big Cat Rescue has a fun new interactive game for kids. Check out this breakthrough game with cool audio clips and colorful design. Thanks to Bill McGuire and the people at Point2Nature giving us a break on the price, all of the volunteers providing fun facts, fabulous photos of our cats and volunteer James Moline for advising us on the set up, we have our first ever online game. It is a matching memory game where you have to turn over cards and match the cat’s fur to the right cat. If you get a match, you get to hear the sound the cat makes and learn a fun fact. Be sure your speakers are on. Are you up for the challenge?

HELPING OTHERS

Big Cat Rescue covered ad costs for The Association of Sanctuaries annual conference in March to insure that the people who need training will know it is available. BCR also paid expenses for three of the speakers on Cage Building, Operant Conditioning and the No More Homeless Pets approach to companion animal abandonment. BCR shared the secret to our high search engine placement with TAOS and CWAPC and members of both organizations.

Charities that Big Cat Rescue has donated to this quarter: 1100 passes to No More Homeless Pets Adopt-a-thon and gift certificate for a Big Cat Expedition, 50 passes to Clearwater High school’s Project Graduation, Big Cat Expedition to Clearwater Chamber of Commerce’s annual fund raiser, a Big Cat Expedition and hundreds of Two for One Passes to Animal Coalition of Tampa for their Spay Day fund raiser, 500 passes and Big Cat Expedition to Berkeley Prep School. BCR donated a $1500.00 Expedition to the Foundation for Global Understanding which will help to support 10 local charities, and $600.00 to the National Humane Society to help fund their local low cost spaying and neutering.

LEGISLATION

Big Cat Rescue reviewed the Captive Wild Animal Coalition’s proposed sanctuary standards and wrote and submitted the sub section specific to felid care based upon a compilation of our own standards, those of ACE and Florida’s Fish and Game.

BCR assisted Animal Control’s approach to the State of Florida in an effort to require owners of dangerous exotic animals to post on their property the dangers that exist and to allow the public to easily determine if their neighbors are harboring dangerous animals.

There is a new page at BigCatRescue.org called Support Legislation and AdvoCats.

Through rallying the efforts of our Colorado supporters and participating on behalf of The Association of Sanctuaries in supporting the process we were successful in seeing HB1135 pass the House and Senate unanimously. This bill defines a sanctuary and sets true sanctuaries apart from commercial exploiters in CO.
**2004 FUR BALL**

If you missed the 2003 Fur Ball, you missed the most fun you could have had last year at a Fund raiser Gala! Thanks to all of the supporters who attended and donated items for the auctions we grossed $33,000.00!!!!! (22,000 NET!!!) 300 tickets were sold last year and every cat was adopted before the night was through.

This year will be an even bigger event as we are preparing for 500 guests to have the wildest night of the year on September 17th, 2004.

We have reserved twice as much room, twice as many tables, lots more food and drink bars, and are starting the planning four months earlier to make this a night to remember.

**Cough it up, it’s fur a good cause!**

**The Fur Ball 2004**

**Come step into something fun!**

**5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION**

*September 17th, 2004 7:30PM - 12:00 AM*

Join us for a roaring good time at this year’s Fur Ball. The event will be held at the A La Carte Pavilion. Enjoy great food, live entertainment and live & silent auctions. Every 20 minutes someone will win a great door prize!!! Gourmet Vegetarian Menu, Cash Bars, Complimentary Wine Stations (donations accepted)

**DRESS**

Safari Costume Formal (Anything from pure costume safari, cat prints, or in any other way jungle related to pure formal, or any mix, cat accessorizing or combination in between. Be creative and have fun with it!)

**TICKETS**

**VIP Tickets $75.00 each**

Priority Seating. Be automatically entered to win the Grand Raffle Prize Enjoy a special VIP tour of Big Cat Rescue.

**General Admission $55.00 each**

Receive a special tour pass to visit Big Cat Rescue.

**VIP Round Tables $600.00** includes a reserved table and 10 VIP tickets with VIP privileges.

**Corporate Round Tables** Includes a reserved table, 10 VIP tickets with VIP privileges listed above. Sponsor your company’s own table for 10 and get VIP status PLUS multiple recognitions for your company (1) on the table, (2) in our beautiful keepsake Fur Ball Programs (3) on our web site which gets more than 800,000 hits per month, and (4) in Cat-Tales, our quarterly newsletter mailed to over 23,000 supporters. Call for pricing.

For reservations please call Barbara Stairs (813) 493-4565 or 920-6534 or fax 926-3255 or E-mail MaryStairs@verizon.net. You can also visit our online gift shop and click on the category called 2GetInvolved for Tickets or in the Quick Search Box, type Fur Ball. For any other questions, call Jamie Veronica at (813) 323-3263.

**SPONSORS**

Many thanks to our generous sponsors
Please consider thanking them with your patronage.

http://www.dutchergroup.com

Cox Radio Sponsors: 97X Magic 107.3 The Eagle and 94.9

Wine Sponsors:

Big Cat Rescue thanks Mondavi wines for it’s generosity in providing this year’s premium wines.

Woodbridge Select Vineyard Series
- Ghost Oak Chardonnay
- Red Dirt Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon

Papio wines have also been donated and proceeds also help benefit the African Wildlife Foundation and Primate Care.

**AUCTION PREVIEW**

“Sovereign Reign” bronze lion valued at $31,600.00

Watch or jewelry donated by Bailey Banks & Biddle.

Photo print by Marcella M. Mirande valued at $1,689.00

**DONATIONS TO THE SILENT AUCTION**

If you or your company have any item that we could add to our silent auction, PLEASE contact our President, Jamie Veronica, at SaveTheCats@aol.com. Art work and certificates for dinner or other local services are especially helpful. If your gift is valued at $500 or more, please submit a photo and short bio on yourself or your company for our appreciation presentation.

Sharon Seefeld donated more than 500.00 of great gifts

**PLEASE COME!**

This is a great chance to do all of your holiday shopping, have a great meal and fun auction, meet people who care about the cats, and it’s Fur a Great Cause! Please help us give these unwanted cats a safer retirement home.

If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation to help build our perimeter wall by filling out the order form on page 15.

THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our cats are only kept alive through your support.

On behalf of the cats, we thank you!
Specie Spotlight

Sarabi
The Lioness

Appearance: The lion is the largest carnivore in Africa, and the second largest feline predator in the world. Average males weigh 385-450 pounds, and females weigh 250-320 pounds. The males reach an overall length of 11 feet from the tip of the nose to tip of the tail, and females being just a bit shorter. Lions have a uniformly tawny coat, and the shades of it may vary from light to dark. Males possess a mane and it can range in colors from blonde to red to brown to black. It covers their head, neck and chest, and its development is believed to be strongly influenced by testosterone. Their ears have black spots on the backs, which stay black throughout their lives, unlike the black rosettes that cover their bodies when they are born.

Habitat: The lion prefers to live in open woodlands and thick brush, scrub, and tall grassy areas. The lion can and will tolerate a wide variety of habitats, absent only from rain forests and desert interiors. While lions drink water regularly when it is available, they can survive by obtaining their moisture requirements from their prey or from tsama melons. This allows them to survive in very arid climates.

Distribution: The lion was once found from northern Africa through southwest Asia (extinct in most countries within past 150 years), west into Europe (extinct 2000 years ago) and east into India (relict population in Gir Forest only). Today, the majority of Africa’s lions can be found in east and southern Africa, with a small number in west Africa.

Social System: The lion is the only true social cat and lives in groups called prides. These prides are made up of a single male or a coalition of males (up to 7) and up to 20 females and their offspring.

Hunting & Diet: Lions are very opportunistic eaters, and will take almost any prey ranging from small rodents to young rhinos, hippos and elephants. The majority of its prey, however, is medium to large ungulates, most notably zebra, wildebeest, impala, warthog, hartebeest and waterbuck.

Reproduction and Offspring: Lions will reproduce any time of the year, and all females of reproductive maturity will breed at the same time. This allows them to give birth in synchrony with each other, thereby sharing the suckling responsibilities. Any lactating female in a pride will suckle any cub that belongs to the pride. Lions give birth to 1-6 cubs after a gestation of 110 days.

Lion Facts:
Most of the lions today exist inside protected areas. No accurate number of how many lions exist in the wild has been reported, but guesstimates are between 30,000-100,000.

Cub mortality is very high in lions, and less than half will survive their first year.

In captivity, lions can live 25-30 years, as compared to 12 in the wild for males and 15-16 for females.

A male’s average tenure over a pride is only 2-3 years, but can increase depending on the size and strength of the coalition.

Lions use a variety of vocalizations, most notably the roar. It can be heard over a distance of 5-6 miles, and serves to let other members of the pride know where they are, and as a signal to strange males to stay away.

The Lion is the only cat with tufted tails (both sexes) and manes (males), with the manes allowing them to be the only cat which you can distinguish gender from a distance.

The Lion is the only true social cat and live in groups called “prides.”

The lion has often been called “the King of the Jungle,” but that would be most inaccurate. The lion’s habitat does not include the jungle, and therefore, the correct phrase would refer to the lion as “the King of Beasts.”
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Join Big Cat Rescue’s Membership Program today and start enjoying your exclusive Membership benefits. Invites to all Big Cat Rescue events, 10% off your Trading Post purchases, Tour Passes, Photos, Donor Recognition in a future issue of Cat-Tales, and more are all part of the welcome package that you will receive when you become a “Member of the Big Cat Family”.

ADOPT A WILD CHILD

All of Big Cat Rescue’s animals are available for sponsorship. The Sponsorship fee is a donation, so it is completely tax-deductible.

Sponsorship fees go directly to the care of all the animals to provide them with food, toys, enrichment, a large natural Cat-a-tat, medical and preventative care, and overall a higher standard of living.

The Sponsorship Kit includes an 8x10 glossy photograph of your chosen specie, a 4-page color newsletter filled with interesting facts about the habitat, social system, hunting and diet, and colorful photos of your chosen specie, a financial breakdown of just how your donation is used, and a list of all the animals we have that are the specie you chose, with a black and white photo and personal history of each one so that you can choose which one you would like to sponsor and have appear on your personalized Certificate.

SPONSORSHIP KIT $25 DONATION
Choose Your Specie!

Lion, Tiger, Black Leopard, Cougar, Golden Leopard, Snow Leopard, Bobcat, Canadian Lynx, Siberian Lynx, Serval, White Serval, Caracal, Ocelot, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Sand Cat, Geoffroy Cat, Binturong, Lemur, Civet, Cavy, Coati

Can You Help Us Hurdle This Fence-Wall?

In the previous issue of Cat-Tales we asked for your help to build a new perimeter fence. Due to the increasing exposure the sanctuary is subjected to by encroaching development, the staff and the founder of Big Cat Rescue decided that the new perimeter “fence” should be a perimeter “wall.” However, this has turned our $37,500 fundraising challenge into a $560,000 challenge. This translates into 7,000 linear feet of wall at $80 per linear foot. Project Cater-Wall, will be completed in phases. Phase I of this project is a portion of our perimeter in the most need of replacing. Phase I is 1,980 linear feet.

This is where you can help. How many could you, your friends, or your company sponsor?

For each $80 sponsorship you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped plus

- A special edition screensaver (available only through this fundraiser)
- 2 Two-for-One Tour Passes
- Name recognition on a prominent display

Fill out the order form on page 15 and specify that you would like to sponsor Project Cater-Wall

Don’t worry if you already sponsored a section of fence, your sponsorship will be transferred to the Cater-Wall Project.
HEROS - DONORS, NEW MEMBERS, NEW PARENTS, AND SUPPORTERS

Partnership Donations - These individuals have partnered with Big Cat Rescue to save a Big Cat's life.

To fund Project Cater-wall
The Pelican Fund $15,000
To rescue two Jaguars
Jaguar of Tampa & Robert Elders $10,300
To build a Clouded Leopard Cat-a-tat
John & Cindy Muchard $3,000

Explorers $1,000
Lynn Cameron ($2,000)

Donations
The United Way & Kerry Mushroom $650 & Timothy Mushroom $650
Christine & Jeff Boehning $500
Russell & Sandra Davis $500
Clive & Mary Anne Jones $500
Scenic City Street Machines, Inc & Tina Thurman $500

Habitat Defenders $500
Timothy Butler & Andrew Valente

Donations
Creative Mailbox Designs $400
Sharon & Tom Grzesiak $280
Sharon Bradshaw $250
Jennifer Godfrey $250

Bench Donations $250
Claire Mooers
Trisha Oliver
In Memory of George Garabedian
Sagon Trucks & Equipment
Edward Roeder
Sharon & Amy Seefeld
In Memory of John O'Neil
Jean Tranchita
In Memory of Tula Tucker

Donations
Roberto Martinez $200
Beverly & Russ Moody $200
Clay Smith $200
Steve & Anne Harrison $150

WildLife Protectors $150
Suzanne Christman
Amarillo Design Bureau, Inc
James Fellows
William Hasty
Rajaraman Juyakrishnan
Mark Pinals
Janine Plattman
Mayra Sanchez
Peter Strasser
Wayne & Rhonda Sutphen
Melissa & Ted Watson
Alan Wilde

Donations
Rose Welch $120
Diane & John Blackmon $100
Charles Blake $100
Gordon Borek $100
Tammy Boyd-Rispoli $100
Kathryn Colby $100
Cathy & Rick Gear $100
Bob & Barbara Gross $100
Russell Jordan $100
Anna McCormick $100
Donna Shields $100
Tracy Sprenger $100
Michael Callahan $80
Ellen Cecil $75
The United Way & Deborra Landry $54.21
Coral Beardsley $50
Brett Baker $50
Michelle Borges & Steve $50
Sally Kenney $50
Leslie & Joyce Egyes $50
Coral Beardsley $50
Debora Landry $54.21

The United Way & Karen Ungar $45.50
Melissa Rose $45
Brett Mitchell $40
18th Century Aviation $40
Beta Alpha Psi $37.50 Bob Baker $35
Jack Beach $30
Robert Firner $30
Fay Forman $30
Ed Johnson $30
Ralph & Jo Whitters $30

Animal Lovers $30
Shanti Beaurain
David Grymonpre
Heather Heath
Diane Herbert
Patrick Herbert
Nancy & Gerry Payne
Kelly Sanders
Artiswandy Sarip

Donations
Triangulate United Way $26.04
Frances Brubin $25
Larry & Donna Bull $25
Susan Cooper $25
Justine Corboy $25
Barbara Rogers $25
Pet & Sharon Roseman $25
Sharon Seeman $25
Suzie & Jarrin $25
Nicco Vega Jr. $25
Christina Lattuca
Patricia Green
Rhonda Harris
Lynne Harris
Helle Jonnson
Bailly Julie
Jessica LaFleur
Christina Lattuca
Katie Madden
Susan Maves
Tyler McCready
Marie Meheurboeuf
Carissa Mix
Brenda Morel
Jack Mozorci
Kathy Musolf
Carole Reese
Jim Ragan
Luke Robert
Jonathan Schott
Janet & John Schwartzzik
Yasmin Serajfar
Victoria Steves
Steve Stevens
Karen Stine
Lynn Uffelman
Jennifer Wallsinski
Sandra West
Ann Worley

Special Donations
In Leau of gifts for 9th Birthday
Michael Murray & Justin Kochalka $485
In Memory of Shona Kiefer's 20th Birthday
Diana Travers

Donations
Debra Ruhlman
Kimberly Scialdone
Diana Travers

Donations
The United Way & Karen Ungar $45.50
Melissa Rose $45
Brett Mitchell $40
18th Century Aviation $40
Beta Alpha Psi $37.50 Bob Baker $35
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Rhonda Harris
Lynne Harris
Helle Jonnson
Bailly Julie
Jessica LaFleur
Christina Lattuca
Katie Madden
Susan Maves
Tyler McCready
Marie Meheurboeuf
Carissa Mix
Brenda Morel
Jack Mozorci
Kathy Musolf
Carole Reese
Jim Ragan
Luke Robert
Jonathan Schott
Janet & John Schwartzzik
Yasmin Serajfar
Victoria Steves
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Sandra West
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Diana Travers

FAITH UPDATE

Faith is a Florida Bobcat that was taken in by Big Cat Rescue last December. She was an orphan and only a few weeks old. Big Cat Rescue has successfully rehabilitated and released several adult Florida Bobcats, that were the victims of speeding cars, however the rehab of a kitten had never been attempted. This was a pioneering effort for the sanctuary and the next few months would be a learning experience.

The starving and sick little kitten had a long road to travel before the real rehab work would begin. She had almost starved to death and had been freezing each night without her mother to keep her warm. She was dehydrated, parasitic, had an eye infection caused by a bite wound, and her resources were so depleted that she would sleep all day long. Several weeks of intensive care finally paid off for the Big Cat Rescue staff and the fuzzy hiss and spit was appropriately named Faith.

Once healthy and active, the real training began. Faith was fed a whole prey (killed) diet so that she would grow accustomed to eating things that she may find in the wild. Faith readily accepted this form of sustenance and graduated to live whole prey. A special feeding box was fashioned, using an ordinary dog carrier, allowing the young Bobcat access to her dinner while securing her prey in an inescapable holding area. Faith became a proficient hunter. After more than a month of Faith successfully capturing her own food inside this feeding station, the second phase of her training unfolded.

Faith resides in a long chain link run that is approximately 265 square feet in size. This enclosure has been stocked with brush and branches for her to hide in. There are also several branches suspended from the ceiling of the enclosure to provide a secure point of observation for the cub. Just a few weeks ago nearly half of this run was transformed into her new hunting grounds. Walls, four feet in height, were erected on the inside of the perimeter of her enclosure. These walls are made of a slick material that the live prey, such as rats, can not climb, yet they are short enough that Faith can easily jump over (with the help of a few strategically placed tree stumps). This new area was also stocked with brush and branches, these things added a new element to the hunt by offering several hiding spots for a small rat. Many new skills would need to be developed in order for Faith to successfully catch her dinner each night.

As mentioned in previous articles featuring Faith, each pivotal moment of Faith’s story has been captured on film thought the use of a surveillance camera. This camera, a standard camcorder on a tripod, has given Big Cat Rescue a glimpse of the natural behaviors specific to these elusive cats and has also provided Big Cat Rescue staff with critical information throughout the rehabilitation process. Working with the footage, the staff has been able to evaluate Faith’s progress and health, while maintaining distance from the wildcat.

Recent footage has shown that Faith is very adaptable. She has become a hunter and has been very successful in capturing her prey. The design of the hunting yard was a success. An enthused staff is now on the prowl for a relocation site. Plans to release Faith back into the wild are being formulated with a target date of mid July. Seeing Faith bound towards freedom is all the Big Cat Rescue staff could hope for after putting so much effort into the rehabilitation of this tiny cat.

IDS First Grade Students Raise Funds for Big Cat Rescue

On Wednesday, May 12, students from Independent Day School visited Big Cat Rescue and learned about the sanctuary and what it takes to rescue a big cat. It takes money. During their visit they presented Big Cat Rescue with a check for $510.45 to help care for the cats living at the sanctuary.

Each year students from Mrs. Fowler and Ms. Brockmeyer’s first grade classes run a school-supply store at the school to learn about economics and donate the proceeds to charity. For the past several years the cats at Big Cat Rescue have benefitted from their generosity. Each year the classes choose names for themselves and this year they are the Cool Cats. The Cool Cats’ Safari Store raised over $500 for Big Cat Rescue this year. They beat last year’s total by about $200.

With the money they raised they were able to sponsor 20 animals in our Adopt-a-cat program. They chose to sponsor everything from snow leopards to cavies.

Along with the check they also brought school supplies to be donated to children in Africa. Volunteer, Anissa Camp, is travelling to Africa and appealed to the classes to gather school supplies that she will deliver when she visits the Lewa Primary School in Kenya this summer. Anissa and several other volunteers at Big Cat Rescue are traveling to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya to see wild cats in their native habitats and learn about what is being done to save them. The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a non-profit, 65,000-acre, wildlife conservancy in Kenya.

Watch for pictures and stories about their trip later this summer.
JAGUAR UPDATE

If this is your first issues of Cat Tales you may not know about the dramatic rescue of two Jaguars from a roadside zoo where they had been kept in a basement and hadn’t seen sunlight in over a year.

Sadly the male Jaguar died three days after heroic efforts were made to save his life through emergency surgery to repair his mangled intestines. He was 24 years old. The necropsy showed that he had suffered a birth defect that had impaired all of his vital organs and it appeared that he had either not received treatment for a previous obstruction, or perhaps it had healed badly. In either event he was starving to death despite eating massive amounts of food. Unfortunately we had not been able to rescue him soon enough to save his life.

The story of this cat is just one of thousands who are kept for exhibition or as “pets” in backyards, basements, or even apartments in Harlem as we recently learned. So that this noble animal, who truly was a “survivor” of such injustice for many years, will not have died in vain, I hope you will help make his story known. The only way we can reduce the amount of this kind of abuse is by making people aware that they should not support those who display these animals in unaccredited zoos and should not purchase them as pets.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make his last month a warm and pleasant one where he could sleep away the day in the soft grass next to his mate.

Black Mamba, the 20 year old female had arrived with teeth so rotten that she was spewing blood and mucous and coughing constantly on her own purulent fluids. We tried to extract the teeth, but she was in such horrible condition that she died on the operating table. Through heroic efforts she was revived by Dr. Stacie Wadsworth, DVM, but the tooth extraction had to be halted. We spent the next six months getting her stronger through a good diet and the gentle exercise of having her huge Cat-A-Tat to walk about, with it’s logs and hills for climbing and pool for swimming. In April we attempted the surgery again to remove the cause of the infection. She survived the surgery and is recovering very nicely, but a biopsy done on her jaw bone indicates bone cancer. At her advanced age there is not much that can be done for her, other than to keep her comfortable and make her story known so that others like her don’t have to suffer.

To see photos of them go online to www.BigCatRescue.org/jaguar_photos.htm and /jaguar_rescue.htm

Go Bolts

Congratulations to the Tampa bay Lightning for their outstanding success this season. Special thanks to Ruslan Fedotenko, John Grahame, Vincent Lecavalier, Nolan Pratt, Brad Richards, Andre Roy, and Tim Taylor, who along with their families, have visited the sanctuary. Thanks again to the Greibel family for all their support. Go Lightning!

DID YOU KNOW?

“Only four animals step with both legs on either side when walking or running. Two of them are the camel and the maned wolf. Name one of the other two.”

“Cats step with both left legs, then both right legs when they walk or run. The only other animals to do this are the giraffe, camel and the maned wolf.”
BIG CAT TRADING POST

Your Gift Shop Purchases Help Big Cat Rescue To Care For More Than 150 Big Cats. Thank You For Your Support.

Haunting Eyes Tees
Black w/ Bengal Tiger, Cougar, Siberian Tiger, Bobcat Leopard, Jaguar, Snow Leopard BCR logo on sleeve
Adult S, M, L, XL $24.40 Shipping Included

Big Cat Rescue Embroidered Logo Hats
Baseball Cap - Khaki & Green, Khaki & Black, Black $13.70 Shipping Included
Snow Cap Beanie - Gray with Black Stripe $22.26 Shipping Included
Safari Hat - Khaki Green or Tan $22.26 Shipping Included

Jack Hanna Video
30 min. VHS featuring Big Cat Rescue $24.40 Shipping Included

BCR Documentary
30 min. VHS filmed by students of USF $13.70 Shipping Included

Tiger Ears Hairband
$6.28 S&H Included

Embroidered Field Bag
Khaki Green $29.75 each Shipping Included

Snow Globe
Shere Khan the Tiger $11.56 S&H Included

Photo Magnets and Key Rings
Choose from any wild cat specie living at Big Cat Rescue $3.14 Magnet $4.21 Key Ring Shipping Included

Screen saver featuring Big Cat Rescue felines
12 stunning color slides $11.56 S&H Included

NOT SHOWN
Big Cat Rescue Safari Guide
Photo and personal history of each cat living on Easy Street. B&W w/ some color $24.40 each Shipping Included

Big Cat Rescue Tour Video
60 min. DVD or VHS featuring 19 Species of Easy Street’s resident felines $24.40 Shipping Included

Tiger Computer Chamois
Tame your monitor dust $13.70 Shipping Included

Big Cat Trading Post
Your Gift Shop Purchases Help Big Cat Rescue To Care For More Than 150 Big Cats. Thank You For Your Support.
Wild Cats Coloring Book
Kids Book, 42 species of cats
$6.35 Shipping Included

Our World - Leopards
Kids Book
$11.56 Shipping Included

Our World - Lions
Kids Book
$11.56 Shipping Included

Eye Poppers Pen
Topped with Leopard or Tiger
$4.21
Shipping Included

Plush Black Jaguar
10” Cute and Soft
$13.70 Shipping Included

Endangered Babies
3” tall plastic Tiger Toy
$3.14 each Shipping Included

Timmie the Tiger Puppet
$11.56 each Shipping Included

Plush Tiger Photo Album
$13.70 each Shipping Included

Smuggle Leopard Baby Blanket
$13.70 each
Shipping Included

Tiger Baby Rattle $7.35
Shipping Included

Plush Tiger Purse
zipper closure on back, hand grips, & shoulder strap
$13.70 each
Shipping Included

Greeting Card Tins
16 beautiful art cards, 4 of each design, matching envelopes included, cards blank on inside
$19.05 each
Shipping Included

National Geographic
Educational Door Hanger
Tiger or Jaguar
$5.28 each
Shipping Included
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VISIT THE CATS AFTER ZONING APPROVAL

As noted in our last issue because it just happened as we went to press, in February the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners approved our application for rezoning to a Planned Development. The new zoning is a huge event for the sanctuary. First, it clears up any ambiguity there may have been about our right to have the sanctuary at its current location and conduct the necessary activities required to run it into perpetuity. Second, it grants approval, subject to certain conditions, to add buildings that would let us better care for the cats, provide an enhanced experience for visitors, expand our education program, and generate funds to support the cats.

This year long process could not have been affordable or have happened without the generous donation of time by professionals and supporters that deserve far more acknowledgement than we can give here. Among them were: Alex Petrilak and Stan Geda who were heavily involved in the initial planning and advised along the way. Dick Callahan and Kevin Atkins of Biological Research Associates who advised on environmental issues. Bruce Kaschyk and Kevin Mineer of Genesis Group who donated many of the long hours it took to prepare the application, guide it through the process, and represent us at the hearings. Ted Taub of the law firm Schumaker, Loop & Kendrick, who took us on as a pro bono client, advising on the process and representing us advised along the way and then represented us at the County Commission Hearing. And last but by no means least are the over 200 supporters who either wrote letters on our behalf or took hours out of their busy schedules to attend the two hearings and show support for our cause. On behalf of the cats we thank all of you more than we can possibly convey in words!

Subsequent to the approval we have been honored by having three of the Commissioners tour the sanctuary on separate occasions to get better acquainted with the cause they have helped so much. On April 26 Commissioner Hagan arrived around feeding time and jumped right in. In the photo, he feeds China Doll as Shere Khan wonders why his plate is empty. When asked for his reaction after seeing for himself the work of the sanctuary, he said “In my opinion, Big Cat Rescue is one of the best kept secrets in Hillsborough County. It is such a unique attraction, and I am very impressed with and proud of the work they are doing.”

Commissioner Norman came by on May 4 with his wife Mearline. In the photo, the Commissioner poses with our largest lioness, Sarabi, who seems to be imitating him (or is it the other way around?). In a note after the visit, the Commissioner wrote “Big Cat Rescue is one the most unique places in Hillsborough County that children and families have an opportunity to visit. Right in the middle of our community you can visit a collection of some of the most beautiful and majestic animals in the world that can’t be matched by anyone, established by a family that has a love for animals. I highly recommend that everyone visit this wonderful place.”

Most recently Commissioner Castor visited us with her husband Bill Lewis and daughters Julia and Chrissy on Mother’s Day weekend. In the photo she poses with youngest daughter Chrissy while cougar Shadow looks on with interest. Focusing on the educational aspect of the tour, she paid us a very nice compliment when she said that “Big Cat Rescue is unique and very effectively presents the message that these exotic cats should never be considered as potential pets.”
WHAT HAS BIG CAT RESCUE BEEN UP TO?

**Animal Care** - All of the anesthesia machine parts that have been donated were submitted to have one usable unit rebuilt. A new Clouded Leopard Cat-A-Tat was constructed. The Enrichment team is growing stronger and more professional in their collaboration with others, such as Disney, to help write a comprehensive Enrichment Guide. All of the volunteers are retaking their animal care classes this year and re-certifying their credentials via testing.

**New Cat-a-tats** - The BCR Staff built new Cat-A-Tats and dens for Esmerelda, Tobi, Little Feather, Nyla, Jade, Armani and Black Mamba. Work on a 3 acre enclosure for the lion and white tiger that were rescued is still under construction and donations are needed.

**Stats** - A new Point of Sale system with cash register and inventory software was purchased and put into use in the Trading Post Gift Shop. On May 19 the BCR web site received 29,724 page requests and is currently averaging about 16,000 page requests per day. Jamie Veronica and Howard Baskin attended Scott Moller’s Fundraising Seminar in Tampa and Howard, Carole and Jen attended Scott Moller’s Fundraising Seminar in Stone Mountain, GA. Scott Lope and Daniel Capiro have been working closely with players of the Tampa Bay Lightning to raise awareness.

**Promotion** - Founder, Carole Lewis was elected the Vice President of The Association of Sanctuaries and represented them at the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition’s conference in San Francisco and was also made The Association of Sanctuaries liaison to The Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition.

**Staff and Volunteer Training** - BCR reps attended the USDA’s Big Cat Symposium. Jamie Veronica attended AZA’s weeklong college course, Managing for Success, in Wheeling, West VA. Jen, Howard and Carole attended and presented Operant Conditioning and Cage Building at The Association of Sanctuaries’ annual conference in Stone Mountain, GA. The volunteer program was overhauled to create an administrative branch for the first time in our history. All aspects of the volunteer program were updated to accommodate this new division of responsibility. In April all of the volunteers and staff were re-certified in Cleaning, Animal Observation, Animal Emergency, First Aid, Tours, Facility Emergency, Gate operation and Events. Scott Lope attended AZA’s Advances in Animal Keeping in Zoos and Aquariums, in Texas.

**Education** - Kathryn Quaas was hired as the new Education Director. Summer Camp 2004 is being offered. Two new screen savers, one called 12 Tigers that has tiger photos and facts and another called Catitudes, were produced. The first ever, regularly scheduled, Saturday Kid’s Tour was offered on May 15th.

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**TOO BIG FOR OUR BRITCHES – BCR BACK IN CFC PROGRAM!**

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a program under which federal employees can have donations deducted directly from their paychecks. The program is administered by The United Way, who distributes to all federal employees a Gift Giving Guide containing the list of approved charities.

We had been accepted into the program in prior years when our annual budget was below the amount at which an Audited Financial Statement was required. However, last year our budget grew to above that limit and we were dropped from the program. We lacked the procedures required for an audit as well the funds to pay for an audit.

This year we had the good fortune to have someone with financial background join our advisory board. Through his efforts we were able to improve our procedures and locate a wonderful CPA, Marsha Weiss. After visiting Big Cat Rescue and having her daughter Nicole fall madly in love with Bailey the young bobcat, Marsha agreed to charge modestly and donate a large portion of her time in order to make the audit affordable.

In addition to her generosity, Marsha ended up working repeatedly into the night to meet deadlines required for the CFC application. She produced audited statements by April 2 despite the enormous task of doing a first year audit. Then, when CFC required we also submit the 2003 990 IRS form by April 30 even though it is not normally due to the IRS until May 15, Marsha again worked into the night to meet the deadline.

So far the CFC only allows us to be included in books that go out to government employees in the Suncoast area. But we serve nationally and internationally and hope to soon be in their National list. If you are a government employee in the Suncoast area we would appreciate your selecting BCR as your charity. If you know of any government employees, please mention us to them. And if you are a federal employee outside the Suncoast area, we encourage you to contact your local Combined Federal Campaign and ask that Big Cat Rescue be listed as option for you.

Thanks very much, and thanks to Marsha Weiss, CPA, for making access to this funding possible for us again!
KIDS TOUR

For the first time in the history of the sanctuary, Big Cat Rescue is proud to offer regularly scheduled, guided, behind-the-scenes kids tours. This is a complete guided tour where children of all ages, and their parents can get up-close and learn about exotic cats and other animals.
- Tour Time is 9:00 a.m. Saturday (beginning May 15, 2004).
- Geared toward children under 10 years old.
- Privately guided small tour groups.
- $10.00 per person.
- Tour is one hour long.

For more information call Educational Director, Kathryn Quaas cell (813) 323-3265 office (813) 920-4130 fax 920-5924 e-mail squaas@verizon.net

Big Cat Rescue also offers -

WILD WEDDINGS
PRIVATE PARTIES
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, see orientation below

GIFT CERTIFICATES are available for all of our programs and make the perfect gift for that person who has everything!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Family Day
Nakoma’s Family Day July 3rd 1PM-3PM $10 Admission (That’s half-off!)
Volunteer Orientation
June 12th and 26th, July 10th and 24th, August 14th and 27th - 12:00 Noon
WildEyes At Night Tour
June 25th, July 30th, August 27th - 8:00 PM

BIG CAT RESCUE’S SUMMER CAMP

Camp Conservation 2004

Your kids will learn about conservation of wildlife and how they can make a big difference right now! They will also learn about zoo keeping and how we take care of the big cats. Kids will get to see lions and tigers along with other smaller cat species and learn where they come from and threats to their habitats.

Your child will learn what the animals eat in the wild and in captivity, how they communicate and what we can do to save them from extinction. Activities include arts and crafts, games, movies and plenty of outdoor exploration.

Children will need to wear tennis shoes and clothes they can get dirty and bring their own lunch. Class size is limited to insure the quality of the interaction with your child. Each session is four days long. Price is per session. Choose one session or any number of them depending on the interest your child has in learning responsibility for animals and the environment.

Kids ages 10-15
Sessions run Monday - Thursday, 8 AM-1 PM
Only $150 per child per four-day session
Sessions are:
July 12-15, July 19-22, July 26-29
Sessions limited to 8 children so sign up early.
Call Kathryn Quaas at (813) 323-3265 to register.
BIG CAT RESCUE ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL TICKETS TO THE 2004 FUR BALL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIP TICKETS TO THE 2004 FUR BALL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Yes! I want to support Project Cater-Wall and sponsor a section of the wall for $80  
Yes! I would like to make an extra donation in the amount of  
Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes  
Yes! I would like a free magnet with my order totalling more than $50  

Grand Total  

Method of Payment  
- [ ] Check  
- [ ] Money Order  
- [ ] Visa  
- [ ] MasterCard  
- [ ] American Express  
- [ ] Discover  

Card Number  
Exp. Date MMYY  
Signature  

This is a gift, please make card to: _________________________ from: ________________________  
Brief message to say: _________________________________________________________________  

Shopping really does make a difference. Last year Big Cat Rescue raised more than one third of the entire income of the sanctuary through Gift Shop, Membership, and Sponsorship sales, onsite and through Cat-Tales. So keep up the good work and shop away! All the proceeds from the programs and unique items Big Cat Rescue offers, go directly to the care of the animals.  

Florida law requires that all charities soliciting donations disclose their registration number and the percentage of your donation that actually goes to the cause and the amount that goes to the solicitor. Our registration number is SC-11409 and 100% of you donation will go directly to the care of the animals.
“Sovereign Reign”, Fur Ball Live Auction Preview
Artist: Lorenzo Ghiglieri
Dimensions: 21” x 37” x 12”  Wgt: 76 lbs
The male African Lion, in all his regal splendor, is undisputed ruler of the African Savannah. While he often displays a typically feline nonchalance, a single royal roar announces the scope and power of his “Sovereign Reign”.
Appraised at $31,600. Donated by Rinascere Studios, Ltd.

Win this Dog House!
Brandi Bandy’s Pink Poochie Palace Raffle Drawing will end the night of the Fur Ball and a winner chosen, but you don’t have to be present to win.
You can buy chances now $1 each or 6 for $5, just fill out the order form on page 15 and enter as often as you like.
This posh puppy pad is decorated with an island flair and has a hinged roof to allow air flow on hot summer days, curtains and matching pillow.