Three Cougar Cubs Orphaned in Idaho

Injustice in Our Own Country

In late September, in the backcountry of Idaho a single shot was fired. As it rang out, echoing through the forest, four Mountain Lions were removed from the wild forever.

A man was hunting when he came upon a prized trophy, a young Mountain Lion. This Mountain Lion was doing some hunting of her own; she was in search of prey to sustain her while she cared for her litter of three. So engrossed in her mission she became unaware that she was being stalked. With no warning, the shot blasted bringing her down with a limp thud. The hunter had his prize; her fate now was perhaps to serve as a rug by the fireplace. Her cubs were now orphans and their fate lie in the hands of this man.
It is completely legal to hunt Mountain Lions in Idaho. The hunter had obtained a permit to hunt the Big Cat. There are policies in place, one of which is to not kill lactating mothers, but unlike deer that are easily distinguishable at great distances, there is no way to determine the gender of a Mountain Lion, so it is not uncommon that mothers are hunted and their young left orphaned to die. The very same week that this happened in Idaho, similar situations were reported in Oregon and South Dakota but those were quickly swept under the rug and most of the time such egregious acts are never discovered.

In this instance, the cubs surfaced and were taken in to officials with the Idaho Fish and Game Department, who then placed the cubs with Mady Rothchild, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She was instructed to find a zoo that would take them or they would have to be euthanized because big cats are not permitted to be kept in the wild in Idaho once humans have handled them.

With twenty years experience in rescuing wildlife and returning them to their rightful home, Mady did not like the alternatives presented to her. She knew that if sent to a zoo, these siblings would end up being separated from one another and ultimately used for breeding purposes to furnish a fresh supply of crowd attracting cubs. When they no longer attract a paying crowd these youths are often sold for a place like Big Cat Rescue, how do you commit to providing lifetime care to cats that could live as long as Scratch, our 28 year old Cougar? And what about the quality of life for the cubs? While life at Big Cat Rescue would far exceed the quality of life in many zoos, it is still life in a cage for animals that have been selectively bred, through survival of the fittest, for life in the wild. They would be paying the ultimate price for this choice and Mady and Carole wrestled with this aspect because both of them wanted what would be best for the individual cats as well as what would be best for the species, when these are usually mutually exclusive propositions.

The cubes’ fate was decided for them and while that isn’t the way it should have been, it was a decision that had to be made for them due to the actions of others. Mady and Carole believed that if these adorable, blue eyed orphans could cause enough people to stop for a minute and THINK then perhaps these cubs’ cousins will be spared a similar destiny. Their story will be told and their mother’s death would not have been in vain.

Once the conclusion was made that the orphaned cubs would come to live at Big Cat Rescue, the real fun began. After making sure all the legalities of the transport were approved, the next question would be: how do we get them there? One of the cubs was sickly and not eating well, so it needed to happen sooner than later. A friend of Scott’s, who works for Southwest Airlines, gave him a contact at their headquarters in Dallas. Paula Berg was so nice from the first time Scott talked with her and fortunately is a passionate animal lover. She asked where Big Cat Rescuers needed to go and how many seats would be required and called back that very afternoon to say the trip was a go. They would provide seating at the front of the plane for Big Cat staff, cameraman James and even two seats for the cubs’ carriers. Rescuers, Scott and Jamie packed their bags and every possible supply item they could think of for baby Cougars on an eight-hour plane ride.

Next the media solicitations were put into full effect, to make the most of this unfortunate situation. Carole contacted a former volunteer, Beth Stewart, who is now a copywriter for the Discovery Channel and asked her to pitch their story.
She also contacted T.V. Producer David Hurd and asked him to donate his time and equipment to capture every moment of the cubs’ transition throughout the rescue. Chief Financial Officer, Howard Baskin wrote up a press release and ran it through BCR’s Marketing Strategist, Teasdale Worldwide to get the message out to all of their media contacts. Big Cat Rescue donor, Marty Schaffel donated the use of a broadcast quality camera from his operations at Audio Visual Innovations to Jamie Veronica so she could film the transfer and follow up for the International Wildlife Film Festival where their story would reach an international group of film makers who could further their saga. Scott phoned his contacts at the Jack Hanna show to ask them to consider a segment on the Cougar rescue and alerted every major news channel and paper of the mission, filling them in on the flight schedules so that they could cover the event both here in Tampa and in Boise, and they turned out en masse.

Three flights and many hours later Rescuers touched down in Boise. It was a mixed bag of emotions to be in Idaho, there was joy at being able to help these animals, sorrow at the loss of the mother Cougar, and anger that these babies would never get to live in the wild. As they began to awaken, they were introduced to the siblings, two boys at five pounds each and little sister at four pounds.

With no time to spare, Rescuers did interviews with the local media, filmed the cubs, observed their feeding routines and even managed to get a couple of hours of sleep before the long trip home.

After hugs from Mady, Scott, Jamie and cameraman James Zavesky were at the Boise airport at 5 AM sharp to check-in. “Everyone there treated us like royalty” Scott reported.

The biggest challenge that started off the trip was going through security. Holding the screaming, squirming cubs in their arms as they walked through the metal detectors and then for another fifteen minutes as the carriers and supplies were unpacked and checked by security personnel. Afterwards Rescuers didn’t quite look the same, three-week-old cubs are very messy and are already equipped with sharp little claws.

As they were escorted onto the plane, the pilot played “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”, a warm and unexpected welcome as they settled into both of the front rows. A seatbelt extender held the carriers firmly on two seats. The next few hours would be filled with “question and answer” sessions with the flight crew and passengers.

Mid flight a crewmember suggested that Scott walk one of the cubs, in his arms, to the back of the plane so that everyone would get a chance to see the “V.I.P.’s” that were riding up front. The passengers were delighted and amazed to see a Cougar up close, but their smiles quickly vanished when they heard the reason why the orphaned cubs were trading their natural mountain home for a fenced habitat in Florida.

After a speedy tram ride at the Phoenix airport, they were finally aboard the flight to Tampa! This last leg of the journey passed rather quickly as Scott and Jamie swapped out blankets, fed the cubs, and did another walk through.

When the weary group reached Tampa and began to de-board the plane they were met by Big Cat Rescue Volunteers Marcy Sennott and Julie Hanan. As they grabbed their bags they said one thing, “There are a lot of people waiting for you guys”. When the doors of the tram opened, they quickly realized what they meant. The size of the crowd was blurred out due to all the flashes and blinding lights from the television cameras. Scott stopped and gave some brief interviews for the local news and gave Tampa their first look at the cubs. “Throughout our entire adventure, Southwest Airlines has been so great, we can’t thank them enough for everything they so graciously donated to help these orphans and make their rescue possible” Scott says. Afterwards they made their way to the Big Cat Bus, with several reporters in tow, and headed home to the sanctuary.

Upon the arrival of the Rescuers and Rescues, dozens of BCR volunteers greeted them with cheers and sighs of relief, ecstatic that the orphans had safely arrived. The cubs had a quick look at their new surroundings then they were off to their specially prepared nursery.

A brief moment was had to catch their breath and collect their thoughts, but now it was time to get started on a new chapter, to provide Ares, Artemis, and Orion with the best life possible. They didn’t ask to, nor do they deserve to spend their lives in captivity, so it’s the responsibility of Big Cat Rescue to keep them healthy and happy. Their loss of freedom will not be wasted, for they will touch a lot of hearts and minds and hopefully initiate change not only legislatively, but also morally. Stay tuned!

Your voice is the only voice these cubs have in our government. Please act now and take a moment to make their cries heard, visit www.BigCatRescue.org and click on the link to the Cougar Cub Rescue. Here you will find a petition that you can sign. More than 100,000 signatures are required to bring some of these acts of legislation forward so please pass on this page to everyone you know. Together we can make it right for these little innocents, for their mother who died trying to save them and for the thousands of others like them.
8 Year old Spencer Brignall Distributes Ink Bags

After visiting Big Cat Rescue in June, Spencer Brignall, an 8 year old who lives in Michigan, called us to ask how he could help. We suggested distributing our ink recycle bags because that is a way people can donate at no cost to themselves. Spencer liked the idea and ran with it in an big way. He got permission from his church to set up a booth and, with a little help from his mother Tina, he created the display pictured here. He shows his toy white animals in order to explain to people the breeding nightmare created by desire to produce them. For more information on white tigers visit www.bigcatrescue.org/white_tigers.htm.

Spencer has also set up the booth at other locations. The ink cartridges have already started arriving at Greenfund and generating donations. Our thanks to Trevor for his entrepreneurial support of the cats! For more info about how you can help by distributing the recycle bags, see www.bigcatrescue.org/ink.htm.

Please Help With New Rezoning

We recently purchased 3 acres at the south end of our property. We hope to get approval to put six homes there, additional parking for the sanctuary, and cross access from the new parcel to our current property so vehicles can move from the current property to the new property. The homes would serve multiple purposes. One is to house our interns, some of whom currently have to live off site. This would also allow us to enhance security of the property. Second, we plan to start a program under which the sanctuary would become part of the curriculum for veterinary students. The homes would provide housing for those students. Finally, when not used for those purposes, we would like to rent the homes to provide income to support the cats.

These plans require us to rezone the property from agricultural/residential (which only allows two homes) to what is known as Planned Development. The permissions we seek are far below the density that the overall county plan shows for this area. We hope that our neighbors will be understanding and supportive, but cannot predict that. In the rezoning we did on our current property in 2004, some neighbors opposed our plans.

A very important factor in these approvals is having our Commissioners know that we have the support of the community. There are two ways in which you can help.

The most helpful, if you are local, is to attend the hearing in front of the Zoning Hearing Master currently scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 6 pm at the Board of County Commissioners Board Room, 2nd Floor, County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602 and speak on our behalf. Having people take the time and effort to appear is the strongest way to show support.

The other way is to write a letter indicating your support of our Planned Development. The letter should be sent to us but needs to be addressed to our Commissioner. It can contain whatever information you like about your relationship with the sanctuary and what you think of the work we do. Most important is to urge that the Commission approve our plans so we can continue to expand our educational activities and accommodate our visitors. Below are the address to put on the letter, and our mailing address:

Letters should be addressed as follows in your letter:

Mr. Ken Hagan
County Commissioner - District 2
County Center, 2nd Floor
Tampa, FL 33602

RE: REZONING RZ 06-0115

Please SEND your letter to:

Big Cat Rescue
Rezoning
12802 Easy Street
Tampa, FL 33625-3702

Thank you VERY MUCH for taking the time to write our on behalf. This could have a huge impact on our future and we appreciate it very, very much.
The Roaring 20’s Fur Ball - A Huge Success with a profit of $60,000.00

One of the most popular features of our Fur Ball each year has been the complimentary wine. This year Papio Winery increased the donation by 50% so we could serve wine at the tables as well as at the wine bar. When you purchase Papio wines, a portion of what you spend is donated to the African Wildlife Fund. If you are looking for a great value in wine, please consider thanking Papio for their support of Big Cat Rescue and wildlife conservation by trying their excellent Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon wines.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PAPIO WINERY

One of the most popular features of our Fur Ball each year has been the complimentary wine. This year Papio Winery increased the donation by 50% so we could serve wine at the tables as well as at the wine bar. When you purchase Papio wines, a portion of what you spend is donated to the African Wildlife Fund. If you are looking for a great value in wine, please consider thanking Papio for their support of Big Cat Rescue and wildlife conservation by trying their excellent Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon wines.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO
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Florida Capital Bank
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**THE BIG CAT TRADING POST**

*Your purchases help the cats!*  
44 Great Gifts under $25  
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**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

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

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**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

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**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

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

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**L. Big Cat Rescue Safari Guide**  
$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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Y. Big Cat Socks, from left, Cougar, Lion, Tiger, lots of Tigers!**  
$6.81 each
A. Youth Girls Tee, Dusty Blue, Three Cats
   Size M, L, XL
   $19.05 each

B. Youth Girls Tank, Royal Blue, Tiger Cub,
   Size S, M, L, XL $19.05 each

C. Children’s Tee, Rust, Tiger Pool,
   Size S, M, L, XL $15.84 each

D. Children’s Tee, Purple, Mother & Cub Collage,
   Size S, M, L, XL $15.84 each

E. Adult Tee, Rust, Four Cats,
   Size S, M, L, XL $24.40 each

F. Adult Tee, Jungle Green, Panther,
   Size S, M, L, XL $24.40 each

G. Adult Tee, Tan, Mountain Lion,
   Size S, M, L, XL $24.40 each

H. Adult Tee, Dusty Blue, White Tiger,
   Size S, M, L, XL $24.40 each

I. Endangered Babies
   3" tall plastic toy
   $3.14 each

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

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

L. Children’s Tee, Hunter, Logo
   Size S, M, L, XL $13.70 each

M. Women’s V-neck Tee, Frost Pink, Logo
   Size S, M, L, XL $13.70 each

N. Women’s Scoopneck Tee, Sky Blue, Logo
   Size S, M, L, XL $13.70 each

O. Men’s Tee, Khaki Green, Logo
   S, M, L, XL, XXL $13.70

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

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

For faster delivery,
order online at BigCatRescue.org or call (813) 920-4130
In 2004 the IRS reported that there are 964,000 registered charities in the U.S. Only 81 of them qualify for and display this seal. **Big Cat Rescue is one of them.** This seal confirms that the organization meets all 23 of the Standards for Charity Accountability.

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance is a national charity watchdog affiliated with the Better Business Bureau system. The Alliance has over a century of experience and recognition in charity evaluation. Unlike other charity monitoring groups that focus solely on a review of charity finances, the Alliance completes comprehensive, in-depth evaluations of the charity’s governance, fund raising practices, solicitations and informational materials, as well as how it spends its money.

You knew we were doing things right; now the rest of the world does too! **Legislative Action Step:** Help us do something right today. Write these four Congressional Committees with a couple quick clicks and ask them to ban steel jawed traps. These are painfully cruel traps that cause the drawn-out suffering of so many unsuspecting animals. Write the legislators all at one time in one letter www.CatLaws.com

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**THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM**

**November 2005**

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This is a gift, please make card to: _________________________ from: ________________________

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**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.

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**GR-R-REAT STOCKING STUFFER!**

Show your passion for the big cats by wearing a “I SUPPORT BIG CAT RESCUE” wristband.

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

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**VISIT BIG CAT RESCUE**

**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 & INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**
- **Gift Certificates** are available for all of our programs and make the perfect gift for that person who has everything!
HEROES - DONORS - MEMBERS - NEW PARENTS - SPECIAL PROJECT SUPPORTERS

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Donations $150-$350
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Great Gift Idea
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 species, a 4-page color newsletter filled with interesting facts about the habitat, social system, hunting and diet, and colorful photos of your chosen species, a financial breakdown of how your donation is used, a list of all the animals we have that are the species 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 personal 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

www.BIGCATRESCUE.ORG - NOVEMBER 2005 - THE BIG CAT TIMES - 9
Do you hear what I hear?

Have you ever been ready to walk out the door and suddenly you remember there is not enough water in your animal companions bowl for the day? Or maybe, the litter needs to be changed? Did you remember this on your own?, or did you “pick up” on their thoughts.

This is the example I commonly use to show my clients how easy it is to actually hear what your furry/non furry friend is telling you. My life as an Animal Communicator is constantly hearing these things. We all have the ability, but most of us are unfortunately taught, that this is not reality. This in-fact is reality, and I hope that by reading this article you come to understand this.

My job is to listen to your friends, and help them to convey their messages to Mom/Dad and Doctors. I get called in for behavioral problems and medical problems when regular methods are not seeming to work. When there is an emotional issue that is bothering them, it can also manifest in a physical or mental problem. Sometimes the physical or mental disturbances can be the route of the emotional or behavioral problems. When I am called for a consultation I open my heart and mind and I listen and feel. I then relay this information to the people that it needs to be conveyed to, and we go from there.

I’ve worked with rescue animals and often the cruelty that they have had to endure, can often be the route cause for their problems. By finding out this origin of the problem, we can often help them to live a normal life. Finding what is bothering them, is like therapy, it helps them release what has happened and allows them to be able to deal with it, much like humans when they go to a therapist for assistance with their life problems.

When I am called in to help Doctor’s with cases, the feelings of the animal overcome me and I explain to the Doctor what I am feeling in my own body. There have been incidents where the Doctor has told me that what I am telling them makes no scientific sense, but it does appear to be accurate, once further medical testing is done.

I really enjoy helping animals and people in this way. As I stated earlier, you just have to open your heart and mind and listen. I will warn you though, the answer you hear may not be what you expect, but it will be what they want you to know.

Why don’t you try this simple exercise, sit quietly and think of a question that you would like to relay to your companion. Concentrate on this or pretend that your thought or question is a balloon, and “send” this to your friend. The first thought that comes to your mind will be the reply that is being sent back to you. This can come as a picture, feeling or actual thought, this is what you are suppose to know. Continue to do this and you will be communicating with your companion.

I hope that you now have a better understanding of how easy it is to really listen to your furry/non-furry friend, and this simple exercise can open doors for the both of you. I personally would like to thank all the animals that have crossed my path and taught me how to live with an open mind and an open heart. It is my greatest hope that we all can practice this technique and open all the doors of communication for every living thing. Mary Anne Brice - Animal Communicator

Top: Cachanga; Above: Rose the Caracals

DONATE AT NO COST TO YOU - UPDATE

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Our travel site is powered by Priceline.com, hotel.com and similar services. You are dealing directly with them at the same prices you find on their sites, but by coming through our site you generate commissions that are paid to Big Cat Rescue. To book through our site, just visit www.BigCatRescueTravel.com.

INK RECYCLE DONATIONS HIT $3500!

Year to date our ink recycle program has generated $3500 in donations from Greenfund, the company that does the recycling. To participate, all you need to do is order some of the postage paid bags and put your empty ink jet cartridges or old cell phones in the bags and mail them. They supply free postage paid boxes for larger cartridges. Please help by ordering bags and giving them to friends or colleagues at work. To order, just visit www.BigCatRescue.org/ink or email ink@BigCatRescue.org.

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WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT?

Carole had lost 60 pounds over the last few years, but had found she was unable to lose more. Then she recently met a nutritionist who introduced her to a new program. The concept is protein based much like many current diets. The big difference is that it is based on healthy vegetable protein, not eating hi fat, cholesterol filled meat. She has now lost 17 more pounds in the last six weeks and is fitting into clothes she has not worn in almost 20 years (which makes one wonder why she was saving them?).

Anyway, if you are interested in a healthy, proven way to lose weight, check out www.Matol-Diet.com. The Matol diet includes cake for breakfast, pudding in the mid morning, soup and salad for lunch, lean meat and veggies for dinner and a hot cocoa drink before bed. This is too good to be a diet! (no pills nor weirdness) The best part is that while you are discovering your inner, beautiful self and feeling more energy than you have in years, you are also feeding the cats of Big Cat Rescue. Just sign up on the site to get your products or to create your own home business and the cats will get all the commissions from Carole and her royalties on your commissions as well.

Donna Blau - Animal Communicator
Big Cat Rescue Turns 13

Happy birthday dear Big Cat Rescue...happy birthday to us. Yes, we have turned 13 as of November 4th. What is special about November 4th? Well, this is the day that we rescued our first cat, Windsor. As we reflect, we realize that we may be too young to be considered part of the mainstream, humane minded citizens who would be- come the political voice for animals in Florida. Within months, those 10 had enlisted the help of 60 more and it was time to bring them all together.

Heather Veleanu came to Big Cat Rescue from West Palm Beach as the guest speaker to share the vision of Humane USA Florida with the public. She explained the beginnings of Humane USA as the nation’s first major political action committee devoted to the task of electing humane-minded candidates to public office at the federal and state levels.

She relayed that strong animal protection laws are produced by humane-minded elected officials, and the best way to secure a large crop of humane-minded legislators is to support them during their election campaigns.

She pointed out that it is important to note that because of their charitable status with the Internal Revenue Service, other animal protection groups are legally barred from endorsing candidates. Humane USA is the only national animal protection group that is allowed to participate in candidate election campaigns.

Heather shared with the group the fact that during 1999 and 2000 - after Humane USA launched its operations - the Congress passed 11 new laws to protect animals, including laws to protect great apes, to establish chimpanzee sanctuaries, to ban the sale of dog and cat fur, to validate non-animal tests, and to halt barbaric practices such as “animal crush” videos and shark finning. She remarked that it was no accident that Congress passed so many laws after Humane USA began its work.

Everyone was so pumped up after the meeting that they bought lots of Humane USA hats, bumper stickers and screen savers and made donations. Jamie Veronica put out a challenge to the group by offering to match all of their donations for the evening and Howard Baskin, not to be outdone, further inspired everyone to give generously by matching them as well. Now, thanks to all of the concerned citizens who joined at the end of the presentation, Humane USA has the beginnings of a strong Florida chapter, and will be involved in hundreds of races at the state and federal levels.

Attendees included volunteers from Big Cat Rescue, Florida Voices for Animals, No More Homeless Pets, Kitty City, several animal rescue groups and lots of people who simply understand that you can’t get better laws to protect the animals if the people in office don’t care. Each one of these visionaries will be spreading the word about the good work Humane USA Florida is doing to elect humane minded candidates to office. To watch for future events and fundraisers, you can visit them online at www.HumaneUSA.org/HumaneUSAFL.htm.

Good Games for Kid’s Online

“However a man thinketh, so is he.” Proverbs 23 vs. 7

We live in a society that seems consumed with cultivating our youth; from being sure they are eating healthy foods to making the most advanced technological devices available to them. The computers they play games on are more powerful than the ones originally used to put a man on the moon. This is a great investment in our next generation but sometimes, where we drop the ball is in the message.

Almost every video game I have seen has revolved around being rewarded for killing or destroying the most of whatever is portrayed as the “enemy”. While these games are often passed off as being games of skill, the underlying message is not conducive to creating a more compassionate and thoughtful society. Despite the justifications we make for it, using violence to entertain is not an intelligent thing to do in the long run.

Children are captivated by animals from the very beginning. As a parent or teacher you can use that natural connection to teach children a lot about how to use computers, how to improve their motor skills and how to spell and read.

Big Cat Rescue provides a safe online environment for all of those learning habits in our pages under the Free Stuff > Games link. La Wanza Jones, Rainie Cass and James Northrup are the giants in online games for children. La Wanza is the web mistress for www.spfdbus.com and is the biggest provider of puzzles and games for our site. She came here for a photo tour and must have taken several thousand breathtaking photos. Over the past year she has turned them into online story books, dragger puzzles, flash puzzles, screen savers, jigsaw puzzles and more. She has also created big cat themed word games and quizzes for us, all at no charge. Rainie has created our own cat caricature of Shere Khan that we use as a mascot on these pages, a skill stop machine, kukee camera, dress up the tiger, colouring pages and lots more. She links her major kid’s site called Billy Bear’s Playground (www.billybear4kids.com) to us as well to help drive traffic to us. James hosts a site called Tiny Tot Books (http://www.tinytotbooks.com) and has developed and donated a line of puzzle cards that have sounds and animations that children can email to each other.

As a result Big Cat Rescue has a massive children’s section that can keep children entertained and learning for hours. Unlike games of destruction, these games all focus on conservation and compassion, because whatever a child thinketh, so is he.

Humane USA of Florida Makes History in Tampa

One man said, “I have a dream...” and changed the way humans perceived each other forever. Four long haired boys from England changed music. Twelve hours changed the course of religion. What can 60 people, who came together for the first time on September 8th, do to change the way animals are treated in this country? Everything!

Humane USA Florida made history recently when a group of concerned leaders in Florida gathered to form a steering committee. The national organization, Humane USA was formed in 1999 by leaders from all of the major animal protection organizations when Wayne Pacelle and Linda Nealon shared a vision they had of a Political Action Committee devoted entirely to an animal focused agenda. Since its formation the Humane USA PAC has been responsible for changing many laws to better protect animals and has helped animal friendly candidates gain offices while keeping out those who would be detrimental to animal welfare.

Six years ago, Nanci Alexander and Heather Veleanu had a vision of bringing Humane USA to Florida and creating a chapter that would focus primarily on issues that affect the animals in Florida. This year that dream became reality when the 10 member steering committee met and set out an agenda for building a strong coalition of mainstream, humane minded citizens who would become the political voice for animals in Florida. Within months, those 10 had enlisted the help of 60 more and it was generously by matching them as well. Now, thanks to all of the concerned citizens who joined at the end of the presentation, Humane USA has the beginnings of a strong Florida chapter, and will be involved in hundreds of races at the state and federal levels.

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Below: Cameron and Zabu
It’s That Time Again

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of a local Church for donating their surplus pumpkins this year to the Big Cats. More than two trailer loads have brought on weeks of fun for the cats at Big Cat Rescue. In fact there were so many pumpkins that BCR was able to share them with several other exotic animal organizations, delivering smiles to keepers all throughout the state.

Top: Shere Khan has to choose a pumpkin to save; Middle: Staff, Interns, & Volunteers pick up two trailer loads of pumpkins; Left: Khan picks his pumpkin and carries it back to shore.

Alex the Bobcat, far left, stalks Windsong, left, as she she scratches a log. They both enthusiastically explore the wonder of their spacious new digs. The couple were moved into a Cat.a.tat twice as large as their previous home as part of an ongoing project at BCR to revamp and enlarge existing enclosures for the residents of the sanctuary. Also reaping the benefits from this project and thanks to the generous contribution from Patricia Webber are Cachinga and Cachanga, right, two Caracals. The pair that originally came to BCR together have recently been reunited into a double enclosure. Their happiness is evident as they are now inseparable.

Cat-astrophic Relief Tour

We mentioned last month that we were going to offer a discounted Saturday tour to benefit the animal victims of hurricane Katrina. We hosted the event and it was a huge success thanks to so many of you and our volunteers. We offered $10 tours and 160 guests took a special tour of Big Cat Rescue that day. The funds raised amounted to a whopping $2500 and were donated to the Humane Society of the United States’ Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART) and to United Animal Nation’s Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS). We also had a oversized card for everyone to sign and send with the donation. We may have only made a small dent in the overall effort, but we are proud to send the funds and know they will help in many ways. Thank you for participating!

Above: Cameron enjoys a block of flavored ice; Below: Volunteers sign card