BIG CAT RESCUE HITS THE BIG TIME ON ANIMAL PLANET

On January 5th and 6th, Big Cat Rescue hosted the film crew of an exciting new show on Animal Planet called “Ms. Adventure”. The show, featuring Rachel Reenstra as the title character, is about the adventures of a city girl as she travels the world learning about animals. The theme of the episode that Big Cat Rescue participated in is animal communication. As many animals, especially cats, use scent to communicate, that was the focus.

Paper mache’ animals were constructed by the interns and volunteers and marked with various animal “scents”, namely urine! The reactions were varied, but always spectacular. We can’t give away too much, but the episode should air around the end of March, the season began in mid-January. It is on Animal Planet, of course, on Friday nights at 9 PM.

The staff and volunteers who anticipated in the filming had a great time and Rachel even shot a promo piece for the sanctuary. Make sure you tune into “Ms. Adventure” each week, so you won’t miss Big Cat Rescue and the cats!
SARABI – A LIONESS 1995-2007

There are a lot of “backyard breeders” saying that they are breeding Barbary Lions to save them from extinction, but it isn’t true. Many years ago, when the King of Morocco first came up with the idea of bringing the Barbary Lion (AKA Black Maned Lion or Asiatic Lion) back from the edge of extinction, he sent a group called Wildlink to the U.S. to look at 327 captive lions who were reported to have traits of the Barbary Lion.

Of the 327 likely candidates only three were considered pure enough representatives of the species to use for a captive breeding program. They were the two males chosen and Sarabi, our lioness, was the only female selected. She is a representative of 14 of the 17 Barbary traits, making her the closest living relative to the cat that is now extinct in the wild. Before the program ever got off the ground the King fell sick and his family had no interest in saving the cats.

We don’t believe in breeding cats for lives in cages so we never bred Sarabi, but because she may someday be called upon for her genes, we did not spay her. She would cycle in and out of heat and did so for many years. This last time didn’t seem any different than before until she came out of heat and wasn’t hungry.

She was started on antibiotics but two days later was not improving. After an emergency consultation with three vets it was decided that an exploratory surgery would be performed to see if there was something going on, such as an impaction, that was causing her to act nauseous. It was after dark before Dr. Stacie Wadsworth, DVM and Dr. Elizabeth Wynn, DVM could wrap up their day’s work to come to the sanctuary.

Thanks to Dr. John West and Richard and Debbie Boenisch we have a small cat hospital on site. Since Sarabi was too big to transport into the clinics of either of our vets (394 lbs) we were fortunate to have our own place for surgery and recovery. President Jamie Veronica, Operations Manager Scott Lope, Curators Brian Czarnik, Cathy Mayeski and Jennifer Rusczyck, Senior Keepers Becky Gagliardo and Barbara Frank, and Keepers Justin Boorstein and Jessica Allen saw to it that the hospital was fully stocked with all that we would need, made sure that everything was clean, and rounded up flashlights, radios and emergency gear to make the big move from Sarabi’s half-acre enclosure to the cat hospital.

I sat with Sarabi and tried to assess her condition. She acted like she just couldn’t get comfortable. She would lay as close as she could get to me, with only the wall of her cage separating us. She rolled her belly up to me as if to say that this was where the pain was.

Scott did an expert job of tranquilizing the lioness and I was amazed at how well trained our staff has become in emergencies like this. On radio command they all emerged from the darkness: The transport truck backed up to her cage, the golf carts surrounded it, she was lifted onto a blanket and hoisted into the transport by half a dozen volunteers, while some held lights. In no time, she was in the brightly lit cat hospital. This emergency crew had worked together before. Everyone knew what to do.

Palpitation of her abdomen revealed a hard mass, the size of a football. It was apparent that this was the source of the problem, but what was it? Surgery revealed a huge area of necrotic (dead) tissue and that could be one of two things. It could be an enormously invasive cancer or the result of a snakebite. It would be days before a lab could verify the cause of the affliction, so a hard decision had to be made: Cut out the tumor and have a huge gaping hole in her belly for her to contend with or install three drains and pray that it was a snake bite.

If we were to find out the next week that it was cancer, we would have to euthanize her and her last week would have been one of misery after such invasive surgery and then the issue of trying to close up such a huge wound. If we were to find out it was a snake bite, then the tissue would slough off anyway and cutting away at it tonight was not going to speed up the recovery any. The vets asked me what I wanted to do, but I told them that they were the experts and that I trusted their judgment. We opted for drains.

I took the watch the following day. As I sat by her side, I reminisced over all that we had been through together.

Sarabi arrived in 1995 as a tiny, two week old cub. The people who bred her claimed to be running a sanctuary but sold her and her mate, Mufasa, at an exotic animal auction for $150. The two cubs grew up with 20 Lynx and Bobcats that we had rescued from a fur farm earlier that year. They bonded with these smaller cats quickly, making them their pride. Once they were big enough to be on their own outside, they ended up moving to a large enclosure on the lake. Despite all that we had been told of Lions, Sarabi and Mufasa took to the water immediately. They loved each other very much and became inseparable.

We went through some sad times too. When Mufasa died under anesthesia for a simple X-ray so many years ago, I thought it would kill Sarabi too. She waited for weeks and moped for months. Nothing could console her. She had lost her best friend.

In recent years, her friends were a playful young lioness named Nikita, next door and the tigers from the circus, that live on the lakefront. At night Sarabi leads them all in a multi racial choir of roars that echo across the lake.

The most important lesson that I learned from Sarabi is that she and her kind do not belong in cages. They have their own agenda and amusing us wouldn’t be a part of it if they were free to make their own homes, choose their own mates and raise their own families. They have a precious life to live and a legacy to leave and our job is to make sure that we don’t destroy the planet that is their birthright too.

Carole Baskin – CEO of Big Cat Rescue

A LAKESIDE VIEW

As we waited for the test results from her biopsy, Sarabi was made as comfortable as possible in our cat hospital. She slept most of the time and awakened only when visited by staff and volunteers. A couple times a day we would open the doors to the hospital so that Sarabi could watch the birds outside and see Shere Khan and China across the way. Sarabi’s appetite had still not come back, though, and she refused all sorts of treats; turkey, lamb, beef, and even chicks.

On Wednesday morning, February 7th, Sarabi’s results came across the fax while I sat at my desk. I faxed them on to our vet, Dr. Stacie and she explained them to me over the phone. Sarabi had cancer. The cancer was well progressed and deemed untreatable. The most humane thing that we could do for her now was to let her go. The news sickened me, I grew up with Sarabi, she was like a younger sister. I made arrangements with Dr. Stacie for later that evening when her day’s work was complete. She would make a house call to the sanctuary and euthanize Sarabi here at her home, where she would be the most comfortable.

Knowing now that this was her last day, I decided that I didn’t want Sarabi to spend it in the confines of the cat hospital. With some help, I took her in her rolling transport cage to a peaceful spot on the edge of the lake away from the busy activity of the sanctuary. There I sat with her for six hours. She could see Nikita across the lake and sat up to watch her for a while. She laid in the sun soaking in each ray sending her into a peaceful slumber. As I sat there watching her, I recalled the first time that I saw her, she was so tiny then, just a fuzzy ball of fur, now she was a magnificent creature, beautiful and strong. She dozed on and off all afternoon. I invited a few of the senior staff and volunteers to sit with her for a while and say their good-byes.

Just as the sun began to set, boldly lighting the sky in dark orange and red hues, Dr Stacie and the moment that I had been dreading all day finally arrived. With those who loved her by her side, Sarabi fell asleep never to awaken again. The finality of it all weighed heavily on our hearts, not a word was spoken as our tears fell silently. She had left us behind, but was now free from the captive life she had endured. Sarabi affected so many people, each in a different way, and although she is no longer here in the physical form, she will be in our hearts forever, allowing her spirit to live on. I will never forget her.

-Jamie Veronica, BCR President
Squeaker 1991-2006

“Squeaker was the first big, big kitty cat that I met and fell madly in love with. For the first time, I heard a cougar purr – and what a purr! How many times did Squeak make me smile...every time I would see him or think about him. He would make me so happy whenever I would see him play, follow me, or any other person passing by. And how many times, now that he’s gone, does he make me cry...too many times. But, I guess that is part of loving.”

Marie, Volunteer Keeper

Squeaker collapsed due to complications resulting from birth defects including a malformed heart and spinal degeneration. With no treatment available for either, euthanasia was the only humane option.

Cleo 1995-2006

“Cleo was such a shy girl. Who can blame her, or any of them for that matter? Many of my days were spent just walking by her cat-a-tat, which appeared to be empty. But I will never forget my surprise when, as I was cleaning one day, she started to bounce around her cat-a-tat like a jumping bean. I thought to myself, after so much time just ignoring me, wow she must really not like me! But, from that day forward, she would follow me around the back of her cage as I cleaned and I felt honored. Being kindred spirits, I understood why she didn’t usually come to the front, but at least she knew that she could trust me. Since Cleo has passed, all I think about is how fortunate we are to have spent this time with these amazing creatures.” Tiffany, Senior Volunteer Keeper

Cleo had began to lose weight and was evaluated by Dr. Stacie Wadsworth of Carrollwood Cats. Xrays revealed that Cleo’s kidneys were under formed and there was a mass in her abdomen. Because there was no treatment for her ailments she was euthanized.

Scratch very old and ultimately passed away as a result of renal failure.

In the wild, a cat’s lifespan is less than those in captivity. Their bodies are not equipped to live as long as 15-25 years and many therefore suffer from renal failure.

IN LOVING MEMORY WE REMEMBER

Scratch 1977-2007

“Everyone remarks how great it is that we spend our time making the lives of our cats better. On the contrary, Scratch has enriched my life far more than I could possibly enrich his. And now, just two months shy of his 30th birthday, Scratch is gone. He has lived far longer than any other cougar in known history. He was a very special cat and will be missed by so many, R.L.P., buddy.” Matt, Senior Volunteer Keeper

WALL UPDATE - PAINTBALLS SHOT AT CATS

Those of you on our email list know that last December teenagers shot paintballs through our chain link perimeter fence at two of our black leopards, Adoniss and Bagheera. Fortunately the cats were not physically injured. But, they clearly were affected, staying to the side of their enclosure farthest from the perimeter fence for days after.

The incident brings home the urgency of progressing on our wall project. We are looking at a system that seems to be particularly suited to the terrain and needs. We have also had an initial meeting with County staff about the variance that will be required to build it to the height we would like.

Thanks to many of you, the fund raising for the wall has continued to proceed well. Your wall donations and the proceeds from the Fur Ball translate into 125 feet of wall set aside on our wall fund. There are 7000 total feet of perimeter wall that we eventually need to do, so we have a long way to go. But there are 1900 feet that are most critical, so we are making good progress.

Wall donations are $80 per foot. A sign recognizing donors will be erected with donors listed based on the number of feet donated. Every foot helps, so please consider donating to this project. Just use the Order Form in this newspaper, put “Wall” under Description, and please clearly write how you would like your name to appear, and indicate how many feet you are purchasing. Every foot helps! Names can also be preceded by “In memory of” if you would like to honor a family member or pet who has passed on with a wall donation. Many thanks to all of those who have generously donated to this project!

If you donated to the wall and are not listed here, please email finance@bigcatrescue.org with the date and amount of your donation. Be sure to mention if you would like a donor sign to appear, and indicate how many feet you are purchas-

EDUCATION CAN BE FUN!!!! JUST ASK A BIG CAT CAMPER!!!!!

For several years our sanctuary has offered children between the ages of 10 and 15 the opportunity to attend summer camp at Big Cat Rescue. This has been met with great enthusiasm as measured by campers who have returned year after year.

With the growth of our sanctuary, interest in educational opportunities has also increased significantly.

Our Summer Camp 2006 was sold out indicating that others in the community would like a chance to spend a week meeting and learning about our amazing cats.

As a result we decided to offer winter and spring camps AND expand the age range for Summer Camp 2007. Beginning this summer children between the ages of 8 and 15 are invited to attend Cool Cat Camp at Big Cat Rescue.

Our first ever Winter Camp was an opportunity for the campers to see the cats during colder weather. Although true to form, Florida in December turned out to be much like Florida in the spring! Nevertheless, the campers enjoyed learning about animal behavior, habitat and adaptations while visiting some of our 100+ feline residents each day. There were too many highlights to describe but according to our campers’ surveys their favorites included the “Unnature Hike”, habitat building, making cat enrichments, the behavior training experiment, and of course seeing the big cats up close!

If you know an animal loving child we would invite you to consider sending them to Cool Cat Camp at Big Cat Rescue. In addition to supplementing their knowledge of animal science they will have a positive and fun learning experience unlike any other.

The dates of the Spring Camp are Thursday, March 22nd through Saturday, March 24th. The hours are Thursday and Friday 9:30am-4:00pm & Saturday 9:30am-3:00pm. Campers between the ages 10 to 15 are invited to attend.

We will have summer camp this year for 7 weeks. It will begin June 4th and the last week will begin July 23rd. We will not have camp the week of July 4th. Our camp meets Monday - Thursday from 9:30am-4:00pm. Campers between the ages of 8 to 15 are invited to attend.

For reservations or to ask any questions please feel free to contact the Education Department at kids@bigcatrescue.org or 813-323-3265.

FAITH UPDATE

Faith the Florida Bobcat has been spotted again! February 9th, Friday afternoon, Rhonda Robinson of J.B. Starkey’s Flatwoods Adventures called BCR President Jamie Veronica with some exciting news. One of their tour operators had spotted Faith entering a patch of Cypress swamp near the exact location where she was released at in April of 2005. Everyone at Big Cat Rescue was happy to hear of her status. Faith was the first cub ever to be successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild by Big Cat Rescue. Confirmation of her surviving out there on her own is the greatest reward that the staff and volunteers could ask for.

Since the release of Faith in 2005, Jamie Veronica has led BCR Interns and Volunteers on tracking expeditions twice a month. During these afternoon trips, Rescuers locate and identify tracks, animals, and plant life and check and reset a camera trap set up to capture images of wildlife that passes by.

On the past few trips, numerous sets of Bobcat tracks have been located on the path where the camera trap is positioned. The number of these tracks found on February 10th was by far the most ever seen. Perhaps this has something to do with a lure set up by Rescuers on a previous trip.

Interns collected Bobcat scent from one of the resident Southern Bobcats at the sanctuary. How does one “collect scent” you might ask? Well Bobcats are very territorial and to mark their territory they will spray urine on whatever it is that they want to call their own, whether it be the perimeter of their home or on their favorite Keeper! So after a Bobcat unsuccessfully attempted to claim their property and spray an Intern, the “scented” leaves on the ground were collected and bagged.

On the next tracking expedition the leaves were used to scent mark a scratching log installed on the path in front of the camera trap. The idea was to provide a scent that would capture the curiosity of a Bobcat and then hopefully to cause a reaction from that Bobcat to re-mark the log as its own.

Scent marking as a lure has been used on two occasions so far and has drawn the attention of a male Bobcat. Several images have been captured on film of this Bobcat investigating the area. Unexpectedly many other species have approached the scent marked log as well, including deer, turkey and raccoons. We do not know the exact message given off by this donated “scent”, but we can assume that it is not a very intimidating one since none of the Bobcat’s prey species have been scared off by it’s presence.

Photos clockwise from top right; Interns Vic and Shana add scent to the scratching log, closeup of Bobcat, Interns Sydney, Vic, Kellie, Claire, and Raju set out Faith Tracking Bobcat investigating scent around the scratching log.

CUBS ENCLOSURE DONOR SIGN HAS FEW MORE SPOTS

The sign with marble plaques recognizing our generous donors to the large half acre home for the three cougar cubs is about to be erected. The picture below shows roughly the layout of how the sign will look. On the tiles designed to list the donors of $100 there is room to add about a dozen more names, and there is room for a few more individual tiles per the schedule below. If you are interested in helping complete this project and being recognized with these rich looking engraved marble signs, please use the form in the newsletter on the line for the enclosure for the cubs.

Photos clockwise from top: Orion, Ares and Artemis, Close up of Artemis, Ares with Artemis in background

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Photo above provided by BCR Educational Dept.
Big Cat Rescue Needs You!

There are three ways to help Big Cat Rescue; Part-time Volunteer, Full-time Intern, and Offsite AdvoCat.

The Volunteer and Intern Programs consist of two departments; Keeper and Partner. Keeper Volunteer and Intern responsibilities include: daily husbandry, enclosure cleaning, diet preparation, feeding, operant conditioning and behavioral enrichment for the following species: siberian and canadian lynx, servals, caracals, bobcats, ocelots, jungle cats, geoffroy cats, leopard cats, sand cats, fishing cats, and other exotic animals such as binturongs, civets, cavies, and coatimundis. Grounds maintenance including: landscaping, general clean up, building maintenance, etc. Guest relations, assistance with educational tours and programs, fundraising, legislation and other tasks as required. Partner Volunteer and Interns responsibilities include: backing up tours, assisting with sign in, gate operations & parking, cleaning guest & common areas, filling purified water bottles for animals, assigned duties within the office, education center, file room, or gift shop.

The AdvoCat Program is designed for those who would like to help the Big Cats but cannot be at BCR in person. AdvoCats write letters in support of legislation, spread the word of the plight of these animals, and assist in many other administrative capacities.

If you would like to become a Big Cat Rescue Volunteer email Denny@bigcatrescue.org
Big Cat Rescue Intern email Intern@bigcatrescue.org
Big Cat Rescue AdvoCat email AdvoCat@bigcatrescue.org

Read more about these programs by visiting our website at http://www.bigcatrescue.org/volunteer.htm

CURRENT ANIMAL LEGISLATION

Visit the Big Cat Rescue website to read more about the following bills and send an easy Click & Send letter to make your voice heard for the animals at www.CatLaws.com

FEDERAL BILLS
H.R. 50 Protect Tigers, Elephants & Rhinos
H.R. 891 Keep domestic cats & dogs from being killed and harvested for their fur
H.R. 39 Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Coming Soon: Haley’s Act: A bill to ban contact between big cats and the general public

STATE BILLS
Indiana: HB1472 Bans possession & exploitation of exotic cats
Ohio: HB4 Bans exotic cats as pets
Missouri: SB206 Bans possession & exploitation of exotic cats
Nebraska: LB25 Bans possession of hybrid cats due to rabies risk
Washington: HB1418 Bans possession of dangerous wild animals
West Virginia: HB 2430 Regulates Exotic Animal Trade

UPDATE ON THE ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT

This bill was promoted by the pharmaceutical, fur and cosmetics industry to make it an act of terrorism for whistle blowers to trespass to get video of animals being maimed and killed for profit. Since these industries will never allow anyone to film the torture these animals endure, you won’t be privy to what goes on behind closed doors any more. We tried hard to defeat this bill and lost, but the animals are the real losers. This just illustrates the more how important it is that you speak up for the animals when you have a chance. If you so quickly lost your right to know the truth, how much longer before you lose your right to speak it? Speak up now at www.CatLaws.com

BIG CAT RESCUE ON CABLE TV

Big Cat Rescue has been invited to submit a program to air on the Tampa Bay Community Network. TBCN programming is broadcast on channels 19 and 20 for Brighthouse subscribers and channels 30 and 36 for Verizon subscribers within Hillsborough County.

A Big Cat Film Crew was assembled and members Jamie Veronica, Brian Czarnik and Honey Wayton attended several weeks worth of classes at the studio that are mandatory for those submitting programs.

The crew came up with a series of twelve episodes that will focus on the day to day operations of Big Cat Rescue. Each will highlight a different aspect of the refuge, such as enrichment, operant conditioning, veterinary procedures, volunteers, and so forth.

The first episode of the self titled show “Big Cat Rescue” is called “An Educational Sanctuary”. The episode gives an inside look at a typical day at the sanctuary, including early morning food prep, cat. a.tat cleaning, omnivore feeding, tours, projects, and dinner time for the cats.

This episode will air very soon, check out the home page of our website for updates on an exact air date. Stay tuned....
KEEPER LOG:

SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY

You did it! You answered our donation call and gave im-
mensely to the point that over 30 animals have now received
new safety enclosures. Pharaoh, Purrfection, Nakita, Daisy,
Peaches, Lucky, Shasta, Cherokee, Angie...you get the idea...all thank you. The safety enclosures are basically a small walk in
area that is completely enclosed that is attached to the
Cat.a.tat’s main door. This provides a double entrance to the enclosure so that nothing accidentally gets in our out of any of the Cat.a.tats, when Rescuers enter. Special thanks to Cyrus & Joanne Spurillo for funding the construction of half of these lockouts.

ROSE GETS NEW DIGS

Rose the Caracal has been living near the Trading Post for years and now she is getting a new place to live. Her new Cat.a.tat is out near Cameron and Zabu, the Lion and Tiger. The best part is Rose will soon be getting a roomy, Cachanga the Caracal. Both Caracals had mates in the past, so they will hopefully accept one another and get along smoothly. While most of the cat species are solitary in the wild, those that have grown up with companions in captivity sometimes do better in pairs. Their lives are confined to an enclosure and having another of their own kind to live with can be its own sort of environmental enrichment. All of the paired cats at Big Cat Rescue have either spayed or neutered to prevent any accidental births. Enrichment also comes from shifting the cats to new enclosures. As enclosures need maintenance, such as wall or roof repairs, painting, planting, or den reconstruction, we take this opportunity to relo-
cate cats to different enclosures. This is a very stimulating experience for them with lots of new sights, sounds and smells. The maintenance of these Cat.a.tats never ceases and there is always one that is in the process of refurbishing.

BAILEY TO MOVE IN WITH THE BOBS

Bailey has been living on her own her entire life, but she
is a very social Bobcat. When Faith was a cub, Bailey mentored her, talking Bobcat talk with her, teaching her how to act like a Bobcat etc. Bailey was a very tiny cub and also very slow to grow up. Due to her tiny stature, she has been living in an existing Cat.a.tat constructed of wire with smaller holes than that of most of our enclosures, thus relegating her to an area separated from the other Bobcats. Well Bailey has finally grown up enough to graduate to the big cat enclosures, and has moved next door to Anasazie and Moses. In between her enclosure and that of Ana and Moses, a hallway has been constructed connecting the two Cat.a.tats. Bailey loves her new home, and the close proximity to several other Bobcats. In the very near future, the doors between the two enclosures will be opened up allowing for all three Southern Bobcats to live together. Ana and Bailey have already grown quite fond of each other. The first day Bailey moved in next door, she and Ana excitedly chirped at one another and were very interested in what the other was up to. This trio should make a great fit and if so will give all three Bobs the space of two full-size Cat.a.tats.

CANADA LYNX REUNITED

Thanks to the generosity of Patricia Webber the neces-
sary funds to build an adjoining enclosure in between Shatia and Dances with Wolves the Canada Lynx has been collected and the project completed. On an exceptionally chilly late afternoon about a month ago, the separating doors between the two Canada Lynx were opened and Big Cat Rescuers were standing by to observe the reunion. Shatia and Dances had lived together in, or maybe they just don’t want us to
know about it.

SULTAN IS CLIMBING TO THE TOP

Sultan the Ocelot is climbing to the top of his Cat.a.tat that is. Curator Cathy Mayeski and several other volunteers discovered a log on the property that would be just pur-r-rfect for the acrobatic fel-
line. The log was in a Tiger enclosure, however it was definitely too small for a tiger and would ultimately be crushed. The log was transported across the sanctuary and then painstakingly hung from the roof of Sul-
tan’s enclosure, providing another level of climbing fun. Sul-
tan loves the new log. He climbs all over his enclosure, up the tree, onto skinny little branches and across these additional logs installed by Rescuers. Ocelots are very adept climbers and spend a lot of time in the tree canopy.

COZY CATS ARE HAPPY CATS

It’s that time of year again. It’s getting cold and for a lot of the tropical cats that live at Big Cat Rescue this can be quite a miserable season. To alleviate the chill, Rescuers collect pine needles from all over the property and stuff the cat dens full. The cats love the pine needle fluff and will bury themselves deep into it to keep warm.
WIN THIS ROLEX WATCH COURTESY AVANTGOLD JEWELERS!

Thanks to the generosity of Stephanie Haas and her father Jeff Abeles, pictured here with Buffy the Tiger, Big Cat Rescue supporters have an opportunity to win this beautiful Men’s Rolex Oyster Perpetual Airking stainless steel watch with white Roman numeral dial, oyster bracelet, and engine turned bezel. The retail price is $3675.

Raffle tickets at $20 each will be sold between now and the Fur Ball on October 12. The drawing will be held at the ball at A La Carte Pavilion at 10:00 pm. You do not need to be present to win - but we hope you will be - it is a great party! The winner will be notified at the phone number and/or address on the ticket.

Tickets are still only $150/person, and tables of ten only $1500. And, have we got a deal for you! It helps our planning enormously if we can estimate early how many people will attend. And seating is limited so we may sell out again. So, to assure your seat and help our planning, we are offering an Early Bird Special as follows:

Individual tickets are normally open seating, but tickets purchased before July 31 will have RESERVED seating - assigned seats closer to the stage. If you purchase a table before July 31, you receive priority placement for your table, each of your guests receives a copy of Mary Hessler Key’s wonderful book “The Entrepreneurial Cat”, AND each guest receives one $20 raffle ticket to win the Rolex watch donated by AvantGold Jewelers! A limited number of Early Bird Seats and Tables have been set aside, so to be sure you can get these enhanced value tickets you need to purchase them ASAP!

To purchase tickets, visit www.BigCatRescue.org/2007FurBall.htm, call 813-426-5948, or use the Order Form in this issue with check or credit card information. Please be sure to indicate your meal preference. Our Porcini mushroom based veggie meal last year got absolutely rave reviews and we encourage you to try the veggie option, but also will have a fantastic fish meal available.

Cox Radio will again be our radio sponsor, and if you would like your business named in hundreds of radio ads and/or associated with compassion for the cats in our other media exposure, for sponsorship information please contact Howard Baskin at hbaskin@bigcatrescue.org or 813-889-7244.

FUR BALL DATE SET - RESERVED SEATS TO EARLY PURCHASERS

You’ve heard of “Early Bird Specials” at restaurants? Well, we have one for the Fur Ball! We’re starting our planning early to make it the best event ever. The ball will be Friday, October 12, 2007, at the fabulous A La Carte Pavilion.

Plans are already taking shape. Jaguar of Tampa will again be one of our King of Beasts Sponsors, and this year has also donated 30 days in a magnificent XK convertible that just came out this year, a $90,000 sports car that can be yours for a month! Papio Wines, who donate a portion of their profits to the African Wildlife Foundation, has again generously donated their wonderful cabernet, merlot and chardonnay wines for your sipping pleasure during the evening. Clang will be coming from Chicago to tell your fortune with palm reading and tarot. Below you can read about the elegant Rolex watch donated by Leopard Sponsor AvantGold to be raffled off that night. Our first silent auction item has already arrived, a great prize. Dancing, live auction with unique international trips, Jana Broder’s drumming circle, and more details to come in next issue!

Tickets are available at our gift shop, by calling the gift shop at 813-920-4130, online at www.BigCatRescue.org/Rolex.htm, or at the beautiful AvantGold showroom at 10330 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. Must be 18 years or older. If you purchase tickets online or by phone, we will fill out your ticket for you and mail you the stub and photocopy of your ticket. This is a great way to support the cats and maybe end up with a fabulous watch! Our hearty thanks to AvantGold for their wonderful generosity. Please consider thanking them with your patronage.

Photo at left provided by Howard Baskin at right by AvantGold

Other rules and disclosures: Big Cat Rescue Corp. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located at 12802 Easy Street, Tampa, FL 33625. Winner is responsible for any state, local or Federal taxes. Drawing by random chance by hand from a container. No purchase or contribution necessary. Name of winner may be obtained by emailing finance@bigcatrescue.org or calling 813-920-4130. Multiple entries are permitted. Maximum 25 tickets per person.
THE BIG CAT TRADING POST - SHOPPING GUIDE

Order these gift items using the order form on page 10. S & H within the United States as well as tax has already been included in the price. Remember the proceeds go to help care for the felines at Big Cat Rescue.
<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mug Paint Set</td>
<td>$11.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Running Tiger Posters</td>
<td>$11.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lion Computer Chamois</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wooden Animal Dominoe Set</td>
<td>$8.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Child Blue w/3 Tigers or Pink w/1 Tiger 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16</td>
<td>$10.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Toddler Blue w/Lion, 2T, 3T, 4T</td>
<td>$9.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Toddler Yellow w/3 Cats, 6M, 12M, 18M</td>
<td>$8.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Toddler Purple Hoodie w/Tiger, 2T, 3T, 4T</td>
<td>$19.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. B&amp;W BCR Sticker</td>
<td>$4.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Girls Purple Tee w/Leopard S,M,L</td>
<td>$12.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Kids Tiger Costume, Mask, Paws, and Tail</td>
<td>$17.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Large Plush Animal Set - 10 3” Animals</td>
<td>$19.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Itsy Bitty Plush Lion Key Ring</td>
<td>$6.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Youth Green Snow Leopard or Rust Tiger Size S, M, L</td>
<td>$12.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. 3”x3” Ocelot Crossing Sign</td>
<td>$6.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. African Animal Action Figure Set</td>
<td>$15.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Paint &amp; Play Animals</td>
<td>$15.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Small Plush Animal Set - 5 3” Animals</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Animalopoly Game</td>
<td>$26.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. BCR USF documentary 30 min VHS</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Mini Leopard Backpack, also tiger or lion</td>
<td>$15.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. 12” Plush Tiger</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. 12” Plush Snow Leopard</td>
<td>$15.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Magnet Puzzle - Snow Leopard</td>
<td>$7.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SNOW LEOPARD TRUST MERCHANDISE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLT Longsleeve Tee M, L, XL</td>
<td>$24.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLT Sheep Felt Plush</td>
<td>$29.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLT Screensaver</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLT Wool Mouse Pet Toy</td>
<td>$8.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crazy Cat Lady Action Figure**
Every family & neighborhood has one, this hilarious lady comes with 6 separate cats and she has movable arms and legs. This is a Perfection addition to any true feline lovers collection. The crazy cat lady action figure was also one of BCR's top selling items this holiday season. $12.63
BIG CAT RESCUE 2007 CALENDAR

We know, it’s a little late, but how could you resist this awesome calendar featuring 12 spectacular photographs of the felines of Big Cat Rescue. Each month showcases a specific cat and tells their pur-r-sonal story.

$7.35 each tax and S&H included

THE BIG CAT TIMES ORDER FORM

Date: ___________

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

Yes! I want to purchase _____ Preferred Tickets to the 2007 Fur Ball for $150 each $ ___________

Yes! I want to make a donation towards the new enclosure for the cubs $ ___________

Yes, I would like a receipt for tax purposes

Yes! I would like a free magnet with my order totaling more than $50

Method of Payment

Check  Money Order

Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card Number

Exp. Date M/M/Y

Signature

Grand Total $ ___________

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

Brief message to say: _________________________________________________________________

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

Shopping really does make a difference.  Special Comment, Request or Question:

Last year Big Cat Rescue raised approximately 1/4 of the entire income of the sanctuary through Gift Shop, Membership, and Sponsorship sales, onsite, online, and through The Big Cat Times.  So keep up the good work and shop away!

All the proceeds from the programs and unique items Big Cat Rescue offers, help us care for the animals.  Big Cat Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, FEID 59-3330495.  Our Florida registration number is CH-11409.  A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800 HELP-FLA Toll-Free Within the State.  REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.  Big Cat Rescue does not utilize the services of professional solicitors so 100% of all contributions go directly to Big Cat Rescue Corp.

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
- $12.00 per person (price subject to change)

Children must be accompanied by 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 $22.00 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 a Tour of the refuge, Big Cat Training observation, Enrichment (making natural toys and food puzzles for the cats), and Feeding (follow along as Keepers feed the big cats and learn about their nutritional needs). $100.00 per person. Call for reservations.

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! $22.00 per person. Call for reservations.

Wild 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!
BIG CAT HEROES: DONORS - MEMBERS - SPONSORS

Donations over $2,000
Cyrus & Joanne Spurlinio $10,000 Jaguar of Tampa $7,475 Lokey Mercedes $2,500 Patricia Webber $2,500

Explorer $2,000 Cindy Jordon

Donation $1,000 Jeff LeFkowitz's

Explorer $1,000 Charles and Tena Kellogg John Tashjian

Habitat Defender $1,000

Beth Parker

Cindy Jordon

In Loving Memory of Big O

Habitat Defender $500

Daphne Butters

Dr Jim Galvin

In Memory of Betty Massey

Lianne Gibson

Michael Andrusis

Betty Massey

In Memory of Dr Jim Galvin

Daphne Butters

$500

Habitat Defender $150-300

Helen Kirby $300

Claire W Moore $250

Edie Talmadge $200

Sheila M Oregon $150

WildLife Protector $150

Alicia R Derin

Brandy Campbell, DVM

Kimberly Hatley

Kate Latour

Patricia St. Louis

Vicki L Conn

Donations $100-120

Janet A McCabe $120

Michele Salazar $120

Barbara Morland $100

Bruce Levinson $100

Carole Roberts $100

Carrie Phillips $100

Mary Ann $100

Sponsorships $75

Christine G Barth

Stacy Chapman

Brenda Crespo

Mary Drew

Donations $26-270

A Josephy Debald $70

Erick Heckman $65

Amber Coverdale

Sumrail $30

Greg Yacht $26

Animal Lover $30

Brenda Dreher

Kathy Montero

Phyllis B Swift

Donations $25

Daphne Vogel

Deborah Morel

In Memory of William "Bill" Bohrmn

Jean M Towne

John Dainotto

John Herberger

Sponsorships $25

Aaron Winters

Jo Eberl

Joanna Akerboom

Robert Harris

Robert Slye

Rose Skarski

Rosemary and Wesley Hall

Donations $100

Carrie Phillips $100

Anne Watkins

Cindy Cross

Devanand

Kamakaharan

J Balzuweit

Jeffrey Hammel

John Bee and Marianne Pernick

Karen Wible

Marc Thomas

Forest Friends $50

Bill and Debbie Eberle

Bob Bayley

Bryon Southerland

C. Sara Mansoury

Carol L Williams

Carole A Rees

Donna Hammer

Doreen McQuillen

Frances Salcaco

Jamie Southard

Kathryn Dunk

Lavanya Balasubramanian

Mr and Mrs Robert Taylor Sr

Sandra Hobbis

Scott & Elise Bentley

Susan Lasbough

Sussan Holbert

Virginia L Buckley

William Lilley

Sponsors $50

Catherine and Joseph Weck

Doreen McQuillen

Judy Fischer

Kathy Dunks

Kathy E. Moore

Kathy and Bob tarrace

Mr and Mrs Robert Taylor Sr

Nancy Nutting

Nathalie Mitchell

Roxana Sharma

Stacy Knapik

Vanda Clunas

Donations $26-70

A Josephy Debald $70

Erick Heckman $65

Amber Coverdale

Sumrail $30

Greg Yacht $26

Animal Lover $30

Brenda Dreher

Kathy Montero

Phyllis B Swift

Donations $25

Daphne Vogel

Deborah Morel

In Memory of William "Bill" Bohrmn

Jean M Towne

John Dainotto

John Herberger

Donations $50

Andrea M Greco

Amy Reich

Cindy Cross

Devanand

Kamakaharan

J Balzuweit

Jeffrey Hammel

John Bee and Marianne Pernick

Karen Wible

Marc Thomas

FOREVER REMEMBERED

PLAQUE $250

We would like to give the cats who have passed on in prior years an appropriate memorial in our cemetery. A decorative wall is being constructed around the cemetery that will showcase engraved markers for each of the cats that are no longer with us. With the help of Bob Argus of Laraservice we are able to provide an 8"x8" marble plaque with the cat’s picture, name, their years on earth, and the name or other inscription desired by the donor, at modest cost. This allows us to offer permanent thanks to the donor, with most of their donation going to support our living cats here in honor of the ones that have passed on.

To see what these beautiful plaques look like visit www.BigCatRescue.org/ForeverRemembered.htm. We have suggested there 8 cats we would like to memorialize at this time, but if you have a different cat that you know of that you would like to honor please just indicate on the order form.

S.A.V.E.

Congratulations to the very first S.A.V.E. winner, Senior Keeper Julie Hanan. S.A.V.E. stands for Scratch’s Award for Volunteer Excellenc, (the award has been named in honor of a beloved BCR Cougar that recently passed away.) The BCR Volunteer Committee awarded Julie with this honor to pay tribute to the countless hours of scheduling and managing the Borders Wrapping The Holidays fund-raiser. Along with the title comes a $500 spending certificate to be used for cage enhancements for the winners’ chosen favorite. Julie decided to put her reward towards a new Mosquito Magnet for the Jungle Cat area. Thanks so much Julie, this will benefit not only several cats in the area, but the volunteers that clean and feed them as well.

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, special discounts and offers at several Florida attractions, including MOSI, 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

Habitat Defender $500 - 10 Tour Passes, Tee, and NightTour

Order your kit using the order form on page 10. For details on the Membership levels below request information using the order form, or contact us at (813) 920-4130 or BigCatRescue.org.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!
BORDERS BOOKSTORE on North Dale Mabry in Tampa invited Big Cat Rescue back again to be their charity gift-wrappers. Volunteers of all levels, interns and staff took on shifts at the store, during the busiest shopping weeks of the holiday season, wrapping gifts for donations. Donations from the event bought new toys for several of the cats.

BOYS GIVE TO BIG CATS
“Compassionate Kid” Max Jenkins generously donated his birthday money to the cats. In honor of Max’s and his brother Sam’s giving spirits, we asked the family out to present two of our big cats with brand new toys. Here they are giving a “Planet Ball” to Cameron and Zabu. Not only did Cam and Bu love the new toy, the boys loved the gift-giving!

MOUNT EVEREST LIFE SAVER SPEAKS AT SANCTUARY TO HELP SNOW LEOPARDS

You may recall seeing the remarkable story in the national media in May 2006 of the rescue of an Australian climber named Lincoln Hall who had been left for dead near the top of Mt. Everest? The man who saved his life was Dan Mazur. Climbing Magazine has called Dan “…the most successful American to launch an expedition.” Other climbers passed the stranded Hall because they did not want to give up their chance to reach the summit only 800 feet beyond. Dan and his group selflessly abandoned their chance to reach the top in order to save Mr. Hall. Later Dan was flown from Nepal to New York to appear on the Today Show and Dateline NBC. The story was covered in People Magazine, Outside Magazine, National Geographic Adventure, and many other media around the world.

Leon is leading an expedition to climb Mustagh Ata in June. This 24,758 foot mountain is in the heart of snow leopard country. Leon has generously offered to turn this into a fund raiser. Part of the funds will go toward much needed improvements to our Snow Leopard cage, the rest will be sent to efforts to preserve the Snow Leopards in the wild. Donations can be made per foot of the climb ranging from a tenth of a cent per foot ($24.76) on up. Donors of a half cent per foot or more will be recognized on a sign by our Snow Leopard enclosure. Donors of larger amounts can receive pictures from the various stages of the climb and even their name or logo on the climbers jackets! For details visit www.bigcatrescue.org/snowleopardclimb.htm.

And what does Dan have to say about Leon’s effort on behalf of the snow leopards? “I am impressed with how Leon and his team are making an effort to give something back and do good, as part of their climb. To me, this is what climbing is all about, working as a team, helping others, doing good.” We thank both Dan and Leon for their generous support of our own two snow leopards and those struggling to stay alive in the wild. And thanks to those of you who have and may donate to help these majestic animals.

Photos: From Top; Dan Mazur, Cloe, Hercules, Leon Watts and Dan Mazur