Introducing the new face of Cat-Tales, The Big Cat Times!

Big Cat Rescue is excited to be able to produce our quarterly updates in this new format which allows us to bring you color photos of the cats for pennies more than our previous publication.

We would love to hear your feedback on the new look. Send us a note or an email. Enjoy!

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Armani the African Leopard
Photo by Jamie Veronica

Big Cat Rescue
12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625
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The Fur Ball
A Roaring Success!

The Fur Ball was a roaring success! Your attendance and participation in the festivities raised $40,893.00 for the cats! We are so thrilled! We’ve heard great feedback from our guests, and that tells us that this is not only a great fundraiser, but also something appreciated by our supporters. Quotes such as, “This was all pulled off so seamlessly! It appeared flawless!” are really meaningful to us. Rob Elder from Jaguar of Tampa said, “This could be the most important social event of the year! We are going to come every year.”

Months of planning, begging, and late nights making sure everything would be just right, finally paid off with the most successful fundraiser that Big Cat Rescue has ever hosted. Thanks to hundreds of generous businesses and individuals who donated items to our live and silent auctions, to more than 800 fun-loving guests, and to over 50 volunteers that worked the event, this year’s Fur Ball grossed $40,893.00 and counting. Auction items that did not sell that night are being sold in our gift shop and donations from those who could not attend the event are still rolling in. It was after midnight before we could get the last of the guests off the dance floor. The place had been rocking all night to the Urban Gypsies and the high spirited limbo and conga lines led by Prince Rupert and his dancers. Hundreds also joined the tribal beat by drumming the night away with Jana Broder. One lucky guest won a 5-day Caribbean cruise for 2 and another won a custom made dog house by a Tampa Bay artist. Many guests had great safari formal costumes ranging from painted faces to full faux fur. It was so fun to see the many takes on “Safari Formal”. Each year the guests are more and more creative. The 15 live auction items collectively raised more than $20,000.00 alone. More than 430 pieces in the silent auction were mostly sold by the end of the evening and one person, when asked by a Fur Ball Volunteer to “round up” their sales slip, did so by rounding up $360.00 to make it an even $2000.00.

Nearly 100 of our cats were sponsored at the Fur Ball. For a donation of $20 each guests received a commemorative 2004 Fur Ball photo of their selected cat and a card with their pur-r-rsonal story. So many guests have written to us over the past few weeks complimenting the event, expressing how much fun they had, and inquiring as to how we could possibly top it next year. To those, we would like to say thank you for your kind words. We are incredibly happy that so many people had so much fun! Just wait and see what we have planned for next year! The proceeds from the Fur Ball will go towards Project Catter-wall. The goal of this project is to replace our 8 foot chain link fence with a new 10 foot concrete wall. With the relentless development around the sanctuary this new wall will provide added security as well as privacy to all of the cats living at Big Cat Rescue. Project Catter-wall will be completed in phases. The first phase will be the replacement of our main entrance gate. This mechanical gate has broken down several times over the past year and more than 3 times in the last few months. Estimates for the new entrance have been upwards of $8,000.00 which would include labor and a double electronic swinging gate with a motion sensor eye (so it does not shut accidentally on our guests vehicles). The next phase will be our East perimeter that runs along the Veteran’s Expressway. This section is 2,000 feet long and will cost $80 per linear foot, totaling $160,000.00. Project Catter-wall is a fundraising program to raise donations for this specific project. Sponsorships are available for $80 to sponsor 1 linear foot of our new perimeter wall. Donors to this project receive a special thank you in our newspaper, The Big Cat Times, and their name will be prominently displayed on a sign, dedicated to each phase, in the main guest area. Thanks to the success of the 2004 Fur Ball, we have raised enough to replace the front entrance gate with about $30,000 left over to go towards Phase II of Project Catter-wall.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF THE FUR BALL VOLUNTEERS

Fur Ball Volunteers

Daniel Dolan Lyn Foster Kat Kelly Sharan Marszal
Arthur Kealy Pam Link Cathy Mayeski Cathy Monroe
Drew Mitchell Scott Lope Honorary Committee Members
Susan Mitchell Dennis Mitchell Carole Lewis
Arthur Kealy Pam Link Cathy Mayeski
Sponsorship Committee Members
Susan Mitchell Dennis Mitchell Carole Lewis
Honor Committee Members
Auction Committee Members
Jana Broder leads a drumming circle

Photos clockwise from top right
1. Prince Rupert’s dancers fire up a Conga Line
2. The Volunteer Committee
3. Supporters bid on more than 400 items
4. Jana Broder leads a drumming circle
Lance Ponton Cordoba $100
Carmen King-Fisher $25
Joel Shane & American Express
Susan Green $20
Maria Hagen $20
Julie & Richard Fisher $50
Jane Stapleton $100
Kathy & Tom Borzel $150
Karen Sanders $75
William Todd $100
Wendy Spencer $100
Lisa Farrell $25
Melissa Ross $50
Donna Adkins $50
Maria Ackerman $100
Sandra Wells $30
Katsa Cornwell $30
Alexandra Montiel $100

The Stairs Family - 3 Tables
Jay O Connor & Cox Radio - 2 Tables
1 Nation Technology
Audio Visual Innovations
Bengali’s Bunch
Body & Soul by Janet
Carrolwood Cats
Cheval Golf & Country Club
Dickson & Associates
Dolphin Landings Charter Boat Center
Florida Voices For Animals
Gryeszki
Hydro Spa
In The Breeze Horseback Riding Ranch
& Children’s Camp
Lexus of Tampa and
Lexus of Clearwater
Mainlands Golf Course
Makes & Models and RPM Intl.
Northwestern Mutual
OAI Inc.
O’Brien
Tampa Bay Hand Center
Taron Animal Hospital
Taylor White
Team In Focus
Tom Cat
United Prescription
Woodbridge Horse Farm

Fur Ball signage provided by Tampa Reprographics Systems
Royal Couple Reunited

We know you’ve been eagerly following this story, so it’s with great pleasure we tell you that our latest rescues, Zabu the white tigress, and Cameron the male lion have been reunited after months of long quarantine from each other. Cameron needed to undergo a vasectomy before we could responsibly reintroduce them. We also labored for months in building them the perfect pad to share. However exciting, these rescue efforts do not come without great cost. Might you consider helping us in offsetting the costs of providing the high quality of life for these two new family members at BCR? Be sure to come take a tour and meet them! In the meantime, visit our website to see all the photos of their touching reunion.

The long awaited day had to wait even longer when Hurricane Jeanne roared into Big Cat Rescue. Cameron the male lion and Zabu the White Tigress were supposed to be reunited on September 25th but the approaching storm deterred us from introducing them and then having to lock them up in the same lock out together. The following week was too muddy to move the transport cage. The week after that was looking just as muddy, but thanks to a remarkably hot day, it was dry enough at the end of the day to roll Zabu in her transport cage across the sanctuary grounds.

BCR Volunteers had a Howling Good Time!

On Halloween Night Big Cat Rescue Volunteers gathered at the Oasis Club at A La Carte for a wild costume party. The Volunteers were invited to bring their friends and family to let loose. This party is just one of the many ways that we like to say thanks to our hard working group.

Would you like to join the team? Call or go online for details on becoming a Big Cat Rescuer.

Faith the Florida Bobcat

Faith is a female Florida Bobcat that was taken in by Big Cat Rescue last December. She was an orphan and only a few weeks old. The starving and sick little kitten had a long road to travel before the real rehab work began.

From the beginning, 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.

Currently she 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.

Six months 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 to release live prey into. Faith proved herself as a formidable hunter. She caught on quickly to the game of cat and mouse, so once again the stakes were raised. Three months ago one wall of her hunting yard was removed, so now Faith must find and catch her dinner before it escapes forever.

With her expanding skills in mind, another rehab enclosure is being constructed. This mega rehab facility is generously being sponsored by The Gasparilla Charity Horse Show. This new space will provide a more realistic “wild”.

As mentioned in previous articles featuring Faith, each pivotal moment of Faith’s story has been captured on film through the use of a surveillance camera. Working with the footage, the staff has been able to evaluate Faith’s progress and health, while maintaining distance from the wildcat. A two minute featurette highlighting Faith’s rescue and rehabilitation is now available as an extra on Big Cat Rescue’s Big Cat Picture, a 60 minute film. To order this VHS or DVD for $24.40 fill out the order form.

Update

The staff and interns of Big Cat Rescue have been quite busy for the last few months. The construction of Faith’s new rehab cage is nearly complete. A 800 square foot enclosure has been built in a secluded area of the sanctuary to give her the privacy that she so desperately needs.

This enclosure looks just like one of our traditional Cat-a-tats with the 4”x4” welded wire and walls that curve. The whole enclosure, including the roof, has also been covered with a coated mesh wire that has smaller 1” holes. This was done so that prey can be released into her habitat, but can not escape the confines of the enclosure. The large scale of her new home will prove challenging to Faith when hunting for her dinner.

While the main stucture is complete, there are still many details to her new Cat-a-tat that need addressing. Branches and platforms will be suspened inside the enclosure to take full advantage of the arial space provided to her, a simulated rock cave will be created using a metal frame covered with concrete, rocks, and plants, and thick foliage will be relocated from other parts of the sanctuary to this enclosure.

The most exciting addition will be the installation of a new feeding device. Designed by the staff and interns, this new idea consists of laying a maze of large plumbing pipes that will go from one single point of entry, from a concealed observation post far off, to several exit points within Faith’s enclosure. A rat will be released into the pipe from the observation post and then the end of the pipe will be closed. The rat will instinctively travel through the pipe system following the light to the end of the tunnel. The best part about this system is that the location and time at which the rat will find it’s way into the enclosure will vary at each feeding, depending on the course the rat chooses. This will keep Faith in constant hunting mode and will prepare her better for the sparatic availability of food in the wild.

These few details should be completed shortly so that Faith can move into her new space. Thank you to Daniel, Jonnie, Steve, & Katt for all of their help constructing the new rehab facility.
HEROES - DONORS - MEMBERS - NEW PARENTS - SPECIAL PROJECT SUPPORTERS

DONATIONS $150 - $4,000
Jaguar of Tampa Rob Elder $4,000.00
Matt Geiger Charities Inc $2,500.00
In Memory of Dotti Rose Bennett $1,500.00
Clare Mooers $1,250.00
Continental Staffing, Inc & Patricia Oeland $1,000.00
Marty & Mary Ann Schaeff $500.00
Carole & David Schulak $500.00
Henrik & Carlie Hegg $500.00
R. Kay Giarratano $150.00
WILDLIFE PROTECTORS
$150
Brad, Allison, & Marshall Howell
Kye Latour
DONATIONS $50 - $100
David Freshwater & Diana Barnes $100.00
C. Glessner $100.00
Steven & Anne Harrison $100.00
Ian & Maxine Howe $100.00
Jeff & Judy Lipman $100.00
BJ Mattson $100.00
Anna McComb $100.00
The Roland Family Trust & Carol Roland $100.00
Henry Weinstein $100.00
Michael Rose Beadling $80.00
Lawrence Benedict $75.00
Anne Cheezem $75.00
Paul Darling $75.00
Michael Callahan $55.00
Caroll Beardsley $50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Berntovich $50.00
Howard & Loretta Gibbs $50.00
Leslie Godwin $50.00
Theresa Granza $50.00
Vicki Keefer $50.00
John & Michelle Lewis $50.00
Libaire $50.00
Nella-Marie Meyer $50.00
Myrna Noble $50.00
R.A. Parker $50.00
Carol Peale $50.00

DONATIONS $30 - $48
Steven Plass $48.00
18th Century Aviation $40.00
Debora Landry $30.00
Zakiya Briggs $30.00
ANIMAL LOVERS $30
Bette Hellander
$25 DONATIONS
Luis Ascencio $25.00
Diane & John Blackmon $25.00
Emily Duty $25.00
Karen Early $25.00
Jean Ferranos $25.00
Mildred Fox $25.00
Cynthia Gilmore $25.00
Darla Haines $25.00
Edmund Johnson $25.00
A.L. Johnson $25.00
Beth King Cam & Xabu $25.00
Carmen King-Fisher $25.00
Joan Lochridge $25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mann $25.00
Richard McNally $25.00
Jim Mosher $25.00
Amy Mustard $25.00
Carrolla Qualls $25.00
Karen Selton $25.00
Jeffrey Stien $25.00
Verizon Data Services & Rosie Emery $25.00

MATCHING GIFTS
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation & Zlakeroff $600.00
Verizon Data Services & Rosie Emery $500.00

HEROES - DONORS - MEMBERS - NEW PARENTS - SPECIAL PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Diane Polaha $50.00
Betti Rowe $50.00
Eleanor Semola $50.00
Caterina Tomas $50.00
Alexandria Whitney $50.00
Christy & John Zettel $50.00
FOREST FRIENDS $50
Bob Bayley
Susan Crager
Wilfred Hupin
Christopher Mueller
Michael & Connie Turner
Karim & Schluter & Jim Billings
Lindsey Bridges
Scott’s Terri Bridges
Paula Harris
Can Jones
Shirley Mekles
Paul Shaffer
Michael & Connie Turner

PROJECT CATER-WALL
Clay Smith Jr. $400.00
James & Pam Collis $160.00
Linda Debottini $150.00
Diana Tardif $100.00
Frances M. Buehman $80.00
Gail Kimmel Goss $80.00
Susan Lauder $80.00
Cathy McLean & Kathy Orosz $80.00
Anastasia Underwood $80.00
The Peters Family $80.00
In Memory of Grace $80.00
Tina Farinas $25.00
NEW PARENTS $25
Paul & Delisha Shavatt - Bear Cat

APRIL GREER - Tiger

Brendan Himelright - Tiger
Sean Hopkins - Tiger
Brian Hudnet - Tiger
Beverly Knopper - Tiger
Margaret Krolos - Tiger
Stacey McMichael - Tiger
Simon Mendez - Tiger
Annamarie Nowak - Tiger
Robyn Bragan & Dave Smith Tiger
Standa Streander - Tiger
Jillian Vaccarelli - Tiger
Marie Welsh - Tiger
Rob Wilson - Tiger

Donations $80.00

Pregnancy Center of Pinellas
Humane Society of Tampa Bay
Animal Coalition of Tampa
No More Homeless Pets - HC

Choose Your Specie!

All of Big Cat Rescue’s animals are available for sponsorship.
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, 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, and most importantly your registration card that when returned will entitle you to personalized address labels and your Sponsor Certificate.

Adopt a Wild Child

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Sponsorship Kit $25 Donation!

Choose Your Specie!

www.BigCatRescue.org - December 2004 - The Big Cat Times - 5

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Sponsorship Kit $25 Donation!

Choose Your Specie!
THE BIG CAT TRADING POST
Your purchases help the cats!
44 Great Gifts under $25
S&H and Tax included in all prices

The Big Cat Times
December 2004
www.BigCatRescue.org

A. Embroidered Field Bag
   - Smoke gray
   - $29.75 each

B. Tiger or Jaguar Door Hanger
   - Tiger: $5.28 each
   - Jaguar: $5.28 each

C. Zipper closure purse
   - Hand grips
   - Shoulder strap
   - $13.70 each

D. Tiger Baby Rattle
   - Snow leopard also available
   - $7.35 each

E. Big Cat Rescue Mug
   - Black ceramic with gold logo
   - $13.70 each

F. Tea Light Holder
   - $15.84 each

G. Decorative Plate
   - $20.12 each

H. Salt & Pepper Shaker Set
   - $23.33 each

I. Embroidered Field Bag
   - Smoke gray
   - $29.75 each

J. Big Cat Rescue Mug
   - $13.70 each

K. Big Cat Rescue Safari Guide
   - Photo and personal history of each cat
   - Living on Easy Street
   - B&W w/ some color
   - $24.40 each

L. The Big Cat Picture
   - 60 min. DVD or VHS featuring
   - 19 Species of BCR's cats
   - $24.40 each

M. Jack Hanna Video
   - 30 min. VHS featuring
   - Big Cat Rescue
   - $24.40 each

N. BCR Documentary
   - 30 min. VHS filmed by students of USF
   - $13.70 each

O. Tiger Computer Chamois
   - Tame your monitor dust
   - $13.70 Shipping Included

P. Weighted Tiger Purse
   - Zipper closure on back, hand grips, & shoulder strap
   - $13.70 each

Q. Tiger Cuddlekin
   - Snow leopard cuddlekin also available
   - $19.05 each

R. Hug a Big Cat
   - 17” plush with long arms and velcro paws, also available in tiger & snow leopard
   - $13.70 each

S. Tiger Baby Rattle
   - $7.35 each

T. Big Cat Tube
   - 12 plastic toy big cats
   - $11.56 each

U. Greeting Card Tins, 16 beautiful art cards, 4 of each design, matching envelopes included
   - $19.05 each

V. Tiger Computer Chamois
   - $13.70 Shipping Included

W. Welcome to the World of Wild Cats
   - Kids Book
   - $11.56 each

X. National Geographic Door Hanger
   - Tiger or Jaguar
   - $5.28 each

Zoe the Leopard Collection

A. Small Bowl
   - $20.12 each

B. Mug
   - $20.12 each

C. Salt & Pepper Shaker Set
   - $23.33 each

D. Decorative Plate
   - $20.12 each

Walter the Tiger Collection

E. Mug
   - $20.12 each

F. Tea Light Holder
   - $15.84 each

G. Decorative Plate
   - $20.12 each

H. Salt & Pepper Shaker Set
   - $23.33 each
Embroidered Field Bag
Smoky Gray
$29.75 each

Big Cat Rescue Logo Hats
Q. Pith Helmet - Adjustable, Screenprinted, Tan $24.40
R. Snow Cap Beanie - Embroidered, Gray with Black Stripe $22.26
S. Flex Fit Hat - Embroidered, Olive $24.40
T. Safari Hat - Embroidered, Khaki Green or Tan $22.26
U. Visor - Adjustable, Embroidered, Light Khaki, $24.40
V. Baseball Cap - Embroidered, Khaki & Green, Khaki & Black, $13.70

Big Cat Times
December 2004
www.BigCatRescue.org
Help Big Cats with a Magical Night of Giving
Sunday, November 21, 2004  7 to 10 PM
Very exclusive sales and store discounts will be offered this one night only at University Square Mall in Tampa! Only ticket holders will be admitted during these special shopping hours. Tickets are available for $5.00 donation and 100% of all ticket sales purchased from us will benefit Big Cat Rescue. You can sell tickets for Big Cat Rescue and help us raise much needed funds while helping your friends and family get a great opportunity to shop these special sales and to get them entered into the great giveaways that are only available to ticket holders that night. Santa’s grand arrival occurs that night so bring the kids!

If you would like to purchase tickets to this event just fill out the order form on this page. You do not have to attend the event to be eligible to win one of the great door prizes (each year a car is given away as one prize!). If you are purchasing tickets, but can not attend please indicate this in the notes box of the order form and we will fill out your ticket with your contact info and enter it into the drawing for you on the night of the event.

Contact Sharon Marszal 813.335.2218 for details on how you can help sell tickets to this event or for any other questions and information.

Date: ____________________________

THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM
December 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Yes! I want to support Project Cater-Wall and sponsor a section of the wall for $80

Yes! I would like to enter _____ times to win an Expedition & Cabin Stay for 2 for $1 each or 6 for $5

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, online, 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 your donation will go directly to the care of the animals.

Special Comment, Request or Question:

Visits Big Cat Rescue
Kids Tour
Big Cat Rescue is proud to offer regularly scheduled, guided, 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
- $10.00 per person (price subject to change)

Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

Day Tours
Monday - Friday 9AM & at 3PM
Saturday 9:30, 11:30, & 1:30
Tours are guided and take 1 1/2 - 2 hrs. Admission is $20 per person (price subject to change).

Reservations are not required. No children under 10 years of age. Casual attire is recommended.

Expedition Easy Street -
A Big Cat Adventure
This is the most exclusive and up close program that we offer. Your all day adventure includes, the Morning Tour of the refuge, special Interaction Sessions with our friendly Lynx, Bobcats, Caracals, or Serval, Big Cat training, Enrichment (making natural toys and food puzzles for the cats), Feeding (hand feed several of the Great Cats including Tigers), & Bed & Breakfast where you will be lulled to sleep by the gentle roar of Lions and Tigers!

Age Restrictions apply, Call for more info

Wild Eyes At Night Tour
Night Tours are the only way to see the animals come alive at night! As you journey through the 40 acre sanctuary you will be stalked and pounced at from the shadows! No worries though, all the animals will be safely in their enclosures. This is an adventure that’s sure to please! $20 per person.

Photo Safaris
Photo Safaris are one of the most up close and personal tours that we offer. A qualified guide will help you get great pictures of our animals without any fence or wire in the way. You can tour the entire sanctuary and get great pics along the way, or you can spend the entire time photographing your favorite feline. Call for prices and reservations.

Big Cat Rescue also offers -
WILD WEDDINGS
PRIVATE PARTIES
VOLUNTEER & INTERNS PROGRAMS

Gift Certificates are available for all of our programs and make the perfect gift for that person who has everything!
Chairs for Chairity

Staff members, Daniel Capiro and Jamie Veronica hand-crafted this beach lounger with a safari theme from drift wood found at the sanctuary. The chair was sponsored by Big Cat Rescue and will be auctioned off March 4th, 2005 at the Chairs for Chairity Live Auction. The proceeds will benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Outdoor Arts Foundation.

For tickets or more information call Janet Valles at (813) 288-2600 or email her at jvalles@suncoastwish.org

Streaming Movie Clips Now Online!

We are fortunate that with the assistance of a supporter, Vic Elias, to have placed live movie clips of each specie of cat on-line. It will give a more realistic glimpse of the cat and its story and will complement the static photos that are already on-line. Vic tells us, “I came across Big Cat Rescue while looking for an organization that dealt with the conservation of wild cats. I have always loved animals and wanted to find out what various organizations were doing to preserve them. I had not given thought to the idea that Big Cat Rescue was trying to convey as I never thought about the consequences of keeping these wild cats as pets. So this was a nice surprise to see a group focus on this important area. After finding Big Cat Rescue and speaking with it’s founder, Ms. Carole, I have learned many new details about the cats that I love and I wish them success in all that they do. While others give no thought to the beauty of these animals and the importance to preserve them, organizations like Big Cat Rescue are truly making a difference.” This is such an exciting addition to our web site and we are thankful to Vic. Now, guests can really get up close and personal with our cats.

It’s A Colorful World

Wild new on-line coloring fun for the kids! We have line art of the big cats that can be printed and colored for creative playtime. We also have a unique coloring program where you don’t have to print out. Just click on the color you want, then click on the place in the exotic cat’s coloring page you want colored and...voila... that space fills with the color you chose. With our newest 30 page set created by Rainie of BillyBear4Kids.com, you can also draw, spray paint and color-fill with a click of the mouse. Kids LOVE coloring and having instant results!! No crayons to lose, no crayon marks on the walls, and no coloring books to buy. They can color the same pictures differently every time. It also teaches mouse control to wee ones. Children will love creating, making changes to their creations, and then printing them out. Visit www.BigCatRescue.org/gamescoloringpages.htm Enjoy!

The Power of One

We’re talking Tic Tac Toe. Big Cat Rescue style. We are so thankful to the creativity of La Wanna Jones of Springfield. MO http://www.spfd-bus.com for developing a simple but fun game that features our own snow leopards, Cloe and Hercules. It’s generosity like hers that helps us to really make progress in getting the word out in fun ways. Be sure to check out the game for yourself. http://www.bigcatrescue.org/gamesictactoe.htm

While your visiting the site, check out these other fun things too! Holiday Fun Games, Jigsaw Puzzles, Memory Match, Drag Puzzle, Screensavers, Crosswords, Word Search, Hangman, Drop Zone, Story Books, Connect 5 & E-Cards.

Free Big Cat Rescue Calendar

Stay on top of those important dates with our newest addition to the web site - a free calendar! The cat photos change monthly to keep this calendar fresh. www.BigCatRescue.org/freecalendar.htm

A Slide Show To Move You

If pictures are worth a thousand words, then these slideshows are beyond price. If you feel the passion towards the big cats that we do, or if you are looking to understand even an inkling of why we do, then, please take a moment to watch these slideshows. There are two for you to view on our website. Many thanks to our special volunteer in Texas for helping to develop them. We must warn you. They are bittersweet. They are inspirational. They are moving. They are beautiful. Most importantly, they are truthful. Please take a moment to allow yourself to connect with them and feel what they are trying to show you. www.BigCatRescue.org/slideshow.htm
Zoos vs. Sanctuaries
Re: Tigers

Breeding tigers in the U.S. that have no hope of ever being returned to the wild is done to attract a paying public and not for the greater good of the animal. It is a business and a dying one at that. Most tigers in zoos only live to be 10. Most tigers in accredited sanctuaries live twice as long.

Why is that?
In zoos the tigers are forced to be out on display. When people pay to come to the zoo they expect to see the tigers.
In zoos the tigers are shipped all over the place to meet the criteria of the species survival plan and thus never have a feeling of permanence or safety.
In zoos the turn over in employees is 2 years. In sanctuaries it is twice that in general and far longer in many cases. The tigers know and trust their keepers in sanctuaries.
In zoos the cats are anesthetized annually and teeth checked, blood drawn, x-rays etc. This sounds like a good practice, but anesthesia is extremely hard on exotic cats. In accredited sanctuaries we know that this is very harmful so we rely on operant conditioning to coax the cats into opening their mouths for us so we can see their teeth, standing close to the cage wire so that we can administer fluids or shots when needed and even allowing us to take their tails through the fence if blood must be drawn. It is a lot of extra work, but the longevity of sanctuary tigers says something about its effectiveness.
In zoos they feed a ground up processed meat (often still frozen) that is often loaded with preservatives. This is done because it is easy to store, easy to feed and nothing to clean up. In better sanctuaries tigers are fed chunks of meat, bone and hide so that they can enjoy their food and clean their teeth and have better digestive cleaning.

In zoos the big attraction is baby tigers so tigers are bred to death and if they are not allowed to breed, then they are on cancer causing birth control. Far more tigers are bred in zoos than the SSP suggests because zoos don’t have to comply and often don’t. These cubs are not needed in the plan and are sold out the back door to brokers who send them to roadside zoos, backyard breeders and canned hunts. It is illegal to shoot a tiger but the main animals sent to these canned hunts are the cute baby hoofstock from the zoos. Those are legal and the hunt operators then sell the right to kill more endangered species to their trusted clients.
There is a bill in the house and senate now to try to stop them.
http://www.bigcatrescue.org/laws.htm

In zoos the public wants to see the big cats moving around, so frequently a zoo will own several of the big cats who live in tiny cages in the back or in the basement for most of their lives and then are rotated through the exhibit a day at a time to keep the public happy. In zoos their cages are measured in square feet. In the wild an Amur or Siberian Tiger would roam and protect up to 400 (yes, four hundred) square miles of territory. Life in any cage is no comparison.

In zoos people come and turn their screaming, howling children loose and let them do whatever they want. It is a big playground that has been made child-proof from years of failed litigation. There is very little, if any, learning going on. There is no respect for animals being taught. There is no real conservation effort being funded in any big way. Zoos will often argue that people will only save what they care about and that is true, but the typical zoo format doesn’t teach that sense of responsibility or caring.

Don’t get me wrong, tigers don’t belong in sanctuaries either. My goal is to put ourselves out of business by causing people to think about their choices so that there no longer is a need for a safe haven. You have the power of the pocketbook; something the animals do not. You can speak out for them with the choices you make economically. Please don’t support any place that breeds big cats for life in a cage.

For the cats:
Carole Baskin
Carole Baskin, Founder of Big Cat Rescue

Big Cat Dragster

Thanks to a Philadelphia Firefighter, named Rick, who is a crew chief for a junior dragster program, BCR is now featured on a junior dragster called “Crankin’ Kitty” as a public service announcement for our sanctuary. We are very grateful to LaWanna and Andrus of Weaver Elementary and Fairbanks Elementary school where she has sent all six of her children. Janelle didn’t stop there. She then went to the principal of the school for helping us. What creative project might you ask for his help.

Not only did Walter donate a great Stihl chainsaw, but he also sent along spare parts and oil because in Florida these items were impossible to find due to the great demand. She didn’t stop there. She then went to the principal of the school where she has sent all six of her children. Janelle Andrus of Weaver Elementary and Fairbanks Elementary agreed to “Penny Wars” to aid the tigers and other exotic cats of Big Cat Rescue. The children collected pennies each day from October 18, to October 22, 2004 to help us buy a wood chipper. We are so grateful to LaWanna and the school for helping us.

Penny Wars To Aid the Big Cat Hurricane Victims

Check out what a volunteer and a school did for Big Cat Rescue. With most of the dead trees, that had fallen from the Hurricanes this summer, now cut up, Big Cat Rescue needs a commercial grade wood chipper that costs $3200.00. The reason this is so important is that Florida is the lightning capital of the world and with all of this dead brush laying about there is a very real threat of fire caused by lightning. One of our most passionate supporters, LaWanna Jones, did several things to help us with our tree and brush cutting needs. She went to Walker at Carpenter’s Saw Shop at 1340 E. Kearney St. Springfield, Mo. and asked for his help. Not only did Walter donate a great Stihl chainsaw, but he also

http://www.bigcatrescue.org/laws.htm
STOP  
Canned Hunts & Win Big

Support this Federal Bill and Win a BCR Full-Day Expedition & $5000 towards the Enrichment of the Cats.

What you Win!  
The Award for the most letters gathered and sent in to your representatives and senators, and proof via copies to us, will include the Big Cat Expedition for two and a $5000.00 grant to Big Cat Rescue for the animal enrichment or enhancement program of your choosing. The grant will recognize you as the person who made it possible and could include any number of enhancements that you deem most important. If you think the cats need more toys, then they will get $5000.00 in toys. If you think that the Education Center needs $5000.00 to reach more children, then we will spend it there. The opportunities are limitless. Then, we’ve sweetened the pot by offering each person a BCR t-shirt who gathers 20 letters and sends them in, with copies for proof to us.

Let the impact begin!  
Please Write Today!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:  
You need to write a letter to both your senator and to your representative.

The address for finding your senator is www.senate.gov and www.house.gov for your representative.

Here are the two separate letters you will write. You’ll want to keep it brief, personalize it and include the following:

Dear Representative,

Please co-sponsor and support H.R.5242, the Captive Mammal Protection Act of 2004. It is a bill that will crack down on the inhumane and unsporting practice of killing animals in “canned hunts”

2.) The 2nd bill introduced is in the Senate and it is called the S. 2731, the Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act. The bipartisan legislation would ban the interstate transport of captive mammals for the purpose of shooting them in canned hunts. A canned hunt is one of the most egregiously cruel forms of hunting, because wild animals are confined in fenced enclosures, often raised by hand and artificially fed, then offered up to high paying customers to shoot for trophies. The practice is so unethical that the majority of rank-and-file hunters do not support it.

It is very important that you support both bills by writing about each of them to your representative and your senator and reference the correct and corresponding bill number above.

Contest and Rules  
Be sure to sign the letters and you must include your name, address and telephone number. If you send an email, please cc Carole at MakeADifference@BigCatRescue.org so that we know about your devotion to the animals. If you mail a group of letters, you’ll want to send the original letters to the representatives and senators and send us the copies for proof to be entered into the contest.

Big Cat Rescue will award the Captive Wild Animal Protector’s Award to the person who submits the most signed letters with all of the above information included. We will also give a BCR t-shirt to each person who gathers at least 20 letters. Your entries will be checked by a real person to ensure that they were actually signed by real people. We must be able to verify the authenticity of the letters and the addresses of the writer and the appropriate representative with address included (so that we know it went to the right person) for the letter to qualify. Letters should be individualized and not form letters and not in petition format. Send the original to the appropriate Federal Representative of the House and Senate and a copy to Big Cat Rescue.

Good news!  
Two bills have been introduced to stop canned hunts. We need your help to support both of them. You can write your representative and your senator and reference the respective bills below.

1.) The House of Representatives Bill is called H.R.5242, the Captive Mammal Protection Act of 2004. It is a bill that will crack down on the inhumane and unsporting practice of killing animals in “canned hunts”

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Dear Senator,

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Note: don’t forget to make copies to send us for proof for the contest.
Give the Gift of Membership!

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 The Big Cat Times, and more are all part of the welcome package that you will receive when you become a “Member of the Big Cat Pride”. The Membership kit also makes a great gift. Since tour passes are included in every kit you can even give the packet to someone who has never even been to Big Cat Rescue.

Each kit includes an 8x10 color photo, personalized address labels, membership welcome newsletter, and the following gifts:

- Animal Lover $30 - 1 Tour Pass
- Forest Friend $50 - 2 Tour Passes
- WildLife Protector $150 - 6 Tour Passes & BCR Tee
- Habitat Defender $500 - 10 Tour Passes, BCR Tee, & Night Tour for 2

Order your kit today using the order form on page 8.

For details on the Membership levels below request information using the order form, call (813) 920-4130 or visit www.BigCatRescue.org

The Explorer $1,000, Big Cat Pride $5,000,
The King of the Jungle $10,000

Enrichment Options

The AZA definition of enrichment includes, “changing an animal’s environment in a way that provides behavioral choices to animals and draws out their species-appropriate behaviors and abilities and enhances their welfare”.

One instance of this at our facility is a leopard named Reno. Reno came from a circus and had never learned to climb a tree. He was able to do many tricks necessary for circus life but could not do something as necessary to live in the wild as climb a tree.

The keepers gave Reno brown cardboard boxes full of spices and meat. This was placed on the ground for a few weeks. He learned that the box meant that there was a special treat inside. Next we put the box in one of his trees. It took him a long time and much pacing to figure out he had to jump up into the tree to get the box. He was very unsteady in the tree. Even though he is fully clawed he fell out of the tree many times. Finally he found his balance while in the tree and then started swatting at the box to knock it down. This resulted in falling out of the tree multiple times as well. In the end he figured out how to easily climb the tree as well get the box down to get his treat. Now Reno climbs trees like a leopard in the wild would.

Jen Rusczcyk - Enrichment Committee

Interns Graduate

Congratulations to Jonnie Russell and Steve Tapper respectively for completing their internships at Big Cat Rescue.

Six long months have passed since the two began their onsite stay. Hundreds of hours have been spent learning the inner workings of a real sanctuary and training in the many aspects of animal care.

Jonnie Russell came to Big Cat Rescue from Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated in 2001 from Whittier College in Los Angeles with a B.S. in Biology. “After graduation, I took a research class at the L.A. Zoo and fell in love with the Tigers! I have been volunteering with exotic animals ever since.” Jonnie explains to BCR staff. “I eventually hope to attend grad school to do research in the animal behavior field.”

Steve Tapper found out about Big Cat Rescue and the Internship Program through his father, who discovered BCR on the Internet. Steve came to Big Cat Rescue all the way from Toronto, Ontario in Canada. Interested in a career in the animal field, he was hoping to gain real world experience to use as a reference for future employment.

Jonnie and Steve have completed their internships, but their commitment to the animals of BCR is far from over. Both have decided to take up residence in Florida for the time being so that they can be close to the sanctuary and join the Volunteer Program.

While some say good bye to the intern program, we welcome a few new smiling faces. Nikki Guthrie, Tiffany Deavor, and Laura Kyle.