BIG CATS HAVE BIG FUN - Enrichment at BCR

Clockwise from top: 1. Tigers, Shere Khan chases after China who has retrieved an enrichment box from the lake. 2. China Doll, the Tiger dives in for an enrichment box with treats inside of it. 3. Cheetaro the Leopard cools off with a 200 lb. block of ice.

Below: Esmerelda the Serval goes crazy for an enrichment tube filled with special spices.
WILLIAMSBURG TRAVEL DONATES $4000 HAWAII TRIP FOR FUR BALL & OFFERS VACATION DISCOUNT TO ALL SUPPORTERS

Thanks to Williamsburg Travel and Classic Custom Vacations, the most spectacular prize in the Fur Ball live auction this year will be a five day trip for two to Hawaii! The trip includes flights, accommodations at the Sheraton Waikiki and W Honolulu Diamond Head, and rental car.

In addition, if you are thinking about a cruise vacation, Williamsburg - American Express has a great incentive for you. For any cruise booked through Williamsburg during the month of October 2005, receive a $100.00 cash back award per cabin on 7 day and longer cruises when you pay with your American Express card. Call 813-871-1404 or 800-422-2639 for details. Be sure to mention you are a Big Cat Rescue supporter!

Williamsburg Travel operates 21 offices around the country helping mid size companies control their travel expenses and giving personal attention to vacation travelers. You can visit Williamsburg at www.WillTrav.com

LTU AIR DONATES $1600 TRIP TO DUSSELDORF TO FUR BALL

While not a household name here, LTU Airlines is one of the largest German holiday airlines. Every year LTU carries more than 5.7 million passengers on its 24 red and white colored aircraft. LTU is celebrating its 50th year of service in 2005.

LTU has become a supporter of Big Cat Rescue by generously donating two tickets to Dusseldorf to our Fur Ball live auction! The tickets are valid from any US LTU gate.

If you are considering travel to Germany, please consider thanking them for their support of the cats by checking out LTU when you are planning your trip. LTU flies out of Orlando, Miami, Ft. Myers, New York, L.A., Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver and goes to Dusseldorf and Munich. You can visit them on the web at www.LTU.com or by calling toll free 866-266-5588.
Party with the Cool Cats & Help Save the Big Cats

45 acres in Citrus Park is home to over 150 lions, tigers, bobcats and more. Big Cat Rescue is the world’s largest sanctuary for abandoned, abused and retired big cats.

Big Cat Rescue invites you to attend the exotic

“Roaring 20’s Fur Ball”

A La Carte Pavilion – October 21st, 2005

Join in the FUN at this unique event with:
Safari, Cat, Formal or Roaring 20’s costume attire
Complimentary Wines by Papio & Gourmet Dinner by A La Carte
Sumptuous Fountains by Chocolate Cascades
Casino Tables by DanMar Productions
Silent and Live Auctions
Dancing to the jazz sounds of the Wholly Cats

Sold out last two years so get your tickets today!

www.bigcatrescue.org 813 426 5948
The first 300 tickets purchased will be entered into a drawing to win a $300 overnight stay and all-day expedition for two at the sanctuary.

VIP admission 6.30pm - $150 • General admission 7.30pm - $100 • VIP table $1500

Leopard Rescuer Sponsors

Papio

Cougar Defender Sponsors

LOKEY Motor Company

Simon’s Furniture

Adventure Outfitters

Other Sponsors & Live Auction Donors

Accent on Tampa Bay
Benservco Employee Benefits Consultants

CAE USA
Charles Schwab & Co.
Florida Capital Bank

Lewa Conservancy
LTU Airlines
Williamsburg Travel and Classic Vacations

www.BigCatRescue.org - SEPTEMBER 2005 - The Big Cat Times - 3
NO COST WAYS YOU CAN GENERATE DONATIONS!

We are continuing to develop ways in which supporters can generate donations to help the cats at no cost. Here is an update on current programs and a brand new program.

INK RECYCLE DONATIONS HAVE FIRST $500 MONTH!

Our hearty thanks to the many people who have emailed to receive the postage prepaid envelopes for recycling your used printer cartridges and discarded cell phones. For each used cartridge you mail in, GreenFund sends us a small donation. The program began in February when our first check was $38.75. Thanks to hundreds of readers around the country joining the program, the June check was $588.77! We are trying to reach $1000 by December. Will you help? It costs you nothing, you are helping the environment by recycling, and helping to save the cats at the same time. To participate, just put a used cartridge or cell phone in the envelope that should be enclosed with your newsletter. For more envelopes, just email your postal mailing address to ink@BigCatRescue.org, or if you do not have email call our gift shop at 813-920-4130 and leave your information.

DONATE BY SHOPPING AT ALBERTSON’S!

As announced in the last issue, BCR has been approved as a Community Partner in the Albertson’s Preferred Card program. Despite the fact that we had a digit wrong in our phone number last issue (ugh!), quite a few people emailed or persisted by phone. How does this program work? If you have a Preferred Card from Albertson’s (no cost, just fill out a form in the store), you can designate a non-profit Community Partner to receive 1-4% of your purchases donated by Albertson’s. The percent goes up with the volume of purchases.

If you would like us to sign you up, just email Finance@BigCatRescue.org with your Preferred Card number, address and the phone number that the card was registered with. Or if you do not have email, call the gift shop at 813-920-4130. If you have had the card for some time Albertson’s may not have your current number. We cannot register you if the number you provide is not what they have in their records. You can reach Albertson’s toll free at 877-932-7948 to find out what phone number they have or to change it to your current number. On their phone menu, select More Choices, then Shopper Card.

BRAND NEW - TURN YOUR VACATIONS INTO DONATIONS!

Do you currently book travel online at sites like Expedia, Priceline or Travelocity? When you do, commissions are paid. Now you can get the same online prices and service but have a portion of the commission donated to Big Cat Rescue!

Big Cat Rescue now has its own Travel Website, www.BigCatRescueTravel.com. The site is powered by Priceline.com, Hotels.com and CheapTickets.com and provides exactly the same rates and features you receive on those sites. But if you book through our site, a portion of the commission is donated to Big Cat Rescue.

You can get tickets for just about anything at great prices: air travel, cruises, hotels, timeshares, vacation packages, weekend escapes, rental cars, rail travel, sporting events, concert tickets, theater tickets, theme park tickets, golf vacation packages and tee times, restaurant reservations and more.

When you book on our travel site, you are dealing directly with these vendors just like you do on their sites. Big Cat Rescue is not involved in the travel arrangements.

But because you came through our site, you generate a donation to help the cats. Visit www.BigCatRescueTravel.com to check us out!

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE CATS IN THESE WAYS!

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. The Membership kit also makes a great gift.

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

BIG CAT RESCUE’S PHOTO CONTEST 2005

1 Grand Prize: Cabin Rental, 2 hour Photo Safari, and Internet exposure at our Official web site: www.BigCatRescue.org
3 First Prizes: 1 hour Photo Safari, and Internet exposure.
3 Second Prizes: Big Cat Rescue T-shirt, and Internet exposure
3 Third Prizes: Tour Pass for Big Cat Rescue and Internet exposure.

Three subject categories to submit to: Wildlife (of course), Pets & Landscape

Entry fee is $5.00 per photo or slide with the following information:
- Category, Name, Address, Phone Number, and Photo title. Also enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope so that your work may be returned to you after the contest is over.

Come for a Photo Safari or a regular tour to get great Wildlife photos!

Judging will be in January 2006 so all entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2005.

While we understand the value of your work and will do our best to take care of it during the interim, we will not be held responsible for loss or damage.

Mail all entries and fees to: Big Cat Rescue attn: Photo Contest 12802 Easy Street Tampa, FL 33625
SaveTheCats@BigCatRescue.org
HEROES - DONORS - MEMBERS - NEW PARENTS - SPECIAL PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Donations $500-$5,430
Tony Atkins $5,430
Dr. Betsy Covile $2,000
Aston Martin Jaguar of Tampa $1,800
The Dallman School $1184.50 for Hallehjah
Dylan Scott Pierce $1,000
Mark Price Foundation $1000
John Perkins Trust $996
Tuna & John Della $600
Tampa Bay Best Publication & Production $500

The Explorer $1,000
Jennifer Kibiger
Habitat Defenders $500
Ms. Bo Dorman
Jo Ann & Jon Frogue
Donald Keene
Sharon Segallas

Donations $175-$474
District 35-R Lions Clubs $474.50
Kirk & Aileen Davis
Clubs $474.50
District 35-R Lions

Donations $50-$100
Stephanie Edwards
Laura Cuessman
Martin Street

Sponsorships $50-$100
Sponsorship Kit $25 Donation!

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 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

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.

Sponsorship Kit $25 Donation!

Choose Your Specie!

Lion, Tiger, Cougar, Black Leopard, Bobcat, Golden Leopard, Ocelot, Jaguar, Snow Leopard, Canadian Lynx, Siberian Lynx, Serval, White Serval, Caracal, Sand Cat, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, Geoffroy Cat

Fill out the order form on page 8
THE BIG CAT
TRADING POST
Your purchases help the cats!
44 Great Gifts under $25
S&H and Tax included in all prices

Zoe the Leopard Collection
A. Small Bowl $20.12 each
B. Mug $20.12 each
C. Salt & Pepper Shaker Set $23.33 each
D. Photo Clip $10.49 each

Walter the Tiger Collection
E. Mug $20.12 each
F. Tea Light Holder $15.84 each
G. Photo Clip $10.49 each
H. Salt & Pepper Shaker Set $23.33 each
I. Small Bowl $20.12

J. BCR Mousepads, Cameron the Lion, Khan the Tiger, or Big Cats of BCR $15.84 each

K. Big Cat Rescue Mug
black ceramic with gold logo
$13.70 each

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

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

N. Animal Planets Most Extreme Cats. VHS featuring Big Cat Rescue $24.40 each

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

P. Big Cat Rescue car magnet black and gold $8.35 each

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

R. Large Animal Plush Value Pack
Zippered case with 10 soft wild animals $19.05 each

S. Small Animal Plush Value Pack
Zippered case with 5 soft wild animals $13.70 each

T. Fancy Pals Purse, choose from Leopard, Tiger or Lion $13.70 each

U. Plastic Animal Tube, choose Big Cats, African Savannah or Asian Mtn. $11.56 each

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

W. Tiger Computer Chamois
Tame your monitor dust, Lion also available $13.70 Shipping Included

X. Big Cat Rescue - Shere Power Poster 24”x36” $13.70 each

Y. Big Cat Socks, from left, Cougar, Lion, Tiger, lots of Tigers! $6.81 each

The Big Cat Trading Post
Your purchases help the cats!
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, $22.26
S. Flex Fit Hat - Embroidered, Olive $24.40
T. Visor - Adjustable, Embroidered, Light Khaki, $24.40
U. Baseball Cap - Embroidered, Khaki & Green, Khaki & Black, $13.70
V. Ponytail Cap - Khaki, Rhinestone Logo, $24.40
W. Visor, Baby Blue, Rhinestone Logo, $24.40

Save Big Cats
3" tall plastic toy
$3.14 each

X. Haunting Eyes Tees
Black w/ Bengal Tiger, Siberian Tiger, Snow Leopard, w/ BCR logo on sleeve.
Adult S, M, L, XL
$24.40 each

J. Photo Magnets & Key Rings
Choose any wild cat
Magnet $3.14
Key Ring $4.21

K. BCR 2006 Calendar, high quality, featuring photos and bios of the residents of Big Cat Rescue
$16.86 each

L. Childrens Tee, Hunter, Logo
Size S, M, L, XL $13.70 each

M. Mens Tee, Khaki Green, Logo
S, M, L, XL, XXL $13.70 each

N. Mens Scoopneck Tee, Sky Blue, Logo
Size S, M, L, XXL $13.70 each

O. Mens Tee, Khaki Green, Logo
S, M, L, XL, XXL $13.70 each

P. Fitted Ladies Tank, Black, Logo, not shown
Size S, M, L, XL, $13.70 each

For faster delivery, order online at BigCatRescue.org or call (813) 920-4130

To purchase these gifts, fill out the order form on page 8
Wrist Reminders

Lance Armstrong started a craze across the world with his “Live Strong” bracelet. Now, you can show your passion for the big cats by wearing a “I SUPPORT BIG CAT RESCUE” bracelet. The bracelet is cream with spotting all around. Its indented on the top with a tiger jumping. These are flying off the shelves and orders are buzzing. They would be great as a gift for or for yourself.

To order fill out the form below.
The Big Cat Rescue Wristbands are $2.68 each, tax included.

Date:

THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM July 2005

Billing Address

Name

Address

City    St    Zip

Day Time Phone

Evening Phone

Email

Recipient Address (if different than Billing)

Name

Address

City    St    Zip

Day Time Phone

Evening Phone

Email

Description

Qty.        Size        Price Each    Total

Yes! I want to attend the Pur Ball, send me ___ General Admission tickets for $100 each $  

Yes! I want to attend the Pur Ball, send me ___ VIP tickets for $150 each $ 

Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes  

Yes! I want to attend the Pur Ball, send me ___ General Admission tickets for $100 each $  

Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes  

Yes! I want to attend the Pur Ball, send me ___ VIP tickets for $150 each $  

Method of Payment

Check     Money Order

Visa      MasterCard      American Express      Discover

Card Number

Exp. Date M/M/Y

Grand Total $  

This is a gift, please make card to: ____________________________ from: ____________________________

Brief message to say: ______________________________________________________________________

Shopping really makes a difference.

Last year Big Cat Rescue raised more than 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.

Kids Tour

Big Cat Rescue now offers 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
- $10.70 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 $21.40 per person (price subject to change). Reservations are not required. No children under 10 years of age. Casual attire is recommended.

Ultimate Expedition - 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, 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 45 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! $21.40 per person. Call for reservations.

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 & INTERN PROGRAMS

Gift Certificates are available for all of our programs and make the perfect gift for that person who has everything!
THE CADDIE THAT ZIGS

If you don’t know Catera, you may not appreciate what a remarkable success story this is. I can briefly tell you his history, but it isn’t the same as experiencing his challenges for the past 8 years and seeing what a remarkable change has taken place for him.

When a wild cat gives birth to a litter and there is something wrong with them, or if there is only one of them, she will kill the kittens and breed again. Nature tells her that if she is going to be spending two to five years raising a litter she has to make it count and won’t waste her time on cubs that are unhealthy or when there is only one. Catera’s mother, a Texas bobcat, even though she had been captive bred and born, knew instinctively that her litter was not going to make it. She began killing the kittens on the third day, when it was apparent that they could not suckle on their own. Talk about tough love. She had arrived here with her mate and had lived with him for seven years without breeding. We didn’t separate them right away and naturally she gave birth within a couple months to this litter. All of our cats have since been neutered or spayed to prevent such an accident.

At any rate, when I heard the clamor in her den, I raced in just in time to save the last of the kittens.

He had been chewed up and shaken, but was still barely clinging to life as I ran him in to the house. Within a couple of feedings I understood why his mother had killed his siblings and tried to kill him. Catera was named for the Cadillac that came out that year with the slogan, “The Caddie that zigz.”

Catera was a neurotic and emotional mess. He ran in circles and ran into walls. He was extremely retarded and couldn’t remember a person from one day to the next. It took him a year to move from a bottle to a bowl when most kittens can do it in 6 to 8 weeks because he just couldn’t remember how to chew and swallow. Bottle feeding was a monumental task as he would thrash, claw, bite and blow milk out his nose in the excitement. I never thought he and I would survive weaning.

I was the only person he could remember and even though my daughter, Jamie, and the housekeeper interacted with him every day he always went into a state of panic at the sight of them, just like meeting someone for the first time. His life was always one of terror at every new sight and sound and his only comfort was in being constantly in my lap, in my bed and in my way.

Catera was always sick. If a flea was anywhere in 100 mile radius it would be on him. He had been through several surgeries because there is just no way to keep an exotic cat out of trouble when they can’t remember from one experience to the next. So many times I thought the best thing for him might be euthanasia, but he just had such a zest for life and such a strong will to survive that I couldn’t bring myself to do it.

Then our staff and volunteers began Big Cat Rescue’s Operant Conditioning program. At first no one even considered Catera a candidate. How would this sickly, pitiful bobcat ever be able to remember a command long enough to get to the reward?

Catera lived in a Cat-a-tat next to Jumanji the black leopard and when Jamie Veronica began training Jumanji to sit, go up, show a paw and lay down on command, Catera overcame his fear of new people and took notes.

In no time he was doing all of the commands in the back ground while Jamie was working with Jumanji. Jamie started working with Catera and the improvement in his health, attitude and ability to remember people was miraculous to say the least. Just a few days ago a visitor who is an Adoptive parent to Catera remarked that he just couldn’t believe how fabulous Catera looks. He is fat, glossy and about the happiest cat here.

The operant conditioning program is the highlight of the day for all of the cats, but in Catera’s case it makes all the difference in the world. You can help us make these programs possible for the cats by participating in our Big Cat Expeditions and through your generous donations.

OFFICIALS FROM TWO COUNTIES VISIT BCR

This past quarter we were honored with visits from senior officials from two counties, Hillsborough and Pinellas. First we had County Administrator Pat Bean and Director of Animal Services Bill Armstrong visit the sanctuary. Bill Armstrong had been to the sanctuary previously, but this was the first visit for Pat Bean. In the photo at right they visit with China Doll. Below Pat Bean helps with operant conditioning of Bengali, who listens dutifully as Doll.

After the visit, we were delighted to receive the following note from Pat Bean: “Thank you so very much for the very educational and enjoyable tour of your wonderful sanctuary. The animals that you have brought into the sanctuary are truly fortunate that there are folks like you who care about their welfare and go to such lengths to provide them a home that is safe and as close to a natural environment as you possibly can. I learned so much and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I have told numerous people about your facility. You may get some folks wanting tours after listening to me rave about your place. Thanks again.”

We also were very pleased this past quarter to receive a visit from our neighboring Pinellas County when Commissioner Ronnie Duncan brought family and friends to the sanctuary. The photo to the right shows Cameron greeting them, with his white tiger girlfriend Zabu behind him off in the distance. We talked at length with the Commissioner about the issues that face Florida counties and appreciated very much his strong interest and concern.
Claws and Effect

You can’t divert a hurricane, and you can’t stop the flow of the Mississippi River. You can’t repair the damage done by what is being called the worst natural disaster to hit our country. You can’t bring back the ones who perished, or reunite all of the lost pets with their owners and you can’t keep it from happening again.

But some tragedies can be prevented.

All it takes is a little sacrifice on our part now. Some reports say that the levies might have withstood the force if they had been built more expensively, but at the time there were other things people wanted to use the money for, so the decision was made to bet that a storm like Katrina would never come. In hindsight it looked like a foolish wager to make with so many lives.

It got me to thinking. In our last issue we talked about all of the preparations we make at Big Cat Rescue for hurricanes. While we have prepared for everything we could possibly foresee, what about all of the things we couldn’t possibly expect? We are too far inland for a hurricane spawned tidal surge to be much more than a muddy mess to slop through while we work cleaning up all of the trees that go down every time a hurricane blows by, but we are not prepared for a tsunami type, 25 foot tall, wall of water.

Even if we knew it was headed straight for us and even if we had several hours to do something, what would that something be? Would we kill every animal here so that they wouldn’t be trapped and drown? The tsunami that hit Thailand proved to us that animals are smart enough to make it to higher ground if they aren’t trapped in cages. Would we open every cage and give them half a chance to get out of harm’s way? What if we did and the water receded a few feet from our fence? Would we...

Could we hunt them all back down?

It hurts to even think about all of that, and one could reason that the odds are against it, but the odds were against Katrina wreaking so much havoc in the domino effect that followed.

Just since our last quarterly issue landed in your mailbox a 10 year old boy was mauled by a pet tiger in Minnesota and is now a quadriplegic fighting for his life on a respirator. Another bottle raised, yearling tiger attempted to rip the jugular from a 17 year old girl who was visiting him at the zoo. Another man, who grew up in a family that raised big cats, was mauled and killed by a lion he had bottle raised from birth. In Kansas a cougar came face to face with a family when he escaped from his cage at the zoo. In Oregon an escaped pet Siberian Lynx attacked a 6 year old girl. Her mother dislodged the cat from her head by repeatedly smashing the exotic cat with a brick. Another teenage girl who was posing with a tiger at a pseudo sanctuary was killed when the cat was startled. She was having her picture made for the school year book, but school started without her this year. In most of these cases, the cats were killed for doing what they are hardwired to do. All of this happened just since the last time we went to press.

All of these tragedies could have been prevented.

We can keep this sort of thing from happening month after month and year after year, but it means a sacrifice on our part. If any one of these people had been your child or your parent or your sibling or your mate, you would probably think the sacrifice a very small one indeed. It is a sacrifice of selfishness.

No one likes to think of themselves as selfish. I don’t. So we justify our actions and try to convince ourselves and others that we really are acting from a much nobler high ground. Entire institutions, hundreds of years old, are steeped in this sort of denial. Zoos were originally menageries designed to flaunt a person’s wealth and status. As that sort of flagrant disregard for non human life began to fall out of vogue zoos began touting themselves asarks for the future.

After a quarter of a century at failing miserably to do anything substantial for conservation, zoos are seeing declining visitors and support. All of the real conservation groups I have spoken with over the years say that the zoos boast their involvement with them but that the miniscule fraction of zoo revenues that go into any real conservation effort is inconsequential.
So why do we keep wild animals in cages?

Because we can. Because we want to. Because if they weren’t in cages, they wouldn’t come any where near us and we would not be able to appreciate their beauty. Because we want our children to see something they would never see in the wild. We justify breeding these magnificent creatures, for life in cages, because we can’t accept that we have been so selfish.

The epitome of selfishness is the person who breeds these wild animals for lives of deprivation in their own back yard or those who deal in these animals for their own profit or income. Most people can see how wrong this is and yet so little is being done to change the status quo. Why is that?

Is it because we believe it is wrong for OTHER people breed wild animals for life in captivity, but we want to attend a circus, zoo or parking lot attraction using animals because we justify that our little admission fee didn’t make that big a difference? Is it because we want to believe that the “sanctuary” down the road is doing good work and we don’t want to be bothered with doing any real investigation into their practices? Is it just laziness that we call being “too busy” to speak up for those who suffer in silence? Or is it because we want a new car, or a new dress or a night out that we “can’t spare” a few dollars to effect a change in the way animals are treated?

As the old prayer goes, “God give me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.” We can’t stop a storm, but we can stop the practice of breeding and keeping wild animals in cages. We can do it with our wallets and we can do it with our political voices. If not you, then who?

Visit www.CatLaws.com today!

BIG CAT TIMES MAKES THE BIG TIME

Now, in the Citrus Park Amoco BP station and convenience store owned by Mina Enterprises, Inc. you can fill up your tank, buy a McDonald’s lunch for the road and pick up a copy of The Big Cat Times. Thanks to store manager Gehan Rezk The Big Cat Times sits right along side the Tampa Tribune and the St. Pete Times for visitors to pick up. Gehan also keeps a rack full of Big Cat Rescue brochures and complains that she just can’t keep them in stock because as she says, “Everybody wants to know about Big Cat Rescue.” Even if she is out of brochures, she keeps a magnet photo of Shere Khan on the register so that she can spread the word. People like her are so important to our mission so next time you need gas, or lunch, stop in at 8002 Citrus Park Dr. Tampa, FL 33625 813.792.2852 and tell Gehan that Big Cat Rescue sent you.

“BIRDIES” WILL MATCH YOUR DONATIONS WITH UP TO 30% EXTRA AND YOU CAN WIN $1000 SHOPPING SPREE!

You can generate up to an extra 30% for any donation you make to Big Cat Rescue until October 27 by donating through the Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities program. This program is done in concert with the Chrysler Championship Golf Tournament held at Innisbrook Resort. Innisbrook has been a supporter of Big Cat Rescue by donating a foursome each year to our Fur Ball silent auction.

How does this work? Using the form below (also available on our website at www.BigCatRescue.org/birdies.htm if you need more), you can make a donation in one of two ways. One way is to pledge 1 cent or more per birdie scored during the tournament. Typically there are about 1200, so a 1 cent pledge is about $12. A 2 cent per birdie pledge is $24, etc. Or, you can simply send in a donation of any amount from $10 up (which frankly is simpler and easier). Whatever your donation turns out to be, Birdies will send us that amount PLUS UP TO 30%! The tournament matches 30% on the first million dollars in paid pledges it receives and 10% on all paid pledges over this threshold up to a maximum of $50,000 per charity. So as you can see, there is an incentive to us to get our money in early!!

Win $1000 Shopping Spree. In addition, on the form you enter your guess as to how many total birdies will be scored during the tournament. There is a drawing from those who guessed correctly and the winner receives a $1000 shopping spree at Kash n’ Karry!

All pledges are tax deductible because Birdies for Tampa Bay is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Checks should be made out to Chrysler Championship and sent to Big Cat Rescue - Birdies, 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625-3702. The form MUST be enclosed and fully filled out for us to receive proper credit for your donation.

This is a great way to maximize or “leverage” your donation. Every $10 donation allows us to net $13, so please consider donating in this way! Thanks!

And our thanks to supporter Bill Moore of Benservco Employee Benefits Consultants for introducing us to this program!

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP

Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities -obtains pledges of 1 cent or more for each birdie made during the 2005 CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities will then donate 100% of the money received to the charity named by the donor on the pledge card. All paid pledges will qualify your charity for additional money through the bonus pool. THE BONUS POOL IS GUARANTEED AT A 30% BONUS FOR THE FIRST $1,000,000 IN PAID PLEDGES RECEIVED! ALL PAID PLEDGES RECEIVED AFTER WE REACH $1,000,000 WILL RECEIVE A 10% BONUS.

Along with this or her pledge, each donor will be able to guess the number of birdies made during the tournament. One person who correctly guesses the number of birdies will be eligible to win a $1000 SHOPPING SPREE at KASH N’ KARRY! If there is more than one correct guess for total birdies scored from among those correctly guessing the exact amount, the winner will be selected in a random drawing.

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP

36/50 US 19 N, Palm Harbor, FL 34684
(727) 942-5566

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP

BIG CAT RESCUE, 12802 EASY ST., TAMPA, FL 33625, 813-920-4130

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP

Charity: BIG CAT RESCUE Flight Leader: HOWARD BASINK Solicited by:

☐ 1 PLEDGE and promise to donate to the charity I have selected above, the amount of $ per birdie made during the 2005 Chrysler Championship. I understand that 285 birds were made during the 2004 tournament.

☐ OR I pledge a ONE-TIME DONATION in the amount of $0.00 $0.00 $50.00 $100.00 Other 5

☐ Please Bill Me ☐ Payment Enclosed

GUESS THE BIRDIES CONTEST

I GUESS that exactly _________ birdies will be made on the official tournament days Oct. 27 - Oct. 30, 2005. PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

City, State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

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CONTEST RULES

Only 1 winner per household. Ties and other prizes will be determined by random drawing. Judges decision final. All guesses must be on an official pledge card. A complete set of rules is available at the tournament office.

www.BigCatRescue.org - SEPTEMBER 2005 - The Big Cat Times - 11
ENRICHING LIVES

At Big Cat Rescue the animal enrichment program is part of the daily routine. Keeping the animals mentally stimulated is an important part of maintaining their overall health and happiness. Fresh new ideas are constantly implemented into the program. After a brainstorming session, BCR Interns came up with a brand new idea. Depicted here is the “Blood Ball”.

Using a syringe, Interns fill balloons with some of the blood that has been collected from defrosting beef. Then the balloon is filled to about the size of a softball using the tap. Next the balloons are tied off and hung from a coat hanger in the freezer so that as they freeze they retain a ball-like shape.

Sylvester loves his blood ball. He batted it around chasing after it, then scooped up the ball with one paw and licked on it while balancing on his three remaining legs. When he would lose his grip on the slippery frozen treat he chased it about some more before finally settling down to devour his tasty toy.

BIG CATS GET BIG DINNERS

One of the challenges of keeping exotic felines healthy in captivity is providing them with the correct diet and ensuring that they will actually consume it. The cats at Big Cat Rescue eat a diet that is based on a portion of ground beef and organs that is augmented with chicken quarters or chicken necks.

In the wild these animals would consume “whole prey”, meaning that all or part of the prey animals they kill would be eaten, including skin, meat, and bones. Since a lump of ground meat has neither the consistency nor the textures of a fresh kill, it is often difficult to get them to eat, especially in the heat of the warmer months. Big Cat Rescue has recently switched from our own locally produced, home-made, recipe of ground meat to a commercially prepared diet for the first time. The diet, Natural Balance, was invented by veterinarians and nutritionists and was created specifically for captive carnivores. We receive it frozen in five pound tubes. The consistency of the new ground diet is very similar to a pate’ spread. The resident cats were gradually weaned from their ground meat, or “mush” as we like to call it, by mixing the Natural Balance into their diet and progressively increasing the ratio of the new mush to the old. After a few weeks of transition, the cats were happily eating the new food. The greatest advantage of switching to a commercially prepared diet was eliminating the need for an additional vitamin supplement. Natural Balance adds all necessary supplements during processing. This has decreased both our costs and our feeding time. Hand mixing of supplements can be inconsistent and is very difficult during rain storms which always seem to pop up at feeding time!

The cats really seem to like the new diet and even the ones that are typically prone to food allergies have been doing well on it also.

-Scott Lope

Above: Senior Keeper Susan Mitchell feeds Morgan the Cougar; Right: Andi the Bobcat likes the new diet.